

UCAH News

INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

April 1997



Photos: Giovanni Diffidenti



The Government of National Unity and Reconciliation is formed after the 70 UNITA Deputies take up their seats, at the beginning of the month.

However, a UN Resolution urges the parties to complete without delay the remaining military aspects of the peace process, while it extends UNAVEM III mandate to 30 June 1997.

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United Nations

Overview

National Reconciliation

The Government of National Unity and Reconciliation is formed on 11 April

On 11 April the Government and UNITA joined hands in a formal ceremony at the National Assembly, officially inaugurating the new Government of National Unity and Reconciliation (GURN). The programme for the new Government is expected to be discussed in the coming weeks. The process of normalization of State Administration began on 2 May at the city of M'banza Congo in the northern province of Zaire. An Inter-sectorial Committee chaired by the Minister for Territorial Administration and comprised by representatives of key government institutions, the Troika Observer States and the United Nations, continues to monitor the implementation of the approved methodology for this delicate process.

As stipulated in the Lusaka Protocol, UNITA officials assumed four Ministerial posts as well as several Vice-Ministerial offices, three Provincial Governorships and seven Provincial Deputy-Governorships. Many foreign heads of State arrived to Luanda for the formal inauguration ceremony including South African President, Mr. Nelson Mandela and the Presidents of Ghana, Ivory Coast and Mali. Representatives of the international community also included the Special OAU-UN Representative for the Great Lakes Region, the OAU Secretary-General as well as various government delegations.

UNITA Deputies take their seats in the National Assembly on 9 April after voting on the Status of Jonas Savimbi

Paving the way for the formation of the long awaited Government of National Unity, an event leading to the act of the GURN, on 8 April the National Assembly approved legislation confirming the special status of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. Under the newly approved law Mr. Jonas Savimbi has the right to regular consultations with the President and members of the Government and the right to publish messages in the state-owned press. Mr Savimbi's title will be that of "**leader of the main opposition party**" and he will be provided with a diplomatic passport. In order to facilitate his functions, the Government will provide Mr. Savimbi with a residence, an adequate salary and a team of body-guards. Mr Savimbi's Special Status will be applicable throughout Angola and will remain in force until the next general elections expected in 2 to 3 years time.

Fifty-nine of **70 UNITA Deputies** took up their seats in parliament on 9 April. Seven of the UNITA deputies were already in Luanda and already had been installed in the National Assembly. The remaining four have been excluded for internal UNITA party reasons. All of the Deputies installed in the National Assembly on 9 April had been elected in the September 1992 elections.

Security Council Resolution 1106 adopted on 16 April

In the Security Council resolution of 16 April, the Security Council welcomes the formation of the GURN but reminds and urges the two parties to complete without delay the remaining military aspects of the peace process, including the incorporation of UNITA soldiers into the Angolan Armed Forces and the demobilization exercise. The report also highlights the need for the completion of the normalization of state administration throughout the national territory and suggests in this context that a meeting take place between the President of Angola and the Leader of UNITA.

In addition, the Resolution decides to extend the mandate of UNAVEM III until June 30, 1997 to assist in the implementation of remaining tasks and requests the Secretary-General to complete the withdrawal of Military Units as scheduled. Further, the resolution considers the establishment of a follow-up mission. The Secretary General has suggested that the new observer mission will be known as the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (UNOMA). The main activities of this mission, in addition to the completion of the remaining military tasks, would be to focus on political, police and human rights aspects as well as on humanitarian and public information programmes.

The Demobilization of Ex-FMU troops starts on 15 April

The long awaited demobilization of excess ex-FMU troops finally began on 15 April with the first 45 soldiers demobilized from the Selection and Demobilization Center (ex-Quarterming Area) at Vila Nova in Huambo Province. An official ceremony was held on 12 April at Vila Nova to signal the commencement of the Rapid Demobilization exercise. This occasion was presided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Angola and counted with the participation of the Minister for Social Assistance and Reinsertion, the UNITA Secretary for Information, representatives of the Troika Observer States and the United Nations. As stipulated in the Rapid Demobilization Plan (RDP), this process is to be undertaken during a period of five (5) months plus one for contingency using a regional approach starting in the central region. *For more on demobilization see page 6.*

UCAH gains a new Field Adviser

UCAH welcomes **Trond Husby** seconded by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Stand-By Force to perform as another UCAH Field Adviser. He will be based in Moxico Province, but his activities will be extended to the Lundas. As a social anthropologist, the Norwegian has vast experience from humanitarian activities in Central America.

