



# UCAH

## Humanitarian News

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INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

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### Increased Tension on the Ground



As a result of increased tension on the ground, humanitarian activities are being suspended in some regions.

The situation in the country remains tense. There are continuous military-like actions, such as attacks, acts of banditry and troop movements occurring in several Provinces - Uige, Malange, Huambo, Benguela and Huila. The overall humanitarian situation remains precarious. Increased tension on the ground with incidents involving humanitarian workers continue to characterize the situation in many regions of the country. This environment is still leading to the suspension of humanitarian assistance to former and newly targeted populations. Due to this tense situation, in Huambo Province MSF-F stopped its activities in Catabola, Cuima, Catata, N'Gove and Bunjei while other humanitarian organizations are limiting their activities to Huambo municipality. In addition, OXFAM and ACH (Acción-Contra-el Hambre) withdrew their international staff from Ganda following the increased movement of Government troops in the region.

#### INSIDE

- ◆ *MONUA mandate extended while on the field tension is increasing: Page 2*
- ◆ *Humanitarian report highlights continued violence in 1997: Page 3*
- ◆ *Arrival of new UCAH Director: Page 3*
- ◆ *Concerns with health situation in Bié: Page 4*
- ◆ *IRSEM concerned with harassment against social promoters while AAD trains demobilized: Page 5*
- ◆ *Mine damages MONUA tank in Huambo: Page 5*

#### PEACE PROCESS

##### APRIL ENDS WITHOUT THE END OF FINAL TIMETABLE

According to the last "final" timetable set up on 6 March after the failure to comply with the one approved on 9 January, the extension of State Administration should be concluded on 1 April. However, further developments on this exercise led to postponement. At the end of April, this last task scheduled in the timetable has not yet been accomplished.

### NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

#### **LUSAKA PROTOCOL SOON TO BE CONCLUDED**

**The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Angola, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, stated in New York that the Lusaka Protocol is soon to be concluded as the Angolan parties have fulfilled their major tasks.**

According to a press release issued on 30 April by MONUA, Maître Beye indicated that the UN Security Council resolution on Angola adopted on 29 April had clearly welcomed the efforts made by the Government and UNITA to implement the last calendar of tasks.

The SRSG who attended the Security Council meeting on Angola is expected to meet in Washington with USA officials including Susan Rice, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Thomas Pickering, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Joseph Wilson, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for African Affairs, and Ms. Molly Williamson, Acting Assistant Secretary. Maître Beye is also expected to brief a group of analysts from Congress, the Pentagon and the State Department.

#### **UN SECURITY COUNCIL EXTENDS MONUA MANDATE**

**The UN Security Council extended the mandate of MONUA until 30 June 1998 and expressed its intention to take a final decision by this date on a follow UN presence based on progress in the peace process and in light of the report to be submitted by the Secretary General by 17 June.**

In its Resolution 1164/98 approved on 29 April following the report of the Secretary General of 17 April, the Security Council "strongly reiterated its demand that UNITA stop its pattern of delays and linkages and cooperate immediately and without conditions in completing the normalization of State Administration throughout the national territory, including Andulo and Bailundo". The resolution also called upon the GURN "to refrain from any action, including the excessive use of force, which might undermine the process of normalization of State Administration".

#### **INCREASED TENSION ON THE GROUND**

**Despite the significant political developments registered in the implementation of Lusaka Protocol, on the ground continuous acts of violence are being reported, particularly in Malange, Benguela and Huila Provinces.**

Along with re-mining activities, several armed attacks have been registered in the countryside perpetrated by very well equipped bandits. Since UNITA has already stated that it no longer has military forces, the Special Representative of the Secretary General, during a two day visit to Benguela Province, told the press that after the Chongoroi attack on 27 March, the Joint Commission had requested the Government to control the perpetrators of the insecurity.

However, it seems that the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) are not yet involved in this matter, it is the ANP who is trying to combat the so called "residual troops". This situation on the ground is causing new internally displaced populations and hindering humanitarian activities.

