



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : ANGOLA

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PROFILE SUMMARY

More than 1 million internally displaced people (IDPs) returned to their areas of origin in Angola following the ceasefire in April 2002. Many more of the remaining 2.8 million IDPs are expected to follow in 2003. Yet returning IDPs face ongoing human rights abuses and grim humanitarian conditions. Those IDPs returning to areas without humanitarian support and with no basic social services in place will be among the most vulnerable populations in 2003. The UN is requesting US\$ 386 million in its final emergency appeal for Angola, aimed at meeting critical needs and paving the way for future development. But donors are wary of supporting a country whose oil industry is one of the strongest in Africa and whose vast diamond wealth consistently eludes ordinary Angolans.

Massive return

Almost one year after the end of a civil war that killed more than half a million people and displaced more than one third of the country's 12 million population, Angolan IDPs continue to fight for survival.

The April 2002 ceasefire agreement between the government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) ended 27 years of war and provided the momentum for huge numbers of Angolan IDPs to return home. Approximately 1.1 million IDPs resettled or returned to their areas of origin by the end of November. Of these, however, only 15 percent moved under an organized plan (UN OCHA, 19 December 2002).

Protection concerns

Despite national legislation providing for minimum standards of resettlement and return ('Norms'), and training given to provincial officials on how to implement it, numerous human rights abuses have been reported in connection with the return and resettlement process. Local authorities have in some cases forcibly returned displaced populations. Human Rights Watch reported that in May 2002, the entire population of Trumba, in Bié province, was forced back to its area of origin by local authorities without proper assistance. The rights organization also reported forced return and restrictions to freedom of movement in three other provinces (HRW, January 2003).

Displaced people remain subject to harassment and extortion by undisciplined soldiers at checkpoints. Violence, including rape of women, and even killings continue to be reported (HRW, January 2003). While the UN states that "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", it does report ongoing violations. These include harassment, looting extortion, intimidation, physical abuse, arbitrary detention and other forms of sexual exploitation. Violations affecting IDPs (as well as ex-combatants and their families) also include return outside of the Norms, restrictions on freedom of movement and exclusion from social services and humanitarian assistance (UN, November 2002).

During the January 2003 visit to Angola of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, a consortium of international NGOs working in the country (CONGA) further highlighted a range of human rights violations suffered by returning IDPs, mainly at the hands of Angolan authorities including the army and national police. These include forced return and false incentives for return, inhibition of free movement, and physical and sexual abuse. Protection of vulnerable mobile populations, said CONGA, is a paramount concern in Angola today.

War continues in Cabinda

Grave human rights abuses against civilians, including some forcibly displaced, have also been reported in the northern enclave of Cabinda. While the rest of Angola celebrated peace, government forces renewed a military campaign in 2002 against separatist rebels in the oil-rich territory. Human rights activists in Angola collected testimonies of alleged abuses – carried out mainly by government forces – including summary executions, murders, disappearances, forced displacement, torture, rape and looting (IRIN, 12 December 2002; HRW, January 2003). Calls upon the Angolan government to acknowledge – never mind investigate and stop such violations – appear so far to have fallen on deaf ears.

Humanitarian needs still overwhelming

The rapid return of vast numbers of Angolan IDPs to their home areas has worsened an already dire humanitarian situation, the true scale of which only became apparent when aid agencies were finally granted access to vast areas of the country previously cut off by the war (MSF, 24 April 2002). Many IDPs have returned to areas with neither infrastructure nor basic services such as water, health and education, in place. They face hunger and disease, and in many cases, the added risk of landmines. Most of the areas of return are far from major roads, and only accessible by roads that have not yet been de-mined (MSF, 1 October 2002).

A BBC report, in November 2002, described the situation in the remote village of Cumbila, Huambo province, where residents had flooded back home after the civil war ended. Because of its remoteness, there was no humanitarian assistance in Cumbila. One elderly woman, who lost four of her five children to starvation, “like most villagers... spends most of her days hunting for anything edible: rats, insects or wild leaves.” (BBC, 25 November 2002). And Cumbila is far from unique. In Cuando Cubango province, MSF reported “The gravity of the situation and the lack of food is so severe that our teams even saw handicapped people, with prostheses and crutches, start to walk the 50 kilometres that separates them from Mavinga” (MSF, 30 August 2002).

A similar pattern can be seen across much of Angola. The UN estimated that critical humanitarian needs may emerge in at least 50 percent of areas to which IDPs had returned by the end of 2002 (UN SC, 12 December 2002). More than 2 million highly vulnerable Angolans will require life-saving assistance in 2003 – the majority of them returning IDPs (UN, November 2002).

Constrained response

As a result of the sheer scale of suffering and need, humanitarian organizations in Angola are overstretched and under-resourced. Lack of funding has been the main constraint affecting humanitarian operations over the past year, forcing agencies to prioritize among acutely vulnerable populations and slowing down emergency response (UN, November 2002). The World Food Programme, for example, warned in August 2002 that it faced dwindling food stocks just as the number of hungry people was soaring, and that pledges from international donors were insufficient (WFP, 29 August 2002). The UN has requested US\$ 386 million in its 2003 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal, but with donor skepticism of the Angolan government remaining high, this will be an ambitious target to meet.

Donors skeptical

Many donors and aid workers ask the question, how can a country so rich in minerals not afford to feed its own people? Angola’s offshore oil industry accounts for over 90 percent of state revenue, and the country is the world’s fourth largest diamond producer. Allegations of corruption and embezzlement are rife. According to a leaked International Monetary Fund report, about US\$ 1 billion went missing in 2002 – approximately one third of the entire state revenue.

Although the government of Angola was one of the first state authorities to adopt and use the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, it has consistently failed to live up to its responsibilities to its people (MSF, HRW, March 2002). “The government is not legitimate, it is only serving its own interests and is stunningly indifferent to the needs of its own people”, the Guardian quotes Doug Steinberg, a director of CARE, as saying.

The Angolan government is seeking substantial donor support in order to kick-start its national reconstruction programme, that includes the resettlement of IDPs as well as the reintegration of ex-combatants. However, many donors will first expect firmer commitment to fiscal transparency and clear efforts to end alleged corruption and graft from the Angolan government (IRIN, 3 February 2003).

Updated February 2003

CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

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

"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)

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) [\[External link\]](#)

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 Burkino Faso (January 2001)

- UN Monitoring Mechanism exposes arms sales to UNITA via Togo and Burkino 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 Burkina 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 2000-2001

- 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)

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)

Savimbi's death adds new impetus to peace process – leading eventually to ceasefire agreement between the warring parties (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)

UN Security Council extends mandate of sanctions monitoring mechanism – but subsequently suspends travel restrictions on UNITA (April-May 2002)

- Sanctions monitoring mechanism extended in April 2002 for 6 months
- In May 2002, UN Security Council suspends travel restrictions on UNITA in order to advance the peace process and national reconciliation

"Resolution 1404 (2002) Adopted Unanimously:

Welcoming the 4 April ceasefire agreement in Angola and determining that the situation in Angola continues to constitute a threat to international peace and security in the region, the Security Council this afternoon extended until 19 October the mandate of the monitoring mechanism created in April 2000 to investigate violations of the sanctions placed on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

By unanimously adopting resolution 1404 (2002), the Council requested the monitoring mechanism to provide a detailed action plan for its future work to the Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) within 30 days, in particular on financial measures and the measures concerning the trade in diamonds and arms, against UNITA.

The Council further requested the Secretary-General to appoint four experts to serve on the monitoring mechanism, in consultation with the Committee.

Pursuant to resolution 864 of 15 September 1993, the Council placed sanctions on UNITA and created a committee to monitor sanctions violations concerning, among other things, the sale or supply of weapons, petroleum and petroleum products.

In May 1999, the Council established an independent panel of experts "to trace violations in arms trafficking, oil supplies and the diamond trade, as well as the movement of UNITA funds". In April 2000, after considering the final report of the panel, the Council adopted resolution 1295 (2000), by which it tightened existing sanctions, established a new monitoring mechanism, and put into place a process whereby the Council would consider appropriate action in relation to States suspected of violating the sanctions." (UN Security Council, 18 April 2002)

"The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola wishes to inform that the Security Council decided on 17 May 2002 by its resolution 1412 (2002) to suspend the travel restrictions imposed in paragraphs 4 (a) and (b) of resolution 1127 (1997) on UNITA senior officials and adult members of their immediate families, as designated by the 864 Committee* for a period of 90 days commencing on 17 May 2002.

By suspending the above travel restrictions, the Security Council recognized, in particular, the need for the facilitation of travel by UNITA members for the peace process and national reconciliation to advance. Prior to the end of the suspension period, the Security Council will decide whether to extend the suspension of the measures referred to above, taking into account all available information on the continuing progress of the process of national reconciliation in Angola." (UN Security Council, 20 May 2002)

For the 26 April 2002 report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Sanctions against UNITA, [click here](#)

Disarmament and demobilisation of UNITA troops begins across Angola – but the process is less than smooth (May 2002)

- Angolan government sets up 33 quartering areas for UNITA troops in various parts of the country
- MOU between the army and UNITA provides for the demobilisation of up to 50,000 UNITA troops as well as provision for 250,000 family members
- In May 2002, conditions in the quartering areas are described as an 'emerging humanitarian crisis'

"UNITA troops have begun to gather in the 33 quartering areas set up by the Angolan government as part of the re-launched peace process. As of 25 April, over 9,000 soldiers had already reached the cantonment areas, with several thousand additional troops awaiting transportation from the bush.

The troops entering the camps are reported to be genuine soldiers and handing in real weapons. This is in stark contrast to the quartering process which took place in 1995 when - under the watch of the United Nations - UNITA sent boys and old men, carrying obsolete guns, as part of its charade of abiding by the Lusaka Protocol.

The quartering process is to take place within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which was signed by the head of the Angolan army, General Armando da Cruz Neto, and the Chief of Staff of UNITA's armed wing, General Geraldo Abreu Muengo 'Kamorteiro' on 4 April in Luanda. This was the document agreeing to the end of the fighting and the completion of the outstanding items of the Lusaka Protocol.

Under the MOU a Joint Military Commission has been set up to oversee the quartering and demilitarisation of UNITA's military forces. The first meeting was held on 10 April in Luanda, attended by General Geraldo Sachipengo 'Nunda' of the Angolan army and General Kamorteiro. The meeting was witnessed by the United Nations Secretary General's Special Advisor on Africa, Ibrahim Gambari and the ambassadors from the Troika of Observer nations (the United States, Russian Federation and Portugal).

The section of the agreement dealing with quartering provides for shelter for up to 50,000 UNITA troops, with UNITA's 12 generals and 47 brigadiers being housed in nearby towns. Each quartering area is to hold up to 1,600 men with security and easy access. Provision will also be made nearby for the families of UNITA soldiers, totalling up to 300,000 people.

The Angolan government is to provide, with the help of the United Nations, emergency assistance for family members as well as promoting their reintegration through rapid income generating projects in areas such as agriculture and rural trade.

Upon arrival at the camps the soldiers are required to hand over their weapons, which are subsequently to be destroyed.

The MOU sets out a timetable for the completion of all outstanding military matters. It expects UNITA's military forces to be quartered and demilitarised within 47 days of the signing of the MOU on 4 April." (ACTSA, 1 May 2002)

"The Angolan government is flagging as a success its demobilisation programme, but diplomatic sources told IRIN on Wednesday there are concerns over Luanda's ability to keep UNITA troops and their families fed in the quartering areas, and the risk that could pose to the peace process.

Angola's Joint Military Commission, set up under the 4 April ceasefire to oversee the demilitarisation of an estimated 55,000 UNITA soldiers, said this week that more than 30,000 former rebels had already been quartered. Some 42,000 family members out of an estimated 300,000 had also been received.

'These numbers are an indication of the serious work for the consolidation of peace,' the Portuguese news agency Lusa quoted Angolan army spokesman General Francisco Furtado as saying. The general said UNITA troops were being quartered in 31 out of 35 cantonment areas established by the government, and more were heading for the remaining four sites which had not yet received military personnel.

But a US Agency for International Development (USAID) report on Tuesday described conditions in some of the quartering areas as an 'emerging humanitarian crisis'. Diplomatic sources told IRIN there had been unconfirmed reports of UNITA soldiers arriving in poorly provisioned cantonment sites and returning to the bush with their weapons." (IRIN, 8 May 2002)

Main causes of displacement

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 Malange 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)

Floods in early 2001 have led to displacement of thousands of families (April 2001)

- UN estimated that nearly 10,000 persons were displaced by torrential rains in southern provinces of Benguela, Namibe and Cunene
- State media puts number of those displaced by floods at 20,000
- Government later noted that as many as 38,000 persons were displaced in Benguela province

"Floods caused by torrential rains in southern Angola have forced 9,500 people from their homes, a UN report released Friday [20 April 2001] said.

State media had put the number at about 20,000. The displaced people had to flee their villages in the southwestern province of Namibe, where the Bero and Giraul rivers burst their banks and flooded several neighborhoods of Namibe town and several outlying villages.

An assessment team sent by the United Nations and aid groups said regions in Cunene, Huila and Namibe provinces could face a food crisis because floods have destroyed huge swaths of farmland, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

[...]

The floods have compounded Angola's long-standing humanitarian disaster caused by the unrelenting 25-year civil war." (AFP 20 April 2001)

"Heavy rains and flooding during April caused extensive damage in Benguela, Namibe and Cunene provinces affecting over 70,000 people. In Benguela province, the authorities reported 9,300 houses destroyed and over 38,000 people displaced." (UNICEF 21 June 2001)

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.

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, Sonangol." (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)

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)

Civilians fleeing intensifying fighting head for government-controlled towns (October 2001)

- Major government offensives in Bie, Moxico and Cuando Cubango provinces cause civilians to flee
- Widespread insecurity causing population movements elsewhere in the country
- Increase in number of IDPs also indicated by rise in number of reported landmine accidents

"Civilians continue to seek safety in government-controlled towns across the country as they flee intensifying fighting between rebel UNITA forces and Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) troops, according to humanitarian officials.

An aid worker in Kuito, capital of the central Bie province, told IRIN on Wednesday there were large influxes of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in area where there had been attacks, but that there continued to be a 'steady movement (of IDPs) into Kuito and Camacupa', also in Bie.

Large numbers of Angolans have fled into Zambia, Namibia and Angolan towns in recent weeks to escape a major government offensive in the provinces of Bie, Moxico and Cuando Cubango. Humanitarian sources who spoke to IRIN attributed the large displacements to military activity in the region, but added that population movements elsewhere in the country indicated widespread insecurity.

World Food Programme (WFP) spokesperson in Angola, Cristina Muller, told IRIN: 'I think during this week there has been a high number of IDPs (internally displaced persons) arriving in places where WFP is present.' The number of people would be determined after everyone was registered, she said.

Muller added, however, that there was a stabilisation in the number of IDPs entering therapeutic feeding centres, especially in Bie, indicating an improvement in their nutritional status compared to about six months ago.

She said another indication that the number of IDPs was rising was an increase in the number of landmine accidents reported in the past week. The victims were usually IDPs who went in search of firewood on arrival at a new area or camp without knowing the area was mined, she said."

(IRIN 31 October 2001)

Poverty in the midst of plenty: the case of IDPs in diamond-rich Saurimo (November 2001)

- UNITA attacks near Saurimo, in Angola's northeast diamond zone, have forced thousands of civilians to flee to the provincial capital
- An estimated 88,000 Angolans live in six camps surrounding Saurimo
- Saurimo itself is considered safe since government garrisons are protecting one of the country's largest diamond mines nearby

"There is plenty of diamond wealth in the ground around mineral-rich Saurimo, but war-displaced Angolans living in temporary camps in the remote area don't see any of it.

