



UCAH

Humanitarian News

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Demobilization - the key to peace - concluded for UNITA troops



The Demobilization operation, many times considered as the key of the peace, has been concluded with more than 49,000 soldiers demobilized.

Finally, with the demobilization of the 400 security guards of the UNITA President, the demobilization of UNITA soldiers outlined in the Lusaka Protocol has been concluded. While the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol is also at its final stages, the completion of the so called "key to peace" represents an important step towards the conclusion of the Peace Process. The demobilization operation covered a total of 87,514 soldiers out of which 49,851 were demobilized, 10,880 were incorporated into FAA and 26,509 were not demobilized and remain eligible for the Open File Mechanism. With the conclusion of demobilization of this caseload, the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol registers the completion of one of its most vital tasks.

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PEACE PROCESS

AMBASSADOR MAHUGU IN ANGOLA

The chairman of the UN Sanctions Committee on Angola, Ambassador Njuguna Mahugu, from Kenya, visited Angola during the last week of March. During his stay, the Ambassador met with the President of the Republic and with the President of UNITA, besides other relevant individualities.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

LUSAKA PROTOCOL AT ITS FINAL STAGES

More than three years after its signature in November 1994, the Lusaka Protocol is reaching to a new phase focusing on national reconciliation with the implementation of the tasks outlined in the "final" timetable approved on 6 March. During the two last weeks of March important political steps were registered in the Angolan peace process.

In accordance with the "final" timetable, the President of the Republic, His Excellency José Eduardo dos Santos, appointed on 16 March three provincial governors and seven deputy governors indicated by UNITA. The appointed governors are for the provinces of Uige, Lunda Sul and Kuando Kubango, while the deputy governors are for Luanda, Bengo, Kwanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Bié and Huila Provinces.

During the 84th session of the Joint Commission held on 27 March, the SRSG in Angola, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, commended the Angolan Government and UNITA for their tremendous efforts to conclude the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. The Joint Commission noted with satisfaction the completion of the demobilization "in situ" of UNITA residual forces, the demobilization of UNITA high ranking officers and generals, as well as the registration and demobilization of Dr. Savimbi's personal guards.

The chairman of the Committee of UN Sanctions on Angola, the Kenyan Ambassador Njuguna Mahugu, attended this session as part of his visit to Angola and other interested countries to discuss the full and effective implementation of the measures approved by the Security Council to urge compliance by UNITA with its obligations. The Ambassador met with President José Eduardo dos Santos in Luanda and with the UNITA leader in Andulo. Upon his departure, he told the press that his visit was a success and that both the Government and UNITA had reaffirmed their commitment to the peace process.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON MONUA

The UN Security Council strongly condemned the attacks by members of UNITA on MONUA personnel and on Angolan national authorities and demanded that "UNITA immediately stop such attacks, cooperate fully with MONUA and guarantee unconditionally the safety and freedom of movement of MONUA and other international personnel".

In its Resolution 1157 approved on 20 March following the report of the Secretary General of 13 March, the Security Council called on the GURN to continue to give priority to peaceful actions that contribute to the successful conclusion of the peace process and to refrain from any reaction, including the excessive use of force. The resolution also stressed the importance of strengthening the rule of law, including the full protection of all Angolan citizens throughout the national territory.

Regarding the future of MONUA, the Security Council requested the Secretary General to report by 17 April 1998 with final recommendations on the modalities for the continued UN presence in Angola after 30 April to consolidate the peace process and assist in the socio-economic recovery of Angola. The current mandate of MONUA will end on 30 April 1998.

GENERAL SITUATION

SAFE MOTHERHOOD ON WORLD HEALTH DAY

On its fiftieth anniversary, the World Health Organization (WHO) consecrated the 1998 World Health Day - 7 April - to the tragedy of maternal mortality which represents "a major source of suffering and injustice in our societies".

