

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA



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OVERALL SITUATION

During the reporting period, UN specialized agencies and NGOs have intensified efforts to improve the coverage of health assistance for vulnerable populations. Children under-five were vaccinated in various locations in Angola's countryside including the provinces of Uige and Huila. These and other humanitarian operations are increasingly counting on the participation of provincial authorities and local UNITA personnel as is the case in Huila, where humanitarian organizations with support from provincial authorities and UNITA are finalizing preparations for the second joint humanitarian convoy in the province.

Erstwhile, relief agencies operating in Angola prepare to respond to imminent population movements in the countryside as security conditions gradually stabilize. Humanitarian organizations continue preparations to support the organized return of Internally Displaced Persons and their reintegration into their respective communities of origin, while UNHCR continues to establish conditions for the reception of refugees currently residing at camps in the neighboring Republics of Zaire, Zambia and Namibia.

Humanitarian Relief Assistance

SPECIAL HEALTH UPDATE: Humanitarian organizations operating in Angola's countryside consider malaria, diarrhea, respiratory infections and trypanosomiasis as the most common illnesses affecting Angolans. Trypanosomiasis is reported as the main cause of death among populations in affected areas in the north of Angola, i.e. Uige, Zaire, Kwanza Norte and Bengo provinces. The shortage of ARSOBAL is threatening the continuation of all programs to combat trypanosomiasis in the country. Provincial authorities, UN agencies and NGOs need urgent assistance to acquire medication to treat the increasing number of trypanosomiasis patients in the region. Meanwhile, in a recent press release, WHO provided the first of a series of updates on the epidemiological situation in Africa, particularly on developments concerning the combat against the

hemorrhagic fever diseases. WHO highlighted the need to increase awareness among the general population on measures to reduce the rate of transmission during epidemics.

Huila: Humanitarian organizations with support of provincial authorities and UNITA are finalizing preparations for the second joint humanitarian convoy in the province. This convoy will convey humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Quilengues and Catala. Activities will include the establishment of a cold chain, vaccination activities, resumption of nutritional activities and general food distributions. This joint intervention coincides with the recent resumption of humanitarian operations by MSF-S in Quilengues. In Matala, UNICEF carried out vaccination activities as part of efforts to improve the coverage of immunization among under-fives in the province.

Namibe: Members of UNICEF's Water and Sanitation section travelled recently to the city of Namibe to assess the level of construction of three water points. These points, scheduled to open on 22 March, will improve the quality and availability of potable water for the population.

Huambo: Nutritional programmes continue in Huambo. The national NGO, GAC presently attends to a daily average of 600 children at their nutritional centres in Calima and Belem de Huambo. As part of efforts to assist expecting mothers, GAC distributed food aid to some 500 beneficiaries in these areas. In Chianga, GAC met with local leaders to gather information on the expected harvest in the area. Also on nutrition, UNICEF is assisting the Ministry of Health to organize a five-day seminar on baby-friendly hospitals in Huambo and Cabinda provinces. These seminars aim at promoting an increase in breastfeeding from three to 20 percent and training some 20 medical staff on breastfeeding techniques. In Huambo, this effort to strengthen the nutritional status of under-fives also counts on support from SCF-US.

Moxico: Efforts to improve the coverage of immunization in the province of Moxico continue. During the reporting period, UNICEF and local health personnel continued vaccination activities in Sapombo Novo and Lumege localities. Also during the reporting period, UNHCR carried out rapid assessment missions to Luau, Alto Zambeze and Lumbala N'Guimbo as part of preparations to assist refugees returning to Angola through this region. While members of the mission considered the Luena-Luau road usable during the dry season for humanitarian organizations, UNICEF in close collaboration with LWF and provincial health officials prepare to immunize women and children in the locality of Luau.

Malange: Humanitarian organizations operating in the province recently visited the locality of Catala to carry out a rapid needs assessment and evaluate the level of preparations at the nearby Quartering site. The mission reported the presence of a significant number of displaced in the surrounding areas and recommended an indepth study of the condition of these IDPs as a basis for future humanitarian operations in the area. As part of efforts to improve the coverage of immunization in

the municipality of Quela, UNICEF-Malange vaccinated some 3.500 women and children during the reporting period.

