

# DREF operation update



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## ANGOLA: FLOODS

**DREF operation n° MDRAO003**  
**GLIDE n° FL-2009-000063-AGO**  
**Update n° 1**  
**26 April 2009**

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**Period covered by this update: 12 March to 24 April 2009**

**Summary:** CHF 182,567 (USD 154,908, or EUR 123,488) was allocated on March 12 2009, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), to support Angola Red Cross Society (ARC) in delivering immediate assistance to 2,000 displaced families, as well as for social mobilisation and information education and communication (IEC) campaigns for up to 100,000 beneficiaries. The DREF allocation was increased to CHF 388,966 (USD 335,315 or EUR 255,899) on 12 April 2009 to enable the ARC to implement its revised plan of action for the floods operation. While the DREF bulletin dated 12 March 2009



Aerial shots over the Ceuca delta showing the flooded areas, March 2009

identified 100,000 beneficiaries, ARC reduced the target to 80,000 beneficiaries based on the information from rapid field assessment missions and a review of its internal absorption capacity.

The Netherlands Red Cross contributed CHF 61,312 to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

Heavy rainfall since the middle of February has caused widespread flooding along the Cunene, Kawango and Zambezi rivers. As of 16 April 2009, the UN estimated that 220,000 people had been affected by the floods, with 24 people reported dead due to drowning, collapsing homes or attacked by displaced animals (crocodiles and hippopotamus). Approximately 81,200 people have been displaced, 4,000 houses and 231,800 hectares of crops destroyed. A revision of these figures can be expected as details of the flood's impact are being received from isolated areas cut off by the floodwaters. The provinces most affected at present are Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Malange, Bie, Lunda Sul and Uige. In addition, strong winds have caused damage to personal property in Huila province, adding to the need for relief and recovery assistance across the country.

The Angolan National Committee of Civil Protection agency predicts that rain will continue in the affected areas until the middle of May 2009. The rainfall prediction has raised concerns about the speed at which the current floodwaters will subside and anticipated increased risk of water-borne disease outbreaks.

ARC approved an extension of the operational timeframes and has been supported by and additional support from the IFRC DREF. The revised operational plan is focusing on enhancing livelihood, mine awareness activities, procurement and logistics due to discrepancies in the cost of relief items.

This operation is expected to be implemented over six months, and will be completed by 30 September 2009; a Final Report will be made available by December 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

## The situation

The annual wet season in Angola (December to May) receives an average of 500mm of rainfall. This year however, the region had received 902mm by the end of March 2009, causing localized flooding in Cunene, Kuando Kubango and Moxico to the southeast, Benguela to the west and Lunda Sul to the north-east of the country. While surface water drainage from the Plan Alto occurred as usual, heavy rainfalls reaching as much as 280mm in Cunene Province and the Kubango River south of Kuando Kubango during the week 21-28 February have compounded the 2009 flooding. In addition, the rainfall combined with unprecedented strong winds as the wet season moved from the south to mid-to-northern Angola. Table 1 outlines the impact of the 2009 floods to date.

**Table 1: Impact of the floods per province – estimates**

Province	Affected*	Displaced	Dead	Houses destroyed	Plantation destroyed (ha)
Cunene	120,000	52,646	14	-	225,000
Moxico	44,000	12,000	-	2,092	1,206
Kuando Kubango	30,000	12,000	-	-	-
Malange	-	1,388	1	261	-
Bie	6,000	-	9	625	-
Lunda Sul	-	3,118	-	855	5,600
Uige	2,448	-	-	150	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202,448</b>	<b>81,152</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3,983</b>	<b>231,806</b>

Note: These figures have been taken from the UN country team information.

\*Affected includes the displaced and those with some property or livelihood loss;

- indicates figures unknown.

The Angolan National Committee of Civil Protection reported damage to primary and secondary roads, bridges and water and sanitation infrastructure, which initially blocked several key access routes including Ondjiva-Cuvelai and Ondjiva-Namibia. These access roads recently reopened as the floodwaters receded and necessary repairs were made. However, there is still no access to Cuangar, Dirico and Calai along the Kawango River. The airstrip in Calai is reportedly flooded and unusable. Poor access has made it difficult for assessment teams to do an accurate damage and needs analysis.