'We are displaced people. We don't have enough food and we are getting thin,' said 52-year-old Alberto Tchibatulo, in the Sumulonda camp outside Saurimo city in Angola's northeast diamond zone.

The rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), led by the elusive Jonas Savimbi, has been fighting Luanda since independence from Portugal in 1975.

Recent UNITA attacks on Dala, 180 km (112 miles) south of Saurimo, to capture food and conscripts have forced residents to flee to the provincial capital. 'They killed a lot of people,' Tchibatulo said.

The camp has housed 7,000 people for 14 months, including Tchibatulo, his two wives and five children.

Saurimo is relatively safe and has never been attacked by UNITA despite lucrative diamond zones to its north. Some 88,000 Angolans now live in six camps surrounding Saurimo, just some of the three million people who have been forced to flee their homes to seek shelter from the war.

But while they are safe from the fighting, Saurimo citizens treat them with hostility, regarding them as lucky interlopers who get aid agency support while they have to scramble for food and medical care.

'They call the people in the camps the governor's pigs because they are accused of stealing food from local fields,' said one aid worker.

Lying on a bushy plain with hardly a tree in sight, the city is easier to protect than some others in Angola's more lush areas.

Government garrisons protecting Angola's largest diamond mine 35 km (21 miles) north, also discouraged rebel incursions, aid workers said. 'The Angolan army has good control around Saurimo,' said one.

The most recent vehicle ambushes occurred in September outside a safety perimeter that extends 20 km (12 miles) east and west of Saurimo and 17 km (10 miles) south and 50 km (31 miles) north." (Reuters 13 November 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)

Cabinda conflict continues to displace civilians (2002)

- Separatist rebels in the northern enclave of Cabinda accuse the Angolan government of using a slash and burn strategy to 'destroy the stronghold of the Cabinda Armed Forces'
- Hundreds of civilians are reported to be displaced by the military offensive
- Oil-rich Cabinda is of prime strategic importance to Angola

"Separatist rebels in the oil-rich Cabinda enclave on Wednesday accused the Angolan government of stepping up a military offensive, and warned they would not participate in peace talks until hostilities ended.

'To the outside world, the government says it is prepared to negotiate but all evidence points to a concerted effort to destroy the strongholds of the Cabinda Armed Forces (FAC),' Francoise Xavier Builo, a representative of the FLEC-FAC faction, told IRIN.

Builo said that following the signing of the 4 April ceasefire between the government and UNITA, the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) had turned its attention to Cabinda.

'The government continues to use its slash and burn strategy. Miconge, Belize, Buco-Zau and Dingé have all come under attack. Instead of negotiating, the Angolan government is intent on using force,' Builo said. Awarded to Angola by the Portuguese prior to Angolan independence in 1975, Cabinda is Luanda's most strategic region. An impoverished but oil-rich area, it accounts for 60 percent of the country's oil production of over 700,000 barrels per day, which in turn represents some 90 percent of the country's export earnings.

Divided from the rest of Angola by a sliver of the Democratic Republic of Congo, its economic importance has made it a source of contention.

Founded in the early 1960s, the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of Cabinda (FLEC) is represented by at least two main factions.

Attempts to negotiate a ceasefire and hold talks on the future of the enclave have so far failed." (IRIN, 21 August 2002)

"Along the main road north of Cabinda town, 500 people are living in hastily constructed shelters.

They said they moved there after the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) attacked their villages, in reprisal for attacks by the separatist guerrilla movement, the Liberation Front for the Cabinda Enclave (FLEC).

When IRIN visited the troubled province some residents spoke of being arrested and driven from their homes, as the army wages a new campaign against separatist rebels.

One young man had scars on his wrists, apparently the result of having been tied with rope or wire.

'We were in the field, playing ball. We came across the FAA troops who captured us, right there on the field. There were three of us. We were tied up. They said there had been trouble - we denied it, and then they let us go. We ran away, and now we're here.'

Another man said: 'At night, about 11 pm, the FAA troops came and captured civilians where we were living. It wasn't the first time, it was the third time, so we had to abandon our village.'

In the rainforest further to the north, in a village formerly controlled by FLEC, an old man told a similar story.

'Whenever the FLEC and government forces confront each other, the government soldiers turn against the people, carrying off their possessions. Now whenever they hear shooting, they flee to the bush.'

The man said the Angolan government must negotiate with FLEC.

'The government must get together with Cabinda's politicians, in whatever country, so as to resolve this matter. Because we are tired of the war.'

But FLEC-FAC have accused the government of sabotaging peace efforts by stepping up its military offensive since the signing of the 4 April ceasefire between the government and former UNITA rebels.

In an interview last week with Radio France Internationale Alexandre Bati, a FLEC-FAC spokesman, said the army was closing in on the movement's headquarters.

'Right now, clashes are taking place on the outlying areas of FLEC-FAC's headquarters. There has been indiscriminate shelling of our positions, forcing civilians to flee the area. The number of people killed is high. We are in the midst of a catastrophic situation. More than 100 civilians, excluding children, have been killed,' Bati claimed.

Cabinda, a small piece of territory physically separated from Angola by a sliver of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), produces about 60 percent of Angola's oil revenues.

FLEC was established before Angolan independence in 1975, to fight against Portuguese rule in the enclave. The movement is represented by at least two factions, FLEC-Renovada (Renewed) and FLEC-FAC (FLEC-Armed Forces of Cabinda).

Separatists refer to certain documents that demonstrate that Angola and Cabinda were seen as separate entities under colonial rule, and say that the two territories should therefore have formed separate states at independence.

According to Colonel Francisco Machado, the former military commander of the FLEC-Renovada faction, who laid down his arms two-years-ago and now lives in Cabinda town: 'History shows us the Cabinda is not Angola. And because it is not Angola, we could never go and fight alongside the MPLA [the ruling party]. The war in Cabinda continues, it's not over yet.'" (IRIN, 21 October 2002)

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)

Global figures

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)

More than 150,000 newly registered IDPs between January and April 2002

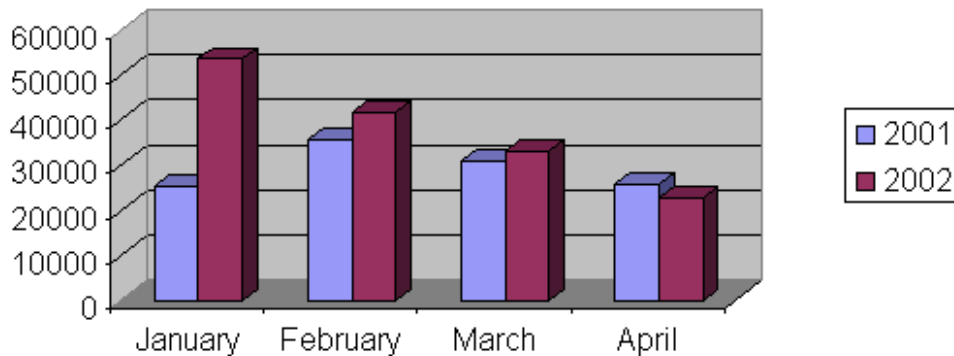
- Government cites more than 4 million displaced, of which more than 1.4 million have been confirmed by humanitarian partners for assistance as of April 2002
- Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Bié, Huíla, Huambo and Malanje
- While some IDPs are returning to their areas of origin, many are moving towards areas where humanitarian operations are underway

"During April 2002, approximately 22,766 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) were registered in nine provinces, bringing the total number of persons displaced since the beginning of the year to 150,714. According to the Government, more than four million people are currently displaced in Angola. Of this number, more than 1.4 million IDPs have been confirmed by humanitarian partners for assistance. Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Bié, Huíla, Huambo and Malanje.

Following the cessation of hostilities and the beginning of the quartering process, the level of internal displacement has remained high. Although some IDPs are returning to their areas of origin, many persons continue to move towards areas where humanitarian operations are underway in search of assistance. Most new IDPs and persons en route to quartering areas are in serious condition and initial reports regarding food availability and health conditions in quartering and family areas are serious. During April, the most

significant movements continued to occur in Bié, Moxico and Huambo Provinces, where humanitarian operations are overstretched and capacity to assist existing and new caseloads remain limited.
[...]

**Population Displacements
January - April
2001 and 2002**



(UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

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)

Geographical distribution

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), [\[External link\]](#)

Disaggregated figures

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)

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 Kasseque, 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

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

- 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

“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)

Widespread abuses reported in the northern enclave of Cabinda (2002-2003)

- Angolan offensive against Cabindan separatists led to widespread abuses against civilians, including killings and forced displacement, reports HRW

- Human rights activists in Angola release report containing numerous testimonies of alleged abuses in Cabinda, including summary executions, murders, disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, rape and looting
- The NGO report also accuses Chevron Texaco, the biggest oil company operating in the enclave, of complicity in allowing police interrogations on its premises
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, is criticised for not including Cabinda on his trip to Angola in January 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, 2003)

“Human rights activists in Angola have released details of widespread allegations of human rights abuses in the northern enclave of Cabinda, where the Angolan government recently renewed its military campaign against separatist rebels in the oil-rich territory.

The report titled, 'Terror in Cabinda', contains 20 pages of testimonies of alleged abuses including summary executions, murders, disappearances, arbitrary detention, torture, rape and looting.

‘One of the most noteworthy aspects of the conflict in Cabinda is the persistent violation of human rights’, argues the report, published by the Ad-hoc Commission for Human Rights in Cabinda, a group of lawyers, academics and civic activists.

‘This report intends to draw the attention of the government officials and army, of the guerrillas and of national and international public opinion to the urgency of bringing an end to the barbarity seen in Cabinda,’ the report said.

In one incident reported in November 2002, 30 villagers were said to have died during an air attack by an army helicopter. In the same month, a 16-year-old girl is said to have been gang raped by 14 soldiers.

Although the report covers alleged abuses both by the Angolan security forces and by the separatist Front for the Liberation of the Cabinda Enclave (FLEC), the overwhelming number of accusations are made against government forces.

Rafael Marques, co-ordinator and editor of the report, insisted that this did not reflect a political bias, but rather the realities of the present situation, where FLEC is on the run from a renewed government offensive.

‘The military build up now is over 20,000 soldiers - one cannot compare this with a group of ragtag guerrillas who have not had any foreign military aid in ages,’ he told IRIN.

Many of the testimonies are from people who felt they were suspected of supporting the rebels, and consequently being victimised by the security forces. In another incident reported during November, 53-year-old farmer João Rodrigues ‘was brutally beaten by elements in the military police, who demanded information on guerrilla movements in the area’.

‘FLEC’s men had ambushed an Angolan Armed Forces vehicle, and, as a result, some villagers were forced to flee. Rodrigues was found dead by his relatives three days later, in the bush near the village,’ the report continued.

The report also pointed a finger at the petroleum multinational Chevron Texaco, the biggest oil company operating in the enclave. It alleged that the company allowed police to interrogate a suspect on ChevronTexaco premises.

‘ChevronTexaco must put an end to its complicity in allowing police interrogations in the oil compound at Malongo,’ the report said.

President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has in recent months voiced support for a peaceful settlement in Cabinda. The report argued that it was time for the government to cease hostilities.” (IRIN, 12 December 2002)

“The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello, has promised a continued role for the UN in the promotion of human rights in Angola. However, the Brazilian diplomat has rejected calls for the UN to play a more forceful role in the investigation of alleged human rights abuses.

‘If you want to transform the role of the UN here into an investigative one, we will go nowhere, particularly not in the immediate future,’ said De Mello, who ended a four day visit to Angola at the weekend.

He emphasised the UN's partnership with the government in raising awareness of human rights ‘as part of our efforts to reform the institutions of this country, including the army, the police, the justice system which is very weak, and the office of the prosecutor-general’.

‘The government is keen, there is interest to identify those weaknesses which are violations of human rights and transform the behaviour of those institutions so that those violations will not occur again in future,’ De Mello added.

A discussion document drawn up by NGOs working in Angola said the UN's role in Angola had hitherto been ‘helpful but not adequate in addressing human rights issues’. At a meeting with De Mello, the organisations called on the UN to ‘engage at all levels, provincial and national, in following through with human rights abuses and seeking resolution to them’.

The NGO document drew particular attention to abuses suffered by displaced people and former soldiers and their families waiting in demobilisation camps. The document also spoke of a ‘gross violation of the rights of people in Cabinda’ - where government forces are seeking to crush a rebellion by separatist guerrillas.

The independent Angolan weekly paper Agora accused De Mello of ‘bypassing human rights violations’ by not including Cabinda on the agenda for his trip.

De Mello argued that the systematic abuse of human rights in Angola was the consequence of the civil war between government forces and UNITA rebels, which ended with a peace accord in April last year.

‘What I think we face in Angola is what we have faced in other countries that have emerged from a protracted civil conflict - where what we call a culture of violence has developed, patterns of behaviour have either been encouraged or spontaneously emerged over the years that have led either to systematic or occasional violations of human rights. You do not change that overnight,’ he noted.” (IRIN, 21 January 2003)

Human Rights Watch claims that protection needs of Angolan IDPs are not being met (July 2002)

- HRW reports that displaced in Angola continue to face serious security threats and human rights abuses
- Neither the Angolan government nor the UN is ensuring adequate protection for IDPs as resettlement plans go ahead, claims HRW
- HRW promotes idea of UNHCR as lead agency for protection of IDPs in Angola, while criticising OCHA's role in this domain

"During the first two months of 2002, about 98,000 displaced persons were newly registered by United Nations (U.N.) and nongovernmental humanitarian agencies in Angola. Since February, new arrivals have averaged some 30,000 people a month. These people are no longer fleeing the war, but are trying to escape starvation and find assistance where it is provided. At least half of these people require immediate medical care and food provision. Of the 1.4 million displaced people that were already receiving humanitarian assistance, more than 400,000 are living in more than one hundred camps and transit centers. Many of these facilities have very poor conditions. The displaced also continue to face serious security threats, including harassment by government forces, restrictions on free movement, and possible forced return to areas where they would be at risk of political persecution and human rights abuses.

The government and U.N. agencies are currently developing plans to resettle the internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their areas of origin. The operation, due to start in July, is expected to move 500,000 people by the end of this year. Human Rights Watch is deeply concerned, however, that human rights considerations are being marginalized within these plans, and that neither the government nor any U.N. agency is taking responsibility for implementing an effective protection system for the displaced as the resettlement plans go forward—including ensuring that nobody is forced to move against their will. Given the past protection problems faced by IDPs in Angola, among them those housed in government-approved camps, this is a serious omission.

[...]

Within the U.N., the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has been responsible since mid-2001 for coordinating U.N. initiatives in relation to the protection of the internally displaced. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), though it has only a limited mandate in relation to IDPs and a very small presence in Angola, has

also played an important role in focusing attention on protection issues. However, following the failure of major donors to renew funding, UNHCR's program for IDPs in Angola is currently scheduled to close in 2002. OCHA is also reviewing its work with the internally displaced; Human Rights Watch has learned that there is even a possibility that it too may withdraw from

protection work. Even as it is, the latest draft of the U.N. inter-agency 'protection strategy for IDPs and returnees' only provides for human rights issues to be taken up with the government authorities in the case of harassment of humanitarian personnel and looting of humanitarian

assets. In case of forced resettlement or harassment of returnees and others, the strategy focuses on monitoring and sensitisation, the promotion of community-based protection initiatives, and the development of referral systems for victims rather than direct intervention with government authorities regarding the protection of IDPs. This is seriously inadequate and should be changed.

