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68

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PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ANGOLA

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PROFILE SUMMARY

New government plans could compromise voluntary nature of return process

Background and causes of displacement

The post-independence war (1974-1992) was a proxy Cold War battlefield in which the two major national groups, MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) were supported by the Soviet Union and the United States respectively. In 1992, the UNITA rejected the results of multi-party elections won by the MPLA, and war resumed until the signing of the Lusaka ceasefire protocol in 1994. However, the protocol failed to end the violence completely and the two warring parties embarked on another full-scale war in 1998. UNITA, which had lost practically all international support, increasingly targeted the civilian population with killings, maiming and kidnappings, which led to large-scale displacement. Civilians were also forcibly displaced by government troops, mainly to prevent the population from supporting the UNITA (MSF, 5 March 2002). Between 1998 and February 2002, more than three million war-affected people fled from the countryside to the major urban areas where they found some level of security and better access to humanitarian assistance. The killing of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi by MPLA government troops in February 2002 was a turning point in Angola's recent history. Less than two months later, the warring parties had signed a cease-fire agreement which still holds more than two years on.

The end of the civil war in Angola proper marked the beginning of a large-scale military campaign against separatist rebels in Cabinda, an oil-rich Angolan enclave situated on the coast between the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. Shortly after the ceasefire agreement the government withdrew a large number of its troops from the battlefield in Angola and redeployed them to Cabinda. The campaign caused the displacement of more than 23,000 people. Although the army seems to have succeeded in dispersing the rebels, the humanitarian costs of the offensive were disastrous. The civilian population in this area was reportedly exposed to summary executions, rape, torture, destruction of property and pillage of villages, mainly by government forces. Nevertheless, the number of reported human rights abuses has decreased concurrently with reduced intensity of the military operations in 2004 (UNHCHR, 1 September 2004; IRIN, 23 August 2004; HRW, 1 January 2004; Ad hoc-Commission for Human Rights in Cabinda, 3 November 2003).

According to the Angolan government, as many as 340,000 people remained internally displaced as of September 2004. However, the UN operates with a much lower estimate of 40,000-60,000 people, stating that most IDPs have integrated in their host communities (Correspondence with OCHA, 22 September 2004; RNA, 2 September 2004).

Protection concerns

In September 2004, the Angolan government announced plans to close all IDP camps and centres and return all the remaining IDPs to their areas of origin before the end of 2004 (AN, 23 September 2004; RNA, 2 September 2004). This raises concerns as to the voluntariness of the planned returns, as many of those considered IDPs by the government appear to have chosen to integrate permanently in areas of displacement.

The government has on several occasions been accused of inducing or forcing IDPs to return to their places of origin or preventing them from choosing where to settle down (FAO, 6 August 2004 p 2; OCHA, 15 June 2004, USDOS, 10 March 2004 p.11).

Since the ceasefire agreement there has been a considerable decrease of strictly war-related violations of human rights, including forced displacement, violent attacks on civilian communities and abductions of

women and children. However, protection concerns faced by returning IDPs and refugees are still reported and include land disputes, sexual violence, restrictions on freedom of movement, exclusion from social services and humanitarian assistance as well as looting, extortion, and arbitrary detention, particularly in places where state structures are weak.

The return of demobilised UNITA soldiers to their place of origin has in some cases resulted in violence directed against them. Such violence reportedly prompted around 2,000 former UNITA soldiers to leave a municipality in Moxico province in mid-July 2004 when local residents protested against the return of a former UNITA general who had been involved in war atrocities. Smaller incidents targeting UNITA followers have also been reported in other provinces, and the UN has decided to monitor the situation closely (UNHCHR, 1 September 2004, 3 May 2004; IRIN, 4 August 2004, ISS, 5 February 2004; UN, 18 November 2003).

Humanitarian conditions progressively improving

The humanitarian situation for most Angolans, including IDPs and returnees, has improved steadily since the ceasefire agreement of 2002. An estimated number of around one million in need of food assistance as of July 2004 is a considerable achievement compared to just a year earlier, when around 2.3 million people relied on food aid. Some returnees have harvested crops for two seasons and a further decrease in the number of people in need of food assistance is expected following the 2005 harvest. Moreover, none of the remaining IDPs appear on the UN's list of food insecure (OCHA, 1 July 2004).

Despite these achievements in self-sufficiency the overall public health situation remains critical. Child mortality rates are among the highest in the world and 45 per cent of Angolan children are chronically malnourished (IRIN, 1 July 2004). Malaria, measles, tuberculosis and other diseases account for most of the infant and adult mortality and few among the IDPs, returnees and the resident population can afford medicines. Only around 10 per cent of the population has access to clean water (FAO, 6 August 2004; OCHA, 1 July 2004, 31 January 2004; USAID, 7 January 2004).

Humanitarian access and international response

Deplorable road conditions, broken bridges and millions of mines are among the major obstacles to the rehabilitation and development of the country as well as to the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas of return in spite of improved transport network since the ceasefire. Massive return to areas often littered with mines and unexploded ordnances have increased the number of accidents and there are still more than 2,500 uncleared mine fields according to the government (APM, 14 September 2004; JA, 23 August 2004; EMIN, 2 June 2004).

With the return of millions of IDPs and war-affected people to their place of origin, the UN coordination body OCHA has established a Transitional Coordination Unit (TCU) which will fulfill the functions of coordination, information and management of humanitarian response in the period up to the end of 2005. The Unit will hand over all its responsibilities to the government by the end of 2005 (OCHA, 1 July 2004).

The poorly funded return and reintegration process received a refreshing boost of twelve million dollars worth of food aid to feed 1.4 million vulnerable returnees in September. The World Food Programme, which had been forced to reduce rations for returned IDPs, refugees and the resident population, thereby managed to ward off an imminent food crisis among the returnees. However, other sectors of the return process, such as education and health remain seriously underfunded. Less than 60 per cent of the financial requirements in the UN consolidated appeal had been forthcoming by the end of September 2004, with food as the best funded sector (OCHA, 24 September 2004; APM, 14 September 2004; IRIN, 6 September 2004).

The request for funding to a government which disposes one of the biggest oil reserves in the world has been hard to accept for many donors and aid workers. Accusations of embezzlement and corruption have been rife, but the government is increasingly being recognised for improved records on how it uses its oil

revenues (Reuters, 15 September 2004). However, donors still attach conditions and accountability to funding with a view to improve the government's capacity to assist and protect the millions of war-affected and returned IDPs. Improved funding is urgently needed to areas of return where high levels of child-mortality, food-insecurity, land disputes, mine incidents and lack of infrastructure still prevail (Updated October 2004).

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND

Background to the conflict

30 years of war since independence, 1963-1994

- Independence war (1963-1974)
- Post-independence war (1974-1992)
- Post-multiparty election war (October 1992-November 1994)
- Post-multiparty election war is most devastating to Angolan people
- The demise of global bi polarity shifted the emphasis from an ideological paradigm to an ethnic one
- United States intervened in Angola weeks before the arrival of Cuban troops
- Broad collaboration between USA and South-Africa

"Angola has known little peace in the past 30 years. It has experienced three wars, the independence war (1963-1974), the post-independence war (1974-1992) and the post -multiparty election war (October 1992-November 1994) when UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) rebels rejected electoral defeat and returned to conflict.

[...]

The post-multiparty election war (October 1992-November 1994) was the most devastating: the UN estimates that more than 300,000 died, 3 per cent of the population. At its peak in 1993, as many as 1000 people were dying daily from conflict, starvation, and disease – more than in any other conflict in the world at that time. By September 1994, the UN Secretary General reported that there were 3,7 million Angolans, mostly displaced and conflict-affected, in need of emergency supplies, including essential medicines, vaccines and food aid. [...] Th[is] war was notable for widespread systematic violations of human rights by both the government and the UNITA rebels. In particular, indiscriminate shelling of starving, besieged cities by UNITA resulted in massive destruction of property and the loss of untold numbers of civilian lives. Indiscriminate bombing by the government also took a high civilian toll. The US deputy assistant secretary for African affairs noted at that time that: 'This type of warfare bears mainly, cruelly and disproportionately on the populace, which is caught between the warring parties.' (Vines 1998, pp. 89-90)

"The Angolan conflict began as a struggle for independence and national liberation from Portuguese colonial rule during the first months of 1961. By the time of independence on November 11, 1975, political rivalries between the two major nationalist groups – the MPLA and UNITA – who were fighting for independence, degenerated into a vicious civil war that seemed to have no end.

With the assistance of the Cubans, the MPLA emerged the victor of the national liberation struggle and formed the government of post-independence Angola. This victory, however, was violently contested by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA. In the context of the Cold War, this conflict acquired ideological undertones with UNITA being seen as pro-West and the MPLA as pro-Soviet. The demise of global bi polarity shifted the emphasis from an ideological paradigm to an ethnic one. 31 May 1991 being the most significant and resulting in an election a year later. However, these Accords failed to bring peace to the sixteen year old conflict as UNITA challenged the results of the 1992 elections, a product of the Bicesse Accords. The inevitable result was renewed fighting which resulted in more than 120,000 people being killed in 18 months of fighting. This is almost half the number of people killed in sixteen years of civil war preceding the Bicesse Accords." (Vasu Gounden and Hussein Solomon, August 2003 p. 3)

"A March 31 [2002] *New York Times* article entitled, "From Old Files, A New Story of U.S. Role in Angolan War," observes, "Coinciding with the death last month of Washington's longtime rebel ally in Angola, Jonas Savimbi, a trove of recently declassified documents seem to overturn conventional explanations of the war's origins."

The *Times* states that "the documents show conclusively that the United States intervened in Angola weeks before the arrival of Cuban troops, not afterward as Washington claimed."

And further, "A connection between Washington and South Africa, which was then ruled by a white government under an apartheid policy, was strongly denied at the time. The documents appear to demonstrate their broad collaboration."

The CIA, National Security Council, and related secret U.S. documents were uncovered by Johns Hopkins University Professor Piero Gleijeses, who filed for their release under the Freedom of Information Act.

Dr. Gleijeses states, "When the U.S. decided to launch the covert intervention, in June and July [1975], not only were there no Cubans in Angola, but the U.S. government and the CIA were not even thinking about any Cuban presence." He continues, "But in reports presented to the Senate in December 1975 what you find is nothing less than the rewriting of history."

(Socialist action 30 April, 2002)

For a detailed review of the conflict in Angola see chapter III "Background" of the Human Rights Watch report "Angola Unravels - the Rise and Fall of the Lusaka Peace Process" (September 1999)
[External link]

Signature of the 1994 Lusaka Peace Protocol fails to end violence, 1994-1997

- Persistent reports of banditry, obstruction of free movement, continuation of fighting, human rights violations, and acquisition of arms
- Government and UNITA continue to acquire new arms
- Despite monitoring by the United Nations Peacekeepers (UNAVEM III), demobilization process of UNITA troops remains incomplete
- Civil war in Zaire is significant factor in power struggles

"Following the signing on 20 November 1994 of the Lusaka ceasefire protocol between the Angolan government, led by the Movement for the Popular Liberation of Angola (MPLA), and the UNITA rebels, Angola has been on a tortuous path to reestablish peace and security. Although a new Government of Unity and National Reconciliation (GURN) was inaugurated on 11 April 1997, sporadic fighting continues, including the laying of landmines by both sides. Widespread human rights abuses by the government and UNITA continue, including conscription of child soldiers and the intimidation and detention of journalists. Movement around the country is difficult. By September 1997, as confidence in the peace process deteriorated, old checkpoints had been reactivated and new ones set up on both government and UNITA areas. Acts of banditry have also escalated. The government in 1997 continued to acquire new arms in contravention of the Lusaka Protocol, the 1991 Bicesse accords and UN Security Council resolutions.

The civil war in neighbouring Zaire was a significant factor in the power struggle in Angola during 1997. UNITA had been supporting President Sese Seko Mobutu of Zaire in return for supply lines for arms and a marketing route for diamonds. In February and March the MPLA sent two battalions of Katangese Angolans (originally from Shaba province in Zaire) to help Laurent Kabila, the leader of the rebel forces in Zaire. In June 1997, Kinshasa fell to the rebel forces and Zaire became the Democratic Republic of Congo. The immediate impact on Angola was that UNITA became more vulnerable as the Kinshasa government shifted its alliance to Luanda. In May and June, Angolan government forces invaded 10 per cent of UNITA-held diamond areas in Lunda Norte in order to reduce UNITA's power base in the northeast and to expand the diamond-producing areas held by the government." (Vines 1998, p. 90)

"In 1995, a nearly 7,000-strong UN military force, known as UNAVEM III, entered Angola to monitor implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, including the disarmament and demobilization of UNITA troops. During 1996, thousands of UNITA troops assembled at UN sites throughout the country. However, many were only part-time soldiers or civilians whom UNITA forced to pose as soldiers, according to observers. Only about half of the UNITA 'troops' who arrived at assembly areas carried weapons, and tens of thousands subsequently deserted. Many observers contended that UNITA still possessed significant military capacity 'including an estimated 15,000 to 25,000 troops' in Angola's northeastern Lunda Provinces and in neighboring Zaire (later renamed Democratic Republic of Congo). . .

[...]

[International observer mission] MONUA also confirmed the existence of armed UNITA soldiers, verified forced recruitment of new UNITA troops and 'remobilization' of demobilized UNITA troops, and reported other irregularities in the demobilization process." (USCR 1998, p. 50)

For a detailed review of the Lusaka process and its failure, see chapter IV "The Lusaka Peace Process" and chapter V "Undermining the Lusaka Peace Process" of the Human Rights Watch report "Angola Unravels - the Rise and Fall of the Lusaka Peace Process" (September 1999) [External link]

Chronology of the conflict since independence, 1975-2000

- UNITA, MPLA and FNLA already at odds at time of independence in 1975
- Country is wracked by fighting until 1994 when ceasefire accord signed
- UNITA fails to respect ceasefire; international sanctions imposed in 1997
- Continued fighting fueled by UNITA diamond revenues since 1998

"Key events of the conflict that has left at least 500,000 people dead are as follows:

1975

Nov 11: Angola wins independence from Portugal but is already wracked by conflict between the pro-Soviet People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA), both backed by the United States and Zaire.

Apartheid South Africa had in October sent troops to back UNITA against the MPLA, which had major support from Cuba.

1979

Sept 20: Jose Eduardo dos Santos succeeds the late president Agostinho Neto.

1984

Feb 16: Angola and South Africa sign a deal calling for a South African withdrawal to be completed in 1988.

1988

Aug 8: South Africa, Cuba and Angola agree on ceasefires in Angola and in Namibia as part of a regional peace pact.

Dec 22: The largely US-brokered New York treaty among the same three parties opens the way to Namibian independence and agreement between Cubans and Angolans on the withdrawal of Cuba's 50,000 troops in Angola.

1989

July: Fighting resumes, despite a June 22 ceasefire between the government and UNITA.

1991

March 26-30: New laws introduce multi-party politics and guarantee civil liberties.

May 30: The UN Verification Mission (UNAVEM), in Angola since late 1988, is extended to monitor the ceasefire and organise general elections.

May 31: The government of Dos Santos and the rebels of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi sign peace accords to end the civil war.

1992

Sept 29-30: General and presidential elections take place under UN supervision and are carried by the MPLA.

Dos Santos fails to carry the presidential poll in the first round. Savimbi refuses to admit defeat at the polls and renewed war breaks out.

1993

March 6: UNITA takes control of Angola's second city Huambo, after battling since January in a campaign that left 12,000 dead.

May 19: The United States, which backed UNITA between 1975 and 1991, recognises Dos Santos' regime.

Oct 6: UNITA recognises the 1991 peace deal and the elections' outcome.

Nov 15: Direct negotiations between government and UNITA begin.

1994

March 31: UNITA agrees to a second round of presidential elections as fighting continues.

Nov 20: Government and UNITA representatives in Lusaka sign another ceasefire agreement.

1995

Feb 8: UN Security Council agrees to send a 7,000-strong peacekeeping force to Angola.

May 6: First summit between Dos Santos and Savimbi in Gabon.

May 18: Savimbi declares that he accepts the September 1992 election results and in June he announces "the end of the war in Angola."

1996

Nov 13: Parliament abolishes the post of vice-president after Savimbi refuses to take it up.

1997

April 11: Formation of a national unity and reconciliation government.

Oct 30: The UN imposes sanctions against UNITA for failing to respect the ceasefire.

1998

March 11: UNITA is officially recognized as a political party.

Sept 2: Influential UNITA members split from Savimbi, prompting the government to end its dialogue with UNITA and to recognize only the splinter group.

Late 1998: All-out warfare resumes.

1999

Jan 29: Dos Santos extends his presidential powers.

Feb 26: United Nations ends its observer mission in Angola due to resumed fighting.

2000

March 10: A UN report accuses some African leaders of fueling the war through diamond and arms trading in violation of sanctions.

Aug 18: Intense fighting breaks out in eastern Angola.

Oct 2: MPLA calls off elections due in 2001 because of ongoing fighting, angering opposition parties."

(AFP 9 November 2000)

All-out war resumes in Angola by end 1998

- Demobilization of UNITA troops as well as civilians sympathetic to the government is unsuccessful
- Fighting intensifies in the north and east of the country
- 200,000 persons newly displaced as result of fighting at end of 1998/early 1999
- UN decides to pull out MONUA observer mission in February 1999

"During 1998 the Angolan peace process unravelled. The União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, had failed to comply with the Lusaka Protocol (1994) requirements to allow the state to extend its authority over UNITA-controlled territory and to stand down and disarm its estimated 20,000 to 30,000 troops. The government had failed to fulfill its task of disarming civilians who had been given arms during previous periods of conflict and militia groups, banned under the peace agreement, increased in numbers. From March 1998 the security situation began to deteriorate. Fighting between government and UNITA troops increased, particularly in the north and east and in the central highlands, and armed attacks on villages and ambushes occurred in many other parts of the country. In December, government aircraft attacked UNITA's strongholds of Andulo and Bailundo in the central highlands and UNITA attacked the cities of Kuito, Huambo and Malange. As a result of the fighting in December 1998 and January 1999 hundreds of people were killed and over 200,000 displaced." (AI February 1999)

By 1999, security situation is so unstable that UN pulls out all peacekeeping forces:

"In a report to the Security Council on 24 February [1999], the Secretary-General stated that the humanitarian situation had 'attained the devastating proportions which could be compared to the humanitarian catastrophe in Angola during the fighting in 1993 and 1994'. He added that 'in the prevailing situation, the humanitarian principles of unrestricted access to affected populations, independent assessment and monitoring, and safety and security of humanitarian personnel, are not being met. In order to achieve these objectives, a clear and unequivocal commitment is necessary by all concerned to respect the provisions of international humanitarian law'.

On 26 February, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1229 (1999), which took note that the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Angola expired on that day. At the same time, the Council endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation for the liquidation of MONUA and decided that MONUA's human rights activities should continue through the liquidation period." (OCHA 4 March 1999)

For a detailed review of the actions of the United Nations in Angola, see Chapter X "The United Nations" of the Human Rights Watch report "Angola Unravels – the Rise and Fall of the Lusaka Peace Process (September 1999) [External link].

Please find at UN website the full text of the 24 February 1999 report of the UN Secretary General [External link] and the UN Security Council Resolution 1229 (1999) [External link].

Arms to UNITA allegedly provided by Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania via Togo and Burkina Faso (January 2001)

- UN Monitoring Mechanism exposes arms sales to UNITA via Togo and Burkina Faso

- End-user certificates forged in many cases

The following information comes out of the UN Sanctions Monitoring Mechanism report of December 2000:

"The [UN] Monitoring Mechanism found that Bulgaria and the Ukraine had been major suppliers of weapons to UNITA, but appears to accept that some weapons were sold in good faith on the basis of the end-users certificates to Togo and Burkino Faso.

However, the Mechanism's report does not tackle the issue of why these countries were prepared to sell Togo and Burkina Faso such large quantities of weapons, which on the face of it do not meet their current military needs – for example, Bulgaria shipped 6,300 RPG-7 anti-tank rockets to Togo.

The mechanism points out that Bulgaria, Ukraine and Romania have wide-ranging legislation governing various aspects of the export of arms.

However, Bulgaria exported \$14 million worth of weapons between 1996 and 1998 on the basis of forged end-user certificates, with Togo as the stated destination. Forensic examinations carried out on these certificates on behalf of the Mechanism found that they were forgeries, but the Mechanism concludes that the forgeries were based on a legitimate end-user certificate issued by Togo to one of UNITA's senior arms procurers, Marcelo Moises Dachala 'Ambassador Karrica'.

Romania provided the Mechanism with evidence that it had exported \$776,000 worth of weapons to Togo and Burkino Faso between 1996 and 1999. Burkina Faso denies ever issuing the end-user certificates, but the forensic examinations found that 'the end-user certificates featuring Burkina Faso as the country of origin were authentic'." (Action for Southern Africa, 5 January 2001)

UNITA forces move from guerrilla to terrorist warfare in 2000-causing massive displacements

- UNITA returns to guerrilla tactics after losing ground to government troops early in 2000
- Guerrilla warfare results in greater overall insecurity for Angolan people
- By 2001, UNITA is targeting civilians in terrorist attacks and mass kidnappings

2000:

"One of the most important factors affecting the humanitarian operation in 2000 was a change in military tactics, with a shift early in the year to guerrilla warfare. In 1999, shelling occurred frequently in major provincial capitals including Huambo, Malanje and Kuito. During 2000, the most common form of attack was rapid infiltration, usually involving looting, followed by immediate withdrawal. Insecurity in the countryside increased, particularly in prospective resettlement sites. In a disturbing trend, several previously secure locations, where recovery activities were either underway or scheduled, were attacked." (UN November 2000, 2000 in Review, para. 2)

"[T]he report states that 'before the Government offensive in September 1999, it was possible to talk about UNITA-controlled areas, this is less relevant today, in a situation where UNITA is operating as an insurgent force. To speak about Government-controlled areas and areas not under Government control does not seem to give a good description of today's situation, because areas under Government control still exist where UNITA is able to operate.'" (Action for Southern Africa 5 January 2001)

"During the first quarter of 2000, the government appeared to be in the ascendance on the battlefield and UNITA appeared disoriented, its actions limited to sporadic guerrilla attacks. As the year progressed, this changed, with UNITA adapting back to guerrilla attacks and high-profile hit-and-run ambushes on main roads...

The level of UNITA violence against civilians increased significantly as UNITA's tactics changed during the year. In January, as the FAA approached Chinguar town, UNITA embarked upon a killing spree, aimed at ensuring that residents would not be captured by government forces. Some 140 soldiers and civilians were reportedly killed. UNITA was also reportedly responsible for extrajudicial executions in localities such as Camaxilo in Lunda Norte, Katchiungo in Huambo, and Quimbele in Uige.

Deliberate mutilations have not been commonplace in the Angolan conflict, but the number of incidents increased during the year, with UNITA forces reportedly cutting off ears and hands. The purpose appears to have been to send a warning to others not to betray UNITA, or to attempt to flee to areas controlled by government forces. It was a response to the rebels' greater isolation and battlefield losses." (HRW December 2000, Human Rights Developments)

2001:

"The number of kidnappings and murders by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement increased sharply in May [2001], drawing widespread condemnation both inside Angola and internationally. The recent attacks have indicated that the remnant of UNITA is shifting away from classic guerrilla tactics towards unashamedly terrorist warfare.

The most publicised atrocity took place on 5 May, when two hundred UNITA soliders attacked the city of Caxito, 60km north of Luanda. It is not clear how many civilians were murdered during the attack. Some reports put the number at 79, whilst the African Church Information Service puts the number at around 200. [...]

Straight after the attack on Caixito, one group of fifty soliders attacked an orphans' home run by the Danish agency Development Aid from People to People (ADPP). The rebels sacked the orphanage, and took 60 children hostage, along with a teacher. Two teachers are reported to have been killed. Also murdered during the attack was an Angolan doctor from the Italian NGO, the Committee for the Co-ordination of Volunteering Organisations.

[...]

The attacks on civilians have continued to grow, leading senior Angolan military figures to point to a change in UNITA's strategy.

The operational commander of Bie province, Brigadier Eugenio Figueiredo, told Radio Ecclesia on 23 April that the strategy was to seize weapons and food using small mobile units to attack poorly defended villages: "This is not like the old guerrillas – rather, these are ones who are trying to find means of survival and material goods to sustain themselves. The old guerrillas were more compact because they had the assistance of the people who worked on the farms. They do not have such assistance, and therefore they have to steal to survive" said Figueiredo

[...]

While terror has always been a central feature of Jonas Savimbi's approach – both for internal control and external objectives – latest events highlight that the remnants of UNITA's military units are now acting in a purely terrorist manner. This is for a combination of practical military and logistical reasons (a lack of food and diminishing local civilian support) and a desperate attempt to, paradoxically, strengthen the widely held opinion that they must be dealt with at the negotiating table.

The change in strategy is away from Jonas Savimbi's belief in the doctrine of Maoist guerrilla warfare, which puts the central emphasis on the belief that 'the revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilising the masses and relying on them.' (Action for Southern Africa 7 June 2001)

"8. UNITA has increased its terrorist attacks on innocent civilians. It has attacked schools, buses and trains. It has shot at people fleeing to escape from the flames of a burning explosion. It has shot at World Food Programme planes carrying not weapons but desperately needed food and humanitarian supplies. Sadly, such instances are far too numerous to cite here." (UNSC October 2001)

Causes of displacement

Forced evictions in the capital on a massive scale (January 2004)

- Evictions have been carried out in violation of international standards
- Thousands of families spent nearly two years in tents after they were forcibly evicted
- Forced removals from Boavista began on 1 July 2001
- Several hundred members of community now living in tents 30 km outside Luanda
- Evidence that Boavista has been earmarked for redevelopment by a subsidiary of the state oil company, Sonangol

"For a number of years, the government of Angola has carried out forced evictions in the capital, Luanda, on a massive scale. These evictions have been carried out in violation of international standards of due process and without the justification of any apparent wider public benefit. In Benfica and Boa Vista, two of Luanda's neighborhoods, Police and other officials have evicted long-term residents, leaving them without shelter, seizing or destroying their belongings. In some cases, police violence during evictions has resulted in death, injury or miscarriage" (HRW, 1 January 2004)

"Thousands of families spent nearly two years in tents after they were forcibly evicted from their homes in Boavista, an area near the port of Luanda, Angola's capital city, in July 2001. From late 2001 to December 2002 over a thousand houses in Soba Kapassa ward in south Luanda had been razed to the ground and their occupants left homeless. By April 2003, over 470 houses had been demolished in Benfica: some evicted families were given homes in a new housing estate to the north of Luanda, over 40 kilometres away. All these evictions were arbitrary and carried out at police gun-point. In most cases there was no provision for adequate alternative accommodation.

Forced eviction – a term used internationally to describe evictions that are carried out without due process – is a violation of human rights, particularly the right to adequate housing, which is a component of the right to an adequate standard of living.

Few of Luanda's inhabitants enjoy an adequate standard of living. Most of them live in overcrowded shanty towns, or musseques which began to develop around the central business district and higher income residential areas decades before Angola's independence from Portugal in 1975.⁽¹⁾ They expanded as the city's population increased and as people fled to the city as a direct or indirect result of the 27-year conflict." (Amnesty International, 12 November 2003)

"Forced removals from Boavista began on Sunday 1 July, in an operation accompanied by hundreds of armed police, and have continued every weekend since then. Several hundred members of the 50,000 strong community are now living in tents at Viana, 30 km outside Luanda. The government intends to continue with the removals until Boavista has been completely evacuated.

Many of those who were forced to move have had to give up their jobs in central Luanda, since their return bus fare to the city would cost 20 kwanza (about US\$1) – almost an entire day's wages for some workers.

The wealthier residents had invested tens of thousands of dollars in their homes, and received no compensation when they were destroyed.

The government has promised land and building materials for the construction of new houses, but many residents are sceptical about this. The tents have been set up supposedly as a temporary measure. In the absence of any other source of income, the residents of the camp have little choice but to work on the building site where their new houses are supposedly to be constructed. They receive no payment for this, and are dependent on staple foods handed out by the authorities.

The authorities say the removals are being carried out because landslides have made the Boavista houses unsafe. Although some structures close to the cliff edge did indeed collapse during rains earlier this year, residents argue that most of the houses are safely built. There is evidence that the Boavista site, which enjoys a central location and spectacular sea views, has been earmarked for redevelopment by a subsidiary of the state oil company, Sonagol." (IRIN-SA 24 July 2001)

"For city authorities, the standoff over Boa Vista has degenerated into a mini-conflict in this war-ravaged nation, after police tried to forcibly evict residents last week and ended up killing two people who refused to budge.

The city has tried to lure residents away, noting the squalid living conditions in Boa Vista and the environment dangers they face from the chronic mudslides caused by unusually heavy rains during the last two years.

[...]

The tent city is 45 kilometers (25 miles) outside the city center, making it closer to the town of Catete, which has suffered several UNITA attacks already this year." (AFP 6 July 2001)

Guerrilla ambushes and small-scale attacks have forced millions from their homes, 1999-2001

- Both UNITA and FAA counter-insurgency measures responsible for displacement
- Indiscriminate shelling and banditry by both sides have been main causes of displacement in 1999 and 2000

1999:

"In early January 1999, between 30 and 40 people were killed in Malanje when UNITA forces shelled the city in broad daylight. Observers reported that this mortar shelling, by mobile units based less than 21 kilometres away, appeared to deliberately aim at the city's heavily populated market places in an attempt to force civilians to flee. The killing and wounding of unarmed civilians through indiscriminate shelling is a breach of Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions." (AI February 1999, "Human rights abuses in the context of the fighting since beginning of December 1999")

"A spokesman for the UN Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (UCAH) told IRIN that growing instability in Angola was forcing people to flee their homes creating new influxes not only in the besieged government-held provincial capitals, but in the capital Luanda, itself. He said people had been fleeing mainly to the Central Highlands cities of Huambo and Kuito, Benguela further south, Malanje east of Luanda, Cuito Carnavale in the southeast, Luena in central Angola, and the northern city of Uige.

[...]

An analyst in Luanda said people were fleeing not only from regular skirmishes between government troops and UNITA rebels, but because they knew both sides were preparing for the dry season offensive." (IRIN 14 May 1999)

"UNITA attempted to prevent civilian populations from fleeing some areas under its control while successfully forcing hundreds of thousands in other areas to flee to government-held towns. UNITA's strategy of forced population displacement seemed designed to burden the government with humanitarian responsibilities and to detract from the government's military response." (USCR 2000 Annual, p. 65)

2000:

"28. ...[I]t is important to note, as did the inter-agency mission, that the responsibility for displacement falls on both the government Armed Forces of Angola (FAA) and UNITA. The Government and the FAA are reported to displace forcibly the civilian population as a counter-insurgency strategy or as a short-term security measure to protect civilians. Other reports indicate that indiscriminate shelling by the FAA and the circulation of false information have resulted in the displacement of civilians. Allegations of similar practices have been levied against UNITA. There are also reports that UNITA forcibly displaces civilians to Government-controlled areas in order to increase pressure on government resources.

[...]

82. Displacement results from civilians fleeing their villages as a result of, or in order to avoid, such practices as those above [human rights abuses, forced conscription and the like]. Often the displaced will spend several days hiding in the bush before attempting to move to safer locations such as major towns or provincial capitals. Displacement also results from civilians being deliberately forced from their homes and having to carry the very items which have been looted from them. It also results from families fleeing or sending their children to government controlled areas in an effort to protect them from forced recruitment by UNITA. The Representative was particularly alarmed by reports that children are being abducted and traded by UNITA to work as forced labour in salt mines in Malanje province. Local NGOs and church groups who may have access to salt mines are encouraged to collect additional and more detailed information which should be brought to the attention of the national authorities and the international community.

83. Displacement of the civilian population is also reported to result from the FAA 'mopping up' and counter-insurgency operations, which are expected to increase in intensity. Reports indicate that FAA troops employ many of the same tactics as UNITA, such as looting villages and forcing the inhabitants to carry the food and other possessions which have been looted from them. Accounts from internally displaced persons suggest that villagers who refuse to comply with such demands risk being beaten or killed. The Representative was informed on a number of occasions that part of the problem in this regard is that the FAA troops often receive neither their salaries nor sufficient supplies and are thus inclined to prey on the local population. A senior government official readily conceded to the Representative that this was a problem. In an effort to prevent such practices, the Government needs to ensure that its military personnel receive regular salary payments and supplies of food and basic equipment." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 28, 82, 83)

Government development plans lead to forcible evictions from Luanda inner-city district (July 2001)

- Forced removals from Boavista began on 1 July 2001
- Several hundred members of community now living in tents 30 km outside Luanda
- Evidence that Boavista has been earmarked for redevelopment by a subsidiary of the state oil company, Sonangol

"Forced removals from Boavista began on Sunday 1 July, in an operation accompanied by hundreds of armed police, and have continued every weekend since then. Several hundred members of the 50,000 strong community are now living in tents at Viana, 30 km outside Luanda. The government intends to continue with the removals until Boavista has been completely evacuated.

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Terrorist warfare by UNITA and "cleansing" operations by FAA forces cause fear and displacement (June-October 2001)

- Terrorist tactics and kidnappings by UNITA puts civilian populations on alert
- Government "cleansing" operations force still inhabitants from their homes

UNITA troops:

"The number of kidnappings and murders by Jonas Savimbi's UNITA movement increased sharply in May [2001], drawing widespread condemnation both inside Angola and internationally. The recent attacks have indicated that the remnant of UNITA is shifting away from classic guerrilla tactics towards unashamedly terrorist warfare." (Action for Southern Africa 7 June 2001)

"Throughout September there have been sporadic attacks by UNITA around Angola. Whilst some of these attacks were acts of banditry aimed at stealing clothes and food, other are acts of terror to deny any normality to the Angolan population." (Action for Southern Africa 5 October 2001)

For a list of reported attacks by UNITA in the last two months, see Angola Peace Monitor Issue No. 1, Vol. VII [External link].

FAA troops:

"A human catastrophe is under way in the war-torn central highlands of Angola, amid claims that the government of Eduardo dos Santos is deliberately 'cleansing' large areas of its village population in order to starve Jonas Savimbi's Unita rebels out of existence.

In recent months, tens of thousands of villagers have been displaced in Unita's heartland Bie province by the Angolan army as part of a policy of denying Unita access to the food it levies from villages under its control.

[...]

The claim by aid workers in the field and by Western diplomats in Luanda that the government is encouraging the crisis is supported by dozens of displaced villagers. It also comes as large numbers of starving villagers continue to be displaced daily by heavy fighting in Bie province and gathered into massive camps without sufficient food or shelter.

'Government troops are rounding up whole villages when they reach them and forcing the inhabitants to leave Unita areas so that they cannot feed the Unita soldiers. Then we are being expected to feed them.' Said a humanitarian official based in Kuito, Bie province's regional capital.

For its part Unita has responded to the accelerated government programme of limpeza – or 'cleansing' – by redoubling its attacks on villages and government positions, often to steal food and clothes, hampering the aid effort and sending thousands more villagers fleeing." (Mail and Guardian 20 August 2001)

Both UNITA and the Government of Angola are intentionally and forcibly displacing populations, says MSF (March 2002)

- Forced displacement of civilians by both sides to the conflict in Angola is widespread and systematic, with devastating effects on civilians' wellbeing
- UNITA has forcibly displaced civilian populations in order to get human and material support
- Government forces have moved civilians in order to isolate UNITA
- Civilian populations remain continuously displaced, often in acute distress but isolated from humanitarian aid

"The intentional and forced displacement of populations by UNITA and the Government of Angola, in furtherance of their military strategies, is taking place in many locations throughout the country.

UNITA has over the past years forced civilian populations to move with its troops in order to maintain a human and material support. This policy has been further expanded since the end of 1999, when UNITA increasingly lost control over territories and had to become more mobile, particularly in Moxico, Huambo and Bie provinces. Civilian populations remain continuously displaced under insecure conditions and with no access to healthcare or sufficient food. Gradually their health and nutritional situation deteriorates to the point where many, including adults, become severely malnourished. Patients arriving in our health centers have also reported alarming levels of mortality among the populations under UNITA control. Humanitarian organizations have absolutely no access to them.

In large parts of the country, Government forces have moved populations to isolate UNITA, cutting it off from the rural population which supplies it with food, labor, and potential recruits. In 2001, a large proportion of newly registered IDPs were displaced as a result of this increasingly widespread Government strategy, with dramatic consequences on the people's health and nutritional status.

Families are obliged to find shelter in displaced sites where overcrowding, an absence of medical care, and a lack of food has led to the outbreak of epidemics and other major health problems. Many of these IDPs are concentrated and kept in locations where international humanitarian organizations cannot be present.

In addition, Government authorities rarely provide any food assistance or health care following the displacement. Displaced populations no longer have access to their villages or fields to cultivate food. In most cases, these populations are only authorized to leave these locations once they have become seriously ill or severely malnourished, and then become dependant on international organizations.

A large proportion of the 50,000 people who arrived in Camacupa (Bie Province) last year were displaced as a direct result of the Government's strategy. Many patients recounted how villages and houses were burned by Government forces to compel them to leave. A survey conducted in Camacupa's IDP camps indicates that mortality rates have reached emergency levels. Under five and crude mortality rates were recorded at 4.8 deaths per 10,000 children per day and 2.9 deaths per 10,000 persons per day, respectively. The results of a nutrition survey conducted in the same camps indicate severe and global malnutrition rates of 1.6 and 13.3 percent, respectively. Malnutrition levels were found to be highest among IDPs who have arrived since mid December 2001.

In Huila Province, the level of displacement of populations in the north-eastern part of the province increased considerably during the second half of 2001 and continues today. According to IDP accounts, people are forced to leave their villages and are escorted on foot by Government armed forces to towns such as Caconda, Chipindo, Cuvango and Matala.

