



angola

The ICRC has been present in Angola since the start of the armed conflict in 1975. Relative normality has returned since the 2002 Luena peace agreement, enabling the ICRC to close its Luanda delegation at the end of June 2009. In recent years, the ICRC has cooperated with the Angola Red Cross in raising awareness of landmine risks and helping family members separated by the conflict re-establish contact. ICRC activities in Angola, including visits to detainees and the promotion of IHL, were taken over by the regional delegation in Pretoria as of July.

EXPENDITURE (IN KCHF)

Protection	1,041
Assistance	-
Prevention	144
Cooperation with National Societies	608
General	-

► **1,793**

of which: Overheads 109

IMPLEMENTATION RATE

Expenditure/yearly budget	83%
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PERSONNEL

2	expatriates
18	national staff (daily workers not included)

KEY POINTS

Between January and June 2009, the ICRC:

- downsized its presence in Luanda ahead of transferring responsibility for ICRC activities in Angola to the Pretoria regional delegation at the end of June
- reunited 11 children with their families in cooperation with the Angola Red Cross
- referred unresolved cases of unaccompanied children to the authorities for follow-up, along with recommendations for addressing the needs of people whose families remained unaccounted for
- briefed 25 Angolan army officers on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate
- facilitated contacts between key actors in Cabinda and the Pretoria regional delegation to ensure continuity of ICRC protection activities in the province after June

CONTEXT

Angola remained stable and continued its recovery from the political, economic and social consequences of the 27-year-long armed conflict that ended in 2002.

Preparations for presidential elections announced for 2009 fell behind schedule as a new constitution, a prerequisite for elections, had to be adopted.

Although the drop in the price of oil led to a cut in Angola's budget for 2009, oil revenues nevertheless represented over 80% of national income. The country continued to develop its international business and diplomatic relations, consolidating its status as China's number one trading partner in Africa. The economic and social situation of the general population remained precarious, however, with a majority of people living on less than USD 2 a day, without adequate access to water, food or electricity.

Sporadic skirmishes were reported in the oil-rich Cabinda enclave, allegedly involving the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda-Armed Forces of Cabinda (FLEC-FAC) and the Angolan national army.

MAIN FIGURES AND INDICATORS

	Total
PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM (All categories/all statuses)	
Detainees visited and monitored individually	39
Number of visits carried out	3
Number of places of detention visited	1
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS	
<i>Red Cross messages (RCMs) and reunifications</i>	
RCMs collected	377
RCMs distributed	1,062
People reunited with their families	8
<i>Tracing requests, including cases of missing persons</i>	
Tracing cases closed positively (persons located)	13
<i>Unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (SCs), including unaccompanied demobilized child soldiers</i>	
UAMs/SCs newly registered by the ICRC/National Society	2
<i>of whom girls</i>	2
UAMs/SCs reunited with their families by the ICRC/National Society	8
<i>of whom girls</i>	2
DOCUMENTS ISSUED	
People to whom a detention attestation was issued	1

ICRC ACTION AND RESULTS

In 2009, given Angola's stability and the accompanying decrease in humanitarian needs, the ICRC continued to scale down its presence in the country after more than three decades of activity there. Ahead of the final closure of the Angola delegation at the end of June 2009, expatriate and national staff levels in Luanda were reduced and a small office was set up to be run by the Pretoria regional delegation as of July (see *Pretoria*).

At the beginning of April, all activities carried out by the ICRC to restore family links in Angola came to an end. During the preceding months, the ICRC worked in partnership with the Angola Red Cross to find sustainable solutions for unaccompanied children and to resolve pending tracing cases. Where possible and appropriate, unaccompanied children were reunited with their families. To ensure follow-up for those whose relatives could not be found, the ICRC provided the authorities with lists pertaining to outstanding cases of unaccompanied children and to children still separated from their parents but living with another relative and identified as having a particularly vulnerable domestic situation. Written recommendations for addressing the needs of families whose relatives were still missing were also provided to the authorities. In addition, all as yet undelivered RCMs were handed over to the Angola Red Cross when the ICRC stopped coordinating the Movement's RCM network in Angola in April.

The ICRC continued to monitor the situation in Cabinda, maintaining contact with the civilian population and military forces in the region and visiting detainees. Where needed, delegates shared their findings and recommendations regarding detention conditions and detainees' treatment with the relevant authorities, including the military. In May, the ICRC submitted a report to Cabinda's military commander on the treatment of detainees in military-run places of detention.

Countrywide, the government, the military, the media and the wider public were briefed on IHL and the ICRC, including the transferral of responsibility for ongoing ICRC involvement in

Angola to the regional delegation in Pretoria. In April, some 25 Angolan army officers, as well as 9 military officers from other African countries, attended an information session on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate.

Until June 2009, the ICRC kept up technical, material and financial support to the Angola Red Cross, particularly in areas in which the ICRC had been involved historically, such as mine-risk reduction and restoring family links. The National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC worked together to ensure that all Movement activities in the country were coordinated.

