

July, August, September 2005

Peace-building when the guns are silent

During Angola's brutal war years, the scope of peacebuilding was obvious: to bring an end to the fighting. But the guns have been silent for more than three years, so why is there still a need for peacebuilding initiatives?

"Because peace is a long-term process and not just a result like a cease-fire. It's about ongoing support for human rights, promoting social and economic justice and democratic processes," said Mick Comerford, a consultant to Development Workshop.

For Eunice Inacio, who is coordinator of the peacebuilding programme at DW, continuing to work towards peace now that the war is over, is even more

demanding than working towards a cessation of hostilities.

"When we first started this initiative in the late 1990s, the aim was to support the peacebuilding activities of civil society organisations and churches who were trying to bring both warring parties towards each other, to get them to talk and ultimately to reach a cease-fire. The target was obvious," she said.

"The task now is even bigger. Angola is going through a time of great political and social change. This means that new challenges to peacebuilding and national reconciliation are emerging within the country. To address this type of complex peacebuilding is more difficult," she added.

In such a diverse environment, peacebuilding has many faces. It can be about reintegrating returning populations, be they refugees, the internally displaced (IDPs) or demobilised soldiers, who often go back home to face hostility and resentment.

"The reintegration of former military personnel requires ongoing attention, because of the threat of violence based on 30 years of fighting, high levels of unemployment and personal frustration," explained Mrs. Inacio. "We also need to focus on the reintegration of refugee populations, many of whom find themselves in conflict situations with local communities upon their return."

Tensions can arise when it appears that some people, under the banner of programmes for ex-combatants or returnees, are perceived to be getting more assistance than those who stayed put during the war who also live in conditions of extreme poverty.

On top of that, the return of former soldiers often reminds communities of the atrocities committed during the conflict, and raises the sensitive issue of how they deal with the return of those responsible for the violence perpetrated.

