

# CONFLICT ASSESSMENT REPORT

October 2015



celebrating diversity • overcoming adversity

## Table of Contents

<b>Table of Contents .....</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Definition of Terms .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1. About the Report.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Methodology .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4. October Conflict Map.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5. Conflict and Human Rights Violations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>a. Political Conflicts and Violations .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>b. Economic Conflicts and Violations.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>c. Unfair Aid Distribution .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Geographical Distribution of Violations and Conflicts .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7. Conclusion.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>About Heal Zimbabwe Trust.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Vision.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Mission.....</b>	<b>9</b>

## Definition of Terms

The following are the specific key definitions of conflicts that HZT will report on in this report.

- **Land** -Boundary disputes, Conflicts resulting from land transactions, concessions, Land inheritance conflicts, Forced evictions, Land ownership disputes, Land compensation conflicts, Compensation and resettlement for land.
- **Environmental** - Reduced access to water, pasture, environmental pollution and degradation.
- **Economic Conflicts** – Unemployment, Access to jobs, Poor labour conditions, access to economic resources and social services.
- **Political Conflicts** -Political disagreements, Vote rigging/electoral malpractice, Police brutality, Limited political and civic liberties, Forced arrests and disappearances.
- **Socio-cultural Conflicts** –Ethnicity, traditional cultural clash, disagreements and contestation.
- **Unfair aid distribution** – any situation or process where resources are distributed to communities unfairly or in a partisan manner on the basis of political affiliation and support.

## **1. About the Report**

This report is a compilation of emerging conflicts and problem trends from selected districts in the country. The report identifies current conflict trends, their causes and suggested community protection systems. It identifies different types of conflicts and human rights violations within different communities to support rapid response and early warning needs by law enforcement agencies and conflict transformation and peacebuilding agencies.

The Zimbabwean communities have for so long been having grievances upon their socio-political and economic welfares. The communities have been looking forward to an improved standard of living and a tolerant society that apart from affiliation, culture, ethnicity and religion, the communities can be able to coexist and develop further their livelihoods. Communities need protection from violence and knowledge of emerging conflicts as well as capabilities to mitigate those conflicts. Communities need specific government policies that will address directly issues affecting their lives and livelihoods sources.