Overview by Sector

Health

World Vision releases report on Nutritional Surveys undertaken in Kwanza Norte Province

Recently World Vision conducted a nutritional survey in Samba Caju town, the capital of Samba Caju municipality in Kwanza Norte Province (UNITA administrated). The survey was undertaken as a follow-up to similar surveys done in 1996 in order to evaluate the current situation and the impact of World Vision programmes in the area. The first nutritional survey undertaken in these areas in 1996 indicated high levels of malnutrition at global 17.51% and severe 6.85%.

In response, World Vision in 1996 opened an ambulatory feeding programme and a curative health post. In February 1997 a second survey evaluated 420 children with the results indicating a global malnutrition rate of 10.48% and severe malnutrition at 1.67%. showing a 40.15% decrease in the global malnutrition rates of last year and 75.6% decrease in the severe malnutrition.

While there is an improvement in the nutritional situation, WVI intends to continue the therapeutic feeding in the nutritional centre and start growth monitoring in order to follow the nutritional situation of the population in Samba Caju and the surrounding areas.

International Medical Corps in Maquela do Zombo

UNHCR reports that IMC has recently completed a health promoter course in Maquela do Zombo, Uige Province where 15 health workers were trained. IMC is assisting in community health and distributing drugs in the surrounding areas. In addition, IMC has completed the training of 29 traditional birth attendants in the same town. Vaccines and vaccine materials were received during March in the fixed vaccination posts in Maquela do Zombo and an extensive campaign was conducted in Kimbata, Maseke, Ndonba Tadila, Taia and three villages of Maquela. In total, 9,334 doses of vaccines were administered to women and children under five years.

Africa Humanitarian Action finishes rehabilitation work in Moxico Province

Africa Humanitarian Action, (AHA) an NGO working in Moxico Province, in close coordination with UNHCR, has completed the rehabilitation of the hospital in Cazombo, Moxico Province and is presently training 39 health workers in the fields of pharmacology, patient management, diagnosis and public health and vaccination. Nine health posts are also being supervised and supplied with drugs by AHA in the areas surrounding Cazombo. AHA will be rehabilitating six of the nine health posts selected due to the accessibility and distance to the referral hospital in Cazombo.

In Short

UCAH's Field Advisor in Huambo Province reports that the Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Group met for the first time in 1997 on 7 April with the discussion focusing on IDPs. The health Sub-Group also met in April. ICRC has requested that the Government formulate a plan and work with other international agencies to take over activities related to the health programme that ICRC was running in Huambo as they will be closing their programme. ■

The NGO, the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) saw a total of 4,196 patients during the month of March in the newly rehabilitated hospital in Sanza Pombo, Uige Province. The incidence of malaria accounted for 39.6% of patients. ■

The vaccination campaign being undertaken by UNICEF/EPI in Negage and the municipality of Quimbele covering the communes of Alto-Zaza, Kuango and Ikokais is now completed. Some 12,267 doses of vaccines have been administered. ■

The NGO Goal is continuing their vaccination campaign in the area of Puri, Uige Province and the communes of Quinguanga and Cambila. ■

Food and Agriculture
Malange agricultural technical sub-group meets for first time...

..since the post-electoral conflict of 1992. UNITA and the Government agricultural technicians have met and begun to plan joint interventions in the Province of Malange. Here are some of the highlights of the technical sessions held in Malange and Caculuma.

