



angola

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 jointly 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 Red Cross.

EXPENDITURE (IN CHF ,000)

Protection	6,137
Assistance	3,744
Prevention	1,936
Cooperation with National Societies	799
General	2

► **12,618**

of which: Overheads 770

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	98.7%
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PERSONNEL

26 expatriates
216 national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

In 2005, the ICRC:

- ▶ collected and delivered tens of thousands of RCMs;
- ▶ helped reunite 190 unaccompanied children with their families;
- ▶ visited 23 detainees in Cabinda province;
- ▶ rehabilitated 89 spring catchments providing clean water for 79,426 villagers;
- ▶ supported 3 physical rehabilitation centres, which treated 916 landmine victims.

CONTEXT

Angola was still recovering from the political, economic and social consequences of the 27-year civil war that had raged since independence and that formally ended with the signature of the Luena peace agreement in April 2002. It remained one of the world's most mine-affected countries, with civilians continuing to be maimed or killed daily by these and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). The casualty rate and the contamination by mines of large tracts of land, rendering them off-limits to the population, continued to hinder development and reconstruction efforts.

Democratic elections had yet to take place, but President José Eduardo dos Santos announced that they would be held in 2006. In August, parliament approved a revised version of the electoral law, and an electoral commission, dominated by the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), was sworn in. However, pundits were doubtful that the necessary reforms and the registration of voters would be completed in time for an election in 2006.

The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) submitted draft laws to parliament on the disarmament of civilians and the demobilization of the Civil Defence Organization, a militia armed by the MPLA before the 1992 elections. The debate on these laws was due to continue into 2006.

The Council of Ministers drew up a law regulating political parties' access to the

media before and during the electoral campaign. This legislation was put before parliament at the end of 2005 for discussion.

Around 100,000 former UNITA fighters awaited reintegration into society and financial support. In May, the World Bank and the government signed a series of agreements with national and international NGOs on projects to assist 24,000 ex-fighters, through vocational training or support for subsistence farming.

The government pursued a policy of taking out bilateral loans for the reconstruction of Angola's infrastructure. In May, China signed agreements to lend Angola 1 billion US dollars towards improving the country's health, education, electricity, water and road systems. Also in May, Brazil signed an agreement to lend Angola 580 million US dollars. In October, the Angolan government announced that Chinese private companies were willing to invest up to 8 billion US dollars in addition to Beijing's loan of 2 billion US dollars granted in March 2004.

Relations between the Angolan government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) further soured when Luanda rejected the IMF's proposals on how to rebuild the country's economy, preferring to come up with its own economic policies. Angolan officials would rather concentrate on raising funds from private investors than from donor governments.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)		CIVILIANS	
Detainees visited	23	<i>Economic security, water and habitat</i>	
Detainees visited and monitored individually	23	Water-supply schemes and sanitation systems (completed projects)	Beneficiaries 76,926
Number of visits carried out	8	WOUNDED AND SICK	
Number of places of detention visited	4	<i>Physical rehabilitation</i>	
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS		Patients receiving services	Patients 7,680
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>		Prostheses delivered	Pieces 1,262
RCMs collected	24,055	Orthoses delivered	Pieces 136
RCMs distributed	25,875		
People reunited with their families	102		
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>			
People for whom a tracing request was newly registered	3,120		
Tracing requests closed positively (persons located)	463		
Tracing requests still being handled at 31 December 2005	20,575		
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>			
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC	119		
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC	102		
UAMs/SCs cases still being handled at 31 December 2005	346		

ICRC ACTION

The ICRC continued to focus on maintaining a quality tracing service for people who had no other means of re-establishing or keeping in contact with their families in Angola or abroad as a result of the past conflict. The ICRC and the Angola Red Cross remained the only organizations to provide tracing and reunification services for children separated from their families.

Assisting landmine victims and mine-risk education were also key activities for the ICRC. It provided substantial aid to the government in the form of prosthetic/orthotic equipment and training schemes. It also participated, along with other humanitarian organizations, in a working group to discuss how to help the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance to Mine Victims (CNIDAH) build a professional mine-risk training team. The aim of the group of trainers, to be set up by the end of 2006, was to develop training curricula for the police, local NGOs and civil society. The Angola Red Cross was put in charge of mine-risk education training, in accordance with the national mine action strategy for Angola for 2006–11. Other proposals discussed in the working group included methods to inform returnees of the risk of landmines and the creation of an information-gathering structure on the location of landmines. In tandem with the Angola Red Cross, the ICRC conducted a number of mine-risk sessions for returnees.

As part of its protection work, the ICRC continued to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees in Cabinda province complied with international standards. It visited places of detention and recommended improvements where necessary. The RCM service was made available to the detainees visited.

The ICRC provided financial and technical support to the Angola Red Cross in its reform process, with a view to giving impetus to the National Society's humanitarian activities.

In spite of the delegation's efforts, the authorities made no progress in integrating IHL into national legislation or military training.

In light of the progressive return to peace in Angola, the ICRC continued to scale down its operations in the country, shutting two regional offices and reducing the number of expatriate staff by almost a third.