Since the second half of 2001, in Moxico and Cuando-Cubango provinces, large numbers of people have been brought by Government army helicopters and trucks to Luena and Menongue. Although some of these people are in search of security and assistance in the provincial capitals, many patients in MSF programs explained how they were forced to leave their villages. In Luena, the admissions in the therapeutic feeding centers have increased considerably during the last two months.

Forced displacement justified under international law by 'imperative military reasons' only applies to specific locations, a limited time and with the condition that assistance and security be provided to these populations by the authorities. The widespread and systematic forced displacement occurring in Angola and the failure to assure proper conditions for IDPs is responsible for devastating the health and nutritional status of large civilian populations." (MSF 5 March 2002)

Historical Causes of Displacement in Angola

- Displacement has been a recurrent phenomenon in Angola since the start of the struggle for independence from Portuguese rule in 1961
- Proximity to combat zones, fear of harassment and threats of reprisal at the hands of the fighting groups forced thousands of Angolans to flee their homes
- During the last 4 years of war an additional and distinctive pattern constituted the principal cause of displacement
- Villagers were deliberately used as a tool for pursuing military strategies
-
- OCHA estimates that an additional 3.1 million persons were forced from their homes in the four last years of the conflict
-

" Displacement has been a recurrent phenomenon in Angola since the start of the struggle for independence from Portuguese rule in 1961. Several waves of refugees and IDPs resulted from the country's recent history of civil war. At the time of the Bicesse Accords there were some 800,000 IDPs, with only a small number of people returning home during the peaceful time between 1991 and 1992.

The number of forcibly displaced grew by an additional 1.3 to 2 million because of resumed fighting after the unsuccessful electoral process of September/October 1992. Once again, during the window of relative peace between 1994 and 1998 generated by the 1994 Lusaka Accords, generalized insecurity and the lack of confidence in the sustainability of the peace process allowed only a few organized returns.

Displacement again became significant in numbers when full-scale war erupted during the second half of 1998, with an average number of 20,000 new arrivals every month, increasing to some 50,000 people from November 2001 to February 2002. Proximity to combat zones, fear of harassment and threats of reprisal at the hands of the fighting groups forced thousands of Angolans to flee their homes and search for safety elsewhere.

During the last 4 years of war though, an additional and distinctive pattern constituted the principal cause of displacement. Villagers were deliberately used as a tool for pursuing military strategies. In UNITA controlled areas, populations were victims of protracted violence, including extra-judicial killings, mutilations and looting. Reprisals against civilians assumed to be government supporters or informers, caused massive displacement, sometimes of entire villages. Villagers hid in the bush for days or travelled exhausting distances to reach government controlled areas where some assistance was available. During the journey, many died for lack of food, from landmine injuries or disease. The FAA and the Angolan National Police (Policia Nacional de Angola - PNA) were also responsible for considerable displacement. A new strategy labelled as "cleansing operations" succeeded in emptying significant parts of the countryside, preventing UNITA forces from recruiting fighters and enjoying vital food support provided for by civilians. During these operations, villagers suffered harsh treatment, indiscriminate beating and sexual abuse. When concentrated in government controlled municipalities, people were hardly supplied with food assistance or medicine, causing a progressive deterioration of their health. Finally, because of unbearable living conditions, thousands were transferred or spontaneously moved to camps and transit centres in the provincial capitals (ISS, 5 February 2004).

"During the civil war, both the government and UNITA committed widespread abuses against the civilian population. Violations included physical and sexual assaults, rape, mutilations, forced conscription, abduction of women and girls, looting, and extra-judicial executions. [...] During the last four years of the conflict, between 1998 and 2002, both the Government and UNITA forces, once again, used terror tactics that generated massive displacement of the civilian population. OCHA estimates that an additional 3.1 million persons were forced from their homes in this period, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons in Angola to 4.1 million. [...]

In areas under their control, UNITA troops regularly forced civilians to leave their homes and flee from their areas of origin. They were often forbidden to carry their belongings and many traveled distances of several hundred miles to reach safe havens. Because they did not carry any clothes, food or medicine, many perished along the way or narrowly survived malnutrition, landmine injuries and disease. During the conflict, the FAA and National Police (Policia Nacional Angolana, PNA) also routinely rounded up civilians in and around captured areas previously held by UNITA and forced them to relocate.

Because the nearest towns and villages usually lacked minimum health and living conditions, displaced persons mostly fled to camps in provincial capitals or surrounding areas. Local authorities rarely consulted with arriving displaced persons and routinely encouraged them to move on to more distant provincial capitals or to Luanda. As result, many former self-sufficient farmers, relocated in cities, became dependent on international humanitarian assistance"(HRW , 15 August 2003).

Developments after the April 2002 ceasefire agreement

UNITA leader Savimbi's death-a turning point in Angola's history (April 2002)

- Jonas Savimbi, veteran leader of the UNITA rebel movement, is killed by Angolan government troops (FAA), in the eastern Moxico province, on 22 February 2002
- Hopes are raised for an end to the fighting - although some fear that UNITA might split into many factions and that fighting would continue
- President dos Santos calls for a ceasefire on 13 March 2002
- Peace talks between Angolan government and UNITA commanders take place in Moxico province in March, but ongoing fighting forces more civilians to flee their homes
- Aid agencies reiterate warnings that their resources are already overstretched and that they do not have the capacity to deal with further large influxes of IDPs
- Ceasefire agreement is signed by Angolan government and UNITA in April 2002

"The death of veteran Angolan rebel leader Jonas Savimbi has added new impetus to the search for a settlement to the country's long-running civil war, analysts told IRIN over the weekend.

Savimbi was killed on Friday by Angolan government troops (FAA) after a fierce gun battle near Lucusse, about 700 km east of Luanda, the capital. His 'column', hunted by the FAA, was reportedly headed for the Zambian border. State television on Saturday showed the body of the 67-year-old guerrilla chieftain, who had led the UNITA rebel movement since 1966, sprawled on a makeshift table. The authorities said his corpse would be publically displayed in Luanda.

'I'm so optimistic. The nightmare has ended and the future has just begun,' Dinho Chingunji, spokesman for the anti-Savimbi UNITA-Renovada faction in the United States told IRIN.

There are, however, question marks over whether UNITA commanders in the bush will continue fighting, or if Savimbi's death could clear the obstacles to a peace agreement." (IRIN, 24 February 2002)

"While the international community has called for a rapid cessation of hostilities in Angola, on the ground the conflict between government forces and UNITA rebels has continued.

On Wednesday US President George Bush, after a meeting with his Angolan counterpart Jose Eduardo dos Santos in Washington, said 'we agreed that all parties have an obligation to seize this moment to end the war', and that 'Angolans deserve no less than peace'.

The European Union (EU) presidency, Spain, said in a statement this week that in light of the recent death of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi, 'it is the strong conviction of the EU, that the end of the Angolan conflict can only be achieved through an effective engagement of all in peace and national reconciliation, on the basis of the Lusaka protocol'. While the EU 'welcomes the positive signals from the government of Angola to date and looks forward to the early publication of the announced detailed programme leading to a definitive end of all the hostilities in Angola', some humanitarian officials on the ground believe Angola's suffering could continue for some time yet.

One aid worker told IRIN it is expected that the government, sensing it may finally have the upper hand militarily, will intensify their efforts to wipe-out UNITA. 'I expect this will lead to more IDPs (internally displaced persons) and an unpredictable response from UNITA. The worst case scenario is that we will have a Somali situation with (UNITA splitting into) many factions.'

Supporting the sentiments of the EU, the official said: 'The best move for government now is to try and pull UNITA together, though I'm not sure they'll do that. The military solution is what the military wants, the heads of FAA (Angolan Army) are saying they want a military solution, lets hope wisdom prevails.'

On Monday, dos Santos called for a ceasefire, shortly thereafter a UNITA attack killed several people and dashed hopes for an immediate peace." (IRIN 28 February 2002)

"Peace talks between the Angolan government and rebel UNITA commanders continued on Friday in the eastern province of Moxico as on-going skirmishes force people to flee their homes.

A diplomatic source told IRIN that the UNITA commanders were being kept under close watch in the city of Luena. 'They [UNITA delegation] can walk in and out of their houses but they are being closely monitored and they won't be able to just leave,' the source said.

Information on the content of the talks has thus far been slow to trickle out. 'Not even high-ranking government officials know anything about it at all, there's no information coming out about the peace talks,' said the source.

UNITA member of parliament Jaka Jamba said: 'All we can say now is that the talks are aimed at [reaching agreement] on a cessation of hostilities. UNITA has reinforced its delegation [led by General Abreu Kamorteiro] with its secretary for information, Marcial Adriano Dachala. The government delegation is headed by FAA's [Angolan Army] deputy chief of staff, General Geraldo Sachipengo Nunda.'

The World Food Programme (WFP) has meanwhile warned that the influx of internally displaced persons (IDPs) into cities would further stretch aid agencies already limited resources." (IRIN, 22 March 2002)

"Welcoming the recent signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Government of Angola and the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the United Nations envoy to the country has reiterated the UN's support in helping to establish peace in the war-torn nation.

The ceasefire accord 'concludes a first phase of a process, which we all want to be irreversible and which we all want to bring peace to Angola,' Mussagy Jeichande, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Representative to the country, said in a statement to the signing ceremony on Saturday in Luena.

'Peace is a process, which requires an open and sincere dialogue,' Mr. Jeichande said. 'It is the only way to achieve the true reconciliation of the Angolan family.'

Mr. Jeichande also reiterated the UN's readiness to 'help that peace, democracy, progress and social welfare become realities available for the Angolan nationals.'

Meanwhile, Mr. Annan's Special Adviser for Africa, Ibrahim Gambari, is set to arrive tomorrow in Angola on a fact-finding mission to examine the current peace process and clarify the UN's role in it, a UN spokesman said Monday in New York.

Mr. Gambari will also seek to encourage the parties to take full advantage of the recent positive developments in Angola to move the peace process forward under the Lusaka Protocol." (UN News Service, 1 April 2002)

Peace is not the result of negotiations but the consequence of a military victory

- The lack of negotiations and dialogue and this missing part of the equation appears to have far reaching consequences
- The former enemy is considered to be weak and now to a large extent dependent on the generosity of the Government

- However the Lusaka protocol requires the active involvement not only of UNITA, but also of the UN and the so-called Troika (Portugal, Russia and the USA)
- As return was often spontaneous and to places where basic services were not yet in place, many of the returnees found themselves after a while once again in very difficult circumstances

"[In Angola] peace is not the result of negotiations but the consequence of a military victory. The process is not facilitated by a third party. There is neither preparation nor planning for the next phases. It is only after the MOU[Memorandum of Understanding] is signed between the Government and UNITA that planning for the short term begins. At the same time the humanitarian situation required enhanced interventions. Most importantly however has been the lack of negotiations and dialogue and this missing part of the equation appears to have far reaching consequences. Having been able to achieve peace on its own terms appears to indicate to the Government that there is no need to involve other parties too much in their decisions on the way forward. The former enemy is considered to be weak and now to a large extent dependent on the generosity of the Government. The opposition is already officially represented in parliament. It is even represented in Government, which is a Government of national unity. The concept of civil society is problematic (who do these people represent?). The international community, particularly the UN mission has not been very effective or useful (rather the opposite in the opinion of many in Angola). Collaboration and assistance from these other parties may therefore be welcome as long as this is provided on Government's terms only.

The Government then assigns the responsibility both for planning an implementation to a Commission, which name is changed to reflect the new situation and which is to focus on the social and productive integration of the demobilized and IDP's. Priority is definitely given to the demobilized soldiers, which the Government for obvious reasons would like to resettle as quickly as possible. During the remainder of 2002 the Government on several occasions announces deadlines before which the return and resettlement of this category should be completed.

There still is an issue, which somehow complicates things, the Lusaka protocol. Not all actions and agreements foreseen under this protocol have as yet been brought to a conclusion. However this protocol requires the active involvement not only of UNITA, but also of the UN and the so-called Troika (Portugal, Russia and the USA).

After the MOU has been signed, all parties start dealing with a complicated and rather full agenda. Given the enormity and complexity of tasks to be performed and the fact that all partners were moving into uncharted territory, the creation of a pro active and robust coordination system, in which all participate, would have been a good and logical thing to do. This did not happen. Different parties began to develop their own agendas focussing on those parts of the problems they considered to be important and priority.

The Government focussed on the former combatants and their families, the Lusaka protocol and rehabilitation and development. The UN (political) on its future role and possible contribution it could make to bring the Lusaka protocol issue to an acceptable conclusion. The humanitarian community on the immediate humanitarian crises. UNITA on Lusaka and the situation and conditions of its former combatants.

So after the signing of the MOU between the Government and UNITA, one observes a situation characterized by crisis management and a trial and error approach.

Reaction and Action of the Humanitarian Community [...]

By the middle of 2002, it had become clear that the three main issues which needed to be resolved referred to a) return and resettlement, b) vulnerability (mainly as a result of malnutrition) and c) lack of basic services. For the sake of argument one could say that once these problems would be adequately addressed, populations would find themselves in a situation of relative normalcy, in the sense that they would have settled in a places with stable conditions, where it would be possible to achieve gradual improvements of their standard of living.

Given the large number of people involved it was also clear that resolving the problems of return and resettlement would take considerable time. As indicated before, at that point it was thought that the return and resettlement process could be finalized by the end of 2003. First priority was given to the vulnerability issue and during the second half of 2002 the international community tried very hard to find adequate and lasting solutions. While significant progress was made, the situation required constant monitoring and rapid

response mechanisms, particularly in respect of those of the internally displaced, who had decided to return to their villages. As return was often spontaneous and to places where basic services were not yet in place, many of the returnees found themselves after a while once again in very difficult circumstances. By the end of 2002 close to one million internally displaced persons had returned to their places of origin. It had been expected that this return process would come to a halt during the rainy season. This did not happen although numbers declined. On the basis of the 2002 experience, it could be expected that by the end of 2003, most if not all of the internally displaced would have made it back home or would have found a place to settle."(Stanley Foundation, October 2003).

UNITA reunified after Savimbi's death (February 2004)

- For several years UNITA was split between those loyal to Savimbi and those that accepted parliamentary seats
- UNITA could fare reasonably well in a ballot
- UNITA wants elections next year, but government sources say 2006 is more likely.
- The only thing that has changed is that the party is more open than before Savimbi was killed
- A true firebrand opposition leader would strongly attack the MPLA at its weakest point: corruption, mismanagement, and the paradox of poverty amid oil and diamond riches

"[Since Savimbi's death], UNITA's biggest achievements have been its reunification, the deepening of democracy within the party - our congress was one of the biggest achievements in the history of politics in Angola - and, of course, peace," said Alcides Sakala, UNITA's secretary for public administration.

For several years UNITA was split between those loyal to Savimbi, who fought on in the bush, and those that accepted parliamentary seats and to an extent worked with the government in Luanda.

Some senior officials are quietly confident that, having transformed UNITA into a legitimate political party, UNITA could fare reasonably well in a ballot.

"I'm not pessimistic; I'm not optimistic; I'm realistic," said Jaka Jamba, MP and second vice-president of the national assembly. "If we create conditions for free and fair elections, without intimidation and fraud, why not?"

The last poll in 1992 was deemed generally free and fair by the international community, but UNITA contested the results and returned to war against government forces. UNITA wants elections next year, but government sources say 2006 is more likely.

While the transformation of the party's internal workings has been impressive, analysts and observers say UNITA still has some way to go before it presents a serious threat to the MPLA.

"There is a real risk of UNITA growing comfortable as a sort of permanent opposition, leaving Angola as a kind of two-party dictatorship under a veneer of democracy," Nicholas Shaxson, associate fellow at the London-based Royal Institute of International Affairs, told IRIN.

The independent weekend press devoted scores of column inches to the anniversary, including analysis of the future of Angola's largest opposition party without Savimbi at the helm.

A local newspaper, *Semanario Angolense*, lamented UNITA's "loss of energy", and heaped criticism on its old-fashioned, military perspective. "There is today an ambivalent way of thinking within the organisation: The nostalgia for the old iron-fisted leadership goes against the desire to move forward and modernise."

But it's not only independent observers who are dissatisfied. UNITA insiders, too, worry that the party is stuck in a rut and lacks direction.

"So far, nothing, as yet, has come out as a new initiative," said one disgruntled official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The only thing that has changed is that the party is more open than before Savimbi was killed."

Doubts also hang over the strength of Samakuva, the pastor's son whose softly-softly approach has irked some party members.

"Lots of people are quite disappointed within the party ... People can't point to what achievements he's made," said the official.

As yet, Samakuva has failed to articulate the concerns of poor Angolans. "A true firebrand opposition leader would strongly attack the MPLA at its weakest point: corruption, mismanagement, and the paradox of poverty amid oil and diamond riches," said Shaxson.

"Where was the detailed UNITA critique of the latest government budget? Why were they so quiet about the latest Human Rights Watch report? Why have they not made more of a meal of the land rights bill?"

"Samakuva has so far been timid in these controversial areas and seems more preoccupied with procedural matters: things like the election date and internal UNITA party mechanics. These matter, but are not enough to attract the sort of massive grassroots movement that are UNITA's only chance of seriously challenging the MPLA in elections. Samakuva needs to lead from the front, and to make a few people angry," commented Shaxson. (IRIN, 23 February 2004)

Contradicting reports on transparency in oil sector (2004)

- Allegations that the government has diverted billions of petro-dollars-revenues that could have been spent on the rehabilitation of the country
- The Angolan government maintains that unaccounted oil-revenues were used for buying arms during the large-scale battles against UNITA insurgents
- International Monetary Fund recognises that the government is improving its accounting practices
- Independent accounting consultants found discrepancy between the government's recorded income and expenditures
- The country's wealth remained concentrated in a few hands, according to US Embassy

" During his visit to the United States, President dos Santos also met with representatives of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The World Bank has been giving a limited amount of support to Angola to fund projects for the reintegration back into society of former UNITA soldiers. However, it is expected that once an agreement with the IMF is formalised, the World Bank will offer much greater support in reconstructing the country.

Recent moves welcomed by IMF

Angolan hopes of reaching agreement with the IMF over a full Staff Monitored Programme (SMP) in the next few months, an agreement that would open the way for IMF loans to Angola, seem to be on track following the recent IMF mission to Angola, which mainly looked at concerns over financial data.

On 27 April the IMF released a staff statement pointing out that the Angolan government had given it a "substantial amount of up-to-date sectoral and macroeconomic data, as well as information on critical policy areas, including plans for the publication/dissemination of macroeconomic statistics and relevant economic studies on Angola".

It continued that "the mission's conclusion is that much progress has been accomplished in recent months regarding the timely and regular compilation of key macroeconomic data, including information on Sonangol's quasifiscal operations and tax offsets with the Treasury. The mission appreciates the authorities' readiness to share with staff some critical financial information on the current and prospective management of oil revenues. In this context, it reiterated the Fund's commitment to support the Angolan authorities' capacity-building efforts in the areas of data compilation and macroeconomic statistics".

The statement noted that there is still need for more improvement, and pointed out that "there is an urgent need to develop and retain qualified human resources".

A staff team is currently scheduled to return to Luanda in early June to conduct the 2004 Article IV consultation discussions with Angola. These consultations are the 'next step' towards a full formal agreement between the two sides.

Transparency improvements in oil sector

The mission pointed out that "utmost effort was placed in evaluating the financial positions and the financial relationships among the Treasury, the Banco Nacional de Angola (BNA), and the national oil company (Sonangol)".

Poor accounting practices between these three bodies, along with wildly fluctuating exchange rates, have resulted in billions of petro-dollars not being properly accounted for in the state budget. The non-governmental organisation Global Witness continues to allege that much of this was stolen by the political elite in Angola. However, the Angolan government maintains that none of the money was stolen, and that some of it was used for buying arms during the large-scale battles against UNITA insurgents. Speaking in Washington on 30 March, Finance Minister Morais stated that "working together with such international organisations as the IMF and the World Bank, the Government has identified most of the expenditure made in the so-called quasi-fiscal activities, which were still not included in the budgetary performance reports. During the review of the 2003 Budget, the Government openly admitted that this problem had occurred, and that it has made an effort to include the quasi-fiscal expenditure in the revised Budget, thus mitigating the inconsistencies encountered".

In a major step towards clearing up the mystery of the unaccounted-for funds, the Angolan government has published the executive summary of the oil diagnostic carried out by the independent accounting consultants KPMG.

Addressing this issue, KPMG stated that "analysis previously undertaken highlighted clear discrepancies between taxes and profit oil receipts recorded as having been paid to the government, as per the fiscal reports, and with the records of equivalent receipts of taxes and profit oil payments recorded by the Tax Directorate, the Accounts Department of the Ministry of Finance, and the Bank of Angola. We believe that these differences largely arise due to the difficulty in reconciling original tax payments made in US dollars to these US dollar amounts later translated back from the Kwanzas. The problem is exacerbated due to the highly inflationary environment in Angola and the effect that this has on the timing of the translation of dollars to Kwanzas and vice versa".[...]The diagnostic also recommends that there should be independent

cost audits to make sure that oil companies are not overstating their costs, which would result in lower revenues for the state." (APM, 20 May 2004)

"The mixed economy, dominated by oil exports, grew by 4 percent during the year, but most of the country's wealth remained concentrated in a few hands. Corruption, nontransparent contracting practices, and unfair enforcement of regulatory and tax regimes favored the wealthy and politically influential. Although commercial and agricultural activity in urban and rural areas increased with the end of the war, 80 percent of the population of approximately 13 million continued to live in poverty. Annual per capita income was \$865. Approximately 80 percent of the population were employed in agriculture, mostly on a subsistence level. The Government took some steps to improve its management of the economy, including increasing transparency of oil sector accounts and reducing the estimated 50 percent of state expenditures not reflected in the official budget, but its commitment to reform remained uncertain. The Government began to repair infrastructure damaged or destroyed during the war, but the poor state of roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, and other government facilities impeded economic recovery and development." (US Embassy, 10 March 2004)

"Not before time, the Angolan Government appears to have made a clear and unambiguous commitment to account for all its oil revenues, which constitute about 90% of the state's money.

"In the past, we had off-budget transactions, so the budget lacked credibility," Angolan Deputy Prime Minister Aguinaldo Jaime said in a speech at an oil industry conference in London. "For the first time in Angola's history, the budget will encompass all revenue and that will send to the donor community the signal that the Angolan Government is committed to a fully transparent way of managing the budget." Jaime clarified that these figures will include all the country's oil revenues.

Global Witness' investigations in Angola over the past two years have uncovered that at least US\$1 billion per year – about a quarter of state income – appears to have been misappropriated from the state's coffers for the last five years. This missing money is over three-times the value of the international humanitarian aid that currently keeps about 10% of Angola's citizens alive.

Global Witness campaigner Gavin Hayman said, "I hope this announcement marks a real change and that the Angolan Government will finally, and not before time, manage its oil money transparently, although as yet there is no commitment to actually publish the budget publicly. Nor is there any clear timeline attached to this promise."

He added, "The antecedents are not particularly promising: the Angolan Government has directly threatened oil companies that wanted to disclose payments in the past, and, just two days before this announcement, the Angolans rebuffed the UK Prime Minister's offer to participate in the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative, which has already done much of the work on how best to report and account for oil income."

Whilst welcoming the announcement as a step in the right direction, Global Witness believes Angola's oil accounting must be given credibility by taking part in the UK-led Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative. This will allow double entry book-keeping, whereby disclosure of company's net payments will be reconciled with what the government reports as received to improve management and transparency.

"There is a real danger that once the Angolan Government obtains a positive decision on access to debt relief and IMF funding, transparency reforms will simply be abandoned. The Angolan Government must now play a leading role in implementing the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative's reporting systems to improve their credibility and really deliver on their promise", commented Global Witness director Simon Taylor." (Global Witness, 20 June 2003)

General elections planned for 2006 (August 2004)

- Six main tasks to be completed before elections:
- 1) The preparation and approval of the legal constitutional framework
- 2) the organisation of the electoral registration
- 3) preparation of material and logistical conditions
- 4) organising the National Electoral Council's functioning
- 5) presentation of candidates by the parties and the organisation of the electoral act

"The ruling MPLA party presented today the electoral timetable approved by its Political Bureau, in a session held last Friday, in which are highlighted the main actions to be carried out as from next October to September, 2006.

The leader of the parliamentary group, Bornito de Sousa, who conducted the presentation during a press conference at one of the National Assembly Halls, has summed up six important tasks, namely the preparation and approval of the legal constitutional framework, the organisation of the electoral registration, preparation of material and logistical conditions, organising the National Electoral Council's functioning, presentation of candidates by the parties and the organisation of the electoral act.

The timetable has as its base three essential elements enumerated as the legislative and constitutional options inherent to the determination of the tasks to be carried out and its temporary distribution, the responsibility of the execution of actions by the various organs of the State, institutions and political parties and the chronology, that states as deadline the second half of 2006, in respect to the proposal presented by the Council of the Republic, in its session held last July.

While highlighting the definition of the constitutional and legislative options as the most important, Bornito de Sousa said the MPLA recognised that the tasks proposed are interconnected.

Mr de Sousa announced that the timetable was already submitted to the supreme organs, awaiting only for its distribution to the legalized political parties and other forces of the society." (GoA, 24 August 2004).

Background and causes of displacement in the Cabinda enclave

Military situation in Cabinda under control (February 2004)

- Recently, the situation in Cabinda with an extension of 7.280 square kilometres was considered as being tense
- Actions included attacks on civilian populations, kidnapping of foreign citizens, mining of roads and looting of property

- A few months ago, the Angolan army carried out actions aimed to restore stability in that region, which led to the dismantling of armed groups bases

"The chief of Angolan armed forces (FAA) staff, gen. Agostinho Nelumba "Sanjar", said Tuesday in Luanda that the current situation in northern Cabinda province is under full control of the army.

Recently, the situation in Cabinda with an extension of 7.280 square kilometres was considered as being tense, as a result of insurgent actions by armed elements associated with the FLEC/FAC and FLEC RENOVADA independentist movements.

The actions include attacks on civilian populations, kidnapping of foreign citizens, mining of roads and looting of property.

Gen. "Sanjar" who said this while opening a meeting of FAA administrative officers, said that what is left to be done is neutralise some individuals who possess weapons and carry out acts of vandalism and banditry.

"They spread the pain and mourning within the unarmed populations and such cases, some ill-intentioned people blame on the FAA militaries, so that the populations of that region turns against the Angolan Government," he stated.

A few months ago, FAA carried out actions aimed to restore stability in that region, which led to the dismantling of armed groups bases, capture of many of them and several water material. With a population estimated at 170.000 inhabitants, Cabinda province is washed in the west by the Atlantic Ocean, bordering to the north with the Republic of Congo Brazzaville and to the east with the Democratic Republic of the Congo." (AngolaPress, 18 February 2004)

Peace may finally reach the troubled Cabinda (August 2004)

- The conflict in the oil-rich province of 250,000 people took a new turn with a government offensive in October 2002
- In 2002 it was widely believed that FLEC-FAC, a splinter group of the original FLEC movement, posed the most serious military threat to the government
- The government reportedly stationed some 30,000 soldiers in the province for a planned counter-insurgency campaign
- The main objective of the Angolan Armed Forces, namely, to permanently defeat Cabinda's insurgents, has been largely achieved

"Invited by the civic association Mpsalabanda, 15.000 Cabindans marched through the main roads of Cabinda town demanding peace and dialogue in an unprecedented event on Sunday, 18 July. At the final point, the Cultural Centre Chiloango, the organizers read out a petition to be sent to the government, the Liberation Front of the Enclave of Cabinda, the United Nations, and the African Union. The provincial government did not forbid the demonstration, and the police ensured an orderly course and security."(UNHCHR, 1 August 2004)

" Successive attempts over the past 27 years to end a secessionist conflict in Angola's Cabinda enclave are yet to bear fruit. However, a recent visit to the Angolan capital, Luanda, by the founder of the main rebel group has been seen as evidence that peace may finally reach the troubled province.

Although details surrounding the meeting of Ranque Franque, leader of the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC), with Angolan authorities in July remained vague, some observers saw it as the latest attempt by the government to move towards a negotiated settlement with separatists, who have battled the central government and each other since Angola achieved independence in 1975.

This webspecial [...] examines the economic and social impact of the protracted struggle on the people of Cabinda, arguments for secession, and attempts to anticipate the possible obstacles peace negotiators and humanitarian actors will face in the future.

Often dubbed "Angola's forgotten war", the decades-long conflict in the oil-rich province of 250,000 people took a new turn with a government offensive in October 2002 in the Buco-Zau military region, in northern Cabinda.

"We have always been in a state of war, and we have come to expect that as part of our daily lives. But the situation deteriorated in October 2002", a Roman Catholic priest, Father Jorge Congo, told IRIN. "Before then there were reports of attacks, but these happened only now and then".

In 2002 it was widely believed that FLEC-FAC, a splinter group of the original FLEC movement, posed the most serious military threat to the government. The government reportedly stationed some 30,000 soldiers in the province for a planned counter-insurgency campaign.

According to Congo, the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA - a Portuguese acronym) advanced into the heart of rebel-held territory and by the end of October 2002 had destroyed Kungo-Shonzo, FLEC-FAC's main base since 1979, in the municipality of Buco-Zau, 110 km from the provincial capital, Cabinda town.

Just months later, FAA General Nundo Sachipengo announced that a FLEC-FAC "command post" in the area had been closed down. At the end of December 2002, FAA claimed it had captured the base of another separatist faction, FLEC-Renovada (FLEC-R).

By the end of February this year, General Armando da Cruz Neto, the FAA chief of staff, confidently announced: "We are in a position to state that there have been significant changes in Cabinda's military situation as a result of operations carried out by our armed forces. FLEC-Renovada has ceased to operate since late 2002. We could say that the operation launched to restore peace in Cabinda has reached a positive phase. The next phase entails the development of border control mechanisms, so as to prevent FLEC forces from regrouping and returning".

FLEC had for years used territory in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Congo-Brazzaville as rear bases from which to launch attacks into Cabinda.

On 8 June 2003, the Angola Press Agency reported that the FLEC-FAC chief of staff, Francisco Luemba, and six other high-ranking officers had surrendered to government authorities.

According to Joao Porto of the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies (ISS), the armed secessionist movements, with a combined estimated force of no more than 2,000 troops, are no match for the battle-hardened FAA, who in 2002 had finally forced Angola's UNITA rebel movement to sue for peace after three decades of war in the country." (IRIN, 14 October 2003)

"War in Angola may only now [August 2003] be over, 15 months after the government and UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) formally ended the civil war that has pitted them against one another for the last three decades. Largely ignored in the hype that surrounded the end of war between the government and UNITA, the forgotten war (to borrow the title of a well-known volume on Angola) in the Angolan province of Cabinda saw some of its worst fighting during the country's "year of

peace". But is the war in Cabinda now over? According to Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) Deputy Chief of Staff General Nunda Sachipengo, "the worst in the military phase has already passed" and the FAA are now only involved in routine activities in Angola's Cabinda province. These comments were made four months ago, in April 2003.

The main objective of the FAA, namely, to permanently defeat Cabinda's insurgents, has been largely achieved through a systematic counter-insurgency campaign that swept through Cabinda from the middle of 2002. According to Cabindan separatists, the war had "intensified since July when the government army stepped up its operations there, drawing on its considerable forces which have been freed from fighting UNITA." In October 2002, it was reported that the FAA had deployed helicopters and tanks to begin a final "assault" on the separatists in Cabinda. In addition, in this "final" counter-insurgency campaign, the Angolan government allegedly used newly-incorporated UNITA soldiers to "all but vanquish the splintered separatist factions of the FLEC."

When the Angolan government and UNITA signed the Memorandum of Understanding on 4 April 2002, the situation in Cabinda had been relatively quiet for several months. Soon after, however, reports of clashes in the Buco-Zau military region between government forces and the separatists began pouring out of Cabinda. The FAA gradually advanced to the heart of the rebel-held territory, and by the end of October 2002 it had destroyed Kungo-Shonzo, the FLEC-FAC's (Front for the liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda-Armed Forces of Cabinda) main base in the municipality of Buco-Zau. Situated 110km from Cabinda city, Kungo-Shonzo had been in existence since 1979. In April 2003, General Nunda Sachipengo announced that the FAA's command post in the Buco-Zau region had been closed down. And on 8 June 2003, the Angola Press Agency reported that Francisco Luemba, Chief of Army Staff of the FLEC-FAC, together with six other high-ranking officers, had surrendered to government authorities. The war in Cabinda was now over—at least according to official Angolan sources.

Earlier, at the end of December 2002, the FAA had claimed it had captured the bastions of another separatist faction, the FLEC-R (Front for the Liberation of the Enclave/State of Cabinda- Renewed) and seized considerable quantities of arms and ammunition. By the end of February 2003, General Armando da Cruz Neto, Chief of Staff of the FAA, felt confident enough to observe that:

We are in a position to state that there have been significant changes in Cabinda's military situation as a result of operations carried out by our armed forces. FLEC [Renewed] has ceased to operate since late 2002. We could say that the operation launched to restore peace in Cabinda has reached a positive phase. The next phase entails the development of border control mechanisms so as to prevent FLEC forces from regrouping and returning.

Militarily, the FLEC-FAC, under the Presidency of N'Zita Henriques Tiago and the military command of Estanislau Bomba, presented the strongest resistance to the FAA's recent advance. Based predominantly in the northern centre of the province, it has operated mostly in Buco-Zau, Belize and Micongue. On the other hand, the other main separatist faction, the FLEC-R, although weaker militarily and having engaged in virtually no military activity for some months now, has evidenced a stronger political organization. Whatever their strengths, however, Cabinda's armed secessionist movements, with an estimated combined number of troops of no more than 2,000, were powerless in the face of the FAA's large-scale offensive. (Institute for Security Studies, August 2003)

Angolan army still at war with Cabinda separatists (September 2003)

- Clashes in the tiny enclave have left some 30,000 people dead over the last 25 years
- Cabinda is the only province of Angola that is still at war
- UNITA -- which has since the end of the war become a political party -- called for a referendum on autonomy for Cabinda
- The separatists argue that since Cabinda was administered separately, it should have become a separate state
- Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has said any referendum on Cabinda should involve the entire population of Angola

"The Angolan army is still at war with secessionists in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda, wedged between the two Congos, the daily *Jornal de Angola* said Friday quoting an armed forces commander in the province.

The army is currently trying to "neutralise all enemy manoeuvres" near Necuto, once a stronghold of the Liberation Forces for the Cabinda Enclave - Combatant Armed Forces (FLEC-FAC) in northern Cabinda, said Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio da Conceicao, also known as "Lacrau".

The Angolan army announced early this year that it had captured Necuto following a year-long offensive against separatist forces in the province.

Clashes in the tiny enclave, where armed groups have been fighting for independence from Angola, have left some 30,000 people dead over the last 25 years.

The enclave, which is cut off from the rest of Angola by a coastal sliver of the Democratic Republic of Congo, only has 200,000 people, but nearly two-thirds of Angola's oil production comes from off-shore deposits there.

Cabinda is the only province of Angola that is still at war after the army from the southwest African country last year signed a truce with rebels from the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), who led Angola into a 27-year civil war.

The Angolan army was "doing everything" to re-establish free movement of goods and people in the north of Cabinda, halted by continuing fighting, Lacrau said.

On Thursday, UNITA -- which has since the end of the war become a political party -- called for a referendum on autonomy for Cabinda.

"We back autonomy for Cabinda. The will of the people (of the province) must be respected, so we are proposing a referendum," UNITA president Isaias Samakuva told Angola's Ecclesia radio from Lisbon.

Cabinda, which was administered separately from the rest of Angola during Portuguese colonial times, was handed over to the Angolan government by Lisbon on independence in 1975.

The separatists argue that since Cabinda was administered separately, it should have become a separate state. They have long pushed Luanda, which opposes independence for Cabinda, to hold a vote on the issue.

But Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has said any referendum on Cabinda should involve the entire population of Angola due to the importance of the issue for the country.

Samakuva also called for a "serious dialogue" on Cabinda." (AFP, 19 September 2003)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Population profile

Waves of displacement in Angola have resulted in categorization of "old" and "new" IDPs (2001)

- Angolan IDPs label themselves as *deslocados*, a term that implies they have been forced to leave their homes
- "Old" displaced are those who fled before 1998; "new" are those who fled from this year on
- Displaced persons indicate that, with a loss of home and land, they feel a loss of cultural identity

"In Angola, displaced persons label themselves as *deslocado* (singular). Directly translated into English, *deslocado* means 'dislocated' or 'out of place'. However, such a pure linguistic translation of the term does not necessarily capture the implicit understanding of forced relocation as is implicit in the Angolan context. In a society where movement and relocation of villages, tribes, families and individuals are normal, the term *deslocado* is used to describe an abnormal situation: a relocation that is forced, not voluntary or part of normal practice. It is therefore necessary to highlight the element of force that is implied in the term *deslocado*.

The *deslocado* identity is a social identity. Those whom we label as *deslocados* or displaced in this chapter have multiple facets of identity, such as 'woman', 'old', 'Ovimbundu' (ethnic group), 'Sambo' (tribe), 'peasant', 'head-of-family', 'Catholic', 'MPLA-supporter', etc. These facets assume different levels of importance at different times (Bordo 1990:136-145). '*Deslocado*' is only one facet of the identity of the people we interviewed.

In Angola, the displaced population is often divided into two categories: 'new' and 'old' *deslocados*. This is a classification that is commonly used by the displaced themselves, by NGOs and by government representatives. New *deslocados* are all those who have been displaced after July/August 1998, regardless of the cause of their displacement, although the war is the predominant cause. Among the new *deslocados*, some have fled from government-controlled areas, others from UNITA-controlled areas.