And as people begin to rebuild their lives and establish homes, access to

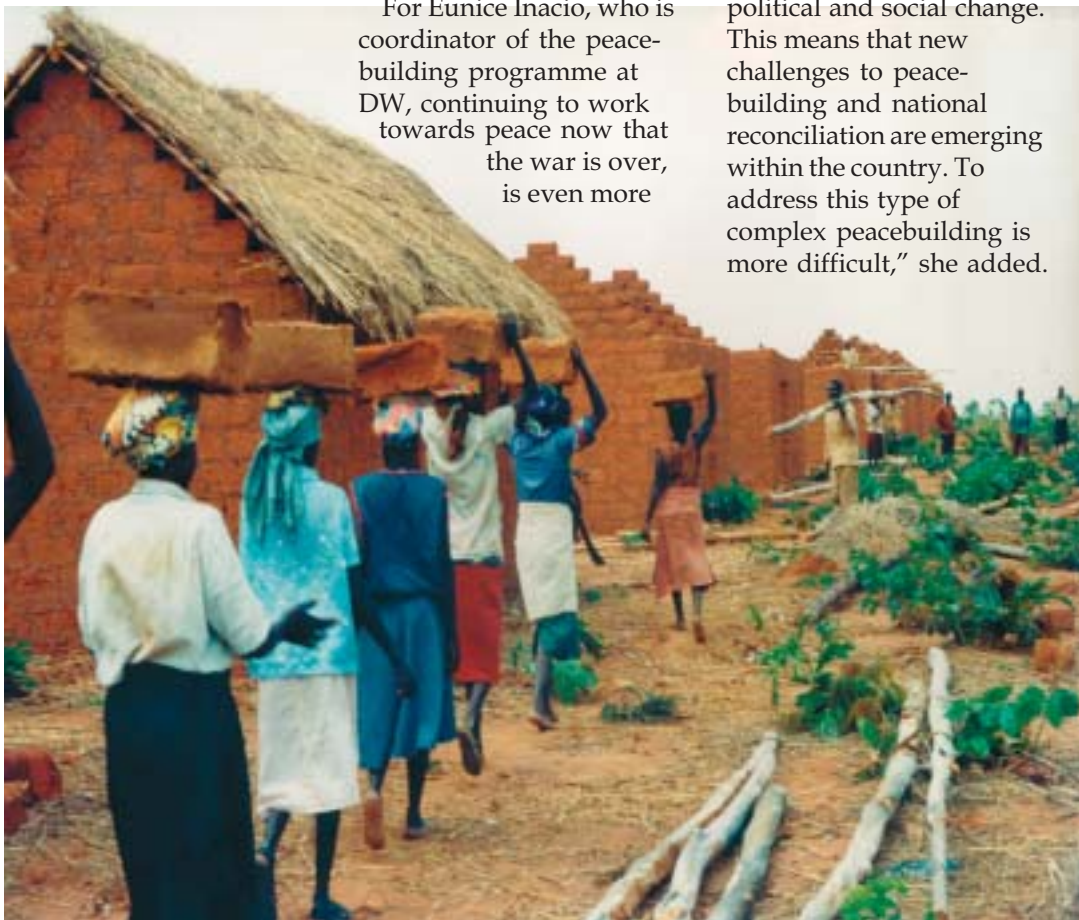


photo by H.Koning

Building homes for Angola's returning population, just one of the many challenges of peace-building

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DW contributes to building peace



**Foreword by
DW Director
Allan Cain**

Over the last five years the Angolan Peace Movement has emerged as a significant voice in the Angolan civil society. The church, supported by a group of NGOs, was the driver of this process and became a moral voice during the conflict and later advocating for national reconciliation.

DW's Peacebuilding Programme (PCP) supported the peace and reconciliation programmes of its constituent partners: the Angolan Council of Churches, the Catholic Bishop's Conference, the Evangelic Alliance the Angolan NGO Forum and several individual ecumenical and secular agencies. Over 850 peace promoters were trained in 14 war-affected provinces and 200 local peacebuilding projects were supported since 1999.

The Government, taking much of its platform from the peace movement, took a magnanimous position in negotiations to end the war and the April 2002 cease-fire agreement called for a role for civil society and the national churches in building reconciliation.

Communities, both local and former IDPs, have little notion of their basic rights as citizens or the basic humanitarian principals and standards for resettlement that are guaranteed under Angolan law. DW and its PCP partners have supported a programme of civic education focused on reintegration of former combatants and their families.

Development Workshop is in the process of carrying out a post-war risk

mapping assessment in Huambo, Moxico and Zaire provinces. The study investigates the potential for residual risks which still have potential for transformation into local level conflicts. The study highlights the need to accelerate community-based programmes of reconciliation and civic education along with assisted resettlement and return of ex-combatants and IDP populations, respecting the right to minimum standards and security.

DW uses conflict risk assessment (PCIA) tools throughout its various sectoral programmes as a way of ensuring that its interventions and project partnerships contribute positively to consolidating post-war gains and mitigate against future conflict. 

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land is an increasing source of discord.

"Many return to their homes to find their lands and houses occupied by others, but frequently have no documentation to prove legal ownership of land and property," Mrs. Inacio said.

Peace-building is also about measures to disarm the civilian population - vital if Angolans are to live without fear of violence. And in this pre-election year, it is also about democracy, how to participate in elections and the rights and obligations of being a citizen.

"Peace-building is basically about dealing with access to opportunities. We have to address all those issues that could potentially lead a country back to conflict," Mrs. Inacio said.

That is why DW, an organisation better known for its projects to improve water supplies and sanitation, is so involved.

"For us, peace is the same as providing access to services, health, education, shelter and employment. All these activities fell to one side during the war years, but the lack of these services now could lead to conflicts," Mrs. Inacio said. 

Dw Developments is published quarterly in English and Portuguese by Development Workshop Angola. Dw is a non-profit organisation working to improve living conditions for the poor in less-developed communities. Its programme focus areas include shelter, peri-urban settlement upgrading, water and sanitation, primary health care, small enterprise development and disaster mitigation. DW's strategy is to strengthen communities and organisations to act on development problems and opportunities.

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Nobel Peace Prize Nominee

DW's own Eunice Inacio up for the Nobel Prize for Peace



Development Workshop's Eunice Inacio has been selected to take part in the 1000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005 project. Chosen from more than 2000 candidates from over 150 countries, Eunice's courage and leadership in Angola's difficult peace-building process impressed the panel and earned her a well-deserved place in the distinguished line-up, as well as an individual nomination for the coveted award.