Human Rights Watch has been critical of OCHA's protection role with IDPs in Angola. The agency is overstretched with other responsibilities and lacks experience in protection work. [...] We also believe that as the international agency mandated to protect refugees, UNHCR has greater expertise and experience in providing protection to forcibly displaced people. As such, UNHCR would appear in principle to be the most appropriate agency to lead protection work among the internally displaced in Angola." (HRW, 3 July 2002)

Physical security of internally displaced persons threatened by UNITA, government forces, and local authorities (2000-2001)

- Theft of food and non-food items by both UNITA and government forces reportedly common
- Populations suffering from forced portage and other gross violations in UNITA-held areas
- Displaced report that UNITA murders villagers with machetes
- IDPS sometimes expected to hand over portion of assistance to local authorities
- Populations formerly under rebel-control are targeted most commonly

General:

"Humanitarian principles and human rights remain a major preoccupation. Evidence continues to mount that populations, including women and children, are suffering from extended periods of forced portage and other gross violations in rebel areas. An increasing number of these populations, the overwhelming majority of whom are in extreme distress, are seeking safety and assistance. Forced displacement, looting, physical assaults and forced recruitment are continuing and are concentrated in areas where armed combatants do not receive adequate logistics support." (OCHA 22 May 2001, Humanitarian context)

"29. The [UN Inter-Agency] rapid assessment [of April 2000] found that the most widely observed protection problems concerned the delivery of humanitarian assistance and freedom of movement....Theft of food and non-food items by combatants was common, particularly in areas where troops were not regularly paid. Other reports suggest that extortion and theft by government troops had on occasion involved or resulted in forced displacement. Harassment by armed troops appeared to be targeted towards populations from areas formerly under UNITA control, for example Andulo, Bailundo and Malanje. There were reports that displaced persons who had ventured past the security perimeters of towns to collect food or firewood had been beaten and robbed by armed UNITA groups or bandits, or had fallen victim to landmines. There were also reports of forced recruitment of displaced persons, including of children, by both sides." (CHR 25 January 2001, para. 29)

"The UN pointed to dangers that stalked displaced families even after they reached supposed safe havens. 'Displaced populations have been prevented from entering the provincial capitals of Huambo, Malanje, and Kuito and, in several cases, have been involuntarily resettled in the outskirts of these cities,' the report stated. 'In certain areas, displaced persons are forced to pay bribes to local or traditional authorities in order to be included on distribution lists. Displaced persons are sometimes expected to hand over a portion of their assistance to local or traditional authorities...Theft by combatants is common, particularly in areas where troops are not regularly paid,' it added." (USCR August 2000)

"In certain areas, displaced persons are forced to pay bribes to local or traditional authorities in order to be included on distribution lists. Displaced persons are sometimes expected to hand-over a portion of their assistance to local or traditional authorities. The assessment confirms that misappropriation by combatants is common, particularly in areas where troops are not regularly paid. Populations formerly under rebel-control, for example in Andulo, Bailundo and Malanje, are targeted most frequently. (OCHA 15 April 2000, pp.14-15)

UN Senior Network mission notes that protection needs of internally displaced go largely unaddressed (March 2001)

- More focused and active approach required to address protection needs of IDPs
- Responsibility for protection lies with GoA
- Still, mission noted progress of international humanitarian actors in appointing protection focal points at the provincial levels

"The Mission recognised that, notwithstanding the efforts of the ICRC and other actors, many protection needs of the displaced go largely unaddressed. Primary responsibility for protecting displaced civilians rests with the GoA, including through the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law. A step forward in this regard has been the promulgation of Norms on the Resettlement of displaced populations, based on the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of provincial protection plans, also based on the Guiding Principles. The GoA, in collaboration with the UN and other humanitarian agencies, is currently overseeing the elaboration of operating procedures for these Norms.

The Mission noted that, while both GoA and agencies have made some progress in implementing the recommendations stemming from the visit of the RSG on IDPs, a more focused and active approach to protection is required by the Government including with regard to the prevention of arbitrary displacement. The lack of capacity and commitment on the part of the GoA to ensure the protection of IDPs is also reflected in and compounded by the weakness of the justice system and the rule of law.

The Mission noted the attention given to and the progress made by the international humanitarian community in the development of a comprehensive protection strategy, based on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. As an exceptional and immediate measure, the HC/RC will designate a focal point in each province for protection monitoring and, as appropriate, intervention at the provincial level. An inter agency group will determine appropriate advocacy at the national level. As part of an integrated strategy, the Human Rights Division of the UN Office in Angola (HRD/UNOA) envisages expanding its presence and activities in the areas of advocacy, capacity building and community empowerment at the provincial level and should be supported to do so." (OCHA 23 March 2001, Protection)

Freedom of Movement

Alarming situation of landmines throughout the country threatens safety of displaced persons seeking to move about and to resettle (2000-2002)

- Angola most mined country in the world
- Independent groups put the number of landmines between eight and 15 million, covering approximately 40 percent of the countryside, while the Government of Angola says number is five to eight million
- Return, resettlement and agricultural production are obstructed by danger of landmines
- Although the number of landmine casualties in Angola decreased after the end of hostilities in 2002, 660 people were killed or injured over the year - and in 75 percent of cases the victims were IDPs

"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)

"An international demining agency on Tuesday called on donors to coordinate their funding for mine action in Angola with their aid for other emergency activities.

The British-based Mines Advisory Group (MAG) said that as word spread across the country's 18 provinces that the war had finally ended, people had spontaneously moved back to their homes and found new areas to resettle in.

'The situation at the moment is very fluid. We are concerned about reports that groups of IDPs (internally displaced persons) are already on the move throughout the country. Some of the areas chosen for resettlement are still littered with anti-personnel landmines,' MAG's Africa coordinator, David Greenhalgh told IRIN.

Although the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) is expected to organise repatriation of Angolans from across the sub-region early next year, already an estimated 9,000 refugees from camps in northern and western Zambia have crossed back into Angola since the 4 April ceasefire.

In Moxico province, probably the most heavily-mined area of Angola today, MAG works closely with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

'Moxico has been identified for mine action due to the fact it was also one of the last areas to suffer conflict earlier this year. Also it has a large number of IDPs and its border towns will be points of entry for many refugees from Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo,' Greenhalgh said.

He added that close to 80,000 people are expected to spontaneously repatriate to the province before the end of the year.

In the southern province of Cunene, MAG had already widened paths through minefields and erected minefield warning signs. Part of the demining process included targeting community liaison groups with detailed messages.

Said Greenhalgh: 'Mine awareness messages should be focused on how to travel through unfamiliar areas safely, rather than 'mines are dangerous, do not step on them'. People need correct information. One of our biggest challenges is how to let people know which areas are safe and which are unsafe. At times people will occupy an area because of economic hardship.'"(IRIN, 30 July 2002)

"At least seven provinces, accounting for approximately 40 percent of the countryside, are heavily mined. In addition, active fields encircle the provincial capitals of Huambo, Bié, Luena, and Malanje and new mines continue to be laid, particularly along logistics corridors. Widespread mine infestation is a major obstacle limiting agricultural production and the free movement of people and goods. The presence of mines also impedes resettlement and return and puts thousands of Angolans at risk of grave injury or death. During the first eight months of the year, 385 mine incidents were reported in 15 provinces, up from the same period a year ago. A large percentage of landmine casualties continue to be women and children, who often fall victim while farming, searching for wood, or travelling by road." (UN November 2001)

"The [UN] Representative [on Internally Displaced Persons] was seriously concerned at the landmine situation throughout the country which, in addition to posing an obvious danger to displaced and resident populations, gives rise to problems regarding access to displaced populations by international agencies and NGOs, as well as access of the internally displaced to land for resettlement and agricultural activities.

[...]

108. As well as increasing the dangers to the displaced and the population at large and posing problems for the future development of agricultural production throughout the country, the continued use of landmines is compounded by the absence of a systematic approach to mine action which needs to be addressed urgently. Part of the problem to date has been dispute over the role of INAROOE, which was established within MINARS to accommodate the preference of donors to fund civilian rather than military mine action..." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 105, 108)

"According to the Angolan National Institute for the Removal of Land mines and Unexploded Ordnance (INAROOE), there are an estimated six to seven million land mines scattered throughout the country. The provincial capitals of Huambo and Bié, as well as many locations in Benguela, Malanje, Moxico and Uíge have the highest levels of landmine contamination. In a sixteen-month period between mid 1998 and January 2000, 1,117 Angolans fell victim to land mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The majority of incidents affect civilians, many of whom are women and children, travelling by road, farming or search for wood. Mines laid during previous wars have caused an estimated three-quarters of recent accidents." (UN November 2000, p. 16)

"Incidents of mine accidents and other war-related wounds indicate that civilian populations outside of city centers continue to be affected by the ongoing conflict. In Kuito's hospital, MSF's surgical program conducted over 23 mine-related amputations in the first three months of 2000. This number reflects an increase in such injuries. In all of 1999, the total figure of amputations at the same hospital was 35; there were only 13 in 1998." (MSF 26 July 2000)

"Agencies estimate there are seven million landmines and at least ten times this number of unexploded ordnance (UXO), causing numerous injuries and preventing access to farming and grazing land." (OCHA 17 July 2000, sect. B)

Vulnerable populations

Women and children at risk of rape, sexual assault, forced prostitution and military recruitment (1999-2001)

- Young women raped, sexually assaulted, and forced into marriages or prostitution
- Some 300,000 children are estimated to have been forced into combat by rebel and government forces
- UNICEF estimates that some 300,000 children are without parents in Angola; one million children have no access to education or health care

"While the breakdown of government infrastructure and social structures have led to millions of children suffering, it is estimated that at least 300,000 children have been forced into combat in Angola by rebel and government armed forces. Those who have survived say they are used to flight, to work in military camps, transport heavy loads on their backs as soldiers, move location and also as sex slaves.

According to UNICEF's Lidia Borba, who works in child protection services, about 1 million Angolan children have lost one parent in the war and almost 300,000 have lost both parents. In addition, more than 1 million children across the country are believed to have no access at all to education and health facilities. 'In general,' she told IRIN, 'all children are direct or indirect victims of this war. Not a single family has not been affected.' (IRIN-SA 14 June 2001, The war generation)

"30. The assessment found that internally displaced women, particularly those living near military encampments were subject to sexual harassment and some had been forced into prostitution in order to procure basic necessities. There were also reports of women and girls abducted from camps for the displaced by UNITA. In addition, there are large numbers of unaccompanied and orphaned children among the displaced. The assessment notes that although many of these children have been integrated into kinship networks or community structures, many of their needs are not met. Unaccompanied children are vulnerable to forced recruitment and abuse. Furthermore, the poverty, disease, domestic violence and child abuse associated with displacement prompt many children to leave their homes voluntarily. In so doing, they become increasingly vulnerable to disease and abuse." (CHR 25 January 2001, para. 30)

"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)

Abductions of children occur with regularity in conflict in Angola (October 2001)

- Most recent case involves some 16 children in Kwanza Norte province
- Over sixty children abducted in Caxito during raid on village in May 2001
- Children are abducted for recruitment in armed forces, sexual abuse and forms of forced labour

Kidnapping in May in Caxito, 60km north of Luanda:

"Straight after the attack on Caxito, one group of fifty UNITA soldiers attacked an orphan's 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...

[...]

The children were freed on 25 May, but there are conflicting versions of events. UNITA issued a statement claiming that it had released over 60 orphans to a Catholic priest, Father Antonio Joaquim Ribeiro in Ambaca (over 150km from Caxito). However, the Angolan army statement claims that the children were freed after its troops surrounded the UNITA fighters at Ambaca." (Action for Southern Africa 7 June 2001)

Abduction in October in Kwanza Norte:

"UNICEF Angola and the United Nations Humanitarian Co-ordinator in Angola were shocked and concerned by the recent declaration from the Catholic Bishop of Kwanza Norte on the abduction of 16 children and their relatives during a religious service in the village of Kiluange in the Municipality of Golungo Alto, Kwanza Norte.

[...]

UNICEF and the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator call for their immediate release and strongly condemn all violations of children's rights in Angola. This is not the first time that children have been abducted: similar abductions have occurred throughout Angola's prolonged conflict in various parts of the country. The majority of these children have not been heard from since.

The motivation for these abductions is not always clear, but children abducted in conflict countries are often used by armed groups to carry goods and ammunition and to cook and clean. In the worst case, children, particularly young girls, may be sexually abused and both girls and boys may be used in combat or as a defensive shield." (UNICEF 16 October 2001)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

General

Needs of IDPs and other vulnerable populations not being met, says MSF (August 2002)

- MSF blames government and UNITA wartime strategies for the current plight of IDPs - but also the 'international community', including the UN
- UN's role in the peace process took precedence over humanitarian assistance, charges MSF
- Populations recently moved out of combat zones face extremely difficult food and health conditions
- Many areas of return for IDPs have no public services in place

“The statements of the displaced persons and escapees, as well as the health statistics gathered in the field since March 2002 by MSF teams and other NGOs, attest to the violence of the government’s and Unita’s wartime strategies and to their consequences for the trapped civilians. The warring parties bear immense responsibility but other evidence suggests that the ‘international community’ – UN agencies, UN Security Council countries – and its most active representatives in Angola (the U.N. and the European Troika countries) took an extremely passive stance in the face of the tragedy playing out in the Angolan provinces. Furthermore, since the ceasefire neither the Angolan government nor the humanitarian actors have responded to the needs of populations that were prisoners of the war.

The resumption of fighting in 1998 coincided almost immediately with the internment of hundreds of thousands of Angolans who, until then, had been under Unita’s political control. At no time did the Luandan government and the rebels support or permit aid to arrive in the new grey zones. For the most part, the UN and the aid organizations participated in this humanitarian embargo. The principle of the right of aid to pass freely, affirmed by the Geneva Conventions, was not defended vigorously before the belligerents and the UN showed a questionable willingness to broach the subject with its Angolan contacts. Finally, in the weeks following the end of fighting, the civilian regroupment areas, organized by the national army during the war, and the quartering areas for former Unita soldiers and their families received insignificant levels of aid relative to their need from either the government or the humanitarian agencies. That lifeless response, including that of UN agencies, suggests that negotiations underway regarding the UN’s role in the peace process took precedence over necessary discussions regarding aid to endangered populations.

Later, with the peace process underway, one might legitimately ask how those same actors in control in Angola intend to treat the populations they treated so brutally previously. The first signs are not encouraging. The populations that have recently moved out of the combat zones still face extremely precarious food and health conditions, which will require a massive medium-term intervention. They will remain totally dependent on aid for as long as they are unable to rely on the coming harvests, if seeds are distributed in time in early 2003.

In the provinces where MSF still faces abnormally high rates of malnutrition, the World Food Program acknowledges that it has neither the human nor logistical means to carry out all the operations required to provide comprehensive treatment of the fragile populations. It is important that MSF allow the humanitarian agencies to intervene massively to move conclusively beyond a major crisis. There is also an eagerness to return the four million displaced persons to their homes without offering a minimum of

assurances regarding their resettlement. Most of the areas where the former displaced persons will be received are far from major roads and are accessible only by roads that have not yet been de-mined. Further, none of the public services required to receive them (water, health and education) can be made ready quickly, even if the humanitarian agencies are once again called upon for help.