Compounding the difficulty of access is the limited communication infrastructure outside of the provincial capitals and the long distance from the capital Luanda, which complicates the aerial assessments and the delivery of relief supplies via helicopter. The government of Angola has reportedly asked the government of Namibia for support in accessing affected areas. Parallel discussions continue between ARC and the Namibian Red Cross Society to identify ways of reaching isolated areas.

At present there are 25,000 people residing in the three internally displaced peoples (IDP) camps in Ondjiva, two of which were initially established during the 2008 floods. All camp residents have access to shelter (tents), while water and sanitation facilities are currently being improved. It is important to note that the majority of these camp residents are awaiting assistance to construct new shelters in safe areas since the 2008 floods.



Cunene flood, March 2009. With most of the harvest destroyed, fish provides an alternative food source.

The Angolan Agricultural Ministry, municipal administrators and farmers all agree that, as a result of the heavy rains occurring when crops were young and fragile, there will be little to no harvest in 2009 in the affected areas. Food assistance is indicated in these areas. Moreover, agricultural restocking and livelihood support are necessary because many of the affected farmers have also experienced two to four years of consecutive poor production due to the drought in 2006 and 2007, and the floods in 2008 and 2009.

An assessment undertaken by USAID/Angola, OFDA and FFP, and accompanied by representatives of the IFRC, ARC, UNICEF, CRS, and IOM, identified longer-term disaster risk reduction needs, such as early warning systems and risk mapping of the flood-prone areas.

## Coordination and partnerships

The National Committee of Civil Protection is leading the coordination of the response operation at the national and provincial levels, facilitating regular coordination meetings between all stakeholders. The government has set up a number of IDP camps that the National Committee of Civil Protection, with the support of elected camp residents, ARC, Oxfam and UNICEF, is currently managing.

ARC has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the IOM for the transportation, storage and distribution of shelter materials in flood-affected areas. Discussions are underway with the WHO regarding a partnership to implement public health activities, including HIV and AIDS and cholera prevention activities. ARC will also work closely with the Ministry of Health (MoH) regarding health and hygiene promotion activities in provinces.

The government of Angola has responded to the disaster through the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Committee of Civil Protection by:

- Providing 1,000 tonnes of millet: additional food may be shipped from South Africa;
- Providing shelter (tents) for 25,000 displaced people residing in the three camps in Ondjiva;
- Offering assistance with the transportation of relief items and assessment missions.

Other agencies working in Angola have provided assistance to the affected areas:

- CERF supported the IOM in providing shelter to 300 vulnerable families in Cunene and 150 families each in Kuando Kubango and Moxico. To date they have sent clothing, plastic sheets, blankets and hygiene materials to Menongue and Calai, for distribution by local staff and representatives from Civil Protection.

- WHO has increased epidemiologic surveillance in the affected communities, and will provide medical kits for post exposure prophylaxis for HIV transmission prevention in the case of rape and other sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in the IDP camps in Cunene. The organization is also providing one additional diarrhea kit and emergency health kit to MoH.
- UNFPA will provide reproductive health kits to the Civil Protection.
- UNICEF has received USD 1,209,000 from CERF to provide access to safe water and public sanitation, as well as child protection workshops and nutrition surveillance. UNICEF also has 84 tonnes of plumpy nut in transit to treat severe malnutrition.

#### National Society Capacity Building:

The appointment of qualified personnel at national headquarters and the capacity building of key provincial branch representatives have enhanced the strength of ARC disaster management services. The training of 220 volunteers during this operation will further strengthen the capacity of the National Society.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (basic non-food items)	
Objective: 2,000 flood-affected families provided with appropriate non-food relief items.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Relief items distributed to 2,000 families in three provinces for a period of six months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributions carried out according to assessments and selection criteria that identify actual needs and vulnerable groups.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system.</li> <li>• Distribute 2,800 blankets, 2,000 mosquito nets, 4,000 jerry cans, 225,000 water purification tablets, 240,000 sachets of ORS and 2,000 bars of soap.</li> <li>• Mobilise volunteers to support rapid assessments and relief distributions.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

The distribution of relief items has been started in Cunene Province and will be rolled out to other affected provinces. Therefore, Table 2 only outlines the progress to date of ARC's focus on the provision of relief items, reaching 2,200 people affected by the floods in Cunene Province. In addition, ARC continues to assess the impact of the floods and participate in joint assessments in all the affected provinces.

