



ICRC

Fact Sheet

THE ICRC IN ANGOLA



Angola: ICRC activities - October 2007

The ICRC delegation in Angola publishes this fact sheet periodically to share information about its most significant activities. The current fact sheet refers to ICRC's activities in Angola **from January to the end of September 2007**.

Five years after the end of the conflict, the ICRC in Angola continues to deal with the direct humanitarian consequences of the conflict.

With the help of 143 national employees and 13 expatriates, the ICRC covers the whole country as follows:

- The Luanda delegation covers the provinces of Bengo, Cabinda, Malanje, Kuanza-Norte, Kuanza-Sul, Uíge and Zaire.
- The Huambo sub-delegation covers the Bié province, while the Lubango sub-delegation covers the provinces of Huíla, Benguela, Namibe, Cunene and Cuando Cubango.
- The Luena office is responsible for operations in the provinces of Moxico, Lunda-Norte and Sul.

Protection

One of the worst consequences a conflict can have for the victims of an armed conflict is uncertainty about the whereabouts of their relatives. This is why restoring and maintaining family links has become the top priority of the ICRC in Angola since 2002. To conduct its tracing activities effectively, the ICRC has developed a partnership with the Angolan Red Cross (CVA), allowing it to cover the whole of Angola.

Of all those in need, the most vulnerable category identified by the organization is unaccompanied minors (children) separated from their parents.

Total number of children registered since 2002	2156
New cases of unaccompanied children registered between January 2007 and end of June 2007	62
Total number of Unaccompanied children reunified since 2002	1471
New cases of unaccompanied children reunited between January 2007 and end September 2007	47
Total number of Vulnerable people (elders, widows) reunited since 2002	116
New cases of vulnerable people (elders, widows) reunited between January 2007 and end September 2007	11
Total number of Tracing requests for missing persons issued since 2002	28,227
Tracing requests for missing persons issued between January 2007 and end September 2007	1135

Red Cross messages (RCM) or family letters were also exchanged through the CVA network with the following results:

Total number of RCM's exchanged since 2002 (sent and received)	417,180
RCM's exchanged in 2007 (sent and received)	11,640

To make the restoring of family links and child protection programme more successful, a magazine called GAZETINHA containing pictures and names of unaccompanied minors became available to the public in July 2006. This was in addition to the GAZETA published in March 2005. The GAZETINHA is an easy-to-use magazine, containing 53 pages with over 100 pictures and 827 names of children registered by the Red Cross who are looking for their parents or who are being sought by them.

The GAZETA - a book containing 18,393 identities of children and adults - and the GAZETINHA both aim to help families and children restore contact and obtain news from missing loved ones. Thus, 3,000 copies of the fourth edition of the GAZETA and 10,000 copies of the GAZETINHA as well as 20,000 posters are already in circulation throughout Angola (in administrative buildings, churches, hospitals), Portugal, Zambia, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Namibia, as well as in other countries with large Angolan communities.

To make the information easily accessible to Angolans in the diaspora and to the Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies worldwide, the lists of names contained in the GAZETA and in the GAZETINHA are also published on the ICRC website www.familylinks.icrc.org. Since March 2003 (first edition of the GAZETA), 2,164 children and adults were located, of whom 508 restored contact with their families after consulting the GAZETA. Until the end of December 2006, 23,310 adults and children had been traced by their relatives, while 206 minors and 21 vulnerable people continued to look for their relatives.

Physical rehabilitation

Since 1979, the ICRC has supported three orthopaedic centres belonging to the Angolan Ministry of Health in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Luanda. This support contributes to about 50 percent of the prosthetic and orthotic services currently provided in Angola. These services, including physiotherapy and accommodation, are provided free of charge to the disabled and mine victims. The ICRC aims to gradually hand over all production, administration and logistic tasks to the Ministry of Health.

Amputees fitted with prostheses since beginning of ICRC support	31,870 (73% of whom are mine victims)
Patients fitted with orthoses since beginning of the ICRC's support	792
Crutches distributed since beginning of the ICRC's support	32,326

Mine risk reduction

The Angola Red Cross (ARC) has over the last years initiated a mine action programme. The ICRC started in 2002 to provide technical and financial support to this programme, which is carried out in the provinces of Benguela, Kwanza Norte, Bié, Moxico, Zaire and Kuando Kubango. The aim of this support is to strengthen the ARC's institutional and operational capacities to reduce the number of casualties and other suffering caused by mines/ERW in affected communities.

With the mine and UXO awareness-raising activities carried out almost throughout the entire country over the last years, villagers living in the affected communities are not only conscious of the threat but are now able to identify dangerous objects and affected zones.

The ARC has maintained a constant dialogue with the villagers to identify current mine problems and help them support the community risk management and risk reduction initiatives.

In the period under review, the ARC has supported the following community initiatives:

- the marking of dangerous areas;
- wall paintings and the drawing of maps, allowing adults and children to become familiar with dangerous areas inside and around their communities.

Moreover, the ARC shared information on the location of mines and UXO with de-mining organizations that cleared and/or removed dangerous objects that needed urgent action. As a result:

- 38 unexploded ordnance (UXO) were removed and two minefields cleared by the Halo Trust in Kuando Kubango province;
- 12 UXO were removed in Moxico province in liaison with MAG and DCA;
- one minefield was partially cleared by NPA;
- and one minefield was cleared including the removal of 28 UXO in Benguela province in liaison with FAA and Halo Trust.

Promoting international humanitarian law

In the framework of its humanitarian mission, the ICRC has built contacts with the Angolan authorities, the media and the general public. Particularly in Cabinda, the ICRC has promoted the organization's mandate and operations with the aim of facilitating a mutual understanding with all weapon bearers and to inform the population about the nature of services the ICRC offers. In the period under review, dissemination sessions were given to more than 1,000 weapon bearers, as well as to 10,798 political, traditional and religious leaders, teachers and NGOs staff.

In compliance with its mandate, the ICRC supports armies worldwide in their efforts to integrate international humanitarian law (IHL) into their doctrine and operations. Since 2001, the ICRC has organized an annual IHL seminar through its regional delegation in South Africa. In June 2007, the ICRC sponsored 1 expert from the Ministry of External Relations from the Republic of Angola to attend the 7th seminar. This seminar gathered parliamentarians, governmental representatives and other officials from countries in the Southern African region. The objective was to share information on the implementation of IHL within each country. In this regard, the ICRC offers its services and encourages the Angolan State to implement IHL in its national legislation.

In February 2007, Angolan authorities organized an IHL course and invited the ICRC to deliver this course to 20 official trainers from different bodies of the Angola armed forces, namely *Estado-Maior General das Forças Armadas Angolanas (EMG)*, *Força Aérea Nacional Angolana (FANA)* and *Instituto Superior de Educação Militar (ISEM)*.

Cooperation

At the beginning of October 2006, a General Assembly was organized by the Angolan Red Cross during which the new Statutes and a new national development plan were adopted.

ICRC Mission statement

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of war and internal violence and to provide them with assistance. It directs and coordinates the international relief activities conducted by the Movement in situations of conflict. It also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles. Established in 1863, the ICRC is at the origin of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

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