



# UCAH

## Humanitarian News

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INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA

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### UN Under-Secretary General in Angola to assess Humanitarian Situation



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

From 18 to 21 May, the UN Under-Secretary General for the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello, will be assessing the humanitarian situation, the coordination mechanisms and the impact of the peace process on the humanitarian situation in Angola. The ongoing deterioration of the security situation is in some cases (such as Huambo and Benguela Provinces) leading to the suspension of humanitarian assistance or targeting of UN and NGOs. On 4 May, an MSF-Spain staff member was shot at along the Caconda-Chicomba road in the province of Huila. While he is recovering positively, on behalf of the humanitarian community, UCAH vehemently condemns this barbarous attack and requests the Government to take urgent action to apprehend the culprits.

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#### PEACE PROCESS

##### WHAT'S GOING ON?

The SRSG, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye is back in Angola. His return brings great expectations for the completion of one of the final stages of the peace process. A Peace which is vital for the socio-economic reintegration of IDPs, refugees and demobilized persons.

**NATIONAL RECONCILIATION**

**MAÎTRE BEYE RECOGNIZES SERIOUS SECURITY SITUATION IN ANGOLA**

Upon his return on 12 May from New York where he attended the 29 April Security Council Meeting on Angola, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Angola, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye, considered the current climate in Angola as an impressive divorce between political and security situation.

He went to say that unfortunately at the same time "we welcome the political results registered in March and April which could lead to the conclusion of the Lusaka Protocol, there is an increasing violence over the country". Maître Beye said that these acts of violence are not due only to banditry activities since they are from military nature of which gravity can not escape to nobody.

Regarding the extension of the MONUA's mandate until 30 June 1998, the SRSG stated that there is enough time for the conclusion of the remaining tasks of the Lusaka Protocol, particularly, the extension of State Administration to Andulo and Bailundo.

**INSECURITY CONTINUES ON THE GROUND**

The security situation continues to deteriorate with several incidents occurring on the ground. From the northern region, reports indicate that attacks have been registered in the municipalities of Quitexe, Bembe (Uige Province), Coxe (Bengo Province) and Quibaxe (Bengo Province).

In the south region, the climate is still tense in Huila Province where incidents have been reported in Quilengues, Caconda, Matala, Chicomba and Chipindo municipalities including attacks, mine incidents and harassment. In Benguela Province, Ganda and Cubal municipalities are facing a tense situation due to the attacks which have resulted sometimes in the occupation of localities by no governmental forces.

In the eastern region, the situation has been also reported tense with clashes in Lunda Sul and attacks in Malange and Lunda Norte Provinces. The immediate consequences of this deteriorated security situation in the countryside include new displaced persons and suspension of humanitarian activities.

**STATE ADMINISTRATION STILL ON THE AGENDA**

The completion of the extension of State Administration to Bailundo, Mungo, Andulo and Nharea is still without progress. The Government has now linked the assumption of functions by appointed governors and vice-governors indicated by UNITA to the presence of State authority in these sensitive localities.

The government has even refused the invitation by UNITA Vice-President to travel to Andulo for further negotiations on this matter. According to the Vice-Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr. Higinio Carneiro, UNITA has failed to accomplish the understanding achieved in April for the extension of State Administration to the so called sensitive areas. While the Government is trying to extend its authority to the remaining localities, other ones already normalized are being reoccupied by residual forces. This is the case of Quirima and Lukembo municipalities in Malange Province and Cassequé and Chicuma in Benguela Province.

## GENERAL SITUATION

### HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY CONCERNED

With the increased acts of violence on the throughout the country, humanitarian organizations remain very concerned and are being forced to suspend their activities due to the lack of security.

This trend is particularly problematic considering that relief workers are now being targeted during attacks and new mines are causing casualties among humanitarian actors. It should also be noted that this situation is also hindering efforts to support the reintegration of demobilized persons, a key factor for the consolidation of national reconciliation.

Due to this tense situation, in Huambo Province MSF-F stopped its activities in Catabola, Cuima, Catata, N'Gove and Bunjei (Huila Province). Several other international NGOs did the same in the other localities.

On behalf of the humanitarian community, UCAH has been requesting that the Government urgently takes the required measures to ensure an improvement of security conditions. By this way, the Angolan populations who still need humanitarian assistance will not be deprived of the required aid as a result of the ongoing violence.

### RESPONSE TO THE 1998 APPEAL

The response to the 1998 United Nations Consolidated Appeal for Angola has increased to 21% of the total requirements as of 11 May.

New contributions have been received from Denmark (US\$ 2,189,731 for UNHCR), Finland (US\$ 274,735 for UNHCR and US\$ 457,875 for UNDP) and South Africa (US\$ 180,000 for UNICEF). As food aid, WFP has already received from USA 14,550 Mts which represents US\$ 11,916,142.

However, urgent funds are still required by UNHCR (US\$ 11,000,000), WFP (US\$ 5,892,000), IOM (US\$ 3,400,000) and by UNICEF (US\$ 2,600,000) to ensure the continuation of their programmes.

### PEACE RESEARCH MEETING IN SOUTH AFRICA

International academics, researchers and role players in the field of peace and conflict issues will meet from 23 to 26 June 1998 in South Africa. The theme of the conference is "Meeting human needs in a co-operative world".