Despite the hopes raised by the peace process, MSF remains deeply concerned about this population, which has yet to receive any promises for its future. *'The government has known for two years whether or not it will help us,'* says a 57 year-old man. *"They promise food, blankets, picks and tools. We need metal to build houses, too. We can't go back the way we left, driven out by force."* Indeed, that is the least we would hope for them." (MSF, 1 October 2002)

[*Click here for the full MSF report, 'Angola: Sacrifice of a People', containing numerous testimonies by displaced people.*](#)

Many IDPs are too 'afraid and preoccupied with day-to-day survival to assert their rights', says the UN (October 2002)

- After almost 3 decades of war, Angola has some of worst living conditions in the world
- UN report calls on the Angolan government to take the lead role in the country's reconstruction
- Improved protection of IDPs' rights is required as many do not assert their rights themselves, says the report

"In the wake of a brutal civil war, Angola has some of the worst living conditions in the world. However, aid agencies are hopeful that peace would usher in unparalleled opportunities in the oil-producing country.

A recent UN study painted a grim picture of the country, which was devastated by 27 years of war. More than 60 percent of the population live below the poverty line, which is equivalent to US \$1.68 a day, and life expectancy remains 42 years.

Almost a third of Angolans are displaced, internally or across the country's borders as refugees. In addition, the country has the second highest mortality rate in the world for children below the age of five, after Sierra Leone.

The report said that although the need for external aid was recognised, the government would have to take the lead in the country's reconstruction. The UN, donors and NGOs operating in the country would complement these efforts.

The assessment titled, 'Angola - Challenges after the war', conducted jointly by UN agencies between September 2001 and June 2002, was intended to provide a strategic vision for the UN agencies working in the country.

'The report is a realistic assessment of the current situation and while there are definite challenges ahead there is also huge potential,' United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Deputy Resident Representative Steven Kinglock, told IRIN.

The study pointed out that malaria was the predominant cause of death among children and adults, in addition to being one of the main causes of poor health and depression, and having a profound effect on family income.

However, it cautioned that HIV/AIDS, due to its rapid spread, could eventually become the single largest killer.

The report also highlighted the desperate plight of the country's children.

'About half of primary school-age children are not enrolled in school, mainly because of financial constraints, but in some cases because many do not have birth certificates or there are no school places available,' the study found.

The report argued for increased rights protection for the millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs), saying many IDPs were too 'afraid and preoccupied with day-to-day survival to assert their rights'.

Kinglock said the UNDP was working closely with NGOs to increase civil society's participation in public affairs." (IRIN, 28 October 2002)

Populations on the move in interior regions are in "appalling" condition (November 2001)

- Tens of thousands of newly displaced persons are thought to be on the brink of starvation
- Up to 500,000 people living in areas inaccessible to international agencies are estimated to be in need - with more than 200,000 believed to be in acute distress

"Possibly the most vulnerable populations in Angola are the increasingly large numbers of families who are on the move in interior regions. Tens of thousands of newly displaced persons are estimated to be foraging for food in the bush. Credible reports indicate that the condition of these populations is appalling and that many are probably on the brink of starvation. Widows, separated children and persons with physical disabilities are highly vulnerable throughout the country, but face serious dangers during displacement. Many are unable to reach safe havens and remain abandoned in insecure areas, at constant risk of attack and abduction. In addition to these groups, about which little is known, as many as 500,000 people living in areas inaccessible to international organisations are estimated to be in need. At least 20 locations, with a combined total of more than 200,000 people, are believed to have populations in acute distress. Information on the condition of these groups is provided by newly displaced, church networks and military personnel. Reliable reports in early October indicated that populations in four to five inaccessible locations were in catastrophic condition and that at least one quarter of children in these areas were at mortal risk." (UN November 2001)

Warring parties are guilty of near-total neglect of populations in need, charges MSF (July 2001)

- Forced displacement by both parties to the conflict drives civilians to restricted areas, where the authorities then fail to provide food or health care, resulting in very high levels of malnutrition and mortality

"The warring parties to the Angolan civil war are turning blind eyes to the obvious, serious, and often acute humanitarian needs of the Angolan people. Both the Government and the UNITA rebel movement are guilty of this negligence. The medical and nutritional emergencies that MSF encounters due to its projects in the field are not just a logic consequence of the ongoing war. To a large extent they are caused by the near-total neglect towards populations, the disrespect of international humanitarian law, and the military strategies of the parties to the conflict.

The underlying causes for the emergencies include:

The near absence of governmental response to emergencies in areas under its control, resulting in very high levels of malnutrition and mortality.

Forced displacement caused by military strategies applied by both parties, which drive large populations from their land and then pin them down in restricted areas, where the authorities then fail to provide food or health care.

The inaccessibility, due to insecurity and the incapacity to negotiate, with both parties, access for humanitarian assistance, of some areas of major concern for international humanitarian organizations." (MSF 2 July 2001)

Statistics on the status of children (2001-2002)

- In 2001, UNICEF and local partner carry out first nationwide survey in five years
- Results reveal 'catastrophic' situation among Angolan women and children

"Throughout 2001, UNICEF has been supporting the Angolan National Institute of Statistics (INE) in conducting a Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), the first nation-wide survey conducted in Angola since 1996. Although carried out in accessible areas only, recently released survey results are striking and reveal a catastrophic situation among Angolan children and women. The under-five mortality rate is 250 per 1,000 live births, with wide geographical disparities from 192 to 315, meaning that every year over 155,000 children under five years of age die. This translates into 18 children dying every hour. The MICS also found that 45.2% of children suffer from stunting, illustrating the long-term negative effect of the conflict on the healthy growth of children. Immunization coverage remains very low with only 26.6% of 1-year-old children fully immunized against measles, polio, BCG, and DPT. The MICS also indicates that among children 0 to 14 years of age, there are some 750,000 orphans of either one or both parents that are being cared for in households. One of the most worrying findings of the MICS is the very low level of knowledge about HIV/AIDS, with only 8% of women having sufficient knowledge of HIV prevention and transmission." (UNICEF, 29 May 2002)

"Thirty percent of all children die before reaching the age of five. The under-five mortality rate is the second highest in the world, with one child dying every three minutes, corresponding to 20 per hour and 480 per day.

Forty percent of the children who do survive, die before 40.

Nineteen percent of children are born with a low birth-weight, 53 percent are stunted and 42 percent are severely underweight.

An estimated 100,000 children have been separated from their families as a result of war.

Credible evidence indicates that child soldiers are being forced to fight." (UN OCHA 8 February 2002)

Food

Approximately 15 percent of all Angolans depend on food aid to survive (November 2002)

- One of main causes of food insecurity is lack of access to good quality agricultural land
- Efforts to promote self-reliance have been hampered by land access problem

“Approximately 15 percent of all Angolans currently depend on external food assistance to survive. The primary causes of food insecurity include limited access to good quality agricultural land, lack of assets, insufficient quantities of seeds and tools and dysfunctional markets. Food insecurity is most acute in areas where military operations were concentrated prior to the ceasefire and where coping mechanisms are over-stretched or have completely eroded. Families who were unable to cultivate during the last agricultural season are particularly vulnerable. Although efforts have been made to promote self-reliance, the majority of displaced and returning populations do not have access to sufficient quantities of land and inputs and will be not be able to produce adequate stocks to cover basic requirements.” (UN, November 2002, p27)

Six months after the ceasefire, level of food assistance is at all-time high (October 2002)

- Assessments in April-June 2002 revealed that in 70 percent of newly accessible areas, people were either food insecure or at risk of serious hunger
- By June 2002, almost 3 million Angolans were receiving emergency assistance (up from 1.9 million) - one third of whom were on the brink of survival
- By September 2002, the percentage of the population in critical distress decreased markedly
- Malnutrition rates and critical needs increased again in October 2002 following widespread return of IDPs to areas lacking basic services

“The full scope of the humanitarian catastrophe only became evident when agencies were finally able to access areas that had been cut-off from assistance for many years. Between April and June, organisations worked around-the-clock assessing populations in towns and villages where acute needs were suspected. The results of the assessments were truly shocking. In 70 percent of the newly accessible areas, people were either food insecure or at risk of serious hunger. In 50 percent, malnutrition levels and child and maternal mortality rates had reached critical levels. Only five percent of the population had access to safe drinking water and very few children attended school. Coping mechanisms were under severe stress and many people were barely able to survive.

By June, the caseload for emergency assistance had climbed from 1.9 million Angolans to nearly three million, one-third of whom were on the brink of survival. As the result of a massive operation that targeted the most vulnerable households through integrated programmes in food assistance, nutrition, health, emergency items and water and sanitation, humanitarian conditions finally began to improve in July and August. The number of areas with acute levels of malnutrition dropped from 25 to 11 in September and the percentage of the population in critical distress declined markedly.

The situation did not remain stable, however. By mid October, following the rapid return of an estimated 850,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) to areas where basic services were not yet in place, malnutrition rates were again on the rise and critical needs were emerging among populations without sufficient resources to sustain themselves through the planting season. Six months after the cessation of hostilities, the United Nations was providing direct food assistance to more Angolans—1.8 million people—than at any time during the entire armed conflict. In addition, the onset of the seasonal rains threatened to cut-off 40 percent of the areas receiving humanitarian aid and to leave approximately one million without assistance until March or April 2003.” (UN, November 2003, p2)

Essential food aid threatened by lack of resources (August 2002)

- WFP estimates in August 2002 that 1.9 million people would need food aid up to the end of 2002 (an increase of some 400,000 on previous estimates)
- One factor contributing to the increased caseload is the accelerated return of IDPs and refugees
- As of August 2002, WFP had less than 22 percent of funding for its Angola operation

“The UN World Food Programme warned today that lives are being put at risk in post-war Angola because it lacks the necessary resources to start moving large quantities of food immediately to avoid any break in food distributions over the coming months.

With the rainy season underway, many parts of the country are becoming increasingly inaccessible because of poor infrastructure. Although the government had committed itself to repairing roads, bridges and airstrips, much more still remains to be done. WFP must immediately build up buffer stocks in several Provinces, lasting up to three months, to avoid major hunger.

Previously, WFP estimated that 1.5 million people would be in need of food aid up to December, but since the peace process, the situation has changed rapidly and WFP now expects 1.9 million people will be in need before the end of the year. To meet this increase, a further 44,000 metric tons of food must arrive in Angola soon.

The rise in the number of beneficiaries is caused by several factors. The number of demobilised UNITA troops and their families is substantially higher than anticipated, and they need food aid while being integrated into society. Also, there has been an acceleration in the return home of internally displaced people and refugees from neighbouring countries. All these people need food assistance before starting to plant their crops and rebuilding their homes and livelihoods.

Over recent months, 60 new locations in Angola have received WFP assistance, bringing an additional 426,000 beneficiaries onto the caseload. With more areas still to be assessed, this number will continue to rise. The increase in the number of women and children entering nutritional programmes is also expected to rise this year - due to large areas of crops that were destroyed in the final stages of war.

A substantial number of people will need food aid to ensure that they do not eat the seeds they have saved in order to plant. These seeds are currently being distributed by aid organizations to returning displaced people to safeguard the next harvest.

‘If we see people suffering hunger, or worse, starvation, we must respond quickly to the changing conditions,’ says Francisco Roque Castro, newly-appointed Director for WFP in Angola. ‘Each life saved is a victory, but at this point we can only win if we get enough resources in the country.’

Immediate contributions are vital to enable WFP to undertake the pre-positioning of stocks to support Angolans until the next harvest. Presently, WFP has less than 22% of the funding for its operation in Angola. In addition, more support is needed for NGOs working as WFP’s implementing partners in distributing food so that they can expand their geographical coverage and capacity.” (WFP, 29 August 2002)

Thousands of people arrive at Mavinga in search of food (August 2002)

- Tens of thousands of people head towards Mavinga in search of food
- MSF report critical food and health needs among the IDPs

- Mavinga area is one the most mined in the country, making humanitarian access extremely difficult

“Over the past few days thousands of people have left the ‘reception sites’ of Matungo and Capembe, Cuando Cubango province, to go by foot to Mavinga (about 50 km away) in the hope of receiving food aid. The nutritional situation is, indeed, far from being stabilized in this area of Angola.

The general distributions of food of the World Food Program in the ‘reception sites’ (previously called Quarters and Family Areas for ex-Unita soldiers and their families) of Capembe and Matungo had to be stopped for about two weeks following the discovery of a land mine on the airstrip in Mavinga. This temporary rupture of food aid has been the cause of a massive displacement of ten of thousands of people towards Mavinga in search of food. This shows the precarious situation in which these populations find themselves.

‘The gravity of the situation and the lack of food is so severe that our teams even saw handicapped people, with prostheses and crutches, start to walk the 50 kilometers which separates them from Mavinga. In fact, this surge, which doubles the number of the people in the town of Mavinga, also makes us fear the worst in terms of epidemic outbreaks considering the lack of drinkable water and early arrival of the rains’ explains Fred Meylan, head of mission MSF in Angola.

The food rations currently distributed in the area are still not sufficient to stabilize nutritional status of the population. Admissions into our programs continue to increase: in two days (August 24/25), following the above-mentioned massive displacement, our teams admitted 51 new patients to the hospital and 60 children to the therapeutic feeding centre. Today, in Mavinga and in the ‘reception sites’, MSF cares for more than 1,700 people suffering from malnutrition and will have to triple this number during the next months.

‘The Mavinga area, one of the most mined in the country, is difficult to reach and we know that populations remain isolated without our teams being able to reach them’ explains Fred Meylan.

Finally, if no general distribution of seeds and tools is made in the next few weeks, the survival of tens of thousands of people will depend entirely on humanitarian aid until next spring. It is therefore urgent that, in addition to humanitarian aid, logistical and de-mining actions be undertaken without delay in order to provide fast and durable aid to these completely destitute populations.” (MSF, 30 August 2002)

See also: ‘Hope, challenges in remote Angolan town’, Reuters, 27 November 2002

‘Aid trucks reach the end of the earth’, Mail and Guardian, 20 January 2003

Health and Nutrition

Few Angolans have access to adequate health care (November 2002)

- Hundreds of thousands of Angolans continue to die from easily treatable diseases
- Infant, child and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world
- Basic preventative and curative health care services are extremely limited

“The public health situation in Angola remains critical. Less than 30 percent of Angolans have access to adequate health care and hundreds of thousands of people continue to die from easily treatable diseases.

Populations in at least 15 locations are currently suffering from acute levels of malnutrition and other pockets may exist in return sites where basic conditions are not yet in place or in locations not yet accessible to humanitarian agencies. Infant, child and maternal mortality rates are among the highest in the world and are most commonly linked to malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoeal diseases, acute respiratory infections, measles, parasites, skin diseases, sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV/AIDS. Basic preventative and curative health care services are extremely limited, particularly in the interior, and immunisation coverage is low throughout the country. In addition, less than 60 percent of Angolans have access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water and more than 80 percent of the urban population does not have access to proper sanitation. The shortage and overuse of latrines as well as unhygienic open-air faecal disposal continue to contaminate watercourses leading to transmission of water-borne and faecal-oral transmission of disease.” (UN, November 2002, p27)

Measles is major cause of under-five mortality (2002)

- Up to 15,000 children under five die in Angola each year from measles infections
- Major cause of high measles transmission rates is the population density in cities and IDP camps

“Measles remains the main vaccine preventable cause of children under 5 mortality in Angola. It is estimated that between 7,700 to 15,000 deaths of children under five are attributable each year to measles infections. Transmission of the disease is accelerated in Angola by massive and continuous population movements from rural to urban areas. The concentration of large numbers of people in the cities and IDP camps is also a major cause of high rates of transmission. In urban areas non-vaccinated children contract the disease in their first years of life.” (UNICEF, 11 September 2002)

MSF warns of a severely malnourished 'dying population' in newly accessible areas of Angola (April 2002)

- MSF finds thousands of sick and starving people in some 30 'grey zones' which had for years been inaccessible to humanitarian organizations
- Mortality and malnutrition levels are well above emergency thresholds in areas accessed
- In Northern Huambo province, the global malnutrition rate is 18 percent, and is the main cause of death
- International aid is slow to arrive in newly accessible areas

"Over the last few weeks, teams from the international medical aid agency Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) have come across thousands of starving and sick people, who have been stuck in those regions of Angola to which humanitarian access has been denied for many years. Thousand of civilians have been trapped in some 30 of these so-called 'grey zones', without any assistance from relief agencies or the UN.