Taking into consideration the fact that the founding Member States of WHO affirmed 50 years ago the need to pay special attention to the health of women in particular that of mothers, and children, WHO considers appropriate the theme of "Safe Motherhood" for the celebration of the World Health Day this year. The message of the WHO Director General regarding this issue states that "pregnancy and childbirth are special events in women's lives, and, indeed, in the lives of their families".

While in developed countries most pregnant women have access to special care during pregnancy and childbirth, such is not the case in many developing countries where each pregnancy represents a journey into the unknown from which too many women never return, due to the lack of special care. In Angola 1,500 women die in every 100,000 childbirths, while in Africa one pregnant woman dies every three minutes. "This situation can not be

allowed to continue", the WHO's Director General advises before affirming that "the interventions that make motherhood safe are known and the resources needed are obtainable".

UNICEF REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN ANGOLA

The Regional Director of UNICEF, Ms. Shahida Azfar, was in Angola from 23 to 28 March. During this visit she launched in Luanda the Situation of the World's Children Report for 1998 (SOWCR).

The main purpose of this visit was the reinforcement of cooperation between UNICEF and the Angolan Government through the 1999-2003 strategy.

During her stay in the country, Ms. Azfar traveled to Benguela province where she inaugurated the water supply system and the maternity in Chongoroi municipality. In Lobito town she inaugurated the local maternity as a Baby Friendly Hospital.

In addition the UNICEF Regional Director met with various Angolan authorities and the SRSG in Angola who briefed her on the status of the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol.

UCAH HOLDS WORKSHOP FOR NGOs

National and international NGOs from Huambo and Bailundo successfully discussed partnership and capacity building during a workshop held on 24 and 25 March in Tchikala Tcholohanga, in Huambo province. At least 110 participants attended this event which counted with the full participation of both UNITA representatives and Government authorities.

One provincial vice-governor of Huambo who dedicated one full day to the workshop promised to take measures according to the recommendations of the event. This workshop promoted by UCAH was requested by NGOs and endorsed by the Huambo Governor.

REINFORCEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

A project to reinforce civil society denominated Elinaliso (reconciliation in Umbundu language) is being carried out in Huambo Province by the national NGO ADRA-A with the collaboration of other local NGOs. The project aims at having training sessions on peace and national reconciliation, cooperation in democracy, institution building and community recovery. The targeted municipalities are Huambo, Caála and Ekunha.

OVERVIEW BY SECTOR

AMDA PROJECT IN SANZA POMBO HANDED OVER TO MINSA

The Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA) handed over on 26 March its project in the hospital of Sanza Pombo, Uige Province, to the Ministry of Health, after three years of rehabilitation and personnel assistance.

Until next June AMDA will provide the hospital with drugs and supervision from Luanda through monthly visits. Thereafter, this NGO will cease definitively its assistance unless additional funds are provided. By the end of March, AMDA's international staff left Sanza Pombo while UNHCR continues efforts to get UNVs for the project.

Since 1995 AMDA has managed to rehabilitate the hospital of Sanza Pombo and provide medical personnel and drugs. This project has been funded through UNHCR since 1996. AMDA has done an extensive rehabilitation of the existing buildings and established water tank and catchment facilities. WFP supported the rehabilitation through Food-for-Work while UNICEF provided vaccines since the hospital has cold storage facilities.

Being the reference for the surrounding municipalities of Buengas, Santa Cruz, Puri

and Quimbele, the hospital of Sanza Pombo, 164 km from Uige city, has 30 beds divided into three wards. Treatment is given to some 100-150 patients daily and about 50% are cases of malaria. Other cases are mostly respiratory problems and diarrhoea. Until the end of March, this hospital was working with three expatriates and nine national staff trained by AMDA including one medical assistant, seven nurses and one laboratory technician, besides a number of community health workers.