- The amount of hectares planted was below the numbers of seeds distributed. This may be attributed to the fact that many of the seeds that were distributed in the peri-Urban areas are eaten, sold or transported to Luanda for sale.
- Rehabilitation of the Agricultural School in Lutão was discussed and a joint team (WFP, OIKOS, UNITA, ODAAR, IDA) evaluated the location and agreed that it would make an ideal project for IRSEM/SeCoR, (with financing available), for a large number of demobilized soldiers scheduled to return to the area. Road rehabilitation would be necessary. However, enough space was available to transform the school into an agricultural/literacy/professional training space for demobilized soldiers. On 17 and 18 April a mission consisting of SeCoR, UNITA, ODAAR and IDA and a civil engineer from a private firm visited the site and are in the process of developing plans for its rehabilitation.
- IDA presented to UNITA a programme that would include training of basic technicians, a provincial seed bank and a project to improve the commercialization of agriculture, the reactivation of farmers associations and the multiplication of cassava sprouts. IDA also offered 12,000 livestock vaccines for cattle and goats in UNITA territory.
- UNITA agreed to provide statistical data on the number of families in all municipalities under their control and to assist in the coordination with the upcoming WFP/FAO Agricultural Mission planned for 28 April.
- WFP, UNITA and IDA will conduct an agricultural survey throughout the entire Province in the coming dry months.

Bridge renovation program in Malanje

Swedrelief arrived in Malanje during the second week of April and launched a road and bridge renovation program in the Province, focusing on secondary roads north and south of the main road. The project includes the renovation of 11 bridges on the roads towards Quirima, Marimba, Caombo and Massango, most of which are completely destroyed. The road towards Marimba is planned to open at the end of May. (*following page 5*)

In short
Harvest may be saved in Huambo Province

According to the UCAH Field Advisor in Huambo a valid estimation of the agricultural situation can be done in the Government administered areas. The losses are expected to reach 20% for maize crop due to a dry spell and bad distribution of rains in February. The situation normalized in March and the farmers have tried to overcome the situation by planting potatoes and vegetables. According to the local population, the planted maize may have been saved by the April rains.

On 14 April the rehabilitation of the bridge over the Lunje river (Catabola municipality, Bié Province) was completed with the assistance of WFP through food-for-work. The 40 metre bridge connects the municipalities of Catabola and Andulo. ■

By the end of April WFP Malange will have supported 29,021 beneficiaries with 324,376 mts. of food. Of this 59.7% goes to social assistance, 1.3% to rural development, 11.2% for health and 27.8% for education. ■

Initially, the first bridge to be rebuilt is over the Rio Ndembue, on the road to Calandula between Lombe and Kota. However, UNITA has requested that the work begin on the road running southward from Caculama to Cambundi Catembo. NPA is carrying out mine surveys for the project. Demobilized soldiers will participate, as part of a food-for-work program.

The UCAH Field Advisor in Benguela Province is monitoring closely the agriculture situation with WFP and NGOs after Government representatives raised concerns regarding a an expected poor harvest. ■

IDPs and Refugees

NGOs and MINARS plan the return of IDPs in Bengo Province

During March 97, the Government of Bengo Province requested International NGOs to assist with the return of the displaced located in and around Caxito and at the "Boa Esperanza" displaced camp in Porto Capiri. The operation is scheduled to commence during the first two weeks of May and entails the return of some 5,000 people to the municipalities of Ucuca and Muxaluanda also in Bengo Province.

The NGOs AAA, SCF/USA, and NPA, are planning to assist with the resettlement exercise and IOM will be providing transport assistance and other resettlement assistance. NPA will be in charge of demining, rehabilitation of schools and health post and water and sanitation. SCF/USA will provide food aid, displaced kits, plastic sheeting and seeds and tools.

In order to accelerate and facilitate the return of the local administration which is necessary for the coordination and implementation of the entire operation, SCF-US has provided a tent to be used as accommodation for the administration personnel until proper housing can be rehabilitated. Another tent has been promised to be used as health post until rehabilitation of the old health post is completed. SCF(US) will also be providing medicine for the first month.

The results of a SCF-US assessment showed that there has already been a spontaneous return of 21 heads of families to the Ucuca area. These families have requested SCF-US to provide tuber of manioc and sweet potatoes for planting.

Malange Provincial Technical group meets on IDPs

The IDP Technical Working Group on Social Affairs met for the first time in March with the specific objective of responding to the emergency needs of IDPs from the border area separating UNITA administered territory from Government controlled territory North of Lombe. It has been agreed that World Vision would distribute food to the IDPs for a limited period of time in the resettlement communities already established just outside of Malange city.

