



# UCAH

## Humanitarian News

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**INFORMATION BULLETIN ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN ANGOLA**

*1 - 15 June 1998*

*Price: Free*

### *Security environment continues to deteriorate limiting humanitarian assistance*



Relief workers are hindered from helping due to the increased insecurity.

The security situation in the country has not shown positive changes during the two first weeks of June. Attacks, ambushes and harassment are still increasing on the ground, particularly in Uige, Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Malange, Lunda Sul, Lunda Norte, Huambo, Huila and Benguela Provinces. Ironically, relief actors are forced to limit their activities while more and more populations are becoming displaced and in need of relief assistance. Unfortunately, humanitarian properties and workers are often the target of attacks and harassment. Consequently, UN agencies and NGOs are withdrawing their staff from unstable localities and reducing their activities to emergency interventions in order to limit the risks for their personnel.

- ⇒ *New UN Security Council Resolution on Angola - Page 2*
- ⇒ *Humanitarian concerns - Page 3*

#### **SECURITY UPDATE CORRIDORS**

It is highly recommended that NGOs and UN agencies use the scheduled MONUA escorts for the following roadways:

- *Luanda-Saurimo,  
Luanda-Lucala-Uige,  
Luanda-Lobito, Lobito-  
Huambo-Kuito, Lobito-  
Chongoroi-Lubango, and  
Matala-Kuvango.*

*Great care should be used to move on the following routes:*

- *Luanda-Dondo-Wako-  
Kungo-Huambo and  
Kuito-Menongue.*

**MINE WARNING:** *Prior to humanitarian assessments, verification of the mine situation should be done because there is evidence that some locations were remined after attacks. This happened in N'Gove (Huambo) and Vale de Loge (Uige).*

- ⇒ *Humanitarian Assessment and New IDPs - Pag.4*
- ⇒ *Demining meeting at the ground - Page 5*

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION

ANGOLA AT THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ONCE AGAIN

The UN Security Council approved on 12 June a Resolution on Angola in which the international community "condemns UNITA and holds its leadership responsible for its failure to implement fully their obligations outlined in the Lusaka Protocol".

A week before, the Security Council was briefed by the SRSG in Angola, Maître Alioune Blondin Beye.

The Resolution 1173(1998) was adopted unanimously by the 15 members of the Security Council. New sanctions against UNITA are likely if this party does not comply fully by 23 June

with all its remaining obligations. Therefore, the sanctions could be implemented without any notice on 25 June 1998. The UN Resolution also requests the Government to continue to refrain from taking any action which might undermine the process.

THE RESOLUTION (EXTRACT)

11. Decides that all States, except Angola, in which there are funds and financial resources, including any funds derived or generated from property of UNITA as an organization or of senior officials of UNITA or adult members of their immediate families designated pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1127 (1997), shall require all persons and entities within their own territories holding such funds and financial resources to freeze them and ensure that they are not made available directly or indirectly to or for the benefit of UNITA as an organization or of senior officials of UNITA or adult members of their immediate families designated pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 1127 (1997).

13. Decides further that the Committee created pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) may authorize, on a case-by-case, upon a no-objection procedure, exemptions to the measures specified ... above for verified medical and humanitarian purposes.

REPATRIATION OF BLUE HELMETS FROZEN

In view of the deteriorating security situation in the country, the movement of all Military Task Forces (MTFs) have been frozen, except for Zambian MTF.

According to the MONUA Force Commander, the matter

of MTF repatriation is being taken up with the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations in New York to extend the tour of duty of MTFs to enable them to provide security on the ground. Thus the Indian and Romanian MTFs and the Portuguese

Logistic team will remain in Angola for an additional month.

This freezing of the repatriation of Blue Helmets shows how precarious is the security situation in the country.

NEW SYSTEM OF CONVOY MOVEMENT

The Security Management Team approved a new system of convoy movement.

They agreed to design a convoy schedule in each region and issued to all

concerned under MONUA armed escort. Convoys will only be run on a weekly basis to different regions.

The convoy escort commander has authority over all elements of the

convoy during the movement. UN agencies and NGOs are requested to coordinate the movement of their vehicles with MONUA Chief Security and Safety Officer.

