

UCAH News

INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

January / February 1997

Mine Action and Mine Awareness activities gain momentum with 1997 action plans underway...

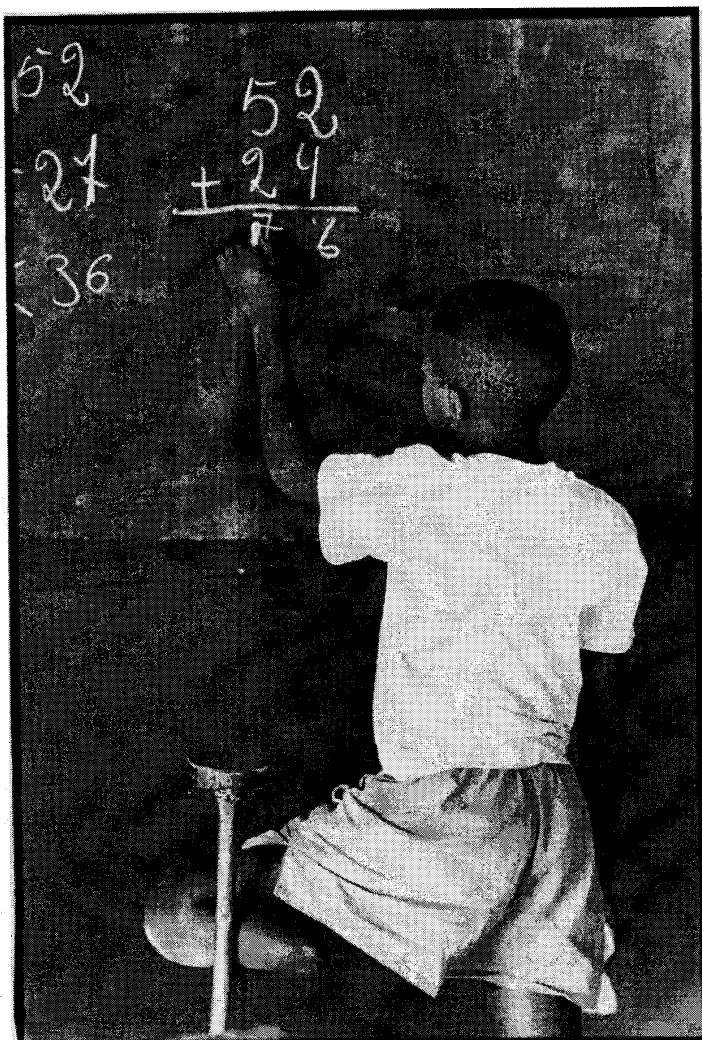


Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti for MOVIMONDO-Molise

Every week some 200 Angolans are maimed or killed in landmine accidents. A delegation from Angola represented by the Government, international and national NGOs, UNICEF, and church groups are attending the Maputo NGO Conference on the total ban of landmines during the week of 22-28 February...see more inside...

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The 1997 Inter-agency Consolidated Appeal is drafted in Angola and will be launched in the coming weeks. (page 6).

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The demobilization of UnM from UNITA continues. As of 20 February 2,241 soldiers were demobilized. In February the demobilization of FAA underage also commenced (page 7).

Mine Action

During an official ceremony on 21 February the Viana Demining School was handed over to National leadership. INAROOE's National Mine Action Plan will be issued shortly (Page 9).



United Nations

Overview

National Reconciliation

The Government of National Reconciliation and Unity (GNRU)

- The tentatively scheduled date for the formation of the Government of National Reconciliation and Unity for 25 January was postponed due to outstanding questions on the definition of the Special Status of Jonas Savimbi. The arrival of the UNITA deputies in Luanda scheduled for 10 January was also postponed, however UNITA agreed to ensure that all its National Assembly deputies and the members of the future GNRU designated by UNITA would arrive in Luanda on February 12, and the Government would then set a date for the inauguration of the GNRU. On 12 February a group of 12 out of 70 UNITA deputies arrived (bringing the total to 18 deputies in Luanda) in addition to 4 cabinet members of the GNRU out of the intended eleven. The formation of the Government of National Reconciliation and Unity will be determined after the remainder of the deputies arrive in Luanda.

- On 15 February UNITA submitted to the SRSJ a document entitled "Draft on the Special Status of the President of UNITA as the leader of the main opposition party" which is

similar to the earlier draft proposed on 9 January and already approved by the Government. In the document, UNITA withdrew the claim of Mr. Savimbi to be appointed as President dos Santos Principle Advisor. The Joint Commission has requested that UNITA submit the conclusions of this draft document by 22 February.