These people have been caught up in a series of fierce wars, and many have been forced from their homes, often because their villages and homes have been destroyed. The mines, attacks and retaliations have prevented them from cultivating their crops, leaving the population destitute and extremely vulnerable.

The consequences are dramatic. Thanks to the cease-fire which has recently been agreed between government forces and UNITA, MSF teams have finally been able to access areas previously closed to us. One team assessed the situation in Bunjei, an area situated 116 km from Caala in the south of the country (Huila Province). They found extremely high mortality rates there.

Thierry Allfort-Duverger led the assessment team: 'We counted 14 deaths per day over a population of around 14,000 in Bunjei. We found more than 1,050 freshly dug graves. Bunjei is a ghost town where displaced and destitute people have been settling since last September.'

Malnutrition levels in Bunjei were found to be well above the emergency threshold. 30% of the children examined were severely malnourished and have had to be admitted to emergency therapeutic feeding centres. MSF has also opened a nutritional centre for children suffering from moderate malnutrition and has started distributing food and drinking water to 3,500 children below the age of 10. In addition, there are 900 severely malnourished children in the emergency feeding centre in Caala city.

A second MSF assessment showed an equally alarming situation in Chilembô, south of Huambo. A basic nutritional survey of 1,219 children showed that 42% of them are malnourished with 10% suffering from severe malnutrition. An emergency therapeutic feeding centre and a 'soup kitchen' are being set up for the 6,000 uprooted people in the area.

The levels of malnutrition in these two areas are extremely worrying and require an urgent general food distribution. MSF is continuing its assessments of the newly-accessible areas and is very concerned that the situation may be equally bad elsewhere. If this is the case, significant humanitarian assistance will be required. MSF itself has tripled the size of its teams in Angola to cope with the need and has set up an air bridge to bring in the necessary supplies." (MSF, 24 April 2002)

"A nutritional survey done by Epicentre among 15,000 people in Chiteta in Northern Huambo province of Angola between 10 and 14 June confirms a serious nutritional crisis. 700 severely malnourished children are being treated in MSF's Therapeutic Feeding Centre in Bailundo.

One in six children is malnourished, and malnutrition is the main cause of death in this region. The rate of global malnutrition is 18%, and the severe malnutrition rate of 5% among children-under-5. Yet there is still no guarantee that enough food is being distributed to this population.

This is just the latest indication of the scale of the emergency in Angola, where international relief has barely started to reach hundreds of thousands of people who were deprived of it during the civil war that ended in April.

The survey showed that the overall mortality rate for the first 6 months of this year (January 1 - June 12th 2002) was 2.3/per 10 000/ per day. This is four times the normal crude mortality rate, and twice the level that signifies an emergency.

Three-quarters of deaths were children under five years old. Overall mortality rates among children under 5 was of 5,7/10 000 per day: 2.5 times the emergency threshold, and five times the normal mortality rate for children under 5.

Last month MSF opened a therapeutic feeding centre in Bailundo, in northern Huambo province; this feeding centre is also assisting malnourished people gathered in Chiteta, who are taken to Bailundo by MSF mobile medical teams. More than 700 severely malnourished children are currently being treated by in Bailundo therapeutic feeding centre." (MSF, 27 June 2002)

[Click here](#) for MSF map showing malnutrition levels in various provinces of Angola (6 May 2002)

Locations with high concentrations of newly arrived IDPs show alarming levels of malnutrition (April 2002)

- 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

"High levels of malnutrition were reported in a number of locations during April, 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, Chilembo 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 Cuemba, 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 Katchiungo, Tchicala Tcholohanga and Londuimbali, the results of mid - to upper-arm circumference (MUAC) screenings indicated a high proportion of severely malnourished children. A general food distribution in Tchilembo 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)

High morbidity and mortality rates particularly in areas with influxes of IDPs (April 2002)

- 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 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 Muacanica 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 Kuenbo (Bié Province)." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

Displaced are particularly vulnerable to reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases (2000-2001)

- Maternal and infant mortality rates are the worst in Africa
- Internally displaced women at higher risk than others of dying from pregnancy-related causes
- HIV/STDs threaten the health of displaced women and children due to lack of protection and awareness
- International agencies lack the resources to improve the situation of reproductive health

"Angola falls under the category of a chronic emergency, yet even the most basic minimum standards for reproductive health (RH) services are not being met. Even the many NGOs and UN agencies that signed on to the Inter-Agency Field Manual for Reproductive Health in Emergency Situations [WHO, UNFPA, UNHCR] are not coming close to meeting the minimum standards they committed to by signing on to this document. This is due not so much to a lack of interest or concern, but a lack of resources. And in some cases this is due to the pervading attitude of international health agencies that reproductive health services fall outside of emergency lifesaving interventions.

Although the needs are great in both the IDP and local communities, we were told that IDPs did have special needs and considerations. In the four provinces that we visited, health workers said that awareness of reproductive health issues is lower among IDPs than in the local communities. We were also told that IDPs often wait too long to access services. The reasons for this are unclear. We did hear complaints that IDPs were not treated well at certain health facilities, and that they lack faith in the health system. We also heard that some health workers demand payment from patients as a way to supplement meager salaries, and that IDPs are less likely to be able to pay for the services. At some hospital maternities we visited, the IDPs were sleeping on the floor because they did not have sheets to put on the mattresses.

[...]

Angola has one of the highest maternal mortality ratios in the world, estimated at 1,500 per 100,000 compared to bordering Namibia at 370 per 100,000 and Canada at 5 per 100,000. This should not be surprising since fertility rates are high, use of family planning is low, ante-natal care is not widely available, and many women do not have access to emergency obstetric services. UNFPA -Angola produced a report in June 1999 titled *The Demographic Profile and the Reproductive Health of the IDPs*. The findings of this report are based on interviews with 1,422 IDPs in Huila, Benguela, Malanje and Zaire provinces. This study reports that the average number of children per woman interviewed was 8.6. The infant mortality rate is 125 per 1,000 in Angola, whereas in Canada, for instance, it is 55 per 1,000." (Women's Commission February 2001, p. 8)

"Of serious concern is the growing prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. For example, the number of reported HIV/AIDS cases among pregnant women in Luanda city has increased four-fold in the last ten years from 0.9 percent in 1989 to 3.4 percent in 1999. National data indicates that

HIV/AIDS is spreading at an alarming rate, affecting both women and men and jeopardising the rehabilitation of the country. Displaced populations are particularly vulnerable due to the lack of protection and HIV/AIDS awareness, poor health care services and limited opportunities to generate income." (UN November 2000, Humanitarian Context)

"Prevention of HIV/AIDS infection: HIV/AIDS cases are currently estimated as being low in Angola but are increasing due to uncontrolled migrations through borders with neighbouring countries, massive internal displacements and the presence of large groups of soldiers known to engage in risky sexual behaviour. Poverty is also leading to ever-greater numbers of occasional sexual workers. Furthermore, with promiscuity, poor standards of living, constant migration of husbands in the neighbouring countries (with extremely high rates), the risk of contracting STDs and HIV/AIDS is higher among women of [child bearing age] and adolescents.

[...]

The maternal and infant mortality rates are the worst in Africa, estimated in 1998 at 1,854/100,000 and 166/1,000 live births, respectively. The estimated national contraceptive prevalence rate is very low (3 percent), and only 19 percent of women have assisted deliveries. IDP women are known to be at higher risk of dying from pregnancy related causes due to lack of access to health services and life in stressful conditions. A survey conducted by UNFPA and the implementing agencies in 1999 with 710 men and women in IDP camps and periurban areas of Matala, Chibia, Lubango, Lobito, Baia Farta and Benguela indicated that there is: (1) very poor attendance of pregnant women; (2) a lack of knowledge about child spacing and sexuality issues, among men and women; (3) little use of family planning methods; (4) little knowledge about STDs/AIDS; and, (5) an overall expectation of large family size. With regard to questions about forced sex, 19 percent of women indicated they knew of women who were forced to have sex, while 11.4 percent of men affirmed that they knew of men who were forced to have sex." (UN 30 November 1999, pp. 42, 50)

For a full report on reproductive health among IDPs in Angola with detailed information on the situations in Bie, Malanje, Moxico, Huambo and Luanda, see the Women's Commission assessment of February 2001 available from the Women's Commission or the Global IDP Project.

Children are especially vulnerable to psychological stress from exposure to conflict (February 2001)

"According to the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), Angola's children are especially vulnerable to psychological stress from exposure to ongoing violent conflict. CCF estimates that 82% of children in IDP camps have come under fire, more than 66% say they have seen people killed or tortured and 24% have lost a limb. Therefore, psychological trauma is a significant issue among IDP youth (and surely IDPs of all ages) and one requiring much greater attention." (Women's Commission February 2001, p. 13)

Water and sanitation

Vast majority of displaced communities use contaminated water sources (November 2001)

- 90 percent of displaced communities use contaminated water sources, resulting in potentially fatal water-borne diseases
- Problem is most acute in overcrowded camps and transit centres

"...less than 60 percent of Angolans have access to adequate quantities of safe drinking water and more than 80 percent of the urban population does not have access to proper sanitation. The shortage and overuse of latrines as well as unhygienic open-air faecal disposal continue to contaminate watercourses leading to transmission of water-borne and faecal-oral transmission of disease." (UN, November 2002, p27)

"At least 60 percent of the general population and 90 percent of displaced communities use contaminated water sources. Water systems in provincial and municipal centres are over-loaded, and in many locations, no longer functional. Problems with water quality and quantity are most acute in areas where large numbers of displaced persons are living in overcrowded camps and transit centres. Lack of hygiene awareness is a major factor leading to persistently high levels of diarrhoea. Water-related diseases continue to be one of the most common causes of morbidity across the country and a frequent cause of under-five mortality. In the majority of IDP areas, the number of latrines is inadequate for population densities. An estimated 75 percent of latrines in these areas have reached capacity levels. The shortage and over-use of latrines, particularly in highly populated areas, continues to contaminate watercourses, contributing further to the pollution of community water sources." (UN, November 2001)

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)

Life in tents or warehouses embarrassing for people accustomed to having their own homes (2001)

Excerpt taken from Andrade study conducted in 1996-1997:

"Most respondents considered that adapting to the new physical environment had been difficult and slow. Previously respondents had been used to having their own houses and working their fields, thus guaranteeing subsistence for themselves and their families: after displacement many did not have access to their own houses and fields.

Life in tents or warehouses was embarrassing for people who were accustomed to having their own house: they had to live in a group and sleep alongside others. Some people built houses, but in Malanje city displaced people found it difficult to make bricks because they were used to living in houses of wattle and daub in rural areas. Some displaced people (most of them from Cuale, Malanje) rented houses, either from local residents or from displaced people who had come in previous decades. This contributed to the marked feeling of insecurity." (Andrade 2001, sect. 5.1)

For more information on the feelings of IDPs during period of displacement, see Filomena Andrade report available from Development Workshop - Angola.

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

Majority of Angolan children have no access to adequate education (November 2002)

- 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

“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)

National education crisis highlighted by severe problems in Luanda (June 2001)

- Luanda is only place in Angola where children stand a chance of getting an adequate education
- Teacher to pupil ration in Luanda is 1:80 in some cases
- Government unable to accommodate large number of war-displaced arriving in city
- Only 45 percent of school-age children attending school

"While some teaching at under-staffed and under-equipped schools takes place in the provinces, the only place in Angola where children stand a chance of getting an adequate education is Luanda, the capital. And even here, the constraints are immense. The government has not been able to accommodate the large number of war-displaced or starving families arriving in the city to live with extended families or to look for work.

[...]

An Oxfam report on primary education in Luanda found a severe lack of classroom space, high teacher/pupil ratios (1-80 in some cases), wastage because of high failure and drop-out rates, the lack of trained teaching staff (only 48 percent of primary school teachers in Luanda are adequately trained), and lack of learning and teaching materials (teachers and pupils have to buy their own). With an official global poverty rate of about 67 percent, not many parents can afford all the costs associated with sending their children to school. By the end of 2000, official statistics indicated that only about 45 percent of Angola's children of school-going age were in class." (IRIN-SA 14 June 2001)

IDP parents are often unable to pay bribes or otherwise pay for schooling (2001)

- Displaced parents cannot pay extra fees or bribes required by some school authorities
- Education for IDPs provided by external actors generally only available in camps
- Even in IDP camps, parents cannot afford to keep children in school since they need their labour to survive

"Although there is great awareness of the importance of education among the displaced, there is a long way to go before most displaced children receive even a basic education. Displaced parents often cannot pay the 'extra fees' or bribes, which the teachers and administrative staff at the schools demand to provide certificates of matriculation. (The request for 'extra fees' is not surprising: teachers' salaries average about US\$20 per month, and payment is often two to six months late.) Interestingly, this seems to be less of a problem in Huambo than in, for example, Luanda. A significant number of parents who were displaced from Huambo province to Luanda (that is, some of the families who fled in December 1998) sent their children to schools in Huambo, when the city became safe again, because they didn't have to pay as many bribes and the quality of the education was better than in Luanda.

Education provided by external actors, such as UNICEF, is concentrated in the IDP camps and urban areas. One displaced woman described how her children only got access to education when they moved to Kasseque III camp. They had first fled from Sambo to Missão do Kuando and later Escóla 113 (both of which were large IDP settlements, accommodating several thousand persons, that received minimal assistance from agencies). They arrived at Kasseque III one-and-a-half years after they first took flight. Even though Kasseque III is regarded as one of the best IDP camps and transit centres in Angola, most of the children living there do not get past the first year of school. Parents cannot afford to keep their children in school when they need their labour; and hunger and illness among the pupils and a lack of qualified teachers keeps children away. Because most children have either not finished their schooling or have never attended school before, the ages of those in the first grade can range from 6 to 14 years.

Some displaced persons we spoke with told how they had organised education for their children in transit centres by asking the teachers among them to teach their children in return for a small amount of food or cash. Later, some of these schemes were supported by outside agencies, such as UNICEF. In villages where the displaced have resettled and others are returning home, several schools and health centres are being built as part of food-for-work projects. ADRA-Angolana, together with the government and WFP, provide food for the workers and some construction material for school buildings. The agencies only become involved when the projects are initiated by the villagers." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, p. 43)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Self-reliance

Expected vulnerability of IDPs in 2003

- In 2003, the most vulnerable IDPs will be those who return to areas of origin where basic conditions are not in place, those who returned in 2002 without support or access to basic social services, newly displaced populations and IDPs still in camps who are dependent on food aid
- The least vulnerable IDPs will be those who will benefit in 2003 from their second or third cereal harvest since displacement

“Humanitarian agencies estimate that 4.35 million people will be vulnerable during 2003, including more than two million who will be highly vulnerable. The most likely causes of vulnerability include inadequate harvests, limited assets and sources of income, overstretched or inelastic coping mechanisms and lack of access to markets and basic social services. The following section identifies the groups that will be vulnerable during 2003 and the mechanisms they are most likely to use to cope with their circumstances. Several groups are expected to move during the course of the year from areas where they are currently living to return and resettlement sites. Depending on the process of return, the level of vulnerability among these groups will either improve or remain the same.