### **HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS**

Members of the humanitarian community in Angola are concerned with the continued attacks on civilians along routes used to transport relief items and harassment against relief workers. In this context, UCAH is advising NGOs to suspend non-emergency humanitarian activities in the Provinces of Uige, Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Malange, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Bié, Huambo, Benguela and Huila.

UCAH Field Advisers reported the following incidents in the first two weeks of June:

**Huila Province - 15 June -** UCAH reported that Negola was attacked by some 100 armed men. Seven persons were killed and several injured, most of them women and children. Negola is on the main Lubango-Caluquembe road used by relief operators. On 11 June Chicomba was

attacked by 400-450 UNITA Residual Forces (URF). The attackers looted the ANP station, the local Health Post supported by MSF-S, and kidnapped the ANP radio-operator. SBF reported that on 4 June, on the main Matala-Kuvango road between Dongo and Cului, a private truck was ambushed by armed. Six persons were killed and another 16 were injured. On the same day, CARE informed UCAH of an attack in Capala, Caluquembe municipality, where four people were killed and some cattle were stolen by armed men.

**Bengo Province - 14 June -** UCAH confirmed that Piri was attacked by URF and INTERSOS evacuated from Quibaxe to Luanda by air. On 10 June, NGOs reported fighting between FAA and URF at 7-8 km from Quibaxe on the road towards Coxé. The injured arrived at the Quibaxe hospital.

**Moxico Province - 14 June -**

The remaining relief workers and MONUA personnel withdrew from Luau by road to Democratic Republic of Congo. Fighting broke out in Luau immediately following this departure.

**Uige Province - 8 June -**

NRC confirmed an attack by armed men in Quibocolo, on the Damba-Maquela do Zombo road. There were no casualties but the health post rehabilitated by IMC, the Administrator's house, the Administration and ANP offices were looted. On 10 June, according to a local soba who spoke to a UNHCR driver, URF abducted four girls and two boys on the road between Maquela do Zombo and Taia. On 4 June, also in Maquela do Zombo, a pregnant MSF-F nurse was severely beaten and harassed by ANP at the market. On the same day in Negage, Mdm guards averted an attempt to loot their base by calling for intervention from MONUA and ANP.

### **IOM WITH NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL**

The council of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) elected Mr. Brunson McKinley as its new Director General. Ambassador McKinley, a senior US diplomatic, will take over in October replacing Mr. James Parcell Jr. who informed Member

States in November 1997 of his decision not to seek a third term after ten years at the helm of IOM.

In Angola, IOM concluded recently the transportation of 446 IDPs from Boa Esperança camp to Quixico, in Nambuangongo

municipality, in Bengo Province. There are no more IDPs from Quixico in Boa Esperança camp.

A joint IOM/MINARS team is updating the number of IDPs in the camp and their final destination for further support in transportation.

### NEW DISPLACEMENTS

**As a result of the current tense situation on the ground, people are moving from their areas of origin to other locations.**

The number of new IDPs being confirmed by humanitarian organizations has risen to 52,758 while unconfirmed cases estimated some 100,000 new IDPs throughout the country.

Unfortunately, for security reasons, humanitarian operators are limiting road travel and suspending or restricting non-emergency activities in some municipalities of the provinces of Uíge, Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Malange, Bié, Huambo, Benguela and Huíla. In the northern region where many incidents have been reported, MSF-F withdrew from Quiculungo (Kwanza Norte), UNHCR, NRC and MSF-F did so on 10 June from Maquela do Zombo (Uíge), and InterSoS/COSV from Quibaxe (Bengo).

**Huíla Province:** A joint assessment mission composed of WFP, CARE and MSF-S

confirmed on 4 June the presence of 4,629 new IDPs in Caluquembe town and 319 in Vila Branca, all of them from Chicuma area, in Benguela Province. The mission noted the need of urgent humanitarian assistance to these populations. Unfortunately, due the detention of a MONUA convoy from Namibia in Lubango town by the provincial authorities since Monday 8 June, MONUA RHQ was not able to provide a timely armed escort for a WFP convoy to Caluquembe in order to assist the IDPs.