UNAVEM reports that a large group of refugees arrived at Dundo in Lunda Norte

The UNAVEM Military Observers and Police Observers carried out a patrol on the Zairian and Angolan Border to determine if there was an influx of refugees due to the conflict on-going in Zaire. The UNAVEM team members met with the Vice-Governor for Defense in Dundo and was informed that a large number of refugees arrived at the border but had not been allowed to enter Angolan Territory. The Provincial authorities indicated that some of the refugees were in need of assistance.

UNHCR, who is monitoring the situation, reports that there are very few Zairian nationals arriving into Angola at this time.

IDPs movements in Benguela: a mission reports

Insecurity in the region of Cubal and Ganda (Benguela Province) was reported to have caused the displacement of some 20,000 IDPs (5,000 families to Cubal) in the past four months. In this view a mission (UCAH, UNICEF, CRS, WFP, OXFAM) visited the

DEMOBILIZATION & REINTEGRATION

Activities

1 April - 6 May 1997

towns of Cubal and Ganda and met with the Vice-Governor of Social Affairs, the Vice-Governor of Defense and the representative for MINARS in Benguela city.

In Cubal, where 75% of the population are IDPs, the physical condition of the IDPs (mostly women and children, and some elderly persons) was not cause for concern, as the NGO MSF-F, after a nutritional/health screening, had found them in good condition. The IDPs also appeared to have food in sufficient quantity, although they were lacking some non-food items like soap and blankets.

Reasons for the displacements in the Cubal area include Government Civil Defense movements in the region, attacks attributed to roving bands of armed men burning houses and stealing cattle, as well as accidents caused by mines.

Missionaries in the area have neither seen nor heard anything regarding an alleged massacre. The movement of people seems disproportionate to the level of violence, according to the mission from Luanda.

In Ganda, the city's administrator expressed his concern about the very poor rains during the last months, entailing poor harvests. The same concern was shared by Benguela government representatives, especially regarding the Catengue area. They indicated that although seeds and tools had been distributed, the harvest would be lost in this area. Mines have been discovered and others caused injuries to FAA soldiers in Ganda area. More than 6,000 IDPs have recently arrived in Ganda. However some of these were past displaced to Cubal now returning to Ganda.

Demobilization and Reintegration

Rapid Demobilization started

On 15 April the first stage of **rapid demobilization** began for excess troops, military war disabled and the remaining underage soldiers started from the Selection and Demobilization Centers in the central region (Vila Nova, Louduimbali and Quibala) including the Special War Disabled Centre of Bonga, followed by the southern region (N'Gove and Chicuma) on 30 April. As of 8 May, a total of 5,374 ex-FMU (UNITA) troops had been demobilized and transported, constituting approximately 10% of the total currently present in all the SDCs and eligible for demobilization. This number includes Military War Disabled from the Special Center at Bonga. Together with the Underage Soldiers already demobilized before 15 April (2,124), the total stands at 5,698.

The demobilization benefits stipulated in the National Programme are being made available by the different partners, including the provision of food for the demobilizing soldiers and their families by WFP, transport and demobilization kits by IOM and kits donated by the Government of Portugal for the Underage and War Disabled Personnel.

The demobilization documents are being prepared by FAA with assistance of UCAH. UNITA police personnel will also be demobilized while some will be selected for incorporation into the Angolan National Police (ANP). Upon demobilization, police personnel will receive the same benefits as military personnel and their families will be transported by IOM to their destinations of choice.

While the deadline for the return of absent troops to the Central and Southern regions was 5 May, the deadline for absent troops from SDCs in the Northern Region has been set for 15 May.

FMU troops registered	66,016
UNITA Policemen registered	5,039
Dependents of FMU Troops	115,872
Dependents of UNITA Police	8,241
Troops present in SDCs	23,755
UNITA Police present in SDC	3,392
Troops selected for integration to FAA	19,130
Troops integrated into FAA	10,995
Police selected for incorporation into ANP	578
Total deserted troops and police	20,051

As of 6 May 97

1 April - 6 May 1997

Status on registration of Military War Disabled (MWD) in UNITA Special Centers.

