



# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

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## **OVERALL SITUATION**

*Contrary to the prevailing tension visible during mid-December 1995 which led most relief operations to a standstill, the reporting period signals the successful resumption of relief activities in the Angolan countryside. As security risks decline, WFP restarts humanitarian convoys to the northern areas, including Quibaxe, Negage, Uige, N'Dalatando, Cacuso and Malange. For the first time since security incidents late last year, WFP successfully transports relief items along the Huambo-Menongue route and concludes the **first convoy ever to Andulo via Mungo** to support the construction of the Quartering Area. Food aid for the needy in Golungo Alto, Kwanza Norte province was not transported due to bad road conditions caused by torrential rains. Meanwhile, the rehabilitation of the bridges over rivers Luximbe and Nhia enable relief agencies to access by road Caculama and Quibala, respectively.*

*The new year, 1996, also brought signs of the interest of the international community in the progress of the Angolan peace process. From 8 to 11 January, the President of Portugal visits Angola. On 18 January the French Secretary of State for Cooperation visits Angola; on the same date, the US Ambassador to the UN begins a two-day visit during which she acquaints herself with the various ongoing efforts to implement the Lusaka protocol, particularly preparations for the quartering of UNITA soldiers. UNITA leader Dr. Jonas Savimbi informs the US Ambassador of his plan to quarter 16,500 soldiers in the four established QAs by 8 February, 1996.*

## **Humanitarian Relief Assistance**

**1996 United Nations Updated Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal:** UCAH continues to coordinate with UN agencies and NGOs working sessions to finalize the draft of the Updated 1996 Appeal for Angola. The finalized draft of this Updated Appeal is scheduled to be ready by early February.

**SCF-US suspends activities in UNITA areas:** On 20 January, 1996, SCF-US informed the humanitarian community of its intention to terminate its activities in areas under UNITA control in Kwanza Sul province. This decision

followed various incidents involving SCF-US staff and equipment in Quibala. Despite the eventual solution of each incident, the repetition of such incidents interrupted the successful implementation of humanitarian activities in the area. This NGO has temporarily suspended activities in UNITA areas in the Moxico province while efforts to solve the misappropriation of SCF-US maize seeds continue. Following this announcement, SCF-US also informed UCAH that it will no longer participate in the Quartering process.

**Kuando Kubango:** In response to the alarming nutritional situation reported late last year by a

joint Government/UNITA/UN mission, the second general food distributions for vulnerable populations in Likua began on 15 January. Representatives of MINARS, UNITA and WFP ended the first joint humanitarian intervention of this nature on 20 December, 1995. The team is scheduled to conduct a third distribution in the near future. Also in Likua, a joint UNICEF/MINSA team successfully reinitiated EPI activities by repairing cold chain equipment and supplying vaccination material to the local staff. UNICEF also donated essential drugs to the local hospital. On Jamba, members of the Humanitarian Coordination Group recommended that relief agencies continue assistance to the vulnerable population in Jamba while preparations to assist in their relocation continue.

**Huila:** A recent nutritional survey carried out by CARE in Jamba in the Huila province reveals 11.4 per cent global and 2.3 per cent severe malnutrition rates. The team recommends a general food distribution, supplementary feeding, a vaccination campaign, an evaluation of the harvest prospects for the present agricultural season as well as continued nutritional surveillance. On the other hand, Government authorities met for the first time with local UNITA officials in Cabire on 15 January to discuss access to the northern areas of the province. This resulted from ongoing efforts by relief agencies operating in the region to assist the vulnerable population. Humanitarian organizations await since mid last year for adequate security conditions and mine clearing in order to reach the needy population.

**Benguela:** As overland access gradually improves, relief agencies give priority to assist families returning to their areas of origin. Thus, the number of food aid beneficiaries has reduced in Benguela province by approximately 10,000 in January. In Balombo, AAA completed the distributions to returning displaced families. On the other hand, WFP plans to support some 10,000 new beneficiaries through social assistance programmes that are to be taken over by the Government in the province. In Cubal, the number of beneficiaries at the MSF-F feeding centre fell from 1,000 to 550 during the reporting period. Meanwhile, WFP continues to support new construction and rehabilitation projects proposed by AAA in areas surrounding Bocoio and Balombo. CRS recently

conducted a nutritional survey using the MUAC method which revealed 14 per cent global and 4.3 per cent severe malnutrition in Balombo. As the parallel household survey revealed indications of diarrhea cases, CRS has requested OXFAM to assess the conditions of water supply in the area. Meanwhile, based on the results of a recent nutritional survey in Alto Catumbela, CRS plans to suspend general food distributions in the area.