Humble and modest as always, Eunice never dreamt she would be put forward and was even more surprised that the international project team chose her to be part of the official application handed to the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo earlier this year.

"I'm very proud. I was really not expecting that they would select me," she said.

Eunice has worked for DW's Programa de Construção de Paz (PCP) for the last five years, helping to grow the Angolan peace movement, uniting its disparate factions and fostering collaboration between Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical churches as well as secular NGOs.

"Working for peace is not easy. It is a very sensitive issue particularly for our

country where parties are not open and civil society fears to approach issues that push the government for change," she said.

"Even the organisations who say they are working together in practice are not always interested in working together. That is my biggest challenge – trying to engage all organisations in promoting activities, and persuading them that they need to work in an ecumenical environment," she added.

Eunice's determination, effort and natural leadership skills have helped create alliances between the various

churches and nurtured a strong peace movement within Angola's emerging civil society.

The institutions benefiting from her work include all of the principal Churches, under the leadership of COIEPA (Ecumenical Peace Coordinating Council). She personally supervised the training of more than 600 Peace Promoters who are now working in 14 of Angola's provinces, helping to support around 120 communities and tens of thousands of people in war-affected municipalities.

"Eunice Inacio is an innovative and courageous leader and peace builder," says DW's Director Allan Cain.

"She has used her years of experience and personal authority to mediate and build consensus in the difficult

"She lost her husband during the conflict but continued to work for the welfare and protection of all Angola's children."

environment dominated by religious, political and military patriarchs," he added.


Eunice believes her studies – she is working towards a Masters degree in Conflict Resolution & Peace Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa – as well as events in her own life have equipped her with the ability to unite.

"I bring experience to the table – my own experience but also research, and findings, other people's experiences, but also the fact that I am impartial, and the fact that I am a woman means that people listen to me," she said.

Listening to her own personal story, one cannot help be impressed by her bravery and resolve. Working in her home town of Huambo before, during and after the ferocious two-month siege in 1993 which destroyed the city and claimed tens of thousands of lives, she witnessed all the horrors of war and was even accused of spying.

"It was a very, very difficult time. I suffered a lot in Huambo," she says.

She admits it was a miracle that she survived. She lost her husband during the conflict but continued to work for the welfare and protection of all Angola's children through her work for the international NGO Save the Children, while at the same time bringing up her son and three daughters on her own.

Eunice hopes that this nomination will help increase her sphere of influence even more, highlighting the plight of women and their role in Angola's reconstruction and transformation. 

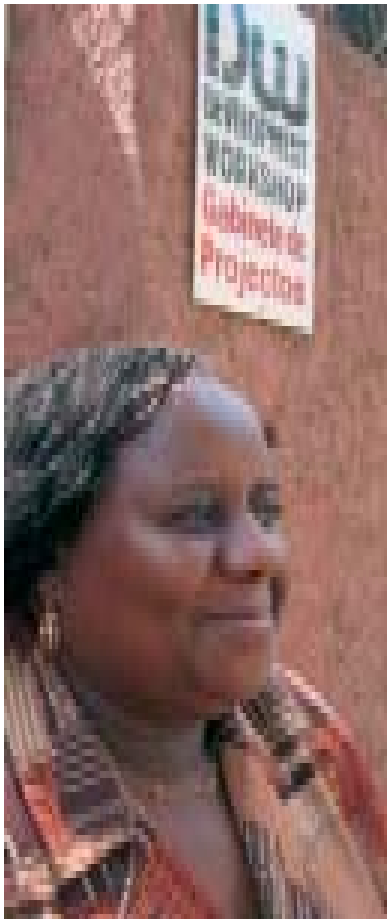


photo by Karen Iley



Elections - a right for all.



Everybody has duties, both at home and in society.

The cartoons form part of a country-wide civic education program called “Ojango” that was

Giving Peace a Chance

The programa de Construção de Paz, or Peacebuilding Program, better known as the PCP, aims to promote lasting peace by giving local communities and leaders the tools to resolve or prevent conflicts.

