

# **ANGOLA:**

## **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR ENDURING EMERGENCIES**

13 March, 2000

*appeal no. 01/16/2000*

*situation report no. 01*

*period covered: January - February 29, 2000*

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*The ongoing fighting in Angola has extended along the southern and eastern borders of the country creating a new wave of internally displaced persons and large numbers of Angolans crossing the borders into Namibia and Zambia. Despite continuing security concerns and a lack of funding this year, the Federation is providing support to the Angolan Red Cross (ARC), in accordance with the Country Assistance Strategy and with funds carried over from the 1999 programme.*

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### ***The context***

Since gaining its independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola has endured almost constant conflict. The 1994 Lusaka Peace Accord and the formation of the United Government of National Reconciliation in April 1997 provided hopes of sustainable development and peace in the country. However, clashes between the government and UNITA continued, and in May 1998 both sides prepared again for war. Fighting increased dramatically from December 1998, once again plunging the country into a full scale civil war and dramatically increasing the numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Following a largely successful government campaign which began in October, 1999 to flush out UNITA from their traditional strongholds in the central highlands, military activity shifted and extended to the borders with neighbouring countries (Namibia, the Democratic republic of Congo or DRC, and Zambia). This intense fighting has created a new wave of internally displaced, and resulted in large numbers of Angolans crossing the borders.

The agriculture sector has particularly suffered with the resumption of hostilities, with an estimated 7 million land mines (the highest concentration in the world) around the country rendering farmland inaccessible and forcing increasing numbers to abandon their property. Government support to health and education remains low, with funds diverted to defence. Much of the country's infrastructure (roads,

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The agriculture sector has particularly suffered with the resumption of hostilities, with an estimated 7 million land mines (the highest concentration in the world) around the country rendering farmland inaccessible and forcing increasing numbers to abandon their property. Government support to health and education remains low, with funds diverted to defence. Much of the country's infrastructure (roads,

bridges and railways), already destroyed by the conflict, has been further eroded, and most roads remain closed.

These factors have combined to dramatically impact the humanitarian situation in the country, creating major social and economic difficulties for growing numbers of vulnerable people including an estimated 1.7 million IDPs, mostly women and children who are forced to flee from insecure rural areas to Luanda and safer government controlled provincial capitals, resident communities and the urban poor. The large scale population displacement in the rural areas has seriously affected food production in Angola, with less than 4 percent of arable land currently under production, and the deteriorating humanitarian situation has made the population more susceptible to malnutrition, and disease, particularly polio, malaria, TB and diarrhoeal infections.

## *Latest events*

In January, at the conclusion of the UN Security Council's "Month of Africa" UN Secretary General Kofi Annan conceded that the International community should have done more to prevent the resumption of the civil war in Angola just over a year ago, and accepted that the collapse of the 1994 UN-brokered Lusaka Protocol peace accords was due to the failure of the rebel UNITA movement to demobilise its forces and allow state administration to be extended to areas under its control. The Secretary General stated that was forced to conclude that 4 years of vigorous effort the UN had failed to convince UNITA to comply with the peace accords, and that the conditions for an effective UN peace keeping presence had ceased to exist.

After more than one year following the escalation of the civil war, a period during which 23 UN relief workers and humanitarian staff had been killed, insecurity remains one of the major constraints for humanitarian activities in Angola. Recent security incidents have included attacks, road ambushes and mine accidents targeting mostly civilians in several parts of the country. The ongoing insecurity has continued to force the humanitarian organisations to rely on costly air transport of emergency supplies.

Following intensive military activity and fighting along the eastern and southern borders of Angola, it is estimated that 23,700 Angolan refugees have fled to Zambia since October, 1999. According to UNHCR, the number of new Angolan refugees in Namibia had increased to over 8,000 by the end of January, 2000. In particular, the escalation of the fighting into Namibia was described as a major source of concern by the UN Secretary General, and Amnesty International documented a number of human rights abuses in northern Namibia.