- The two stumbling blocks for the formation of the new Government has been the status of the role of UNITA's leader Jonas Savimbi who rejected the post of vice President in May 1996. The second issue is UNITA's call for talks on the programme of the new government issued on 5 February. The Government of Angola has indicated that as per the Lusaka Protocol the government programme is not up for negotiation or discussion.

- In the new GNRU, UNITA will have four Ministerial posts, including Commerce, Geology and Mines, Health and Tourism and seven Deputy Ministerial posts. UNITA will also have six ambassadorships and 3 provincial Governorships in Uige, Lunda Sul and Kuando Kubango.

Methodology formulated for the Extension of State Administration

The methodology for the extension of State Administration was presented to the 46th session of the Joint Commission on 6 February. The document outlines the Objectives, Principles, and Procedures involved in the normalization of State Administration and will include the participation of the Government, UNITA, UNAVEM and the three observer

states. It is expected that the exercise of the **normalization** of state administration will be carried out over a three month time-frame. The Joint Commission has invited the parties to establish as soon as possible the mechanisms for the implementation of the normalization and extension of State Administration while referring to the document on methodology.

UNAVEM Reports at the 46th session on progress in the peace process

At the 46th session UNAVEM presented their brief to the Joint Commission reporting that that country remained generally calm throughout the period although cease fire violations continued to be reported in the southern region, in particular in the area around Chicuma Selection and Demobilization Centre (SDC). The cease fire violations are

attributed to the civil defense and tend to undermine the peace process. UNAVEM is specifically concerned by the continued attacks on villages in former UNITA vacated areas in Huila and Benguela provinces. Circulation problems also continue in Bie and Lunda Sul Provinces.

Overview by Sector

Health

Mission to Massau, Santa Cruz and Quicua, Uige Province to investigate Health Situation

Following reports regarding a possible Ebola epidemic and a recent influx of returnees to the inaccessible Massau area on the eastern border of Uige Province, WHO/UCAH and UNAVEM traveled by helicopter to the area 3 February in order to investigate the health situation. Following the mission, the WHO/UCAH doctor reported that there was no evidence of Ebola and no significant evidence of a large influx of returnees.

A larger mission composed of WHO, UNHCR, UCAH, UNICEF, WFP, NRC, UNITA and MINARS delegates traveled to Massau, Santa Cruz and Quicua (all in eastern Uige) the following day in order to get information on the humanitarian situation in these areas, both due to the alarming reports but also as this area has been and continues to be inaccessible for the most part to humanitarian organizations.

Santa Cruz is completely isolated yet the mission found the population relatively healthy with some few reported deaths due to malaria. 15 cases of sleeping sickness were also registered in the last part of 1996. The last vaccination campaign in this area was undertaken in 1987. The Hospital in Santa Cruz does not function although there is one private health post. In Quicua no population was seen by the mission as the closest village was one kilometre away and the roads are not passable. The mission recommends that the health and basic needs of Massau and Santa Cruz be addressed and a vaccination campaign take place as soon as possible.

The NGO CONCERN has presented its plans for programs in 1997 including:

- ⇒ Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit in Malange Province to improve the health and nutrition of children under-five through the provision of therapeutic and supplementary feeding. The programme is implemented in conjunction with the Provincial Ministry of Health to strengthen local emergency response capacity;
- ⇒ Primary Health care programme in Huambo for the population of Ekunha municipality. The programme will focus on preventative health care involving community participation and strengthening the Ministry of Health;
- ⇒ Emergency nutrition in Huambo and Malange to reduce the incidence of malnutrition until economic recovery and a functioning health infrastructure are in place.

In short

A National Conference on the Sexual and Commercial Exploitation of Minors was held in Luanda on 15 February with participation from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS) and other international organizations. The conference recommended elaboration of a National Strategic Plan of Action and intervention against sexual and commercial exploitation of minors. ■

The **NGO Nuova Frontiera** commenced in February its technical support programme for the Ministry of Health in the province of Huila in the municipalities of Hoque and Cacula. The programme aims to help capacity build the provincial MOH in collecting health and sanitation data, improved health education and vaccination campaigns. The programme is part of the 2-year integrated programme currently undertaken by Nuova Frontiera in the province that includes agricultural support and education. ■

The **NGO MSF(B)** working in N'Dalatando is undertaking a water and sanitation project funded by ECHO aimed at supplying part of the city with drinking water. In addition 2 treatment centres have been established for Typanosomiasis patients as the hospital is unable to cope with the large number of cases. MSF(B) has also started a water and sanitation project in Luena to supply drinking water to a large part of the city and to the hospital. ■

The first Congress for Angolan and Portuguese Professionals from the Health and Social Reintegration sectors was held in Luanda from 4 February. ■

Agriculture / Food Security***WFP's 1997 programme is approved by GRA and WFP Executive Board***

WFP's Executive Board approved the 1997 programme for Angola on 2 January. WFP plans to continue assistance to demobilized soldiers and their dependents in the Quartering Areas until the end of March with 2 months contingency. WFP is also providing a three month family ration to the demobilized soldier on his departure from the QA. WFP will require \$11,778,561 in order to cover these needs which it is appealing for in the 1997 Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal expected to be launched in the following weeks.