**Huambo:** SCF-UK has initiated activities to prevent and reduce malnutrition cases in the province. Nutritional recuperation and preventive measures such as the training of local health staff will be provided through health centres of the Ministry of Health. Results of a nutritional survey carried out last November by NGOs operating in the province revealed 7.6 per cent global and 2.7 per cent severe malnutrition rates. In Bailundo, ICRC, IMC and KAP ANAMUR continue to support basic health services to the local population. The Irish NGO CONCERN continues to assist malnourished children in Huambo city. Some 400 children benefit from supplementary feeding while about 70 are at the nutritional centre. CONCERN is evaluating the needs of the agricultural community in Huambo as part of its agricultural rehabilitation project.

**Bie:** CONCERN reports a reduction of the number of beneficiaries at their nutritional centers in the province. Presently there is a total of 600 malnourished children at their nutritional centers in Kuito and Kunje. CONCERN plans to establish over a three year period a vocational training centre for war injured people, particularly land mine victims. Results of the ongoing employment needs survey will allow CONCERN to define the type of training that candidates will receive at the center.

**Moxico:** SCF-US continues general food distributions in Luena to some beneficiaries. Distributions in Lumege were temporarily suspended pending the solution of an incident involving the theft of SCF-US maize seeds. UNHCR in close collaboration with LWF continue operations to assist refugees returning sporadically through Luau and Lumbala N'Guimbo.

**Lunda Sul:** While preparations for a gradual phase out develop, SCF-US continues general food distributions in Saurimo. Care will be taken to ensure that the phase out coincides with the harvest

early this year since the provincial Government provided displaced with lands for cultivation. In addition to growing income generating activities, this is part of efforts to improve the local population's capacity for food self-sufficiency.

**Lunda Norte:** WFP continues to support nutritional programmes, Food-for-Work and social assistance programmes in Dundo.

**Malange:** On 23 January representatives of UCAH, WFP, WVI, and UNITA travelled to Caculama to discuss with local UNITA officials the modalities to provide humanitarian assistance to populations in areas under their control in the province. The mission confirmed the rehabilitation of the bridge over the river Luximbe and considered positive UNAVEM's decision to declare the area surrounding the bridge a UN zone. While WVI plans to expand its relief activities to areas beyond Malange city, they continue general food distributions to over 20,000 beneficiaries in Cacusó. During the reporting period, WFP and WVI began successfully to phase out general food distributions in the city of Malange. This reduction implies a gradual decrease in the quantity of food aid through the exclusion of cereals. In response to this food aid reduction, CONCERN plans to monitor the nutritional condition of the population. Also in Malange city, CONCERN continues to assist over 200 malnourished children at its nutritional centre.

**Kwanza Sul:** A recent nutritional survey by WVI indicated 4.8 per cent global and 3 per cent severe malnutrition rates in Calulu. WVI distributes food aid to some 6,900 beneficiaries in Calulu who are displaced persons from communes under UNITA control in the Libolo municipality. The national NGO, IERA reports the distribution of cooking kits to 3,600 families in Quirimbo. IERA is also distributing food aid provided by WFP to minimize the population's food needs. In Porto Amboim, IERA began a sewing course for 12 young women as part of its social assistance activities, and reports the need to assist over 15,000 families affected by the lack of rain in the area.

**Kwanza Norte:** Recent nutritional surveys carried out by WVI reveal 4.9 and 2 per cent global, and 2 and 0.6 per cent severe malnutrition in Dange-Ya-Mena and San Pedro de Quilemba, respectively. WVI plans to continue general food distributions for its over 3,000 beneficiaries in San Pedro as well as for the over 3,100 in Dange-Ya-Mena until the coming harvest. In response to evidence of bad nutrition conditions among the population of Golungo Alto revealed in a survey conducted last October, WVI opened a nutritional centre in the area on 17 January. Over 700 malnourished children and 250 accompanying mothers are expected at the center. As part of efforts to expand its preventive health care program, NPA reports the rehabilitation of the cholera section, latrines and family planning centre of the hospital at Dondo. Under its emergency aid programme, the Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) continues to distribute medicine, roofing sheets, milk powder, BP5 and agricultural tools in Kwanza Sul, Kwanza Norte, Bengo and Luanda provinces.

**Bengo:** AAA (German Agro Action) continues general food distributions in the province to some 70,000 beneficiaries, mainly displaced, with WFP support. These agencies are also involved in food-for-work projects with some 2,000 beneficiaries who participate in the reopening of farmlands, the repair of wells and reconstruction of schools and health posts among other activities.