This division between new and old *deslocados* can be related to Susan Bordo's multiple 'axes' of identity, whereby the various axes are given varying degrees of importance by the *deslocados*, the established population, and others (1990, p. 139). Based upon the information culled from our interviews, the *deslocado* axis is more important to the new *deslocados* than to the old. This is not to suggest, however, that the old *deslocados* have stopped using that word to describe themselves. Rather, other identifying axes are more important in their daily lives.

Sørensen argues that for rural populations identity is embedded in their land and their agricultural practices (1998:82-83). Even though the displaced in Huambo province have not fled far from their homes, they often find it impossible to cultivate the land where they settle after flight. Displaced persons have described a loss of cultural identity after they leave their home villages. Our interpretation is that, with the loss of their land and normal life, an important facet of their identity is lost, too.

[...]

In all locations around Huambo that had welcomed displaced persons, both established groups and new *deslocados* struggled to survive. However, where the established groups had housing and land they could tend, the new *deslocados* often did not have access to fields. If they did, it was land that was far away and

of low fertility. The new *deslocados* pointed out that even if they could rent land from someone, they lacked other essentials, such as seeds, fertilisers and tools. Elderly *deslocados* and female-headed-households had great difficulty in constructing houses or repairing abandoned houses for shelter against rain and cold nights." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, pp. 23-25)

Majority of internally displaced in Angola said to be women and children (1998-2001)

- UNICEF estimates that one million children are displaced
- Over 75 percent of the displaced population are women and children
- Female-headed households make up 30 percent of persons in camps

"A recent UN inter-agency mission estimated the number of IDPs in Angola to be 2.3, out of a population of 11 million. Among these IDPs, an estimated one million are children. They are the most disadvantaged, and the ones most adversely affected by the conflict. They have little access to the poorly-run social institutions that provide health and education, as well as food, and they are the ones most at risk of disease. They are vulnerable to a number of varying forms of abuse, such as beatings and sexual abuse, and are also under the threat of being enrolled to serve in varying functions as child soldiers." (UNICEF 2001, Country Background)

"[O]ver 75 percent of the displaced population are children and women." (UN 30 November 1999, p. 69)

"Resumption of war in December 1998 resulted in renewed displacements of some one million people as of May 1999; this number is likely to increase in the coming months. Women and children constituted the majority of those who fled, leaving behind assets and food stocks." (WFP 9 September 1999, p. 1)

"[A]mong IDPs living in camps, more than 30 percent are female-headed households." (UN February 1998, p. 99)

Global figures

Estimates of remaining IDPs range from 40,000 to 340,000 (September 2004)

- The government estimates there are 340,000 remaining IDPs as of September 2004
- The UN estimates there are between 40,000 and 60,000 IDPs
- The discrepancy is mainly due to the level of self-sufficiency acquired by many of those who fled during the civil war
- The IDP numbers in the Cabinda enclave increased from 10,875 in January 2002 to 23,628 in January 2004
- Largest concentrations of IDPs in Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Malanje and Huila in June 2003

"O Ministro da Assistência e Reinserção Social disse Quarta-feira, em Luanda, que já não se justifica a existência de campos de deslocados em Angola.

João Baptista Kussumua, que falava na abertura do 15º conselho consultivo do MINARS, anunciou, para breve, o encerramento de todos os centros de deslocados ainda existentes no país.

Segundo o governante, o MINARS conseguiu fazer regressar perto de quatro milhões de pessoas na condição de deslocadas às suas origens, restando apenas cerca de trezentas e quarenta mil cidadãos a quem pedimos que até antes do final do ano regressem às suas terras, vilas e aldeias, pois o país terá de declarar, proximamente, encerrados os campos e centros de deslocados.

O ministro afirmou, igualmente, que o seu pelouro contribuirá significativamente no combate à pobreza, através de programas e projectos de protecção e desenvolvimento das famílias em situação de vulnerabilidade, protecção, educação e formação de crianças e adolescentes desprovidos de amparo familiar, entre outras acções." (Angolan Radio, 2 September 2004)

"The UN now estimates the number of remaining IDPs in the country between 40,000-60,000. The difference with the official figures is explained by the fact that some provincial authorities still count among the IDPs people who have decided to remain in their host community." (Correspondence, 22 September 2004).

"Two years after the signing of the Luena Memorandum of Understanding, nearly all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have returned to their areas of origin and the majority of those who have not returned have decided to remain within their host communities. An estimated 100,000 people remain internally displaced compared to 3.8 million at the end of the war. In addition, approximately half of the 450,000 refugees estimated to have fled to bordering countries have returned home since the end of hostilities. Yet the challenges are far from over, as the vast majority of these families have returned to locations where the 'Norms and regulamento' have not been met." (UNOCHA, 15 June 2004)

"IDPs: UNITA – FAA hostilities ceased in April 2002. Between January 2002 and January 2003 it is calculated that 1,801,922 IDPs returned to their places of origin or preference. Between January 2003 and January 2004 a further 2,028,138 IDPs returned to their places of origin or preference. At the start of 2004 the remaining IDP population had fallen to less than half a million. According to these figures 11% of the stated total from January 2002 remain in January 2004. It should be noted however that within these statistics Cabinda remains a concern and the IDP numbers in that province have increased from 10,875 in January 2002 to 23,628 in January 2004. Hostilities between FAA and FLEC/FAC continue and to date no joint Government / UN assessment mission to the areas of displacement has taken place." (UN OCHA, 31 January 2004)

"The Government reports that as of mid-June, approximately 2.34 million IDPs had returned to areas of origin, primarily in the provinces of Huambo, Benguela, Kuanza Sul and Bié. According to the Government, 1,389,589 persons remain internally displaced in Angola. Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Malanje and Huíla.

On 19 June, the Government of Angola declared that all of the gathering areas were officially closed. Information provided by the Government indicates that 85,550 ex-combatants and 288,756 civilians had been registered during the process. The Government also reported that more than 91,700 resettlement kits and 76,000 MTs of food and non-food items had been distributed. Although the gathering areas are closed, provincial reports indicate that approximately 38,000 persons remain in seven areas in five provinces awaiting transport. In addition, as of late June, approximately 36,000 persons were still waiting for onward transport in more than 30 transit centres in 12 provinces, some of them without adequate shelter, food or health assistance or hygiene conditions." (UN OCHA, 10 July 2003)

"*Internally Displaced Persons:* The majority of internally displaced persons who were expected to return to their areas of origin have already relocated. To date, more than 1.8 million IDPs have resettled, of whom 220,000 were relocated under an organised plan. An estimated 70 percent of returnees have resettled without any form of assistance from local authorities or humanitarian organisations to areas where the pre-conditions specified in the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations are not yet in place." (UN OCHA, Mid-Year Review, 3 June 2003).

UN cites unprecedented figure of 4.1 million IDPs in 2002 CAP (November 2001)

"During the period of intense fighting between 1992 and 1994, 1.3 to two-million people fled their homes, primarily to provincial capitals and Luanda. In late 1997, humanitarian agencies estimated that approximately one million people were still displaced, despite the limited resettlement that had occurred following the Bicesse and Lusaka peace agreements. Since 1998, when hostilities between the parties again erupted, an additional 1.3 million persons have been forced from their homes, bringing the total number of displaced persons in Angola to an estimated 4.1 million." (UN November 2001, p. 10)

More than 2.8 million people remain displaced at the end of 2002, according to the Angolan government

- Of the 2.8 million IDPs, approximately 290,000 continue to live in camps and transit centres
- Approximately 1.1 million IDPs returned to their areas of origin between April and the end of November 2002

"According to the Government, more than 2.8 million people are still displaced in Angola. Approximately 290,000 IDPs continue to live in camps and transit centres. Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Bié, Huíla, Huambo, Kuando Kubango and Kuanza Sul.

Approximately 425,000 ex-combatants and family members are concentrated in 33 gathering areas and seven satellites, a decrease of approximately 39,000 since early November.

Between April and the end of November, approximately 1.1 million IDPs have returned to their areas of origin throughout the country. The provinces where the largest return movements are occurring are Bengo, Bié, Huambo, Kuanza Sul and Malanje.

Of the 1.1 million IDPs who had resettled or returned to their areas of origin by the end of November, 15 percent moved under an organised plan. Approximately 30 percent of returnees are living in areas where the pre-conditions specified in the Norms and Regulamento are in place." (UN OCHA, 19 December 2002)

Geographical distribution

IDP and Population Movements since the Cessation of Hostilities (January 2004)

Province	End January 2002	End January 2003	End January 2004
Bengo	170,024	0	0
Benguela	419,239	347,594	13,151
Bie	550,000	91,329	89,851
Cabinda	10,875	13,320	23,628
Cunene	69,510	71,908	0
Huambo	435,138	113,000	21,490
Huíla	210,899	119,231	70,011
K.Sul	316,645	21,983	0

K.Kubango	203,386	597,227	84,914
K.Norte	109,169	64,356	44,641
L.Norte	438,112	391,519	0
L.Sul	92,622	154,539	17,332
Luanda	673,526	80,171	42,729
Malange	270,969	156,749	0
Moxico	194,203	216,981	25,855
Namibe	22,275	25,352	24,909
Uige	57,056	480	183
Zaire	45,106	21,093	0
Total	4,288,754	2,486,832	458,694

Every one of Angola's 18 provinces has an IDP population (February 2002)

- Areas with the highest concentration of IDPs include Bie, Huila, Huambo and Kuanza Sul provinces
- Many of the new arrivals have been forcibly displaced by the army
- Further influxes of IDPs are expected, although there is almost no space to accommodate more people
- Some of the worst living conditions in the country are in the 22 transit centres and warehouses in seven provinces that remain open

"The total number of IDPs in the country is currently 4.1 million. Two years ago, the number was two million. Of the 4.1 million IDPs, 1.36 have been confirmed to receive international assistance.

The areas with the highest concentration of IDPs include Bié with 173,000; Huila with 174,000; Huambo with 150,000; and Kuanza Sul with 118,000. Every single one of the country's 18 provinces has an IDP population.

In Kuito and Camacupa, more than 62,000 displaced persons have poured into the area during the last five months, most, forcibly displaced by the army. An additional 12,000 entered during the first two weeks of January alone. There is almost no space to accommodate these people and resources have run out. At least 22,000 more IDPs are close by and may shortly enter Kuito and Camacupa in a desperate effort to reach life-saving assistance.

In Luena, 6,000 IDPs are arriving per month, most, forcibly displaced by the army. There is almost no space to accommodate these people and resources are about to run out. Higher levels of new arrivals are expected in coming months.

Approximately 320,000 IDPs continue to live in camps and transit centres.

During the past 20 months, 35 transit centres have been closed and 25,000 IDPs resettled to safe areas with agricultural lands. It was expected that all centres would be closed by the end of 2001. Due to the huge level of displacement, more than 12 centres have been either established or reopened in recent months. Some of the worst living conditions in the country are in the 22 transit centres and warehouses in seven provinces that remain open. More than 17,500 IDPs are living in inhumane conditions in these centres." (UN OCHA 8 February 2002)

UN OCHA's Special Report on the Humanitarian Situation in Angola (7 March 2002) contains maps showing, among others, critical areas in the country and areas accessible to international agencies (see list of sources).

See also the map section of this profile containing UN OCHA map of IDP presence by province (as of February 2002), [External link]

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

Many IDPs have been displaced numerous times as a result of both military strategies and wilful neglect (2001)

- Government forces remove people from rural areas in order to deprive UNITA of human and material support
- UNITA in turn punishes civilians for "choosing" the government side - attacking them and laying mines near their fields
- Once in government-controlled towns, civilians do not receive the food and medical care they require, but are inaccessible by international agencies
- Many people are forced to move again because of malnutrition and disease

"The most obvious examples of areas of concern are the towns of Cuemba, in Bie province, and Mussende, Cuanza Sul province. Both are pockets of areas under government control, while the surrounding areas remain very unstable.

People abandon their homes and fields in compliance with government counter-Unita tactics of removing people from the rural areas. Populations also flee violent oppression and destruction (or theft) of harvests, primarily but not only by Unita. Unita forces effectively prevent people from returning to their fields to gather food, attacking them – punishing them for having "chosen" the government side – or laying mines on paths to fields. Once crowded into government-controlled cities and towns that are inaccessible to aid organizations, people rely on the civil and military authorities for essential food or medical assistance. However, these are not forthcoming.

Many of the people coming from Cuemba municipality are originally from Andulo and Bailundo regions and were forced to follow Unita when those areas came under government control by late 1999. Unfortunately, when the people later (forcibly) joined areas under government control, such as Cuemba, it did not put a final end to their long journey as they had again to flee malnutrition and diseases. Basically, they have been living for years on the move, and have been displaced multiple times as a result of both military strategies and wilful neglect of the parties.

Since early April/01, over five thousand ill and malnourished people have had to make a desperate and dangerous journey from Cuemba to the town of Camacupa (also Bie province) in search of humanitarian assistance. Many arrive there in a state where they need to be urgently referred to Kuito (Bie province) for medical treatment in MSF's programmes (for figures, see below). Further North, along the border between Malange and Cuanza Sul provinces, thousands more people are making a similar journey, fleeing from emergency conditions in Mussende to Cangandala, where many need admission to MSF's therapeutic feeding centre (TFC).

[...]

In addition to these statistics, newly arrived IDPs tell consistent stories: they flee Mussende and Cuemba because the living conditions are unbearable. Put simply, there is no (or insufficient) food or medicine, and many people are dying, especially children. Their journeys are difficult and perilous, as they walk for days with no protection (Cuemba to Camacupa - 80 km., Mussende to Cangandala, 100 km.). IDPs arriving in Camacupa routinely recount that others, too weak to make it, died along the long road. These IDPs also tell us that many more people remain behind in Mussende and Cuemba.

In Mussende, lots of people are dying of sickness, vomiting, diarrhoea, and swelling . . . I was sick and had no family. I could not go to the lavras [fields] because UNITA had laid new mines to stop the people from returning to the fields to collect food. My niece had her leg blown off from a mine . . . while trying to collect food. – 41 year old IDP from Mussende.

MSF is worried that these cases are not isolated, but the emerging tip of a humanitarian crisis in many Angolan localities which are beyond the tight security perimeters that limit the reach of international humanitarian aid, and sometimes the civilian government itself. Cuemba, Camacupa and Mussende are seemingly just a few dramatic examples of what MSF believes is a pattern repeated throughout the war-torn provinces of Angola. Field workers hear (but are unable to verify) reports from IDPs that similar suffering exists in other areas under government control yet beyond our access (e.g., Massango, in Malange province, and Luando, in Bie)."
(MSF 2 July 2001)

And earlier (excerpt taken from Andrade study of IDPs conducted in 1996/1997):

"The research showed that most displaced people have moved not once, but at least twice. These movements of population were at the end of the 1970s (in Benguela), during the 1980s (Malanje), and in 1992/93 (both provinces). Before the last move, many displaced people had returned to their 'original homes' during the period of relative stability that followed the Bicesse Accord (1991). Then, after armed conflict restarted, they were forced to flee for a second time (or, in some cases, a third time), in worse conditions than before. (Andrade 2001, p. 119)

Initially, people flee in large groups; later, they break off into nuclear families (2001)

- People generally fled on foot and suffered from hunger during course of journey
- Initially, people formed large groups which provided solidarity and mutual support
- Later, they split off in order to travel faster and avoid attack

Excerpt taken from Andrade study of IDPs in Malanje and Benguela conducted in 1996-1997:

"Only a few people fled in vehicles. Most fled on foot, carrying very little. Journeys could take several days and there were often attacks.

Hunger was frequently mentioned, as a cause of death and as creating severe difficulties when fleeing through not having enough energy to continue. Alternative foods were used, and this in turn led to unknown illnesses, which even traditional medical knowledge was unable to combat. Such events were most dramatic during the siege of Malanje. Men and women of all ages said unanimously that women were more resistant to these hardships than men. Some women ended up helping men.

While children suffered from the cold and rain, it was women of all ages who stressed the problem of partial or complete nakedness. Nudity is seen to be an exhibition of the woman's 'core' to everybody's view, and is considered a violation. It was some time into the research before we understood that women use the term 'to abuse' to mean anything from removal of clothing to rape.

Taking away young women to be the wives of soldiers is seen as improper, mutilating, and morally wrong. Older people in particular grieved because the rituals were not respected, and there was no consideration or dignity.

At a certain point the displaced people, particularly those who fled under fire, had to make difficult choices about maintaining the composition of the groups. Initially, they tended to form large groups, which

provided solidarity and mutual support to deal with the difficulties. As the walk continued the circumstances changed – big groups were more vulnerable to attack because their pace was slower. Therefore many small groups (frequently just one nuclear family) split off and travelled faster, but the potential for solidarity and mutual support was diminished." (Andrade 2001, sect. 4)

For a comprehensive analysis of the coping strategies employed by IDPs, refer to Filomena Andrade's analysis in Construction and Reconstruction in Angola available from Development Workshop - Angola.

IDPs in larger peri-urban environments do not necessarily retain ties with host communities (2001)

- IDPs in camps and smaller neighborhoods often retain ties with resident communities
- Other IDPs, particularly those in urban centres, split away in order to survive
- Community ties often break down during period of displacement, particularly in bigger towns and cities
- Level of trust and collective action is low as a result

"In certain camps for displaced people, and perhaps in certain neighbourhoods of displaced people in inland cities, people live in 'communities' i.e. they have organised the camps so that people from the same place live together, they have maintained their old leadership (or perhaps chosen a new one from among themselves), and tend to have moved together to this new location.

But it is very rare to find anything like this in the larger towns and cities (Luanda, Benguela, Lobito, Lubango and Huambo) where the bulk of displaced people are living. There seem to be various reasons for this.

While people may move as a group on the first stage of their flight, successive stages are made in smaller groups.

In towns, people tend to seek out people from their own community to lodge them during an initial period. But they then seek their own home, and the stresses of the period when people stay together in this initial period mean that they do not necessarily want to live afterwards with the people who helped them when they arrived.

While it may have been more common in the past for people to build a house in the town alongside someone from their own community, this is now much less true: urban neighbourhoods are full and it is difficult to find space near to a previous migrant or to build in a group. There is a market in land and housing, and land prices and rents are higher in the old neighbourhoods so poorer, new migrants have to build on the edge of the towns, away from people from their own community.

It is interesting to note that in the camp of Kassequé, near to Huambo, displaced people live grouped according to their place of origin. In the poor neighbourhoods of the town of Huambo itself this is not the case.

People told us that we would find neighbourhoods of people from the same origin, and we looked very hard for this phenomenon but we did not find it.

This has certain implications for life in the towns. People rarely know their neighbours, the level of trust and collective action is low, Churches are one of the few places where people can make friends, develop trust, participate in collective action (though the number of Churches can be a divisive influence as well). Few development initiatives have taken these factors into account." (Robson 30 January 2001)

*Also refer to **Construction and Reconstruction in Angola** edited by Paul Robson. The book is available from Development Workshop - Angola.*

Traditional movement of displaced has been from rural areas to provincial urban centres (1999-2001)

- 50 to 60 percent of Angolan population concentrated in urban centres
- Civilians seek protection from attacks in government-secure zones
- Widespread looting and destruction of property makes life in rural areas difficult
- Lack of access to land makes it difficult for IDPs to gain livelihood

"In areas accessible to humanitarian agencies, IDPs have tended to collect in urban areas that are generally under government control, such as Malange, Kuito and Huambo. This is largely because many of the rural areas are heavily insecure and farming practices are frequently interrupted by security incidents...The urban areas offer some hope of security as well as access to the possibility of humanitarian assistance. However, the obvious lack of access to land in these urban locations limits their opportunities for food production resulting in affected populations becoming heavily reliant on food assistance." (ACC/SCN July 2001, p. 36)

"Large-scale displacement has resulted in rapid urbanisation throughout the country, estimated at 50 per cent (UNDP 1999:47). Cities and towns may be safer than rural areas, but livelihoods are harder to come by in urban zones. The massive migration into urban areas has not been followed by the necessary investments in infrastructure to provide basic sanitation, water, health care and schools." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, p. 19)

"The continuous shift of populations from rural to urban areas has changed the demography of the country from one predominantly rural-based to one in which around 60 percent of the population now live in urban centres. As a result, pressure has increased on the psychosocial and physical status of these urban dwellers. They all must vie in overpopulated conditions for the same meagre resources, much of them coming from the international assistance community, itself circumscribed by a limited capacity to meet growing needs. [...]

The majority of IDPs are concentrated in the coastal belt and in major urban centres with more than half located in Luanda, Cuando Cubango, Benguela, Huambo and Malange provinces." (UN 30 November 1999, pp. 7, 28)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

Physical security

Between 5 and 7 millions mines, according to government official (August 2004)

- Angola less mined than international sources claim
- More than 4,000 mine field identified
- Less than 1,500 mine fields cleared
- Return, resettlement and agricultural production are obstructed by danger of landmines

AP: Qual é o ponto da situação das minas em Angola, após dois anos de paz?

KN: Começo por realçar que a minagem de Angola é remota, feita pelos sucessivos beligerantes que se degladiaram cá. O exército colonial, os três movimentos de libertação – Frente Nacional de Libertação de Angola (FNLA) Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola, (MPLA), União para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) – , os cubanos, os sul-africanos, as forças governamentais... enfim, cada um destes actores, segundo o período, minou este território. Pelas pesquisas que já fizemos, os objectos detectados e a experiência de desminagem efectuada, pensamos haver, na actualidade, em Angola, entre cinco milhões a sete milhões de minas. Não concordamos com as estimativas de 12 milhões a 14 milhões de minas, veiculadas num passado recente por fontes internacionais, assim por alto, numa base aleatória e pouco aturada.

AP: Não tem um número mais exacto?

KN: Não há estimativa exacta, mas a nossa é realista. Baseia-se em áreas pesquisadas intensa e sistematicamente até 1998 bem como locais adicionais vistoriados depois dos Entendimentos de Luena. O trabalho de localização dos campos de minas não terminou ainda. Foi intenso até 1998, quando sofreu o impacto do recomeço da guerra. Mesmo durante a guerra, foram-se fazendo algumas pesquisas esporadicamente próximo das cidades. De forma séria como antes, só começou no mês passado, o programa de “Save Action Center (SAC)”, uma ONG especializada em levantamento de minas, que conta com um financiamento de 6 milhões de dólares. Esta ONG garante que em Setembro de 2005, dará o resultado palpável do seu trabalho. [...]

AP: Voltando ao balanço, que estatísticas o INAD pode apresentar agora?

KN: Em quantidade, temos hoje em dia 4.222 campos de minas localizados. Deste número, desminamos 1.484. Quer dizer, temos ainda 2. 737 campos por limpar. O campo significa uma área determinada, suspeita de possuir minas plantadas no seu solo. Não corresponde a um perímetro com superfície e quantidade de minas padronizadas. Quer dizer, há campos maiores ou pequenos em extensão, com muitas ou poucas minas. O critério da sua determinação é o relatório de localização, de descoberta de engenho na área porquanto tal área seja distante de outra onde foram já encontrados engenhos. Conseguimos desactivar e destruir cerca de 36 mil minas anti pessoais, 2,5 mil anti tanques e quase 1,3 milhão de UXO'S ou objectos não detonados como bombas, granadas, munições e demais projecteis. Em termos de acidentes, registamos 1.728 que resultaram em 3.847 mortos até meados deste mês. A superfície desminada totaliza mais de 2,2 milhões de metros quadrados e as estradas 104 mil e tal km. (Jornal Apostolado, 24 August 2004).

"Angola suffered the most landmine casualties in Southern Africa last year, with 660 people - most of them civilians - killed or injured, according to a new report by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

The ICBL's 'Landmine Report for 2002', said although the number of casualties in Angola dropped by 21 percent over the 840 cases reported in 2000, it illustrated the challenges facing the country as it attempts to rebuild after almost three decades of civil war.

Angola is not a known producer or exporter of landmines, but 76 different types of anti-personnel mines manufactured in 22 countries have been found or reported. Angola, however, has become the latest country to ratify the Ottawa Convention to ban landmines. The convention aims to stop the use and production of mines and gives Angola until 1 January 2007 to destroy its stockpiles.

Angola's April ceasefire between the government and former rebel UNITA forces has led to the reactivation of the power-sharing Lusaka Protocol, which includes a demining programme, vital for the safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the delivery of food aid.

The ICBL report said IDPs were the victims in up to 75 percent of all mine incidents. The provinces recording the highest number of cases were Malange with 23 percent, Uige 15 percent, Moxico 14 percent, Kuando Kubango 10 percent and Huambo with 9 percent - figures that map the course of the country's bitter conflict.

Casualties continue to be reported in 2002, with 44 people known to have died so far, the government has said. According to the ICBL report, one in every 415 Angolans has a mine-related injury.

As an indication of the impact of the weapons, the report said 5,593 prosthetic feet were produced at workshops supported by Handicap International last year, and over 6,000 crutches handed out by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Organisations like the World Health Organisation, a Norwegian NGO the Trauma Care Foundation, and the ICRC, are among the agencies that have provided training and support to government hospitals. The Ministry of Education has also included landmine awareness education in its syllabus." (IRIN, 16 September 2002)

Between 30% and 50% of mine casualties die due to lack of medical services (August 2004)

- Little or no de-mining is taking place and medical care is extremely limited in south-eastern provinces of Moxico and Cuando Cubango
- People are consciously entering mine fields to collect firewood and cultivate

"Despite death and injury from landmines, little or no de-mining is taking place and medical care is extremely limited. Between 30% and 50% of mine casualties die due to a lack of available medical services or transport to such services", said JRS Angola Country Director, Marlene Wildner."

"We are seeing a disturbing trend in which people are consciously going into mined areas to collect firewood, cultivate land or carry out other necessary economic activities. On 11 June, a 53 year old man

was killed in Luau, south-eastern Angola, when he entered a marked minefield to make bricks. However, the returnees have little choice if they want to make ends meet in an area littered with minefields," added Sr Wildner.

Angola remains one of the most heavily mined countries in the world: estimates for the number of landmines range from 6 to 20 million, causing one of the highest rates of landmine injuries per capita in the world." (JRS, 31 August 2004)

Widespread small arms continue to cause concern (October 2003)

- Small arms among Angolan civilians could pose a threat to holding peaceful national elections
- As long as civilians, especially [ruling party] MPLA militants, continue to have light weapons in their hands, the people of Angola will remain psychologically insecure
- Officials estimate that a third of Angolans are armed
- Angola is not a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on controlling the flow of small arms in the region

"The widespread availability of small arms among Angolan civilians could pose a threat to holding peaceful national elections, tentatively scheduled for 2005, a senior opposition UNITA official said on Tuesday.

"We welcome the government's attempts to remove weapons from the hands of those who may be intent on destabilising the country during the elections, but we have also asked that this process be speeded up. As long as civilians, especially [ruling party] MPLA militants, continue to have these light weapons in their hands, the people of Angola will remain psychologically insecure," UNITA secretary for foreign affairs, Alcides Sakala, told IRIN.

Speaking on Monday to Angop, the state news agency, Home Affairs Minister Osvaldo de Jesus Serra Van-dunem said the government would enact a "Weapons Ownership and Disarming of Civilians Act", aimed at removing guns from circulation.

Serra Van-dunem noted that following the end of three decades of civil war in April 2002, "there is no need for arms for self-defence".

Although there is no independent confirmation of exactly how many guns are in the hands of individuals, officials estimate that a third of Angolans are armed.

During the lead-up to the 1992 election in particular, Sakala emphasised, the government had armed its supporters in key towns after accusing UNITA of not properly demobilising its troops.

"Most of the clashes in and around [the capital] Luanda between UNITA and the MPLA were fought using the same guns the government gave to its supporters. Those guns are still in circulation and can be used to intimidate and harass civilians during the election," Sakala added.

The possible trafficking of guns across Angola's borders was also causing concern. A senior researcher at the Pretoria-based Institute for Security Studies, Noel Stott, said Namibia had already raised the alarm over the increase in light weapons filtering from Angola.

"It is still unclear just how many weapons are in circulation, but it can be safely assumed that, given the duration of the conflict, there should be a huge quantity. This then leads to fears of cross-border trade in weapons, which Angolan authorities have yet to address," Stott said.

He added that Angola was not a signatory to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) protocol on controlling the flow of small arms in the region.

"By becoming part of the protocol it would facilitate not only Angola's attempts, but the efforts of regional governments to harmonise legislation on weapons ownership. But then this would mean that Angola would have to reconsider its firearm legislation, which could take time," Stott said. " (IRIN, 28 October 2003)

Scale of human rights violations reduced in Cabinda (September 2004)

- Displacements, violence, abuse, torture, summary killings, rape and illegal detentions reported in Cabinda
- Human rights activists have restricted access
- The Angolan army launched a counter-insurgency campaign in October 2002

"An ad-hoc commission for human rights in Cabinda published a report in November last year detailing accounts of violence, abuse, torture, summary killings, rape and illegal detentions against the civilian population.

"There are indications that the scale of violations has reduced; nevertheless, problems do continue and did continue until the very recent past," Jilani said.

"Some of the violations that people have experienced and observed are certainly sufficient to make people a little insecure. The government needs to address that insecurity and perhaps take measures in order to instil and inspire confidence, so that the human rights community in Cabinda can check out human rights issues with a feeling of more safety and less risk than they have been able to do before," she added." (IRIN, 23 August 2004)

"La situation des droits de l'Homme dans la province angolaise de Cabinda (nord) suscite de "graves inquiétudes" en dépit de progrès récents, a affirmé mardi à Luanda Hina Jilani, représentante du secrétaire général de l'ONU pour les défenseurs des droits de l'Homme.

"S'il apparaît que l'ampleur des violations des droits de l'Homme dans la province a diminué au cours des derniers mois, de graves inquiétudes demeurent", a déclaré Mme Jilani au cours d'une conférence de presse.

"L'importante présence militaire dans la province, à proximité de la population civile, et un climat sécuritaire sont à l'origine de nombreuses violations (des droits de l'Homme) qui m'ont été rapportées", a-t-elle expliqué.

"Les restrictions d'accès aux lieux où les violations sont dénoncées, l'impossibilité d'obtenir des informations de base et l'absence quasi-complète de structures judiciaires dans de nombreuses parties de la province empêchent non seulement les défenseurs des droits de l'Homme de faire leur travail, mais les expose à de grands risques", a-t-elle expliqué.

"Les changements positifs intervenus en matière de liberté d'expression au niveau national ne sont pas visibles à Cabinda", a-t-elle ajouté.

Mme Jilani est arrivée le 16 août en Angola pour une visite de 10 jours "à l'invitation du gouvernement angolais", a-t-elle précisé. Elle a visité les provinces de Cabinda et de Huila (sud) où elle a rencontré des représentants des autorités, du clergé, des membres de la société civile et des chefs coutumiers."(AfriqueCentrale, 25 August 2004)

"Although the civil war in mainland Angola formally ended on 4 April 2002, a secessionist conflict with grave humanitarian consequences remained unabated in the oil-rich enclave province of Cabinda for much of last year. Largely ignored by the hype that has surrounded the end of the twenty-seven year old conflict between the government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), the enclave province of Cabinda has, in the last ten months, seen some of its worst fighting. Reports from Cabinda's battlefields suggest that the war may be approaching its end, if it is not already over by now. The Angolan Armed Forces' (FAA) launch of a large counter-insurgency campaign on 10 October 2002 throughout the full extent of Cabinda's territory has reportedly defeated with the end of war with UNITA, the defeat of Cabinda's including the displacement and indiscriminate abuse of civilians, summary executions, incidents of rape and torture, destruction of property and pillage of villages.

The conflict in Cabinda is based on two irreconcilable positions. For the Angolan government, Cabinda is an integral part of Angola's and contemplates the secession of Cabinda. On the other hand, Cabindan separatists claim that Cabinda has a distinct and separate identity, history and culture from the rest of Angola; accordingly, they would like recognition as an independent state." (Institute for Security Studies, 31 August 2003)

"Unaffected by the August peace declaration was continuing fighting in Cabinda, an Angolan enclave separated by Congolese territory. In September the FAA launched an offensive against separatist groups linked to the Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave/State (FLEC). Widespread abuses against the civilian population were reported, including killings and forced displacement." (HRW, 14 January 2003)

Violence against UNITA followers in areas of return (August 2004)

- Riots against a returned UNITA general and UNITA supporters in Moxico province
- 80 houses were destroyed
- Violence and insecurity prompted around 2,000 UNITA supporters to leave
- Similar incidents reported in other provinces
- Increased incidents of intimidation of UNITA members by individuals allegedly belonging to MPLA

"About 80 homes had been destroyed in Cazombo, municipality of Alto Zambeze/Moxico, in mid-July during 3-day riots directed against the presence of a former UNITA general who had been chosen by his party to head the new UNITA office. Uncontrolled groups assaulted the premises of the office and the residences of known or supposed UNITA supporters and ex-combatants, including six belonging to local NGO employees. One traditional chief was finally arrested for having instigated the violence. The General, born in the area, is held responsible for the destruction of the river Zambezi bridge nearby that cut the town off from the rest of the country. During the 8th session of the bilateral mechanism, beginning August in Menongue, capital of Cuando-Cubango province, UNITA and government agreed that such acts of intolerance should be dealt with as offence against common law. UNITA repeatedly accused the ruling MPLA of inciting violent actions against its officials in order to prevent it from reinstalling its offices all over the country – an accusation always denied by MPLA. End-August Rádio Ecclésia reported that the

atmosphere of insecurity and volatility continued, motivating many UNITA sympathizers and demobilised ex-soldiers (in all about 2.000 in that area) to move away from Cazombo. Similar events, at a minor scale, had been reported as well from Savate and Caiato in Cuando Cubango province and Ganda in Benguela province.

As it is the first time that politically motivated violence occurred to such an extent in the reconciliation and integration process started with the end of the war, the Transition Coordination Unit (TCU) and the Human Rights Office decided to monitor the situation closely and gather more precise information in order to be able to formulate an adequate response, both in the short and in the medium term.

The event have so far not affected UNHCR's resettlement program for Angolan refugees coming back from Zambia to Moxico province, including in Alto Zambeze." (UNHCHR, 1 September 2004).

"Angola's former rebel group UNITA on Friday said investigations were under way following an attack this week on two of its regional offices in central Huambo province.

UNITA secretary for foreign affairs Alcides Sakala told IRIN that five of their officials were attacked on Tuesday by armed youths wearing T-shirts with the ruling MPLA party slogan. He added that the party's offices in the towns of Bela Vista and Villa Nova had been looted.

"We have alerted the relevant authorities about this attack and have been assured that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated. Attacks such as these are not good for building reconciliation between UNITA and the MPLA," he said.

The two warring parties signed a truce in April last year and the government authorised the former rebel group to engage in political activities under the terms of the 1994 Lusaka peace agreement.

Sakala alleged that UNITA party officials had faced harassment and intimidation in certain parts of the country, noting that in February they were prevented from establishing offices in Huambo.

"It is important for the government to set up a special commission which would investigate who exactly is behind these attacks. If they [the attacks] continue, we may see the diminishing of the trust between ourselves and the government," Sakala said." (UN OCHA, 8 August 2003).

"Angola's main opposition party, UNITA, on Wednesday called for the immediate arrest of those responsible for attacks against its supporters in recent months.

UNITA vice-president Ernesto Mulato told IRIN that bringing criminal charges against the alleged culprits would "convince" the local population and the international community that the ruling MPLA was not behind the attacks.

UNITA has raised concerns since last year over increased incidents of intimidation of its members by individuals allegedly belonging to MPLA militia groups. Last month several homes were torched in two attacks in the eastern province of Moxico, which UNITA claimed were politically motivated.

The authorities have denied that the ruling party had anything to do with the attacks.

"If the government wants to distance itself from these militia groups then it must go ahead and arrest these people - in this way we will all know that they [MPLA] are not behind these criminal acts. We demand the immediate arrest of those who committed these crimes, as well as the municipal leaders who are encouraging these acts," Mulato said.

He warned that without an immediate response, the country ran the risk of increased violence." (IRIN, 4 August 2004).

War-related violations of human rights have ended (February 2004)

- Frequent instances of abuses in connection with the return and resettlement process

- Violations included harassment, looting, extortion, property dispossession, rape and arbitrary detention
- The Angolan judicial system is almost non-existent in many of the country's provinces

"As a whole, because of the end of the hostilities, war-related violations of human rights, including forced displacement, violent attacks on civilian communities and abductions of women and children have ended in 'mainland' Angola. Nonetheless, returning populations have suffered human rights abuses. The progressive domestic legislation providing for minimum standards of resettlement and return and several training sessions given to provincial officials did not prevent frequent instances of abuses in connection with the return and resettlement process. These violations included harassment, looting, extortion, property dispossession, rape and arbitrary detention, particularly in areas where state administration is weak. For the overwhelming majority of the reported cases the individuals responsible for the abuses were granted virtual impunity. Unable to fulfil its duties because of logistic constraints, the National Police is often only present in provincial capitals, failing therefore to secure vast areas of the countryside. When relocated to major municipalities, the Police lacks appropriate equipment and vehicles. Finally, the Angolan judicial system is almost non-existent in many of the country's provinces, with no infrastructure and personnel, impeding any required criminal proceeding and ultimately obtaining redress for the victims." (ISS, 5 February 2004)

Human rights abuses against IDPs continue to occur after the April 2002 ceasefire (March 2003)

- General violations against displaced and returning populations have continued (March 2003)
- Indisciplined soldiers continue to harass and extort money from IDPs at checkpoints
- Violence, including rape of women, is continuing says Human Rights Watch
- While war-related human rights violations have 'virtually disappeared', according to the UN, certain abuses are continuing
- Violations particularly affecting IDPs (and ex-combatants) include return outside of the Norms, restrictions on freedom of movement and exclusion from social services and humanitarian assistance

"General violations against displaced and returning populations, including harassment, looting, extortion, intimidation, physical abuse, rape and arbitrary detention have continued, particularly in areas where state administration is weak and where systems for redress remain inadequate.

