



# UCAH

## Humanitarian News

UCAH-United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit

Avda. Cte. Valódia 206, 5th floor  
E-Mail: 105670.1720@compuserve.com

Tel.: 348205-344321  
Luanda - Angola

**INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA**

15 - 30 September 1997

Price: Free

### Humanitarian operations threatened in Angola...



Photo: Giovanni Diffidenti for UCAH

30 September 1997-Luanda. The massive return of thousands of IDPs and Angolan refugees has been reduced to a few small scale ventures; the Normalization of State Administration at some 100 localities nationwide is opening-up communities in need of support in health, food security, nutrition and education multiplying the number of accessible war-affected populations; some 30,000 ex-UNITA troops are undergoing the difficult transition to civilian life while over 12,000 await demobilization along with some 35,000 Government troops. Although the survival of IDPs and war-affected populations and the successful reinsertion of ex-soldiers are considered essential elements of Angola's quest for lasting peace and recovery, relief organizations only have 28.7% of the essential funding requirements outlined in the 1997 Consolidated Appeal. The continuity of humanitarian assistance for one of the most victimized civilian populations in the world is threatened; not due to the outbreak of war, nor lack of political will but due to the poor response of the international community to the humanitarian needs identified by relief agencies.

### INSIDE

#### • Humanitarian Assistance

Relief agencies continue efforts to monitor the arrival of new IDPs, assess humanitarian conditions for small scale resettlement operations and support refugees returning spontaneously to the country.

(Pages 1 to 3)

#### • Demobilization & Reintegration

Rapid Demobilization has now been concluded at 12 SDCs of the 15 established by the UN, meanwhile operations continue for ex-FMU troops at three locations and are scheduled to begin soon for the Military War Disabled in Kuando Kubango.

(Page 4)

#### • Mine Action

Mine clearance priorities identified by the humanitarian community in the southern province of Huila while the Angolan chapter of the International Campaign against mines encourages Parliamentarians to adopt necessary legislation. (Page 5).

---

## NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

---

### *First Phase of the Normalization of State Administration completed as it reaches sensitive areas*

With the normalization of the State Administration in Negage (Uige Province) and in Kuango (Lunda Norte Province) on 29 and 30 September, respectively, this exercise reached two of the five "sensitive" areas. The ceremonies held at these important localities occurred without any incident and were witnessed by senior representatives of the Government, UNITA, MONUA, UN agencies and the Troika. In his speech in Kuango, the SRSG, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, said that the extension of State Administration to these municipalities was a good response to those he often designates as enemies of peace in Angola.

Meanwhile, the Government-led Inter-sectorial Committee charged with overseeing the normalization process is scheduled to meet on 6 October to evaluate the level of implementation of the first phase and endorse the proposed schedule for the second phase which may or may not include dates for the three remaining "sensitive locations", namely Andulo, Bailundo and Mavinga. Localities where State Administration has been extended are being assessed by relief organizations so as to prepare to respond to eventual humanitarian needs.

---

### *UN Security Council postpones sanctions against UNITA*

On 29 September, the UN Security Council, based on a report by the Secretary General which stated that UNITA had taken concrete steps to implement its obligations, decided to postpone for an additional 30 days, until 30 October, the implementation of sanctions against Dr. Savimbi's movement. SC Resolution 1130, adopted unanimously, stressed the need for UNITA to comply fully with all the tasks set out in Resolution 1127 and affirmed its readiness to review the imposition of sanctions.

In a statement to the press, the president of the SC explained that the Council members are to review this decision considering the contents of the Secretary General's report to be issued by 20 October. He further stated that the SC expect UNITA to take concrete steps to demobilize and disarm its remaining troops and cooperate with the extension of State Administration, including Mavinga, Andulo and Bailundo.

---

### *German NGO holds seminar to reinforce civil society*

The German NGO "Fredrich Ebert Stiftung" held a seminar on 25 September in Luanda on the *role of the civil society in national reconciliation in Angola*. During the opening ceremony, the SRSG, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, pointed out that "Angola, like most African countries, is giving way to a civil society which will balance the political and governmental institutions and even influence them". He also stated that NGOs are important partners for the UN, not only in the mobilization of public opinion, but also in the process of discussions and formulation of policies, and in the implementation of these policies in the field.