High Vulnerability

IDPs and refugees returning in 2003 to areas of origin where the basic conditions specified in the Norms are not in place

Approximately 650,000 IDPs and refugees are expected to return in 2003 to areas where the basic conditions specified in the Norms are not yet in place. The majority will resettle without support from local administrations and humanitarian organisations and will be at risk of increased food insecurity due to insufficient agricultural inputs. The absence of basic social services will jeopardise their status and may lead to outbreaks of disease. Returnees in areas with no resident populations or where markets are absent will be particularly vulnerable. Returnees will try to augment food security by hunting, fishing and collecting wild food. Families may compensate for inadequate food stocks by reducing consumption and expenditures for social services and sending children to relatives in urban centres.

IDPs and refugees who returned to areas of origin during 2002 without assets and access to basic social services

An estimated 700,000 IDPs and refugees have already returned to areas where the basic conditions specified in the Norms are not yet in place. The overwhelming majority returned without support from local administrations and humanitarian organisations and are at risk of increased food insecurity due to insufficient agricultural inputs. The absence of basic social services will jeopardise their status and may lead to outbreaks of disease. Returnees in areas with no resident populations or where markets are absent are particularly vulnerable. Returnees will try to augment food security by hunting, fishing and collecting wild food. Families may compensate for inadequate food stocks by reducing consumption and expenditures for social services and sending children to relatives in urban centres.

[...]

Newly displaced populations entering areas where humanitarian assistance is available

An estimated 50,000 people are likely to become newly displaced during 2003 as a result of natural disasters, localised instability and crop destruction. Populations arriving from isolated areas will be

destitute, in poor health and perhaps malnourished as a result of food insecurity and lack of access to basic services. The majority will have lost their assets and have no visible means of livelihood. Newly displaced persons will rely on resident populations and kinship networks for direct support, including food, and will try to find work in the informal sector. Within months, IDPs will begin to diversify their sources of income to cover basic requirements, working as casual labourers either in town or near-by agricultural fields, producing charcoal, or collecting and selling firewood and wild fruits.

[...]

IDPs who will benefit in 2003 from their first cereal harvest since displacement

Approximately 150,000 IDPs who were displaced before the 2002 – 2003 agricultural campaign will remain in camps and temporary resettlement sites. The majority do not have sufficient food stocks and will be dependent on food assistance and support from kinship networks to survive. The majority have begun to diversify their sources of income to cover basic requirements, working as casual labourers either in town or near-by agricultural fields, producing charcoal, or collecting and selling firewood and wild fruits.

Moderate Vulnerability

IDPs and refugees returning in 2003 to areas of origin where the basic conditions specified in the Norms are in place

Approximately 550,000 IDPs and refugees are expected to return in 2003 to locations where the basic conditions are consistent with the Norms. These returnees are likely to receive assistance from local administrations and humanitarian organizations and will probably return to their areas of origin with agricultural inputs and other tools to re-establish their livelihoods. Returnees will be able to generate more income in areas with resident populations or where markets are near-by. In some cases, family members will remain in urban centers and send earnings from the informal sector to the household. Food security will depend on the results of the agricultural campaign. When food availability is reduced, households may reduce food consumption and expenditures for social services or send their children to relatives in urban centers.

IDPs and refugees who returned to areas of origin during 2002 with some assets and access to basic social services

Approximately 300,000 IDPs and refugees have already returned to their areas of origin and are currently receiving assistance from local administrations and humanitarian organizations. Basic services are available and many have been provided with agricultural inputs and other tools to re-establish their livelihoods. Returnees will be able to generate more income in areas with resident populations or where markets are near-by. In some cases, family members will remain in urban centers and send earnings from the informal sector to the household. Food security will depend on the results of the agricultural campaign. When food availability is limited, households may reduce food consumption and expenditures for social services or send their children to relatives in urban centers.

Moderate to Low Vulnerability

IDPs who will benefit in 2003 from their second or third cereal harvest since displacement

Approximately 300,000 IDPs who arrived before the 2001 – 2002 agricultural campaign will remain in camps and temporary resettlement sites. These populations have already achieved partial self-sufficiency by combining agricultural production with various income generating activities, including casual labour either in town or near-by agricultural fields, portering and loading, petty-trade, collection and sale of wild fruits and firewood, charcoal production, brick making, alcohol brewing and domestic work. IDPs may walk to their areas of origin, if they are close, to cultivate family lands.” (UN, November 2002, p22-24)

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)

Some IDPs have become dependant on camp life (November 2002)

- IDPs are being pressured to return home to areas with no basic conditions in place, say local human rights advocates
- Farming skills have been lost in communities where a whole generation has grown up as IDPs

“As people leave the camps, relief agencies acknowledge the importance of breaking dependency on handouts, and are seeking to provide seeds and tools so people can start farming once again. Angola's fertile soils, reliable rainfall, and low population density bode well for this approach. Yet human rights advocates say there is a danger in putting pressure on IDPs to go home without adequate preparation.

‘Most people lost everything that they had and most people are in a situation where they have to start from the beginning,’ said Fernando Macedo of the Association for Justice, Peace and Democracy - an Angolan organisation which worked with Human Rights Watch on a report on the situation of Angolan IDPs.

‘We think these people must be assisted in basic humanitarian needs, which means raising funds to give them the tools to cultivate the land. People must not be forced to return to places where they do not have the conditions to live decently,’ Macedo said.

Others warn that farming skills have been lost among communities in which a whole generation had grown up as IDPs.

‘In some families there is no agricultural tradition. The people are so used to getting food from the international and national organisations that it will take some time [for IDPs to resume farming], and some people may refuse to go back to their place of origin when they have received food for so many years,’ an aid worker in Kuito warned.” (IRIN, 14 November 2002)

Displaced rarely become self-sufficient due to limited access to land and insufficient seed (July 2002)

- About 1.4 million Angolans are in urgent need of food aid until 2003, according to WFP and FAO

- In most conflict areas, agriculture has fallen to an almost subsistence level with little or no surplus for trade
- About half of the 4 million people displaced since 1998 have been allocated land and no longer depend on food assistance

"About 1.4 million Angolans are urgently in need of food aid until April 2003, a joint UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) report said on Monday.

[...]

'Peace came too late to have a significant impact' on agricultural production. 'In most of the conflict areas, agriculture had fallen to an almost subsistence level, with little or no marketable surplus and very limited trade activity. Self-sufficiency is seldom attained among displaced populations due to the limited access to land and insufficient seed,' the report said.

[...]

WFP plans to assist 1.24 million people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) with insufficient or no access to land, the families of former rebel UNITA soldiers, the vulnerable populations in previously inaccessible areas and refugees returning to Angola. The remaining needy population would have to be supported by other humanitarian agencies.

Of the estimated four million people displaced from their homes since 1998, around two million have been allocated land and no longer depend on food assistance, said the report.

The mission found that some IDPs had already started to return to their homes to prepare land for the next season and to plant dry season crops in the wetland areas.

'Food assistance and agricultural inputs [such as seed and fertiliser] are urgently required for farmers returning to their home areas,' the agencies said." (IRIN, 1 July 2002)

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)

Displacement has forced communities to find innovative coping strategies (2001)

- Despite the strains, displaced groups usually stay intact under the leadership of traditional elders
- Church groups often fill in where basic social infrastructure and services have collapsed

- Various other social formations and networks are used to ensure cohesion and protect communities from further vulnerability

"Many populations in Angola face situations that appear beyond their control. With social structures under enormous and continuous strain, communities are forced to find innovative ways to cope, maintain cohesion, and preserve a sense of dignity. Despite the pressures created by prolonged warfare, many displaced groups remain in tact. With few exceptions, groups travel together until they reach safe haven under the leadership of their traditional elders. Once they arrive at a new location, elders assume responsibility for negotiating with local authorities and protecting the interests of the community. [...]

Church groups provide a social support network that reaches communities on both sides of the conflict. In many locations, these groups fill in where basic social infrastructure and services have collapsed. Local churches help to educate children and care for the sick and the elderly. They also provide a forum for dialogue between host and displaced communities and help to support traditional elders during negotiations with local authorities. A variety of other social formations and networks are used to ensure cohesion and protect communities from further vulnerability. Consultative forums, sometimes held within *jangos*, are convened by community notables, and increasingly by other members, to discuss problems and agree on future courses of action. Women *kitandeiras* often form rotating credit and savings networks which function as important elements in the informal market sector. Kinship networks are used to redistribute resources and provide support and social security to extended family members. In provincial centres and municipal towns, political affiliations are sometimes rewarded with access to agricultural lands and other important resources, including household items." (UN November 2001)

Study in Huambo shows that IDPs work in many different ways to gain livelihood and protect themselves (2001)

- Villagers establish civil defence groups to handle potential security threats in rural areas
- IDPs collect firewood, work for others and participate in petty trade to gain livelihood
- Stealing and food ration fraud are also means by which IDPs survive

Below are excerpts from a study on self-reliance conducted in Huambo province. For the full report, please see [Caught Between Borders](#) available through NRC's Global IDP Project:

"Given this insecurity, both displaced persons and the local population carry guns when they go into the fields. It is startling to note that the farther from the towns one goes, the more weapons one sees among the civilians. Civil defence groups, composed of both men and women, have been organised both by the local population and the authorities. Men carry the weapons, women patrol the paths and roads. Some members of the civil defence teams carry light weapons to protect settlements and markets. On the roads into towns, members of the civil defence regularly check that people are not carrying weapons and bombs hidden in their bags and baskets. Sometimes, a small civil defence group is left to protect houses and crops in villages from which most of the population has already fled.

[...]

Collecting firewood is probably the most common survival strategy used by displaced persons, whether they live in or outside camps. There has been a shortage of energy throughout Huambo province for the past eight years. With infrastructure largely destroyed, very little fossil fuel (gas, diesel and gasoline) reaches the interior, thus prices have skyrocketed³. In addition, since the 1992-94 war, deforestation has taken place on a massive scale in the most populated areas, i.e., the corridor along the Benguela railway. The deforestation can be partly attributed to the lack of other energy sources, but mostly because firewood collection has been one of the best survival strategies for displaced and other vulnerable populations. Workers charge so little for their labour that even when road transport is functioning, consumers will opt for the cheaper firewood rather than other fuels.

[...]

Petty trading in streets and markets is most common in urban areas, but is occasionally also practiced in rural areas. Among the displaced in Huambo, it is mostly women who use petty trading as a source of income. Women who have access to some cash place themselves on the outskirts of markets or in markets, such as São Pedro, where they buy from local producers. A farmer may not have the experience or skill to sell his produce to consumers, so he may prefer to sell his goods in bulk to these trade women. The women do not make a great profit from their work: they may buy a wheelbarrow-load of cabbage to resell at the market, and make only enough to provide one or two meals for their families. Others sell fruits and vegetables in residential areas, or anything from used clothes and shoes to washing powder.

Informal trading also takes place inside the IDP camps and transit centres. Cigarettes, soap, matches, cooking oil and firewood are sold there in small quantities. Women dominate as sellers of low-priced goods. High-priced merchandise is generally sold by men, but few displaced men have the financial resources to enter that sector of the market.

[...]

There have been some instances of stealing among the displaced. In Ekunha, the local population reported an increase in produce stolen from their fields and yards and blamed the thievery on the desperate circumstances of the displaced persons living among them. In general, though, there has been little of this kind of activity, despite the poverty and desperation of the displaced. Displaced persons themselves said that only the most desperate, and those who had no social conscience, stole. They emphasised that these kinds of negative survival strategies were not accepted by the society.

Cheating with food ration cards, however, is not regarded as stealing, and is done more frequently. Families split up and go to different camps/transit centres to register, and thus benefit from multiple sources of food. Sometimes, families will build huts in different locations where NGOs and/or ICRC provide food rations and then travel back and forth to get double rations. Since food is given out on certain days in each location, it is not difficult to move between the camps at the appropriate times. The government and various NGOs tried to stop this practice by registering all displaced persons by name, but since most displaced persons have no identity cards, the system is often ineffective." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, pp. 33-41)

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 urban 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.

IDPs obliged to re-adapt skills to new income-generating activities (2001)

- Agricultural and manual skills are less in demand
- IDPs in urban areas obliged to learn commercial skills such as selling firewood or doing domestic work for others
- Generally, one-third of money earned is saved as "reserve fund" for displaced families

"The displaced people who were interviewed had all arrived at their places of refuge with agricultural and manual skills, but these skills were less in demand in their new places of residence. All displaced people had to find new ways of making a living, even if it was painful, but 'there was no alternative' as they had to find a way to survive. Usually this meant a big change in the way they spent their time. If they had previously worked six to eight hours per day, they now had to work eight to eleven hours per day to guarantee subsistence for their families.

More in demand in urban areas are commercial skills. Some of the displaced learnt these skills more rapidly than others (even if they had never worked in this area before) and so adapted more rapidly to the urban environment and managed to acquire a status envied by their peers. In Cuale (Malanje), most of the interviewees had to stop farming and take up cutting and selling firewood or charcoal.

[...]

Many interviewees suffered when first they arrived at the place they currently live, because they did not know who to go to for assistance. Some only registered for assistance after a few days or (even) months, when they received advice from other displaced people. To survive and as a way of 'getting their lives sorted out', many did domestic work for others or worked in other people's fields (sowing, tilling, watering, and harvesting vegetables).

After they had settled into the new place, displaced people tended to find other sources of income. Some went into trade, some into farming (with or without NGO support), and others into producing and selling charcoal or firewood.

The income that displaced people manage to generate depends on a series of factors, many of which are outside their control. Climatic conditions determine the quantity and quality of what is cultivated, and influences the volume of their earnings and the amount consumed. Selling anything depends mainly on demand.

