

Captured by bandits

FRANCISCO Gente with his wife Maria and four small children was recaptured only two weeks ago from a bandit base at Mandimba, only 14 miles away from Inhaminga, capital of a district in Sofala province. The family had been captured on June 25, 1985 from Kankhomba, a village only three miles from the town centre.

"The bandits took us by surprise," he says, surrounded by his family.

"We were forced to farm there, and many of the people died there because of the war and others because of sickness.

Mr Gente and other destitute people in Inhaminga had already received some supplies. The government department (DPCCN) dealing with the emergency had chartered a small plane to fly in a few days' worth of maize as well as some

clothes. But that would only be possible once every few months.

In the meantime, the only food for Mr Gente and others will be what they can gather.

Among the relief supplies to be flown in next time will be seeds and agricultural tools in case the rains come.

*Xian Aid
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