The food supply situation remains extremely serious throughout the country. At the same time food prices have increased sharply and availability is scarce. It is reported that large numbers of IDPs and residents continue to show some degree of malnutrition. At present there are sufficient WFP food stocks of maize, meal, pulses, corn soya blend (CSB), fish oil, sugar and salt for almost three months at the current average monthly levels of food distribution.

As of 8 February, the donor response to the United Nations 2000 UN Consolidated Inter Appeal for Angola stood at 25.7%.

Heavy rains in the east of Benguela caused flash floods in the southern parts of the province. Affected areas near Chongoroi could not be reached due to insecurity. However, local authorities reported that the flood affected 1,581 families and destroyed 1,017 houses and 48 ha. of crops. Some of the victims of the floods were reported to have moved to the neighbouring provinces of Huila and Namibe. A joint assessment mission by WFP, MINARS, UCAH, UNICEF to Dombe Grande (Benguela) to evaluate the consequences of the flood in this area recommended urgent food distributions for 1,409 IDP families and community kitchens for children aged from 6 months to 5 years. WFP will continue to provide food aid to the flood victims at least until the next harvest in August.

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The new Angolan currency is now in circulation replacing the readjusted Kwanza. The removal of government subsidies on fuel, oil and gas resulted in an increase of 1500% in the cost of these items. Prices of essential commodities are expected to rise dramatically. The national currency continues to depreciate against the US dollar and currently stands at approximately 6 Kwanza to 1 US\$.

## ***Red Cross/Red Crescent action***

The International Federation and Angola Red Cross (ARC) programme is implemented under the ICRC as lead agency in Angola, with the Federation primarily tasked with the development of the National Society. While the long term priority of the Federation will continue to be the strengthening of the ARC at headquarters and in particular provincial levels so that the National Society can assist the vulnerable through well planned and appropriate programmes and activities, the Federation strategy for the year 2000 is centred on health through accessible, existing and functioning ARC health posts in Benguela, Cuanza Sul, Cuanza Norte and Luanda, and a mines awareness education in Benguela and Cunene. The objective is to support ARC activities in these areas, thereby providing valuable and necessary assistance to vulnerable persons and communities in Angola, and at the same time building capacity within the National Society.

### **Health ●**

The Federation's Health Co-ordinator arrived at the beginning of January. Following a period of briefing and orientation, a field visit with the ARC Health Co-ordinator was undertaken to Benguela and Cubal.

The health posts visited were found to be effective, but very much focused on consultations and curative health. Community activities appeared to be non-existent unless carried out in conjunction with other organisations. All structures were found to be fairly sound, and only minor repairs were recommended.

At present, the Cubal Health Post only provides vaccines one time a week and there is only one nurse capable of conducting ante-natal clinics, spending one day per week at each health post and 2 days with the Ministry of Health. It was agreed with the provincial health delegate that the nurse would only work with the ARC in future.

It was agreed that at present Cubal has a much greater workload than Benguela because of the extremely vulnerable target population in and around the area. It was also found that the ARC has a significant profile in Cubal but this was not the case in Benguela. In addition, it appeared that Cubal operates with the bare minimum regarding practical assets whereas Benguela appears to be over provided.

It was clear the ARC staff and volunteers were encouraged by the field visit, most carrying out their duties to the best of their abilities. Future, regular monitoring and supervision visits are considered essential to sustain their enthusiasm and commitment to the programme.

Following are the main recommendations from the field visit:

- undertake planning with the ARC Health Department for regular monitoring and supervisory visits to all locations where ARC are operational.
- reinforce data collection, standard drug use, clinic procedures, stock control and other procedures from the ARC central level. This process is already underway.
- following confirmation of budget approval and funding, begin the process of health post repair to prevent further structural deterioration.

A training for trainers seminar/workshop on STDs/HIV/AIDS supported by the Federation was organised by the ARC at the Viana Training Centre (VTC) in Luanda from 28 February to 3 March. The aim of the seminar/workshop attended by participants from all provinces and facilitated by the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS was to promote knowledge, attitude and practice of the prevention of

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STDs/HIV/AIDS in the communities, and to enhance the capacity of the trainers (activists) in the communities regarding the prevention of STDs/HIV/AIDS.