Managed by Development Workshop, PCP is a coalition of seven leading Angolan organisations, both religious and secular. (see footnote*) The programme helps train “peace promoters” who venture into far-flung corners of the provinces – often on foot or bicycles – to spread pro-peace messages.

They seek out actual or potential sources of conflict and come up with ideas of how to help the communities

manage that conflict or avoid it all together.

“They are local people who know the area. The challenge is thrown down to them to find out what is going on, make a proposal and then ask for finance from PCP. It’s up to them to be proactive in identifying issues,” said Mick Comerford, consultant to DW on the PCP programme.

The steering committee of the PCP meets once a month to discuss strategy and approve funding for these small-scale, local projects which not only strengthen local peace-building initiatives, but also contribute to a climate of peace and reconciliation.

The idea of the programme is not to impose solutions, but

to create a space for people to get together and discuss issues to develop strategies and solutions. The PCP offers some financial support and has supported around 200 projects in 14 of Angola’s 18 provinces.

* The PCP was founded in 1999. Its seven members are the Angolan Evangelical Alliance (AEA) the Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA), the Catholic Episcopal Conference of Angola and Sao Tome (CEAST), the Congregational Evangelical Church of Angola (IECA), the Catholic human rights organisation MOSAIKO, the Ecumenical Agency for Social Development (ADESA) and FONGA, the forum for Angolan NGOs. **Du**



photo by PCP

Community theatre groups focus on sensitive social issues such as domestic violence but use humour and sarcasm to convey conflict prevention message. A training course for actors was supported by PCP.



Respect the physically disabled



Solve problems in a communal way.

supported by PCP and is being carried out by ADRA, a national NG, in Benguela.

Most of the projects supported by PCP involve training leaders in local communities how to address conflict and promote peace. Participants, such as women's organizations, students, armed forces, teachers, nurses, and pastors, attend training seminars and Human Rights conferences. Some examples of other projects facilitated by PCP and carried out by churches and local NGO's are:

Soldiers are trained to fight so when ex-soldiers live together in a community, not surprisingly they can revert to resolving problems by fighting. This was the case in the province of Benguela in a municipality where high numbers of ex-combatants and displaced people live. Because of the constant conflicts among them, government representatives, politicians, teachers, traditional leaders and church representatives were invited by PCP partners to a two-day training course on leadership and conflict resolution. This was the first time that MPLA and UNITA members came together like this, locally, and both expressed appreciation and ongoing interest in such interventions.

A two-day workshop to explore a disarmament strategy for Angola was sponsored by PCP and attended by representatives from churches and national NGOs. While the need for disarmament in the country is unquestionable, participants felt COIEPA (Ecumenical Peace Coordinating Council) was better placed to raise the importance of this issue. COIEPA accepted the suggestion to hold a national conference in 2005 to articulate a disarmament strategy.

Physical fighting over limited access to water was identified as the main source of violence in a town in Bengo province. To resolve the conflict DW's water and sanitation programme helped construct water posts and latrines. A local NGO coordinated activities and training on conflict resolution and civic education and from this grew a group of residents also called a peace nucleus, prepared to deal with future conflicts.

A poor community of displaced people, mostly unemployed and living in tents without access to water and sanitation, was experiencing a lot of violence and criminality. A seminar dealing with 'changing hearts and minds' from violence and revenge to tolerance and reconciliation was organized. As part of the solution, DW's water and sanitation programme became involved with the community in providing basic services, which helped reduce tension over resources.

Widows whose husbands were killed in combat gathered together to share their war experiences at an emotional 4-day workshop in Luanda. It was the first time they heard the suffering from those on the other side of the conflict, suffering that may have been caused by their husbands. They told their stories in a non-condemnatory manner so the workshop evolved into a time of forgiveness and understanding.

Older, more traditional members of a community in the Quicama region blamed decades of droughts on the fact that rites to invoke the rains had ceased because of conflict between Christians and followers of the traditional religion. However younger, Christian members were fearful of witchcraft, blaming a number of child deaths on the ceremonies conducted by the traditional believers. A week-long peace festival successfully explored ways to address all these complex issues.

