



The various military operations conducted in Angola had dire consequences in humanitarian terms. Not only did the fighting itself result in casualties, including civilians, but the poor security conditions – especially the presence of landmines – continued to make access to farmland difficult and thus to prevent the population from regaining their self-sufficiency in terms of food supplies. In addition, displaced people were unable to return to their homes and the fighting prompted further mass movements of the civilian population.

## Continued assistance for the Planalto

The ICRC pursued and in some cases increased its assistance for vulnerable groups – both displaced and resident – and continued to monitor the food situation closely. A study launched in June 1999 on over 26,000 children in the Huambo region showed that in 2000 almost 65% enjoyed an acceptable level of nutrition, as against 20% at the start of the study.

## Seed distribution in Huambo and Kuito

The delegation again set up an agricultural assistance programme, distributing hoes, seed and fertilizer. The programme started in June, the season for planting *nacas* – irrigated fields bordering rivers – and required a major logistic effort. At the same time food was distributed to enable some 67,000 displaced and resident families on the outskirts of Huambo and Kuito to survive the period between harvests. The distribution programme continued in September, in advance of the harvests in the *lavras* (rain-fed fields).

## Access to detainees

Throughout the year, the delegation continued to make representations to the authorities with a view to regaining access, in accordance with the ICRC's customary procedures, to persons detained in connection with the internal conflict. Following a visit by the President of the ICRC, in December the Angolan armed forces' General Staff agreed in principle to the delegation resuming its work with detainees.

## Working conditions still hazardous

The precarious security situation continued to impede the work of international and humanitarian organizations in Angola, with some of them suffering casualties among their staff. The ICRC delegation regularly updated its security rules in response to the situation. Conditions on the ground also prevented humanitarian workers from reaching conflict victims in many areas.

## Promotion of international humanitarian law

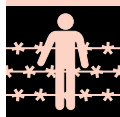
Within the framework of its traditional activities, the ICRC pursued its efforts to promote humanitarian law in both civilian and military circles in Angola. One concrete result of these efforts was Angola's ratification of the Ottawa treaty in July.

## Prosthetic/orthotic activities

The ICRC continued to fit amputees with artificial limbs in the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Kuito, Bomba Alta (Huambo) and Neves Bendinha (Luanda). The ICRC production units also continued to manufacture prosthetic/orthotic components. ICRC flights bringing in amputees from other provinces for fitting at the three centres resumed in January.

# SOUTHERN AFRICA ANGOLA

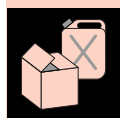
## IN 2000 THE ICRC:



- took steps with a view to obtaining access to 7 Angolan nationals captured by the Namibian armed forces during the events in the Caprivi Strip in August 1999 and handed them over to the Angolan authorities;
- continued its representations to obtain access to persons arrested in connection with the internal conflict in Angola;
- in September, visited 56 persons – including 12 former UNITA fighters – who had surrendered to the government in the province of Malanje;



- working with the National Society, collected and distributed over 15,300 Red Cross messages exchanged between Angolan nationals and between refugees and their families abroad;
- successfully processed 14 tracing requests;
- reunited 6 people with their families, 5 of them unaccompanied children;



- distributed food and basic necessities (soap, blankets, jerrycans, etc.) to tens of thousands of displaced and resident persons in Huambo and Bié provinces, working with the National Society wherever possible;
- supplied food and material assistance to 500 patients in Huambo hospital;
- during a 6-month period, supplied 67,000 resident and displaced families living in villages and districts on the outskirts of Huambo and Kuito with agricultural assistance and food rations for the dry season, and started a similar programme for the rainy season;

- planted 800,000 trees in the Huambo and Kuito regions, in cooperation with the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture and a specialized local institute, as part of a reforestation programme designed to provide the resident population with wood and fruit and to stop soil erosion;



- supplied Huambo hospital with surgical and medical material and technical support for the treatment of around 3,780 patients;

- held 2 seminars on operating procedures and war surgery techniques for representatives of the Huambo provincial authorities and medical service, and for staff of Huambo hospital;
- in conjunction with the Angolan Ministry of Health, provided material and technical support for 4 primary health-care facilities in Huambo province, and for a health post in a camp for displaced persons in Cuando;
- supplied medicines to 2 Angolan Red Cross health posts in Uige province and 2 others in Bié province;

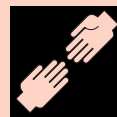


- produced 2,369 prostheses and distributed orthopaedic components to other organizations working in this field;
- organized transport to and from the prosthetic/orthotic centres in Huambo and Neves Bendinha for about 10 patients from Malanje province and another 10 from Zaire province;
- fitted approximately 100 new amputees every month;
- repaired the prostheses of longer-term amputees;



- between February and May, worked with NGOs to provide drinking water for thousands of displaced persons in camps around Kuito;

- built over 1,190 latrines in camps for displaced persons, working with the National Society in certain cases;
- rehabilitated 13 water sources in different neighbourhoods of Kuito;
- carried out maintenance and renovation work on the sanitary facilities at Huambo hospital;
- taught over 3,000 displaced persons about basic hygiene principles using a theatre company;



- provided support and materials for the work carried out by the Angolan Red Cross to restore and maintain family links;



- gave presentations on humanitarian law, the Movement and the ICRC to over 1,500 members of the Angolan armed forces

and national police;

- gave the first-ever course on human rights and humanitarian law for 20 instructors from Angolan police colleges;
- organized a 3-day seminar for 36 military instructors to promote the teaching of humanitarian law in the Angolan army;
- produced a weekly radio programme on various topics related to the ICRC's mandate;



- provided photos and video material for a UNICEF\* exhibition on anti-personnel mines held to mark the first anniversary of the Ottawa treaty.

\* UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund



⊕ ICRC delegation   ⊕ ICRC sub-delegation   ⚠ Prosthetic/orthotic centre/workshop