

# **ANGOLA : INTEGRATED COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

28 August 1998

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*Funding for all operations in Angola has become a priority, with downsizing under way in an effort to secure the most vital aspects of the programme. The security situation in the country has become hazardous, and in many areas delegates are unable to function. On the positive side, the first General Assembly of the Angolan Red Cross Society for 14 years took place in July and was acclaimed as a great success by all.*

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## ***The context***

Since it gained independence in 1975 Angola has suffered almost continuous civil unrest. In November 1994, both parties to the conflict signed the Lusaka Peace Accords, where they agreed to a United Nations three-year peace process. In April 1997, the situation looked very positive with a United Government of National Reconciliation being formed, embracing both sides. Actions such as the inclusion of UNITA personnel into various levels of the new government, return of its former communities to Government administration and demobilisation of all UNITA armed forces were taken towards fulfilling the Lusaka Accords. Sporadic clashes took place during this process, which have increased since May 1998, endangering the peace process.

## ***Latest events***

Armed clashes between the Government and UNITA have increased in size and severity. By the end of the month, no major road was safe and most of the provincial airports were closed. During July, NGOs continued recalling their expatriate staff from field stations due to new fighting in the provinces. The capital Luanda remained calm, with a clean-up crime campaign continuing and barrios being closed for several hours in the evening while the police conducted searches. There are reports of a new influx of

displaced persons from the provinces to Luanda, causing a serious overload on an already overburdened infrastructure.

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

### **Institutional and Resource Development**

The Angola Red Cross Society (ARC) held its long-awaited General Assembly from 8-10 July, attended by the Federation's Under-Secretary for Disaster Response and Operations Co-ordination, the Head of Delegation, the President of Sierra Leone Red Cross, the First Lady of Angola, the Swedish, British and Portuguese Ambassadors, representatives of the American, Belgian and Spanish Embassies and the Spanish Red Cross Project Delegate.

The General Assembly was broken up into three distinct parts: ratification of the New Statutes for the ARC, the election of the National Council and the election of the President and his Executive Council, which included a Finance Commission. Elected as President was Dr. Albino Malungo, Minister of Social Affairs and Reinsertion; Vice President, Justino Fernandez, Special Representative on Social Affairs to the President of Angola; members of the Executive Council and Finance Commission. The National Council includes volunteer members of the ARC, prominent Angolan citizens, Government Ministers and the First Lady of Angola. Dr. Alexio Gonçalves was elected by the National Council as Secretary General of the ARC.

The invited observers were unanimous in their opinion that the elections were open and fair and that this was a good start for the ARC in its drive to achieve a properly governed, well functioning national society. The Angola Red Cross reports that the next phase of activity will be the holding of provincial assemblies to replicate the governance system at that level.

The downsizing of the delegation continues and the issue of the number and type of Delegates to have in place by the beginning of 1999 is being studied.

### **Community Health**

The Community Health Section tried to keep its programme going despite the increasing insecurity which is limiting access to many health posts. During the reporting period, the health posts at Cariamba and Bolongongo were looted. Funding for the national health programme was at a critical state that precluded anything but essential services.

During the reporting period, the Health Co-ordinator was asked to accompany an ICRC mission to Bula-Cafunfo to check on 44 wounded persons, the reported victims of a massacre that occurred in the town the previous week. The mission included a medical evaluation of the wounded and provision of medical supplies and medicaments to the local hospital. A mission report has been completed and submitted to all parties involved including the Ministry of Health.

The Federation Health Delegate and the British Red Cross Project Delegate have finalised the procedures to be used on the baseline study in Benguela. They have

recruited and trained five interviewers who will begin interviews this month. Two hundred families are to be interviewed in this pilot project.

The following is a breakdown of beneficiaries served by the ICHDP health posts in Angola:

PROVINCE	HEALTH POST	BENEFICIARIES
Luanda	Kicolo	10,700
	Kilamba-Kiaxi	6,308
	Bitá	0
Benguela	Kamunda	2,073
	Chongoroi	1,982
	Cassiva	1,499
	Chimbassi	5,091
	Passagem	13,209
Cuanza Sul	Gabela	9,879
Cuanza Norte	N'Dalatando	7,441
	N'Gonguembo	last report end of May 3,063
	Bolongongo	last report 10 May 9,021
	Cariamba	no longer in service
Uíge	Calumbo	1,229
	Kulo	2,592
	Kawenda	967
Huila	Chibia-Hango	1,619
	Machiqueira	2,253
Namibe	Bibala-Lola	no report
	Bibala-Quillengues	2,172
Bié	Chipeta	1,606
<b>Total persons served by Red Cross Health Posts in Angola</b>		<b>72,059</b>

### **Mines Awareness Education Project**

The project manager is arranging for the purchase in Namibia of the training materials and equipment to be used by the instructors and has arranged for a show on local radio which will highlight Red Cross mines awareness activities in the province. The training of the initial 60 instructors began in mid-August, with the first training sessions in the community due to start in September.

### **Project Delegations**

Benguela - The security situation continues to deteriorate in Benguela. The Delegate can only stay in Benguela City itself. She has started making arrangements to manage the operation at a distance by using ARC staff at isolated work sites who report and supervise health post operations in off-limits areas. The Calamango health post rehabilitation continues, with services expected to start shortly. Working with the Federation Health Delegate, the Baseline Study operational guide, interviewers and work plan have been finalised with the study planned to start in August.

Bié - The security situation in Bié remains much the same with the area immediately around Kuito safe for travel, including Chipeta.

Cuanza Sul - The security situation in North, East and South of the province is deteriorating. The delegate will be kept in Sumbé until security improves.

Cuanza Norte - The N'Gonguembo operations are not being visited due to insecurity. Two health posts has been lost. The N'Dalatando health posts report increase in services provided mainly to IDP families who are arriving at a rate of 150 per week.

Uige - The security situation in Uige is very precarious and delegates will not be allowed back into the province until the situation improves.

Spanish Red Cross - Funding has been made available for rehabilitation of the Red Cross branch in Bengo. However, a plan of action from the ARC has yet to materialise in order to start the project. Spanish Co-operation has approved USD 350,000 for the Bengo Province community health programme that is scheduled to start in January 1999. The Viana Mutilado project (bilateral) and the training programme are progressing.

### **Mini-Projects**

Due to lack of funding, these projects are being closed. The provinces affected are Huila, Cuanza Norte and Namibe. Efforts to save Luanda province operations, which account for about 27% of total health post activities, are under way.

## ***Outstanding Needs***

The immediate needs are:

- a. Securing of funding to save the Angola Programme in general and the Luanda province operations in particular.
- b. Replacement for the Health Co-ordinator within the next 3-6 months.

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

Relations with other organisations such as UN agencies, Diplomatic Representations, NGOs and the ICRC are good and a regular contact is maintained to avoid duplication of services. Of particular note is the Delegation's participation in the CONGA (Angolan NGO co-ordination meetings), DfID members meeting, USAID, UCAH and US embassy security meetings and in INEROI de-mining meetings.

## ***Contributions***

See Annex 1 for details. For more information on the programme donors are invited to call Helga Leifsdottir, Desk Officer, on ++4122 7304316.

## ***Conclusion***

July proved to be a very difficult month for the delegation, with the downsizing under way and with a tenuous security situation in the countryside. Now that the General Assembly has taken place, with great success, it is hoped that the overall working situation for the Red Cross will improve.

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