Special Centers	MWDs	Status of Registration
Biongue	1228	Over
Mavinga	1806	Over
Kavaleka	650	On-going; 1850 MWDs still to be registered
Jamba	1597	Over
Cangola	142	Over
Bonga	775	Over
Total	6198	

As of 2 May 97

33.775 MWDs' family members have been registered in the UNITA Special Centers

Status on registration of Military War Disabled (MWD) at the Selection and Demobilization Centers (SDCs or ex-Quartering Areas).

SDCs	MWDs	Quartering Area	MWDs
Vila Nova	115	Catala	58
Londuimbali	114	Chicuma	261
Negage	326	Andulo	387
Quibaxe-Piri (+Boa Vista)	172	Chitembo	172
N'Gove	105	Caiundo	284
Quibala	105	Licua	615
N'Tuco	272	Lumeje	221
Muxinda	12	Total	3219

As of 2 May 97

16.574 MWDs' family members have been registered in the Quartering Areas. One hundred remain to be medically screened.

Total UNITA and FAA Military War Disabled

There are therefore 9,417 MWDs registered on the UNITA side. This figure could reach 11,400 once the process is completed.

FAA reported the first cases: 5,148 MWDs (14 April 97).

In short

On Friday, 2 May, senior Government officials, Parliamentarians and representatives of the international community traveled to the city of M'Banza Congo, capital of the Province of Zaire, to install the new Governor. This was the first step in the process of normalization of state administration. The process is expected to be extended next to the volatile region between the southern corner of Benguela and the north of Huila Province. ■

In order to facilitate the rapid demobilization plan, the Technical Working Group for Demobilization and Reintegration (TWGDR) is undertaking a combined awareness campaign including representation and assistance from UCAH, the donor community, national media, UNITA and the Government. In order to assist and formalize the campaign a workshop has been held by UCAH from 26 April to 2 May regarding the dissemination and reporting on the demobilization process. ■

Workshop: Information Sharing & National Reconciliation

From 26 April-2nd May, UCAH organized a *Workshop on Partnerships for Information Sharing and Dissemination on Demobilization, Peace and National Reconciliation*. This event counted with the participation of over 40 Angolan journalists as well as Ambassadors of donor countries, senior Government officials, UNITA Parliamentarians and representatives of international organizations. The recommendations made by the participants included a call to improve access to information sources (i.e. institutions/organizations involved in demobilization), increase the use of national languages and traditional means of communication for the dissemination of messages and measures to maintain a network of *Angolan communicators* informed of the latest developments related to demobilization and national reconciliation.

Mine Action

"Caminho Seguro" (Safe Path)..

..is the title of the bimonthly information bulletin which first issue has been recently published by INAROOE. It has been produced by INAROOE's information section with UNICEF support. It contains an article on The return of the refugees to Cazombo - a major challenge - and an extensive interview with INAROOE's director General Helder Cruz, who reminds the readers that his department still needs support to carry on the tasks already undertaken.

SHA demining programme in Bailundo could suffer

Swiss Humanitarian Aid contracted MECHEM consultants to demine the road between Bailundo and Mungo. On 16 April two demining vehicles were returning from a reconnaissance mission from Mungo and were stopped upon arrival to Bailundo town. According to SHA, the team was assaulted by armed men. After the intervention of the UNAVEM team site, the team were finally released.

SHA informs that this is not the first time that their staff are subject to incidents of this nature. As a result, a meeting was held with MECHEM, ICRC, representatives of Agronil and the UNITA official for humanitarian affairs, Dr. Lizeth Pena, to discuss among other issues, the continuation of this demining program.

Mine Awareness activities for refugees in Zaire

MAG is carrying out Mine Awareness programs in 2 refugee camps in Zambia (29,000 people) and 3 in Zaire (30,000 people). Although the NGO is looking for funding to form another special survey team to work in Southern Moxico and Lunda Sul, it is at the same time facing financial difficulties which may compel it to scale down its operations temporarily.

In short

Mines were reported around **Cubal, Ganda and Ibanga** in Benguela Province. They have been uncovered by the heavy rains. NGOs interested should contact UNAVEM regional HQs in Lubango. ■

Due to lack of funds, most activities (demining, mine awareness) carried out by **SCF-US** are now suspended. ■

Following a series of accidents which occurred in the mine fields surrounding Luena airport, **MAG** has been eventually authorized by the provincial government to restart the marking of the mine fields in that area.