Municipal courts are functioning in only 14 municipalities in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Huíla, Kuanza Norte, Kuanza Sul, Luanda, Moxico, Namibe and Uíge.

Compliance with the Norms and regulamento remain limited in the majority of return sites. In several instances, authorities have harassed refugees returning from neighbouring countries and requested bribes at border crossing points.

A number of protection violations were reported in gathering areas, where populations had only limited access to the formal judicial system. Gender based violence was common and agencies reported that many girls in the gathering areas who were abducted during the conflict did not have freedom of movement.

In several provinces, demobilised soldiers and family members have been transported to areas of origin in non-compliance with the Norms. In addition, thousands of people en route to their areas of origin have been accommodated in sub-standard transit centres, without access to adequate shelter and water and sanitation facilities. In some provinces, populations leaving the gathering areas were rejected by resident populations in their areas of origin." (UN OCHA, 30 March 2003)

"Even after the ceasefire, there were frequent reports of widespread indiscipline within the army and the national police in the provinces of Bié, Huambo, Lunda Sul, Moxico, Uíge and Zaire. Harassment of displaced people and extortion were common practices at checkpoints, as well as violence including rape of women. Unidentified armed groups were reportedly engaged in banditry and operating unofficial checkpoints in southern Bié in July, while in August unidentified individuals in uniform ambushed and killed civilians in Cuango, Xa-Muteba and Caungula municipalities, Lunda Norte province.

Moreover, there were suspicions about the genuineness of UNITA's disarmament, given that by October 2002 only some twenty-six thousand light weapons (and little ammunition) were handed over to the FAA—equivalent to one weapon for every three UNITA soldiers." (HRW, 2003)

"Although war-related violations of human rights, including forced displacement, violent attacks on civilian communities and abductions of women and children have virtually disappeared since the cessation of hostilities, abuses continue to occur. General violations include harassment, looting, extortion, intimidation, physical abuse, arbitrary detention, rape and other forms of sexual exploitation. Violations affecting IDPs and ex-combatants and their family members include return outside of the Norms, restrictions on freedom of movement and exclusion from social services and humanitarian assistance. In areas where state administration is weak or has been recently extended, systems for redress are inadequate. Between 70 and 90 percent of Angolans lack proof of identity and more than 70 percent of children under five have not been registered. People without civil documentation have difficulties accessing basic social services including schools. Some Angolan refugees living in neighbouring countries, particularly children, do not have birth certificates and other forms of documentation, jeopardising repatriation. More than 100,000 children are separated from their families and communities, many of whom are forced onto the streets where they are exposed to hazardous work, sexual exploitation and domestic violence. Although systems are in place for family tracing, programmes aimed at reuniting separated families and providing psychosocial support for children exposed to violence are limited." (UN, November 2002, p27)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

Food

More than one million returnees and war-affected people still in need of food aid (August 2004)

- Number of people in need of food steadily decreasing
- Agricultural performance in 2003/04 has improved because large numbers of IDPs and refugees have returned to their places of origin
- Some returnees have harvested crops for two seasons
- Still, many of the returnees arrived too late in their home areas to become fully self-sustained

"The average number of people in need of food assistance per month will be about 1.12 million, compared to 1.4 million last year. Many vulnerable and food insecure people are once again cultivating their fields and producing food even though many lost their assets as a consequence of the war. This year is a turning point, in particular in provinces where cassava is the major crop, since it is now coming into full production. Although the numbers are likely drop later on, many resettled families will continue to need food assistance until the main 2005 crops are harvested. [...]"

Agricultural performance in 2003/04 has improved overall in spite of too much rainfall in some areas during the first season and too little during the second season. The expansion of cultivated area is a major cause of the increase in production of cereals. The Mission estimated that the area planted to crops was about 2.91 million ha: an increase of 15 percent compared to last year's figure. However, the current cultivated acreage reflects only a very small amount - 4.8 percent - of the land that could potentially be used for agricultural purposes.

The Mission forecasts 2003/04 cereal production (including paddy) at 720 952 tonnes. This is 9.54 percent higher than last year but 27 percent lower than the five-year average. Cereals include maize (576 917 tonnes, up 5.83 percent), sorghum and millet (123 415 tonnes, up 26.71 percent) and rice (20 620 tonnes, up 32.12 percent). Production levels of cassava, the main staple food in the north, have been estimated at some 6.6 million tonnes (up 16.46 percent, fresh weight), a significant increase over last year.

The cereal import requirement for marketing year 2004/05 (April/March) is estimated at 820 000 tonnes, more than 11.5 percent over last year's level. Of that total, 642 000 tonnes will be commercially imported, leaving 178 000 tonnes to be covered by food aid.

According to Mission findings, the average number of people in need of food assistance per month during the period May 2004-April 2005 is approximately 1.12 million, a significant reduction compared with the previous year. This decrease reflects an improvement in living conditions as large numbers of IDPs and refugees return to their places of origin; some have harvested crops for two seasons now. The number of people requiring food assistance is expected to fall sharply following the 2005 harvest, as the second wave of returnees reaches self-sufficiency." (FAO, 6 August 2004).

" One month into the main harvest, the food security situation in the country shows some improvement over the previous year. Normal to above normal rainfall conditions, coupled with greater availability of seeds and larger areas under cultivation, resulted in an increase in cereal production of more than nine percent and about 16 percent increase in cassava production over the previous year. Concurrent with the increase in food production, the price of the basic food basket in the main capitals declined slightly, and results of nutritional surveys in selected areas also indicate some improvement.

However, aggregate food production remains below national requirements, because many of the returnee farming households arrived too late in their home areas to participate effectively in agricultural activities. In addition, key cereal production areas in parts of Huambo and Huila experienced substantial reduction in crop yields, precluding further increase in aggregate production.

With a cereal crop harvest estimated at between 700,000 and 720,000 MT and an additional 6.5 million MT of fresh cassava production, the country will need to import about 800,000 to 820,000 MT of cereals to cover the domestic consumption deficit during the 2004/05 marketing year (April 04 to March 05), some 16 percent more than the previous year."(FEWS, 8 August 2004).

Health and Nutrition

Public health situation in Angola remains critical (July 2003)

- Angola has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world
- Global malnutrition rates were less than five per cent in three locations in Huambo, Huila and Malanje Province
- Global malnutrition rates were between five and 10 per cent in 12 locations in the provinces of Benguela, Bié, Huila, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Sul and Malanje

"The overall public health situation in Angola remains critical, with one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. In addition, infant mortality exceeds 17% and the mortality rate for children under five is almost 30%. Preventable childhood diseases, particularly measles, claim the lives of more than 10,000 children per year. Of increasing alarm is the relatively high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in returning refugees. As Angola opens up to refugee returns, cross-border commerce, and internal population movements, the risk of rapid spread of the HIV virus increases.

In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided International Medical Corps (IMC) nearly \$2 million to support emergency health initiatives with medicines, vaccinations, medical supplies, and basic health training in Huambo, Uíge and Malanje provinces. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$500,000 support to Africare in Bié province, for collaboration with the Ministry of Health to extend cold chain coverage and vaccination support to recently accessed areas. In Moxico province, USAID/OFDA also provided nearly \$700,000 to GOAL to support public health interventions including improved maternal and child health support." (USAID, 9 May 2003)

"The general nutrition situation in the country has stabilised, although pockets of acute malnutrition remain. Partners continue to recommend active nutrition screening in communities and systematic screening at health facilities to detect pockets of malnutrition in a timely manner and treat cases of malnutrition at an early stage.

The Nutrition Coordination Sub-Group and UNICEF has compiled information from 15 nutritional surveys conducted with residents, IDPs, returnees, and families of demobilised soldiers in seven provinces between

November 2002 and April 2003. According to the surveys, global malnutrition rates were less than five per cent in three locations in Huambo, Huíla and Malanje Provinces and between five and 10 per cent in 12 locations in the provinces of Benguela, Bié, Huíla, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Sul and Malanje. The locations with severe malnutrition rates between one and three per cent were Kuito (Bié Province), Caconda and Chipindo (Huíla Province), Mavinga and Kuito Kuanavale (Kuando Kubango Province), Saurimo, Muconda, Dala and Cacolo (Lunda Sul Province), and Lombe (Malanje Province). The nutritional situation in many of these locations has reportedly improved since the end of the rainy season and following nutritional interventions by humanitarian partners.

In addition, the sub-group reported in June that during May, 21 centres, including therapeutic feeding centres and nutrition rehabilitation units in hospitals, treated severe malnutrition in eight provinces (Bié, Benguela, Huíla, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, Malanje, Moxico and Uíge. Although admissions levels in therapeutic feeding centres are at the lowest levels since before September 1999, the situation in several provinces, particularly Huambo and Huíla, should be closely monitored and screening coverage should be improved. The group also recommended that efforts should be made to maintain and improve skills on acute malnutrition screening and treatment at the provincial level. Source: Nutrition Coordination Sub-Group, June 2003" (UN OCHA, 10 July 2003)

Angola at high risk of polio re-infection(July 2003)

- Lack of funding threatens the fight against polio

"A lack of funding threatens the progress being made in the fight against polio in Angola, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has warned. In a statement released on Thursday, UNICEF said "although funds exist for the two planned NIDS [National Immunisations Days] of 2003, shortfalls endanger future campaigns". "We are winning the war against polio and the results are there to see, but we need continued international support. To stop support would be a disaster," UNICEF Representative Mario Ferrari was quoted as saying.

"Because of Angola's damaged infrastructure and weak capacity, we are obliged to rely on national immunisation campaigns," Ferrari added. He noted, however, that the World Health Organisation and UNICEF aimed "to shift more and more to routine vaccination, until campaigns are no longer needed". UNICEF said polio is "a cruel disease that leaves victims either paralytic or dead. Successive campaigns have put Angola in a position to defeat polio, though given the threat of 'importing' the virus from neighbouring countries, surveillance and vaccine levels must be maintained".

About 5 million children were expected to be vaccinated during Angola's first polio immunisation days during 2003, from July 25 to 27. "As the world moves closer to being declared polio-free, only seven countries continue to have proven cases of the disease. Six more, including Angola, are considered at high risk of polio re-infection," UNICEF said. The peace accord of 2002 meant that for the first time the ministry of health, with the support of UNICEF and WHO, could now "attack polio nationwide". Angola last experienced a polio outbreak in 1999, which saw more than 1,000 cases recorded. The number of polio cases had since dropped to just 55 recorded in 2000." (IRIN 24 July 2003)

Pockets of malnutrition (March 2003)

- Pockets of malnutrition, particularly in return sites where populations were unable to establish food security and basic social services are inadequate.
- Assessments in seven provinces in April 2002 all show very high levels of malnutrition, particularly in locations with influxes of IDPs
- One rapid screening of under-fives in Chipindo, Huila province, revealed a severe malnutrition rate of 64 percent
- Therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres are overcrowded and under-resourced

"The nutrition situation improved markedly compared with the first quarter of 2002. In the majority of areas, the number of severely malnourished children admitted at therapeutic feeding centres was lower than during the same period last year. Despite improvements in the overall situation, pockets of malnutrition continue to exist, particularly in return sites where populations were unable to establish food security and basic social services are inadequate. In the majority of these locations, mine infestation and poor road conditions prevented humanitarian organisations from conducting assessments and hampered the delivery of assistance. At the end of March, alarming levels of acute malnutrition were reported in at least 14 locations in Huambo, Kuando Kubango and Lunda Sul Provinces. Other pockets may exist in return sites where basic conditions are not in place or in locations not yet accessible to humanitarian agencies.

In Benguela Province, humanitarian partners conducted a nutritional survey among 900 children in accessible areas in Ganda Municipality. Survey results indicated global and severe malnutrition rates of 6.7 and 0.2 percent, respectively. In Cubal, the number of moderately malnourished children admitted at supplementary feeding centres increased, primarily as a result of expanded coverage of nutrition programmes.

In Bié Province, the nutritional situation in Kuito Municipality remained stable. Reports indicate that resident children were admitted at feeding centres in greater number than displaced children who benefit from food assistance. Attendance at feeding centres in Camacupa decreased. As a result, the therapeutic feeding centre was transferred to the municipal hospital.

In Huambo Province, a MUAC screening conducted in Mungo in February indicated global and severe malnutrition rates of 18.6 and 0.4 percent, respectively. Partners operating feeding centres in Bailundo expressed concern over alarming levels of malnutrition in Cassenge in Lunge Commune, as indicated by the high number of admissions of children arriving from this area. In Londuimbali, attendance at feeding centres remained high. In an effort reach isolated populations, partners established two additional mobile supplementary feeding centres.

In Huila Province, a nutritional survey in Chipindo and Galangue indicated an improvement in the nutrition situation. Global malnutrition rates among residents and populations living in the Galangue gathering areas were recorded at 5.8 and 5.2 percent, respectively, and severe malnutrition rates at 1.2 and 1.6 percent. In Caconda, attendance at feeding centres remained stable. Fifty percent of admissions at the centres were from Cusse, where many IDPs have returned to inaccessible areas where minimum conditions are not yet in place.

In Kuando Kubango Province, attendance at the therapeutic feeding centre in Mavinga decreased. Partners remain concerned that populations living in inaccessible areas continue to suffer from high levels of malnutrition.

In Malanje Province, nutritional screenings in Soquico in Cacuaco Municipality and Kiwaba Nzogi found low levels of malnutrition. In Soquico, three children out of 77 children were found with moderate malnutrition. In Kiwaba Nzogi, out of 171 children screened, eight were moderately malnourished and two were severely malnourished. Attendance at feeding centres in Malanje City remained low.

In Moxico Province, the number of children admitted at therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres in Luena remained low. As a result, two supplementary feeding centres were closed. Low levels of malnutrition were also reported in Cazombo and Luau." (UN OCHA, 30 March 2003)

"High levels of malnutrition were reported in a number of locations during April, 2002 particularly in areas where large numbers of malnourished IDPs continued to arrive. In hard-hit locations, including Camacupa, Caála, Luena and Negage, the capacity of feeding centres was severely strained. The Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs indicated that several locations, including Bunjei, Sanza Pombo, Chilemba and Chipindo, urgently require food assistance to malnourished populations.

In Bié Province, an assessment mission to Chitembo revealed global and severe malnutrition rates of 25.9 and 8.5 percent, respectively. More than 45 malnourished children were transported and admitted to the feeding centres in Kuito. In Cuamba, global and severe malnutrition rates of 22 and 6 percent, respectively, were found. A screening of new IDPs in Kuito indicated global malnutrition rates of 4.9 percent and 7.1 percent for adults and children, respectively. In Camacupa, the capacity of feedings centres was expanded from 400 to 650 persons to respond to the continual arrival of displaced persons in the municipality.

In Huambo Province, a nutritional survey of 900 children in Ekunha indicated a global and severe malnutrition rates of 8.9 and 1.4 percent, respectively. During the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs in Katchungo, Tchicala Tcholohanga and Londumbali, the results of mid - to upper-arm circumference (MUAC) screenings indicated a high proportion of severely malnourished children. A general food distribution in Tchilemba began as a result of the serious nutritional situation during recent months.

In Huila Province, inter-agency teams confirmed that health and nutritional conditions among the 14,000 persons in Bunjei are critical. A rapid nutritional screening indicated global and severe malnutrition rates of 26 and nine percent, respectively. Registration for an emergency general food distribution was carried out in Bunjei to address the nutritional situation of more than 9,000 people. Severely malnourished children from Bunjei continue to be referred to feeding centres in Caála. A critical nutritional situation was also found during the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs in Chipindo. A rapid screening indicated a severe malnutrition rate of 64 percent among children under five. More than 80 percent of the population, including adults, elderly and pregnant women, is moderately malnourished.

In Kuando Kubango Province, 74 malnourished individuals were transported from the Soba Matias quartering area to the therapeutic feeding centre (TFC) in Menongue.

In Kuanza Norte Province, preliminary results from a nutritional screening during the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs in Samba Caju indicated a serious nutritional situation for more than 760 newly arrived IDPs, with moderate and severe malnutrition reported as 10 and 7.9 percent, respectively. The assessment team reported ten percent moderate malnutrition in Camabatela.

In Malanje Province, attendance at therapeutic feeding centres increased as a result of the arrival of new displaced persons in poor nutritional condition. TFCs remain over-crowded, despite the construction of two new centres in Malanje town.

In Moxico Province, overall attendance at the supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres increased by more than 70 percent. During the second and third week April, the number of patients admitted to the TFCs increased from 248 to 305, with an average of 87 new admissions per week. As a result of overcrowded conditions in the existing TFC, new patients were admitted to a new centre still under construction. During the last two weeks of April, approximately 90 percent of the children receiving therapeutic feeding were displaced and humanitarian partners remain concerned about increasing cases of malnutrition among new arrivals.

In Uíge Province, nutritional screenings during the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs in Sanza Pombo indicated emergency levels of malnutrition. Among newly displaced populations, global and severe malnutrition rates were recorded at 77 and 56.5 percent, respectively. Resident populations appear to be more stable, with severe and moderate malnutrition rates of 3.5 and 7.5 percent, respectively. Humanitarian partners are making plans to urgently distribute food assistance. Partners reported that the nutritional situation at the Uíge SFC has gradually improved during the past few months. In Negage, the capacity of the SFC continues to be strained, primarily due to influxes of malnourished persons from Sanza Pombo." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

Morbidity and mortality rates remain high (March 2003)

- Cases of malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections increased as a result of seasonal rains during the first quarter of 2003
- Mortality rates remain at emergency levels in Benguela province
- All locations assessed following April 2002 ceasefire urgently require basic health care assistance
- Main causes of death include water-borne disease, malaria, diarrhoea and measles
- Aid agencies fear increase of tuberculosis patients among IDPs referred to nutritional centres

"Morbidity and mortality rates remain high, particularly in newly accessible or remote locations where populations do not have regular access to basic health care services, potable water and appropriate sanitation. During the first quarter, cases of malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections increased as a result of seasonal rains.

In Benguela Province, results from a survey conducted in March in Ganda and nearby areas indicated that mortality rates remain at emergency levels. Under-five and crude mortality rates were recorded at 2.5 and 1.2 deaths per 10,000 persons per day.

In Huíla Province, a survey conducted in Chipindo and Galangue during February indicated that mortality remain at emergency levels. Under-five and crude mortality rates among resident populations were recorded at 3.1 and 1.5 deaths per 10,000 persons per day.

In Lunda Sul Province and in Moxico Province, partners report alarming levels of mortality in Dala and Muconda and Léua Municipalities.

Vaccine preventable diseases continued to be reported, particularly in previously inaccessible areas where vaccination programmes have been either infrequent or non-existent.

According to information provided by the Centre of Epidemiological Surveillance of the Ministry of Health, 1,072 cases of measles and 63 related deaths were reported in 17 provinces between January and March. Overall, the number of measles cases registered during the first quarter, however, was significantly less than the number reported for the same period last year. The largest numbers of cases were recorded in the provinces Uíge (277 cases), Kuanza Sul (128 cases), Benguela (120 cases), Huambo (113 cases) and Huíla (112 cases). An outbreak of measles was reported in Bembe Municipality in Uíge Province during February.

A total of 297 cases of meningitis and 31 related deaths were reported in 15 provinces during the same period. The largest numbers of cases were reported in Luanda (111 cases), Huambo (55 cases), Lunda

Norte (28 cases) and Kuando Kubango (25 cases). An outbreak of meningitis was suspected in Cuango Municipality during February.

In several provinces, provincial authorities have reported shortages of essential drugs due to delayed procurement. According to partners, the provinces of Huila, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malanje, Uige and Zaire have been seriously affected by breaks in the essential drugs pipeline." (UN OCHA 30 March 2003)

"Morbidity and mortality rates remained high in most provinces, particularly in areas receiving influxes of IDPs. Initial findings from the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs indicate that all locations assessed urgently require basic health care assistance, including medical supplies, essential medicines, staff and repaired infrastructure.

In Benguela Province, humanitarian partners in Canjala, approximately 90 km north of Lobito, reported an increase in the number of deaths from 3-4 to 7-8 per day, particularly among malnourished IDP children and elderly. The main cause of death is water-borne disease. Provincial authorities and agencies will provide essential medicines and reinforce the two existing community kitchens.

In Bié Province, an assessment conducted in mid April in Chitembo indicated that mortality levels are high, with crude and under five mortality rates recorded at 5.1 deaths per 10,000 persons per day and 5.5 deaths per 10,000 children per day, respectively.² Less than 45 percent of the screened children under five have been vaccinated against measles. Health facilities lack basic medical supplies and medicines, personnel and water and sanitation.

In Cunene Province, provincial authorities report that morbidity and mortality rates remain high, with malaria and diarrhoea reported as the primary causes of death. The incidence of measles and meningitis has decreased due to recent vaccination campaigns in the most affected municipalities, including Cuvelai and Namacunde.

In Huambo Province, a survey conducted in Ekunha indicated crude and under five mortality rates of 0.5 deaths per 10,000 persons per day and 1.2 deaths per 10,000 children per day, respectively.³ The primary causes of death among children include malaria and measles.

In Kuanza Norte Province, preliminary results from the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs indicated a crude mortality rate of 3.8 deaths per 10,000 persons per day among resident and displaced populations in Samba Caju.

In Kuanza Sul Province, humanitarian organisations report that new arrivals from Chimoma and Khimbungo locations are in poor health and nutritional state.

In Lunda Sul Province, IDPs arriving in Saurimo report that at least four persons are dying per day in Xassengue and Cucumbi communes in Cacolo Municipality, due to food insecurity and lack of assistance to soldiers and families moving to quartering areas.

In Moxico Province, mortality rates in Muacanhica and Muachimbo camps remain high, particularly among populations arriving from Lussi, due to the poor health status of new arrivals and insufficient capacity to respond to growing health needs. Humanitarian partners reported 33 deaths in Muacanhica camp during April and a crude mortality rate of 1.45 per 10,000 persons per day. The incidence of malnutrition and skin diseases is high among arrivals from Cangumbe, Bundas and Muangai. In Luena, three suspected cases of tuberculosis have been reported in the therapeutic feeding centre.

Organisations fear an increase of tuberculosis patients among displaced persons referred to nutritional centres and have recommended improved monitoring. Vaccination campaigns reached approximately 102,000 children in the municipality of Moxico, Leua, Camanongue, Cazombo, Lumbala Ngiumbo, Luau and Kuembo (Bié Province)." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

Malaria, measles and tuberculosis account for most of the infant and adult mortality (June 2004)

- At the height of the emergency in 2002, more than two million Angolans were on the brink of survival
- Lack of health clinics, latrine system, access to medicines more than two years later
- The average rate of acute malnutrition dropped from 20 – 25% to approximately 10% in surveyed areas during the first quarter of 2003

"Overall, the daily living conditions of the rural populations reflect their extreme poverty. It is estimated that only 57 percent of rural villages and towns function with a latrine system. Health clinics and personnel are scarce throughout the country. Access to medicine is often nonexistent because of high cost combined with very expensive and inconvenient transportation from the cities to the villages. About 80 percent of the population has no access to essential drugs. Malaria, measles, tuberculosis, and other diseases account for most of the infant and adult mortality. The HIV/AIDS pandemic is spreading through uninformed or passive populations: 54.4 percent of communities consider that nothing can be done to avoid being infected with the virus. Water – often unsafe for drinking – must be carried long distances. Only 10.8 percent of the population has access to a protected water source." (UNOCHA, 15 June 2004)

"The humanitarian situation improved significantly in 2003. At the height of the emergency in 2002, more than two million Angolans were on the brink of survival and at least three million were receiving direct humanitarian assistance. One year later, conditions had stabilised in all the areas where humanitarian agencies had uninterrupted access.

At the beginning of 2003, approximately half a million people were estimated to be in critical need and living in isolated areas as a result of poor road conditions and mine infestation. During the dry season, access improved significantly. Inter-Sectoral Mobile Teams, alongside security and mine action teams, assessed 174 areas, including emergency pockets and resettlement and return sites. In all areas where critical needs were identified, humanitarian operations were launched. The average rate of acute malnutrition dropped from 20 – 25% to approximately 10% in surveyed areas during the first quarter of 2003. However, moderate and severe malnutrition is still present in areas where access is problematic during the rainy season. Malnutrition is not due solely to lack of food, but to a combination of factors including infectious diseases and inadequate access to health facilities and services. Immunisation coverage for measles and polio has increased, mainly due to the undertaking of nationwide vaccination campaigns throughout 2003 including in newly accessible areas.

The year 2003 marked a significant turning point in the focus and scope of humanitarian activities in Angola. In addition to providing life-saving assistance to pockets where critical needs persisted, many humanitarian partners enlarged the scope of their activities in support of war-affected populations so as to enable them achieve self-sufficiency. At the same time, the reduction in the number of people necessitating assistance allowed humanitarian organisations to begin focusing on gradually improving the delivery of basic social services in the areas where approximately 3.8 million people, including Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), returnees and demobilised soldiers and their families had returned and resettled." (UN OCHA, 18 November 2003 pp. 4-5)

"Severe and moderate malnutrition is becoming less common in accessible areas. In many provinces emergency feeding centres are reporting a steady fall in admissions. In some provinces NGOs are preparing to hand over emergency feeding centres to health officials. Treatment procedures are being mainstreamed to be in line with normal health services. Health and nutrition concerns in inaccessible areas continue, especially with the onset of the rains and the so-called "lean season". Risk reduction campaigns concerning

malaria are underway in many provinces, supported by the distribution of mosquito nets. The decision of the President of the Republic to chair the first National Commission on HIV AIDS will assist in raising the profile and the fight against the disease in Angola." (UN OCHA, 16 December 2003)

Lack of drugs and competent health worker main obstacles for public health in areas of return (July 2004)

- Reductions in funding induce premature handover from NGOs to municipal level health centres in areas of return
- Approximately 11,000 children with moderate malnutrition are currently attending supplementary feeding centres
- Around 1,000 children affected by severe acute malnutrition

"Since April,[2004] WHO and MINSA have been warning of potential rupture in the essential drugs pipeline in July. Breaks have been confirmed in Moxico, Bié, Kuando Kubango, Huila, Benguela and Lunda Norte and partners are projecting a widespread rupture throughout the country, particularly in Huambo, Malanje and Lunda Sul.

Even where some improvements have been made in the availability of essential drug kits such as in Huila province, the capacity and quality of technical staff managing health posts continues to be low. Nationwide, adequate supply of drugs and competent health worker staffing is the main obstacle to MINSA's effort to support Provincial Health Directorates in organising and rebuilding the peripheral health network. Professional training and the rational use of essential drugs remains the most important challenge in the rural areas where the low profile of health staff often means prescriptions and diagnosis are not correctly combined.

Health partners are also concerned that reductions and delays in funding during the transition phase are disrupting capacity building efforts and forcing premature handover from NGOs to municipal level health centres. For example, in Bié, despite concerns of lack of capacity amongst the MINSA staff, lack of essential products and staff that doesn't receive a regular salary, MSF-Belgium is handing over an SFC where 250 children are under treatment due to lack of funds to maintain the programme. This trend is happening not only in areas of nutrition, but in other health projects as well.[...]

Despite a stabilised nutritional situation overall, child malnutrition rates remain elevated. Approximately 11,000 children with moderate malnutrition are currently attending supplementary feeding centres and a monthly admittance of around 1,000 of children affected by severe acute malnutrition is still being recorded. The National Nutrition Programme (PNN), working jointly with the Expanded Programme for Immunisation Unit, is implementing an Integrated Management of Child Illness (IMCI) programme, with two key interventions focused on the long-term management of child malnutrition: child-growth monitoring and vitamin A supplements.

Vitamin A supplements for breast-feeding mothers and children between 6 months and 5 years old not only strengthens the child's immune system but also helps fight the most common diseases that contribute to malnutrition: diarrhoea, malaria and acute respiratory infections. Using a house-to-house strategy, approximately 5 million children will be reached with both polio immunisation and Vitamin A supplements in the next round of National Immunisation Days on 23-25 July and 20-22 August. Planning began mid-June in all 18 provinces, with technical and financial support from the UN.

In conjunction with routine vaccination and Vitamin A supplements, regular child-growth monitoring will be revitalised in the health facilities in least 25 municipalities. Training and information materials for health staff operating are being prepared to ensure a uniformed approach in training staff and to facilitate the implementation process.

There was an outbreak of acute diarrhoeal infections in Malanje town resulting from drinking contaminated water. More than 300 cases were registered in May and June, 80 percent of them in children under 5 years. Oxfam responded with a three-month supply of chlorine for public water sources but the government will need to take over the chlorination process."(UNOCHA, 1 July 2004)

Water and sanitation

Water treatment plant supplying Luanda can go out of action any time (July 2003)

- A number of smaller holes have been detected in the pipes carrying water to Luanda

"Luanda's Water supply company, EPAL, has warned that System 2 of Kifangondo's water treatment plant could go out of action at any time.

The warning, published by Angop on 16 June, stated that at least seven big holes and a number of smaller holes have been detected in the pipes carrying water to Luanda.

At full flow System 2 of Kifangondo can deliver 140,000 cubic metres of water, but much of this is lost in leaks. The report states that in the past the station halted water supply 88 times, 75 times due to electricity failure and six due to leaks.

In May the government announced that it intended to take action to improve the maintenance of the main pumping groups of Systems 1 and 2, and improve the distribution network. The government vented its frustration that despite huge investments over the last four years, there remained an acute water shortage in Luanda."(Action for Southern Africa, 3 July 2003)

Shelter and non-food items

More than 84,000 newly displaced persons in various locations are in urgent need of shelter and essential survival items (March 2002)

"More than 84,000 newly displaced persons in Bocoio, Caconda, Camacupa, Cruzeiro, Huambo, Kuito, Luena, Matala and Wako Kungo are in urgent need of essential survival items and appropriate shelter. With the exception of IDPs in Kuito, where water and sanitation interventions are ongoing, these same populations lack access to basic water and sanitation. A direct correlation exists between inadequate shelter, contaminated water sources, unhygienic faecal disposal and high levels of malnutrition, morbidity and mortality in these areas. Urgent funding is required to reinforce the pipeline for non-food items. Support is also required to increase agency capacity for transporting essential non-food items, shelter materials and water and sanitation equipment to critical areas." (UN OCHA 7 March 2002)

Internally displaced persons live in crowded camps, in derelict buildings, and in and underneath train carriages (1998-2000)

- Displaced populations generally live in crowded mud house shanty towns

- Huts are clustered together in areas of about 10,000 houses
- In transit centre in Caala, displaced living in and under train carriages
- Other displaced persons reside in derelict buildings

"During his [the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Francis M. Deng] visit to the province of Huambo, the Representative saw both the problems and prospects facing the internally displaced. In a transit centre in the town of Caala, the internally displaced were found to be living in appalling conditions, in a derelict building and in and underneath two train carriages. The Representative was struck by the overriding sense of despair and depression amongst the displaced." (UNHCHR 10 November 2000, para. 8)

"Q. It's estimated that some 2 million Angolans are displaced within the country, many of them living in camps for internally displaced people (IDPs). Describe an IDP camp.

A. There are thousands of predominantly mud houses spread all over once-cultivated hillsides. The houses are mostly arranged in lines and, as more IDPs arrive, they become burgeoning neighborhoods with little space. There are pathways. The houses have grass roofs, some are covered by plastic. They are one room and very close together – about four feet between houses. They are usually clustered, in areas of about 10,000 houses. The hillsides, which used to be all green with vegetation, are now covered with huts. From a distance, they look like the tops of igloos. All camps have open areas, all defoliated, for football, or where there are clinics and a meeting hall. Some people have been there for seven years, but most camps have been built since February 1999." (CARE 11 September 2000, Question 3)

"In the inland cities [in the areas controlled by the government,] many IDPs live in abandoned buildings or with friends or relatives. Many of the displaced on the coast live in shanties thrown up on the outskirts of towns, or in camps set up away from the cities themselves.

[...]

In the capital of Moxico province, Luena, a town of 150,000, some 60,000 people are estimated to be internally displaced from other areas of Angola. They have taken over several municipal buildings, including the old seminary, cinema, museum and railway station. The World Food Programme distributes some food and health care. The living conditions of the people are miserable, their motivation to return home poor; they remain socially isolated in ghettoized buildings in the town centre." (Vines 1998, p. 92)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Almost one million returning IDPs and resident children have enrolled in primary school in 2004 (June 2004)

- 29,000 new teachers recruited to absorb the returning IDPs and refugees.
- Education project will help slash the number of those under the age of 11 - who are not in school, from 1.1 million now to 100,000
- At the start of this year, 44 percent of children did not get any basic primary education
- The government and UNICEF can take the number of children out of school down to four percent

"The 2004 school year has seen a massive increase in student numbers by almost one million primary school children. This achievement is the result of the Government's effort to reform and expand the education system for 2004-2005. In addition, in order to improve and ensure availability of quality primary education, the Ministry of Education and UNICEF elaborated a national capacity building plan. Aiming to improve pedagogical skills, some of the 29,000 new teachers recruited last year will participate in the newly elaborated teaching modules.

Despite significant strides within the educational sector, additional efforts are required to ensure that primary education is available in all communities receiving returnees and refugees. Continued support is needed for the mapping of schools as well as to mobilise communities and parents' associations to construct additional schools and rehabilitate classrooms. Portuguese as second language training modules have been prepared by the Ministry of Education and UNICEF and technical teams are needed to teach and disseminate the modules at the provincial level. Learning materials need to be distributed to some 400,000 students. In order to achieve 2004 CAT objectives, continued support for education planning at the provincial level, including monitoring and supervision of new teachers, and policy development for adolescents, especially girls, excluded from schools is required." (UNOCHA, 15 June 2004)

"In preparation for the start of the academic year in February,[2004] 20,000 teachers throughout the 18 provinces were trained in 352 local training seminars put on by the Ministry of Education (MINED) with support from UNICEF and financing from Norwegian and Italian governments.

Humanitarian partners in the education sector have sent out an alert on the lack of basic educational materials in the provinces, particularly in communities opening or expanding schools for returnee children. UNICEF's donated didactic materials will only cover 3,400 classrooms, or less than 10 percent of actual needs. The Government announced it would be distributing material though no exact figures on the quantities or numbers of beneficiaries were available. Even so, UNICEF doubts that necessary material will arrive before May due to rainy season access problems." (UN OCHA, 31 January 2004)

"Angola made one of its biggest peacetime strides on Monday as education experts set the wheels in motion to train 29,000 new teachers, with the aim of getting one million children back into the classroom.

The massive US \$40 million-plus project will help slash the number of grade one to four children -- those under the age of 11 - who are not in school, from 1.1 million now to 100,000, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

"This \$40 million and the engagement of the Ministry of Education mean that with international assistance, Angola can cut its number of first-level children out of school by 90 percent," said UNICEF representative Mario Ferrari. "We must seize this opportunity. Angola has already lost two generations of children to war."

Angola's Ministry of Education, whose spending on schooling was woefully inadequate during the three decades of civil war, is ploughing \$40 million into the project to pay for the salaries of the teachers. UNICEF is funding and organising their training.

The war destroyed at least 4,000 classrooms in Angola. At the start of this year, 44 percent of children did not get any basic primary education. UNICEF hopes this will drop to four percent on the back of the education drive, which has the potential to initiate Africa's biggest education push in 2004.

"The government and UNICEF can take the number of children out of school down to four percent. That's a phenomenal number, but there's a lot of work to go with it," said UNICEF spokesman James Elder.

Mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles have worked to build local schools for their kids. Even if it is only a mud hut, it is a place to learn and creates a sense of ownership and pride in the communities.

With 70 percent of the 13 million population under the age of 24, nurturing and educating the young was "absolutely critical" to rebuilding a nation devastated by three decades of war, Elder told IRIN." (UN OCHA, 27 October 2003)

Increased demand for basic education as result of large scale return movements

- More than one million children remained out of the educational system at the beginning of the school year in February 2003
- The majority of 30,000 new teachers had not been incorporated into the Ministry of Education's roster by the beginning of the school year 2002-2003 due to technical constraints
- 70 percent of children in newly accessible areas do not attend school
- Educational facilities are poor or non-existent in many communities
- Adult literacy rates are well below the regional average

"The demand for basic education has risen sharply, particularly for school-age children, as a result of increased access and large-scale return movements. Recent estimates from the Government indicate that more than one million children remained out of the educational system at the beginning of the school year in February, despite the efforts of provincial authorities and humanitarian organisations to strengthen the education sector for the new academic year. Educational opportunities remained limited in many areas, due to the combination of inadequate education facilities, lack of teachers, low levels of teacher training and lack of didactic materials.

Although education authorities had successfully identified approximately 30,000 new teachers by the beginning of the school year, the majority of these teachers had not been incorporated into the Ministry of Education's roster due to technical constraints. As a result, many teachers were not able to begin working or receive salaries and a number of children were unable to start the school year in a timely manner.

Poor teacher training continues to affect professional performance and contribute to low educational standards. In many newly accessible and return sites, the majority of newly identified teachers have only six or seven years of primary education and lack training and pedagogical experience.

In many communities, particularly in return sites where basic conditions are not yet in place, education facilities are in poor condition or non-existent. In many provinces, poor road conditions during the seasonal rains hampered the efforts of provincial authorities to construct and rehabilitate educational infrastructure. (UN OCHA 30 March 2003)

"At least 80 percent of all Angolan children do not have access to adequate education and more than one million children are outside the formal school system. In newly accessible areas, seven out of ten children do not attend school. Virtually all children who are temporarily or permanently outside the school system do not have access to other learning opportunities, including non-formal education, literacy classes or vocational training. The majority of refugee children returning from neighbouring countries have participated in education systems with different accreditation standards, which may delay integration into the Angolan school system. Educational facilities are in poor condition or non-existent in many communities. Learning is adversely affected by shortages of didactic materials and trained teachers. In addition, salaries are low and often late, discouraging teachers from entering the profession. Adult literacy rates are well below the regional average, particularly among women, 50 percent of whom cannot read or write." (UN, November 2002, p28)

Teacher shortage highlights need to rebuild the country's education system (July 2003)

- Teacher shortage
- 9,000 children in western Benguela province were not attending school

"A report on Thursday that 9,000 children in a district of Angola's western Benguela province were not attending school due to a teacher shortage has served to highlight the urgent need to rebuild the country's education system, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said.