In 1997 WFP is also providing food assistance to displaced and war-affected persons. The programme envisages a reduction of approximately 20% of the overall levels of food aid in 1997/98 with the number of beneficiaries expected at around 1.1 million. WFP is proposing in 1997 to meet 58 percent of the total humanitarian food aid requirements and will meet all the food aid requirements for the resettlement of Refugees returning from Zaire and Zambia and about one half the food aid requirements for the resettling IDPs. WFP also plans to provide food support to assist in rehabilitation projects, hospitals, orphanages and day-care centres and reintegration of demobilized.

Poor Rains in Provinces Threatening Good Harvests

Despite good rains throughout most of the country including the Planalto, some provinces have been experiencing little or irregular rainfalls. The provinces expected to have a poor harvest due to the lack of rain include, Bengo, Luanda, Zaire, Kuanza Norte and Kuanza Sul.

CRS Cubal in Benguela also reports that a spell of dry weather has affected the January harvest of corn. However, CRS still plans to phase-out the dry food distribution to beneficiaries by mid-1997, with efforts on-going to resettled communities.

On 6 January Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Cubal received test sorghum seeds for the "Seeds for Freedom" project. Fifteen farmers will participate in a control experiment to compare the relative productivity of their seed varieties with alternative seed varieties (one kilo per farmer). CRS has already identified the farmers, 12 of whom are from communities already assisted by CRS with rehabilitation of irrigation canals. The seeds have already been distributed to enable planting for the mid-1997 harvest. ■

In short

Between 1 January and 18 February the World Food Programme has delivered 11,986 mts of humanitarian cargo by road and 3,991 mts by air. ■

Heavy Rains and flooding have closed the airstrips in Jamba, Licua and Mavinga restricting the delivery of food and non-food items required for the quartering areas and MWD special centres in the region. ■

Nuova Frontiera is rehabilitating the IDA infrastructure in Huila Province in the municipalities of Cacula and Hoque as well as distributing seeds and tools to war-affected farmers in the same municipalities. The programme is a 2-year effort and commenced in February 1997. ■

The joint mission UCAH, UNHCR, UNICEF NRC and WFP visited the Santa Cruz municipality in eastern Uige province 4 February and assessed the agricultural situation in the municipality. The mission report indicates that the area is very fertile and all the population are participating in agricultural activities. Main crops are manioc but also peanuts, corn and rice is grown. The population appears to have sufficient seeds but lack the necessary tools. The mission indicated that mines do not seem to be a major restraint. ■

The NGO **GOAL** officially opened their Centre For Street Children on Wednesday 19 February. The Centre located in San Paulo is, funded by the Dutch Government and assisted by MINARS, UNICEF, LWF, CARE and WFP. The centre offers Street Children the opportunity for a hot meal, health care 24 hours a day, sanitation facilities and informal education opportunities. The centre sees on average 85 children per day. ■

IDPs and Refugees
IDP Workshop to be held last week in February

MINARS is planning an IDP workshop to enable the planning and strategizing for the Government programme and policies to be developed in regards to IDP resettlement. UN agencies, IOM, Ministry of Territory and World Bank will be attending the Workshop which is scheduled for 27-28 February.

Insecurity in and around Chicuma, especially in Casseque and Imbala, Benguela province has resulted in **numerous families displaced** to Cubal and other areas. CRS, UCAH, UNICEF, OXFAM, MSF-F and WFP are providing assistance to the displaced families. WFP is providing food rations to an estimated 3,070 families who fled the village of Caiungolo when it was attacked. CRS is also providing non-food assistance and UNICEF is assisting with kitchen kits and other non-food items.

Refugees head back into Angola albeit at a slow pace

UNHCR reports that some spontaneous movements were registered in January 1997 mainly in the provinces of Moxico and Uige. In total the following returnees were registered:

Location	# of returnees
Luau, Moxico:	754
Cazombo, Moxico	2,198
Lumbala N'guimbo, Moxico	86
Maquela, Uige	129
Mbanza Congo, Uige	922
Total	4089

Other Refugee/Protection issues

- A cross border meeting with UNHCR's sub office in Luena and the LWF office in Mehela (Zambia) took place on 22 January. where repatriation was discussed. Similar coordination meetings are being planned for the future
- A World Vision International team visited field locations in Moxico to look into the possibility of cooperation and collaboration with UNHCR in logistics operations.
- The UNHCR Sub-Office in Uige undertook a mission to Bungo to monitor the movement of returnees in Mbanzo Congo, an agreement on vaccination campaign for returnees at the reception centres was reached with UNICEF and MSF (Holland).
- LWF continues to work in Dundo in Lunda Norte on maize seeds trial projects. LWF project staff met with UNITA authorities in the areas of Lovua to analyze the needs of the population there and see how LWF could assist them.