**Table 2: Distributions in Cunene Province**

Province	Blankets	Mosquito nets	Jerry Cans	Water purification tablets	ORS (satchels)	Soap (0.5kg bars)
Cunene	0	400	900	2,200	60,000 <sup>1</sup>	0
Moxico	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kuando Kubango	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Challenges:

While issues of limited access to affected populations due to floodwaters remain, ARCS was able to overcome the initial challenge using the IFRC's four-wheel-drive vehicle. As a result of beneficiaries reportedly using mosquito nets as fishing nets, ARCS will provide awareness on the appropriate use of

<sup>1</sup> Distributed to 38 health posts and 3,000 households (3 satchels/household)

mosquito nets with all future distributions, ensuring that the intended health benefit is achieved. In addition, the need for fishing nets will be considered within the proposed livelihood interventions.

<b>Health and Care</b>	
<b>Objective: To reduce health risks, morbidity and mortality as a result of the emergency by providing health education, hygiene promotion and mine awareness to 80,000 beneficiaries in Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Moxico and Huila provinces for six months.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
The health status of the affected population is improved through hygiene promotion activities and behaviour change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and update existing training materials for volunteers focused on health education, hygiene promotion and mine awareness, using community-based health and First Aid methodology.</li> <li>• Skills of 250 community-based volunteers are updated in health education, hygiene promotion and mine awareness.</li> <li>• Train 220 volunteers on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with MoH and District Health Offices.</li> <li>• ARCS volunteers are mobilised within the affected areas to monitor water-borne disease outbreaks and provide ORS to the most severe cases.</li> <li>• Sustain health promotion campaigns within the affected population focusing on malaria and water-borne diseases targeting up to 80,000 affected people.</li> <li>• Distribute IEC materials for health education and hygiene promotion campaigns (such as posters, flyers).</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

In support of the planned community awareness activities, Oxfam GB and MoH have partnered with ARC in training 100 mobilised volunteers in health and hygiene promotion. This undertaking has ensured that consistent messaging and approaches are used by partner organisations responding to the needs of the population. A total of 3,060 households have been reached to date.

In partnership with Oxfam, health and hygiene promotion activities have focused on the prevention of an outbreak of water-borne diseases including malaria and cholera, and have been conducted alongside the distribution of water purification tablets and ORS. ARC will combine additional information related to mine awareness with the provision of health and hygiene promotion to beneficiaries.

<b>Water and sanitation</b>	
<b>Objective: The risk of water-borne and water-related diseases has been reduced through the provision of safe water and adequate sanitation to 20,000 beneficiaries in Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Moxico and Huila provinces.</b>	
<b>Expected results</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Safe water provided to 2,000 families displaced by floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute 225,000 water purification tablets.</li> <li>• Distribute household-level water storage facilities (i.e. jerry cans) to 2,000 households (see relief section).</li> </ul>
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to 1,000 families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of safe sanitation facilities through the construction of 1,000 latrines (together with improved shelters) in Cunene</li> </ul>

**Progress:**

The initial response included the distribution of 2,200 water purification tablets, 900 jerry cans and the construction of 416 latrines for individual households and the displaced population residing in the three IDP camps. The construction of latrines was undertaken in partnership with Oxfam GB.

**Challenges:**

The floodwaters denied access to much of the affected population. However, this situation is easing and ARC will be able to broaden their reach in the coming period.