CIVILIANS

Protecting civilians

The armed forces (FAA) maintained a substantial presence in the province of Cabinda. A few villages complained about the ongoing restrictions imposed by the FAA on civilian movements, which prevented people from hunting in the forest or cultivating their fields.

The ICRC kept up a constructive dialogue with the highest military authorities in the

province. The civilian population reported that on several occasions the ICRC's presence in the field had had a favourable effect on the behaviour of FAA units. To familiarize the population with the ICRC's mandate, the delegation maintained regular contact with the main representatives of civil society – the Church and traditional authorities – in Cabinda.

Protecting foreign ex-fighters

As in previous years, the ICRC monitored the situation of some 400 former Congolese and Rwandan fighters (and some 350 of their dependants) who were awaiting repatriation or the regularization of their situation by the authorities. Regular contacts were maintained with the former fighters' leaders and the highest Angolan authorities. The Angolan government was engaged in a dialogue with the Congolese and Rwandan authorities in order to find a solution to the problem.

Restoring family links

Unaccompanied children continued to be reunited with their families thanks to a tracing network run jointly by the ICRC and the Angola Red Cross. Tracing operations, building on experience gained in previous years, gathered momentum, and the number of family reunifications tripled in the second part of the year compared with the first half. Family reunifications were carried out in cooperation with the Angola Red Cross and in some cases with the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration. Training aimed at further boosting the tracing capacities of the Angola Red Cross was

intensified at both national and provincial levels.

As part of its tracing activities, the ICRC issued the fourth edition of the *Red Cross Gazette*, listing 18,393 people searching for or being sought by relatives, including 323 unaccompanied children looking for their parents and 1,288 being sought by their families. The *Red Cross Gazette* was distributed throughout Angola's 18 provinces, as well as to relevant National Societies abroad, and met with considerable interest from the public, political stakeholders and traditional leaders.

- ▶ 24,019 RCMs collected from and 25,873 delivered to civilians
- ▶ 463 people located at their families' request
- ▶ 119 unaccompanied/separated children/demobilized child soldiers registered
- ▶ 168 unaccompanied/separated children/demobilized child soldiers reunited with their families, 102 directly by the ICRC
- ▶ tracing continued for 20,575 persons, including 1,526 minors at the time of their disappearance and the relatives of 346 unaccompanied/separated children/demobilized child soldiers registered by the ICRC

Reducing ERW incidents

Mines and other ERW continued to maim and kill local residents and to restrict their access to work and services. Under plans drawn up by provincial authorities at the beginning of 2005, mine action aimed to address both community and development priorities. The ICRC supported the Angola Red Cross's efforts to ensure that community needs were reported and acted upon. These projects included workshops for radio journalists on how to broadcast mine-prevention information throughout the year and the development of a form to record the needs of landmine survivors and their families.

The National Society worked with the CNIDAH liaison officers in the provinces of Bié and Benguela to develop an information sheet and guidelines on the reporting of information on mines to the police. In the province of Benguela, Red Cross volunteers working with the police reported the discovery of 142 ERW to demining organizations for follow-up.

Concentrating on the needs of groups at risk, including refugees returning to Angola, the Angola Red Cross worked with

traditional leaders from mine-affected communities to organize focus group discussions. Following the discussions, participants shared ideas on what they could do to reduce the risk of further mine accidents. The Angola Red Cross supported these initiatives by providing paint for the community to mark paths and information boards for schools and churches. By the beginning of the rainy season, children had prepared 15 such information boards.

Aware of the need for a long-term but targeted mine-risk education programme, the National Society worked with provincial radio stations, a medium increasingly accessible to the rural population, thereby providing a valuable means to inform farmers, hunters and others of the dangers of mines. Programmes included information on how to avoid being injured by a mine.

Improving water and habitat

The ICRC continued to rehabilitate, maintain or construct spring catchments in rural areas. It rehabilitated 89 spring catchments in 42 villages and trained water committees in using and maintaining these facilities. It also promoted good hygiene practices among the local population. After the projects had been completed, the ICRC returned to the areas that had benefited from the programme and noted a decrease in the number of people infected by water-borne diseases.

- ▶ 76,926 people benefited from 89 water projects
- ▶ 68 water committees (204 people) trained in spring maintenance
- ▶ 4 latrines built to prevent water contamination

After three years of peace and transition towards development, the ICRC, decided to phase out its spring rehabilitation programme in the Planalto region by the end of 2005. The objective was to hand over the project to an institution capable of maintaining existing springs and willing to continue to construct and rehabilitate water sources, especially in rural areas where water-borne diseases contributed to a high rate of child mortality. Several organizations expressed an interest in the ICRC programme but, owing to a lack of funding, none of them were able to put forward a definite offer. The delegation sent a report on the proposed handover to all potential donors in Angola.

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Protecting the well-being of detainees

ICRC delegates conducted five visits to municipal and provincial prisons in Cabinda. They met the authorities to discuss detention conditions and the treatment of inmates. Detention officials agreed to allow family visits and detainees' access to the RCM service. The authorities committed themselves to setting up the regular distribution of hygiene items. Following discussions with military officials, the ICRC was granted permission to visit military detention facilities to check if civilians were being detained temporarily.