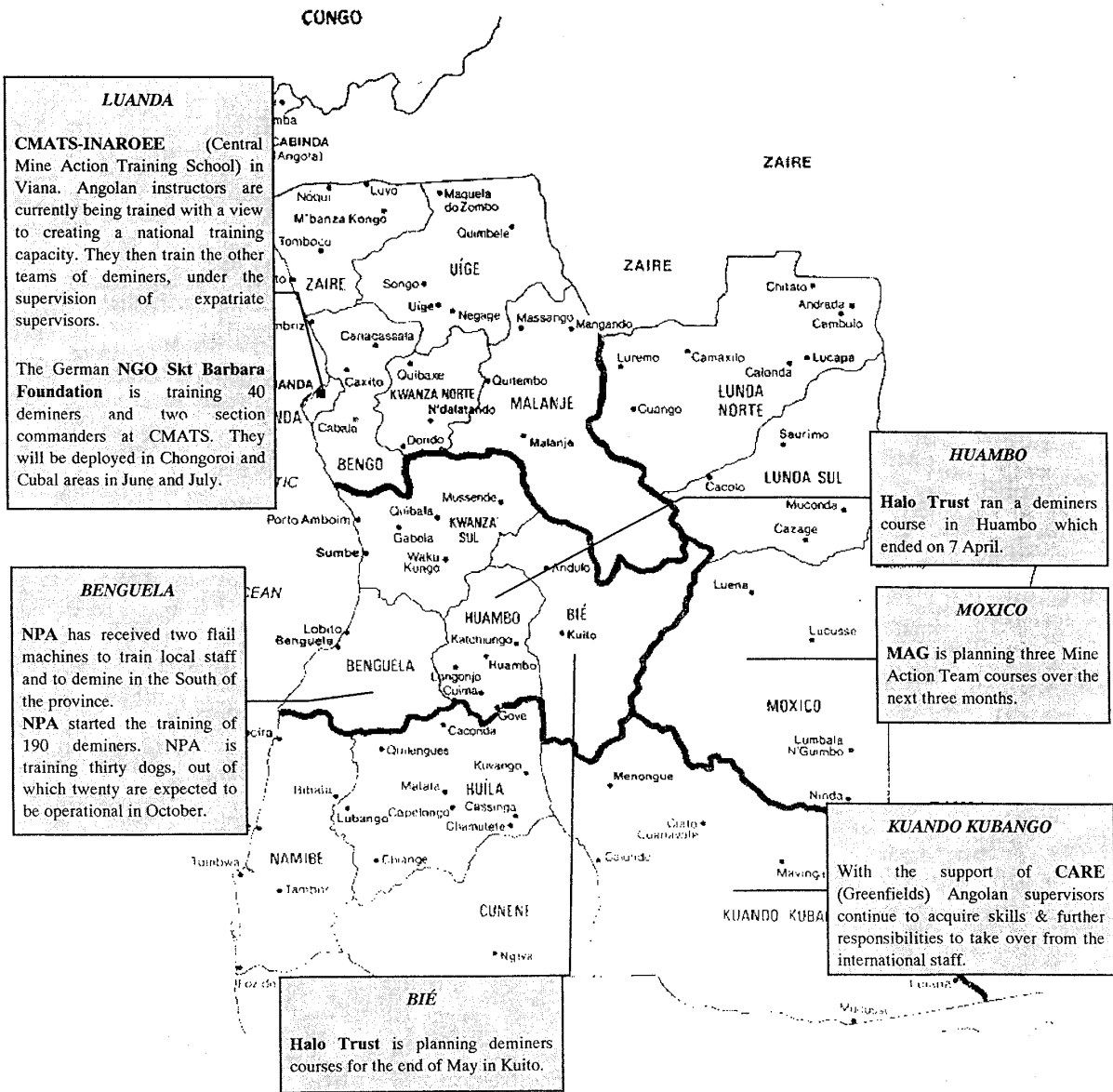
Actual demining is still being discussed. ■

HI-F received the visit of two experts - one civilian and one military - to determine over a period of 5 months possible demining strategies in rural environment. ■