A survey in Kuando Kubango revealed that conflicts in the province persist because previous land owners who fled from the province during the war are now returning only to find their land occupied by those who took it during the height of the war. There is tension between the political parties in the province and also, the local population is fed up with the lack of infrastructure and poor communication. They feel their province has been abandoned. After the survey, not only local peace activists, but also government, political parties, and former combatants were invited to a two-day peacebuilding and human rights training seminar that was well attended with plans for more in the future.

First education, then elections

Development Workshop and its partners are busy hammering out a new three-year proposal for the Civic Education Programme, another peace-building initiative which, if approved by donors, will be expanded to include education on elections and democracy in light of the approaching national ballot, due in 2006.

The Civic Education programme, which began in 2003, provided important assistance to UNITA demobilised soldiers and their families as they left the quartering areas to return to their areas of origin. IRSEM, the government institute coordinating the social reintegration process for ex-combatants, helped identify areas where tension and conflict existed between local communities and demobilised soldiers.

The programme was built

around groups of provincial activists trained in civic education, conflict management, community mobilisation, and principles of democracy. Members from the Ministry of Education, local NGOs, and PCP partners made up these teams of activists, visiting areas where communities and ex-combatants required support.

A significant dimension of the work involved assessing what support was needed in rural communities during reintegration. Activists worked with traditional authorities and church leaders in meeting the community to ensure the continuation of their work. Grievances over access to resources were frequently an issue, with local communities feeling that those who caused the war and prolonged the conflict

were being rewarded with food, clothing, tools and seeds, while they themselves received little or no support.

Local administrators called on activists not only to help returnees, but also to address local conflict. On a number of occasions this conflict was over widows being disinherited, with women trying to address traditional injustices which legitimised their loss of property upon the death of a husband.

Activists worked hard during the first phase of the Civic Education project to support the reintegration process of ex-combatants, playing a significant role at local levels to promote community harmony and national reconciliation. The challenge now for phase two is to build on what has been done to facilitate the democratic process and prepare Angola for elections.



4.5 million people, including refugees, internally displaced people and demobilised soldiers, have left the camps since the signing of the Luena peace agreement in 2002

As of December 2004, more than 300,000 from an estimated 400,000 refugees had returned home, either in UNHCR-organised airlifts or convoys, or by themselves.

Around 97,000 former UNITA soldiers have been disarmed, with around half of those receiving seeds and tools kits or some form of vocational training from the government

Thousands of families were broken up and separated during the war. The International Committee of the Red Cross is helping 16,500 people find their loved ones. Since April 2002 it has registered 1,857 unaccompanied children, reuniting 1,060 of those with their families.



photos by H. Koning

Sources: News reports, United Nations, ICRC

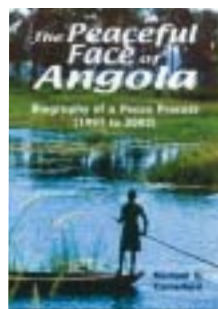
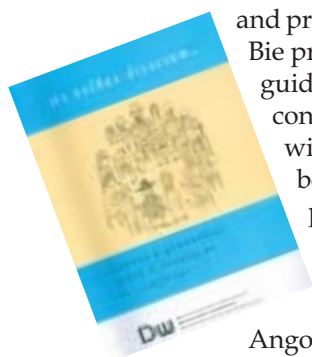
Peace Publications available at DW

Os Velhos Disseram (The Old Ones Say)

By Voices for Peace

Available in Portuguese and Ombundu

The oral story-telling tradition comes alive in this collection of stories and proverbs from Huambo and Bie provinces that serves as a guide to solving community conflicts. Fearing that 'the wisdom from the past' might be lost, the peacebuilding programme in Huambo recorded the stories and proverbs in hopes that they may reintroduce Angolan cultural values to the people. DW hopes to translate the book into English.



The Peaceful Face of Angola: Biography of a Peace Process 1991-2002

By Michael Comerford

Available in Portuguese and English

"Whoever wants to understand the caesarean birth of a nation must read this book," according to the Bishop of Uige. This challenging book tells the story of the search for peace in Angola by

Angolans themselves, from the Bicesse Accords in May 1991 to the death of Jonas Savimbi in February 2002. This new release covers the most critical years in Angola's troubled history. Offering a unique view into the 'peaceful' side of the nation, it points the way to a peaceful democratic future.