In short

On 12 February WFP carried out an aerial survey of the Chongoroi area in Benguela Province to assess the conditions for the resettlement of some 20,000 displaced. A German NGO Sankt Barbara will be training deminers to clear the road from Cubal to Chongoroi to assist in the eventual return of the displaced. ■

MGM contracted by WFP continue to clear the roads in Bengo province in anticipation for the eventual return of over 20,000 displaced from the Boa Esperança camp located near Caxito town. AAA will be assisting with the return and resettlement programme while MGM with WFP support are currently clearing the Quicunzo-Cage road having already finished clearing Ucuu-Quicunzo. From Quicunzo MGM is also working towards Muxaluando. ■

ICRC helps with releasing detainees

Under the terms of the Lusaka Protocol signed in November 1994, the signatories charged ICRC with the supervision of the release of persons as a result of the conflict. In 1996 ICRC supervised the release of 188 people by the Government and UNITA, for a total of 539 since the start of the process on 28 April 1995. Of these, the Government released 369 and UNITA 170.

Free Movement of People and Goods/Security
Checkpoints Still Remain in Place Hindering Free Movement of People and Goods

While some checkpoints were removed during the reporting period there still remains a significant number of illegal checkpoints throughout the country. The status of checkpoints as of 17 February equals 55 GRA and 70 UNITA.

UNAVEM is particularly concerned over the re-establishment of some checkpoints specifically at Mbanza Mbamba as well as other problems encountered with payment of fees and taxes required from populations hindering their movements mainly in Mbanza Congo and Andulo.

- ⇒ UNAVEM reports that UNITA maintains their restriction on the demining of the road **Malange-Mussende-Andulo-Kuito**. This has hindered the opening of this road and hence the free circulation of people and goods.
- ⇒ The Bridge over the river Luo on the Road **Saurimo-Lucapa** was launched on 20 February by UNAVEM.
- ⇒ The Bridge over River Luxia on the **Saurimo-Luena** Road was launched by UNAVEM on 1 February
- ⇒ The Bridge over River Peso on the **Saurimo-Cacolo** Road was launched on 10 January after this bridge had been washed away by rains. This road is now open to traffic up to Muchinda.
- ⇒ The Bridge over River Cune on the Road **Kuito - Andulo** is unable to be launched and UNAVEM engineering platoons are standing by until UNITA allows demining work to take place.
- ⇒ The Bridge over river **Lui** was repaired by UNAVEM after heavy rains had destroyed parts of the bridge. UNAVEM opened the bridge on 15 February and traffic is now able to pass.
- ⇒ More than **57 bridges** have been constructed among which over 40 were completed by UNAVEM engineering companies.

Insecurity Affects Humanitarian Activities

Save The Children (USA) has been distributing seeds, tools, food and displaced kits to 8,096 families in Quibaxe, Bengo province in UNITA controlled areas since September 1996. Unfortunately, SCF (USA) reports that the continual looting of commodities during the months of January and February resulted in the evacuation of the staff and all programme materials on 11 February with a UNAVEM escort from Piri. The looting of commodities began on the 19 January and culminated in armed and systematic robberies utilizing trucks and tractors of all stored commodities on the evening of 10 February. According to reports, the looting resulted in the loss of 173.3 mts of grain 10.8 mts of vegetable oil 111 displaced kits and 600 litres of diesel. Save the Children also distributes materials for support to resettled families in Bula Atumba and Pango Aluquenm in the same province. No incidents have been registered in these areas at the time of this report.

The general security situation in Benguela province continues to deteriorate. The free movement of people and good is constrained and since November villages south of Cubal have been attacked by several well organized groups stealing cattle and burning houses. Large population are fleeing the areas of Casseque (Chicuma), Santa Ana (Ganda) and Yambala village to Cubal where CRS has registered thousands of newly displaced IDPs. CRS indicates that there may be up to 10,000 newly displaced by the violence. CRS, OXFAM, MSF-F, WFP, UCAH and UNICEF are assisting the displaced in Cubal town.

Joint missions headed by UCAH with the participation of UNICEF, EU, CRS and MSF have been assessing the situation. In addition, UNAVEM visited Imbala on 16 February by helicopter to also assess the damage caused by attacks burning homes, causing the population to flee the area.