UN figures show that following three decades of war, about 45 percent of Angolan children do not go to school.

In response, UNICEF earlier this year embarked on a back-to-school campaign in the two central-highlands provinces of Bie and Malanje province in the north. About 250,000 children went back to school under the programme, and UNICEF and the education ministry formalised the training of 4,000 teachers.

On Thursday the official news agency Angola Press (ANGOP) reported that at least 9,000 children in the Cubal district of Benguela province were not in school because of a shortage of teachers. Education official Victorino Kamundondo was quoted as saying the district needed around 320 new teachers.

UNICEF spokesman James Elder told IRIN the state of affairs in Benguela was symptomatic of the larger problems in the education system in Angola.

"The situation in Benguela is not a surprise to UNICEF, there's a lack of schools and a terrible lack of teachers in Angola. We hope, and are confident, that government has seen the value of the back-to-school campaign that has led to the announcement that government had budgeted US \$40 million for 29,000 teachers for 2004," Elder said.

This would go a long way in assisting the ministry of education and UNICEF "to put in place processes that will solve the problem".

However, there was still much to do. The teachers to be recruited out of the US \$40 million funding "are going to have to be trained".

Elder said most teachers in Angola "have an education level of around grade 8 or grade 9, so you need to give these teachers some basic knowledge of teaching methodologies".

UNICEF hoped to take the back-to-school campaign nationwide, "we hope government's budgetary pledge will allow UNICEF and the ministry of education to do that".

"In a country that has had so much war, children going back to school has a critical stabilising effect [on society]," Elder added." (IRIN 24 July 2003)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Self-reliance

Changing coping mechanisms of IDPs (November 2002)

- Majority of IDPs adapt their coping mechanisms and income-generating skills to each stage of displacement - including return to areas of origin, which can be a particularly demanding time

"The majority of newly arriving IDPs are absorbed into host communities. Local residents typically share food and other resources with the arrivals and often help them secure some form of income-generation. In Luanda, new IDPs usually settle with their relatives, before moving to peri-urban neighbourhoods, where population densities and land prices are lower. Within a few months, displaced populations try to diversify their income sources, either by seeking jobs in town or near-by agricultural fields or by producing charcoal and collecting and selling firewood. When IDPs return to their areas of origin, most families send the male members to construct a shelter while the women remain behind with the children. After the shelters are completed, the men return to stay with the children, while the women go to the sites to prepare land for planting. If the return site is near, family members travel frequently between the two locations, collecting assistance and working or trading at the current residence, while planting and cultivating at the new site. If the return site is isolated, families have fewer opportunities to increase their income and are often forced to adopt stringent coping mechanisms to ensure that basic food requirements are covered, including reducing consumption and sending children to relatives in urban centres." (UN, November 2002, p25)

Majority of IDPs are absorbed by overstretched host communities (2001-2002)

- Resident populations have been forced to bear the social burdens caused by massive levels of displacement

"Virtually all newly displaced persons in Angola are destitute, having lost both individual and communal assets during displacement, as well as their normal means of livelihood. In the absence of sustained and effective Government services, resident populations have been forced to shoulder the social burden caused by the massive levels of displacement. The overwhelming majority of displaced persons continue to be absorbed into host communities, placing additional strains on the coping capacities of already-poor families and intensifying competition for meagre resources, including land, employment and income-generating opportunities. Basic infrastructures in provincial and municipal centres remain weak or non-existent and most displaced and resident populations have only limited access to minimum services, including potable water, sanitation, health care and primary education. The majority of households lack survival items including soap, oil, sugar and salt, and in areas where coping mechanisms are collapsing and social roles are under stress, family and community violence is increasingly common." (UN November 2001)

Vast majority of IDPs found assistance and support with host families in urban areas (January 2004)

- Help was generally given for a few weeks
- In provincial capitals many IDPs had to look for different kinds of accommodation

- In Luanda, many were forced to adapt quickly to the capital's economy, becoming street vendors and participating in petty commercial businesses
- Camp residents always enjoyed some humanitarian assistance mainly delivered by UN operational agencies or national and international non-governmental organizations
- A third distinct group of IDPs found shelter in rundown warehouses, abandoned public buildings or temporary sheds

2,657,000 vulnerable Angolans(July 2003)

- Food insecurity is currently concentrated in Mavinga in Kuando Kubango Province and in isolated rural communities of the Planalto (Bié and Huambo Provinces)

"On 26 June, the Vulnerability Analysis and Food Aid Working Group presented the results of the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) conducted in 12 provinces between November 2002 - April 2003. The assessment was based on provincial vulnerability assessments conducted by representatives of the Government, UN Agencies and NGOs in the provinces of Bengo, Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Huíla, Kuando Kubango, Kuanza Norte, Kuanza Sul, Lunda Sul, Malanje, Moxico and Uíge. Assessments contained information on markets, agricultural production and population movements and included residents, IDPs, returnees and socially vulnerable groups.

The assessment concluded that 2,657,000 Angolans are vulnerable and currently require food assistance or may require assistance in the future.

This number includes:

- 1,028,000 food insecure persons who are currently in need of assistance
- 865,000 additional people in need of assistance during the lean season
- 447,000 people who may need assistance
- 317,000 people will need assistance only if exposed to a negative shock

The vulnerable population includes the following groups:

- 1,403,000 returnees
- 763,000 vulnerable residents
- 266,000 IDPs
- 138,000 resettled persons
- 86,000 persons who belong to socially vulnerable groups, such as orphans or the elderly

Overall results indicate that food insecurity is currently concentrated in Mavinga in Kuando Kubango Province and in isolated rural communities of the Planalto (Bié and Huambo Provinces). The report also suggests that food insecurity will be much more widespread during the lean season and that rural areas in all provinces will need some sort of support as food stocks are depleted." (UN OCHA 10 July 2003)

Immediate challenge is to revive farming systems (2003)

- Households have many elderly or young people to care for
- A family in poor health is not going to be able to achieve food security.

Interview with CARE country director

"Food security, for both rural and urban populations, is key for post-conflict Angola as it transitions from humanitarian aid to a development agenda. IRIN spoke to CARE Country Director Douglas Steinberg on the new challenges confronting the government, development agencies and the donor community.

QUESTION: Humanitarian agencies warn that without assistance, most of Angola's war-affected population returning to their homes will find it difficult to meet even their most basic food needs. What are the key problems the returnees are facing in trying to achieve food security?

ANSWER: The resettling population consists of internally displaced people, former UNITA soldiers and their families, and returning refugees. All of these people are destitute, and they return with few assets to communities where nothing remains. Although many continue to have access to food assistance, much of this aid is not being provided in their home communities. The immediate challenge is to revive farming systems, but farmers – who are now mostly women – possess few inputs. Seeds and tools are scarce, but labour is also scarce. In some areas, fully half of the households are headed by women. Many other households have high dependency ratios, that is, many elderly or young people to care for. Much of the land has been fallow for years, and it will require a considerable amount of work to put it back into production. The lack of labour, seeds and tools (not to mention animal traction), are all obstacles to achieving food security in the near future.

As more land is being farmed, families will encounter problems with mines. Land that is known to be mine infested will remain off-limits, though there will inevitably be accidents. The extent of this problem is unknown because health services are unable to capture and collate this information. As farmers begin to search for more mine-free land, there will be conflict over access to traditionally communal lands, or between communities and the absentee owners of the large "fazendas".

Aside from food production, families returning to rural areas have several other immediate needs. These include access to clean water and health care. In most rural areas, for example, health posts have been destroyed or abandoned. They need to be repaired, re-equipped, re-stocked with medicines, and staffed. Many of the health care staff need refresher training. And communities need to be involved and trained in the management of their health care systems. Clearly, a family in poor health is not going to be able to achieve food security.

A decent primary health care system is also critical to stemming the growing risk of HIV infection, as well as to helping families care for people living with the infection. Many of the factors that contribute to a rapid rise in infection rates currently exist in Angola – a highly mobile population, deep poverty, armed forces, inadequate health services for treating other sexually transmitted infections, and social stigma related to discussing or coming out publicly with HIV/AIDS. Although Angola's HIV infection rate is lower than neighbouring countries, the country is poised for the "new variant famine" that other southern African countries are now experiencing. (IRIN, 28 April 2003)

Solidarity amongst IDPs can be lacking in peri-urban environments (May 2001)

- Solidarity in peri-urban environments is fragile at best
- People must move to whichever barrios have space, meaning that communities do not necessarily stay together
- Social cohesion weak; networks few and fragile

Excerpt taken from Paul Robson study of community structures in peri-urban Angola:

"The study revealed that traditional institutions, including traditional institutions of solidarity, even in rural areas, had been transformed in the last 100 years mainly due to processes linked to colonial occupation, the

growing influence of Christianity and the de-stabilisation of rural areas by low-intensity conflict in the last 25 years. This transformation was most marked in the west-central areas of the country, the areas of the Ambundu and Ovimbundu language groups, which have been most affected by colonisation and low-intensity conflict. These areas are also the ones that were the main origin of migratory flows to the cities included in this study. This means that a considerable part of the migrants to the cities brought with them institutions that probably were not as vigorous as had been thought at the start of the study.

Moreover, the social heterogeneity of a large part of peri-urban areas has not allowed traditional rites and institutions to continue among people living close to each other, given that these traditions were not shared by neighbours. People from the same area do not necessarily arrive in the city at the same time. While most migration is ultimately due to displacement because of war and insecurity, migratory flows to the cities are very complex. Migration takes place in times of (relative) peace as well as in times of war. Migration and displacement often take place in stages, and many displaced people have been forced to move a number of times. Not all migration is of large groups of people and, even when people set out as a group, the tendency is for the group to break up during the journey or at each stage.

Other factors explaining the social heterogeneity of these areas are the intense movements of people between *barrios*, particularly to adjust to rising rents and house prices, and the variable and constantly changing morphology of peri-urban areas. People say that 'where you manage to find a space is where you have to live' and thus 'the people are mixed together'. In all the three cities studied (Luanda, Huambo and Lubango) neighbors may be from different regions, from different towns or villages, of different economic levels and have lived in the *barrio* for a different length of time.

Social heterogeneity has consequences for the density and extension of social networks. Trusting social relations are not necessarily established with neighbours and relationships with neighbours are often loose, with the result that local social cohesion is weak and social networks are few and fragile. 'Neighbourliness is not usual.' Social networks exist, but usually they are not built on relations between neighbors." (Robson and Roque May 2001, Solidarity in peri-urban areas)

For more information on social support in peri-urban areas, see Robson and Roque report entitled "Here in the city, everything has to be paid for: locating the community in peri-urban Angola" as well as Communities and Reconstruction in Angola – both available from the Development Workshop – Angola.

Many IDPs rely on kinship and other informal networks to make ends meet (2000-2001)

- Displaced persons living within resident communities are often hosted by members of the same kinship network
- Limited resources among host populations mean that aid to IDPs is not always forthcoming
- Assets, including humanitarian aid, are often sold or exchanged as part of coping strategies of displaced populations

Excerpt taken Andrade study conducted in 1996-1997 regarding the perception of IDPs about the assistance they received from resident communities during initial periods of flight:

"There are different opinions about the aid that others gave them, or might have given them, while they were fleeing. Some of the interviewees think that lack of support in circumstances like this should be seen in the context of the shortages from which the whole country suffers: it is not possible to give things you do not have. But others consider that this was not always the real reason. In some cases this is linked to the double lives people have led, whereby communities, groups, and individuals were (and may still be) having to accommodate both parties to the conflict. For example, the Cuale Group was going from

Massango towards the south of Malanje Province at a time when the war had not yet spread to the whole province. Many inhabitants of areas along the route did not want to 'compromise themselves' with people coming from an unknown place, for unknown reasons, and with an unknown destination. In certain cases (for example, the Tumbulo Group) displaced people decided to skirt round any kind of human settlement. The reasons were the same – they did not know who was there, who they were, or which 'side' they were on. It also happened that while some took this position, others used this situation to gain something for themselves; taking advantage of people who were already in difficult circumstances, and were easier to exploit." (Andrade 2001, sects. 4, 5.3)

"At the Damba Maria camp along this road [Benguela province], hundreds of formerly displaced people from the nearby town of Chongoroi live on untended ground, with little sign of agriculture nearby. Now settled for too long to qualify for food relief, these people rely on informal networks, fishing and distant and difficult agricultural or ruban work to feed their families. Much of the land around them is owned by others, who have let it lie in fallow." (Reuters 28 December 2000)

"The massive level of internal displacement in Angola has intensified the degree of poverty at the same time that it has forced additional people into outright destitution. Displaced people living within resident communities are usually hosted by families from the same kinship network. With the majority of the Angolan population living at, or below, the poverty line, however, resources in most households are limited and can be extended very little without creating further hardship. During the past eight years, agencies estimate that a majority of host households have become destitute as scarce assets are shared among larger numbers of people. Although international assistance is provided to registered IDPs, most host families do not qualify for aid, unfortunately cut off from services that would help to sustain their households." (UN November 2000, p. 10)

"Although the pace of resettlement initiatives increased during the [reporting] period, the majority of displaced populations in the country, whether living in transit centres, camps or among resident communities, do not yet have access to adequate agricultural land. Most displaced persons continue to survive through a combination of kinship exchange, petty-commodity production, selling of charcoal and firewood, food preparation and brewing. Assets, including emergency items provided by aid agencies, are routinely exchanged or sold as part of the coping strategies of the populations." (UNSC 10 October 2000)

For more information on coping strategies of internally displaced persons, see Filomena Andrade study in Communities and Reconstruction in Angola available from the Development Workshop - Angola.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP

Documentation

Campaign to register returnees (March 2004)

- Campaign hampered by logistical problems
- 3.8 million children have been registered by the end of March 2004
- Suggested free birth registration for all children under five years of age
- Many of the internally displaced Angolans did not have identity documents
- IDPs have to pay to get identity documents

"Logistical problems at the municipal level were frequently raised during the reporting period as a significant limiting factor in the campaign to register children and complete the documentation of returnees. The latest figures of the Birth Registration Campaign indicate that a total of to 3.8 million children (by the end of March 2004) have been registered since the campaign commenced in August 2002. Despite the positive results of the campaign, it is estimated that 4.4 million children remain to be registered, as well as daily newborns. To address the residual cases of the campaign, participants recommended the adoption of a free birth registration policy for all children under five years of age, as well as the establishment of a special provision to allow free birth registration of all children in the provinces and sites not covered by the campaign. A technical task force was officially established by the Minister of Justice, to come up with recommendations regarding the post campaign policy for birth registration in Angola." (UNOCHA, 1 April 2004)

"[...] a great many Angolans lack the identity documents that would enable them, as a practical matter, to make their claim to the rights of citizenship. The participants [at a conference on Angola which took place in Geneva in October 2003] encouraged the Government to continue the process of registration without fee, which has already taken place for 160,000 Angolans. And since many areas in the country's interior lack a functioning justice system, monitoring and reporting mechanisms to detect rights violations and mechanisms to protect individuals from abuses such as sexual violence must be strengthened." (Brookings Institution, 4 November 2003)

"Many of the internally displaced Angolans interviewed by Human Rights Watch did not have identity documents that would allow them to establish their names, familial status, age, nationality, place of origin, or other identifying features.

The pervasive lack of identity documents violates Principle 20 of the Guiding Principles that stresses the importance of issuing new documentation or replacing documentation for internally displaced persons so that they may exercise their right to recognition as persons before the law. The Angolan legislation also sets forth this important right in Article 12 of the implementing procedures.

Documentation is often the basis upon which individuals can enjoy other human rights. This is why it is such an important gap to be filled for displaced Angolans. Those without identity documents may be prevented from accessing education, humanitarian aid, medical or social services. They also may be prevented from voting or otherwise participating in Angola's political future.

Rosita D. and Marcelina B., both internally displaced women living in Bengo II, a transit center in the province of Uíge, told Human Rights Watch why they thought documents were important:

Our children received IDs. They were registered. We don't have registration ourselves. We don't have any official documents. During the war, to go to Bengo [the transit center, not the province] we had to go

through three different checkpoints. The only document we had was a card from the Jesuit Refugee Service, with no picture. If the checkpoints are put in practice again, we will have to identify ourselves. We will need IDs. We will need documentation for a lot of things. We cannot vote without IDs.

Geraldo F., who is nineteen-years-old, further explained to Human Rights Watch the difficulties in getting a new ID.

I don't have an ID. To get an ID, we have to pay. It costs about 300 Kwanzas [approximately U.S.\$4.60] and another 100 Kwanzas [approximately U.S.\$1.53] to take the photo and have the civil registration. If I had money, I would pay to get an ID.

In the past, Human Rights Watch has found that a lack of identity documentation has facilitated harassment by the authorities, especially the national police. Arbitrary beatings and arrests occur when the displaced are unable to present personal identification documents to the police and are unable to bribe their way out. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to assaults, including sexual violence, by policemen and soldiers located in road control posts when on their way to and from isolated agricultural areas or when collecting water." (HRW, 15 August 2003)

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Family unity

Up to 100,000 children are separated from their families - countrywide (March 2003)

- Provinces with the highest numbers of separated children include Bié, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, Malanje and Moxico

"According to Government figures, approximately 100,000 children are separated from their families countrywide, 60 percent of whom have been registered by the Family Localisation and Reunification Programme of the Ministry of Social Affairs. Provinces with the highest numbers of separated children include Bié, Huambo, Kuando Kubango, Malanje and Moxico. During the first quarter, the Family Localisation and Reunification Programme continued to register the children separated from their families in gathering and newly accessible areas under the auspices of the child protection strategy adopted by the Government in May 2002. Since the inception of the strategy, a total of 6,682 separated children, including the majority who were living in the gathering areas, have been registered. Of these, 2,970 have been reunited with their families. During the same period, partners worked under the leadership of the Ministry of Social Affairs to strengthen provincial networks and prepare plans and mobilise resources for facilitating the reintegration of children reunited with their families." (UN OCHA, 30 March 2003)

Conscription means women often flee their homes with children but no men (November 2001)

- Newly displaced women describe how as soon as government forces recapture a village from UNITA, men of all ages are targets for military recruitment

" 'Once you join the army, that's forever,' Pedro says. 'You die there.' "

Pedro, 26, is one of the many young Angolan men who are worried by a fresh initiative by the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) to recruit new soldiers.

In the last few weeks, radio announcements have been instructing young men aged between 18 and 20 to report to military bases around the country to register for military service, as is normal at this time of year.

But the FAA also have the legal right to conscript men up to the age of 30 who have not previously served for two years. Many young men fear that even those who have served their time could still be forced to put on uniforms.

The army has recently stepped up its operations in the eastern province of Moxico, saying that the aim is to capture Jonas Savimbi and to destroy the last UNITA forces in a region where the rebels are well established. Young men who hear this worry that it will be a signal for the military to make a particular effort this year - after 26 years of war - to get more of them into the army.

Whether or not this is actually happening remains unclear. The conscription laws in Angola are never applied consistently.

Women arriving in highland cities such as Kuito, after fighting has forced them to flee their villages, have frequently made the journey with children but no men. They tell how as soon as the FAA recapture a village from UNITA, the men are seen as fair game for recruitment, however old they may be. UNITA are also known to forcibly conscript, and have also seized children for military service." (IRIN 23 November 2001)

Displacement has changed traditional family roles (2001)

- Following displacement, men remain the principal decision-makers, and undertake new income-generating activities
- Women often become the main agents of social and family cohesion, and assume numerous additional responsibilities
- Children are often withdrawn from school to help with domestic and agricultural work

"Communities have proven highly instrumental in reducing vulnerabilities by transforming social roles within the family. Although the role of men is often eclipsed in IDP settings, they remain the principal decision-makers. Men help with land and charcoal preparation and are responsible for constructing community buildings and tending livestock. Men also procure agricultural inputs. In addition, men brew and sell alcohol and where possible, fish and hunt. Following displacement, Angolan women assume additional responsibilities and often become the main agents of social and family cohesion. In most IDP settings, women are responsible for food procurement and preparation, water collection and shelter construction. Women care for the children and elderly and tend sick members of the family. Women help to prepare and maintain the land, collect firewood and also prepare charcoal. Women sell both food and non-food items (NFI) in the market and are responsible for procuring family assets, including clothing and cooking pots. Young girls are often withdrawn from school to assist their mothers and other women in the family and boys are sometimes sent to the fields, particularly during peak periods of planting and harvesting." (UN November 2001)

Displacement can have severe negative impact on individual and communal identity (2001)

- Different age groups and sexes affected differently by displacement
- Difficult memories of flight create problems in adapting to new place of refuge
- IDPs express strong feelings of loss of identity, common kinship values and social function

Excerpt taken from Andrade study conducted in 1996-1997:

"Displacement affected the different age groups and the sexes differently. Some young people were born at the places of refuge (the place or area to which displaced people fled), and some arrived there when very young, so do not remember the things that happened. Older people do remember and their memories are negative: deaths of immediate family members, hunger illness or rape. These recollections create difficulties in adapting to their places of refuge.

Men older than eighteen have quite detailed memories, and can talk about the reasons and conditions for their displacement and the decision to go. Women of this age group have more selective memories, and focus on the problems that their own families experienced. They follow the opinions and decisions of their families and other men in the family, normally the older ones. Old men and women are cautious about stating their opinions, but their memories are strongly marked by feelings of loss: cattle, goods, strength,

values, power, dignity, and status. Their age means that they have little hope of reconstructing their lives before they die, and this forms part of their sense of loss.

Displaced people, particularly those older than thirty, are clearly disillusioned by the breakdown of stability which came after the 1992 elections, shattering the peace which had been created by the Bicesse Accord. They display pessimism about the future, and deep distrust. Most of them feel a betrayal of the confidence that they had placed in the institutions and in the peace process. They feel used and kicked around between interests that are not theirs, and which they cannot influence.

[...]

The people who left their places of origin under fire were completely disoriented – they had faced death in the most immediate sense possible. But death also took other forms: abandoning children during the journey, leaving the wounded, untended, unsuccessful births, and death from hunger. These had a large psychological impact, as people had to make absurd choices that left them feeling guilty. A factor that weighed heavily psychologically and caused grief was 'leaving the dead without even burying them'. Older people showed the greatest anguish about this, since they have a particular respect for ancestors and for death rituals. Younger people see this as less important than a birth when on the move (with the subsequent forced abandonment of the baby), or an attack in which many people died, or hunger and exhaustion.

Two kinds of loss were mentioned, and were the source of strong feelings. The first kind is the loss of material items that sustain people (a guarantee of the future) or show wealth (and confirm status). The second kind refers to the loss of places, meaning spaces where people were protected by the family, where there was a solid nucleus of common kinship values and where each person's social function was clearly defined and respected. Even if these values and functions were not always so easy and clear, their loss is keenly felt when they were abandoned unwillingly. This is true whether people moved during fighting or during more stable periods." (Andrade 2000, sect. 4)

For more information on coping strategies of internally displaced persons, see Filomena Andrade study in Communities and Reconstruction in Angola as well as Robson and Roque report on social support in peri-urban environments, both available from the Development Workshop - Angola.

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

Traditional land rights clashing with proposed land bill (August 2004)

- Customary or traditional law is being ignored by the proposed land bill
- Commercial farmers might fence off large areas of fertile land
- Allegations that commercial farmers linked to powerful interest groups will seize land that has previously been used by peasant farmers and IDPs
- Displaced people are returning to their land, sometimes after years away, to discover that others are farming it
- In the big cities, properties occupied by the poor are being eyed by both business and the government as a real-estate opportunity

"Many of the millions displaced during the conflict are returning to their land to discover that others are farming it, while in cities like the capital, Luanda - built for 500,000 people but home to four million - land is scarce.

It is commonplace for Angolans, the poor in particular, to occupy or buy property on the informal market, without a legally recognised title proving their ownership.

While the old land law, dating back to 1992, was seen as outmoded, confusing and poorly applied, the new rules seem designed to make it easier for the relatively well off to secure urban housing property rights, and little to address the issue of land held informally. In fact, observers say, they risk making these informal landholders illegal occupants of the land they live on.

Rede Terre (Land Network), a coalition of NGOs working together on the land issue, distributed a statement to members of parliament on Friday, reminding them of the bill's major shortcomings.

"It still remains impossible for the majority of rural and peri-urban communities to obtain the legal recognition to their land and, therefore, to obtain the support of this law," Rede Terre coordinator Manuel Antonio da Silva Neto said in the statement.

Figueiredo agreed: "It looks like [parliament] was considering a kind of ideal situation which doesn't exist ... The big, big problem is that the law does not recognise the reality, which is that the vast majority of people are living in a situation where they don't have papers [proving legal ownership]."

Observers are also uncomfortable with a clause that gives people just one year to formally request the regularisation of their right to the land they are occupying. In a country struggling to rebuild its legal framework - not to mention its infrastructure and health and education systems - it is a pipe dream, they say." (IRIN, 9 August 2004)

"One issue that is increasing in importance is the land rights of peasants. According to a report by OHCA on 16 December, "issues that may yet unbalance this process [the reintegration of returnees] include possible decisions by commercial farmers to fence off large areas of fertile land to extend fazendas, high inflation and unexpectedly low yields from the 2004 agricultural campaign, forcing communities back into dependency that cannot be supported by provincial contingency plans".

The report continues that "the approval by the Council of Ministers of the Land Law Project, which included inputs from civil society groups following many debates across the country, will signal the beginning of an important legal procedure that may have an impact on the success of the transition phase. This is because old traditional land rights based upon decisions that have been guided by village elders will soon need to be considered and combined with modern land ownership documents that are based upon formal written contracts. It is expected that this procedure will be complicated and may lead to isolated problems within certain provinces".

There have been allegations that commercial farmers linked to powerful interest groups will in effect seize land that has previously been used by peasant farmers based on traditional land rights. (Angola Peace Monitor, 14 January 2004)

"As millions of displaced Angolans arrive back home after a devastating 27-year war, arguments over land ownership and access are on the rise, raising concerns over the potential for serious conflict.

Aid and humanitarian agencies are worried that the poor in both rural and urban areas, already in a vulnerable position, will have insufficient access to the benefits of the government's proposed land law, which has itself come in for criticism.

Already, displaced people are returning to their land, sometimes after years away, to discover that others are farming it. Meanwhile, in the big cities, properties occupied by the poor are being eyed by both business and the government as a real-estate opportunity.

"It is a very complex situation and there are not yet enough capabilities and resources to deal with that complexity," said Paolo Groppo, land tenure systems analysis officer of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Rural Development Department.

"It's a confusing and difficult situation. If an appropriate legal framework is not established, there is a possibility of increasing conflict, which could lead to a more serious problem," Groppo added.

In 2001, the government began discussing ways to update and modernise existing land tenure legislation which dates back to 1992. Designed to make it easier for the relatively well off to secure urban housing property rights, critics charge it does little to address land held informally.

LACK OF PROTECTION

Non-governmental organisations (NGO) are calling on the government to hold fire on the bill until they can better gauge its impact in both poor rural communities and in city-centre and suburban slums. And there are serious concerns that the fragile justice system is not strong enough to implement the law in an equitable way.

Angola does not have to look far back into its history to see the devastating results of land conflict. The appropriation of land by Portuguese colonists in the years before independence in 1975 was one of the main drivers of discontent that sparked the liberation war.

"Have Angolans not learned their lesson?" asked Fern Teodoro, director of World Learning, part of a coalition of NGOs known as the Land Network or Rede Terre. "Today the same thing is happening - will this be another huge conflict in the future?"

Rede Terre has begun collecting case studies on land issues in Huila province, in the south of the country, where it alleges prime agricultural ground is being taken away from the poor.

"Each day the ministers and the military people are occupying more land. One day there's a fence, the next day the people wake up and the fence has moved a little bit wider," said a report by Rede Terre. "These people feel really unprotected."

When the bulldozers come, the local communities have neither the confidence nor the capability to fight their corner. "They don't have enough lawyers, they don't have the means," the report noted.

Some people were driven from their homes by Angola's long civil war, whereas others stayed and farmed their land, creating a hugely complex and sensitive problem.

"What happens when the owner comes back and says, 'this is my land'? How do you resolve that conflict? They've both got a point, so what do you do?," asked Teodoro.

She argues that customary or traditional law is being ignored, and that the situation in Huila is just the tip of the iceberg. "This is happening all over the place. It's a huge problem everywhere and nobody is dealing with it. It's very sad," she said.

Nor is the problem confined to agricultural areas.

In the major cities, especially around the capital, Luanda, many families who fled fighting in the countryside occupied or bought land on the informal market from people who typically had no legal title." (UN OCHA, 27 November 2003)

The land belongs to the state, but people have occupation surface rights (November 2003)

- Many occupy without title, but it's not illegal
- Under the first draft of the proposed land law, residents in peri-urban areas would lose more than they would gain
- How to combine the customary rights with the so-called policy rights - linking security of tenure with issues of development
- The risk is that Angola ends up with a set of inconsistent laws, which bring confusion into the implementation
- Without sufficient officers in the provinces, with conflicting laws on how to issue titles and protect those titles, without an adequate registry, without sufficient judicial capacity, this would be a mess

"Under the constitution the land belongs to the state, but people have occupation surface rights. At the present time, many occupy without title, but it's not illegal. They have some protection; some recognition of occupation under the civil code. Under the first draft of the land law, residents in peri-urban areas would lose more than they would gain. It risks annulling all these informal occupations and making all of those people who occupy land informally, illegal. That's a big concern."

Finding the answer will not be easy, but aid organisations are cautiously hopeful that the problem can be solved - provided they and the international community are allowed to help the government in its efforts to build a coherent policy.

"It is possible to have a greater impact if we propose a coherent and integrated approach. We have an opportunity to influence this process, which helps to create a more informed and balanced decision-making process," Groppo said.

"We are lobbying for a more holistic approach - how to combine the customary rights with the so-called policy rights - linking security of tenure with issues of development," he explained.

While stressing that it was the Angolan government's decision whether to enlist outside help, Groppo said the international community could potentially provide valuable technical assistance and financial resources.

"The risk is that Angola ends up with a set of inconsistent laws, which bring confusion into the implementation. Without sufficient officers in the provinces, with conflicting laws on how to issue titles and protect those titles, without an adequate registry, without sufficient judicial capacity, this would be a mess," he said.

"The best scenario is that the international community becomes aware of this window to intervene and helps work towards a coherent intervention."

Recognising their land rights could in itself help improve the lot of the 70 percent of Angola's 13 million population who live in abject poverty, whether they live in the countryside or in towns.

"One of the sources of investment in the sector will come from the people themselves, if their rights are recognised," said Cain. "People invest in turning a tin-sheet house into a concrete house and in upgrading their land ... Regularising land rights will unblock a lot of people's own capital for improving their housing conditions."

It could also benefit the government by boosting tax revenue and, in turn, providing resources for basic services like water and sanitation.

"It's also an opportunity for the state because in that process it has an opportunity to impose local rates and taxes, and transfer duties or titling duties," Cain said.

That, however, is a long-term goal. In the meantime, the best solution would be for the international community to support Angola's efforts in addressing the land issue with financial and technical assistance.

The government is presently mulling the second draft of its controversial land bill, but cracking the problem is going to be a slow process.

"A reasonable time frame for Angola to get to grips with this issue is, in my opinion, 10 or 15 years," Groppo said. "That's because of the institutional setup, the overlapping mandates of the ministries dealing with land, a lack of institutional capacity, and the need to recreate trust and confidence. These are things which cannot be done overnight."

"It may seem extremely slow for the international community, but here, 10 or 15 years is nothing," he added." (UN OCHA, 27 November 2003)

Insufficient land distribution for displaced families (2001-2002)

- UN/ government report states that although more displaced families received land in the 2001-2002 agricultural campaign than in the previous one, the size and in some cases the quality of the land parcels were insufficient
- Recommendations for the next agricultural campaign include improving coordination of agricultural inputs to vulnerable families

"A preliminary report by FAO, WFP/VAM and MINADER on the results of the 2001 - 2002 Agricultural Campaign from September 2001 and March 2002 indicated that although more displaced families received land than during the last agricultural campaign, the size of the parcels was insufficient (.15 - .5 ha) and the quality of the land was poor in some cases. In addition, the number of families receiving agricultural inputs from humanitarian organisations and provincial MINADER delegations increased, although late distributions negatively affected the preparation of fields in some areas. The results of the study also indicated that insufficient rain during November and early December led to reduced harvests of peanuts, corn and beans in Uíge and Kuanza Norte Provinces. In the central and southern regions of the country, crops planted during the first agricultural period are expected to produce satisfactory results. The report made several recommendations for the next agricultural campaign, including improving coordination in the distribution of agricultural inputs to vulnerable families and creating an emergency seed bank. The report also highlighted the importance of receiving funds in a timely manner to avoid delays in distribution and the need to coordinate and prioritise mine verification and de-mining activities to increase access to agricultural land." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

Valuable land remains in hands of powerful economic and military interest groups (December 2000)

- Large and relatively secure coastal strip of land has fallen prey to economic and military interests linked to the oil industry
- These powerful interest groups are reluctant to lease the land to displaced persons for fear of future ownership claims
- Powerful landowners known to influence the location of displaced persons camps in order to acquire cheap labour pools near land plots

As reported by Reuters in late December 2000:

"Though land tenure has been at the root of many squabbles for thousands of years, in Angola it has an unusual nature because of recent history and the tide of land-poor people fleeing war to urban centres.

[...]

Economic change swept Angola after Marxist-Leninism was officially abolished in 1989. In a series of so-called privatisations in the 1990s, powerful politicians obtained concessions for potentially lucrative property and land, although in theory these remain state property. In this chaotic liberalisation, ordinary people's rights to use land shrivelled and ownership has become unclear.

[...]

Many Angolans have fled violence in the countryside to government-held urban centres, often fed by the U.N. World Food Programme, Médecins sans Frontières, and others. Displaced people and residents grow what they can within the narrow security perimeters of these isolated towns and food finds its way into local markets by various routes.

The land is worth little in commercial terms, however, because of the insecurity.

In some places, such as the large and relatively secure coastal strip stretching from Lobito to Benguela and southwards for another 50 km to Dombe Grande, land has real commercial value and potential.

For this reason, it has fallen prey to powerful economic and even military interests linked to the oil-rich government. Many are reluctant even to lease the land to the displaced or other poor people, in case of future ownership claims.

People from Damba Maria, Dombe Grande and other areas sometimes work as labourers for big farmers in a system known by some here as 'chinyango.'

The standard of payment is one kilogram (two pounds) of fuba (maize meal) per day is not enough to feed a family but the alternative – unemployment – is worse.

And because of their weak links with local communities, displaced people are at the bottom of any pecking order.

'People with a lot of land are exploiting the weakness of deslocados so they can pay little. This is a generalised thing,' the U.N. official said. 'In Benguela, it is the big farmers. Inland, the farmers are smaller-scale, so the problem is not so bad.'

A diplomat in the capital Luanda also said powerful landowners in various parts of the country had influenced the location of some camps for deslocados, to provide pools of cheap labour for their farms. 'This is a real betrayal of the people,' she said.

The land issue is acquiring new urgency today. The economic changes and, to some extent, government military successes in the past year that have reduced risk levels in some parts of the country, have provoked a scramble for land by some senior officials." (Reuters 28 December 2000)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

Most of the millions of IDPs have returned to their area of origin (June 2004)

- The majority of the remaining IDPs do not intend to return to their areas of origin
- Emergency pockets' no longer exist
- Few reintegration and community development projects
- Rural development is hampered by the a lack of markets and transportation difficulties

"Two years after the signing of the Luena Memorandum of Understanding, nearly all Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have returned to their areas of origin and the majority of those who have not returned have decided to remain within their host communities. An estimated 100,000 people remain internally displaced compared to 3.8 million at the end of the war. In addition, approximately half of the 450,000 refugees estimated to have fled to bordering countries have returned home since the end of hostilities. Yet the challenges are far from over, as the vast majority of these families have returned to locations where the 'Norms and regulamento' have not been met.

In planning for 2004, humanitarian partners prioritised the elimination of 'emergency pockets', defined as concentrations of populations with critical needs. Reports from the provinces confirm that, with only a few exceptions, 'emergency pockets' no longer exist. The situation however, is still precarious for an estimated 1.2 million people living in difficult to access areas. In addition; few reintegration and community development projects have yet to be launched and public servants do not receive regular salaries in most of the provinces. In rural areas, service conditions are often harsh and motivation of personnel in the health and education sectors is generally poor.

With the exception of Luanda and a few provincial capitals, the Government has made little progress on rehabilitating social infrastructures, including the main roads connecting the capital with the interior provinces and parts of the coast. Rural development is hampered by the a lack of markets and transportation difficulties. The inability of many families to begin establishing sustainable livelihoods has led to frustration, which may in part explain the slight increases in reported crime rates in the main provincial capitals. Although there is increased awareness and public debate on human rights issues, respect for the rule of law still needs to be reinforced. Agencies and NGOs continue to monitor the overall human rights and humanitarian situation in the country, collecting relevant information to advocate for peaceful reconciliation and promote respect for human rights." (UNOCHA, 15 June 2004)

"The next important area of the peace process has been returning the country to normalcy, focusing on the returning of subordinated civilian life. The first thrust has been the rehabilitation of IDPs and refugees who were uprooted by the ferocity of the conflict. At the close of the war, nearly 30% of the population was displaced, with approximately 200,000 of their number hampered from accessing particular areas as a result of the indiscriminately planted landmines. A further 660,000 were in refugee camps in the neighbouring states. The GRA established a humanitarian resettlement unit, working with international agencies but specifically with a mandate to include former UNITA combatants and their families. The strategy to resettle people was also carried out in close liaison with the reintegration of UNITA former combatants and their dependants. This phase faced almost insurmountable odds, having to contend with a destroyed infrastructure and minimal government support, essentially limited to seeds, tools and transportation to designated areas. Elaborate plans to resettle the IDPs, refugees and former combatants were made but the reality soon turned

out to be different. With the first signs of the peace process holding from May 2002, spontaneous returns of refugees and IDPs reached proportions that went beyond the carefully planned numbers."(ISS, 1 July 2004).