Displaced people use the money obtained from their work in three ways: part goes to replace the initial investment; some goes to buying food; the third part forms a 'reserve fund' (for days when there is no revenue). This division of funds is done every day." (Andrade 2001, sects. 4, 5.3)

For more information on coping strategies of internally displaced persons, see Filomena Andrade report available from the Development Workshop - Angola.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP

Documentation

Lack of legal documentation leads to problems for displaced children (2001-2002)

- Only 5 percent of children have had their births registered, according to government estimates
- Lack of documentation reduces access to education, health services and legal assistance, while increasing the risk for young boys of being recruited into the armed forces
- Children without documents are easy targets for abuse

"The Ministry of Justice estimates that only about 5% of children have had their births registered, which means that unregistered children do not legally exist and therefore cannot enrol in schools. It also becomes difficult for young boys to prove their age and have consequently greater risk of early recruitment into the armed forces. Displaced youths are particularly vulnerable, as they may not have the family or community support to protect them. In 2001, the Government approved a campaign led by the Ministry of Justice for the registration of three million children in 18 months." (UNICEF 11 February 2002)

"Children separated from their families, in particular following attacks and/or displacement, are of serious concern. Children who lack legal documentation, particularly those who have been forcibly displaced, suffer a lack of access to health services, schooling and even legal assistance when attempting to seek redress for violations of their rights. The numerous street children also face daily various hardships and dangers. Children are exploited as labourers and are subjected to sexual violence. Their lack of documentation leads to constant harassment by police officers. They are easy and silent targets for abuse." (UNSC 11 April 2001, para. 36)

Displaced persons who have lost personal identification documents are often subject to harassment (2000-2001)

- Incidents of harassment of IDPs without documentation reported
- Lack of documents can endanger legal individual rights

"84. The [UN] Representative [on Internally Displaced Persons] was informed of incidents of harassment of displaced persons, in particular of those who have been displaced from UNITA-controlled areas, largely because they lack formal identity documents. It was noted that lack of such documents also limits access to education, health facilities and employment. The Government should 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, authorities should facilitate the issuance of new documents or the replacement of documents lost in the course of displacement." (CHR 25 January 2001, para. 84)

"Many Angolans have never had personal identification documents or have lost them during displacement. In order to ensure legal individual rights participants acknowledged the importance of making such documents available promptly and free of charge to the internally displaced. Furthermore, such effort could contribute to the establishment of improved mechanisms for establishing the whereabouts of displaced persons separated from their families." (NRC September 2000, Prevention and Protection)

ISSUES OF FAMILY UNITY, IDENTITY AND CULTURE

Family unity

Up to 100,000 children are separated from their birth families - and the number is increasing (March 2002)

- Approximately 4,650 separated children were registered in 17 provinces during the last six months of 2001

"The number of children who are separated from their families as a result of sudden and disorganised displacement is increasing markedly, most notably in the Provinces of Moxico, Bié, Huambo and Kuanza Sul. Approximately 4,650 separated children were registered in 17 provinces during the last six months of 2001. Partners estimate that more than 100,000 children are currently separated from their birth families throughout the country. The condition of separated children is critical in many areas, including Luena, where orphanages and feeding centres are overwhelmed by steady influxes of newly arrived youth, many of whom are malnourished. Support for family tracing and care for separated children remains inadequate." (UN OCHA 7 March 2002)

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

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 Uige 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

While large numbers of IDPs are returning home, authorities have largely ignored minimum standards (December 2002)

- Provincial Emergency Plans of Action for Resettlement and Return (PEPARR) were drafted in June-July 2002
- By mid-October, 750,000 IDPs had been resettled or returned to their areas of origin - but only 10 percent of these were in accordance with the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations
- Resettlement of former UNITA combatants was a major worry at the end of 2002

“In response to the changing situation, the Provincial Emergency Plans of Action for Resettlement and Return were drafted in June and July 2002. The plans projected the return of approximately 1,750,000 internally displaced persons in 18 provinces to their areas of origin in more than 500 locations spread over 118 municipalities in 17 provinces. Between April and August 2002, approximately 100,000 people returned to their areas of origin. In August, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs provided support to the Government's Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance for the initiation of a registration database to record the return and resettlement process. By early September the rate of return had accelerated sharply, reaching a rate of 10,000 returnees per day. Of the 750,000 internally displaced persons who had resettled or returned to their areas of origin by mid-October, only 10 per cent had moved under an organized plan in accordance with the regulations of the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations. It is expected that as many as 800,000 to 900,000 people may have returned to their resettlement sites by the end of 2002. Critical humanitarian needs may emerge in at least 50 per cent of these sites, requiring a significant increase in the scope and scale of the humanitarian operation in Angola.” (UN Security Council, 12 December 2002)

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Erick de Mul, UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Angola:

“QUESTION: How would you characterise the humanitarian situation in Angola at the moment?

ANSWER: A mixed picture - on one hand there are some positive developments, on the other hand there are some developments that are worrisome. The good thing is that a number of IDPs [internally displaced persons] have moved back home - about 850,000 and it is estimated that we will get to about 900,000 before the end of the year.

The bad news is that not all of them have returned home while the authorities were respecting the rules of the game, the norms. But increasingly it seems these norms are being respected.

On the refugees, there is not much happening, a trickle of return - and maybe that's good, because there is still a lot to be done within the country and maybe if they can wait a little that is better.

The main problem is with the former UNITA combatants. [There are some 80,000 former UNITA troops and over 300,000 family members in 42 reception centres] It took weeks, months, to create and establish the necessary logistics to get the necessary stuff to them, then the moment that this is more or less running smoothly, then the decision is taken that these camps are to be closed [by December] and this interrupts the whole picture again.

Given the fact that these people had to move home, it would have been useful if this had been done in an orderly manner, with warning to the international community when this was going to happen. I guess the decision was a political one and taken in what looked like some haste. Things seemed to slow down a bit because either in places the conditions are not there, the logistics are not in place or it's not clear where the people are going to.

It's still a little unclear and it's bad in a sense that it happens when the rainy season is upon us - the worst period you can imagine. Hopefully we will get some clarity.

[...]

Q: You said that some of the IDP returns complied with the norms. How many exactly?

A: Thirty percent complied with the norms. It's a question of is the glass half full or half empty. You could say it could have been a lot better - in fact 70 percent better - but could also have been 30 percent worse. I think most of us feel it could have been worse. Maybe we can be a little bit satisfied.

Q: Are the other 70 percent now getting any help?

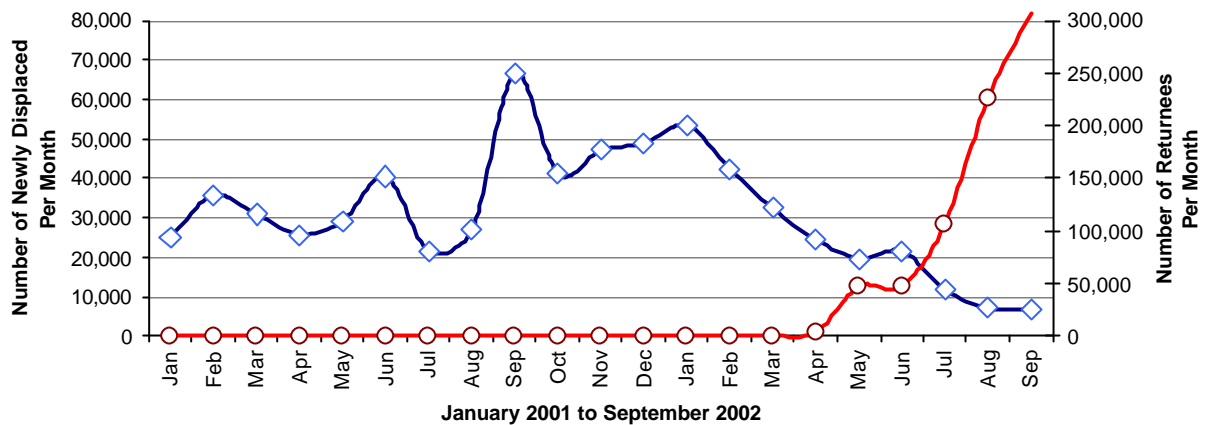
A: Not enough. We are seeing the pattern that has developed that the IDPs move, yes, or part of the family moves to where they are going to resettle but they keep a link with the camps they are coming from, they keep their ration card and keep going back and forth so they can still pick up food and other things if necessary - that's a coping mechanism." (IRIN, 13 November 2002)

Local authorities have in some cases forcibly returned displaced populations (2002)

- There have been many reports of abuses associated with the reintegration process, according to Human Rights Watch
- HRW cites the example of Trumba, in Bié province, where in May 2002 the entire population was forced back to its area of origin by local authorities without proper assistance

"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)

Overview of levels of displacement and return (January 2001-September 2002)



- Between November 2001 and the signing of the MOU in April, one quarter of a million Angolans were displaced from their homes. Conditions among the newly displaced were appalling. Many had been living for extended periods in isolated areas with only limited access to food and basic health services.
- After hostilities ceased, tens of thousands of Angolans continued to stream into provincial and municipal centres in search of assistance, a clear indication that conditions in the interior were critical. Internal displacement finally began to slow in May, when the number of new arrivals declined by 50 percent from the previous month.
- Between April and August, approximately 430,000 IDPs returned to their areas of origin, often keeping two residences--one at the return site where family members constructed shelters and prepared land and the other in provincial and municipal centres where households continued to receive assistance.
- In early September, the rate of return accelerated sharply, reaching 10,000 persons per day at mid-month. Although many people returned voluntarily to prepare land prior to the planting season, a large percentage of IDPs were encouraged to resettle by promises of future assistance or because authorities intended to cut-off aid in their current residence.
- Of the approximately 850,000 IDPs who had resettled or returned to their areas of origin by mid October, only 15 percent had moved under an organised plan. The majority relocated without any form of assistance. An estimated 70 percent of the returnees were living in areas where the pre-conditions specified in the Norms and *regulamento* were not yet in place.
- IDPs who moved long distances to their areas of return or who were unable to travel back to their previous residences to collect assistance began experiencing difficulties within weeks of relocation. By mid October, acute malnutrition had emerged in several return sites accessible to humanitarian agencies and was suspected in others. Although the pace of return was expected to slow significantly with the onset of the rains, agencies estimated that more than 920,000 IDPs will have returned by the end of the year and that critical needs are likely to emerge in at least 40 percent of the return sites.
- By mid October, approximately 38,000 refugees from neighbouring countries had spontaneously repatriated to Angola. Conditions among the new arrivals were relatively good, although the majority returned to areas where basic conditions were not yet in place, jeopardising their status. (UN, November 2002, p6)

The UN CAP 2003 (pp61-79) contains profiles for each of Angola's 18 provinces, based on the Provincial Emergency Plans of Action for Resettlement and Return. These contain projected numbers of IDP returns and sectoral assistance plans.

New impetus for IDPs to return home, but serious obstacles remain (2002)

- Many spontaneous return movements of IDPs are reported after April 2002, with many IDPs wishing to prepare for the next agricultural season
- Government of Angola admits that necessary conditions for large-scale return are not in place, including a lack of shelter
- Humanitarian organizations estimate that up to 300,000 IDPs may relocate before the end of 2002
- Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations have been adapted to try to ensure minimum standards for resettlement and return
- Some NGOs, such as Refugees International, accuse the government of not paying enough attention to minimum conditions for return, including mine awareness and clearance

"Return Movements

Humanitarian partners reported spontaneous return movement from camps in at least six provinces. In some cases, the movements are apparently temporary, with family members returning to villages to gather information about the situation or to build shelters and prepare agricultural land while others remain in camps in provincial and municipal centres. Although it is difficult to confirm numbers due to the spontaneous nature of the movements, unofficial reports from provincial authorities, UN Agencies and NGOs indicate that return movements will accelerate in coming months." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

"... some IDPs are returning home. Five thousand four hundred people have left the camps in Barra does Dande to return to Libongos. More than 1,000 people left camps around Kuito to return to their homes in Nharea, Chinguar, Cambandua, Belo Horizonte, Cangote, Chicala, Camacupa, Catabola and Cassingue. In Huambo province, people are returning to areas around Mungo, Bimbe and Bailundo.

On 25 April over a hundred people were flown from Viana, just outside Luanda, to Moxico province where they dispersed to their homes in Luau, Alto Zambeze and Lumbala Nguimbo.

On 30 April ANGOP reported that 2,000 IDPs at Amboim in Kwanza Sul province have recently asked government authorities to arrange for their return to their homes around Kibala. They have been hampered by the need to repair the bridge over the river Inha.

There have been many spontaneous movements of IDPs, as people wish to go home to plant their fields for the next agricultural season, rather than wait for an organised return." (ACTSA, 1 May 2002)

"Seven thousand displaced people, natives of Kibala municipality and now concentrated in Amboim, central Kwanza-sul province, on Monday expressed willingness to return to their lands of origin.

The local Social Welfare officer, Domingos Joao, said the displaced asked the authorities to make the arrangements for transportation, to allow the return to their zone of origin.

Domingos João said his institution is not provided with means of transport and is right now holding contacts with NGOs operating in the region, plus the Angolan Armed Forces with view to help take the displaced to Kibala municipality.

'We can not deny people their will to go back to their areas of origin, although we face lack of shelter to put up the population', he said, adding that, 'to satisfy this desire, there is need to create the minimum conditions for the resettlement of the displaced'.

He stressed the need for the acquisition of zinc sheets, working tools and seeds, to allow the returning displaced to build their houses and join the productive activity.

Kibala administration was restored last January and is 165 kms away from Sumbe, the capital of Kwanza-sul province." (Government of Angola, 20 May 2002)

"Government authorities in Angola's central Bie province Sunday said the province was not ready yet for an immediate return of internally war displaced persons (IDPs) currently living in neighbouring Benguela province.

Vice-governor Antonio Gomes Gonçalves told journalists in Kuito city that conditions have not been created yet for an organised return of the displaced populations to their areas of origin.

Mr Goncalves was reacting to recent statements by Benguela director for social welfare Isabel Afonso Changuendela that IDP's should start moving back to their homes this week.

The return of displaced populations from Benguela depends on creating the necessary conditions in order to avoid suffering, the vice-governor stressed.

Local government and some non government organisations operating in the region, last month approved a programme meant to secure the return of war displaced people to their areas of origin as soon as possible." (Government of Angola, 24 June 2002)

"Following the cessation of hostilities in April, the Government has indicated that closure of IDP camps and the settlement of displaced populations to their areas of origin is a major priority. Some IDP populations are already returning to their homes. Partners estimate that up to 300,000 internally displaced persons may relocate by the end of the year. In an effort to ensure that return movements are conducted on the basis of agreed standards, the regulamento for the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations have been adapted to ensure that appropriate conditions are in place at return sites. Provincial authorities, in conjunction with humanitarian partners, are developing Provincial Emergency Plans for Resettlement and Return (PEPARR) during June. The aim of the PEPARR process is to facilitate the return of IDPs currently living in camps and transit centres prior to the next agricultural campaign. Between June and August, as many IDPs as possible will be encouraged to return. While there is no immediate plan for a large-scale, organised repatriation of Angolan refugees, steps are being taken to ensure that the same minimum standards apply to their return and reintegration." (UN OCHA, 18 June 2002)

"After winning a long civil war, the Government of Angola faces a new problem: helping millions of displaced Angolans return home so they can rebuild their lives and their country. The government has adopted a set of legal protections for internally displaced people (IDPs). But the return process is complicated, and there are indications that the government is not paying enough attention to minimum conditions for return, including mine awareness and clearance. It is important that the Government of Angola and the international community work closely together to create safe conditions for returnees.

Earlier this year the government pushed 8,000 internally displaced persons out of a camp and forced them to return to their villages in an area that is littered with mines and inaccessible to food trucks. Although the push-back appears to have been a mistaken deviation from government policy, it does illustrate the risks of premature returns.

Refugees International (RI) visited the IDP camp on the outskirts of Kuito, the capital of Bie Province in Angola's central highlands. In late April, government officials gave IDPs a two-day warning to prepare to move back to their area of origin, Trumba, or they would have their rations cut off completely. IDPs were assured that the World Food Program (WFP) would deliver their next ration shipment, due that weekend, to their home areas. Since no food had been distributed for the month of April, this ration was particularly critical. Two days later, government authorities came to the area and forced the people back to their hometown 15 kilometers away without any resettlement supplies such as tools, seeds and food, or preparations for their arrival in their area of origin.