## GENERAL SITUATION

### UCAH REPORT ON HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES

On behalf of the Humanitarian Coordination Group, UCAH has prepared a report on the humanitarian activities carried out by NGOs and UN agencies in each province during the second half of 1997.

Some of the highlights include the fact that as acts of violence continued throughout the reporting period, approximately 67,000 Angolans were forced to move internally. The majority of these displacements took place in Huambo, Huila, Benguela, Malange and Lunda Norte Provinces.

In addition, the publication also outlines that the humanitarian community has learned two lessons from 1997: (1) the transition from a complex emergency is going to be slow and humanitarian actors will have to recognize the need for a high degree of flexibility in their programmes and (2) lasting peace requires an increased focus on confidence building and national reconciliation and specific programme components covering this area should be an integral part of any broader intervention.

This report provides an overview of the situation in

Angola and is expected to be an effective tool for planning future humanitarian interventions.

### PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS

The response to the 1998 UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal has begun to gain momentum with US\$ 10,413,382 representing 11,4% of the required funds (US\$ 91,200,142) having been contributed.

These contributions include: US\$ 7,606,700 received as food aid by WFP, US\$ 1,000,000 for WFP special operations, US\$ 611,104 for UCAH general and field coordination as well as US\$ 37,044 for UNHCR.

However, urgent funds are required by UNHCR (US\$ 16,000,000) which are immediately required for the continuation of its repatriation and reintegration activities; by WFP (US\$ 3,500,000) for the transport of non-food items and the air passenger service provided on behalf of the humanitarian community; by IOM (US\$ 3,400,000) to support MINARS in the implementation of the National Programme for the Return and Reintegration of IDPs; and by UNICEF (US\$ 5,500,000) to ensure the continuation of emergency water and sanitation and health interventions.

### FONGA AND PACT PREPARE REGIONAL WORKSHOP

A regional workshop will be held from 11 to 13 May in Huambo to focus on the identification of strategies to strengthen the institutional capacity of national NGOs.

For that purpose, a meeting with provincial delegates and national NGOs was held on 15 April in Kuito to inform about this workshop. The event is being prepared by the Forum of Angolan NGOs (FONGA) and PACT and is sponsored by UNICEF.

### ARRIVAL OF NEW UCAH DIRECTOR

The new Director of UCAH and Country Director of WFP, Mr. Francesco Strippoli, has arrived in Angola during the reporting period.

Mr. Strippoli who will also act as Humanitarian Coordinator in the country, came from WFP headquarters in Rome where he has been working since February 1995 as Chief of the Resource Mobilization Service. As an agronomist with specialization in tropical and subtropical agriculture, the new UCAH Director joined WFP in November 1975 when he worked as a project assistant in Somalia.

## OVERVIEW BY SECTOR

### FOOD SECURITY IN BIÉ

A joint MINADER/FAO/WFP food security team met on 21 April with the humanitarian community based in Kuito.

The main subject of the meeting was food security in Bié Province. Agricultural production, the possibility of local purchases of food items by WFP and the situation of IDPs were also raised.

The purpose of the team's visit was to gather data to estimate the level of food production and needs for this province. Due to the big distortions in relative prices in many rural areas, WFP might also consider a way of privileging the issue of some overpriced items such as salt and soap, while reducing issues of underpriced items such as maize.

### RESETTLEMENT OF IDPs

In Uíge Province, humanitarian organizations recently confirmed the voluntary return of IDPs to Puri (1,071 persons), Bungo (1,571) and Mucaba (1,303) municipalities. Assistance to displaced resettled in Puri is scheduled to be provided on 5 May while the verification of IDPs who have allegedly

returned to Quimbele, Sanza Pombo and Milunga municipalities is to take place on 11-12 May.

In Bengo Province, preparations are underway for the resettlement of some 2,100 IDPs in Quixico, Muxaluando municipality. IOM expects to start by the middle of May the transportation of these IDPs currently in Boa Esperança camp, near Caxito town. This exercise is a joint MINARS, WFP, IOM, AAA, AAD, MGM operation which also counts with the support of representatives of the provincial social authorities.