Many IDPs opt to settle down in areas of displacement (August 2004)

- Reasons for not returning:
- Poor quality of water, few schools or health clinics and hardly any electricity in areas of return
- The IDPs have found available land near to their camp
- Marriages between IDPs and residents in local communities have encouraged the absorption of former IDPs
- IDPs near to provincial capitals are more hopeful of finding employment within the informal sector
- It is estimated that approximately 400,000 IDPs will opt to establish new livelihoods where they are

"[...] the funding shortage is seriously undermining the resettlement process and reducing the incentive for people to return to their areas of origin. Many face unimaginable misery when they return home. Clean drinking water from protected sources is rare, there are very few schools or health clinics and electricity remains only a dream in vast areas of the country. Now there is also very little food, which is essential if the repatriation process is to be successful".(APC, 17 August 2004).

"Millions of people have returned home since the end of the war in 2002. The Angolan government has stated that 4.1 million people have returned to their areas of origin, although it calculates that there are still 832,296 internally displaced persons. The UN estimates that around half of these will settle where they are. [...]

Overall, the resettlement programme has so far been judged a success. According to OCHA, "given that resident communities across the country are absorbing over 3 million new arrivals the relatively low level of reported social conflict is a positive sign that in most places the complicated process of reintegration is on the right track".

According to Social Welfare Minister Joao Baptista Kussumua the Angolan government, in partnership with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, has provided seeds and tools to 600,000 families. OCHA reported on 10 December that, with very few exceptions, the distribution of seeds and tools kept to schedule, and that rural communities that were under the distribution plan were on the whole able to plant their seeds before the start of the rains, and that "this will greatly enhance the prospects for recovery and reduce dependency on food rations in 2004".

On top of this, the World Bank is due in January to distribute 50,000 agricultural kits for demobilised UNITA soldiers. So far, the Angolan government has spent \$138 million on demobilising and reintegrating former UNITA combatants" (Angola Peace Monitor, 14 January 2004).

"The expectation is that relatively few families will now[as of December 2003] migrate from IDP camps, or host communities, to areas of origin in the next few months due to the rains. The situation will be relatively static until the next dry season. It is estimated that approximately 400,000 IDPs will opt to establish new livelihoods where they are rather than seek transport to their areas of origin. This is due to a mixture of factors, such as:

- The IDPs consider that the social conditions in their places of origin are no better than their current location.
- The IDPs have found available land near to their camp and have decided to start planting seeds following the recent national distribution seeds and tools.
- Marriages between IDPs and residents in local communities have encouraged the absorption of former IDPs into local communities.
- IDPs near to provincial capitals are more hopeful of finding employment within the informal sector whilst living in their current locations than finding employment in their places of origin. " (UN OCHA, 10 December 2003)

70 per cent of returnees resettled without any external aid (November 2003)

- Nonetheless, the humanitarian situation improved during 2003
- At the height of the emergency in 2002, more than two million Angolans were on the brink of death
- More than 3.8 million war-affected Angolans resettled or returned to their areas of origin during 2003
- Conditions have stabilized in areas where humanitarian agencies have uninterrupted access

"Some 70 per cent of returnees resettled without any aid from local authorities or humanitarian organizations in areas where conditions fell well below standards outlined in the government's Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations.

Nonetheless, the humanitarian situation improved during 2003. At the height of the emergency in 2002, more than two million Angolans were on the brink of death and at least three million were receiving direct humanitarian assistance. Now, conditions have stabilized in areas where humanitarian agencies have uninterrupted access.

But hundreds of thousands of Angolans are only temporarily resettled; 500,000 of them in IDP camps and temporary resettlement areas and some 400,000 with host families in towns and cities. Another 350,000 people are still refugees in neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, resident communities have faced growing levels of vulnerability, especially in areas difficult to access. Lacking basic social services and severely affected by the war themselves, they struggled to cope with the size and speed of returns.

Unless support mechanisms are established in time, entire rural communities could quickly fall back into extreme vulnerability and dependence.

Since the signing of the Luena Memorandum of Understanding in 2002, Angolans are back on the long and difficult path to reconciliation, lasting peace, and development.

While much has been achieved to put an end to the life threatening situation of millions of Angolans, much more needs to be done to consolidate gains.

Reintegration and recovery efforts will pave the way for Angola's social, political and economic regeneration" (UN OCHA, 18 November 2003)

Repatriation of more than 400,000 Angolan refugees (September 2004)

- Half the 71,420 Angolan refugees remaining in camps and settlements in Zambia will return with the assistance of UNHCR before the end of 2004
- 32,000 Angolan refugees in the DRC will return home in 2004, with the remaining 13,000 scheduled for repatriation during 2005
- Some 223,000 Angolan refugees remain in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Namibia and Republic of Congo, South Africa and Botswana as of September 2004

"The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, expects to repatriate over half the 71,420 Angolan refugees remaining in camps and settlements in Zambia by the end of the year, the organisation said in a progress report released this week.

Earlier this month, with the help of the International Organisation for Migration, UNHCR began airlifting Angolan refugees from Mongu in western Zambia to Lumbala N'Guimbo in eastern Angola. A new overland corridor was also opened. On 17 August when an inaugural convoy of 411 returnees travelled from Meheba in Zambia via Jimbe and Caianda to Luau and Luena in eastern Angola.

UNHCR expects to assist some 40,000 refugees to return from Zambia this year, the agency said in its August overview of major refugee developments in Africa.

The neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was another major asylum country during Angola's three-decade civil war and around 45,000 Angolans took refuge there. UNHCR plans to assist some 32,000 of them to return home this year, with the remaining 13,000 scheduled for repatriation during 2005. So far this year, about 7,000 Angolan refugees have returned from DRC, mainly by land, the agency said.

In all, during 2004 a total of 145,000 Angolans are expected to head home from asylum countries, 90,000 of them with UNHCR assistance. The remainder are expected to make their own way back.

"When the peace accords were signed in April 2002, about 441,000 Angolans refugees were estimated to be in bordering countries. Since then, an estimated 218,000 have returned home, including 76,000 in 2003 under UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme. We estimate some 223,000 Angolan refugees currently remain in the major asylum countries - the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Namibia and Republic of Congo - in addition to 14,000 in South Africa and Botswana," the agency said. (IRIN, 1 September 2004).

"The pace of the second phase of the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees is speeding up as convoys begin to operate out of the neighbouring countries of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Zambia and Namibia. UNHCR estimates that 145,000 Angolan refugees will return home this year, and it plans to assist 90,000 of these through its programme of transportation, returnees kits and AIDs awareness programmes.

Last year the UNHCR programme helped 76,000 people return to Angola, and many more made their own way home.

Repatriation programmes from Zambia and Namibia restarted in May and June, and then from the DRC on 2 July, after the break for the rainy season, with its first convoy of 377 returnees from Kisenge in Katanga province. There are an estimated 15,000 Angolan refugees at three different sites at Kisenge, some of whom have been in refuge for over two decades. A second convoy departed from Kimpese in Bas Congo province, carrying 130 returnees. The convoys are due to take place twice a week until the end of the year.

In total, the UNHCR expects 43,000 refugees to return from DRC this year. Most returnees from DRC will settle in Moxico, Uige and Zaire province.

On arrival at a transit centre in Angola the refugees will receive tool kits, cooking supplies, sleeping mats and mosquito nets and two months food supplies from the WFP.

In order to ensure that returnees from Zambia receive the necessary food supplies to keep them going until they settle back home the United Nations has transported 480 tonnes of white maize from Zambia to Cazombo. In the current harvest Zambia produced a huge surplus, which goes some way to alleviate the problems caused by the Angolan government's decision to ban unmilled maize from genetically modified crops.

When peace returned to Angola in April 2002 there were around 441,000 refugees in bordering countries. Since then about 218,000 have returned home, of which 76,000 were returned under the UNHCR voluntary repatriation programme." (APM, 14 July 2004)

IDPs forced to return (July 2004)

- IDPs in camp threatened to return to areas of origin
- Rushing of the relocation of IDPs put tens of thousands of people at great risk in terms of food security
- Entire villages residing in camps were induced to leave through false information
- Traditional leaders among the IDPs or MPLA party committee ordered that it was time to go back home
- The entire population of Trumba, in Bié province, where in May 2002 forced back to its area of origin

"According to the Catholic internet publication "O Apostolado" (14 and 16 June), the local authorities of Viana announced the imminent closure of the Viana transition camp for IDPs. Residents of the camp, mainly from Bié and Huambo provinces, were strongly recommended, allegedly threatened, to accept to return to their provinces of origin. Whereas a first group could be persuaded voluntarily, a second one reportedly only accepted under pressure – altogether 131 persons (111 from Bié and 20 from Huambo). The remaining 711 IDPs from Bié, 505 from Huambo, and 282 from Bengo province were informed about their immediate transfer to "Malange camp" in a more remote area of Viana. The transition camp had opened in 1993 with the return to war after the 1992 elections."(UNHCHR, 1 July 2004)

"In Huila province, 2,500 returning IDPs were abandoned without assistance in Cherequera village on their way from Matala to Cutenda "On various occasions, MINARS stressed that the displaced should terminate their dependency on external assistance and return home. Although many Angolans genuinely wanted to return to their villages and improve the conditions in their areas of origin, the unrealistically high expectations for the resettlement and the rushing of the relocation of IDPs put tens of thousands of people at great risk in terms of food security, exposure to deteriorating health conditions and increased vulnerability. The issue of whether there has been forced resettlement or not, when the Norms clearly establish its voluntary and/or spontaneous nature, is not always easy to ascertain. In this regard, local

particularities conditioned by historical and political factors, as well as local government capacity, have certainly affected the process. In

fact, the voluntary nature of some of these movements can be questioned. For instance, several reports confirmed that entire villages residing in camps were induced to leave through false information regarding the entitlements of assistance in the areas of arrival or threats of the suspension of assistance in the camps in case of resistance.

In many cases, traditional leaders among the IDPs or MPLA party committee members just ordered that it was time to go back home, without allowing family members to visit the return sites beforehand. In the Cruzeiro camp, Huambo Province, for example, threats to suspend assistance were given to approximately 15,000 IDPs if they did not move back to Samboto commune. In early October 2002, some 200 families in Bié Province, approximately 1,000 people, were stranded in the Cangala commune without any assistance, halfway to their final destination in Chinguar. A similar situation occurred when 3,000 people were stranded during their return to Catabola municipality. In Huila province, 2,500 returning IDPs were abandoned without assistance in Cherequera village on their way from Matala to Cutenda, and were promised assistance that was never delivered. Another group of 2,200 had the same fate when after leaving Visaca, they found no support in Chicomba municipality. There were infrequent, but real, cases of violent forced returns. In such cases, national authorities responded that the main responsibility for these acts should be attributed either to the local head of police or army commander. In practice, neither were called to account for these actions." (ISS, 5 February 2004, p. 6)

"The process of 'reintegrating' the internally displaced--their return or resettlement to rural communities and establishing sustainable livelihoods--represented a major challenge for the government, even though more than half a million displaced made their way home without formal assistance. Destroyed infrastructure such as broken bridges, mined areas, and houses destroyed and fields burnt under a scorched earth policy applied by both sides during the conflict were serious obstacles to the reintegration of displaced persons. Officials estimated that, out of 4.6 million internally displaced persons, the reintegration process would involve some 1.75 million. Despite a law adopted in January 2001--the Norms for the Resettlement of the Internally Displaced--and training given to provincial officials on its implementation, there were many reports of abuses associated with the reintegration process. In May 2002 the entire population of Trumba, in Bié province, was forced back to its area of origin by the local authorities without proper assistance. Forced return and restrictions to freedom of movement were also recorded in Huambo, Lunda Sul, and Kuando Kubango provinces." (HRW, January 2003).

Training helps ex-combatants reintegrate into civilian life (September 2003)

- Rebel soldiers and their families continue to return in large numbers to their areas of origin
- A recent WFP survey showed that 16 percent of ex-UNITA soldiers did not have any formal education
- All the students attending the education centre received WFP food rations
- The practical skills were more important for a "smooth integration" into civil society than reading and writing

"Angola's former rebel soldiers and their families continue to return in large numbers to their areas of origin - but lacking the necessary skills, few of them have found work and thousands complain about the lack of food security.

In an attempt to reduce unemployment among the ex-combatants, the Ministry for Public Administration, Employment and Social Security (MAPESS) and the World Food Programme (WFP) have set up education centres for basic training in brick-making, agriculture, electric wiring and carpentry.

In the city of Waku-Kungo, 350 km southeast of the capital, Luanda, the second group of students recently graduated after completing 45 days of training. Around 30 men between 16 and 56 years old were already enrolled at the centre for the next round.

"I came here because it gives me a chance to have a brighter future. I am here to learn how to make bricks and build houses. Those who learn, get jobs - the others don't," 19-year-old Fernando Angelino, who returned to his home in January, told IRIN.

When the war ended in April 2002, Fernando had been a soldier for four years, but now lives with his family near the city of Waku-Kungo. Despite his traumatic experiences as a soldier he is confident in the future. "I am going to be a businessman. I want to be rich," he said.

Not all ex-UNITA rebel fighters were as optimistic as Fernando. Some of his UNITA friends stood around him and grinned when they heard him talking. None of them were literate, but all held the information folders they had received from the centre tightly in their hands.

A recent WFP survey showed that 16 percent of ex-UNITA soldiers did not have any formal education, while nine percent had a grade 4 education.

All the students attending the education centre received WFP food rations that were expected to last a month. Many came to the centre on foot from villages up to 10 kilometers away.

According to Amerigo Constantino, head teacher at the education centre, the practical skills were more important for a "smooth integration" into civil society than reading and writing. He noted that although students participating in the training were selected by MAPESS, "they make their own choice as to what they want to learn".

Agricultural studies and brick-making were the most popular subjects. As part of their training, the previous group of students had laid the foundation of a house. One of the new students, Luciano Oliveira, sat in one of the rooms, ready to take up where his predecessors had left off at graduation.

Before enrolling at the centre Luciano had been looking for a job for 17 months. After the end of hostilities between UNITA and the government last year, he moved with his family to a UNITA quartering area in Menga in central Kwanza-Sul province, where there were several thousand soldiers and their families. They remained in the camp until January, when he finally received government clearance to move back to his home area near Waku-Kungo.

Now 39 years old, he feels ready to get his first paid job. "The government has promised me a job as a construction worker," he said.

In 1982 he joined the ranks of UNITA as a soldier. "Everything was compulsory - when you were ordered to move to a new area, you had to do it. You were supposed to be grateful. I tried to be grateful, even though I never chose to join UNITA," Oliveira said.

Without the support of WFP his family would have had a hard time surviving until the first harvest next year. In the meantime, Oliveira said, he would try to find employment in the city centre, building houses.

On the construction sites, Luciano is likely to encounter not only other ex-UNITA combatants in a similar situation, but also former MPLA (government) soldiers. Working alongside old enemies did not appear to bother him.

"I am happy that I don't have to be afraid of them. They are my brothers, like everybody else. I understand that they too were soldiers following orders. They didn't chose to be soldiers any more than I did. Sure, I was sad when Jonas Savimbi (UNITA founder) was murdered - it was a tragedy. I understood that the

MPLA had won. But it was also a relief. I don't want to go back to war. Not ever again." (IRIN, 25 September 2003)

The "Norms on the Resettlement and Return of Displaced Populations" (The norms) adopted by the government in 2002 are in some areas completely violated (April 2003)

- The norms underline the voluntary nature of the resettlement process and provide for the involvement of the displaced in the planning and management of relocation
- IDPs often find themselves without access to medical care, water and food upon return
- Many of us IDPs would like to leave but we are not sure what to expect, so it's better to wait and see

"When news spread across Angola last year that war had finally come to an end, Freta Capaita cajoled his four children to return to the village where they were born.

For the past two years, Capaita and his teenage sons had been living in a one-room mud hut at the Lomanda camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) about 10 km outside the central Angolan town of Huambo. But just six days after they set off to the village, his sons returned to Lomanda, disappointed at what they had found.

"The walk to the village is about 45 kilometres away," Capaita, 66, told IRIN, indicating a piece of land behind a nearby mountain barely visible from the camp. "I instructed them to go, just to see what was still left. They were afraid at first but I knew that it would be all right. I am too old to walk so far.

When they returned, Capaita said, "they told me that there was nothing left of the village except for a few families who had not had anything to eat for days," he said.

"I asked my boys if there was at least some water but they said that there was nothing. We were all very disappointed."

Capaita's eldest son works as a labourer on a nearby farm, but the work is underpaid and often erratic. His meagre income supports the family.

"Very often there is not enough to eat but we prefer to stay here at the camp because at least the younger boys can go to the school," said Capaita.

Most of the children at Lomanda attend the nearby NGO-funded school, a luxury compared to conditions at other camps.

Asked if he intended to leave the IDP settlement Capaita said: "If we leave where will we go? Perhaps when my sons get older they can leave but, for now, we will remain in Lomanda."

Like millions of Angolans displaced by years of civil conflict, the prospects of lasting peace ignited the hope of a return to a normal life. But as people make their way home, many are confronted with the stark reality that very little, if anything, remains of villages they once fled to escape the fighting.

In February the United Nations estimated that of the 1.5 million IDPs who have returned to their areas of origin across the country, 70 percent did so without any form of assistance from the government.

In Huambo, Angola's second largest city, the authorities expect that some 260,000 people will resettle or return to their home areas during 2003, although current trends indicate that this number is likely to be significantly higher.

Large return movements to areas of origin began in September last year, including movements to locations that did not meet the pre-conditions established in the UN's "Norms on the Resettlement and Return of Displaced Populations".

The norms, officially adopted by the government in 2002, set out the rights of the displaced, underline the voluntary nature of the resettlement process and provide for the involvement of the displaced in the planning and management of relocation. The norms emphasise that designated resettlement areas must be

free of land mines. They also note that state administration must be extended to resettlement or return sites, and health and education personnel supported by the relevant government ministries.

"The development of the norms was a fundamental component of a response to respect the safety and dignity of the displaced," a Huambo-based aid worker told IRIN. "But while, in some areas, has taken steps to comply with the norms, in some areas they [the norms] are completely violated. Those who have chosen to return without the help of agencies, often find themselves without access to medical care, water and food.

The challenges facing post-war Angola are "undeniably significant", the aid worker said, but this did not take from the fact that basic conditions, such as providing water to returnees, were not being complied with. Erick de Mul, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator of the UN Development Programme said conditions in areas of return or resettlement varied widely.

"In some provinces conditions are better, there are more services, but in some places, less so," he said. "What the government has tried to do - to a large extent, successfully - is to ensure that people are not going on the road or on their way without having been taken care of."

"It's no different for the returning ex-combatants and families than it is for returning IDPs."

When asked, many of the young people at Lomanda IDP camp echoed Capaita's concerns.

"Many of us would like to leave but we are not sure what to expect, so it's better to wait and see," said 29-year-old Domingoes Lundori." (IRIN 3 April 2003)

Women's access to demobilization and reintegration program funding essential (June 2003)

- The current demobilization and reintegration program excludes "wives" and abducted girls from guaranteed direct assistance
- Abducted women face dilemma: go back to their home villages and join their families or stay with the husbands they were forced to marry
- Special needs of abducted girls and "wives" should be addressed

"Refugees International met Teresa at a therapeutic feeding center in Huambo province. She was determined to save the lives of her two young children, whose bodies had swollen from acute malnutrition. She walked a day and a half to reach the feeding center. Teresa lived in areas controlled by UNITA since she was abducted from her home at the age of 12. "If I had said no, they would have killed me." She spent the next few years carrying supplies for the army, cooking and cleaning for the soldiers. "The soldiers would steal food and I would carry it to the next place." At age 17 she married one of the soldiers. "I did not want to be a UNITA wife, but it was obligatory. Life was very bad," Teresa says of her 12 years living in the bush where she bore six children. "We had no salt, clothes, blankets, or soap and no medicines when we were sick. We often had to run from one front line to the next. Sometimes we did not even have homes."

With the war finally over, Teresa, like most everyone in Angola, is trying to build a life after years of running a few steps ahead of death. Women like Teresa face a particular dilemma: do they go back to their home villages and join their families or do they stay with the husbands they were forced to marry? The dilemma is especially acute because of the possibility that they will be rejected in their home communities. Having been perceived as participants in a struggle that caused death and suffering, they face an uncertain reception. If they choose to leave, how can they care for their children as single mothers, especially if their home communities refuse to welcome them back? Are they and their children in danger of abuse from their husbands if they try to leave?

Women abducted into UNITA or Angolan army forces are thus especially vulnerable as peace comes to Angola. But the current demobilization and reintegration program, jointly planned by the World Bank and the Government of Angola, limits assistance to 100,000 UNITA and 33,000 government soldiers and excludes "wives" and abducted girls from guaranteed direct assistance. The proposed assistance package,

which includes a generous supply kit, US\$100 and, most importantly, six months of literacy, vocational training opportunities and access to micro-credit and employment is targeted to male ex-combatants.

Excluding women from educational and economic opportunities violates recommendations of the World Bank Africa Region Working Papers which explicitly acknowledge that girls under 18 years of age who have been subject to forcible recruitment, including as cooks, porters, and "wives", should be considered child soldiers. The logic of this policy is that women abducted as children should be considered soldiers and thus eligible for demobilization assistance. Second, the Africa Region's Paper on "Gender Issues in Demobilization and Reintegration Programs" recommends programs to "encourage access to vocational training and education for abducted girls and ex-combatants' "wives."

The World Bank's Gender Unit released a study on gender and poverty reduction showing that women in Africa play a key role in the economy and need to be included in all development initiatives. The Bank also states that it is critical to create transitional safety nets that will successfully reintegrate soldiers back into society and that including women is part of that strategy. Women in Angola take a leading role in ensuring the survival of their families and are the main implementers of petty trade activities as a means of doing so. This makes access to micro-credit critical. There are no guarantees that "wives" and families will benefit from Demobilization and Reintegration Program (DRP) assistance to male ex-combatants. Misuse of benefits is common, but the critical consideration is that the women forced to join UNITA at gunpoint would like to leave their husbands and start a new life. To grant them access to assistance exclusively through the partners they were forced to marry is encouraging them to stay in a situation that many have expressed a desire to leave; indeed, they have a right to do so. The current DRP's focus on male ex-combatants not only excludes women from direct assistance who stay with their partners, but those women who have the courage to leave their partners, resulting in an extremely vulnerable situation for these single mothers.

Teresa's husband died during fighting at the end of February. As a single mother, Teresa wants to find her family whom she has not seen in 12 years. "I have suffered too much. I want to move to the city with my family and open a shop. With a little money I could start a business to support myself and my children for the next phase of my life."

RI's fundamental recommendation is that girls and women who have lived under UNITA — whether single or "wives" of soldiers, whether abducted or not, whether current or ex-"wives", whether widowed or abandoned, whether underage or adult — receive special attention under the planned demobilization and reintegration initiatives put forth by the World Bank and Government of Angola and subsequent international programs. RI asks all parties involved to monitor and implement a gender sensitive DRP, ensuring that the special needs of abducted girls and "wives" be addressed." (Refugee International, 7 March 2003)

Disarmament and demobilisation of former combatants cause major concern (July 2004)

- Almost 80,000 former UNITA soldiers and around 360,000 of their family members must be reintegrated
- Alleged acts of intimidation including vandalism, physical violence and disappearances of UNITA members
- UNITA lacks representation in the new national army
- Ex-combatants are going from a situation of marginal self-reliance and stability in Family Reception Areas to near deprivation in resettlement areas
- Some ex-combatants will choose to stay in peri-urban areas that afford limited economic opportunities

" For the last 27 seven years, this southern African country has been engulfed in cycles of vicious and protracted civil war, racked by poverty and underdevelopment, traumatised by two failed peace processes

and the refusal of the parties in conflict to peacefully negotiate their differences. Over 4 million people were displaced within Angola, while more than 450,000 fled across its borders to seek sanctuary in Namibia, Zambia and the Congo.¹

Today, a year after the death of UNITA's leader, Jonas Savimbi, prompted a cessation of hostilities and eventually the signature in April of a 'Memorandum of Understanding' reviving the Lusaka peace process, Angola faces the monumental task of sustaining and deepening its newly won peace. Almost 80,000 former UNITA soldiers and around 360,000 of their family members must be reintegrated socially and economically, as must the 33,000 troops due to be demobilised from the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA). Millions of internally displaced people, as well as the hundreds of thousands of refugees outside Angola's borders, who have begun returning home spontaneously and through official movements, must be assisted to rebuild their homes and livelihoods. State administration must be extended and strengthened in all areas of the country, and Angola's shattered infrastructure rebuilt from its current pitiful state." (ISS, 30 April 2003)

"UNITA Leader Isaias Samakuva was received by Prime Minister Fernando Da Piedade Dias dos Santos following official complaints that demobilised UNITA soldiers were being routinely discriminated against by the authorities in many parts of the country. An official complaint from UNITA leadership alleged acts of intimidation including vandalism of party offices, physical violence and disappearance of some of its activists, implementation of policies to deliberately isolate and obstruct UNITA officials working within municipal administrations and encouraging tribalism to the disadvantage of UNITA families attempting to resettle in their areas of preference. In one case, a newly appointed administrator declined a post because of threats against him from within the community. Uige, Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Bie and Huambo provinces were specifically mentioned in the official complaint but the UN has also heard reports of cases in Malanje and Cunene provinces. The sense in the field is that the problems are frequently spontaneous in nature. During their meeting, the Prime Minister affirmed this point and reassured the UNITA leader that such incidents were localized and not part of any countrywide MPLA agenda." (UNOCHA, 1 July 2004).

"Of all the related policies – including the dismantling of UNITA military capacity, allowing the party to transform itself politically, resettling IDPs and refugees, and returning the country to normalcy vis-à-vis the economy and constitutional democracy – only the disarmament and demobilisation of former combatants continue to cause concern. Management and implementation of the policies appear to have reinforced the notion that Angola is serious about bringing about permanent peace, although this is emerging from a 'victor's' peace. The extensive deconstruction of UNITA's military capacity and its lack of representation in the 'new national army' may create a perception that the state institutions are not representative, which may in future result in the same being regarded as a source of grievance. This view was expressed by the ruling party MPLA Secretary General Norberto dos Santos when he pointed out that: "For those used to surviving by the gun, government has to be careful and solicit support from the international community to create employment as the state alone is unable to address this problem." (ISS, 1 July 2004, p 107).

"Following the end of hostilities, over 400,000 demilitarized UNITA soldiers and their families were moved to government-run Family Reception Areas (FRAs). As of May 2003, the GRA has officially closed 33 of the 35 FRAs and is in the process of moving ex-combatants to transit camps in their areas of origin. These transit camps were not initially provided with shelter, clean water, latrines, health care, or food distributions, though UN OCHA reports that a majority are now receiving some non-governmental organization (NGO) assistance. The GRA insists that the camps are temporary, and that returning ex-combatants will receive a resettlement kit and land. However, to date very few resettlement kits have been distributed by the GRA, and many ex-combatants have been waiting in transit camps for weeks and in some cases months.

There is additional concern that FRAs were closed before the ex-combatants could harvest crops and before GRA and international norms for resettlement were met in resettlement areas. Moreover, most families

were forced to abandon all possessions before boarding planes from FRAs, arriving in transit camps without the limited food and other resources that they had accumulated over the last year. In many cases, ex-combatants are going from a situation of marginal self-reliance and stability in FRAs to near deprivation in resettlement areas. Because ex-combatants have few resources and resettlement areas offer limited options, some will choose to stay in peri-urban areas that afford limited economic opportunities.

While the demobilization and reintegration process has gone forward largely without serious problems, one group of 300 ex-combatants took up arms in Kwanza Sul in February 2003, pointing to the potential for conflict in resettlement areas." (USAID, 9 May 2003).

Demobilization program discriminates against children (April 2003)

- Boy and girl soldiers, seventeen and younger, were not included in the demobilization program
- As many as 11,000 from the two sides may have lived and worked in combat conditions

"An agreement reached between government armed forces and the largest opposition group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola, UNITA), brought peace to mainland Angola in April 2002. Some 100,000 adult combatants from UNITA moved with their families into quartering areas. Five thousand of these were integrated into the national police and armed forces; the rest into a formal demobilization program. Most adult fighters eighteen and older received demobilization and photo identification cards, a travel authorization certificate, a five-month salary based on military rank, and food assistance. They are also to receive a transport allowance and a reinstallation kit upon return to their home communities. But boy and girl soldiers, seventeen and younger, were not included in the demobilization program and received only an identification card and food aid distributed by the international community to family units attached to the soldiers.

The current demobilization program discriminates against children, many of whom carried out the same duties as adults during the conflict. It compounds the injustice these children have faced: the use of children in armed conflict is explicitly prohibited by the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and participation by children in armed conflict is among the worst forms of child labor as defined in the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention. As a party to these instruments, the government of Angola has a general obligation to provide for the care, protection, recovery, and reintegration of children who are affected by armed conflict.

The lack of direct assistance to former child combatants and the failure to include them in demobilization programs jeopardizes the rights of boys and girls who served in the war and is a step back from previous practices in Angola. Following the Lusaka Protocol of 1994 which brought a temporary cessation to the fighting, approximately 9,000 boy combatants from UNITA and the government were enrolled in a demobilization program. Although this program was only partially successful and did not include girl soldiers, it stands in sharp contrast to the lack of formal assistance to those children who served in the last years of the war.

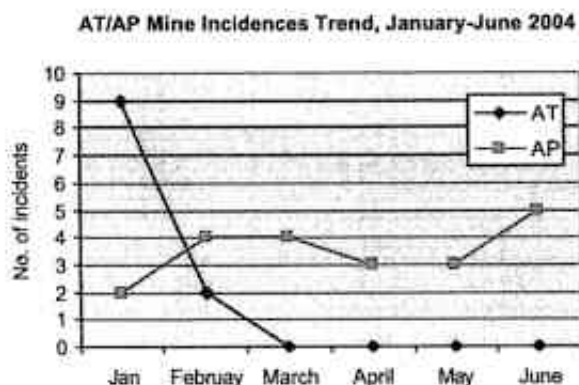
No official figures exist for how many children fought with UNITA and the government in the last resumption of the war from the period 1998 to 2002. The Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers estimates that 7,000 children served with UNITA and government forces, Angola Armed Forces (Forças Armadas Angolanas, FAA). Child protection workers in Angola have suggested that as many as 11,000 from the two sides may have lived and worked in combat conditions. Some children received weapons and arms training and were active in the fighting. Many others acted as porters, cooks, spies, and wives to UNITA soldiers. Whatever their duties, the work they performed was hazardous and has had an emotional impact on many of them. (Human Rights Watch, 29 April 2003)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Increased anti-personnel mine incidents as number of returnees increases (July 2004)

- Pressure to resume livelihoods is leading returnees to venture into mine fields
- People become less vigilant as time goes by
- 40 percent of areas of return remain closed because of destroyed access routes and mine infestation
- Destruction of electricity systems, bridges and railway lines, continue to disrupt access



"In terms of access, the tapering off and final end of the rainy season during the second quarter of the year led to the increase circulation of goods and people country-wide. While anti-tank mine incidents have declined significantly, anti-personnel mine incidents seem to be on the upswing. The trend indicates that although the road situation may have stabilised, pressure on returnees to resume their livelihoods is leading them to venture into areas demarcated or they know to be mined. Some recent mine incident victims had gone through Mine Risk Education and were aware they were venturing into potential minefields. Also contributing to the trend, two years after the end of conflict, populations may be less vigilant regarding the danger of mines and UXOs.

Eighteen provincial mine action plans developed together with the demining NGOs and approved by government's demining commission (CNIDAH) were sent to Luanda for consolidation into a national mine action plan. CNIDAH called for improved information flow on demining activities with both partners and donors. Donors were requested to inform CNIDAH of any funding provided and NGOs were reminded that no new demining projects would be allowed to go ahead without CNIDAH approval. In May, a visit of the Mine Action Support Group praised CNIDAH's commitment and leadership. The donor mission, made up of Ambassadors to the UN, also called for closer cooperation between the demining NGOs and CNIDAH,

more financial contributions from the government and encouraged the use of existing resources such as FAA, demobilised soldiers and the police." (UNOCHA, 1 July 2004).

"Mine contamination and the destruction of infrastructure resulting from the war in Angola continue to prevent economic recovery, endanger lives, and impede the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance in most provinces. Since February 2002, more than 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their areas of origin and 145,000 refugees have returned to Angola. However, it is estimated that 40 percent of the communities to which refugees are returning remain closed because of destroyed access routes and mine infestation. Furthermore, an estimated 70 percent of returnees have resettled in areas where the preconditions specified in the national guidelines for the resettlement of displaced populations—which include accessibility and a relatively low risk of mines—have not yet been met. Mine incidents increased in early 2003, affecting returning populations and persons engaged in agricultural work.

As a result of the war, destruction or severe damage to basic infrastructure, such as electricity systems, bridges and railway lines, continue to disrupt transport and communications. This, together with mine contamination, is preventing much needed economic recovery. Mines continue to endanger the lives of returnees and other civilian populations and to impede the delivery of humanitarian and development assistance in most provinces." (EMIN, 2 June 2004).

Landmines, poor roads, and heavy rains continue to hamper efforts to bring aid (January 2004)

- The city of Kuito was completely isolated to humanitarian partners due to five washed out bridges some of the roads remain impassable in Bié
- The Huambo - Kuito corridor closed during the month
- There were 19 mine incidents in the month of January
- Prices for road transport have become more costly since December
- Six staff members of the humanitarian agency CARE International were killed after a landmine explosion
- Angola is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world
- Between 15,000 and 20,000 people are killed or maimed each year by the explosive devices
- Humanitarian operations, including demining activities are expected to slow down because of the heavy rains
- Calohangua in Benguela and Muxaluando in Bengo opened for humanitarian activities in November 2003
- The majority mine accidents were as a result of vehicles hitting mines that were located in, or near to, roads

"The peak of the seasonal rains in January caused more access problems than usual, particularly in the Planalto region. At one point in the month, the city of Kuito was completely isolated to humanitarian partners due to five washed out bridges. Although nearly all the bridges that were destroyed in Bié have been repaired, some of the roads remain impassable because of extremely muddy conditions. The Huambo - Kuito corridor closed during the month and 70 percent of Uíge Province became inaccessible due to a combination of poor road conditions and the mine threat.

There were 19 mine incidents in the month of January alone (see map) and 21 related casualties or deaths.

UN and NGO mine action partners took part in a retreat at the end of the month to re-evaluate mine action activities in light of the recent spike of incidents. Demining NGOs agreed to come up with a proposal for a standardised format to assess the mine risk on roads by mid-March. In terms of data collection and analysis, the Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA), a free software developed by Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, was discussed as a possible solution. The Angolan Government is considering adopting the programme which tracks mine accidents, victim assistance and awareness campaigns and demining priorities.

A recent contribution of US \$400,000 from the American government will keep the WFP passenger flights operating until April. The agency reports that prices for road transport have become more costly since December, in part due to the fact that private truck operators are preferring routes other than the Huambo - Lobito corridor for fear of mine incidents." (UN OCHA, 31 January 2004)

"Six staff members of the humanitarian agency CARE International were killed after a landmine explosion Friday, Dec. 12th, [2003] in Angola, the organisation announced Wednesday.

The men, all Angolan nationals, were working for CARE on a short-term basis as part of a farmers' association training program in the central province of Bié. Five of them, Jose Kuvenga, Elias Bambi Samaria, Joao Chissapa, Adelino Kanguende and Nicolau Tomas, died when a tractor and trailer they were riding drove over a landmine, detonating it.

A sixth employee, Antonio Salvador, who was hospitalized after losing a limb in the accident, died Tuesday night. The tractor driver, Paulino Quintas, was in good condition after suffering head injuries.

"We are deeply saddened by this loss of life, but at the same time we reaffirm our commitment to the people of Angola," said CARE USA CEO, Peter Bell. "It is tragedies such as these that highlight the importance of helping people overcome the aftermath of violent conflict and build a better future." CARE USA manages the activities of all CARE International Members in Angola

"Angola is one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, a legacy of its decades-long civil war, which ended last year. Landmine explosions are one of the worst hazards faced by CARE workers in the African country," said CARE's Country Director in Angola, Doug Steinberg.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people are killed or maimed each year by the explosive devices, according to estimates by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)."(CARE, 19 December 2003).

"Landmines, poor roads, and heavy rains continue to hamper efforts to bring aid to Angolans suffering the cumulative effects of decades of war. OCHA's office in Angola reported at least nine instances in which people were killed or injured by mines or unexploded ordnance between 15 October and 15 November. The slowness of municipal authorities to construct small simple bridges throughout the dry season will now create major problems in the wet season. Additionally, humanitarian operations, including demining activities are expected to slow down because of the heavy rains forecast for the next few months.

Humanitarian access is cut off to many areas by the poor conditions of roads and bridges. For example, access to communities that are considered to be vulnerable in the Kamacupa and N'harea Municipalities, remains impossible due to broken bridges and the possibility of mines. A broken bridge over the river Kuquerma continues to prevent access to the community of Cacio, Kihinga Municipality, where 5,000 families await assistance.

