

# angola



ICRC HQ 2007  
 + ICRC delegation (Sao Tome and Principe is covered by the ICRC delegation in Angola)  
 + ICRC sub-delegation + ICRC-supported prosthetic/orthotic centre

The ICRC has been present in Angola since the start of the conflict in 1975 that devastated the country's infrastructure and economy and left the population dependent on aid. Relative normality has returned since the 2002 Luena peace agreement, although mines remain a major problem. The ICRC continues to support three State-run limb-fitting centres, urging the authorities to increase their involvement. It cooperates with the Angola Red Cross in raising awareness of landmine risks. The two organizations also operate a tracing network to enable family members separated by the conflict to re-establish contact. In addition the delegation supports the Sao Tome and Principe National Society.

## EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	5,281
Assistance	1,568
Prevention	1,323
Cooperation with National Societies	242
General	-

► **8,414**

of which: Overheads 514

## IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	89%
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## PERSONNEL

14 expatriates
153 national staff (daily workers not included)

## KEY POINTS

### In 2007, the ICRC:

- ▶ collected 8,006 RCMs and distributed 8,061 RCMs, in cooperation with the Angola Red Cross
- ▶ reunited 47 unaccompanied/separated children with their families
- ▶ supported 3 physical rehabilitation centres that provided services to 3,935 patients
- ▶ visited detainees in Cabinda province
- ▶ supported the mine-risk reduction and education activities of the Angola Red Cross for almost 200 communities in 6 provinces

## CONTEXT

Angola was still recovering from the political, economic and social consequences of the armed conflict that lasted from independence in 1975 until the signing of the Luena peace agreement in April 2002.

President dos Santos announced that legislative elections would be held at the start of September 2008. Isaias Samakuva, president of the opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), criticized some aspects of the proposed process and called for increased funding for electoral bodies and political parties. Just over 8 million voters had been registered by the time the registration process was completed in September 2007. International observers expressed their concern over signs of political intolerance, including the detention of journalists, human rights activists, and members of UNITA and other political parties. The government's Civil Defence Organization was further accused of committing acts of political intolerance against opposition parties. UNITA claimed that there had been an attempt to assassinate its president in March.

The number of UNITA fighters who had benefited from aid to reintegrate into civil society was disputed, so the joint Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola/UNITA consultative mechanism agreed to establish a verification system.

The formal programme of refugee repatriation to Angola was completed at the end of March, with 400,000 refugees having returned to the country since 2002. An estimated 193,000 refugees remained in neighbouring countries.

Within the framework of the peace agreement signed in 2006 between the government of Angola and Bento Bembe, leader of one wing of the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave (FLEC), 824 former members were integrated into the army or police. A FLEC faction led by N'zita Tiago continued to reject the agreement. Attacks on the army were reported and government military operations persisted. In October 2007, the faction announced that the security of private company staff would no longer be ensured.

Angola's international influence continued to grow, with the country playing key roles in regional bodies. It was also elected to the UN Human Rights Council.

Despite oil and diamond revenues and strong economic growth, poverty remained widespread. Mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continued to kill and mutilate, restrict movement and limit the use of cultivable land.

## MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

	Total		Total	Women	Children	
<b>PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)</b>		<b>WOUNDED AND SICK</b>				
Detainees visited	5	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>				
Detainees visited and monitored individually	5	Patients receiving services	Patients	3,935	783	870
Number of visits carried out	15	Prostheses delivered	Units	708	136	22
Number of places of detention visited	5	Orthoses delivered	Units	158	19	102
<b>RESTORING FAMILY LINKS</b>						
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>						
RCMs collected	8,006					
RCMs distributed	8,061					
People reunited with their families	47					
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>						
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	1,570					
	<i>of whom females</i>					
	<i>of whom minors at the time of disappearance</i>					
Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)	332					
Tracing cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)	23,886					
	<i>of which for females</i>					
	<i>of which for minors at the time of disappearance</i>					
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>						
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	87					
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	47					
UAM/SC cases still being handled at 31 December 2007 (people)	248					
<b>DOCUMENTS ISSUED</b>						
People to whom travel documents were issued	3					

## ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to scale down its activities, in preparation for the eventual closure of its delegation in Angola.

