

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA



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OVERALL SITUATION

While insufficient rains to date could threaten maize crops sown in provinces along Angola's coast, reasonable harvests, mainly of sorghum, are expected in other areas of the country. Simultaneously, overland access for humanitarian convoys continues to increase; on 31 January WFP carried out the first convoy ever from Luanda to Gonguembo in the Kwanza Norte province. As a WFP reconnaissance mission considers the Huambo-Chicama route adequate for humanitarian convoys; WFP and SWEDRELIEF begin preparations to rehabilitate the Malange-Saurimo-Luena route.

Also during the reporting period, USAID Administrator, the EU Commissioner and the Russian Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs acquainted themselves with ongoing efforts to improve the peace process. During a brief encounter with the press, the USAID Administrator commented positively on relief activities in Malange, Bie and Huambo provinces, including ongoing activities at the Quartering Area in Negage and various demining activities, which he visited during his stay. UN staff continue to register UNITA troops as they arrive at the QAs opened.

Humanitarian Relief Assistance

Kuando Kubango: The joint Government/UNITA/UN team in Likwa ended during the reporting period the second general food distributions for vulnerable populations. Representatives of MINARS, UNITA and WFP are currently studying the possibility of identifying a relief agency which may continue future assistance to the population. Members of the mission recommend a nutritional survey to define present nutritional conditions of the population as a basis for future assistance in the area. During the reporting period, AICF initiated emergency assistance to populations in Mavinga. This intervention included support to the local hospital, health posts, restarting the immunization campaign

and the rehabilitation of health infrastructure in the area. On Thursday, 1 February, AAA distributed with WFP support clothes and soap to needy populations in Jamba. This distribution took place during a recent assessment mission by AAA representatives as a basis for future assistance in the area. Also in the province, representatives of UNICEF and EPI staff from Kuito carried out follow up vaccination activities in Menongue during the reporting period.

Huila: Results from a recent nutritional survey carried out by AICF and MSF-S in Caconda reveal 8.7 per cent global and 3.2 per cent severe malnutrition rates. AICF began its intervention in response to a survey carried out by MSF-S in August last year, which revealed 14.7% global and

2.7% severe malnutrition rates. AICF reports ongoing preparations to continue its emergency intervention in the area to improve further the nutritional status of the population. The national NGO, SCAM reports evidence of poor nutritional conditions among IDPs at the camps for the displaced in Bibala. SCAM recommends the transport of additional food stock to the camp to continue assistance to these displaced. Also during the reporting period, a joint UNICEF/MINSA team vaccinated populations in Kuvango and Jamba municipalities.

Benguela: Preliminary results from a CRS crop assessment in Cubal, where CRS continues to assist over 30,000 families, indicate a virtually complete crop failure. Most of these beneficiaries are displaced persons. Also in Cubal, CRS supports the rehabilitation of the local hospital. In Balombo, where CRS supports over 12,000 formerly displaced families as well as the rehabilitation of the local hospital, harvest prospects are mixed. As part of efforts to improve basic health services, CRS began the rehabilitation of the health post in Hanha with equipment and medicines provided by UNICEF. After several assessment missions to Cambondongola, Malongo and Elonga, CRS provided needy populations in these areas with humanitarian assistance. ICRC reports that the possible loss of the maize harvest in Ganda where there have been no rains. ICRC assists populations in Ganda and Cusse with food and non-food distributions. A joint UCAH/WFP mission to Caimbambo on 27 January discovered that most of the maize crop had failed. Members of the mission fear the outbreak of a food emergency if the sorghum crop also fails.

Huambo: The transport of relief items from Huambo to Chicuma in Benguela province may now be possible. During the reporting period a WFP reconnaissance considered the road fit for humanitarian convoys, particularly during the dry season.

Bie: A joint UNICEF/EPI-KUITO team immunized children for the third time in Cuemba. The team also began preparations for a vaccination seminar to be conducted briefly as well as the establishment of a fixed vaccination post at the local hospital. UNICEF, MINARS, and UNITA representatives are scheduled to travel to Andulo briefly as part of

the second phase of evaluations of conditions for the resettlement of displaced populations presently in Jamba. The mission is to stay at the location for ten days.

Moxico: MSF-B recently completed a nutritional survey in Luena that reveals 6 per cent global and 1.4 per cent severe malnutrition rates. Relief agencies operating in Luena assist the vulnerable population through general food distributions, feeding centers and basic health services.

Lunda Sul: A joint UNICEF/MINSA team began an assessment of health conditions and a vaccination campaign in Cacolo recently. UNICEF trains and works with local staff of the Ministry of Health both in Government and UNITA controlled areas. In Saurimo, GOAL is finalizing preparations to extend primary health care services to populations in villages surrounding the city of Saurimo. Through this intervention GOAL is to train and supervise MOH staff and provide basic health care to populations in these areas.

Malange: WVI successfully completed food aid distributions to populations in the city of Malange without their maize component. This is part of a strategy to focus assistance to the most vulnerable. While recent surveys indicate a relatively stable nutritional situation, the lack of rainfall may lead to a very poor harvest and consequent deterioration of the nutritional status of the population. CONCERN continues to register an increase in the number of beneficiaries at its feeding centers. Relief agencies operating in Malange city continue efforts to define the major factors influencing this increase.

Kwanza Sul: During a recent session of the National Food Aid Coordination sub-committee, the Portuguese NGO, OIKOS informed participants of a seemingly general crop failure in the province and recommend increased support in health for the population.

Kwanza Norte: WVI reports evidence serious malnutrition in the northern parts of the province such as Golungo Alto. The lack of rainfall leads to forecast reduced harvest, if any, in the province. WVI presently supports some 600 malnourished children at their newly opened nutritional center in Golungo Alto, while general food distributions are

periodically hindered by the bad road conditions which difficult the transport of relief items.

Luanda: The Irish NGO, GOAL, suspended health activities at their clinic in Cazenga and transferred operations to the *Onze de Novembro* clinic owned by the Ministry of Health (MOH). This is part of efforts to improve health care at MOH clinics in the province. GOAL plans to provide training to health and supervise local health staff, organize workshops and supply essential drugs to three MOH clinics located in Cazenga, Sambizanga and Maianga municipalities, respectively.

Mine Action Programme

■ **Mine Survey:** Following a CRS request, Halo Trust is conducting a mine survey in various locations within the Benguela province. Since December, over 1,000 unexploded ordnance and eight mines were cleared from the area of Cubal.

■ **Mine Awareness:** CRS now has 120 national Mine Awareness Instructors (MAI) trained by NPA. There are 60 MAIs in Cubal, 30 in Balombo and 30 with displaced persons residing along the Benguela coast; these MAIs provide classes on Mine Awareness to resident and displaced populations as part of an endeavor to reduce the number of mine victims. Most of Angola's mine victims are women and children who venture to the accessible farmland in search of food.

Demobilization and Reintegration

■ **Registration of UNITA troops:** As of 5 February, a total of 4,795 soldiers had been registered at the four opened Quartering Areas. In Vila Nova 2,491 were registered, in Londuimbali 902, in Quibaxe 194 were registered while in Negage 1,208 soldiers were registered at the QA. As the registration process proceeds UNITA soldiers continue to arrive.

■ **Status of QAs:** As the installation of the QAs in N'Gove, Andulo, Quibala and N'tuco come to an end. Preparations are being made to begin humanitarian operations at these Quartering Areas. Relief activities in the QAs include assistance in food, health and civic education.