

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA



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OVERALL SITUATION

Relief activities continue in accessible areas of the country. With the gradual rehabilitation of roads and bridges, overland transport of relief items by WFP averages 60 per cent. Relief agencies operating in Angola's countryside continue efforts to assess current harvest prospects as a basis for future assistance, primarily in food aid.

On 8 February, the UN Security Council approved the extension of UNAVEM's mandate for an additional three-month period. As of 12 February, a total of over 12,500 UNITA soldiers were registered at the four open Quartering Areas (QAs). While the registration continues, NGOs operating at the QAs have initiated humanitarian assistance programmes in the QAs and have extended their activities to support dependents of the soldiers as well as vulnerable sectors of population residing in surrounding areas.

Humanitarian Relief Assistance

Kuando Kubango: The German Agro Action, known in Angola as AAA distributed in close collaboration with CARE International basic non-food items to populations in the localities of Biyongue, Katala, Luiana, Bembuea, Macusso and Jamba. Some 17,000 people benefitted from this distribution. This intervention takes place as AAA prepares to assess the possibility of assisting vulnerable populations in the most arid areas of the Kuando Kubango province. CARE continues general food distributions to over 40,000 beneficiaries in Menongue.

Huila: Following the first encounter between local government authorities, UNITA officials and relief agencies that took place in Cabire, participants have initiated efforts to improve access to the northern areas of the province. During the reporting period, the first joint Government/UNITA/UN/NGO mission assessed conditions of the population in Cinquenta (Cuvango). The team agreed on the need

to demine the Jamba-Chamutete route and recommended assistance in health, nutrition and agriculture.

Huambo: UNICEF recently visited populations in Bailundo, Londuimbali and Mungo to follow-up on EPI and other humanitarian activities in the area.

Bie: AFRICARE has completed the first phase of vaccination activities in Chipeta and Cachingues. In mid-January AFRICARE vaccinated populations in UNITA controlled Chicala.

Lunda Sul: During the reporting period, a joint UNICEF/MINSA team carried out an immunization campaign in Cacolo. Local health staff from Luena and Saurimo participated in this mission as part of UNICEF efforts to use local human resources in provincial capitals to assist vaccination activities in surrounding areas.

Malange: Members of UNICEF's team in Malange

distributed basic educational material to over 1,000 primary school children in Caculama. Relief agencies operating in the province have begun preparations to extend their operations to Caculama and surrounding areas.

Kwanza Sul: AFRICARE reports ongoing vaccination campaigns in areas around Waco Kungo during the reporting period. Over 6,000 people were vaccinated during this intervention.

Bengo: As part of efforts to restart humanitarian operations in Piri, AAA is finalizing preparations to conduct an in depth assessment of the needs of the population in the area. AAA's integrated humanitarian assistance project includes rehabilitation of basic health and education infrastructure, support in agriculture, nutrition and professional training to assist Angolans in the area develop means for self-sufficiency. This project was temporarily suspended October last year for security reasons.

Luanda: UNICEF presented the World Annual Report on the State of Children during the reporting period, including a special update on the situation of children in Angola. Representatives of Government, UNITA, Diplomatic community, UN agencies and NGOs attended to the presentation. UNICEF aims to reduce mortality rates among Angola's most vulnerable namely, infants, children and mothers. During this occasion Government representatives made strong commitments in favor of the provision of basic services for children and protection of their rights in the country. UNICEF provides substantial support to health, nutrition, water and sanitation and education sectors, as well as to children in difficult circumstances. UNICEF activities also include mine awareness and support to the demobilization process. As Angola begins its quest for development and national reconstruction, children still have limited or no access to basic health and education facilities across the country.