**Luanda:** The national Humanitarian Coordination Group (HCG) met on 10 January for the first time this year. During the session, members acknowledged the need to increase further UNITA participation at the provincial coordination groups, and strengthen the specialized sub-groups of the HCG, particularly the sub-group responsible for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees. The national NGO, APV (Action For Life) reports that between September 1995 and January 1996 they successfully provided medical assistance to over 1,000 patients at their mobile clinic in 17 different locations with an average of over 300 cases per month. Operating in the city of Luanda, most of the cases treated at APV's mobile clinic

included urinary infections, skin infections and intestinal disorders. APV staff combine health treatment with hygiene education as a preventive measure. Another national NGO, IERA plans to initiate briefly a course on Rural Extension during which 12 participants will be trained as Rural Extension Workers. The graduates are to assist farmers in Calumbo, a municipality in Luanda province.

**Uige:** The Provincial Director of MINARS (Ministry of Social Assistance and Reinsertion) attended to the last session of the national Humanitarian Coordination Group to provide an update on the condition of populations in the province. The MINARS representative reported the continued arrival of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to Uige city reportedly fleeing from tense areas in the province. The Director also reported the need for increased assistance in health. Members of the HCG informed of the presence of a high number of relief agencies involved in the health sector in the province who are maximizing available resources to respond to the health needs of the population. However, most of those requiring medical assistance are victims of the sleeping sickness. The treatment of this disease is highly expensive thus relief agencies have limited resources to treat patients. However, CARITAS has opened a center in Quitexe to treat victims of this disease. On 26 January, representatives of UN agencies, NGOs and UNITA travelled to Uige city to participate at the UN/NGO coordination meeting scheduled for that day. Relief agencies operating in the various areas of the province discussed ongoing activities, future assistance to vulnerable populations in the province and improved participation of local UNITA officials.

**Zaire:** UNICEF and UNHCR distributed 10 kits of education material to schools in the M'Banza Congo municipality. This is part of attempts to support emergency interventions in the education sector. A recent mission by members of IERA reported the need to assist urgently some 3,000 families in the Soyo municipality. Members of the mission are consulting relief agencies for possible assistance in health and food. In Tomboco, IERA distributed blankets and soap to some 300 families as part of efforts to reduce their basic needs. In the same line, the organization plans to distribute briefly some 1,200 cooking kits and initiate

activities in the health and education sectors.

### ***Mine Action Programme***

■ **MECHEM:** On 15 January MECHEM begun demining activities following UNAVEM priorities along the northern route near Caxito in Bengo province and along the southern route in the proximity of Lubango.

■ **Mine Training:** NPA continues to train deminers in Malange. Presently, NPA trains some 80 NPA candidates and 120 for SCF-US. NPA is also providing medical training to some 20 students in Malanje. The Central Mine Action School (CMATS) began training courses in Kuito last Monday 22 January with 22 students. This is the first demining course organized by UN, UNAVEM and CMATS. This school was opened officially on 19 December, 1995.

■ **Mine Survey:** NPA survey teams in close collaboration with UCAH continue to map out the mines in Angola's countryside as part of efforts to prioritise mine clearance and assess the impact of mine fields on surrounding communities. Thus, humanitarian organizations operating in the country are advised to contact NPA when suspected minefields affect their activities.

■ **Mine Awareness:** UNICEF reports the graduation of 34 Mine Awareness instructors in Menongue, Kuando Kubango province, and 30 instructors in Lubango, Huila province during the reporting period.

■ **Demining:** The Halo Trust continues demining operations in the *Bairro Catemo* in Kuito, Bie province to improve access to the health post that IPMP plans to rehabilitate shortly. Also in Bie, in Camacupa Halo Trust conducted a mine survey to verify the condition of the site for MSF-B's future nutritional center. In Huambo city, Halo Trust continues to demine in the areas reported to have a high incidence of mines. In Benguela a new Halo demining team initiated mine surveys to support CRS. During the month of December, Halo Trust destroyed around 21 mines and 780 unexploded ordnance between Huambo and Kuito.

### ***Demobilization and Reintegration***

■ **Family Camps:** In Vila Nova the construction of the camp for the accompanying family members of the soldiers has started. MOLISV plans to provide basic construction tools to facilitate the construction of the family camp. MOLISV continues to distribute ICRC food and UNICEF family kits to some 32 registered families in Vila Nova.

■ **Status of QAs:** As of 25 January, 693 UNITA soldiers were registered at the Vila Nova Quartering Area (QA) in Huambo province. UN and NGO staff are ready to initiate activities at the QAs in Quibaxe, Negage and Londuimbali.

■ **Missions:** On 24 January members of UCAH and NGOs travelled to the QA at Quibaxe as preparations to open the QA reach to an end. Members of UCAH's Data Base Unit travelled to the QAs in Vila Nova, Londuimbali and Quibaxe to confirm the condition of the registration equipment at each location.