## Shelter

**Objective: 1,000 most vulnerable flood-affected families in Cunene Province are living in a safe and healthy environment within six months of the beginning of the operation.**

Expected results	Activities planned
The targeted 1,000 displaced households are provided with material for shelter and are living with dignity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the extent of the shelter needs and preferred shelter solutions.</li> <li>• Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver the intended assistance.</li> <li>• In coordination with the IOM, confirm a suitable shelter design in consultation with the affected population.</li> <li>• Provide one shelter kit and three additional tarpaulins per family to facilitate the construction of safe and adequate locally appropriate shelter solutions.</li> <li>• National Society staff, volunteers and each household will receive technical assistance and guidance in the construction of the agreed shelter design.</li> <li>• Households that receive sheltering support will also receive support for safe sanitation (see water, sanitation and hygiene promotion)</li> </ul>

### Progress:

ARC has signed a collaborative agreement with the IOM regarding the provision of shelter support to the affected populations. Initial discussions on beneficiary selection and shelter design have begun and will be finalized in the coming few weeks. A challenge in developing a suitable shelter design for households that have more than one family unit, i.e. one male has multiple wives and family units, has led to a shelter design that can be easily divided into sections enabling each family unit its privacy. The proposed design will be shared with the beneficiaries for their feedback and approval.

## Food security and livelihoods

**Objective: to provide effective food security and livelihood assistance (substitution and reestablishment) for up to 1,000 flood-affected households as part of an integrated approach to early recovery programming.**

Expected results	Activities planned
Affected households receive appropriate livelihoods support to assist in early recovery from the flood event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultation with local authorities and community groups to identify beneficiaries</li> <li>• Identification of appropriate livelihood interventions to support the recovery and diversification of livelihoods, in consultation with the affected population.</li> <li>• Training of beneficiaries and ARC staff and volunteers in the identified livelihoods interventions</li> </ul>

The various assessments undertaken by ARC and other agencies have confirmed that the floodwaters destroyed vast areas of crops, leaving communities with limited possibilities of harvesting this year. Discussions are underway with the British Red Cross for the mobilization of two representatives from their Household Economic Security Module to assist in determining the most appropriate interventions to support early recovery and, at the same time, build resilience towards future flood events.

## How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### **Global Agenda Goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