SEMINAR FOR VICE-ADMINISTRATORS IN HUILA

MINARS representatives and the UCAH Field Adviser in Huila Province are working closely in order to organize a seminar for the municipal Vice-Administrators for Social Affairs and municipal MINARS delegates. The seminar will focus on (a) the return and reintegration programme for IDPs to be presented by MINARS, IOM and UCAH, (b) the integrated social centers by MINARS and (c) the improvement of the PICs (special centers for children) by WFP. The seminar will also address the relationships between the Government, UN Agencies and NGOs to be presented by UCAH and the system for the collection and dissemination of data information.

INCREASING SPONTANEOUS RETURN OF IDPs IN NEGAGE

As of 31 March, the number of IDPs returning spontaneously to Negage municipality had increased to 2,774 persons.

According to the UCAH Field Adviser in Uige, the working group for IDPs visited Negage and verified that these former IDPs comprise about 60% of the potential caseload expected to return to Negage.

Out of these 2,774 persons representing 427 families, 2,051 (321 families) have resettled in Negage city, 370 (50 families) in Dimuca commune and 353 (56 families) in Kiseke commune.

These populations will be provided with resettlement benefits by UNICEF and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) which have sufficient material in stock to assist this group. According to the established benefit package, UNICEF will provide blankets while DRC will supply kitchen sets, seeds, agricultural tools and soap.

Following the recommendations of the working group for IDPs, the distribution of benefits will be done on 15 April in Negage city and on 17 April in the communes of Dimuca and Kiseke.

OVERVIEW BY SECTOR (Continued)

SHA IN THE RECOVERY OF ROADS AND BRIDGES IN HUAMBO

Swiss Humanitarian Aid (SHA) has started its 1998 programme in Huambo province to build four bridges and rehabilitate 175 km of roads.

According to this programme, SHA expects to build bridges in Ekunha municipality over the Cunhongamua river, in Satchitembo over the Cunene river, in Quipeio over the Kuito river and in Tchinhama over the Cubango river. The roads to be built include those connecting Huambo to Calima, Caála to Ekunha and Quipeio and Cruzeiro to Sambo and Tchinhama.

Besides the recovery of bridges and roads, SHA is also engaged supporting local NGOs in the implementation of projects, as well as, in water and sanitation activities in cooperation with Development Workshop and the provincial Government. Last year in Huambo municipality one secondary and six primary schools and two health centers were rehabilitated by SHA while in Bailundo a training center for women, one primary school and a store house for cereals were built in partnership with local NGOs. This NGO withdrew from

Bailundo in mid-1997 for logistic and security reasons.

WFP/CARE MISSION NOTES POOR HARVEST IN KUANDO KUBANGO

Following field reports on a likely poor harvest in some areas of Kuando Kubango province, a joint WFP/CARE mission to Menongue, Longa and Kuito Kuanavale confirmed that late and variable rains had affected the present harvest.

According to the mission, both the wetland production (nacas), particularly that of maize, and the development of fields (lavras) of maize, sorghum and millet crops have been affected by this natural phenomenon. This effect is expected to have a greater impact in the south-eastern part of the province due to the decrease in altitude and poorer soil fertility. The most vulnerable populations of this year's poor harvest in Kuando Kubango are those from other areas of the province recently temporarily resettled in Menongue, those recently resettled along the road between Menongue, Longa and Kuito Kuanavale and those around Menongue city who remain dependent on firewood sales for survival since they have only been able to develop a limited number of coping mechanisms.

The WFP/CARE mission recommended that market prices and key indicators of the bartering terms be monitored closely in all three areas and a study of the degree of reintegration of the population, especially in Longa, be undertaken in the near future.

JOINT WFP/FAO/IFAD PROJECT IN UIGE

With State administration having been extended throughout Uige province, conditions are now created to implement the joint WFP/FAO/IFAD food security project funded by the Italian Government.

To appraise this project, a WFP/FAO mission travelled to Uige from 17 to 20 March. The mission visited the municipalities of Uige and Songo where the project will be implemented. During their stay in the targeted areas the team had meetings with local authorities, NGOs, UN agencies and farmers.