**Lunda Sul Province:** The number of newly displaced persons in Cacolo has increased from 336 in early June to 1,305, out of which 998 are from Cucumbi. The first distribution of food aid was abruptly suspended when elements of the ANP began to harass the beneficiaries and steal their relief items. After a protest letter sent by WFP to Provincial authorities to avoid the repetition of such incidents, preparations are underway to conduct a

second food distribution also depending on the security situation to use the Luanda-Malange-Saurimo road. Some 1,500 new IDPs from Muconda, Chiluage and Muriege are reported to have arrived in Saurimo and others are expected.

**Huambo Province:** Unconfirmed reports indicate that 7,500 new IDPs from Kakonda and Kutando communes are in Ukuma town and up to 6,000 are reported to have arrived in Longonjo. Humanitarian actors have not yet been able to assess them due to the lack of security.

**Uíge Province:** According to reports received on 8 June, there are new IDPs in towns of Mucaba (150), Nova Caipemba (120), Songo (350) and Milunga (350) from villages of these municipalities.

It should be noted that every attack and even rumors of attacks lead to the forced movement of populations.

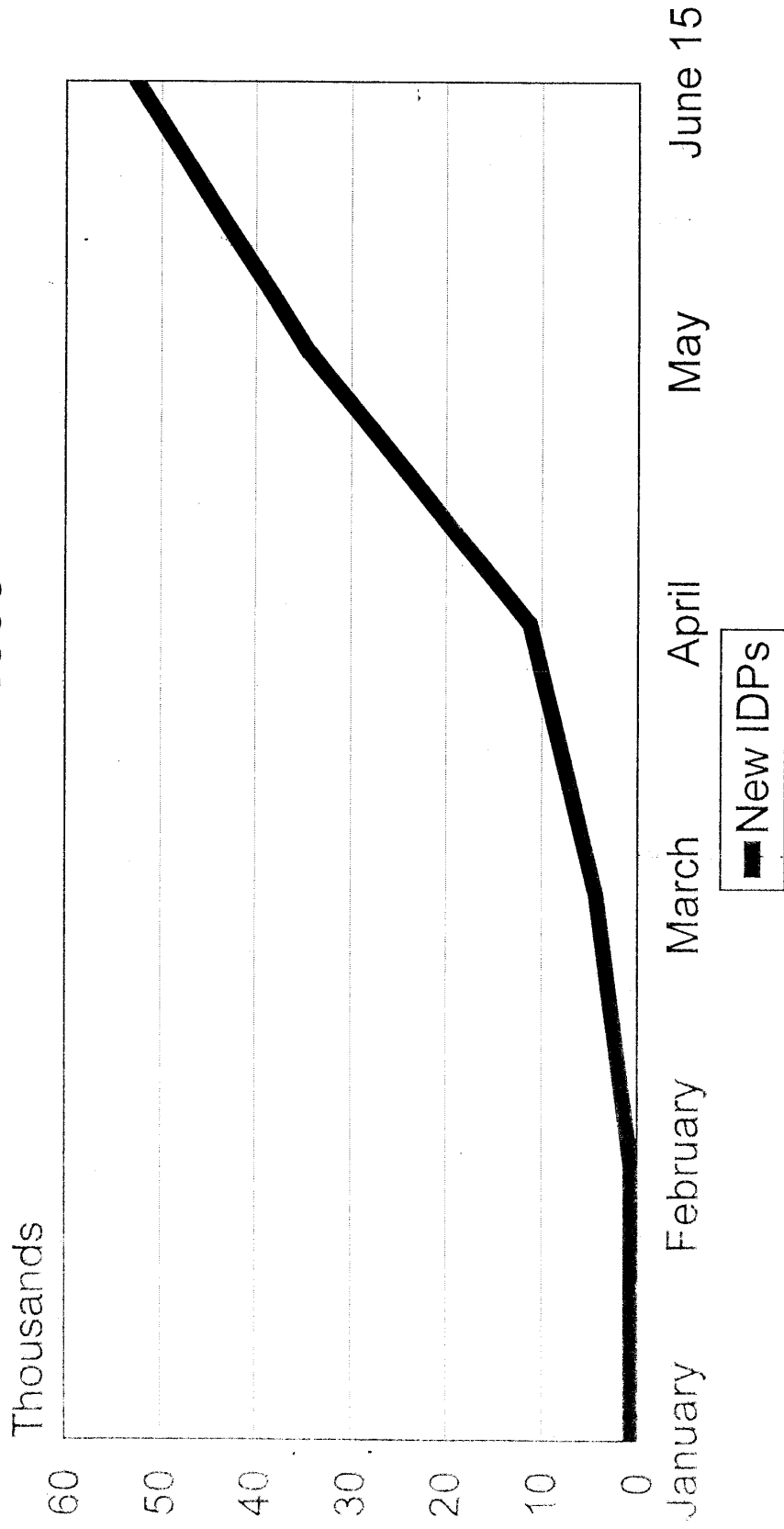
### HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENT

On 8 June, a joint mission to Mbanza Kongo composed of MINARS, UCAH, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, ECHO, GTZ, MSF-H and OADEC to assess the situation of new IDPs from Bembe municipality (Uíge Province), was told that at least 352 persons have arrived from Bembe since early June but

some of them have already moved to N'Zeto and Luanda. Recently MINARS registered 225 remaining IDPs most of whom also intend to move to N'Zeto, Luanda or Uíge town. As it is not clear how many IDPs want to remain in Mbanza Kongo and due to the fact that they appear to be able to

find work, a general food distribution is not recommended at this time. However, a small ration should be available for recent arrivals to cover the first few days until they can find work. MSF-H will monitor the health/nutritional status of those living in the two tents.

## New IDPs in Angola 1998



This chart only shows cumulative confirmed New IDPs : 52758

## MINE ACTION

### **KUVANGO BRIDGE SAFE OF MINES**

Santa Barbara Foundation (SBF) completed the demining of the bridge over Kuvango river, in Huila Province.

The bridge was then handed over to SWEDRELIEF which will now rehabilitate it. This follows the bridge over the Lupeio river, 30 km east of Matala, in the same province, already demined and handed over.

These bridges are part of the SBF/SWEDRELIEF/WFP project for the rehabilitation of roads and four bridges on the road Matala-Cutato with the participation of the National Institute for Roads (INEA). The project also includes the bridges over rivers Cului and Cutato.

SBF was located in Cului but it had to withdraw to Matala on 24 June for security reasons. If the situation does not improve this demining NGO will not go back to Cului to continue its activities.

### **CENTER FOR MINE VICTIMS**

Handicap International has concluded in Lubango the rehabilitation of a transit centre for landmine victims.

The centre with a capacity of 35 beds is now able to attend

mine victims in re-education training and fitting of prosthesis. Each patient will have a period of a month for staying at the centre.

This Handicap International program is supported by WFP with food aid and by MINSA with local workers. The program will be spread to the southern provinces where the target group will be informed through an awareness campaign.

### **DEMINEING MEETING AT THE GROUND**

The German demining NGO MgM hosted at its field base in Onzo village, in Bengo Province, the 1998 annual meeting of demining NGOs in Angola.

Besides discussing relevant issues during the meeting, the participants from several demining partners in Angola visited some villages where the inhabitants had returned thanks to the demining and re-opening of roads by MgM. In six weeks, some 50 km of roads became safe of mines and accessible in the area.

The event took place from 29 to 31 June at a MgM tent camp situated in an old coffee farm in Nambuanguo municipality where MgM carries out its demining activities. The meeting was attended by personnel from INAROE, MAQ, Mechem, Handicap International, NPA,

The HALO Trust, MgM and from other partners.

### **MINE INCIDENTS**

As it should be noted, mine incidents have been increasing on the ground following attacks and banditry activities. Due to this unstable situation, locations affected by attacks should be considered as remined. The following mine incidents were reported during the last two weeks:

**Bengo Province:** A tractor working for INTERSOS road rehabilitation project hit an AT mine on 2 June on the road Quibaxe-Mobile at 15 km from Quibaxe town. This mine seems to have been laid recently as two FAA trucks passed on the road before the incident.

**Uige Province:** An elderly man stepped on a newly laid AP mine in Ambuila municipality. The incident occurred on 30 June on a regularly used path between Maianga and Quipedro villages, two days after armed men attacked Ambuila town.

**Huila Province:** A truck with ANP elements hit an AT mine in the Chipindo area on 1 June and as a result two persons died and 12 were injured.

**Bengo Province:** A FAA truck hit an AT mine near the airstrip just on the outskirts of the town frequently used. There were no injuries.