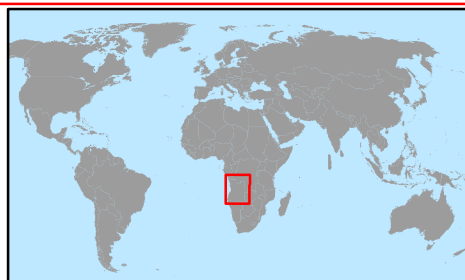
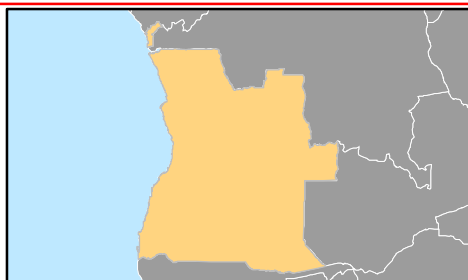
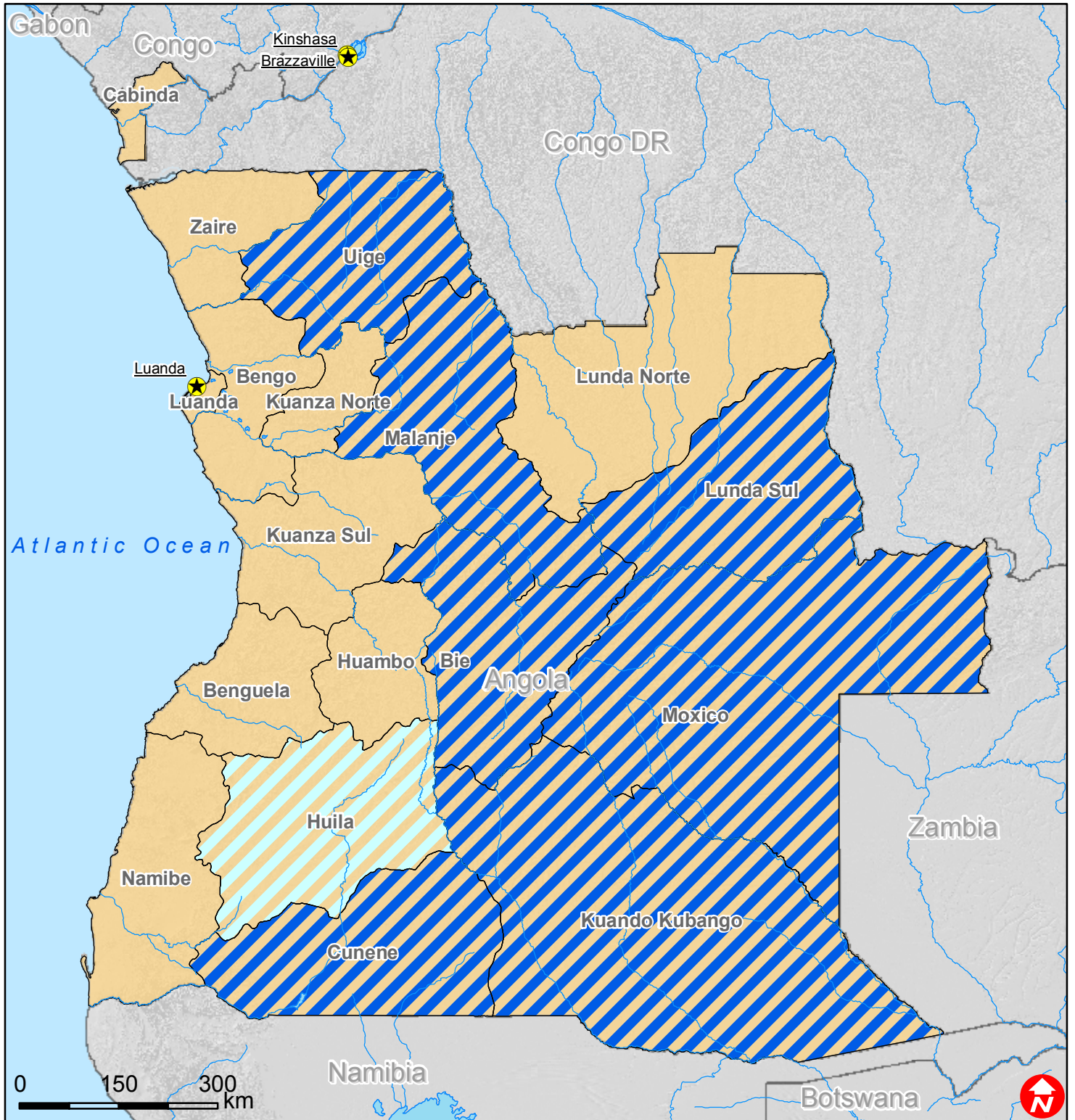
### **For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- **In Angola:** Walter Bombo Guange Quifica, Secretary General, Email: [vquifica@yahoo.com](mailto:vquifica@yahoo.com); Phone: Tel: +244.222.393.284, Mobile: +244.92.231.3242; Fax +244.222.372.868 (IFRC).
- **In Angola:** Karen Hvid: Federation Representative: Email: [Karen.hvid@ifrc.org](mailto:Karen.hvid@ifrc.org); Phone: Tel: +244.923.408.577; Fax: +244.222.372.868.
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Françoise Le Goff, Head of Zone Office, Johannesburg; Email : [françoise.legoff@ifrc.org](mailto:françoise.legoff@ifrc.org); Phone: Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9711; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Southern Africa Zone:** Disaster Management Department: Farid Aiywar; Email: [farid.aiywar@ifrc.org](mailto:farid.aiywar@ifrc.org); Phone: Mobile: +27.83.440.0564 Tel: +27.11.303.9700; +27.11.303.9721; Fax: +27.11.884.3809; +27.11.884.0230
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, Operations Coordinator, Email: [christine.south@ifrc.org](mailto:christine.south@ifrc.org); Phone: +41.22.730.4400, Fax: +41.22.733.0395

[<click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Angola: Floods



- Capitals
- Rivers
- Lakes
- Provinces
- Flooded areas
- Affected areas by violent winds