In the areas where there is access, humanitarian agencies are achieving results. For example, in Kuanza Sul province, a new bridge went up over the river Quicombo, enabling the NGO German Agro Action to distribute 1,040 agricultural kits to an area that until now had not received any humanitarian aid. Also, a bridge over the river Keve has increased the movement of people and goods into Cabela. If the NGO Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA) continues to clear mines from the area around the destroyed bridge over the river Cuso in Kuanza Norte, then Swedish Rescue Services Agency will be able to rebuild this important

bridge as part of the UN world Food Programme (WFP) bridge building programme." (UN OCHA, 20 November 2003)

"During the month of November [2003] the following areas were opened for humanitarian activities:

- Calohangua in Benguela, allowing access to a return area.
- Muxaluando in Bengo, allowing access to a return area.

Eight roads were opened to Humanitarian operations (one in Uíge, one in Malanje and six in Benguela) whilst nine were closed to humanitarian operations (four in Huambo, two in Bie, two in Benguela and one in Huila). Three roads were closed due mine incidents. The other six roads were considered to be "suspect" following new survey work. Additional checks on these roads are ongoing.

Bridges: Activities under the leadership of the Government resulted in the construction of key bridges in Huambo, Kuando Kubango and Kwanza Sul during the reporting period. At the same time four important bridges in Benguela, Huila, Lunda Sul and Namibe became too unsafe to use by humanitarian partners due to structural problems that were worsened by the start of the rains. It is expected that many rural communities will soon become isolated because of rising river levels and an overall lack of suitable bridging materials available at the municipality level.

Demining: UN field staff confirmed mine accidents in Bie, Kwanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo, Huila and Malanje during November. The majority mine accidents were as a result of vehicles hitting mines that were located in, or near to, roads. Given the intense activities linked to the planting of seeds in many new agricultural areas, it was expected by many mine action observers that more accidents would have occurred in the fields. To date such reports are scarce and would indicate that either this information is not either being reported, or that local communities have managed to keep themselves safe following good mines awareness education. During the reporting period mines and UXOs in suspected areas have been identified and safely destroyed by INAD or demining NGOs in Benguela, Huila, Kuando Kubango, Bengo, Uíge, Huambo, Kwanza Sul, Moxico, Bie and Lunda Sul.

Traditionally the start of the rainy season is a time of increased mine accidents, frequently due to drivers leaving well used and rutted roads to avoid water filled potholes and obstacles, such as fallen trees. Comparisons of mine incident rates to previous reporting periods remains difficult, even miss-leading, because information at community level is now generally easier to access than before due to the expanding civil administration and reporting lines concerning mine accidents tend to be more reliable than in previous years." (UN OCHA, 10 December 2003)

Aid agencies use various methods to deliver aid in areas of Angola cut off due to landmines or poor infrastructure (2003)

- At the end of 2002, OCHA reported that as many as 200,000 vulnerable people could be in critical distress in inaccessible areas
- Due to the problem of landmines, WFP conducted airdrops of food aid to inaccessible areas, whilst World Vision used armour-plated 4x4 vehicles
- MSF brought assistance to the remote northern town of Mussende through a combination of car, canoes and bikes, since numerous road bridges had been destroyed during the fighting

"World Vision plans to acquire armour-plated 4x4 vehicles in order to reach hundreds of thousands of Angolans cut off from humanitarian aid in areas rendered inaccessible by landmines.

World Vision said in a statement that problems with 'poor access, mine migration during the rainy season, and other security incidents' had resulted in United Nations travel restrictions in some parts of the country.

In December a UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) statement warned that "credible reports indicate that as many as 200,000 vulnerable people may be in critical distress in inaccessible areas".

The 2003 Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeal for Angola noted that humanitarian agencies were still unable to reach 40 percent of the countryside due to damaged infrastructure, inadequate road networks and extensive landmine infestation." (IRIN, 4 February 2003)

"The World Food Programme (WFP) is to conduct airdrops of food aid to Angolans in inaccessible areas.

Humanitarian agencies have been unable to reach many parts of the country, either because of the danger of landmines or poor road infrastructure.

WFP spokesman in the capital Luanda, Marcelo Spina-Hering, told IRIN that the agency was in the process of preparing for the airdrops.

'There are many different areas throughout the country that are inaccessible ... in three locations, in the north, south and centre of the country, there are 40,000 people isolated. That's only in those three areas, we do not know the total number of people cut-off from aid,' he said.

WFP staff have been sent to Kenya for airdrop training. 'They are very complex logistics operations, they are expensive and require special training and equipment,' Spina-Hering added.

He explained that, while 'we are very low on resources and airdrops are very expensive, we have to do it otherwise people will die'.

WFP was awaiting the arrival of special equipment 'which should arrive in a week or so' before deciding which areas would be targeted.

'We will prioritise them at that time, as the situation could change in a week's time and areas that were previously inaccessible may become accessible, while other areas could become inaccessible because a bridge collapses or something,' Spina-Hering said.

The government needed to urgently conduct infrastructure repair and maintenance and the international community needed to 'invest in de-mining' in the country.

'There are millions of landmines here in Angola. De-mining is needed now for humanitarian operations and also for the future development of the country. It will enable the country to pass [from the humanitarian crisis stage] to the development stage,'" he noted.

He pointed to reports of a US \$3 million French grant to Angola for de-mining and the return of internally displaced persons to their home areas as a 'good example of what the international community can do'.

Spina-Hering said urgent cash and in-kind donations were needed. 'We are likely to have disruption of the food aid pipeline by the end of March or early April. Our main concern now is getting maize,' he said." (IRIN, 10 January 2003)

"Mussende is a small, isolated town, in the Cuanza Sul Province in northern Angola, located 134 kilometres from Malange, the provincial capital of Malange province. Mussende municipality has a population of approximately 10,000, while over 35,000 people live in the total surrounding area. Mussende

was completely destroyed during the war, its isolation is so complete MSF team could only access the village the first time with a combination of cars, canoes and bicycles. The three main access roads to the town have been all but useless as all the bridges along the routes that cross the immense Cuanza River were destroyed during the 27 year long war, preventing almost all vehicle access.

Car, canoes, bikes

MSF's first entry in September came after a two-hour drive from Malange to the Cuanza river, then canoes to cross the Cuanza River - at a point almost 250m wide - and then on bicycle to ride another 85kms to the town. There were just two national staff members on this first trip, and they carried only personal gear such as sleeping mats and mosquito net.

It took MSF two days to reach Mussende by bike stopping often to assess the needs of the populations living in the four villages along the route. Finally in Mussende, they were able to assess the population there and try to arrange some sort of transport method for a larger team to enter.

Seven months after the cease fire was declared on April 4, this would be the first entry by an international organisation in years and MSF remains the only organisation active. Mussende is not the exception inside Angola as a place with no international assistance. There still remain many other areas throughout the country that have not been reached - by either MSF or other organisations - since the end of the war.

Fortunately the populations were not in as bad a condition as the team had feared. The greatest concern was for the people in the Reception Areas (previously called Quartering and Family Areas), where UNITA soldiers and their families live, because of what MSF had seen in the Reception Areas in Malange. However, although this group was vulnerable and needed assistance, they were not in very poor condition.

Critical phase

At the moment, the MSF team has one doctor and nurse permanently based in Mussende. The people feel very isolated there and just the fact that MSF is on the ground there and visibly doing work is re-assuring the people.

It is critical time for MSF to be in places like Mussende. The area is entering a transitional new phase of peace and the population still remains very vulnerable. After years of instability, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have slowly started returning to the Mussende area to re-build their communities. In the coming months, the population will grow considerably and shall bring added stress to the health care system and food resources." (MSF, 13 January 2003)

Relief food held up by bureaucratic obstacles (October 2002)

- Disagreement over customs and processing charges blocks urgently needed relief food from leaving the harbour
- WFP faced with having to cut food rations to 1.8 million beneficiaries

"Desperately needed emergency food aid has been sitting in Angolan ports because the customs and processing charges have not been paid, IRIN has learnt.

The World Food Programme (WFP) confirmed the situation when approached by IRIN for comment.

With WFP stocks quickly running out, the organisation will be left with no choice but to cut rations of pulses - beans, lentils and peas - to the 1.8 million desperate Angolans it plans to feed this month.

WFP spokesman in Angola, Marcelo Spina-Hering, confirmed that the 8,500 mt of urgently needed food aid, mainly pulses, was blocked from leaving the harbour. This would have a severe impact on the needy as pulses are the main source of protein in WFP rations.

At present WFP had 'available for delivery only 31 mt of pulses, that's nothing for Angola, that's just nothing', he said.

'The reason they are sitting there [relief stocks] is because customs clearance charges and processing fees were not paid, it's not WFP who pays those fees it's the government. In terms of a long-term agreement we have with the government, this is one of the ways the government had committed itself to contribute to WFP's work in Angola, by clearing those custom charges.

'We have over a long period now been in contact with MINARS [the Ministry of Social Reintegration], we deal with them on humanitarian aid aspects. We've been following this up with MINARS over time, they say that they are taking measures on this but it has been going on for some time now and the food is still blocked [from leaving the ports], we have come to a point where our stocks are [depleted] and we have to cut rations,' said Spina-Hering.

WFP was also concerned that shipments of about 30,000 mt of food aid due to arrive this month could also be held up at the ports. 'We have a lot of shipments arriving in October that would allow us to carry on our distributions for the next couple of months, and also eventually start with the necessary pre-positioning of food in Angola in order to avoid a cut in distributions in some areas that will be inaccessible during the rains,' he noted. WFP needed to pre-position 12,000 mt ahead of the rains." (WFP, 17 October 2002)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Government response

Regulations for the Application of the "Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations"

Unofficial translation

"Being necessary to regulate the "Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations", approved by the Council of Ministers on 18 October 2000 and published as Decree nr 1/01 of 5 January;

Considering the involvement of different Government sectors intervening in the resettlement process of IDPs, under the terms of the provisions of paragraph f) of the article 112 and article 113 both of the Constitutional Law, the Government promulgates the following "Regulations":

Preamble

The present instrument is prepared under the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations with a view to facilitate the resettlement and, where the conditions permit, the return of IDPs to their areas of origin, in an organized manner, in the respect to the will of the citizen.

The present instrument seeks to regulate and define thoroughly the responsibilities and attributions of the Institutions intervening in the implementation of the resettlement and return process of IDPs, as well as the methodologies and the reference standards that should be used in this process.

For the purpose of the present Regulations, "Displaced Persons" are those persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their houses or their places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of the armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of the human rights or human-made or natural disasters, and who have not crossed internationally recognized State border, in accordance with the United Nations document E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, entitled "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement."

For the purpose of the present Regulations, the concepts reinstallation and resettlement are synonyms meaning the process of temporary or definitive settlement in an area other than the area of origin of the displaced person. Return means the resettlement process of the displaced person in the area of origin. Temporary resettlement should only occur if security, humanitarian and socio-economic conditions in the camps and transit centres are unacceptable and if insecurity persists in the area of origin, making return inopportune. In any way, the preferred solution is the return to the point of origin. If temporary resettlement occurs, this should not prejudice the right of IDPs to return voluntarily to their areas of origin when conditions are conducive and cannot undermine their right to choose to fix permanent residence in an area different than the one of his/her origin.

ARTICLE I

(Process Leading Organs)

The resettlement and return process of IDPs is the responsibility of the Government of Angola which attributes to the Provincial Governments the following competencies:

- a) The Provincial Governor in his/her capacity as the Chairman of the Provincial Humanitarian Group (PHCG) shall guarantee the regular functioning of the Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Group and determine, through dispatch, the creation or reactivation of the Subgroup on IDPs and Refugees (SGDR).
- b) The Subgroup on IDPs and Refugees is chaired by the Provincial Director of Social Assistance and Promotion, Ex-Combatants and War Veterans and includes the Provincial Directors of Agriculture and Rural Development, Health, Education, Water and Energy, Interior, Justice, UTCAH and INAROE, as well as FAA and ANP Liaison Officers. The Subgroup on IDPs and Refugees also includes representatives of UN agencies, NGOs and other international organizations present in the Province.
- c) A Steering Committee composed of MINARS and UTCAH with the support of a humanitarian agency is responsible for ensuring the functioning of the SGDR through the following tasks: organizing and preparing the meetings of Subgroup on IDPs and Refugees; preparing the minutes of the meetings; preparing informative notes on the target group and the activities that are planned and implemented, as well as presenting proposals and recommendations to the Subgroup.
- d) The SGDR may create working commissions for the execution of its tasks.
- e) The SGDR receives its general directives from the PHCG." (Government of Angola, July 2001)

The government announces that 340,000 IDPs should return by the end of the year (September 2004)

- The Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration says IDP camps can no longer be justified
- All the remaining 340,000 IDPs should return to their areas of origin by the end of the year 2004

"Já quanto aos deslocados internos, até ao final do ano deverá ser declarado o fim do seu reassentamento. O Ministro da Assistência e Reinserção Social, João Baptista Kussumua, aponta a existência de 340.000 deslocados registados, mas de acordo com a ONU, o número de pessoas que na verdade precisam de regressar a casa está próximo das 60.000, uma vez que muitas das pessoas incluídas nos números do governo tencionam ficar onde estão actualmente." (AN, 21 September 2004).

"O Ministro da Assistência e Reinserção Social disse Quarta-feira, em Luanda, que já não se justifica a existência de campos de deslocados em Angola.

João Baptista Kussumua, que falava na abertura do 15º conselho consultivo do MINARS, anunciou, para breve, o encerramento de todos os centros de deslocados ainda existentes no país.

Segundo o governante, o MINARS conseguiu fazer regressar perto de quatro milhões de pessoas na condição de deslocadas às suas origens, restando apenas cerca de trezentas e quarenta mil cidadãos a quem pedimos que até antes do final do ano regressem às suas terras, vilas e aldeias, pois o país terá de declarar, proximamente, encerrados os campos e centros de deslocados.

O ministro afirmou, igualmente, que o seu pelouro contribuirá significativamente no combate à pobreza, através de programas e projectos de protecção e desenvolvimento das famílias em situação de vulnerabilidade, protecção, educação e formação de crianças e adolescentes desprovidos de amparo familiar, entre outras acções" (RNA, 2 September 2004)

Insufficient commitment by the government (February 2004)

- The return and resettlement process must be framed within a context of extremely difficult operational conditions
- Pragmatism and political priorities associated with the security concern represented by the UNITA soldiers led the channelling of existing resources first and foremost towards their assistance
- The Angolan government responded to the crisis devising an "Emergency Resettlement and Return Programme (ERRP)" that outlined the government policy to facilitate the return and resettlement of the displaced population
- The programme included specific training in Luanda during July 2002 for delegates from 17 Provinces with the task of drafting plans of action for the return of IDPs
- The planning process shifted from a focus on beneficiaries to a community-based assessment of problems and resources

"The Angolan government considered the transfer of IDPs from camps and urban areas [further to the cease-fire in 2002] to the countryside essential to the normalization of the country. In fact, the return of these displaced populations represented and still represents one of the most important aspects of the wider post-war phase of normalization and stabilization of the country. The return and resettlement process must be framed within a context of extremely difficult operational conditions characterized by lack of, or destroyed, basic infrastructures (roads, bridges and airstrips) and inaccessibility to several areas as a result of landmine infestation or due to the impassability of roads during the rainy season. However, while the magnitude of these problems certainly undermined the return and resettlement efforts of the competent authorities, it does not fully justify what appeared to be an insufficient commitment to implement the plans efficiently and satisfactorily.

Pragmatism and political priorities associated with the security concern represented by the UNITA soldiers led the channeling of existing resources first and foremost towards their assistance, and only then to other needy populations, the returning Angolan refugees and the internally displaced persons. After assessing the seriousness of the post-war humanitarian emergency, in July 2002, the Angolan government responded to the crisis devising an "Emergency Resettlement and Return Programme (ERRP)" that outlined the government policy to facilitate the return and resettlement of the displaced population. Structured in three phases and with the objective of benefiting almost 2 million of people, the programme included specific training in Luanda during July 2002 for delegates from 17 Provinces with the task of drafting plans of action for the return of IDPs as well as familiarize participants with the legal provisions to be applied during the implementation phase.

In September 2002 additional technical training took place, aiming at the constitution of a national database regarding the return and resettlement process, while IDP protection training for provincial officers led by the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in Angola (OCHA) in 2000 and 2001 became instrumental to the process as a whole. More training occurred during 2003 through the evaluation of the 2002 Provincial plans and the drafting of updated ones, and further training was given to provincial officers in August of that year. Significantly, the planning process shifted from a focus on beneficiaries to a community-based assessment of problems and resources. This time, one of the main objectives of the provincial planning process was to prioritise realistic resettlement and return in compliance with existing domestic legislation. Plans of action were developed at the provincial level and will serve as the basis of strategic and operational planning for 2004." (ISS, 5 February 2004)

Norms for the Resettlement of the Displaced Populations' meant very little in practice (February 2004)

- Only 15 percent of IDPs moved through an organized resettlement process
- An estimated 30 percent were settled in areas with adequate living conditions, as specified in the 'Norms'
- Absolute inadequacy of provincial capacity and the non-existence of basic living conditions in the areas of return
- The full implementation of the resettlement norms was too ambitious
- State administration was either absent or inoperative in many of the peripheral municipalities

"Although providing an important planning tool and attributing formal responsibilities to the competent authorities, the 'Norms for the Resettlement of the Displaced Populations' meant very little in practice. According to the 2003 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal (CAP), only 15 percent of IDPs moved through an organized resettlement process, and an estimated 30 percent were settled in areas with adequate living conditions, as specified in the 'Norms'. The forecast reported by the U.N. 2003 CAP Mid-Year Review for the second half of 2003 and the acting U.N. Humanitarian Coordinator confirmed during August 2003 the same figures, with no significant difference in comparison to the previous year. Lack of capacity and resources, the large number of returnees and serious problems in coordinating the activities of various bodies and individuals were also detrimental to the implementation process. While certainly preventing efficient action by the competent authorities, this can only partly justify the lack of respect for the Norms. Some reflection should be applied to the Angolan government's policy decision processes, particularly as regards the encouragement of people to return, while being aware of the absolute inadequacy of provincial capacity and the non-existence of basic living conditions in the areas of return.

After the 2002 ceasefire, and with almost 1 million people in acute distress and requiring urgent assistance with an additional 1 million requiring food assistance, the response should not have been to focus on immediate returns, but rather to stabilize the living conditions of people in need. The government could have used the 3 to 4 months before the start of the rainy season to implement activities aimed at creating the best possible conditions in areas of return, as outlined in the Norms. While the development of clear benchmarks and a matrix of compliance indicators may certainly aid the process, it has proved insufficient.

In fact, the full implementation of the resettlement norms was too ambitious for the government to implement in the short term. In any event, resettlement kits, seeds, and tools were not going to be delivered before the commencement of the rainy season in September and October, since these items had to be imported and their delivery required a great deal of capacity unavailable in the provinces. State administration

was either absent or inoperative in many of the peripheral municipalities and none of the necessary basic infrastructure would have been restored for facilitating the return of the population. As a result, during the second half of 2002, some 1 million people moved back without any kind of assistance." (ISS, 5 February 2004, p 9)

Government creates National Demining Institute (January 2004)

"The Angolan Government has created through a decree the National Demining Institute (Inad) in replacement of the extinct Inaroe, reads the last edition of the State's Gazette.

The recently created institute is in charge of making people aware about landmine danger, research, demarcation, removal, technology innovation and stock destruction in order to allow the free and safe transit of people and goods as well as the social and economic development.

It will also carry out studies and elaborate projects in this domain, to assess the mine situation countrywide, and to cooperate with organizations, associations, governmental and non-governmental entities, civilians and military in the holding of activities linked to the demining process.

The institute is an organ of the Welfare and Social Reintegration Ministry, whose organic structure comprises a directive and fiscal council among other executive services." (GOA, 7 January 2004)

The January 2001 Decree concerning the resettlement of displaced people confers rights to shelter (November 2003)

- The definition of "displaced people" in Article 1 of the decree fits the situation of many individuals among those evicted in Luanda
- Article 14 of the Decree provides for the identification and allocation of land

"The January 2001 Decree concerning the resettlement of displaced people contains important developments in providing safeguards for the protection of the right to adequate housing. It confers rights to shelter, among other components of the right to an adequate standard of living. It also recognizes the importance of freedom of movement, the right to receive adequate information, and the right to participate in decision-making. The definition of "displaced people" in Article 1 of the decree fits the situation of many individuals among those evicted in Luanda. The principles in the Decree should apply to all those facing eviction.

Article 14 of the Decree provides for the identification and allocation of land. The quality of the land must be taken into account and the authorities are required to ensure that negotiations take place between resident and displaced populations concerning land distribution. Article 14 also provides for the planning of housing areas and for the designing of houses with respect to local customs of construction. Article 17 makes the Provincial Government responsible for ensuring that adequate measures are taken to provide water and sanitation, for the management of these systems in collaboration with the community, and for guaranteeing the supply of drinking water. Article 18 on Social Assistance covers the provision of health care, education and any necessary food assistance." (Amnesty International, 12 November 2003, p. 18)

GoA decrees Norms on the Resettlement on Internally Displaced Populations (January 2001)

- GoA officially publishes decree on 5 January 2001
- In February 2001, a technical working group is formed to develop standard operating procedures for the implementation of Norms

Decree published on 5 January 2001:

"The decree on norms on the resettlement of internally displaced populations was officially published by the Government of Angola on 5 January 2001. In late February 2001, a technical working group was formed under the leadership of the Ministry for Assistance and Social Resettlement to develop standard operating procedures for implementation of the norms. The aim of the technical working group, which includes 11 government ministries and departments, United Nations agencies and NGOs, is to produce a set of legally binding procedures that guarantee the standardized application of the norms countrywide and identify benchmarks for monitoring the resettlement process." (UNSC 11 April 2001, para. 27)

Planning already in progress for the implementation of the Norms at the provincial level via technical working group:

"In February, under the leadership of MINARS, a technical working group was formed to develop standard operating procedures (regulamento) for the implementation of the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations, approved by the Council of Ministers in October 2000. The key aim of the technical working group, which includes 11 Government ministries and departments, UN Agencies and NGOs, is to produce a set of legally binding procedures that guarantee the standardised application of the Norms countrywide and identify benchmarks for the monitoring of the resettlement process.

- **Provincial Protection Plans**

A key component of the IDP Humanitarian Principles Strategy, proposed by the Inter-Agency Protection Working Group in January, is the training of state and non-state actors at the provincial level on humanitarian principles and the development of provincial protection plans. The aim of the training programme is to sensitise key actors about humanitarian principles and the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations, build momentum and consensus around the need to protect IDPs and develop a concrete action plan aimed at direct protection. Provincial workshops involve 30-40 participants, including representatives of Government ministries, Angolan Army and National Police liaison officers, civilian and military provincial attorneys, representatives of national and international NGOs, religious organisations and UN Agencies. Since December [2000], provincial workshops have been held in Uíge and Zaire Provinces. During February [2001], a similar workshop was conducted in Malanje Province. In each of the three provinces where provincial workshops have been held, provincial protection plans have been developed and submitted to the Provincial Governor for analysis, feedback and endorsement." (OCHA 28 February 2001)

"During March [2001], Provincial Protection Workshops were conducted in the Provinces of Benguela, Bié and Huambo. The aim of the workshops was to sensitise key actors about humanitarian principles and the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations, build momentum and consensus around the need to protect IDPs and develop a concrete plan of action aimed at direct protection. By the end of March, provincial protection plans had been developed in six provinces and presented to provincial Governors for review and endorsement. In Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Uíge and Zaire, partners have begun implementation of the plans. In Malanje, the provincial Governor approved the plan of action although no steps have been taken to implement its recommendations." (OCHA 18 April 2001)

"47. Pursuant to the norms, responsibility for resettlement and return is invested in provincial governments, which will oversee the process through the Provincial Humanitarian Coordination Group (PHCG) and the reactivated Sub-Group on Displaced Persons and Refugees. The norms specify preconditions for resettlement and targets for post-relocation assistance and as such address issues concerning the identification of resettlement sites, in terms of being verified as mine free, responsibility for which rests with the National Institute for the Removal of Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (INAROE), and verified by the relevant defence and security organs as secure. The norms also provide for the voluntary nature of the resettlement process, involving all interested parties and beneficiaries in the planning and management of the relocation. State administration must be extended to resettlement or return sites, and health and education personnel will be supported, including through the provision of

appropriate medical and teaching supplies, by the relevant government ministries. The authorities will work with humanitarian agencies to ensure the availability of water points in sufficient quantity and quality and to provide adequate sanitation. The displaced will be provided with seeds and tools and with food rations for a period to be determined. Preparation of resettlement sites will be supported through food-for-work projects. Finally, the PHCG will carry out regular assessments of the resettlement process.
[...]

51. The development of the norms was a fundamental component of a more appropriate response, to respect the safety and dignity of the displaced. Even before their formal adoption by the Council of Ministers in October 2000, the draft minimum standards [MINARS] were reportedly used as the de facto frame of reference by government officials and humanitarian organizations at the provincial level. They were also widely used in the preparation of the provincial Plans of Emergency Action in September [2000]. During 2001, the Government plans to relocate large numbers of displaced persons on the basis of the new norms. Estimates of the numbers involved range from 500,000 to up to 1 million. Whatever the eventual figure, effective implementation of the norms on resettlement, and monitoring, will be key to the whole process." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 47, 51)

To study the Government decree of 5 January 2001 in detail, please consult the unofficial English translation available under sources below or the original document in Portuguese available by fax from the Global IDP Project.

International political response

Lusaka Protocol considered being nearly fully implemented (May 2003)

- Consolidation of the cease fire agreement
- Dismantling of the Joint Commission
- UN Mission in Angola (UNMA) having concluded its mandate

"Since the launch of Emergency Appeal 26/02 in September 2002 and Appeal 01.14/2003 in December 2002 conditions in Angola have changed rapidly and progressively, with the de facto consolidation of the cease fire agreement, signed between the Government of the Republic of Angola and the UNITA in April 2002, followed by the dismantling of the Joint Commission, on 21 November 2002, as a result of the Lusaka Protocol considered being nearly fully implemented, and the UN Mission in Angola (UNMA) having concluded its mandate on 15 February, 2003. The last gathering areas for demobilized UNITA combatants are planned to be closed by the end of April, 2003. (IFCR, 22 May 2003)

UN Security Council lifts sanctions against UNITA (December 2002)

- International sanctions imposed against UNITA since 1997 are finally lifted at the end of 2002
- UN Monitoring Mechanism on Angola Sanctions, established in April 2000, has greatly reduced role

"The Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the Angola monitoring mechanism for a period of two months, until 19 December 2002, as it met on the situation in that country this afternoon.

Through the unanimous adoption of resolution 1439 (2002), the Council also decided to lift the travel ban against members of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) as of 14 November 2002, with a view towards the possible lifting of more such sanctions by 19 November, taking into account the implementation of the peace accords.

By further provisions of the text, the Council requested the monitoring mechanism to provide an action plan for its future work within 10 days, including its plans for consultation with the parties and an assessment of possible violations of existing measures against UNITA that may have occurred since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding of 4 April 2002. It also requested the mechanism to provide details on efforts to locate UNITA financial resources currently frozen in compliance with existing measures." (UN Security Council, 18 October 2002)

"Welcoming progress towards peace in Angola, the Security Council this afternoon decided to lift the remaining sanctions on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), including material embargoes, travel restrictions and the freezing of assets imposed by Council resolutions beginning with resolution 864 of 1993.

By today's unanimous adoption of resolution 1448 (2002), the Council also decided to dissolve the Angola Sanctions Committee and to close the United Nations Trust Fund that supported the Expert Panels formed to investigate violations of sanctions against UNITA.

At the same time, the Council, through further terms of the resolution, expressed its intention to give full consideration to the additional report of the Angola Monitoring Mechanism, which had been requested by resolution 1439 of October 2002. In that resolution, the Council had requested that the report focus on sanctions violations that might have occurred in recent months, as well on the identification of frozen UNITA funds." (UN Security Council, 9 December 2002)

"The Monitoring Mechanism was established by the Security Council on 18 April [2000] to collect information on violations of the sanctions against UNITA and recommend ways to improve their implementation. Its members were Ambassador Juan Larrain of Chile (Chairman), Ambassador Lena Sundh of Sweden, Ms. Christine Gordon of the United Kingdom, Mr. James Manzou of Zimbabwe and Mr. Ismaila Seck of Senegal." (DPI 28 December 2000)

"The Mechanism was formed in July 2000, with the mandate to follow up leads initiated by the Panel of Experts, collect new information and investigate leads, and develop a mechanism to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the implementation of sanctions on UNITA.

It got off to a slow start due to wrangling over its role, but in the final months of its investigations it made considerable headway in uncovering links between UNITA and the international trade in diamonds and arms." (Action for Southern Africa 5 January 2001)

"Members of the sanctions-monitoring mechanism established under Security Council resolution 1295 (2000) visited Angola in November 2000 and again in February 2001. They met with several senior Government and State corporation officials, including some former UNITA generals, as well as members of the diplomatic community. As confirmed by the Government of Angola (S/2001/123), the sanctions seem to have contributed to efforts aimed at eroding the military capability of UNITA. However, there are worrying indications that some unidentified planes have been violating Angola's air space in the Cuando Cubango province to deliver supplies to UNITA, and that representatives of UNITA continue to raise funds through the illicit sale of diamonds." (UNSC 11 April 2001, para. 12)

"The Security Council this afternoon [19 April 2001] extended the mandate of the Monitoring Mechanism on Angola Sanctions until 19 October and requested it to provide a supplementary report by that date [it submitted its first report in December 2000].

[...]

As it unanimously adopted orally revised resolution 1348 (2001) today, the Council also requested the Secretary-General, acting in consultation with the Security-Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning Angola, to appoint up to five experts to serve on the Monitoring Mechanism and to make the necessary arrangements to support its work." (UNSC April 2001)

The Mechanism recommended the establishment of a permanent monitoring body in its supplementary report of October 2001:

"260. The experience of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA has shown that there is a need for establishing a permanent capability of the Security Council to ensure ongoing monitoring of targeted sanctions regimes and illicit trafficking in high-value commodities in armed conflicts.

261. Such a new unified facility under the authority of the Security Council would maintain the political momentum gained in recent years on the question of sanctions enforcement and in the fight against the illicit trafficking fuelling armed conflicts. It would be cost-effective, and would avoid duplication of tasks and overlapping of investigations and ensure the preservation of a comprehensive database as well as its systematic and continuing processing. It would also permit the establishment of permanent and fruitful working relations with technical and regional organizations such as Interpol, ICAO, SADC, ECOWAS, OAU, the Wassenaar Arrangement and the World Customs Organization, all of which are essential partners in an effective implementation of sanctions.

262. In the case of Angola, a monitoring capacity has been in place since July 2000. Any gap in the monitoring process would afford a respite to sanctions violators and would be detrimental to the effectiveness of sanctions. The monitoring of illicit trafficking in high-value commodities involved in armed conflicts of which the Security Council is seized is intrinsically related to the question of sanctions monitoring. The lack of enforcement of sanctions and embargoes and the perpetuation of illicit trafficking have the same negative impact on the perpetuation of conflicts. Experience and data accumulated by the various panels of experts appointed in the past two years have shown that sanctions violations and illicit trafficking involve the same patterns of illegal activities and similar criminal networks.

263. A permanent monitoring capability will also strengthen the enforcement of sanctions, because it will act as a deterrent to potential violations. In this regard, the Mechanism has been able to appreciate the importance of this function and its positive effect. This also sets the ground for obtaining the cooperation of States in complying with the sanctions." (UNSC October 2001)

For more detailed information on UNITA sanctions enforcement, see the first report of the UN Monitoring Mechanism on Angolan Sanctions issued in December 2000 [External link] as well as UN Security Council draft resolution 1348 extending the Mechanism's mandate to October 2001 [External link]. Refer also to the Mechanism's Supplementary Report of October 2001 for details on UNITA structures and trafficking mechanisms [External link].

Security Council authorizes establishment of UN Mission in Angola (August 2002)

- In August 2002, the Security Council authorised the establishment of the UN Mission in Angola (UNMA), for a period of six months
- This followed the UN-SG's recommendations for an expanded mandate of the UN Office in Angola in order to implement new tasks in support of peace consolidation

- These recommendations included the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and various additional personnel, including 16 UN human rights officers.
- According to the UN-SG, a significant increase in donor support would be required for the UN system to address the most urgent task in Angola, namely the delivery of humanitarian assistance to 3 million needy Angolans.

"Expressing the view that the United Nations presence in Angola could contribute to the consolidation of peace in that country, the Security Council authorized this afternoon the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA), as a follow-on mission to the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA), for a period of six months until 15 February 2003.

Unanimously adopting resolution 1433 (2002), the Council also expressed its intention in determining whether to extend, adjust or curtail the Mission, to take into account the Secretary-General's recommendations based on his Special Representative's assessment of progress in completing the Lusaka Protocol.

Also by the text, the Council endorsed the staffing of UNMA as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report, including the recommendation for a Child Protection Adviser, to assist the parties in concluding the Lusaka Protocol by chairing the Joint Commission, and leading the completion of the agreed list of tasks which remained pending under the Lusaka Protocol.

UNMA is also to assist the Angolan Government in undertaking, among other things, the protection and promotion of human rights and in the building of institutions to consolidate peace and enhance the rule of law; support for social and professional reintegration of the demobilized through appropriate United Nations agencies; and the promotion of economic recovery through relevant United Nations agencies.

In addition, the Council welcomed the appointment of a resident Special Representative of the Secretary-General to serve as the head of UNMA, and to oversee a coordinated and integrated approach to United Nations activities in Angola as reflected in the UNMA mandate.

Further by the text, the Council requested the Secretary-General to report to it when his Special Representative confirmed that the Joint Commission had determined that all remaining tasks under the Lusaka Protocol have been completed." (UN Security Council, 15 August 2002)

"Leadership of the United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA) is to pass from Ibrahim Gambari to Erick de Mul, the former Humanitarian Coordinator in the country.

"The peace process under the Lusaka protocol is now completed ... but the challenges ahead are not minor," Gambari was quoted as saying in a transcript of a press conference he held in Luanda on Tuesday.

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General underlined the need to address the humanitarian crisis in the country. Gambari also stressed the need for "an economic recovery and reconstruction and the consolidation of peace and national reconciliation".

The UN, the international community, the government and former rebel group UNITA, were all happy with the conclusion of outstanding issues of the 1994 Lusaka protocol, he said.

"The UN is very delighted to have been part of the peace process and will continue to assist the people and government of Angola to consolidate the peace and to address the challenges in the humanitarian situation, economic recovery, de-mining, human rights and all the other things that we can do in common. I must not forget the challenge of social reintegration of demobilised soldiers.

'But now that war is over, these tasks will be much easier, particularly with the government doing even more to make resources available for dealing with these challenges, the international community will come to assist and will compliment these efforts,' he said.

On De Mul's appointment, Gambari said: 'The major challenges are now humanitarian and developmental and that is why it is appropriate that he will be taking over as Officer-in-Charge of the UNMA from this point on.'

He had been assured by the government that De Mul would receive 'full cooperation and support'. (IRIN, 4 December 2002)

"To implement the new tasks described [in the report], the mandate of the United Nations Office in Angola, which is set out in Security Council resolution 1268 (1999), would need to be adjusted to include the following additional tasks:

To liaise with the parties through the Joint Military Commission and the Technical Group.

To provide advice to and general observation of the quartering, demobilization and reintegration process, if so requested by the Government of Angola.

To chair the Joint Commission, once it has been established, and promote reconciliation through good offices.

To assist in the development of strategies and programmes to consolidate peace.

In the area of human rights, to provide assistance for the building of institutions in support of the rule of law and to assist the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of national reconciliation and democratization.

48. This expanded mandate would require a new mission to succeed the United Nations Office in Angola, headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General who would lead the United Nations system in Angola and ensure coordination and integration in support of the consolidation of peace. In this connection, the Special Representative would assume the lead on the provision of United Nations support for the political and military functions envisaged in the first and second phases of the peace process, and help to conclude the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. He or she would also promote, in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, the coordination of quartering, demobilization and reintegration and other activities between the United Nations and the World Bank.

49. For military tasks the new mission would require an increase in personnel, including 11 military liaison officers who would liaise with both FAA and military or former military components of UNITA. In my letter of 25 June 2002, I requested that the Security Council urgently approve the deployment of these personnel in connection with the immediate tasks of the United Nations in this area, and I am grateful for the Council's positive response. I wish to report that, to date, 7 of these United Nations military personnel have already been deployed in Angola.

50. As provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding, the military personnel would take part in the work of the Joint Military Commission, the Central Technical Group established in Luanda and, as needed and as logistical and security conditions permit, in the regional technical groups. In addition, they would provide military advice to the Head of Mission. They will be based in Luanda and will visit locations in the provinces if and when required.

51. To assist the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in chairing the Joint Commission, a few political affairs officers would be required for assignment to the Commission's secretariat when it is re-established. The actual number of officers will be determined when the scope of political tasks is clearer. Some modest interpretation facilities may also be required. In order to promote enhanced coordination

within the United Nations system, some of those officers would perform liaison functions with the World Bank.

52. Assistance in the promotion and protection of human rights would require the deployment of 16 additional United Nations human rights officers to key provinces, in close coordination with humanitarian personnel already on the ground in those locations. This deployment would enable the United Nations to extend the reach of its programmes to more effectively support institution-building and national reconciliation, and to assist in the promotion and protection of the human rights of refugees, internally displaced persons, ex-combatants and their families. In view of the magnitude of the problems associated with rehabilitation of children and the needs of youth, the deployment of a Child Protection Adviser would also be considered.