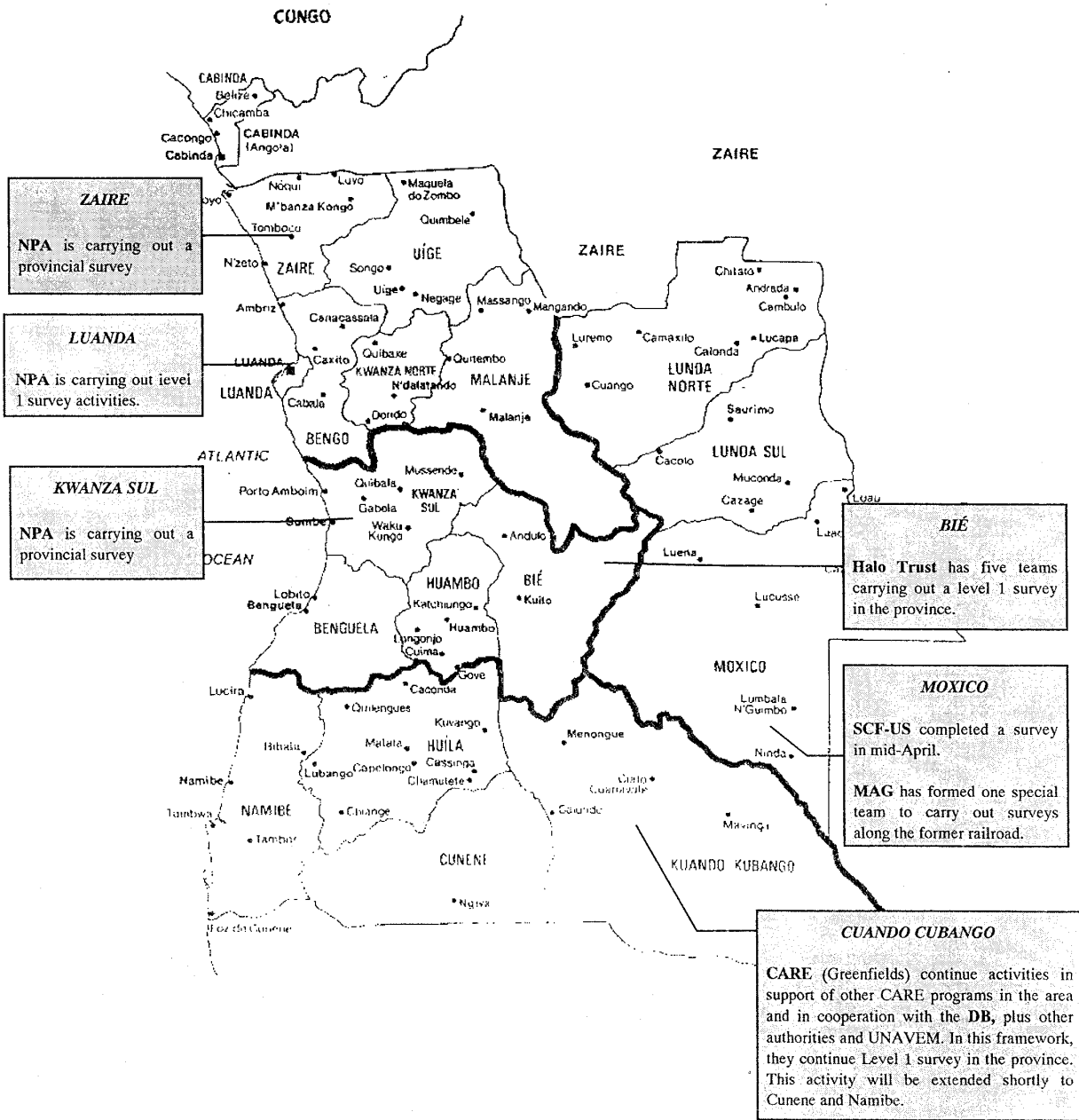
The national NGO **Trinidad** (Mine Awareness in Bengo) is expecting 50,000 USD from the "Spain-UCAH-Mechanism" (SUM) to buy equipment: vehicle, radio, photocopier to reinforce its capacity at its base in Luanda. ■

