

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA



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OVERALL SITUATION

As the year comes to an end, relief operations in Angola have reduced or come to a halt in the countryside as both Government and UNITA have reacted to increased military tension in northern Angola. During the reporting period, four overland convoys were not cleared for security reasons as tension increased in Kwanza Norte, Malange, and Uige. In Moxico, Kuando Kubango, Uige and Zaire provinces relief flights to UNITA controlled areas were severely restricted. Also during the period, two mine incidents were reported to have taken place involving humanitarian personnel along the Kuito-Camacupa route in Bie province and along the road to Chongoroi in Benguela. While no fatal injuries were sustained by relief staff these roads are now closed to vehicles involved in humanitarian activities. UNAVEM reports a reduction in joint demining efforts with FAA and UNITA personnel in the countryside. Meanwhile emergency interventions continue in certain areas; representatives of MINARS, UNITA and WFP assisting populations severely affected by the war in Licua finalized food and seeds distributions to over 23,000 beneficiaries.

Humanitarian Relief Assistance

Kuando Kubango: Efforts to assist the vulnerable population in Licua continue. Representatives of MINARS, UNITA and WFP registered some 25,000 beneficiaries in Licua last week and initiated the distribution of food and seeds to this population on Monday, 11 December. Having finalized the distribution of food and seeds to the registered beneficiaries, the team plans to end this first intervention by 20 December. Meanwhile, a joint UNICEF/PAV team repaired cold chain equipment and delivered material for locally-run campaign. This team also provided the local hospital with essential drugs as part of efforts to support basic health services in the area. A second intervention is scheduled for mid-January that is to be accompanied by an in-depth assessment of the nutritional status of the population. Also in Kuando Kubango, relief agencies plan to distribute food to vulnerable populations in Cuito Cuanavale once arrangements to transport the relief items is

secured.

Kwanza Sul: SCF-US activities in the UNITA controlled areas in the country have been suspended due to the prevailing security situation in these areas. In Kwanza Sul, SCF-US radios, vehicles, food and warehouse keys were confiscated by local UNITA officials. Since 1994 SCF-US has assisted in the resettlement of displaced families in Waku Kungo, Quibala, Ebo and surrounding areas. In mid-1994 some 28,000 beneficiaries received general food aid rations in Sumbe. By early 1995 this number had fallen to 15,000, most of whom will not return to their areas of origin having been displaced for over seven years. In May 1994 food aid was distributed to some 40,000 beneficiaries in Waku Kungo; after the first distribution of seeds in September 1994, a good harvest and the opening of roads to commercial traffick, general food distributions were suspended in April 1995. From July to October 1995 some 2,000 families were

provided with seeds in Condé. In Quibala, displaced, formerly displaced and residents, totalling some 9,000 were provided with seeds, tools and food rations; further stocks are available for over 3,000 additional beneficiaries. SCF-US plans to continue supporting Angolans return to food self-sufficiency and reestablish basic services such as education and health.

Kwanza Norte: In response to a recent survey which revealed alarming malnutrition conditions, WVI recently finalized general food distributions for the month of December to over 22,000 beneficiaries in Golungo Alto. Approximately 25 per cent of the beneficiaries are internally displaced from surrounding areas such as Gonguembo and Samba Cajú. Plans to survey the nutritional situation of population in Gonguembo were temporarily suspended due to recent politico-military tensions in the northern areas.

Malange: IOM plans to support the transportation of over 30,000 IDPs who plan to return to Cacuso. With overland access to Cacuso reinforced by frequent commercial traffick, displaced persons currently residing in Luanda, N'dalatando and Malange city wish to return to their area of origin. However, relief agencies operating in the province lack adequate stocks to assist in the resettlement of this population.

Lunda Sul: As part of efforts to increase food self-sufficiency among Angolans in 1996, WFP and SCF-US recently initiated the phase out of general food distribution in Saurimo as scheduled. Relief agencies and local government authorities agreed to initiate this shift in humanitarian assistance after considering that beneficiaries have sufficient access to land for farming and income generating activities.

Zaire: Local authorities report that a recent storm caused the destruction of over 100 homes in the Tomboco municipality. UN agencies, NGOs and MINARS plan a joint rapid assessment mission to evaluate the damage and define possible assistance to the affected families.

Mine Action Programme

■ **Mission:** A member of DHA Demining Unit in New York traveled to Angola last Monday 11 December on a one-week assessment mission.

During his stay, Lt. Col. Steve Ransley participated in joint UCAH/UNAVEM consultations during which the demining plan for 1996 was established. He also met with NGOs involved in demining.

■ **Mine Training:** In collaboration with the Government, UCAH and UNAVEM are finalizing preparations to open the Central Mine Action Training School at Cacuaco, Luanda province, early next week. This school is part of efforts by the UN to support the development of local capacity to deal with the mine issue on the long term.

■ **Mine Awareness:** UNICEF reports that 34 mine awareness instructors graduated this week in Menongue, Kuando Kubango province.

Demobilization and Reintegration

■ **Family Camps:** The construction of the camp for the accompanying family members of Quartered UNITA soldiers is ready to begin near the QA in Vila Nova. Representatives of UCAH are in Vila Nova providing technical assistance on the construction of shelters with plastic sheeting. Actual construction of the camp will be done by the quartered soldiers and their families. By relocating from within the QA to the family camp, the dependents, estimated at 400, will be registered and entitled to humanitarian assistance, including food distribution and health care.

■ **Status of QAs:** The QAs in Londuimbali, Negage and Quibaxe are ready for opening. UN and NGO staff await the recommencement of the Quartering process to begin operations.

■ **Coordination Activities:** Due to changes in coordination mechanisms, the Integrated Operating Group (IOG) has been formed to replace the Steering Committee, which held its last meeting on 13 December. The Steering Committee originally intended to serve as the focal point for identifying matters of policy that affect quartering operations. However, it became more oriented towards discussing actual operational issues in the Qat. The IOG, similar to the Steering Committee, will focus entirely on operations in the QAs. The IOG is chaired by the UNAVEM Deputy Force Commander with representation from UCAH. Policy issues will continue to be addressed in the weekly Coordination Group meeting, chaired by the DSRSG.

In Brief:

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