For that purpose, the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) which is organizing this conference, is

looking for a wide variety of participants from all 53 African countries. The ACCORD, a conflict resolution NGO based at the University of Durban, was established in 1992 to impact on conflict resolution in the whole African continent.

This peace research meeting will be the 17th conference of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA) and the first to be held in Africa in its 33 year history.

### UN UNDER SG VISIT TO ANGOLA

The UN Under-Secretary General for the Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mr. Sérgio Vieira de Mello, will be visiting Angola from 18 to 21 May 1998.

During his stay Mr. Vieira de Mello will meet with different national and international entities related to the humanitarian situation and peace process in Angola. A field visit to Benguela Province is also included in his itinerary.

Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, national from Brazil, was born on 15 March 1948 and joined UN since 1969 as an Assistant Editor of UNHCR Geneva. He is Under-Secretary General for OCHA since 1 January this year after having performed different high level posts.

## OVERVIEW BY SECTOR

### NEW DISPLACEMENTS

#### Bengo Province

As a result of attacks on 14 April in Coxe and on 10 May in Paredes, there are some 2,558 new IDPs in Quibaxe town while new arrivals are expected.

#### Uige Province

As of 7 May, some 100 new IDPs were reported to be concentrated in Sanza Pombo town following attacks in Cuilo Pombo area on 5 May. Other IDPs are also reported to have arrived in Bungo and Nsoso due to attacks in their villages.

#### Lunda Sul Province

As of 15 May, at least 336 new IDPs have arrived in Calolo from Cucumbi, Zolo, Alto Chicapa and Xassengue apparently fleeing fighting in these areas.

#### Malange Province

As of 15 May, 952 new IDPs have arrived in Malange town due to attacks in the first week of May in Massango and Cuale. On 8 May, 135 new IDPs from Cambaxe have arrived in Cambondo, Caculama municipality, as a result of tension.

#### Benguela Province

Reports from Ganda indicated that 34,000 IDPs from Chicuma, Casseque and Ebanga had arrived in Ganda. A mission composed of MINARS, UCAH, WFP, UNICEF, CRS, ACF and Okutiuka who traveled to Ganda on 13 May could not

confirm the number of IDPs. It seems that most of the IDPs have integrated with family and do not appear to be in immediate need of assistance.

#### Huambo province

According to MSF-F some 1,500 IDPs who arrived to the town of Longonjo from Catabola and Chilata communes are in need of humanitarian assistance. However, humanitarian organizations have not been able to assess the situation and determine a course of action due to the lack of access to this group as a result of the continued insecurity registered in the area.

### CHIPINDO FOUND EMPTY

On 9 May, a joint assessment mission composed of MINARS, UCAH, MONUA, UNDP-SeCoR and WFP traveled to Chipindo and found the town absolutely abandoned by civilian population with the exception of the municipal administrator and his assistant and ANP elements. The civilian population has been displaced somewhere in the bush since 15 April.

### ANS IS STILL WORKING IN MALANGE

The NGO Action Nord-Sud (ANS), a Handicap International branch for health activities, is still supporting the hospital of Malange town and the Health

post of Kangandala. According to the ANS Programme Manager in Angola, Marie-Noelle Guillouzouic, this NGO expects to start during this month the rehabilitation of the Kangandala Motherhood Center. The construction of two latrines is also envisaged for the health post which will become a reference health center in Kangandala and the surrounding areas. The ANS health project in Malange started in February 1997 and is financed by ECHO with USD 704,000 until 30 June 1998. The NGO itself contributes with USD 300,000.

For security reasons, ANS withdrew in February 1998 from Kambundi Katembo municipality where it was working since May 1997 in the health sector. This French NGO has also provided the National NGO ADRA-A with 1,000 kits to support the resettlement of IDPs in Lombe.

### ATTACK ON MSF-S IN HUILA

On Monday 4 May, an MSF-Spain doctor was injured after being shot by gunmen while travelling along the Caconda-Chicomba road, about 12km from Chicomba. Following this incident, MSF-S has suspended all humanitarian activities in Chicomba.

## REINTEGRATION OF DEMOBILIZED

### **EIGHTY DEMOBILIZED CONCLUDE TRAINING IN HUAMBO**

Eighty demobilized soldiers have received on 30 April their certificates and kits after

having been trained in several courses.

The training took place in Huambo town and was organized by IED and Fadario Muteka Training Center which belong to the

ministry of Industry. The trained demobilized are from now able to start their own business.

## MINE ACTION

### **SBF DEMINES BRIDGES**

**Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF) has handed over on 7 May to SWEDRELIEF the bridge over the Lupeio river, 30 km east of Matala, Huila Province after demining the location.**

This bridge is part of the SBF/SWEDRELIEF/WFP project for the rehabilitation of roads and four bridges on the road Matala-Cutato. The project also includes the

bridges over rivers Kuvango, Cului and Cutato.

The National Institute for Roads (INEA) is also participating in this project by providing 14 workers.

### **MINE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN UIGE**

The Vice-Governor of Uige Province presided on 6 May the mine working group meeting which discussed the

coordination of mine action activities in this province.

The meeting also raised the standards for mine awareness activities and the establishment of a database at the provincial level.

Representatives of Government and NGOs involved in demining activities attended the meeting.