UCAH and other humanitarian partners extend their condolences to the family of the ADRA-Angolana driver, Mr. Antonio Macedo who was ambushed and killed in an attack on the road Cubal-Benguela while on duty on 7 February, 1997.

Donor Update***UN Agencies Appeal to donors to fund Humanitarian Activities***

Over the past few months United Nations Agencies and IOM have worked closely together to draft the 1997 Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal. Each Agency has developed projects for submission in collaboration with the relevant line Ministries. The Appeal is currently being reviewed by Agency HQs prior to final submission to MINARS. On approval from all parties, the Appeal will be launched from Luanda within the next few weeks. The Appeal focuses on the completion of the demobilization process, continuing assistance to IDPs, refugees and other war affected--concentrating on community based emergency rehabilitation in expectation of returning populations. Capacity building and decentralizing government institutions in tandem with the extension of state administration is also an important component of the Appeal strategy.

British Overseas Development Minister Baroness Linda Chalker arrived in Angola on 7 January for a three day visit of the country. Lady Chalker met with President Dos Santos and with various Ministers of the Government including the Social Reintegration Minister, Albino Malango. It is reported that her meeting with the Minister Malango resulted in an announcement towards a \$5 million donation towards child-oriented projects.

The European Union Issued a Declaration on 3 February welcoming recent progress in the peace process but also indicating that it regretted the delays in swearing in of UNITA deputies as planned or the establishment of the Government of Unity and National Reconciliation (GNRU) as had been agreed on 17 and 25 January. The EU stressed the importance of UNITA sending the Deputies and future ministers and Vice-Ministers to Luanda by 12 February as in accordance with the Resolution 1087 of the Security Council.

UCAH welcomes new staff to Angola

Ms. Elizabeth Rasmusson has re-joined UCAH, this time as the Field Coordinator, responsible for the coordination of UCAH's Field structure in seven key provinces including, Malange, Uige, Benguela, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, Huila and Moxico. Elizabeth is familiar with Angola having been posted in Uige as an UCAH Field Advisor in 1995-1996.

UCAH also welcomes belatedly Alessandro Righetti the new DRTO for Vila Nova. Alesandro joined UCAH in November.

In short

Political Advisor for the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Minister, Anne Marie Bekkelund visited Angola in February and met with the SRSG Mr Alioune Blondin Beye. The Norwegian Government is especially active in the province of Uige. ■

Lady Diana Spencer visited Angola 13-16 January on the invitation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in order to highlight the issue of landmine problem in Angola. During her visit, Princess Diana visited orthopedic centres in Luanda, Kuito and assisted a Halo Trust exhibit in Huambo. She was also received by the Angolan Prime Minister and the First Lady. ■

NGOs are currently submitting projects to UCAH in response to the \$800,000 Spanish Government donation being managed by UCAH. As of mid-February 34 projects are in for consideration in various sectors with the selection of the projects to be undertaken by a joint committee consisting of Conga, UCAH and the Spanish Embassy. ■

URGENT!

UN Agencies and NGOs are requesting urgent financial assistance in order to carry out humanitarian programmes in the Selection and Demobilization Centres. (SDC's). 18 million USD is needed to carry out programmes.

1 January - 20 February

Demobilization and Reintegration

Rapid Demobilization Plan approved by Joint Commission

• The Joint Commission has approved, in principle, the plan actualized by the Technical Working group on Demobilization and Reintegration (TWGDR) which outlines the Rapid Demobilization of Excess Troops to commence in March 1997. The document proposes a rapid demobilization (RD) exercise during a period of five months, plus one of contingency. The RD refers to the demobilization of all ex-FMU troops from the 15 SDCs which is scheduled to be achieved in the context of the calendar for de-induction established by UNAVEM for its troops. The RD includes the formal and administrative act of demobilization as well as access to the legal and ad hoc benefits including, SEAR payment, food, kits and transport as established in the National Plan for the Demobilization and Reintegration of ex-combatants.

• The effective extension of state administration and authority is also required for the resumption and strengthening of economic activities, the provision of basic services and the re-establishment of a durable peace. While the RD exercise would certainly be facilitated and benefit from this exercise, it was recommended that the RD plan not be linked to the normalization of State Administration.

Quartering Area Status as of 17 February

FMU troops registered	65,840
UNITA Policemen registered	4,882
Dependents of FMU Troops	109,651
Dependents of UNITA Police	6,145
Troops present in SDCs	34,647
UNITA Police present in SDC	3,678
Troops selected for integration to FAA	18,770
Troops integrated into FAA	6,083
Police selected for incorporation into ANP	401
Total deserted troops and police	17,964

Status on registration of military War Disabled (MWD) in UNITA Special Centres.