This organization, which has been in Angola since last May, provides assistance to projects initiated by Angolan NGOs, specially those related to human rights and the reinforcement of civil society. "We also work together with the Angolan media in the area of training and freedom of expression", the German NGO coordinator said.



Photo by Pierre Luigi Martinesi-UCAH  
Field Adviser-Huila Province

### *National* **Programme for IDPs' Return**

Recently, the Minister for Social Assistance & Reinsertion established a task force to develop a National Programme for the Return & Resettlement of IDPs. During

the session of the National Humanitarian Coordination Group held on October 1, the task force presented its preliminary results and members agreed that resettlement is only to take place when normalization of state administration has been extended and basic services exist at resettlement locations, IDPs have expressed their wish to return, and the agricultural cycle has been taken into consideration. The National Programme will be a guideline for provincial return and resettlement plans to ensure that operations are conducted within the appropriate time-frame and context. Of the 923,132 IDPs registered to date in Angola by UN agencies and NGOs, 136,390 are scheduled to return to their areas of origin before August 1998 if basic security and humanitarian conditions are established. According to the plan, 29% (268,319) of the registered IDPs live in camps while Benguela and Huila are the provinces with the highest number of IDPs totaling 270,900 and 178,600, respectively. Cabinda Province has the lowest number of IDPs with around 6,000 persons. However, these figures should not be considered as final (a) due to the fluidity of IDP movements in the country and (b) the fact that relief organizations still ignore the number of IDPs in UNITA-controlled areas, including those recently covered by Normalization of State Administration.

### **ANS rehabilitates hospital in Cambundi-Catembo (Malange)**

The first plane to land in Cambundi-Catembo municipality, in Malange Province, since 1992, arrived on 19 September with building materials for the rehabilitation of the local hospital by the French NGO Action Nord-Sud (ANS). The day before, ANS jointly with the UCAH Malange-Field Adviser and the UNITA health officer from Caculama, traveled to Cambundi-Catembo, 178 km Southeast of Malange city, along the road "re-opened" between July and August by Swedrelief who rehabilitated the bridges along this road. ANS expects to use Cambundi-Catembo as a base to further its health activities in the region, including Luquembo and Quirima municipalities in the south.

According to the local UNITA authorities, the municipality has 46,038 inhabitants with 10,000 of them living in Cambundi-Catembo town which consists of a city center (1,500 persons) and 50 surrounding barrios. The UCAH Field Adviser reported that prospects look good for the provision of basic services and development projects in this municipality, as there is a large lake 20 km from the city which provides local populations with fish. Thus, fish and agricultural products whose commercialization was prevented until recently, could be the basis for the development of Cambundi-Catembo.

### **HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVITIES**

MONUA's Human Rights Unit is supporting local authorities in Moxico, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Huila and Bié Provinces to formulate joint plans of action to reinforce human rights activities and strengthen the judicial system in those provinces. Meanwhile, on 23 September, MONUA successfully located 15 year-old Cachuchu who had disappeared since 1994 at Cuchi, 90 km West of Menongue city, Kuando Kubango Province. Cachuchu was returned to her cousin in Menongue while efforts continue to trace her parents. Concurrently, at its tenth session on 24 September, the Human Rights Ad Hoc Group examined 22 complaints and agreed that six of the allegations were to be considered as violations to human rights. Another 14 complaints will be screened during the next meeting scheduled for 8 October.

## Overview by Sector

**IDPs in Bié Province:** CARE International confirmed on 26 September the presence of 930 IDPs (227 families) in Kunhinga from Belo Horizonte and some of the barrios comprising Kunhinga. This group has no malnutrition problem and they can generate income from firewood and charcoal sales. However, they need seeds and tools now to avert severe malnutrition and possible health problems. CARE is considering the possibility of conducting a seeds/tools distribution, once an agreement is reached with local authorities to make available land for small scale farming. In the beginning of September, WFP provided this group with food assistance while in August UNICEF supplied 63 families with blankets, kitchen kits and tents. Medical assistance is provided at the health post supported by CARE in Kunhinga municipality.

