

personnel from Namibia into the south and the south-east. Before that, virtually the only way to carry goods to the Planalto and between *municípios* there was by air.

Even while using road transport late in the year, it was still imperative for the ICRC to keep a minimum number of aircraft for use on the Planalto and to maintain communication with the south-east. The parties to the conflict authorized the ICRC to use roads only in certain places and their authorization was granted only temporarily, subject to extremely detailed prior notification; therefore, to keep up its ability to reach conflict victims in the most isolated areas, the ICRC continued to use aircraft.

### *South-east Angola*

In January, ICRC delegates saw, for tracing purposes, 235 prisoners held by UNITA and in October carried out a complete visit to 206 prisoners. Early in the year, the ICRC was able for the first time to exchange Red Cross messages between people in UNITA zones and government-held areas. Also for the first time, Red Cross messages were exchanged between government soldiers held by UNITA and members of their families.

In Cuando Cubango province, the ICRC delegation included a medical team stationed at Luangundu hospital. A general practitioner, a midwife and a nurse were there year-round, and an ICRC surgeon was sent to reinforce the team when the caseload was particularly high. The ICRC also provided medication and technical support at other hospitals and clinics in the area.

In April, May and June the ICRC supplied seed for 26,000 people who fled battles in the Mavinga area, and clothing and blankets for about 4,000 displaced peo-

ple from the same region. Seed, tools and non-food items were also supplied to people near the Zambian and Namibian borders.

## **MOZAMBIQUE**

The ICRC continued activities in a variety of fields in Mozambique in 1990. The delegation extended the scope of its visits to prisons, helped set up a specialized course for local orthopaedists, and opened a sub-delegation in Xai-Xai and an office in Chimoi. In addition to the local work of the Maputo delegation and the ICRC's four sub-delegations, delegates assessed the situation in government-controlled areas of Tete, Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Inhambane provinces, where the ICRC had no permanent presence. However, many of the ICRC's relief and medical activities in the field, and especially those in areas under the control of the opposition and in contested regions, were suspended or reduced for months at a time because of security constraints or owing to lack of authorization from RENAMO<sup>1</sup>. Despite these constraints, the ICRC continued year-round to provide relief and medical assistance to conflict victims in the field.

Beginning in mid-November 1989, the ICRC was forced to stop using surface transport because of security considerations. In January 1990, after RENAMO reaffirmed that it would respect ICRC personnel, vehicles and aircraft, the delegation resumed the use of roads and waterways and opened the sub-delegation in Xai-Xai, thus extending the ICRC's operational capacity in Gaza province.

Delegates surveyed the situation in RENAMO-held areas in Nampula and Zambezia provinces and reported large-

<sup>1</sup> Mozambican National Resistance Movement.

scale needs for non-food assistance, including medical supplies.

During a survey in RENAMO-held areas of Zambezia province in early June, two delegates were unable to return to their base for three weeks due to security considerations. They continued their evaluations in RENAMO-held territories until 19 June, when they were able to return to Quelimane.

In July, the opposition asked the ICRC to curtail relief operations in the field while entering into discussions with it on ICRC activity in the country. The delegation thus stopped all surveys, relief and medical assistance activities in RENAMO-held areas and in areas subject to attack, while it held talks with RENAMO representatives overseas. ICRC relief assistance continued throughout the country via the National Society and various institutions.

In September, the President of the People's Republic of Mozambique, Joaquim Albert Chissano, visited the ICRC's headquarters in Geneva and held talks with the ICRC President and several members of the Committee.

The government and RENAMO later began negotiations which led in early December to an agreement regarding humanitarian questions and specifically the role of the ICRC. It reaffirmed the parties' authorization for the ICRC to provide humanitarian assistance to all Mozambicans anywhere in the country, and it guaranteed respect for the ICRC's personnel, facilities and emblem.

### **Visits to detained people**

In 1990, as in 1988 and 1989, the ICRC was granted access to facilities run by the SNASP<sup>1</sup>. Beginning in February, the

ICRC also visited sentenced prisoners transferred from SNASP prisons to civilian prisons (those run by the Ministry of Justice). Such prisoners began to be transferred after the courts resumed consideration of their cases.

During visits to SNASP prisons in 1988, 1989 and most of 1990, delegates did not visit prisoners whose cases were in the "preliminary investigation" stage, but were given their names, in accordance with an agreement between the government and the delegation. The ICRC continued negotiating to gain access to these prisoners. Finally, in October, delegates were granted access to them. This represented a major breakthrough in protection activities; for the first time, delegates were able to take steps to improve the conditions of detention of these inmates and to help them re-establish contact with their families.

ICRC delegates visited 755 people in 15 places of detention under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Security or the Ministry of Justice. They registered 382 prisoners after having visited them for the first time.

### **Visits to people held by the army**

The delegation continued to request access to people arrested in connection with the conflict and held by the armed forces, but without success.

### **Assistance for prisoners and detainees**

ICRC tracing and medical staff regularly worked in prisons visited by the delegation. Sanitation staff ensured the provision of clean water and appropriate drainage in detention facilities, and the ICRC carried out relief distributions when necessary. Upon release, prisoners received parcels with food and non-food relief goods.