CIVILIANS

Civilians' protection concerns shared with the authorities

Sporadic skirmishes in Cabinda province led to occasional incidents involving the civilian population. Regular meetings with local authority and civil society representatives provided opportunities to share information on the situation as well as concerns about potential abuses. The meetings also enabled the ICRC to follow up cases of people arrested in connection with the ongoing tensions and related incidents of violence allegedly between the Angolan armed forces and the FLEC-FAC (see *People deprived of their freedom*).

People still separated from their families receive help to find durable solutions

As part of the scaling back of its activities ahead of the delegation's closure in June, the ICRC ended its direct involvement in restoring family links in Angola at the beginning of April 2009. Prior to this, it concentrated on finding sustainable solutions for unaccompanied children and on resolving pending tracing cases.

Unaccompanied children were reunited with their families, where possible and in their best interests, through the ICRC/Angola Red Cross tracing network. Each child received a kit containing basic items to help them settle back into the community. So that durable solutions could be found for unaccompanied children

still seeking their families, the cases of 88 such children were handed over to the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) for follow-up. In addition, MINARS was also notified of the cases of 17 children who were living with a relative but were still separated from their parents and had been identified as facing social or economic difficulties during ICRC visits to their homes.

To help resolve other pending tracing cases, the names of people still seeking or being sought by their relatives remained on the ICRC's family-links website until it went offline at the end of March and continued to be circulated via the 2005 edition of the *Red Cross Gazette* along with its 2008 addendum. Upon the conclusion of the ICRC's tracing activities in Angola, the authorities received a letter from the ICRC containing recommendations for addressing the needs of people whose relatives remained unaccounted for. As of April, the ICRC also ceased coordinating the Movement's RCM network in Angola. Subsequently, the Angola Red Cross took over responsibility for the delivery of all outstanding RCMs.

- 376 RCMs collected from and 1,062 RCMs distributed to civilians, including 1 from and 4 to unaccompanied/separated children
- 13 people located via the tracing network
- 2 unaccompanied/separated children registered; 11 reunited with their families, including 3 registered by a delegation in a neighbouring country

PEOPLE DEPRIVED OF THEIR FREEDOM

Detainees held in the Ministry of the Interior's provincial prison in Cabinda continued to receive visits from ICRC delegates, conducted according to standard ICRC working procedures. Following these visits, the relevant authorities were provided with confidential feedback conveying delegates' findings and recommendations regarding conditions of detention and detainees' treatment.

Detainees' treatment and detention conditions in military-run facilities in the province were also addressed through oral representations made to the relevant military personnel. In May, Cabinda's military commander was provided with a confidential written report covering ICRC visits to military detention facilities between May 2008 and March 2009.

- 39 detainees visited and monitored individually and 18 newly registered, during 3 visits to 1 place of detention
- 1 RCM collected from a detainee
- 1 detention certificate issued to a former detainee or his/her family

AUTHORITIES

With the government's attention focused on developing a new constitution, no progress was made regarding the ratification of IHL treaties.

Parliamentarians and other government representatives were informed of the closure of the delegation and the subsequent handover of ICRC activities in Angola to the Pretoria regional delegation in July.

Contacts were also maintained with the authorities responsible for State physical rehabilitation services with a view to monitoring the implementation of recommendations contained in a report summarizing the ICRC's experience of supporting such services in Angola between 1979 and 2008.

ARMED FORCES AND OTHER BEARERS OF WEAPONS

In April, as part of ongoing efforts to encourage the integration of IHL into military doctrine, training and operations and to ensure that the civilian population was treated accordingly, including in Cabinda (see *Civilians*), 25 Angolan army officers attended an information session on IHL and the ICRC and its mandate, held by the ICRC at the request of the Angolan national army. Nine military officers from Congo, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique also attended the briefing.

CIVIL SOCIETY

Based on interviews given by the Angola delegation, national and international media outlets raised public awareness of the ICRC's 30 years of work to assist victims of conflict in Angola and of its plans to transfer responsibility for future ICRC activities in the country to its regional delegation in Pretoria. In March, a widely aired BBC radio report featured one of the last family reunifications facilitated in Angola by the ICRC in partnership with the Angola Red Cross.

RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT

The Angola Red Cross, in collaboration with the Angolan government, other Movement partners and NGOs, provided emergency assistance to people affected by floods in Cuando Cubango and Cunene provinces.

The National Society received ICRC technical and financial support to build its capacity to carry out activities supported historically by the ICRC delegation in Angola. For example, to help National Society personnel conducting mine-risk reduction activities participate in related efforts at the international level, the Angola Red Cross director of programmes and services received ICRC funding to attend the Movement's conference on weapon contamination in Cambodia in January. Discussions were also initiated between the Angola Red Cross and the Pretoria regional delegation regarding potential ICRC financial support for specific National Society family-links proposals (see *Pretoria*).

The National Society, the International Federation and the ICRC continued to ensure coordination of the Movement's activities in the country, particularly in light of the closure of the ICRC's delegation in Angola at the end of June. In addition, to maximize usage of resources, the Angola Red Cross received publications, second-hand office material and equipment, and used vehicles from the ICRC.