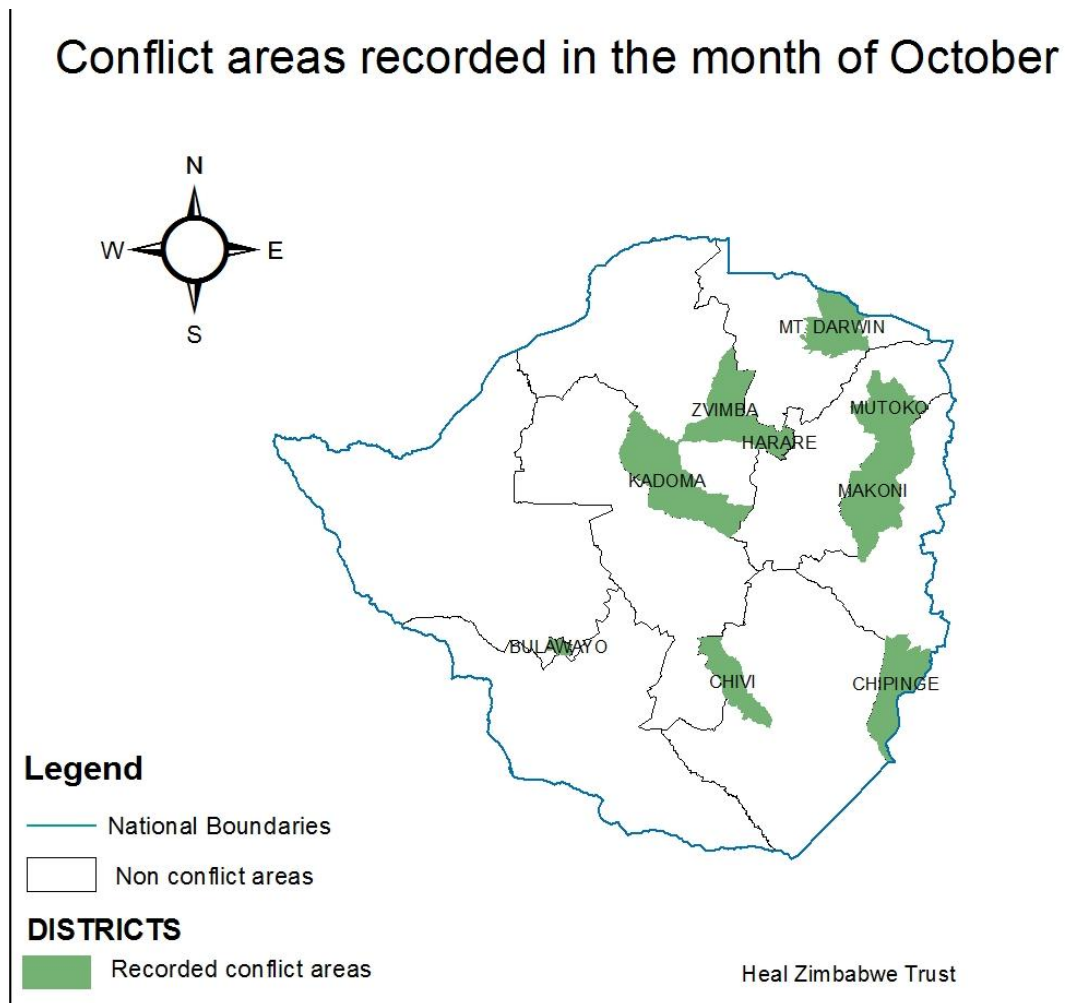
## **2. Executive Summary**

Political intolerance tops the nature of conflicts affecting communities in the country in the period under review. The political conflicts recorded include both inter-party conflicts and internal factional violence, particularly in the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T). The conflicts involved intimidation, assaults and open violence and these could have been increased by the ZANU PF's internal conflicts and the ensuing restructuring processes. Two cases of economic violations were recorded. No reports on socio-cultural, land and environmental conflicts were received.

## **3. Methodology**

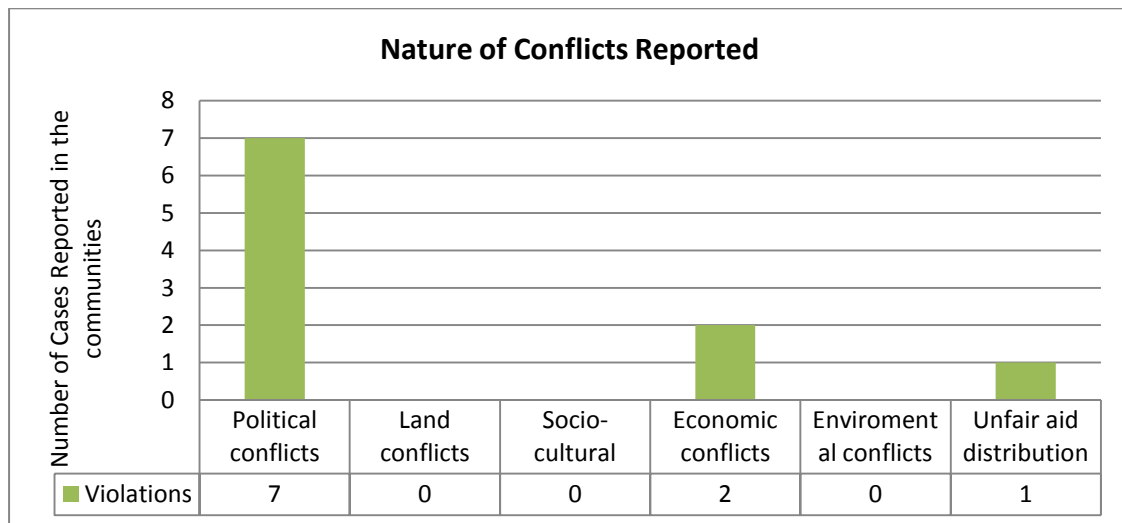
The Monthly Conflict Assessment Report data is systematically collected through trained Human Rights Monitors supported by Heal Zimbabwe Trust. The monitors reports on different types of conflicts and violations obtaining in their communities. The data collected from the communities is verified through a monitoring system including spot checks, consultation with the police, traditional leaders' courts and local government authorities. The data is also supplemented by media reports and verifications.

#### 4. October Conflict Map.



Conflicts were mainly reported from 9 districts which include Chivi, Chipinge, Makoni (Rusape), Kadoma, Harare, Mutoko, Mount Darwin, Bulawayo and Zvimba.

## 5. Conflict and Human Rights Violations



### a. Political Conflicts and Violations

**BULAWAYO** –on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October at the burial of Thamsanqa Mahlangu (late Nkulumane legislator) MDC-T youths allegedly clashed along factional lines after the party got itself involved in a feud between Mahlangu paternal father's family, the Sangos and his step-father's, the Mugovas, over the funeral and burial processes. The party's rival factions allegedly divided themselves among the two families with the grouping linked to deputy president Ms Thokozani Khupe visiting Luveve and the other belonging to former national Organising Secretary Nelson Chamisa going to Nkulumane.