In this context, MGM has carried out a mine survey while AAA and AAD have prepared the conditions in the area of resettlement. WFP provides food aid.

In Lunda Norte Province, a joint UCAH/WFP/LWF assessment mission travelled on 25 April to Serração Malengue village, 28 km from N'Zaji town, to evaluate the conditions of some 114 resettled persons. The mission found that these former IDPs who returned voluntarily to their area of origin in September 1997 had a good agricultural production of cassava. As a result of the mission findings, WFP will continue to provide

food aid to this group until the next harvest in August. WFP and LWF have provided this group with food aid, resettlement kits and seeds.

### CONCERNS WITH HEALTH SITUATION

Humanitarian organizations are concerned with the increased cases of malaria reported in the two hospitals of Kuito town where 8,969 cases were registered during the three first months of this year.

According to the figures provided by the Provincial Health authorities, there has been 1,771 more cases in January and February this year than in the same period of last year at the provincial hospital in Kuito.

On the other hand, MONUA TS in Kuemba municipality has also informed that 114 persons have been reported to have died during the last four weeks.

Meanwhile in Kamakupa municipality, MSF concluded a vaccination campaign against meningitis reaching 48,000 inhabitants.

## REINTEGRATION OF DEMOBILIZED

### IRSEM CONCERNED

As a result of many cases of harassment against humanitarian workers involved in the social reintegration of demobilized soldiers and kidnapping of demobilized, IRSEM has expressed its deep concern with the atmosphere of fear that is being created among the social promoters and demobilized.

Demobilized soldiers are being denied access to their legal benefits and to reintegration opportunities offered by the Government and the international community. According to the provincial coordinator of SeCoR in Kuando Kubango Province, the local ANP is accusing IRSEM/SeCoR of "collaborating" with UNITA and has as a result not only told them to stop the payment of SEAR but also hindered the circulation of IRSEM/SeCoR staff and of demobilized soldiers from

their villages to Menongue town. This is a clear violation of the demobilized rights.

In Bié Province, a demobilized soldier was kidnapped by an unknown person at the Kangote barrio, Kutato commune, in Chinguar municipality on the morning of 27 February 1998. According to IRSEM/Bié, the whereabouts of this former UNITA captain are still unknown.

Also up to now no information has been provided to the humanitarian community concerning the kidnapping of six demobilized soldiers which took place on 15 January 1998 at Macoco village, in the Kuvango municipality, Huila Province.

The Government should instruct the relevant authorities to avoid further harassment of the demobilized.

### AAD TRAINS DEMOBILIZED IN QUIBALA

Eighty demobilized soldiers are being trained by AAD in four different courses in Quibala town, Kwanza Sul Province.

According to the AAD Representative in this province, Mr. Albino Chicale, his NGO has recruited local trainers while IRSEM/SeCoR selected the demobilized. The project started on 25 February 1998 for four months and focuses on training courses in carpentry, stonemason, tailoring and Radio-TV repairing with twenty beneficiaries in each course.

For the implementation of this project, the ILO has provided AAD with US\$ 15,000.

## MINE ACTION

### MONUA TANK DAMAGED

A MONUA tank and a IMC vehicle were damaged as a result of an anti-tank mine explosion. A member of the MONUA Namibian battalion was also injured.

This incident took place at about 106 kms from Huambo city when a joint WFP/UNICEF/IMC assessment mission with MONUA escort was traveling to N'Gove

following the attack against this locality on 24 April. The mine was in the middle of the asphalt road used on various occasions by locals and humanitarian organizations.

### UN-USA MEMBERS VISIT ANGOLA

Some twenty members of the UN-USA Association visited demining activities in Angola, as part of their efforts to increase funding for mine action in the country.

On 28 April, they traveled to Uige along with a high delegation composed of the Minister of Social Assistance, Mr. Albino Malungo, the USA Ambassador and the UNDP Representative.

Each of the UN-USA members who also visited mine victims and the demining school in Luanda traveled to Angola by their own expense.