The ICRC/Angola Red Cross tracing service worked to reunite separated family members and continued to offer the RCM network, mainly to people in rural areas who had no other means of contacting their relatives in Angola or abroad.

In Cabinda province, the ICRC maintained contact with the military authorities to remind them of their obligations under IHL towards the civilian population.

The departure of most of the international organizations working in the field of physical rehabilitation and the continuing lack of a coherent national policy exacerbated the difficulties already faced by the country's physical rehabilitation centres. The ICRC went on providing on-the-job training and financial support to three Ministry of Health centres, but focused its efforts on building their autonomy, so that they could continue to function after the ICRC's departure.

In terms of mine-risk education, the ICRC kept up its financial and technical support to Angola Red Cross programmes in six provinces. It also helped the national mine-action authority organize a workshop for mine-risk education organizations to learn about the methodology and standards laid out in the National Mine Action Strategic Plan 2006–2011.

The delegation acquainted military and civilian authorities, members of the armed and security forces, traditional and religious leaders, and civil society with IHL and the ICRC's mandate and activities.

The new secretary general of the Angola Red Cross launched a series of internal reforms.

## CIVILIANS

### Protection activities in Cabinda

Sporadic clashes occurred in Cabinda between the opposition Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda-Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC-FAC) and the Angolan army. The substantial army presence in the enclave led to occasional incidents involving the civilian population, mainly attributable to ill-disciplined soldiers. When necessary, the ICRC collected allegations of IHL violations and made representations to those concerned with a view to ending such abuses. It continued to familiarize church and traditional leaders and civil society representatives with its mandate.

### Mines and ERW

Residents of the provinces of Benguela, Bié, Kuando Kubango, Kwanza Norte, Moxico and Zaire benefited from the mine-risk reduction activities of the Angola Red Cross, for which it received ICRC financial and technical support. Such activities included broadcasting mine-risk education messages via radio, helping over 200 communities to mark off dangerous areas, and working with teenagers to paint walls in their communities with maps of known dangerous areas, pictures of different types of mines/ERW, and messages of advice for those at risk.

National Society volunteers also collected information on mine/ERW incidents and shared it with the army, the police, the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance and the National Institute of Demining, as well as with demining NGOs Halo Trust, the Mine Advisory Group

and Norwegian People's Aid. Using this information, these agencies cleared 11 minefields in 6 provinces and destroyed over 2,000 ERW.

Angola Red Cross volunteers were trained in techniques to help affected communities develop their own mine/ERW-risk reduction plans. Volunteers in health programmes in Kuando Kubango also received training so that they could support the provincial branch in its effort to reduce mine/ERW-related accidents.

Mine-risk education organizations participated in a workshop organized by the national mine-action authority, with ICRC support, aimed at improving the management and monitoring of the risk-reduction plans that they had developed with affected communities. During the workshop, they were familiarized with national standards, based on the work of the Angola Red Cross and the ICRC and laid out in the national mine strategy.

### Restoring family links

Despite improved communication networks, the rural population still needed to use the RCM network, either to restore contact with their families or to maintain contact to share important news. Where appropriate, unaccompanied children were reunited with their families through the tracing network run jointly by the Angola Red Cross and the ICRC. Children reunited with their families received a kit containing basic items to ease their reintegration. Similar supplies were given to centres and orphanages caring for unaccompanied children. The countrywide photo-tracing programme, which used posters and picture books of unaccompanied children, was promoted and made available to community leaders and people living in remote areas.

The *Red Cross Gazette* was widely consulted across the country. It listed 18,575 people, including many unaccompanied children, who were either seeking or being sought by their relatives. The names of 44,737 such people were published on the ICRC website [www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org).

The number of missing persons sought by relatives continued to grow. The initial findings of a study launched in March 2007 identified families' immediate requirements in terms of legal or social recognition of their situation to help them deal with the administrative aspects of their daily lives. The study aimed to form the basis for specific recommendations to the authorities, upon completion in 2008.