**BULAWAYO** – on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, HZT received a report that a faction allegedly aligned to Grace Mugabe youths and Vice President Mnangagwa clashed at Davies Hall in Bulawayo leading to Oddy Moyo being assaulted by supposed Vice President Mnangagwa's enthusiasts. Moyo is the Provincial Youth Vice Chairperson for Bulawayo. The skirmishes took place after Moyo and others allegedly aligned to Dr Grace Mugabe went to the ruling party's Davies Hall District offices wearing labelled T shirts decorated with pictures of the First Lady and the Late J Nkomo. The T-Shirts had a message campaigning for Grace Mugabe labelled "Munhu Wese kuna Amai." Similar clashes also took place in September at the burial of Sikhanyiso Ndlovu at the Heroes Acre in Harare.

**MT. DARWIN** –On the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2015, the First Lady and Women's League chairperson for ZANU PF, Dr Grace Mugabe declared that Mashonaland Central is a no-go-area for opposition parties. *"The problem with other parties is that they only come to you*

*during election time. Here in Mashonaland Central, they should not attempt to come. That is a no-go area for them. It is a one-party State here,” she declared. The utterances were made at Chimhanda Secondary School where ZANU PF hosted a political rally and handed over government sourced farming equipment. The First Lady’s utterances are a reflection of political intolerance which is capable of motivating political violence.*

**HARARE** –on the 18<sup>th</sup> of October scores of MDC-T youths were allegedly injured during intraparty clashes at a campaign meeting in Highfields. The party’s Harare Provincial Chairperson, Erick Murayi who is the MP for the area reportedly hit one youth member for attempting to disrupt the rally.

**KADOMA** – ZANU PF youths reportedly engaged in violent clashes during a restructuring exercise over the weekend of 24 -25 October, 2015. The violence allegedly broke out when rival factions accused each other of rigging elections. The faction allegedly aligned to the G40 had lost 12 of 13 wards in the town of Kadoma. Public Service minister Prisca Mupfumira and Senate President Edna Madzongwe reportedly witnessed the clashes unfolding.

**RUSAPE** – The Police disrupted a demonstration of over 150 MDC-T demonstrators in Rusape on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The opposition members had gathered at the Magistrate Courts in solidarity with Tazviona Marima, the party’s Organizing Secretary for Makoni Central constituency who was appearing in court for criminal nuisance. During the protests, Valentine Ziswa and David Tekeshe both MDC officials were brutally assaulted and arrested. Tekeshe is the MDC-T’s aspiring Member of Parliament (MP) for Headlands Constituency. Freelance journalists Sydney Saize, Bernard Chiketo and Kenneth Nyangani from the Daily News and Newsday papers were briefly detained and interrogated for covering the scene.

Tazviona Marima who was appearing in court had been arrested on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October for criminal nuisance after organising demonstration that was not authorised by the police.

**CHIVI** –in Chivi South Ward 25, Joel Mkondi was intimidated by Mr Matambudziko Chigwenya who teaches at Runesu Primary School for wearing MDC party regalia. Chigwenya reportedly threatened to mobilize ZANU PF youths to beat Joel Mkondi if he continues to wear the political regalia. Refusing someone to wear political party regalia of choice is a reflection of political intolerance.

### **b. Economic Conflicts and Violations**

**HARARE** –there were violent clashes between the vendors and municipal police in Harare’s Central Business District on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2015. The Police were displacing vendors selling their wares on undesignated places. The defiant vendors retaliated against the forced evictions leading to 13 of them being arrested and 1 Council Police Officer hospitalised.



**Figure 1:**  
*Vendors armed themselves with stones as they fought running battles with Harare municipal police who tried to confiscate their*

*wares in Nelson Mandela Avenue*

**ZVIMBA** –On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, HZT received a complaint from Dermax employees complaining about inhuman working conditions and ill-treatment from their employer. Dermax is a Chinese Chrome mining Company in Kutama Ward 5. The employees working in the open cast and shaft mining areas complained that they were not being paid and they were working for long hours. To worsen matters, they were neither receiving protective clothing nor medical cover upon suffering injuries.

