

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

Produced by UN/UCAH



20-26 February, 1996/Week 5

## **OVERALL SITUATION**

*As of 26 February 1996, over 16,500 UNITA soldiers are quartered at the four sites. In all four QAs, soldiers continue to benefit from the comprehensive humanitarian programme which includes food, access to basic health services and training on civic values including literacy, human rights and national reconciliation. Relief organizations operating within these QAs also assist the dependents of the quartered soldiers and provide health services to populations residing in areas near the QAs. During the reporting period, UCAH ended a seminar on civic education in Negage for UNITA staff and NGO personnel responsible for the implementation of the civic education programme within the QAs. General Dembo, UNITA's Vice-President, attended the seminar to encourage further UNITA participation in the Quartering Process.*

*Efforts to improve overland access to populations in various parts of Angola continue with the support of Government institutions, UNITA and relief agencies operating in Angola's countryside. In Huila province, southern Angola, the first of a series of humanitarian convoys to the eastern and northeastern areas of the province took place during the reporting period. Carrying food aid, essential medicines and basic education material, these convoys count with the participation of UN agencies and NGOs operating in the province and the joint support of Government and UNITA, for the first time since renewed fighting broke out in 1992.*

### **Humanitarian Relief Assistance**

**Kuando Kubango:** The joint Government/UNITA/WFP team assisting populations in Likua carried out its third food distribution during the reporting period. Representatives of WFP, MINARS and UNITA recently travelled from Luanda to Likua to assess current conditions of the population as a basis for future humanitarian assistance operations in the area. On the other hand, Government, UNITA and UN agencies continue efforts to assist in the resettlement of IDPs in the central highlands from Jamba. Meanwhile, relief agencies operating in the region report the departure of displaced families from villages near Jamba.

**Huila:** Humanitarian convoys to areas in the east and northeastern parts of the province have begun with the transportation of food aid, essential medicines and basic educational materials to Cuvango and Cinquenta. The first in a series, these convoys depend upon the participation of specialized UN agencies and NGOs operating in southern Angola who plan to assist populations deprived from any type of humanitarian assistance since 1992.

**Huambo:** During a recent joint mission to Bailundo, representatives of MINSA (Ministry of Health) and UNICEF met with local health officials and replenished the existing cold chain. This

mission is part of UNICEF's efforts to support joint Government/UNITA operations in the health sector. Provincial UNICEF representatives travelled to N'Gove, on the border with Huila province, to follow-up on vaccination activities and distribute essential drug kits to local health officials. During the visit UNICEF-Huambo met with local UCAH and MSF-France representatives. UNICEF-Huambo also refurbished cold chains in Caala and Longonjo municipalities.

**Bie:** A joint team comprised by the Provincial Water Directorate and UNICEF await the end of demining activities to begin the rehabilitation of the water system in Cunje. With the conclusion of this project, populations residing in Cunje and surrounding areas will have access to potable water. Meanwhile, efforts to begin the rehabilitation of the Kuito-Andulo route continue. The rehabilitation of this direct route will greatly improve humanitarian operations in the area.

**Malange:** Humanitarian organizations operating in the province continue to support the return of displaced families. In Cacuso, UNICEF, WFP and NGOs continue to support efforts to establish basic resettlement conditions for the over 350 IDPs returning from Dondo, Kwanza Norte province. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) assisted in the transportation of 130 of these displaced persons to Cacuso. Also in Malange, provincial UNICEF representatives distributed additional education material to some 1,000 primary school students in the Caculama municipality. These distributions are part of UNICEF emergency operations to support the devastated education sector.

**Kwanza Sul:** UNICEF recently assessed the conditions of the public health sector in the localities of Sumbe, Porto Amboim and Gabela. During this rapid assessment mission, UNICEF also distributed material to ensure the continuation of vaccination activities in these areas. A WFP mission recently assessed its food assistance programmes in the province as a basis for future operations. Members of the mission evaluated the effectiveness and targeting of food aid programmes and recommended the suspension of aid to long-standing programmes showing poor performance. During a recent field visit to various localities in the province including Cada and Hoji-Ya-Henda,

the national NGO IERA reported the need for improved assistance in health and agriculture.