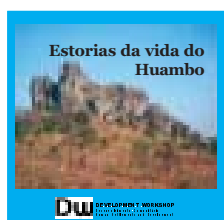
A Collection of Proverbs and Stories about Justice and Peace

By Seraphim Quintino

Written in Portuguese and Kimbundo, this slim volume deals with conflict resolution proverbs and stories from the Luandos people who live in Quicama National Park in Bengo province. The stories speak for themselves, shedding an insightful look on the peace making traditions of a local people. The author grew up in the Luandos.



Huambo Life Stories



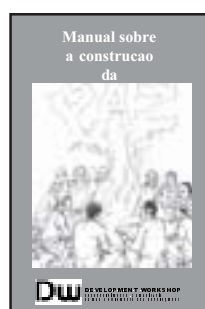
By Voices for Peace

Available in Portuguese and Ombundu

A collection of true stories told by people in the communities around Huambo city. Recorded by local researchers, the stories reflect life experiences during the years of Angola's civil war.

Huambo Peace Manual

By Voices for Peace



This peace manual for trainers is based on original research carried out by 'Voices for Peace', the peacebuilding programme in Huambo. It will be used in local communities by peace activists to heighten the awareness of local needs and for community development. Free copies will be distributed to trainers. If you are interested in this manual, please contact the DW Huambo office. A more comprehensive peace manual for the whole of Angola will be published by DW later this year.

Ondaka

By Voices for Peace

Coordinated by Quintas Julio

A monthly 16-page publication written in Portuguese and Ombundu, produced in Huambo by DW Huambo's peacebuilding sector and distributed free across 6 provinces. With a circulation of over 3000, Ondaka (which means word in Ombundu) gives a voice to local communities and facilitates communication between them. Articles range from news stories to people profiles to informative features on science and technology to poems and stories. You can sign up on the distribution list by contacting DW Huambo: dwhuambo@angonet.org.





“The mouth of an old person might lack teeth but it never lacks words of advice.”

Although physically a person may be deteriorating, spiritually they have reached maturity and wisdom. Also, the present generation must never scorn the traditions of past generations. *

What the Elders Say

Proverbs and Stories from Angola’s Archives



The Quarreling Couple

There once was a woman who could not take proper care of her house because she had to go every day to sell in the market. Often her husband returned from a hard day’s work only to find the house in complete disarray and dinner not yet prepared. This caused a lot of fighting and discord in the home.

Finally the woman could no longer stand the unhappiness. She went to see an old woman named Cimina and asked her to prepare a potion to make her husband happy.

Cimina said, “Before I give you the potion, you must perform the following task every day for a month. Early every morning, before your husband wakes up, light the fire and while the embers are glowing, sweep the house. Then put a pan of water on the fire and while it is heating, prepare some breakfast. When you husband wakes up tell him to go fetch some water. When he comes back eat your breakfast together. While your husband is out working, aim to get home from the market in time to prepare supper so that you can

eat together. Then ask him for help in cleaning up”

The woman performed all the tasks just as Cimina ordered and before long she saw everything changing for the better in her home. After a month had gone by she visited Cimina again to pick up the potion she had requested. Cimina said to the woman, “You already have the potion for your husband. The potion is your and your husband’s ten fingers.”

A story adapted from the book “Os Velhos Disseram...” (“The Elders Say....”)

Peace making proverbs from the Luandos

“Reprimand, do not kill those who did wrong. If you kill a person because they have killed somebody, who will kill you for killing the other person?”

Traditional words of wisdom used to speak out against the death sentence.

“When a brave cat swims across the river, its spots will have disappeared when it gets to the other side.”

A proverb used to counsel a young bride preparing to leave her parents’ home to live with her husband. Also used to warn those who have decided to move to another community that changes are inevitable.



**from the book “A collection of Proverbs and Stories about Justice and Peace”*

Footnotes.....

If your community or church or organization is interested in learning more about peaceful conflict resolutions, please contact the DW Peacebuilding office in Luanda or Huambo.

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