53. The logistical and administrative capacity of the United Nations Office in Angola would also need to be augmented to adequately support the new mission. There would be a requirement for some additional vehicles, offices, communications equipment and support personnel. In this regard, I trust that the Government of Angola will make the necessary additional accommodation and other essential premises available to the new mission. Furthermore, the deployment of one light aircraft and one long-range helicopter would be required to ensure the necessary mobility of the military liaison and observer personnel.

54. Meanwhile, the most urgent task of the United Nations system with regard to the consolidation of peace in Angola remains the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the 3 million Angolans in need. Key priorities in this regard will be rapid delivery of food assistance to prevent hunger, support for resettlement and return, the provision of health packages and improved access to health care, an expansion of access to safe water and adequate sanitation systems, and the promotion of education and mine action. For the present, the United Nations humanitarian agencies will try to face these tasks with the current level of personnel deployed on the ground. However, significant additional resources will be urgently required from donors if the humanitarian organizations are to address the needs of vulnerable populations in an adequate manner. For the economic and recovery and development tasks, UNDP and other United Nations agencies would need to formulate mid-term and longterm programmes." (UN Security Council, 26 July 2002)

Kofi Annan and Colin Powell visit Angola (August-September 2002)

- Both Kofi Annan and Colin Powell draw attention to the plight of Angolan IDPs during their visits to the country in August-September 2002

"The commitment of the United Nations to participating in the peace process in Angola was underlined by the arrival of Kofi Annan to the country on 25 August on a two-day visit.

During his visit he met with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Foreign Minister Joao Miranda. He also met with UNITA leader Paulo Lukamba Gato, who took the opportunity to press for the UN Security Council to lift the sanctions remaining on UNITA.

The Secretary General attended the first session of the Joint Commission, which is overseeing the completion of the Lusaka Protocol's outstanding matters. The Lusaka Protocol was signed in 1994 to pave the way for a peaceful transition in Angola, but was never completed because of UNITA's return to war. Many of the tasks were completed in 1997, including the return to parliament of the 70 UNITA parliamentarians and the incorporation of UNITA representatives in the Government of Unity and National reconciliation.

Another senior figure to visit Angola was United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who arrived in Luanda for a one-day stop-over on 5 September. He met with President dos Santos before going on to address a meeting of the Joint Commission, where he stated that 'Reconciliation will not be easy but it must begin now. The people of Angola have suffered enough.'

According to the South African Press Association, during his meeting with President dos Santos, Powell made clear that whilst the US would provide short-term humanitarian assistance, any long-term aid would only be in the form of technical assistance so that the country can manage its resources. He urged dos Santos to use the country's oil revenues to assist internally displaced people and to reintegrate the demobilised troops into society." (ACTSA, 10 September 2002)

US Ambassador to the UN makes criticism of UN coordination in Angola following his visit to the country in July 2000

- Ambassador Holbrooke is highly critical of UN coordination in his report to ECOSOC
- Following his criticism, the GoA requests UNHCR to assist with internally displaced persons
- A UNHCR assessment mission for expanded programming follows in late May 2000

"The UN debate on internal displacement focused on internally displaced persons in Angola. Ambassador Holbrooke had recently visited Angola, where WFP was the coordinating UN agency for displaced persons, and was highly critical of what he saw, telling ECOSOC, 'Anyone in this room who's been in Angola knows full well that the UN response is inadequate to the problem. Anyone who's been in Luanda knows that the UN agencies there are passing the buck.'

Shortly after Holbrooke's Security Council speech, the Angolan government requested UNHCR to assist with internally displaced people. In April, UNHCR sent an assessment mission, followed in late May, by a mission conducted by 12 senior staff, paving the way for an expanded field operation in the northern provinces of Uige and Zaire.

At the ECOSOC meeting, Holbrooke pledged \$2 million from the United States for UNHCR to expand its assistance program in northern Angola 'to cover emergency relief and protection needs of internal refugees.' But, in the absence of a lead agency approach, Holbrooke warned, 'Let's see if the UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, UNDP, and all the other organizations really do work together in the future. It's easy to talk about in this room. I find it unlikely that it will happen in the most difficult conditions—in a place like Luanda, where the agencies are in different buildings, where they don't have phone communications, when they work under the most difficult of circumstances—but let's give it a shot. The world will be watching.'" (USCR July 2000)

Coordination

Minister urges NGOs to embrace better cooperation (February 2004)

- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will have to submit detailed reports and strictly adhere to national labour laws and other regulations
- Rules passed in December 2002, designed to boost efficiency and coordination would be fully enforced
- NGOs have not been accountable to the government for their activities

- Suitably qualified Angolans should get positions before foreigners
- Concern that the government could clamp down on NGOs bringing in expertise from abroad

"Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Angola will have to submit detailed reports and strictly adhere to national labour laws and other regulations as the government implements a law governing their activities.

Rules passed in December 2002, designed to boost efficiency and coordination as the country moves to a reconstruction and development phase after 27 years of civil war, would be fully enforced, Minister of Social Welfare Joao Baptista Kussumwa said this week.

Urging NGOs to embrace "a more healthy and useful cooperation", Kussumwa said that if limited resources were to be used efficiently, NGO projects should be included in the government's strategy for growth and fighting poverty.

"To try to do many things at the same time, to please all of the people, could undermine the success of any initiative," he told a meeting of NGOs and the government's Technical Unit for Humanitarian Coordination (UTCAH). "We must concentrate our attention and strengths on clearly defined objectives to obtain the results we hope for."

NGOs are still digesting the implications of the new system, but after having been allowed to operate freely during Angola's emergency years of the war and its immediate aftermath, some fear it could harm their autonomy and hamper their humanitarian efforts.

"Many NGOs may find this a bit hard to swallow, because they have not had any previous reporting requirements to the Angolan government, and they have not been accountable to the government for their activities - although NGOs are accustomed to providing detailed reporting to their donors and their own 'boards,'" said the head of one NGO, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"It will mean that NGOs will have to find out more about national procedures in employment; learn about national regulations, and work within them, so yes, it will restrict them to a certain extent."

During the emergency years, NGOs, helped by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), could get working permits and visas relatively easily, while customs officers allowed relief equipment to pass through the system without extensive delays.

Kussumwa's insistence that suitably qualified Angolans should get positions before foreigners - a practice common in many countries - has sparked concern that the government could clamp down on NGOs bringing in expertise from abroad.

"We have no problem with the labour law, and many NGOs only bring in expatriate staff for training posts and highly specialised jobs," said the NGO head. "But my big concern is that we need to have a reasonably quick way of bringing staff in from abroad when we need external people ... It can take three months, or usually much more, to get a staff position filled for a one-year post."

Transitional Coordination Unit (TCU) has been created for the handover of coordination activities to the government (August 2004)

- Coordination functions currently undertaken by OCHA will be progressively handed over to Government and UN entities during 2004
- IRIN, the information service of the UN, signed an agreement with National Radio of Angola (RNA) that aims to improve cooperation
- Workshop to agree on prioritisation criteria for the areas to be included in the Provincial Transition Plan
- Provincial teams drafted 18 Provincial Transitional Plans, which have been approved by provincial governors

"After more than a decade of coordinating humanitarian assistance in one of the most complex emergencies on the continent, OCHA's mandate will be completed by the end of 2004. Given the remaining humanitarian tasks, important recovery and rehabilitation activities and ongoing processes such as the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), there is still a compelling need for a coordination mechanism tailored to fit the transitional context.

The main challenge facing the UN and its partners is to maintain a credible coordination capacity in the transition period with the ultimate goal of assisting the government of Angola to take over the responsibility for a sustainable and effective coordination system for development. Thus, a Transitional Coordination Unit (TCU) has been created in July 2004 to meet these needs until the end of 2005.

The Transitional Coordination Unit

As the overarching goal of the TCU is to enable the Government of Angola (GoA) to fully exercise responsibilities for the coordination mechanism for transition, the TCU will support the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) and the UN Country Team's strategic planning for the government's coordination requirement beyond humanitarian needs. More specifically, the TCU will fulfil the core functions of Coordination, Information Management and Advocacy and will identify the capacity building needs of the GoA, at both national and provincial level." (UNDP, 27 August 2004)

"The UN and its partners however, need to maintain a credible coordination mechanism during this crucial period of a transition period [from in July 2004 until the end of 2005] while building capacity to with the ultimate goal of assisting the Government of Angola (GoA) to take over responsibility for a sustainable and effective coordination system for development. Thus, it is proposed to create a Based on extensive stakeholder consultations, the establishment of the Transitional Coordination Unit (TCU) was agreed to meet these needs during the 18-month period from in July 2004 to meet these needs until the end of 2005.

The TCU will benefit from assume some many of the extensive resources put in place by OCHA including its – the field network, the breadth of staff experience and amongst staff, the functioning coordination forums as well as material assets such as vehicles and offices equipment. Structures will be – and adapted them to the transitional context, which is increasingly focused on stabilising populations and creating conditions for development while also ensuring that urgent now that coordination is no longer focused on urgent humanitarian needs are addressed. but stabilising the population and creating the conditions for development. The TCU will also support the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator (UN RC/HC) and UN Country Team (UNCT) in strategic planning for the government's coordination requirement beyond the humanitarian emergency. Specifically, the TCU will fulfil the core functions of Coordination, Information Management and Advocacy. In conjunction with these core functions, the TCU will identify capacity building needs of the GoA at national and provincial levels with a view toward a full handover of coordination functions during the project period (1 July 2004 to 31 December 2005)." (UNOCHA, 30 June 2004)

"During the first half of 2004, OCHA will transfer key coordination functions to relevant government ministries and UN agencies as part of its Exit Strategy. In order to facilitate the transfer, UN agencies will help develop core competencies and establish appropriate institutional structures by building the capacities of government ministries. The Resident Coordinator's Unit will be strengthened and will take over transition coordination functions in mid-2004. The Government will continue to increase leadership in sectoral and general coordination. Donor coordination will be strengthened through regular consultations and information exchange. International and national NGOs will continue to explore ways to improve strategic coordination and develop operational partnerships. The UN system will continue to improve information exchange and dissemination strategies to advocate for humanitarian principles." (UN OCHA, 18 November, 2003, p. 25)

"The Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH), with the support of the UN, organised the national Provincial Transition Plan (PTP) Workshop to agree on prioritisation criteria for the areas to be included in the PTPs and provide training in a new community assessment methodology. More than 180 provincial and national representatives from ministries, UN agencies, and national and international NGOs attended. Following the workshop, provincial teams drafted 18 Provincial Transitional Plans, which have been approved by provincial governors. The main community problems, as well as the integrated community responses identified in the PTPs, were turned by a joint UTCAH – OCHA team in Luanda into a consolidated plan which is a key component of the 2004 Transitional Appeal" (UN OCHA, 18 November 2003, p. 11)

The government will retain overall responsibility for coordination of relief and recovery programmes (November 2003)

- The Commission for Social and Productive Reintegration of Demobilised and Displaced (CSPRDD) will coordinate programmes aimed at reintegration and reconstruction at the strategic level
- At the provincial level, provincial CSPRDDs will coordinate the operational aspects of return and reintegration
- The Humanitarian Coordination Group (HCG), co-chaired by the Minister of MINARS and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, will continue to serve as the main forum for strategic coordination

"The government will retain overall responsibility for coordination of relief and recovery programmes and will ensure safety and security for humanitarian and recovery personnel and assets. The Commission for Social and Productive Reintegration of Demobilised and Displaced (CSPRDD) will coordinate programmes aimed at reintegration and reconstruction at the strategic level. At the provincial level, provincial CSPRDDs will coordinate the operational aspects of return and reintegration, ensuring coherence among recovery and relief programmes. The Humanitarian Coordination Group (HCG), co-chaired by the Minister of MINARS and the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, will continue to serve as the main forum for strategic coordination. The government and the UNCT agreed that the HCG's format will be adapted to ensure that transitional issues are addressed. UTCAH will assume increased responsibilities for operational coordination following the transfer of OCHA's emergency-related functions.

At the thematic and sectoral levels, several coordinating commissions increased their activities in 2003 and will continue leading sectoral coordination during 2004. The National Inter-Sectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH) will coordinate mine action. CNIDAH receives technical support from the UN and is composed of national and international specialised agencies. The National Inter-Sectoral Commission for Study and Implementation of Agricultural Projects, created in 2003 and chaired by the Minister of Public Works, will be in charge of coordinating agricultural studies and pilot projects. The National Commission to Fight the Spread of HIV/AIDS, chaired by the President of the Republic, has a technical commission that has already drafted a strategic action plan in collaboration with

specialised agencies. It is expected that the HIV/AIDS Technical Commission will take the lead in coordinating all HIV/AIDS-related initiatives under the political and strategic guidance of the National Commission. Line ministries and specialised institutes will continue chairing sector-specific coordination structures including health, agriculture, education and child protection. IRSEM will take the lead in coordinating the Angola Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme." (UN OCHA, 18 November 2003, p. 50)

Within the UN system, the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC) will continue the coordination of relief and recovery (November 2003)

- Until June 2004, OCHA will continue acting as the Humanitarian Coordinator's Secretariat
- Beginning in July 2004, the Resident Coordinator will be responsible for coordinating transition matters and remaining humanitarian tasks
- At the technical level, the Inter-Agency Technical Team, which includes senior UN technical officers and NGO representatives, will continue to share information and monitoring

"Within the UN system, the Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC) will continue carrying the responsibility for the coordination of relief and recovery activities. Until June 2004, OCHA will continue acting as the Humanitarian Coordinator's Secretariat. Beginning in July 2004, the Resident Coordinator, on behalf of the UN system and supported by the Resident Coordinator's Unit (acting as the Resident Coordinator's Secretariat to effectively address transition challenges), will be responsible for coordinating transition matters and remaining humanitarian tasks. The RCU will be reinforced to ensure support for the Resident Coordinator's functions when OCHA phases out. The UNCT will assist the HC/RC in developing strategies, policies and programmes for relief and recovery. At the technical level, the Inter-Agency Technical Team, which includes senior UN technical officers and NGO representatives, will continue to share information and monitor the operationalisation of CT strategic and programmatic decisions until June 2004. Coordination mechanisms and methodologies for achieving the goals outlined in the Appeal will start changing at the beginning of the year to mirror the transitional situation. Under the political guidance of the CT, the UNDAF Steering Committee, composed of senior UN officers, will ensure coordination of the three thematic groups working on the completion of the UNDAF document. Inter-Agency Technical Team members will continue to meet regularly with the Steering Committee to ensure continuity and consistency in the transitional process.

At the thematic and sectoral levels, several UN coordination mechanisms will be operational. The HIV/AIDS Thematic Group and the related technical working group will retain the responsibility to mainstream HIV/AIDS issues in UN agency strategies and programmes. Furthermore, they will ensure coordination among the main stakeholders. At the sectoral level, UN agencies will work in close cooperation with the line ministries to ensure support to the government's coordination mechanisms." (UN OCHA, 18 November 2003 p 50)

International donor response (2002-2003)

Recovery and reintegration of IDPs threatened by lack of funding (September 2004)

- Returning internally displaced persons and refugees have had their cereal rations halved
- Uneven and delayed funding during the year made it difficult for relief partners to implement comprehensive, integrated programmes
- Limited resources delayed the shift from life-saving assistance to recovery activities

- No sign of an international donors conference

"Angola's recovery after decades of war is being threatened by a lack of funding support from both the government and the international community for assisting returning refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), the World Food Programme (WFP) has warned.

WFP has had to halve the cereal ration most of its beneficiaries receive and the agency has approached the Angolan government to make good on a pledge of US \$7.5 million toward its food aid operations in the country. [...]

'So far we have received \$63 million, but we still need \$14 million for this year, which is enough to purchase 23,000 mt of food,' said WFP spokesman Manuel Cristovao.

The government's promise of \$7.5 million, which Cristovao said was made towards the end of last year, would allow WFP to purchase more than half the food it needs for the rest of the year. However, Cristovao said, "our counterpart in government, the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration, [assured us] the money was approved but so far ... it has not reached WFP yet due to some bureaucracy".

The government's recent memorandum on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is also complicating matters for WFP. "We can get in-kind donations [of cereals] as long as it's not GMO. If it is GMO, it has to be milled before distribution, which has cost and time implications. There's also concern that there's not enough capacity to mill the quantity of grains we [need] to distribute to beneficiaries," said Cristovao. " (IRIN, 6 September 2004)

"The World Food Programme has warned that the lack of food donations for its programme to feed returning refugees and displaced people will seriously hamper international efforts for resettlement. WFP has stated that it continues to be 35,000 tons short of food for this year.

On 10 August WFP announced that it had only received \$45 million - or 18 percent - of its appeal for \$253 million to feed 1.4 million returning refugees and displaced people until the end of next year. Already it has been forced to halve the cereal rations and, unless there are new donations, cereals will run out in September. This would be the worst time to run out of stocks as Angola traditionally enters into its "lean season" between harvests at this time of year.

According to WFP Deputy Country Director for Angola, Sonsoles Ruedas, "the funding shortage is seriously undermining the resettlement process and reducing the incentive for people to return to their areas of origin." (APC, 17 August 2004)

"The total to US\$ 181,680,807 from US\$ 262,587,702. The Food Security Bloc reduced its request by roughly US\$ 50 million based on results of recent reassessments of caseloads. Additionally, all mine action projects originally included in the Appeal have been shifted to the Mine Action Portfolio for Angola 2004-2005 to eliminate potential duplication of funding requests" (UNOCHA, 15 June 2004).

"The need to placate international donors was once again highlighted by the lack of support for the United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola. With half of the year gone, only a quarter of the original UN appeal of \$262 million for humanitarian assistance to Angola has been donated. Over the last month there have been only four non-food donations: two from the European Commission totalling less than a million dollars; a private donation to the World Food Programme (WFP), and a donation of \$3 million from the United States to fund transport for returnees within Angola.

Despite the cutbacks in services provided by the WFP due to a severe food shortfall, only one further food donation was made, valued at \$659,752, from the Danish government. The WFP warned on 9 July that its programme for war affected people continues to be severely underfunded. It is only giving out half of the

cereal rations for its Food for Work programmes, although it continues to give full rations for other foods such as pulses, vegetable oil and salt.

Nor is there any sign of an international donors conference to coordinate aid for the reconstruction of the country. In 1995 the UN Development Programme (UNDP) organised a donors' conference in Brussels at which over a billion dollars was promised for the reconstruction of the country. The pledges were quietly forgotten as UNITA returned to war. With UNITA's leader Jonas Savimbi now dead and there being no prospect of UNITA relaunching its guerrilla struggle, there is no longer any urgent drive from the international community to help rebuild the country." (APM, 14 July 2004)

World Bank grant to resettle ex-combatants (September 2003)

- Children and the disabled affected by Angola's decades-long war are expected to benefit from a recently approved US \$33 million World Bank
- The grant is expected to bolster government efforts to rehabilitate thousands of former combatants
- Attention directed at agricultural assistance
- The grant would also be directed at vocational training and promoting microcredit schemes

"Women, children and the disabled affected by Angola's decades-long war are expected to benefit from a recently approved US \$33 million World Bank (WB) grant

The Bank's Angola office confirmed on Tuesday that the agreement was signed in Washington last week by the Angolan Ambassador to the United States, Josefina Diakite, and WB's acting deputy chairman for Africa, James Bond.

Overall the grant is expected to bolster government efforts to rehabilitate thousands of former combatants, who were demobilised following the signing of the April 2002 ceasefire between former rebel group UNITA and the government.

Concerns have been raised by human rights groups that not enough was being done to assist ex-soldiers and their families as they prepare to return to their areas of origin.

An estimated 121,000 ex-combatants would be targeted for assistance, WB said.

"The grant is expected to focus on the economic and social reintegration of soldiers. There will be attention directed at agricultural assistance, which means that former combatants who express an interest in farming will be provided with seeds, tools, fertilisers and the necessary veterinary drugs," WB operations assistant Lisa Meyer told IRIN.

The grant would also be directed at vocational training and promoting microcredit schemes for ex-soldiers and family members.

Meyer added that women, children and the disabled would be singled out for "special treatment".

Human Rights Watch has in the past called for a larger portion of this grant to be channelled into helping former child soldiers, whom it says have been sidelined during the demobilisation process.

Both UNITA and the government have been reluctant to admit the use of underage children in the 27-year long conflict." (UNDP, 9 September 2003)

References to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Known references to the Guiding Principles (as of February 2003)

- Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation
- Other references to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)
- Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages
- Training on the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

References to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

~~Norms on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons: The Guiding Principles first of all formed the basis for Minimum Operational Standards (MINOPS) for Resettlement and Return of internally displaced persons, developed by the Government in cooperation with UN agencies in the summer of 2000. In October 2000, these standards were approved by the Council of Ministers and published in a Government Decree (1/01) of 5 January 2001 as the Norms on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons. The preamble to the Decree states that the Guiding Principles establish the general principles governing the treatment of internally displaced persons.~~

Source: Government of Angola

Date: 5 January 2001

Documents:

Government Decree Number 1/ 01 [unofficial translation]

Original document in Portuguese available by fax from the Global IDP Project

Other references to the Guiding Principles

~~Commission on Human rights (58th session): In his briefing to the Commission on mass exoduses and displaced persons, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Francis Deng, made particular note of ongoing developments in Angola with regard to the protection of IDPs. Dr. Deng noted that since his last report to the Commission, in January 2001, significant steps have been taken by the Government and the UN in developing a national strategy for the protection of internally displaced persons, which includes efforts to promote and implement the Guiding Principles (see section below on training).~~

Source: Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Dr. Francis Deng

Date: 16 January 2002

Documents:

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/54; Specific Groups and Individuals: Mass Exoduses and Displaced Persons, 16 January 2002 (page 10) [Internet]

High-level advocacy of the Guiding Principles: During his visit to Angola in October-November 2000, the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Francis Deng, welcomed the development by the Government, in cooperation with the UN, of the norms for the resettlement of internally displaced persons, based on the Guiding Principles. Notwithstanding this, Dr. Deng also called on the Government, inter alia, to develop and adopt national legislation on internally displaced persons; to ensure wide dissemination of the Guiding Principles; and to make greater efforts to train the military and police on the rights of IDPs and the civilian population.

Source: Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Dr. Francis Deng

Date: October-November 2000

Documents:

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on IDPs to the Commission of Human Rights, Profiles in displacement, Angola, 25 January 2001[Internet]

Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages

Following his visit to Angola in 2000, the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Dr. Francis Deng, stressed that while the Guiding Principles are available in Portuguese, it may also be useful to facilitate their translation into local languages such as Umbundu and Kimbundu. He encouraged local NGOs and church groups to undertake such efforts, with the assistance of the national authorities and/or international agencies and NGOs.

Date: 2000

Documents:

GP in Portuguese [Internet]

Training on the Guiding Principles

Provincial Emergency Plan of Action for Resettlement and Return (PEPARR): In June 2002, the government, supported by OCHA, held a provincial planning workshop to familiarise participants with the revised regulamento for the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations (derived from the Guiding Principles) and to provide direct training on drafting a PEPARR in accordance with the Norms and related regulamento. These regulamentos were revised in light of the prospect of largescale return of IDPs following the cessation of hostilities in April 2002, to ensure that appropriate conditions are in place at return sites.

Sources: Government, UN and NGO representatives

Date: 2002-2003

Documents:

UN OCHA Angola Update on Humanitarian Activities, 20 May 2002 [external link]

UN OCHA Angola Update on Humanitarian Activities, 24 June 2002 [external link]

Government/ UN provincial protection plans: This involves a joint Government/ UN training group composed of representatives from the military, the judiciary, the Attorney-General's Office, the national police, the Ministry for Social Assistance and Reintegration (MINARS), UNHCR and UN OCHA. Participants identify problems specific to their province on the basis of the Guiding Principles, and the steps which need to be taken, and by whom, to address these problems. The resulting protection plan is monitored at provincial level by OCHA-led teams and at the national level by a joint technical group composed of UN agencies.

To support these efforts, the UN country team has established a system for collecting information and monitoring the conditions of IDPs at the provincial level. The system involves regular interviewing with displaced persons in camps by OCHA field advisers using a questionnaire based on the Norms on Resettlement and the Guiding Principles.

Documents:

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/54; Specific Groups and Individuals: Mass Exoduses and Displaced Persons, 16 January 2002 (page 10) [Internet]
Humanitarian situation in Angola monthly analysis: Nov 2001, UN OCHA, 30 November 2001 [Internet]

UN training workshop: UNHCR, UN OCHA and the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the UN Office in Angola jointly conducted a 5-day workshop which provided training to senior officers and provincial humanitarian coordinators of the Government's Technical Unit for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH), as well as 10 OCHA national officers and 5 HRD national officers, on monitoring compliance at the field level with international and national human rights standards, including the Guiding Principles.

Date: November 2001

Documents:

Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 2001/54; Specific Groups and Individuals: Mass Exoduses and Displaced Persons, 16 January 2002 (page 10) [Internet]

NRC training workshop: The Global IDP Project of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in collaboration with the Angolan government, held a 3-day training workshop on the Guiding Principles in Luanda, Angola. The workshop was part of a global NRC effort to disseminate and explain the Guiding Principles to representatives of governments, NGOs, the UN agencies and the displaced themselves, in order to ensure better protection and assistance to internally displaced persons. Over forty participants worked in groups and discussed the Guiding Principles in relation to the specific situation of internal displacement in Angola.

Sources: Angolan government, national and international NGOs, UN agencies

Date: 29-31 August 2000

Documents:

Report of the Workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, NRC, 29-31 August 2000 [Internal link]

Missions by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons

Follow-up on the recommendations by the Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons (March 2004)

The Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis M. Deng, undertook an official mission to Angola from 31 October to 9 November 2000. Although the conflict has ended after the signing of the cease-fire in April 2002, major protection concerns and need for assistance to reintegrate millions of internally displaced people have remained. As of March 2004 many of the recommendations made by the RSG remained relevant. The table below provides an overview of the relevance and follow-up on the recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS, RELEVANCE & FOLLOW-UP
Development of standard operational procedures to ensure the uniform implementation of the norms on resettlement and the involvement of humanitarian organizations in security assessments (115) "...MINARS, in cooperation with international agencies, to draft standard operating procedures to ensure implementation of the technical provisions provided in the MINOPS." "...Involvement of humanitarian agencies in security assessments of prospective resettlement" Relevance: Recommendation no longer relevant as the procedures have been implemented (March 2004) Follow up: Procedures adopted in 2001
Full implementation of the norms on resettlement within security perimeters (116). To the extent to which resettlement is required, it must be undertaken within the security perimeters of towns and cities and in full accordance with the norms on resettlement and applicable human rights standards. Relevance: Recommendation still highly relevant (March 2004) Follow up: 70 percent of IDPs returned without assistance (March 2004)
Increased engagement of the Government and donors in the humanitarian response (117) "...the Representative strongly recommends that the Government commit additional resources to the humanitarian effort... Angola is one of the richest countries in Africa in oil and other resources and should be able to shoulder a larger part of the humanitarian burden." Relevance: Recommendation still highly relevant (March 2004) Follow up: Angolan government will take over coordination role from UN by June-July 2004. Donors increasingly disengaged because of continued accusations of corruption against the government
More effective coordination within the Government and with the United Nations and NGOs, and reinvigoration of the Humanitarian Coordination Group (118) "...the Representative urges the reinvigoration of the national Humanitarian Coordination Group, which should bring all relevant governmental and international actors together on a monthly basis." "...more effective coordination at the field level through the active participation of all relevant actors in provincial coordination structures, including monitoring the implementation of humanitarian assistance." Relevance:

Recommendation only partly relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - The UN is handing over coordination responsibilities to the government in June-July 2004 - Humanitarian coordination groups were reactivated, but their efficiency is hard to measure
Agreed criteria for targeting food distributions (119) - "The Representative... underlines the importance of ensuring that there is a consensus among humanitarian partners on the criteria on which targeted food distributions are based..." Relevance: Recommendations still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - The provincial government responsible for coordination aims at guaranteeing food assistance equivalent to 2,100 kcal per person per day to the resettled IDP.
Increased access to populations in need (120) - "...the Representative recommends that international agencies and NGOs cooperate more fully with church groups and national and local NGOs which are able to operate in insecure areas and have access to the displaced." Relevance: Recommendation still relevant, but access no longer hampered by war, but by mines and poor road conditions (March 2004) Follow up:
Adequate maintenance and repair of airstrips and provision of logistical capacity (121) Relevance: Recommendation still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - Bad road conditions and logistical constraints still a major impediment to delivery of humanitarian assistance (March 2004)
Extension of vaccination coverage (122) - "...allowing international agencies to extend vaccination coverage to UNITA-held areas, assuming that adequate security guarantees can be obtained." Relevance: Recommendation partly relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - After UNITA was defeated in April 2002, this became a responsibility of the Provincial Government responsible and vaccination coverage now depends on funding and access to mine-affected areas.
Provision of primary and also secondary education (123) - "The Government should take steps, beginning with an increase in the allocation of resources to the Ministry of Education, to ensure that displaced children and children in general have access to primary and secondary education." Relevance: Recommendation still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - The government has started training 29,000 new teachers, with the aim of getting one million children back into the classroom. At the start of this year, 44 percent of children did not get any basic primary education.
Increased awareness of abuses against children (124) - "Local NGOs and church groups which may have access to the areas concerned are encouraged to collect additional and more detailed information [on child abduction and forced labour]"

Relevance: Recommendation still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - UN country team has established a system for collecting information and monitoring the conditions of IDPs at the provincial level. The system involves regular interviewing with displaced persons in camps by OCHA field advisers using a questionnaire based on the Norms on Resettlement and the Guiding Principles A more focused and active approach to protection by the Government in particular and also by the international community (125) (a-h below)
(a) "The Government is encouraged, in cooperation with the international community, to develop and adopt national legislation [on internally displaced persons]..." Relevance: Still relevant as the recommendation had only partly been implemented as of March 2004 Follow up: - Norms on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons: The Guiding Principles first of all formed the basis for Minimum Operational Standards (MINOPS) for Resettlement and Return of internally displaced persons, developed by the Government in cooperation with UN agencies in the summer of 2000. In October 2000, these standards were approved by the Council of Ministers and published in a Government Decree (1/01) of 5 January 2001 as the Norms on the Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons. - In June 2002, the government held a provincial planning workshop to familiarise participants with the revised regulamento for the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations (derived from the Guiding Principles) and to provide direct training on drafting a PEPARR in accordance with the Norms and related regulamento
(b) "Dissemination of the Guiding Principles... raise awareness among the displaced of their human... wide dissemination of the Principles among local NGOs, church groups and displaced communities is essential." Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - Guiding Principles available in Portuguese
(c) "Greater efforts should be taken to train the military and police on the human rights of the internally displaced and the civilian population..." Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - Continued violations of Guiding principles. - In June 2002, the government, supported by OCHA, held a provincial planning workshop to familiarise participants with the revised regulamento for the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations (derived from the Guiding Principles) - Government/ UN provincial protection plans involved a joint Government/ UN training group composed of representatives from the military, the judiciary, the Attorney-General's Office, the national police on the basis of the Guiding Principles.
(d) "...the Representative suggests that the Government take the necessary measures to ensure that military personnel receive salaries and supplies in a timely manner." Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004)

Follow up: - Reports of looting and thefts by soldiers may indicate that the conditions of military personnel still need to be improved (c) "...The Government must take suitable measures to ensure that its military and police personnel are held accountable for human rights violations against the displaced and civilian population. The Ministry of Justice's proposed policy to ensure accountability of police and military personnel should be finalized as soon as possible and the requisite human and financial resources provided to make it effective on the ground. The Attorney-General is requested to instruct his provincial-level staff to visit the displaced, collect testimony and information on human rights violations, and instigate criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. " Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - War-related violations of human rights have ended in 'mainland' Angola. - Other violations continue, including harassment, looting, extortion, property dispossession, rape and arbitrary detention, particularly in areas where state administration is weak (f) "... the Representative recommends that the Government take the necessary steps to issue to all internally displaced persons all documents necessary for the enjoyment and exercise of their legal rights. In particular, the authorities should facilitate the issuance of new documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement." Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - Many IDPs do not have identity documents that would allow them to establish their names, familial status, age, nationality, place of origin, or other identifying features. The pervasive lack of identity documents violates Guiding principle 20 (g) "... The Representative proposes that the Human Rights Division of UNOA and UNICEF, in cooperation with the Government, consider seeking funds for the proposed project on strengthening the judiciary at the municipal level within the framework of a technical cooperation project with OHCHR. " Relevance: Follow up: (h) "... In the absence of effective national and provincial capacity to address and prevent protection problems, it is imperative that the international community enhances its role in regard to protection. " (i) Convening of a brainstorming session on protection, for all relevant members of the humanitarian community, using the IASC protection policy paper as the basis for discussions and strategy formulation; (ii) Dispatch of an inter-agency mission to the country to assist in a thorough review of protection issues and to identify appropriate response and preventive strategies... (iii) Enhancement of the international protection presence in the provinces to ensure effective monitoring, reporting and follow-up on violations of the rights of the internally displaced, including training of field-based staff in identifying and raising protection concerns... expansion of the UNOA Human Rights Division's capacity and presence throughout the country; establishment of a protection working group within each province; and the establishment of a small protection strategy team in Luanda to support the provincial-level protection working groups. In addition, given its comparative advantage in protection, UNHCR is encouraged to examine further possibilities for an enhanced presence and the development of nationwide inter-agency protection strategies in regard to internally displaced persons.
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Relevance: As of March 2004 increasingly irrelevant as the international humanitarian community was phasing out operations
Landmines (126) "Government is strongly encouraged to implement the Ottawa Convention without delay. Adequate donor response to the 2001 CAP is necessary to ensure a comprehensive approach to mine action, which the donors themselves favour." Relevance: Still relevant (March 2004) Follow up: - Angola ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on 5 July 2002. - Mine action funding for Angola in 2002 totaled approximately \$21.2 million, a very significant increase from 2001.
Comprehensive peace and national reconciliation (127). "...vigorous efforts must be pursued by all relevant actors towards the achievement of a sustainable political solution to the conflict, and national reconciliation." Relevance: Although the peace was consolidated by March 2004, this recommendation remained valid for the Cabinda area where armed conflict continued between the Government and separatist rebel groups

Visit by the RSG to Angola in November 2000

- Dr. Francis M. Deng visits Angola from 31 to 9 October 2000
- Overall, the Representative finds a marked improvement in the situation of the internally displaced
- Despite improvements, insecurity and problems of access continue to make the situation for internally displaced persons extremely difficult

"At the invitation of the Government of Angola, the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Dr. Francis M. Deng, undertook an official visit to Angola from 31 October to 9 November.

The objectives of the Representative's visit were to study the situation of internal displacement in the country and to dialogue with the Government, international agencies, non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors towards ensuring effective responses to the current conditions of the internally displaced in Angola.

[...]

The Representative's visit to Angola should be seen in the context of other international missions to the country this year, beginning with the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke and the subsequent inter-agency mission in March, led by the Emergency Relief Coordinator a.i., Carolyn McAskie. Both these visits drew international attention to the plight of the internally displaced and raised serious concerns as to the extent to which their needs were being met by the Government and the international community. The Representative's visit provided an opportunity to assess the extent of progress which has been made, the extent to which the needs of the displaced are being addressed, what gaps exist and how these might be filled.

[...]

Overall, the Representative found a marked improvement in the situation of the internally displaced and in terms of the national and international response to their plight. Emphasising the primary responsibility of the State for meeting the needs of its internally displaced population, the Representative was encouraged to learn that the Government has taken important steps to improve institutional arrangements at the national and provincial levels and its coordination with the international community, in particular United Nations agencies. In addition, the Representative noted with appreciation the development by the Government, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, of a legal framework spelling out minimum standards for the return and resettlement of the internally displaced, incorporating the standards contained in the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement . . .

[...]

Such developments notwithstanding, the Representative's visits to the field revealed that a number of problems remain. Humanitarian action is constrained by the prevailing climate of insecurity, characterised by armed attacks on civilians, banditry, and the extensive presence and continued use of landmines, giving rise to problems of access, which is generally limited to provincial capitals and certain towns. There are also severe logistical constraints. Much of the infrastructure is destroyed and road access throughout the country is limited by insecurity. In the absence of effective surface distribution of assistance, there is an increased reliance on air transport which is costly. In addition, airstrips in places such as Kuito, which is entirely dependent on air support, are in urgent need of repair. Because of the increased insecurity of the war and in order to discourage reliance on the international community to provide assistance to the displaced, donor countries are reducing funding for humanitarian operations." (UNHCHR 10 November 2000, paras. 1,2,4,5,6)

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACF	Action contre la Faim
CISH	Inter-ministerial Commission for the Humanitarian Situation
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FAA	Angolan Armed Forces
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEWS	Famine Early Warning System
FLEC	Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave
FAPLA	The People's Armed forces for the Liberation of Angola
GoA	Government of Angola
GURN	Government of Unity and National Reconciliation
HCG	Humanitarian Coordination Group
HIV/AIDS	Human Immuno-deficiency Virus
IASC	United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
INAROE	National Institute for the Removal of Explosive Obstacles and Ordnance
MINARS	Ministry of Social Affairs and Re-Integration
MINOPS	Minimum Standards of Return and Resettlement
MONUA	United Nations Angola Observation Mission
MPLA	Movement for the Popular Liberation of Angola
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
MT	Metric Tonne
NFI	Non-food items
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHCG	National Humanitarian Coordination Group
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PNEAH	National Emergency Programme for Humanitarian Assistance
SCF	Save the Children Fund
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
TB	Tuberculosis
UCAH	Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit
UN	United Nations
UNAVEM	United Nations Angola Verification Mission
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
UNOA	United Nations Office in Angola
USD	United States Dollars
UTCAH	Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

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