**Uige:** UNICEF continues preparations in close collaboration with NGOs for a comprehensive immunization campaign in the province. UNICEF hopes that this campaign, the first comprehensive vaccination campaign since renewed fighting in 1992, will cover over 50 per cent of the children in the province. The national NGO, IERA, reports the need for improved assistance in health in the Kikaya locality. This is the result of a recent mission by members of IERA who visited the area recently to evaluate their health programme in the area and assess the needs of the population as a basis for future operations in the locality, including emergency relief and support to the agricultural sector. IERA also plans to support the rehabilitation of health posts and schools in the province.

**Zaire:** As part of efforts to assist in the resettlement of IDPs, IERA reports the distribution of some 1,200 cooking kits to formerly displaced families returning to the province.

### *Mine Action Programme*

■ **Mine Training-CMATs:** On 23 February the second demining course began at the Central Mine Action Training School in Viana, Luanda with the participation of 24 students. This five-week course will also count on the participation of an additional 44 students, including 22 former UNITA soldiers who are scheduled to arrive at the school by 26 February.

■ **Mine Incidents:** A recent mine incident in the proximity of Cacuso along the Luanda-Malange route. This incident involved civilians attempting to establish commercial links with other areas as road access gradually increases.

### *Demobilization and Reintegration*

■ **Status of QAs:** As preparations to open four additional Quartering Areas in Andulo (Bie province), N'Tuco (Zaire province), N'Gove (Huila) and Quibala (Kwanza Sul province) come to an end, NGOs have deployed staff to the QAs. UCAH has sent UNVs, Demobilization and Reintegration Technical Officers (DRTOs) and equipment for the registration of UNITA soldiers to the four QAs scheduled to open soon.

**Quarterming Area update:**

As of 26 February a total of 16,517 soldiers were registered and pre-registered at the open QAs. The breakdown is as follows:

- **Vila Nova:** 4,856 soldiers.
- **Londumbali:** 4,513 soldiers.
- **Quibaxe:** 2,148 soldiers.
- **Negage:** 5,000 soldiers.

■ **Humanitarian Assistance in the QAs:** The comprehensive humanitarian programme designed by the UN in close collaboration with NGOs and UNITA includes three areas of assistance namely, food, health and civic education. In the four open Quarterming Areas humanitarian operations continue to develop favorably. Food distributions continue within the QAs and in the family camps to the dependents of quartered soldiers. Primary health care services are also available for soldiers, their dependents and vulnerable population residing in areas near the QAs. Quartered soldiers also benefit from the civic education programme, which is an intensive programme of civic awareness involving the training of UNITA personnel for the promotion of civic values, community participation, national reconciliation and literacy.

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## **In Brief:**

- The next **NGO Information Sharing session** is scheduled to take place at **UCAH** on Friday, **1 March at 8:30 am**.
- The next meeting of the **Seeds and Tools sub-committee** is scheduled to take place at **MINADER** on Wednesday, **6 March at 3pm**.
- **Correction to last week's bulletin:** In Moxico, MSF-B intends to suspend intensive feeding but will continue supplementary feeding in Luena instead of Lumege as reported last week.

### *Chronology of Milestone Events during the period of 1-26 February:*

*February, 1996:*

*United Kingdom Minister for Overseas Development visits Angola.*

*February, 1996:*

*FAO Director-General begins three day visit to Angola.*

*February, 1996:*

*USAID/FFP Manager for Southern Africa and USAID Regional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa Director visit Angola.*

*February, 1996:*

*Members of the Joint Commission assess preparations to open the Quartering Area in Andulo.*

*February, 1996:*

*First Provincial Seminar on Human Rights in Benguela. Organized by the Ministry of Justice in close collaboration with the UNAVEM Human Rights Division.*

*February, 1996:*

*Bridges and bridge material donated by the American Government and the European Union arrive to Angola. Government, the UN and NGOs begin the rehabilitation of the Malange-Saurimo-Luena road.*

*February, 1996:*

*Joint Government/UNITA/UN/NGO humanitarian operations begin in the province of Huila.*

*February, 1996*

*Members of the National Humanitarian Coordination Group, led by the Minister for Social Assistance and Reinsertion attended to the Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Group in Uige. This session counted with the participation of local UNITA officials for the second time since September last year.*

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