Kwanza Sul: As part of efforts to improve health services in Mussende, IPMP recently received two essential health kits for distribution in this municipality. A recent assessment mission by UNICEF indicated a severe lack of drugs and recommended support for the public health services in the area.

Bengo: Humanitarian organizations operating in the province continue preparations to assist IDPs in Caxito to return to their communities in Nambuangongo. The national NGO, ACM currently supports displaced persons returning to Tobi, in the Ambriz municipality. ACM reports the distribution of seeds and tools to some 600 families in the area. Erstwhile, UNICEF, SCF-US, IPMP and local health officials continue preparations to restart EPI activities in the locality of Quibaxe.

Luanda: During the reporting period, the National Humanitarian Coordination Group held its 42nd session in Luanda. Among the issues discussed were measures to encourage the participation of local UNITA officials in the Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Group, improve assistance for the resettlement of displaced persons, particularly in the provinces of Bengo and Malange, and further improve access for humanitarian organization operating in Huila. Also in Luanda, the national NGO GAC reported preparations to begin operations in the province.

Uige: On 7 March, UN agencies and local NGOs met in Negage to discuss improved coordination of humanitarian operations in the area. This is a follow up to recent efforts to encourage the active participation of provincial authorities and local UNITA officials in humanitarian affairs in the province. UNICEF/PAV in close collaboration with IMC, AMDA, MSF-Spain and CICS have begun the Extended Programme of Immunization in the province of Uige. With an estimated duration of five months this campaign expects to reach under-fives in fifteen localities. As part of preparations to receive returnees in Maquela Do Zombo, UNHCR has finalized preparations to open their transit centers and prepositioned family kits. UNHCR has also begun immunization activities in the area in

close collaboration with IMC. During a recent UNICEF mission to Quimbele in northern Uige, members of the team recommended the urgent rehabilitation of the road linking this location to the rest of the province. The rehabilitation of this route will facilitate humanitarian operations in the region and halt the otherwise eminent isolation of vulnerable population in this locality.

Mine Action Programme

■ **Mine Training-CMATs:** At the Central Mine Action School in Viana, Luanda continues the second demining course for Angolans. This course also includes training for paramedics who are to support deminers once they later become operational. Graduates from this course will operate mainly in Malange and Bie, their provinces of origin.

■ **Mine Survey:** Specialized international NGOs continue to conduct surveys in Angola's countryside. The Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) is surveying areas in the provinces of Malange, Kwanza Norte, Lunda Sul and Benguela. The Mine Action Group (MAG) is surveying locations in the eastern province of Luena, while the Halo Trust surveys the interior of Benguela, Huambo and Bie provinces, and the German NGO, Kap Anamur (KCM) is surveying locations in Cunene.

■ **Mine Awareness:** NPA, MAG and Halo Trust combine mine awareness activities with mine surveys in their various operational locations. They also train Angolans as mine awareness instructors to support NGOs involved in relief activities.

■ **Demining:** The UN and specialized international NGOs continue demining activities in eight of Angola's eighteen provinces to support road and bridge rehabilitation as well as humanitarian operations. International organizations operating in the country estimate the total number of mines in Angola at 13 million.

Demobilization and Reintegration

■ **JC visits QAs:** On 5 March, members of the Joint Commission led by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) travelled to Vila Nova and Londuimbali in Huambo, to assess the status of humanitarian operations in the QAs. Members of the mission commended UN, NGO and UNITA personnel for their contributions to the quartering process, particularly for the support given to the quartered soldiers and their dependents residing near the QAs.

■ **Status of QAs:** Members of the JC continue visits to the Quartering sites in Quibala, N'Gove, N'Tuco and Andulo to assess final preparations to open these QAs. AFRICARE, IPMP and MOLISV have prepositioned equipment and personnel at these locations to finalize arrangements for the implementation of the humanitarian assistance programme in the QAs.

■ **Health in the QAs:** Humanitarian organizations responsible for health care are completing preparations to deploy mobile health teams within the QAs to further improve primary health care for quartered soldiers. These teams will count on the participation of UNITA health promoters trained by the United Nations. Erstwhile, UCAH and WFP have agreed to support quartered soldiers suffering from acute malnutrition with specific food components.

Brief:

The next NGO Information Sharing session is scheduled to take place at UCAH on Friday, 2 February at 8:30 am.
The Seeds and Tools sub-committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, 27 March at 3pm, MINADER.