- 8,005 RCMs collected from and 8,061 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 64 from and 37 to unaccompanied/separated children
- new tracing requests registered for 1,570 people (including 497 females and 129 minors at the time of disappearance); 332 people located; 23,886 people (including 6,617 females and 1,195 minors at the time of disappearance) still being sought
- 87 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 47 reunited with their families; 248 cases of unaccompanied/separated children still being handled
- 3 people issued with an ICRC travel document

## PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

In Cabinda, all 12 of the detainees whom the ICRC had been visiting were released under an amnesty law passed on 24 December 2006. The ICRC nevertheless continued to visit municipal and provincial prisons under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior, in order to register any persons newly detained for reasons related to State security. The ICRC continued to follow up recommendations submitted to the provincial prison authorities in April.

The ICRC also carried out visits to military facilities to register any detainees, in particular people held on suspicion of being FLEC combatants. The organization continued discussions with the military authorities to gain access to further facilities where people linked to the Cabinda situation were allegedly detained.

- 5 detainees visited and monitored individually and 5 newly registered during 15 visits to 5 places of detention
- 1 RCM collected from a detainee

## WOUNDED AND SICK

According to official figures, there were an estimated 105,000 physically disabled people in Angola, including some 70,000 mine victims. Prosthetic/orthotic services were provided by 11 State physical rehabilitation centres, three of which, in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito, continued to receive ICRC support.

In view of its planned withdrawal from physical rehabilitation activities and the limited nature of alternative sources of support, the ICRC concentrated its efforts on helping the centres improve their management and administrative capacities and so build their autonomy. The centres introduced new procedures, and staff learned how to develop accurate budgets. Further training was provided on procurement and stock management procedures.

Since the start of 2006, the ICRC had been supporting seven prosthetic/orthotic technicians taking a three-year distance-learning diploma course, conducted in cooperation with the Don Bosco University in El Salvador. In July 2007, the ICRC ended this support owing to the extremely slow progress made and the lack of improvement in the quality of prostheses produced.

The lack of public transport and/or high transportation costs frequently prevented amputees from attending physical rehabilitation centres, as a result of which the centres did not operate at full capacity. To address this problem, over 400 destitute patients from Huambo and Kuito had their transport costs reimbursed by the ICRC.

- 3,935 patients (including 783 women and 870 children) received services at 3 ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation centres
- 170 new patients (including 31 women and 6 children) fitted with prostheses and 81 (including 9 women and 52 children) fitted with orthoses
- 708 prostheses (including 136 for women, 22 for children and 492 for mine victims), 158 orthoses (including 19 for women and 102 for children), 1,868 crutches and 44 wheelchairs delivered

## AUTHORITIES

With the political establishment focused on the national elections, ratification of IHL treaties received little attention. However, following its election to the Human Rights Council, the Angolan government committed itself to ratify several international human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture.

## ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In February, 20 instructors from the High Institute of Military Education participated in a week-long IHL course organized by the ICRC.

In March, the air force received an IHL reference library comprising some 550 different books and publications.

- ▶ 770 military personnel attended 8 information sessions on IHL and ICRC activities
- ▶ 177 police officers attended 6 sessions on human rights standards and humanitarian principles

## CIVIL SOCIETY

The press, radio and television networks covered humanitarian issues and ICRC activities, having received press releases, newsletters and interviews from the delegation.

- ▶ 3 international media organizations ran stories about the ICRC's activities

Community, political and religious leaders in a number of provinces, as well as traditional authorities, teachers and NGO representatives, attended regular ICRC information sessions aimed at eliciting their support for the organization's activities.

- ▶ 8,157 people took part in 75 sessions on the ICRC and its operations in Angola

## RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Angola Red Cross played an important role in mine-awareness activities across the country and was a key partner of the national mine-action authority (see *Civilians*). It continued to receive technical and financial support from the ICRC for these activities.

Support for the Angola Red Cross tracing department was maintained. National and provincial staff attended an ICRC-organized tracing workshop to improve skills, share best practices and prepare objectives for the following year.

The new secretary general of the Angola Red Cross launched a series of reforms and recruited new staff to the management team. New statutes were approved and sent to the Ministry of Justice for publication.

The secretary general participated in the 30th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Sao Tome and Principe Red Cross held its general assembly in May and retained the members of its governing body for another term.