**New displaced in Benguela Province:** According to the local authorities, the number of new IDPs in Casseque area has risen to approximately 9,000 persons as of 17 September. This includes 7,269 displaced in Casseque itself, 1,300 in Santa Ana and an additional number in Kawanga, coming from surrounding villages for security reasons. A joint humanitarian assessment mission is planned for the immediate future to verify the number of IDPs and the basic humanitarian conditions at this area.

### *Food security*

**No malnutrition found after survey in Kwanza Sul:** A nutritional survey and food security assessment conducted by WFP/NGOs between 22 and 27 September revealed the absence of malnutrition among members of the population of Sumbe and Porto Amboim municipalities, in Kwanza Sul Province. The survey was carried out following reports from the NGOs German Agro Action and Church Action in Angola (IERA) that some 40,600 persons in Sumbe municipality and 16,000 in Porto Amboim municipality were affected by drought. However, in view of the poor rains and low level of household stocks and the upcoming "lean" period (December-March), relief agencies will monitor closely this population.

### *Resettlement*

#### **Preparations for the return of IDPs in Uige**

The IDP sub working-group in Uige Province met recently to prepare the return plan for some 20,000 IDPs actually living in Uige city. Members also decided to visit the municipalities where State Administration has already been normalized to assess humanitarian and security conditions. The pilot experiment for the return of IDPs currently in Uige city is to start soon in Kitexe, Songo, Ambuila and Bembe municipalities. According to the MINARS provincial delegate, WFP is to provide the displaced with enough food until their first harvest, UNICEF is to distribute agri-tools and blankets, while IOM will ensure transportation to their areas of origin.

According to the National Resettlement Program, Uige Province has some 59,500 IDPs registered, 29,000 of them living in camps.

### *Refugees*

#### **Asylum seekers continue to arrive at Luau**

According to UNHCR, around 2,000 asylum seekers from Rwanda and Burundi are presently in Luau, Moxico Province, while an average of five persons continue to arrive on a daily basis to the camp. A UNHCR team is finalizing a set of recommendations which are to be presented to the Government based on the results of individual screening of the asylum seekers to facilitate decision-making on their status.

#### **Angolan refugees**

On the other hand, to date some 113,000 Angolan refugees have returned spontaneously to the country since 1995 from neighboring countries including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congo and Namibia. Upon arrival to Angolan territory, UNHCR has been assisting this population but this support may have to be reduced dramatically as a result of the present financial constraints this organizations is facing. By the end of this year, 30 to 40% of its staffing will have to be reduced also as a result of the present shortage of funds. Specialized UN agencies are being confronted in Angola with severe financial limitations which are threatening the continuity of humanitarian operations in the country.

# DEMOBILIZATION & REINTEGRATION

Updated figures as of 30 September 1997

Total registered troops	78,887
Total deserters	24,948
Total dead	268
Total incorporated in FAA	10,933
Total already demobilized	31,885
	(including the first 2,124 ex-FMU and 360 FAA underage soldiers)
Total still to be demobilized	11,295
	(including 6,662 UNITA MWD)
Total SDCs already closed	12
Total SDCs still active	3
Total MWDCs already closed	4
Total MWDCs still active	

### One more SDC closed...

During the last two weeks of September, the Rapid Demobilization program proceeded at a reduced pace mostly due to the lack of SEAR funds at the SDCs. However, demobilization activities which started at the Caiundo SDC at the beginning of this month were concluded on 30 September with a total of 1,885 demobilized out of the 1,939 eligible UNITA soldiers. This brings to twelve the number of SDCs already closed in addition to three MWDCs.