Special Centre	MWDs	Dependents
Biongue Special Centre	1,229	5776
Mavinga Special Centre	1807	10,008
Kavaleka	0	0
Jamba	1,252	8,875
Cangola	142	551
Boa Vista	67	410
Bonga	775	3616
Total	5,272	29,236

Demobilization of Underage Military (UnM)

As of 20 February a total of 2,241 underage UNITA ex-military had been demobilized from 8 Selection and Demobilization Centres (SDCs) including Vila Nova, Lounumbali, Negage, N'Gove, Catala, Chicuma, Andulo and Chitembo. In the 7 other QAs where demobilization has not yet started (Quibala, Quibaxe, N'tuco, Caiundo, Licua, Lumeje and Muxinda) there are a total of 2,426 UnM to be demobilized. ■

On 30 January the ceremony for the demobilization of the first UnM from FAA took place at "Grafani" in Luanda. The first group of approximately 213 Underage Military (between ages 13-18) have been transported to their home areas. A second group of some 300-400 FAA UnM will be demobilized next. ■

Selection of ex-UNITA soldiers for FAA

Selection of ex-UNITA soldiers for FAA is on-going. As of 17 February some 6,083 soldiers had been transferred to FAA Units throughout the country. On 10 January 1997, 32 more former UNITA officers were incorporated into FAA of whom 1 was a Colonel, 6 were Lt. Colonels and 25 were majors. This brought the number of officers incorporated into FAA to 77. ■

Mine Action

Mine Action Plan for 1997

The 1997 National Mine Action Plan has been drafted by the INAROE in collaboration with CMAO and is currently under discussion with the Government and relevant partners. Within the Plan of Action, INAROE in collaboration with UNDP (as on 1 March) has clear objectives for demining, mine surveying, mine marking and mine awareness in 1997. During the year, specialist mine clearance NGOs will continue mine survey and mine clearance activities in Angola in the east, central, south and north regions of the country as outlined below:

MAG	Moxico
HALO	Bié, Huambo, Benguela
NPA	Malanje, Bengo, Benguela, Kwanza Norte & Sul
Greenfields-UK	Working for Care International-US in Cuando Cubango
MGM	Bengo
Sankt Barbara	Benguela

The main activities proposed for INAROE and their partners in 1997 include the following:

- undertake **Level 1 Surveys** that investigate and record mine information identifying high and low risk areas;
- introduce **mechanical equipment** to speed up significantly the pace of reducing areas suspected of being mined as opposed to the traditional labor intensive hand method, while the national capacity in that field is developing;
- continue with pilot schemes using **dogs** in the survey and mine contaminated areas.

The Plan underlines the necessity of the close collaboration between international staff working with national NGOs to build the capacity of national partners in an effort to eventually assume the responsibility for the national mine programme. The Plan also encourages the NGOs to develop projects **in order of priority in mine surveying, mine area marking Community based mine action and mine awareness programs, Mine clearance and EOD**

In short

Vapour System

NPA will be introducing MECHEM's MEDS (vapour detection) system in association with MECHEM shortly. ■

Continuation of the UN support to INAROE

UNAVEM III and UCAH will pass responsibility for the support of the national demining program to UNDP on 1 March 1997. In anticipation, a project document is being negotiated between the government of Angola and UNDP. This document will determine the aims and objectives of a 2-year UNDP support program for INAROE. ■

International NGOs, National NGOs, UNICEF and INAROE sponsored a **mine awareness display and information centre in Largo Kinaxixe** starting 12 February. The event was intended to disseminate information on mines and UXOs to the public of Luanda and highlighted the UN SRSG Maitre Alioune Blondin Beye visited the display on 17 February adding his name to the list of 15,000 signatures collected during the campaign against mines.

Angolan delegation goes to Maputo for the NGO Conference on Landmines

A conference against the use of landmines is taking place between 25 and 28 February in the Mozambican capital of Maputo and will focus on the ban on landmine production and use in Southern Africa. A 30 strong delegation from Angola will participate, including UNICEF, national and international NGOs involved in mine-related activities in this country as well as the representation from the government (INAROOE, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Social Assistance and Reinsertion, National Child Institute) and members of the church. According to the member of the secretariat for the Angolan Campaign for the Ban on Landmines (CABM) Firmino Valentim, the main objective for the national NGOs will be to acquire know-how on campaigning against mines. The question of raising financial resources for mine awareness activities will be discussed and national NGOs will seek partnerships to undertake activities in Angola.

According to those involved in mine awareness and the campaign against landmines, information needs to expand to the provinces and national and international media need to become more involved in the campaign.