The number of beneficiaries (growth monitoring, prenatal, consultations, completed immunisations and home visits) served by the ARC health posts in January, 2000 were as follows:

PROVINCE	HEALTH POST	BENEFICIARIES
Luanda	Kicolo	3,909
	Kilamba-Kiayi	3,198
Benguela	Kamunda	1,053
	Chongoroi	614
	Cassiva	1,599
	Chimbassi	2,033
	Passagem	2,324
Cuanza Sul	Calomango	1,389
	Gabela	1,872
	Condé	0
	Assango	666
K. Norte	N'Dalatando	3286
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>21,943</b>

Activities recorded at the ARC health posts includes vaccination doses, lectures, dressings, and treatment of diarrhoea. The Health Post at Conde is not operational due to ongoing insecurity in Cuanza Sul province.

**Mine Awareness Education Programme (MAEP) ●**

The security in Cunene caused concern in February with attacks on civilians reported in Santa Clara resulting in 28 confirmed deaths. Field visits and activities were confined to safe and accessible municipalities.

The following table summarises the number of people sensitised by instructors in January and February, 2000 in four municipalities of Cunene Province:

	Cahama	Ombadja	Cuanhama	Cuvelei
<b>Children</b>	506	393	509	98
<b>Women</b>	202	274	342	17
<b>Men</b>	156	381	323	63
<b>Total</b>	864	1,048	1,174	178

Numbers of people sensitised by instructors in January and February, 2000 in three municipalities of Benguela province:

	Cubal	Caimba	Ganda
<b>Children</b>	1,771	533	467
<b>Women</b>	1,184	627	653
<b>Men</b>	855	549	543
<b>Total</b>	381	1,709	1,663

A field visit was undertaken to meet with provincial co-ordinators and provincial delegates to prepare works plans for the first quarter of 2000. It was agreed that all training courses should be completed by the first half of the year to allow staff and volunteers to focus on regular field visits, to promote events and to concentrate on improving the quality of the programme.

In Cunene, following a meeting with the provincial education officer to identify the target group of teachers, training of 75 teachers was initiated. In Ganda municipality (Benguela province), 10 traditional leaders were trained, with a further 20 to be trained in the coming weeks.

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The regional delegate for the LISN project in Harare visited Angola in March to assist the ARC in the setting up of the data base for the Mine Awareness Education Programme in Luanda.

The lack of capacity within the ARC in regards to transport and logistics remains a constraint, often delaying programme activities.

### **Institutional and Resource Development ●**

A Red Cross Partnership Meeting attended by 9 PNSs, the ARC, the Federation and the ICRC was convened in Geneva on 31 January. The objectives of the meeting were to review the 1999 programmes and operations in Angola, to present and discuss the Angola Country Assistance strategy for the year 2000, and programme and operation funding support. All presentations were followed by very open and useful discussions.

Following this meeting, the Federation has assisted the ARC to draft Terms of Reference for a proposed audit. The audit and its recommendations should facilitate a redirection of the ARC's 3-year development plan and allow various resource development initiatives for the National Society to be explored.

A budgetary review for the 2000 programme taking into account the recommendations from the meeting has now been undertaken and a draft revised budget submitted to Geneva for approval.

## ***Outstanding needs***

With no confirmed pledges yet this year, the programme is in urgent need of both cash and in-kind support.

## ***External relations - Government/UN/NGOs/Media***

The delegation maintains good relations with diplomatic representatives, the UN, ICRC, and NGOs, particularly regarding security issues.

The biweekly co-ordination meetings and regular discussions with the ARC and the ICRC continue to focus on how the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement can effectively reach the most vulnerable in a country plagued by continuing civil conflict.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details.

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Director  
Operations Funding and  
Reporting Department

Bekele Geleta  
Director  
Africa Department

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