### Rapid Demobilization continues...

Meanwhile, the RD exercise restarted at Licua SDC on 24 September after several days of delays due to logistic problems. A total of 2,139 (45%) have been demobilized from this center. However, the implementation of the RDP has been temporarily suspended at Lumege SDC pending the availability of SEAR funds for the last 400 soldiers at the SDC. To date, 1,596 soldiers (77% of the eligible) have been demobilized and transported. Demobilization activities in Andulo SDC have also been temporarily suspended for the same reason. A total of 1,401 soldiers have been demobilized out of the 4,743 eligible. Demobilization is scheduled to be concluded at Lumege, Andulo and Licua during the month of October.

### ... is about to begin...

The beginning of the last phase of Rapid Demobilization for ex-FMU (UNITA) troops is now scheduled for 10 October at the Jamba and Biongue MWDCs and for 15 October at the Special Centers for Military War Disabled in Mavinga and Kavaleka. The commencement of demobilization activities at these locations will signal the conclusion of the demobilization of the UNITA caseload and the commencement of preparations for the demobilization of excess FAA (Government) troops, as stipulated in the Lusaka Protocol, and estimated at 35,000.

### Reintegration

The second part of food assistance for demobilized soldiers in Uige Province will be positioned in Uige and Negage towns, as decided by the local working sub-group on Reintegration. During its meeting held on 18 September, this sub-group requested administrators of municipalities where State administration has already been normalized to ensure the distribution to the demobilized in their respective areas.

However, there are some difficulties to reach and interview the demobilized. Out of the 699 persons transported by IOM to Negage, as of the date of the meeting, SeCoR had interviewed only five. The UNITA officer for humanitarian affairs in the province was asked to give more details on the whereabouts of the demobilized in order to prepare the reintegration projects.

***Demining actors in Huila Province identify priorities...***

Following a meeting organized by UCAH on 16 September in Lubango, three priority areas were identified as having a humanitarian interest at this stage and where henceforth identified as priority locations for the implementation by NPA of level 1 surveys in Huila Province. The priority areas to be demined are the Chicomba airstrip, the Chicomba-Matala road and the Quilengues-Bibala road.

MSF-Spain is operating in Chicomba although based in Caconda and will not move to Chicomba until the airstrip become operational. In view of the return of the some 50,000 IDPs to Chicomba, planned for next year, MSF-Spain's presence is necessary to ensure support for health activities, such as the training of local staff at the health centers and the rehabilitation of the in-patients wards.

Another two priority roads which are mined, include the Chicomba-Matala road where the area around the bridge over the Que river is suspected of being mined and the Quilengues-Bibala road which is also important for humanitarian activities in the region, including the transportation of the 5,561 IDPs from Quilengues actually displaced in Bibala. NPA is still mapping the province with Chipindo, Caconda, Chicomba and Caluquembe already in process of being assessed.

***Mine clearance continues in Benguela...***

The NGO Santa Barbara Foundation continues demining activities in the province of Benguela as part of efforts to improve overland access for (i) the resettlement of IDPs, (ii) the establishment of basic services by the Government (iii) the reactivation of trade by local populations and (iv) relief workers. The operations of SBF include mine clearance of routes such as the Chongoroi-Bolonguera road. They are also scheduled to clear the road linking Chongoroi to Cubal. These operations are funded mainly by the German Government through the United Nations World Food Programme.

***Spain supports landmines campaign in Angola...***

The Spanish International Cooperation Agency promised to donate US\$ 325.000 to support the Angolan chapter of the international campaign against anti-personnel landmines. This contribution is the Spanish Government's immediate response following the approval of the draft of the international treaty on the non-proliferation of anti-personnel landmines produced during the Oslo Diplomatic Conference. In a communiqué in Madrid, the Agency headed by the Spanish Foreign Minister added that the donation will be channeled through the UN voluntary fund for demining activities in Angola.



***...While Angolan campaign calls for national law***

The Angolan Campaign for the banning of mines (CABM) urged the National Assembly to adopt legislation to outlaw the sale, use, transfer and stockpiling of anti-personnel landmines. The National Secretariat of the Campaign stated in a press release that CABM hopes the Angolan Government will sign the international treaty banning anti-personnel landmines which will be approved next December in Ottawa. CABM expects to collect around 100.000 signatures from Angolan supporters for the international campaign in order to influence the authorities to take concrete steps towards the total ban of anti-personnel landmines.