Handover of the Viana Demining School

The Central Mine Action Training School (CMATS) located in Viana in the suburbs of Luanda has a new Director. On 21 February, during an official ceremony in Viana, former director French Col. Bilhaire handed over the management of the school to Manuel Adolfo Chipaca, who has been working within CMATS for some time. This change took place in the framework of the pending withdrawal of UNAVEM from demining activities in Angola. Six demining brigades were trained by UNAVEM military instructors at CMATS during 1996 and equipped by UNAVEM. Each brigade is constituted of 65 former military personnel from both UNITA and the FAA.

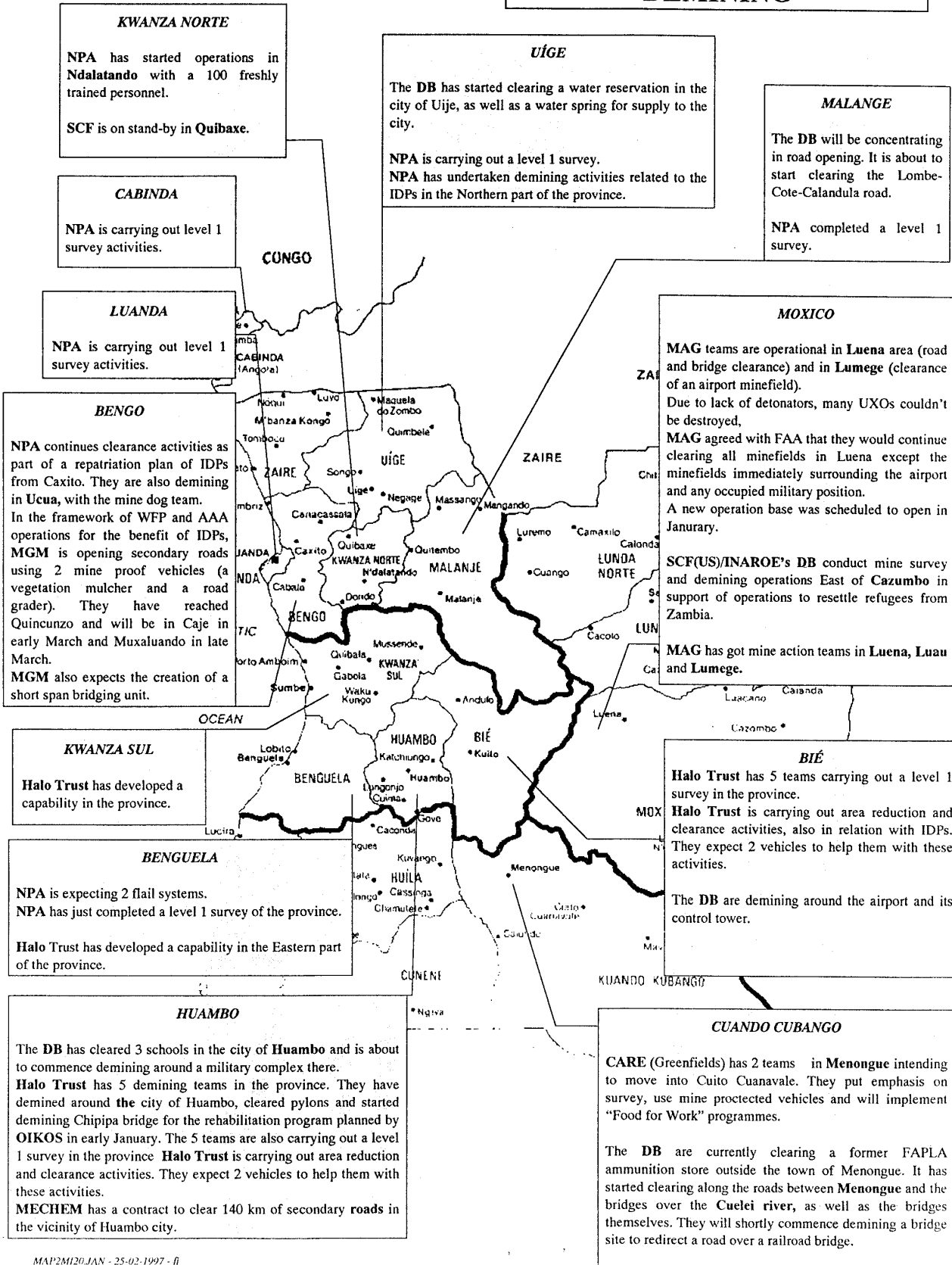
It is planned that the training of 12 brigades will be completed by the end of 1997 and that by September 1998, 18 brigades, one per province, will be in place. In addition to deminers, CMATS train instructors, explosive ordnance disposal specialists, team leaders, surveyors and medical orderlies.