- ▶ 23 detainees visited and monitored individually, including 18 newly registered monitored individually during 8 visits to 4 places of detention
- ▶ 36 RCMs collected from and 2 delivered to detainees

WOUNDED AND SICK

Long-term care for the physically disabled

Mined roads and a lack of public transportation limited the number of injured people that could benefit from physical rehabilitation services, which did not therefore work to full capacity. According to government figures, there were at least 105,000 physically disabled people in Angola, of whom only around 3,000 had received medical care. Roughly 75% or 79,000 of Angola's disabled were victims of landmines. The study found that the highest percentage of disabled lived in Benguela, Bié, Huambo and Kuanza Sul provinces.

Ten State-run physical rehabilitation centres provided prosthetic and orthotic services (three in Luanda and one each in Benguela, Negage, Huambo, Kuito, Lubango, Luena and Menongue). The authorities received material and technical assistance from various organizations such as the ICRC, the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation and the German technical cooperation agency, GTZ. GTZ opened another centre in Kuanza Sul in September 2005.

The authorities, still lacking technical expertise and adequate financial resources, were not in a position to take over full running of the physical rehabilitation centres. That meant that the contribution of international organizations was essential for the survival of the centres.

The ICRC continued to support State limb-fitting centres in Huambo, Kuito and Luanda. It renovated buildings and provided machinery, tools, components and raw materials to make orthopaedic appliances. It provided staff with on-the-job technical and management training. The delegation ceased topping up staff salaries at the end of June.

As part of its handover strategy, the ICRC stopped reimbursing patients' transportation costs and instead donated vehicles to the physical rehabilitation centres. In addition, it reduced from two to one the number of expatriate prosthetic/orthotic technicians who had been helping at two centres in Kuito and Huambo. In September, two Angolan technicians resumed work at these centres after completing an ICRC-sponsored one-year course in orthotics in Tanzania.

ICRC expatriate prosthetic/orthotic technicians participated in several working groups to draw up a national physical rehabilitation policy. Discussions included technical procedures for the manufacture of prosthetic/orthotic devices, training and logistics.

The delegation held meetings to discuss how to use the Angola Red Cross network to locate patients in rural areas, taking the above-mentioned national policy into account.

- 3 physical rehabilitation centres supported
- 7,680 patients received services at the ICRC-supported facilities
- 428 new patients fitted with prostheses and 77 with orthoses
- 1,262 prostheses (1,053 for mine victims), 136 orthoses (13 for mine victims), 4,984 crutches and 56 wheelchairs delivered
- in 25 years of ICRC support, more than 31,000 prostheses, 36,500 pairs of crutches, 930 wheelchairs and 600 orthoses provided at the Luanda, Huambo and Kuito centres

AUTHORITIES

With the political establishment focused on the elections and various economic agreements, little attention was paid to the ratification of IHL treaties. Nonetheless, the government continued to discuss accession to six IHL treaties aimed at protecting the population in the event of armed conflict. The ICRC, which offered its services to help speed up the process, set particular store by

the adoption of national legislation implementing the Ottawa Convention.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

To encourage the integration of IHL into military training, the ICRC offered to help draw up a comprehensive IHL instruction programme. It also proposed holding train-the-trainer courses in the event that the Angolan authorities did integrate IHL into military instruction. The ICRC held information sessions on IHL/human rights standards and humanitarian principles for the armed forces.

- 2,900 military personnel attended 95 sessions on IHL and the ICRC's activities

CIVIL SOCIETY

To gain support for its activities, the ICRC nurtured contacts with various media organizations. It regularly sent out a newsletter to the national and regional media, resulting in extensive coverage of the launch of the *Red Cross Gazette* (see *Civilians*). The media also frequently referred to the ICRC and its activities. Despite the end of the war and the decrease in humanitarian activities, the international media were still interested in covering ICRC activities.

The ICRC held regular information sessions on IHL in a number of provinces for community, political and religious leaders, as well as for traditional authorities, teachers and NGO representatives.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

Developing the National Society's capacity

In March, as part of its internal reform process, the Angola Red Cross held a national council attended by 18 newly elected provincial presidents. At the top of the agenda was the National Society's reform process and the organization of a general assembly. Both the ICRC and the International Federation took part in the meeting and insisted that it was imperative for the National Society to implement financial reforms, to draw up a medium-term strategy and to revise its statutes. Three committees were set up in an effort to make headway in these areas.

However, the process came to a virtual standstill during the second half of 2005, mainly because of a power vacuum and an apparent lack of motivation in the upper echelons of the National Society. A second national council, which met in November in order to prepare for the general assembly, failed to approve a number of documents, including financial reports for the past four years, the revised statutes and a national development plan.

Restoring family links

The ICRC worked with the National Society to restructure the tracing network and increase its efficiency. The ICRC concentrated on training local Red Cross coordinators and volunteers. Delegates and their field officers ran training courses every two months.

To enhance the National Society's tracing activities, the ICRC trained and sponsored an assistant to the Angola Red Cross's national tracing coordinator, as well as two volunteers based at the National Society's headquarters.