WVI has been forced to scale down its activities due to lack of funding. It has received verbal commitment for new fundings from UCAH and the Australian, Canadian and North-American governments. ■

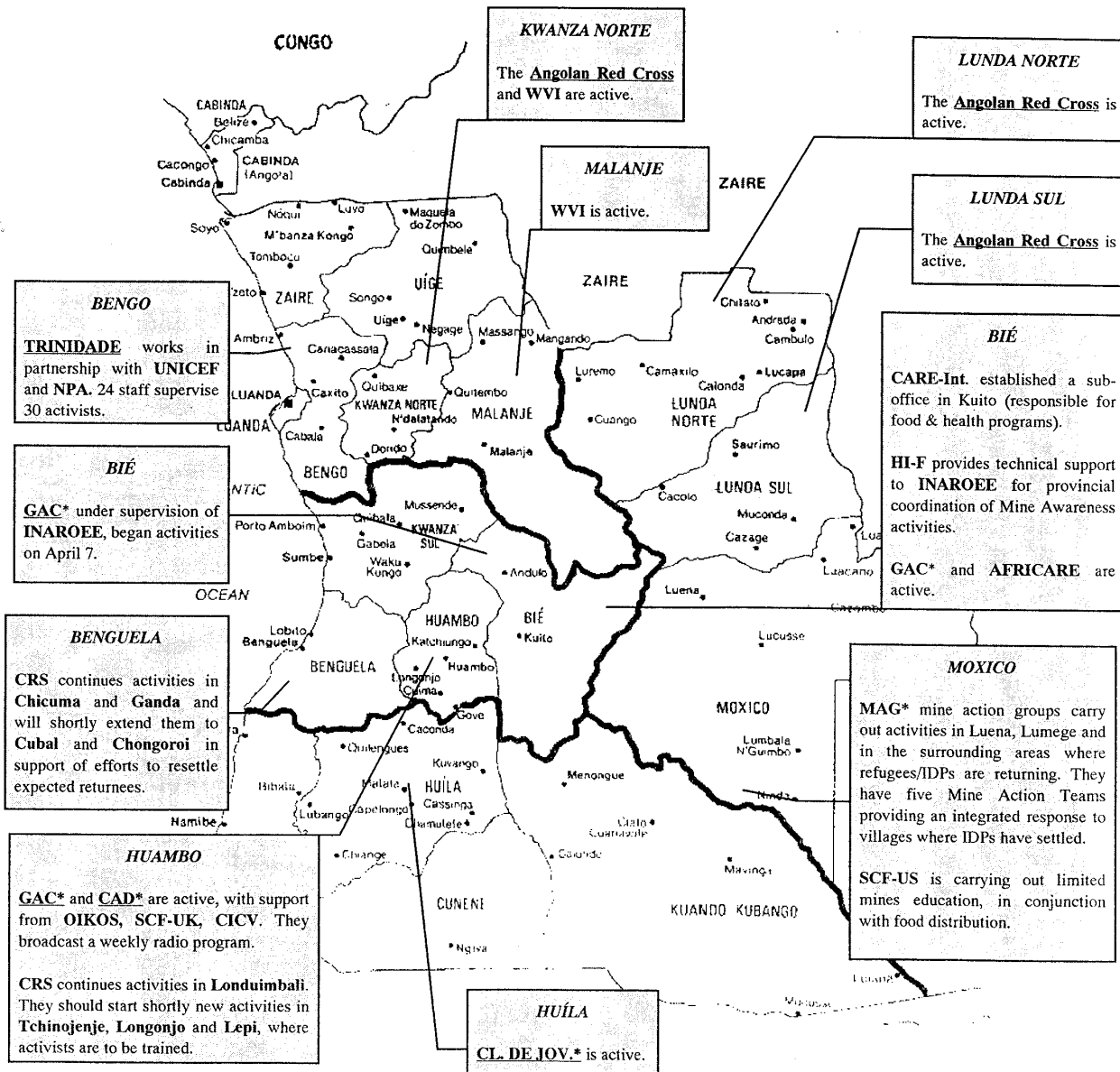
TRAINING



MINE SURVEY



MINE AWARENESS



* Works in partnership with UNICEF
National NGOs are underlined

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