After the withdrawal of the military personnel of UNAVEM III, all military staff in the Regions will be gradually replaced by staff provided either by NGOs or commercial companies under contract to UNDP.

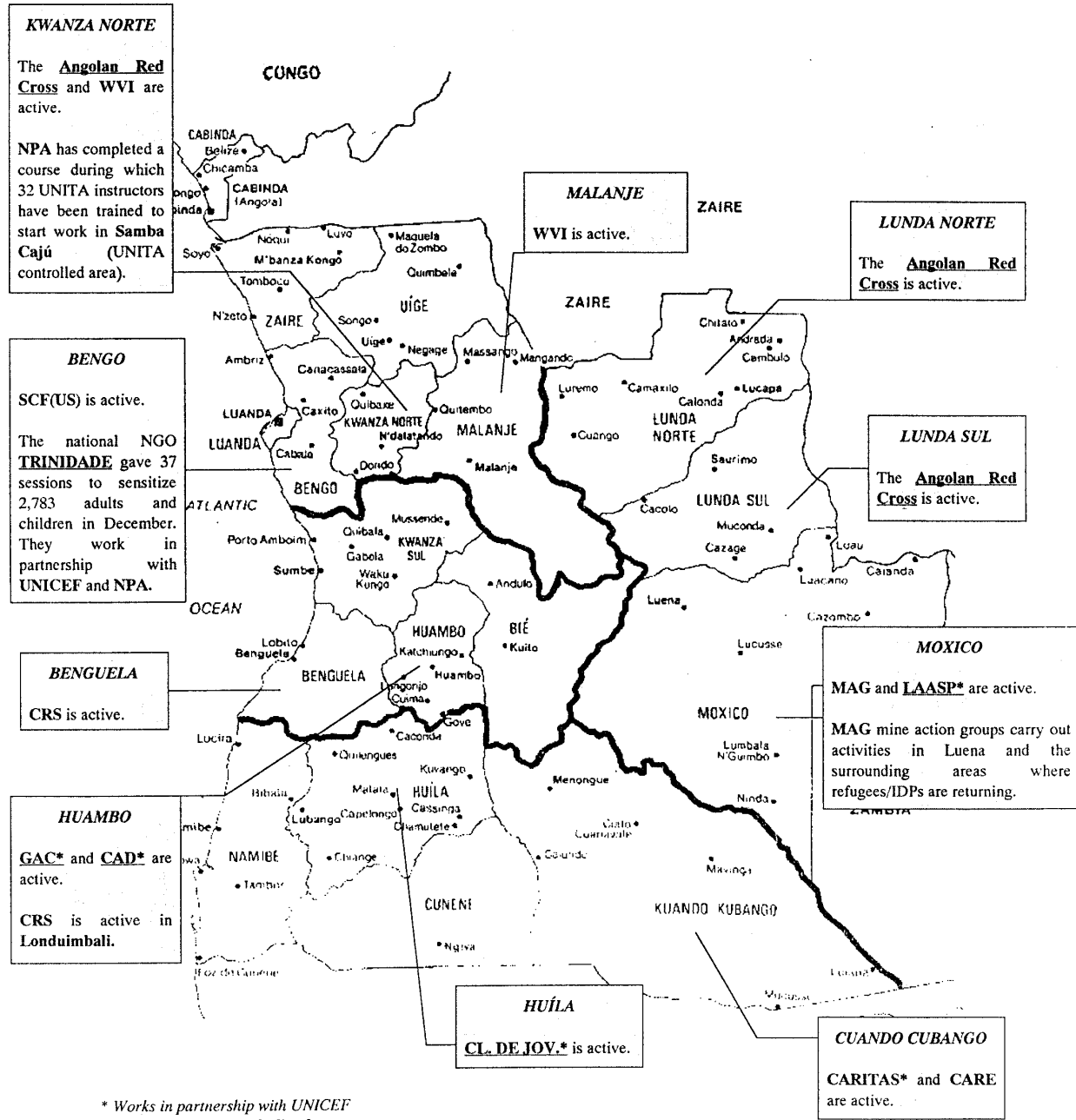
Accidents chart

LOCATION	ACCIDENT	ORGANIZATION INVOLVED
<i>Bengo province, Caxito area</i>	An accident occurred on 28 November while SCF sappers were clearing a secondary road 40 km North-East of Caxito. One deminer was severely injured and later lost a leg ; another one received injuries.	SCF(US)

DEMINING



MINE AWARENESS



- CMAO / INAROE / Handicap International carry out mine awareness activities in quartering and family areas.

TRAINING