<sup>1</sup> People's National Security Service, part of the Ministry of Security.

### **Tracing Agency**

Many of the Red Cross messages handled by the Maputo tracing office were either to or from prisoners visited by ICRC delegates as part of protection activities in prisons. The National Society carried out most of the field work in close cooperation with ICRC staff. In 1990, 174 tracing requests were resolved, and ICRC and National Society staff distributed 2,723 Red Cross messages.

### **Medical activities**

The ICRC evacuated the sick and wounded from isolated areas to provincial medical centres, supported local medical facilities with basic medicine, food and other supplies, and carried out sanitation work in villages and prisons, building latrines and ensuring supplies of safe drinking water. Medical staff participated in all prison visits and monitored the medical and nutritional status of inmates.

ICRC planes flew Ministry of Health employees and over 35 tonnes of medical supplies to isolated areas. The ICRC evacuated 243 people to health facilities from isolated areas in 1990.

### **Orthopaedic programme**

The ICRC maintained four orthopaedic workshops in Maputo, Beira, Quelimane and Nampula, built accommodation facilities for patients at two of these centres, initiated a specialized training course for local orthopaedists and constructed a training workshop for this programme in Beira.

Production of prostheses remained stable at the ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops, while the number of repairs to prostheses grew by 25 per cent as compared with 1989. In August, the Maputo workshop began using polypropylene to produce artificial legs, since that material

had proven more resilient and safer than plastics used in the past for the moulding of prostheses. This technique was later adopted by the other three workshops as well.

The ICRC's four orthopaedic workshops produced 784 prostheses and fitted 362 patients with prostheses. They also put out 1,966 pairs of crutches and 34 wheelchairs, and carried out 390 major repairs to prostheses in 1990.

Orthopaedic staff from the ICRC workshops travelled to other areas of the country to assist disabled people in remote or isolated districts.

### **Training programme**

The ICRC, in cooperation with the Beira Institute of Science and Health, established a three-and-a-half-year intermediate training course for approximately 40 Mozambican students. Five Angolan students joined the programme as well. The course, which began in April, aimed at increasing Mozambique's self-sufficiency by preparing local supervisory staff to manage orthopaedic centres after the departure of expatriate personnel.

### **Assistance for the civilian population**

The ICRC concentrated its assistance programme on the most vulnerable groups, institutions and displaced people. This assistance was generally carried out by the delegation in cooperation with the National Society. The delegation gradually reduced relief distributions from a monthly average of 230 tonnes at the beginning of 1990 to an average of about 65 tonnes at the end of the year, as other agencies were then able to cover much of the need for general food distributions in areas where the ICRC was working.

### *General food distributions*

After nutritional surveys indicated a large-scale need for food assistance in Nipiode and Mucuaba, near Ile (Zambezia province) in January, the ICRC began general food distributions for about 15,000 people. These distributions continued through May. Another 4,000 people received ICRC food assistance in Nampevo in June.

### *Institutions and displaced people*

Through the Mozambican Red Cross Society, the ICRC regularly supported health institutions, orphanages, social welfare cases and returnee transit centres throughout the country. The ICRC and the National Society distributed food and non-food assistance to people forced to flee their villages owing to attacks.

All told, the ICRC and the Mozambican Red Cross distributed 1,780 tonnes of relief supplies in Mozambique, the bulk of which (over 1,500 tonnes) consisted of maize, beans and oil. About 140 tonnes of the overall figure was made up of soap, blankets and clothing.

### **Dissemination**

Throughout the year, the ICRC held talks on international humanitarian law and the Red Cross principles for thousands of members of the army and police, as well as civilians, party officials, and Red Cross staff. The delegation also used other means of reaching the general public, including radio broadcasts in Portuguese and a number of local languages. Much of the delegation's dissemination work was done in close cooperation with the Mozambican Red Cross Society.

In addition, the delegation organized a number of special seminars for high-ranking military officers and government officials, including sessions on the law of

war, international humanitarian law and Red Cross principles. These included representatives of the Ministries of Defence, Security, Justice and the Interior as well as instructors from the Mozambican People's Police.

### **Cooperation with the National Society**

The National Society was involved in nearly all ICRC activities in 1990, as activities in opposition-held areas, which are carried out exclusively by ICRC staff, were extremely limited by the constraints mentioned above. The ICRC provided training in tracing activities and first aid for National Society employees.

## **NAMIBIA**

The main area of ICRC activity in Namibia remained the northern border region, where the institution assisted people affected by the conflict in neighbouring Angola. Late in the year, the delegation also set up the logistic base necessary to carry out cross-border operations into south-eastern and southern Angola.

In March, the ICRC President went to Namibia to participate in ceremonies marking the country's accession to independence. While there, he met a number of leaders, including the presidents or heads of state of Angola, Congo, Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

### **Representations and activities for prisoners and detainees**

From January to April, the ICRC visited prisoners in three places of detention a total of four times. Eight prisoners, some of whom were security prisoners and others who claimed to be UNITA soldiers, were seen.