### **c. Unfair Aid Distribution**

**MUTOKO** – on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October in ward 22, Mutoko, Mr Tarirai Jinjika, a ZANU PF elected Councillor, reportedly distributed food aid in a partisan manner in favour of ZANU PF supporters. The food aid is said to be from the Government. The distribution of food aid is increasingly taking place in the country and there have been reports of increasing partisanship



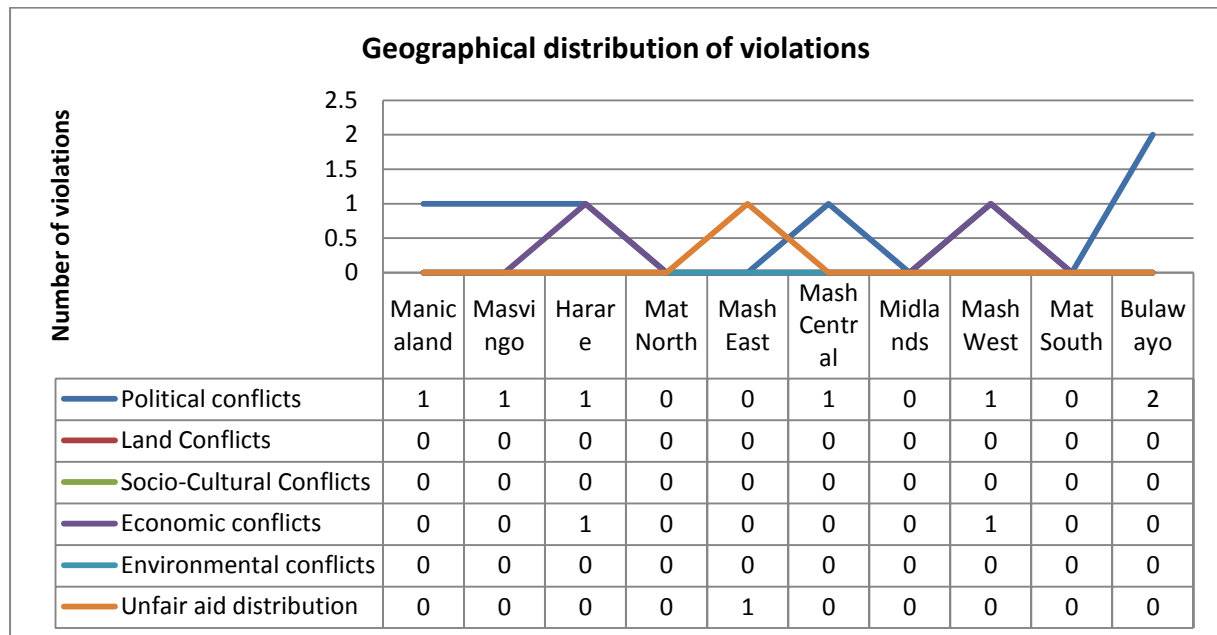
against members of the opposition parties. Other reports were also recorded in Hurungwe, Mbire and Murehwa.

#### **4. Geographical Distribution of Violations and Conflicts**

In this month of October, low profile violations were recorded, generally distributed evenly across 9 districts. Most conflicts were politically motivated characterised by internal factionalism and inter-party rivalry. Among the recorded political violations were 2 internal factional conflicts within the ruling party ZANU PF and 2 from the MDC-T. We also recorded 2 cases of economic violations and 1 situation where unfair distribution of food aid was recorded in Mutoko. There were no cases of land, sociocultural and environmental conflicts recorded this month.

Political conflicts could be on the rise because of the factional politics affecting both the opposition and the ruling parties, the MDC-T and ZANU PF, respectively. In October, ZANU PF structures went in an election mood as the party began a restructuring process ahead of their non-elective annual conference in December. In addition, the ZANU PF Women's League Chairperson, Dr Grace Mugabe hosted provincial political rallies in Manicaland and Mashonaland Central. Internal factional violence is likely to continue through to the ZANU PF December conference and beyond given the succession fights within the party. This also applies to the opposition MDC-T that continues to have internal leadership spats, particularly among the party's President Morgan Tsvangirai, Vice President Thokozani Khupe and Nelson Chamisa, the party's former National Organising Secretary.

Below is a presentation on the distribution of conflicts by province.



## 6. Conclusion

The major types of conflicts recorded this month are political conflicts recording 8 times followed by 2 cases of economic violations and 1 case of unfair distribution of food aid. Internal factional violence within ZANU PF and the MDC was the main source of political conflicts. The police were also observed in one instance as another source of conflict as they were recorded interfering with peaceful demonstrations. In view of all the cases recorded, political intolerance can be considered as the central source of conflicts that HZT recorded this month.

### About Heal Zimbabwe Trust

#### Vision –

HZT envisions a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe that celebrates diversity within local communities.

#### Mission –

To prevent and transform conflicts with a particular focus of social justice