Uige: In response to the serious health conditions of large numbers of victims of the *sleeping sickness* in various areas of the province, CARITAS runs the ANGOTRIP project in Uige and Quitexe since January 1996. UNITA reports the presence of some 600 patients in Quitexe alone waiting for treatment. Some of these patients may not be able to benefit from the required treatment due to a growing strain

on the limited stock of medicines available. CARITAS only expects to receive new stock some time after March. Health is one of the main areas of concern for the various relief agencies operating in Uige province. Recent reports indicate an increase in the number of TB patients in Maquela do Zombo, Negage and Uige; while MSF-S reports to be treating over 200 malnourished children at their feeding center although the center's recommended capacity is of 150 children. From March to December 1995 MSF-S treated over 3,000 malnourished children at their intensive and supplementary feeding centres. Relief agencies continue efforts to stimulate local government authorities to improve the free circulation of people and goods within the province. Presently, only women with limited goods are able to transit between Uige and Negage. Relief agencies operating in the province hope that improved general free circulation will also assist to improve the use of overland transport for humanitarian activities. As part of preparations for future EPI activities in Sanza Pombo, UNICEF continues discussions with AMDA a Japanese NGO. Despite logistical restraints in the province, UNICEF continues preparations to immunize children throughout the province in close collaboration with provincial authorities, UNITA and NGOs.

Mine Action Programme

■ **Mine Training:** The Central Mine Action School (CMATS) has begun training deminers in Kuito, Bie province. The candidates, former FAA (34) and UNITA (8) soldiers from Kuito and Andulo respectively, will receive joint training at the CMATS center in Kuito.

■ **Demining:** NGOs involved in demining continue to support activities of NGOs involved in relief activities in Bie, Huambo, Malange and Bengo provinces.

Demobilization and Reintegration

■ **Family Camps:** Efforts continue to get additional plastic sheeting to cover future needs of newly arriving families.

■ **Status of QAs:** As of 12 February the four opened QAs, in Vila Nova, Londiuimbali, Quibaxe and Negage have registered over 12,000 UNITA

soldiers, and the inflow continues. Relief agencies are finalizing preparations to begin humanitarian operations by 15 February in four additional QAs; Quibala (Kwanza Sul), N'Tuico (Zaire), Andulo (Bie) and N'Gove (Huila). With the opening of these QAs there will be eight QAs open to UNITA soldiers. AFRICARE is to operate at the QAs in Andulo and N'Tuico, while in Quibala IPMP will provide humanitarian assistance and MOLISV will provide assistance in N'Gove.

■ **Quartering Area Update:**

Vila Nova, Huambo province: MOLISV continues to provide assistance in terms of food, health and civic education to former UNITA soldiers. This NGO responsible for implementing humanitarian assistance activities in this QA is also providing assistance primarily in health to residents in areas near the QA and to dependents of the former combatants in the QA. Vila Nova was opened on 20 November last year with the registration of little over 300 UNITA soldiers; as of 12 February UN staff have registered 3,888 armed soldiers. There are 170 families established at the Vila Nova QA.

■ **Londumbali, Huambo province:** Open on 15 January, this QA as of 12 February is residence for some 2,900 former soldiers and their dependents. The Italian NGO, MOLISV is responsible for humanitarian operations in this QA and at the camps for the family members of the quartered personnel.

■ **Quibaxe, Bengo province:** While UN staff continue to register UNITA soldiers, AAA, IPMP and CESTAS have begun humanitarian activities in the QA. As of 12 February some 1,640 soldiers handed over weapons and were registered at this QA.

■ **Negage, Uige province:** One of the three QAs opened on 15 January along with those in Londumbali and Quibaxe, this QA registered a rapid inflow of UNITA soldiers after initial delays. As of 12 February 4,478 soldiers were registered at this QA. The NGO, CICS has initiated its humanitarian programme at the QA and extended assistance in health to family members of the quartered soldiers and local population.

■ **Health Seminar:** From 12-17 February a health seminar is scheduled to take place in Negage with the participation of NGO and UNITA personnel. This seminar is organized by UCAH in close collaboration with UNITA and NGOs.

In Brief:

- The next **NGO Information Sharing session** is scheduled to take place at UCAH on Friday, 16 February at 8:30 am.
- The national **Food Aid Coordination sub-committee** is scheduled to take place at WFP on Friday, 16 February at 2:30 pm.