This food security project will include the rehabilitation of roads, bridges and water supply networks by WFP in order to facilitate the access to markets and improve the sanitation situation in the targeted villages. FAO will provide technical assistance and coordinate the project, while IFAD will provide credit to farmers.

UNITA DEMOBILIZATION CONCLUDED

The demobilization of Dr. Savimbi's 400 security guards on 28 March, closed demobilization for UNITA troops.

A total of 49,851 soldiers were demobilized of the 87,514 registered during this important operation launched in September 1996 with the transition to civil life of underage soldiers. During the first phase of this process led by UCAH, 2,484 underage soldiers were demobilized.

During the first phase of this process led by UCAH 2,484 soldiers including 360 FAA underage soldiers were demobilized. The following phase, considered as Rapid Demobilization (14 April 1997-11 January 1998), led to 39,594 demobilized. The

"in situ" operation resulted in 6,435 demobilized of the 7,714 registered while as special categories 823 men were demobilized. In addition, 115 UNITA high ranking officers and 400 security guards were demobilized in Bailundo and Andulo in March 1998, thus closing the demobilization exercise for UNITA as envisaged in the Lusaka Protocol. The Protocol also envisages the demobilization of FAA war disabled and excess troops.

Of the total registered, 26,509 UNITA troops were not demobilized and are therefore eligible for the Open File Mechanism which will be led by IRSEM and FAA.

**MORE THAN 2,500
 DEMOBILIZED
 REGISTERED IN BIÉ**

According to the registration made by UCAH in the Quartering Areas, 12,606 troops expressed their intention to resettle in Bié Province, but IOM effectively transported 5,608 demobilized, out of which IRSEM/SeCoR has registered only 2,502. According to IRSEM/SeCoR in Kuito, as of 18 March, of the registered demobilized, 2,080 have received their second SEAR payment, 144 have received their third payment, complete food kits have been provided to 993 while 1,029 received partial food kits.

Updated figures as of 31 March 1998

Grand Total registered troops	87,514
Registered troops "in situ"	7,714
Registered troops as special categories	(including 302 FAA or ex-FAPLA officers) 1,050
Registered as High Ranking officers	175
Registered as Security Guards	400
Total dead during quartering process	274
Total incorporated into FAA	10,880
Total deserters eligible for Open File Mechanism	26,509
Grand Total already demobilized	49,851
Demobilized during first operation from SDCs	(including 360 FAA underage soldiers) 2,484
Demobilized during Rapid Demobilization	39,594
Demobilized "in situ"	6,435
Demobilized as special categories	823
Demobilized as High Ranking Officers	115
Demobilized as Security Guards	400
Total demobilized underage soldiers	5,059
Total demobilized excess troops	34,021
Total demobilized military war disabled	10,771

MINE INCIDENTS CONTINUE

Mine incidents continue to cause victims within the civilian populations in the countryside, even in paths previously considered safe.

On 30 March in the province of Malange, five persons were seriously injured as a result of mine or UXO explosions. Two of the victims were wounded in the eastern part of Kangandala town at about 200 meters of the local church by a mine explosion, while the other three were injured following a grenade explosion in the

Vila Matilde bairro in Malange city.

In Huambo Province on 18 March, a woman lost one leg due to the explosion of a mine on at Ulembi village, in Longonjo municipality, while in Huambo municipality four persons including two men, one woman and her small child, were handicapped on 19 and 31 March. The woman and her child and one man were injured by mine explosions in Catata commune and the other man was handicapped as a result of an UXO explosion in Huambo city.

WVI STARTS MINE AWARENESS IN UIGE

World Vision International (WVI) has started its mine awareness programme in Uige province.

With 24 instructors, WVI is now working in four municipalities, namely Uige, Negage, Songo and Puri, in order to reduce the risks of mine incidents in the province. As a result of this programme, one anti-tank mine and three anti-personnel mines were found thanks to sensibilized persons.