The Government of Angola is facing an enormous task in its plans to resettle hundreds of thousands of IDPs in the coming months. In an unprecedented act of commitment to IDPs during the war, the Government of Angola designed and adopted laws based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. The resulting Norms on the Settlement of Internally Displaced Populations and its accompanying Regulamento, which is the application of these norms as law, in a post conflict setting, set minimum standards of return. These include voluntary return, the provision of land, tools, seeds, and preparations to the physical and social infrastructure in areas of return.

IDPs forced back to Trumba got none of the protections outlined in the Norms. They also never received the WFP food promised to them. To make matters worse, the Trumba area is known to have uncleared and unmarked minefields. Access to the area by WFP is hindered by a lack of safe roads, as well as sturdy bridges for trucks carrying food.

Clearly, the rights of these people have been violated. At this time returnees have extremely limited options for feeding themselves or ensuring a sustainable livelihood. Because there is no way to get food into Trumba at this time, many residents collect wood, braving the mined fields, and then make charcoal to sell in the Capital of Kuito." (RI, 2 July 2002)

Sub-standard transit centres are overcrowded with IDPs waiting to be resettled (2002)

- At the end of April 2002, more than 600,000 IDPs were living in temporary resettlement sites, with some 437,000 remaining in camps and overcrowded transit centres
- Continued IDP influxes and limited resources hampered the closure of sub-standard transit centres and warehouses, in fact making them even more crowded
- Report by Refugees International states that IDPs sent to the Centres have a 20-30 percent chance of dying there

"Resettlement

Of the approximately 1.4 million IDPs who have been confirmed for humanitarian assistance, 600,156 are living in temporary resettlement sites. More than 436,686 IDPs remain in camps and overcrowded transit centres, which continue to receive new arrivals. In a number of locations, including Luena and Waku Kungo, IDPs who arrived during the past few months continue living in sub-standard conditions without access to adequate shelter and basic services.

With the cessation of hostilities and the end of seasonal rains, provincial authorities and humanitarian partners have been discussing revised plans for resettlement. Only limited resettlement occurred during April due to the uncertain security situation.

[...]

Transit Centres

The number of IDPs living in sub-standard conditions in transit centres and warehouses grew during April due to on-going displacement and limited resettlement opportunities. More than 27,000 persons living in sub-standard conditions in at least 17 sites in nine provinces, including Benguela, Huambo, Huíla, Kuanza

Norte, Kuanza Sul, Luanda, Malanje, Moxico and Uíge. In some locations, such as Moxico and Waku Kungo, upgraded reception and registration centres have been established in compliance with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS) Dispatch on Standard Operating Procedures for Reception and Registration Centres. Despite these improvements, continued influxes and limited resources in provincial and municipal capitals have hampered the closure of sub-standard transit centres and warehouses." (UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

"After more than 20 years of civil war, Angola is taking tentative steps towards peace as a result of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's death. Before the death of Savimbi, there were many Transit Centers housing displaced people who were selected for resettlement or return to their homes. The Centers are often located in large abandoned factories or warehouses where all people live together with no separate rooms for cooking, cleaning or bathing. People cook outside. Many women cook the food they receive that day from odd jobs they do for local residents. The men also try to find odd jobs around to make some money to supplement the limited food rations.

These Transit Centers have hundreds of people crowded into them with limited or no food assistance, water, sanitation, or blankets. The displaced sent to the Centers have a 20-30% chance of dying there. Conditions are so appalling that UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has appealed to the Government of Angola to close them and resettle people immediately. The Government has closed a few Centers but many remain. Indeed, as road travel becomes more secure, MINARS, the Government ministry responsible for the internally displaced and for the Transit Centers, is bringing hundreds of people wishing to return to their home province to the Centers, where they wait to be resettled or transported to their home province. Thus, in the face of the overwhelming needs of the country after the end of the war, these Centers will continue to house people in horrendous conditions." (RI, 18 June 2002)

Some displaced persons involuntarily resettled in unsafe areas (2000-2001)

- Displaced persons have been moved near military camps or to other unsafe areas
- Resettlement schemes planned against will of displaced persons and implemented without proper planning
- GoA attempted to justify moves by the need to free up facilities where displaced had settled
- Displaced populations from the central highlands often treated as "subversives"

"31. The [UN Inter-Agency] assessment [of April 2000] found that displaced populations had been prevented from entering the provincial capitals of Huambo, Malanje and Kuito and, in several cases, were involuntarily resettled in the outskirts of these cities. In Cambondo, approximately 800 displaced persons were transferred in January [2000] to a site near a local military camp and in Luenha, local authorities had established a resettlement site in an area with mines. Similar concerns were noted by the inter-agency mission of March [2000], which reported that in various instances the Government had forcibly relocated displaced populations, usually to areas outside the national or provincial capital security perimeter. In most cases, such movements were implemented without planning or coordination and imposed on both the displaced and the humanitarian community, resulting in human suffering. The Government justified these moves by the need to free up the facilities where the displaced had settled, i.e., factories or military camps. However, the relocation is regarded by many as part of the Government's attempt to consolidate its presence and control in newly liberated areas. The inter-agency mission was informed of cases of forced return where the Government had 'strongly encouraged' the displaced population to regain their areas of origin, without ensuring adequate safety and living conditions. In some cases, the areas of return were attacked and the displaced forced to flee once more." (CHR 25 January 2001, para. 31)

"Authorities in certain provincial capitals fear infiltration by UNITA elements and try to concentrate the newly displaced in separate locations in order to segregate them from the general population. There is also

a general perception in costal areas and urban centers that the population from the rural hinterland are “anarchistic elements that need to be controlled”... Consequently, the displaced tend to be treated as second-class citizens.

In Huambo, provincial capital of the heartland of the conflict, IDPs arriving since a year are maintained in ‘concentration centres’ under unacceptable conditions. In Benguela, authorities are pursuing resettlement schemes against the resistance of the displaced and without adequate planning (no land entitlements, lack of water and health infrastructures, etc.). Such examples illustrate, again, that the protection needs of IDPs will increase as authorities make additional efforts to reaffirm governmental control in the new phase of the conflict." (OCHA January 2000)

"Some displaced populations have been resettled in the peripheries of provincial capitals such as Huambo, Malanje and Kuito and, in several cases, have been involuntarily resettled in the outskirts of these cities. In Cambondo, approximately 800 displaced persons were transferred in January to a site near a local military camp. In Luena, local authorities have established a resettlement site, Sangondo, in an unsafe area that has not been completely demined." (OCHA 15 April 2000, pp.14-15)

Almost ½ million IDPs resettled in temporary areas between 1998 and end of 2001

- Approximately 498,500 IDPs resettled in temporary areas in 16 provinces, over three years

"Between 1998, when hostilities resumed, and the end of December 2001, approximately 498,500 IDPs were resettled in temporary areas in the Provinces of Bengo, Benguela, Bié, Cunene, Huambo, Huíla, Kuando Kubango, Kuanza Norte, Kuanza Sul, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Malanje, Moxico, Namibe and Uíge. During December, resettlement activities slowed significantly as a result of seasonal rains and the continuous influx of new IDPs in provincial capitals and peri-urban centres. Minimum standards remained unmet at a number of resettlement sites." (UN OCHA, 31 December 2001)

"During 2001, approximately 177,000 IDPs were temporarily resettled in peri-urban areas with access to agricultural land [...]"

Fifty percent of all resettlement initiatives during the past 20 months have been conducted in compliance with the Norms. Most of the first resettlement activities were done outside the parameters of the Norms. During the last four-five months, however, compliance rates have increased to nearly 70 percent.

Resettlement areas continue to be targeted. Between May and December 2001, 63 security incidents occurred at or in close proximity to resettlement areas in 12 provinces." (UN OCHA 8 February 2002)

UN supported Angolan government in the planning and execution of resettlement programmes in 2000

- OCHA and MINARS collaborated to develop minimal operational standards for return and resettlement
- OCHA has also worked with NGOs and local authorities to support the execution of resettlement programmes at the provincial level

At the central level, OCHA worked in close collaboration with MINARS to draft minimum operational standards for return and resettlement:

"In a major step forward, MINARS and OCHA worked closely together during May and June [2000] to develop minimum operational standards for resettlement and return. The draft norms were widely discussed by UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and Government representatives. The norms describe pre-conditions for resettlement as well as targets for post-relocation assistance and were formally approved by the Council of Ministers in mid-October." (UN November 2000, p. 5)

"During the discussion that followed the presentation of the results of the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs at the NHCG, the Government of Angola, UN Agencies and international organizations agreed on the need to define minimum operational standards for resettlement. A draft of the proposed minimum operational standards will be reviewed by the NHCG at the next monthly meeting." (OCHA 19 June 2000)

The UN has also supported provincial governments like that of Huambo Province:

"The United Nations will support Angolan the Central Huambo Province government in the execution of its program to resettle over 73,000 war-displaced victims. The U.N.-Angola Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid, Zoraida Mesa, said Friday [11 August 2000] that her organization is working to set basic conditions to improve the standards of the displaced people there. These war victims will be given seeds, foodstuffs and working tools at the first stage. According to Mesa, the United Nations will also support non-governmental organizations that will execute education, health, agriculture projects, and various other social projects in the camps. The Huambo government controls 311,000 war-displaced people and has implemented its resettling program on the outskirt cities of Caala, Huambo, and the Longonjo and Ekunha villages." (GOA 15 August 2000)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

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)

Despite improved humanitarian access, difficulties remain (November 2002)

- Approximately 200,000 people and 40 percent of the countryside remain inaccessible due mainly to damaged infrastructure and landmine infestation

“Approximately 60 percent of the country has become potentially accessible to humanitarian partners since the end of hostilities, tripling from 20 percent during the final stages of the war. Agencies are now able to reach two million more people than during 2002. Despite this increase, approximately 200,000 people and 40 percent of the countryside are still inaccessible due to damaged infrastructure, the inadequate road network and extensive mine infestation. Eighty percent of the surface routes used by the UN to deliver assistance require immediate repair and more than 40 destroyed or damaged bridges continue to restrict access to vulnerable populations. Seven provinces are heavily mined, including Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Huíla, Kuando Kubango, Malanje and Moxico and mine infestation is suspected 50 percent of all return sites.” (UN, November 2002, p28)

Landmine accident highlights difficulties of humanitarian access (November-December 2002)

- In November 2002, anti-tank mine detonates under MSF vehicle near the southeastern town of Mavinga, killing seven and wounding six
- Between mid-November and mid-December 2002, at least nine landmine incidents were reported on roads used by humanitarian organisations, in some cases forcing a reduction or temporary suspension of operations

“Yesterday evening (Nov 29) at 5 pm local time an anti-tank mine exploded under a Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) vehicle near the southeastern Angolan city of Mavinga, killing seven and leaving six wounded. The accident occurred 36 kilometers from Mavinga, where MSF is running medical and nutritional programmes.

The MSF vehicle involved in the incident was traveling with a second MSF vehicle from Cunjamba, north of Mavinga, where they had spent the day carrying out vaccination activities. In addition to the vaccination team, the small convoy was transporting a number of patients to the hospital in Mavinga. The vehicles were driving on the same road they had traveled over that morning. When 36 kilometers from Mavinga, the first vehicle ran over and detonated an anti-tank mine.

A total of 13 persons, including two infants, were traveling in the vehicle that detonated the mine, killing seven persons. With the exception of one infant, the victims were all Angolan medical staff working in the vaccination team.

‘We are shocked, frustrated, and extremely sad,’ said Dr. Thomas Nierle, director of MSF operations in Geneva. ‘The staff killed in this accident were providing a glimpse of humanity after years of suffering in Angola. Sadly they are now victims of their commitment. Why? All of our thoughts are with the victims and their families.’

Immediately following the incident, a second anti-tank mine was discovered nearby. With the aid of de-mining organizations present in the area, MSF evacuated the dead, wounded and survivors of the accident to Mavinga, where the wounded were treated at the MSF hospital. The wounded were transferred to Luanda this morning in a World Food Programme (WFP) plane.

MSF is temporarily reducing its activities in the Mavinga region. The team is being reinforced by members of MSF in Geneva to ensure that the wounded receive the best medical care, and provide moral and psychological support to the victims, their families and the MSF team.” (MSF, 30 November 2002)

“Mine accidents have increased markedly during the seasonal rains, putting Angolans and humanitarian personnel at heightened risk. Since mid November, at least nine incidents have occurred on roads used by humanitarian partners in Bié, Huambo, Huíla, Kuando Kubango, Kuanza Norte and Kuanza Sul Provinces. As a result, several organisations have reduced or temporarily suspended operations. Mine action NGOs are revising awareness guidelines and will be conducting extensive training with partners.

Approximately 40 percent of the areas where humanitarian agencies are operational may be cut-off during the seasonal rains. As of mid December, some locations in the following areas were cut off from assistance due to rains or mine incidents: northeastern Bengo, northern and southeastern Huambo, northeastern Huíla, northeastern Moxico, northern Malanje, northern Uíge and central Zaire.” (UN OCHA, 19 December 2002)

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)

Humanitarian aid is severely hampered by insecurity and poor infrastructure (2002)

- Humanitarian aid reaches only 10-15 percent of the country in limited areas
- As many as 500,000 people living in inaccessible areas are estimated to be in need of assistance

"Humanitarian aid reaches approximately 10 to 15 percent of the country in limited zones in and around the major provincial towns where security can be guaranteed. In UNITA-held areas, humanitarian access is virtually nonexistent. Humanitarian workers face extremely difficult, and even dangerous, working conditions. Armed attacks, acts of banditry, and landmines are a constant risk. The lack of access is exacerbated by the fact that Angola's infrastructure is almost entirely destroyed by fighting, looting, lack of maintenance, and landmines." (HRW 5 March 2002)

"International agencies currently have access to 60 percent of the 272 locations where IDPs are concentrated and only 73 percent of reported displaced populations. The rest of the areas where IDPs are concentrated are inaccessible to international agencies.

As many as 500,000 people living in inaccessible areas are estimated to be in need of assistance. Of these, 280,000 are thought to be in critical distress.

Due to insecurity and logistical constraints, more than 60 percent of all humanitarian aid is transported by air.

The Angolan humanitarian operation is one of the most expensive in the world due to exorbitantly high transport costs.

Four airstrips are currently under repair, including the airstrip at Kuito. Delivery of assistance in all of these critical locations – Uige, Luena, Negage and Kuito, is severely hampered. Seventeen airstrips in total require repair. Although the Government has recently repaired a handful of bridges on the key surface route between Huambo and Kuito, hundreds more are damaged or destroyed. Eighteen priority surface routes require either upgrading or repair.

Insecurity is rampant along surface routes, limiting the safe passage of convoys. During 2001, more than 75 convoys were attacked.

At least seven provinces, accounting for 40 percent of the entire countryside, are heavily mined, preventing the free movement of people and goods." (UN OCHA 8 February 2002)

Plane accident in Kuito highlights constraints to delivery of humanitarian aid (November 2001)

- Cargo plane damaged and grounded after hitting pothole on the runway of Kuito airstrip while landing
- Runway's state of disrepair has hindered delivery of humanitarian aid for more than two years
- In absence of other functioning infrastructure, Kuito airstrip is essential for delivery of more than 80 percent of all relief aid to Bié province

"Humanitarian officials in Angola expect a damaged Boeing 727 plane to be removed from the Kuito airstrip in Bie province by the end of the week, without affecting the delivery of food aid to the needy.

The Boeing, delivering cargo to businesses in the province, was damaged and grounded when it hit a pothole on the runway while landing. No one was injured, but the accident once again highlighted the dismal state of the airstrip in the provincial capital. The runway's state of disrepair has hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid and, for more than two years, been a bone of contention between relief organisations and the provincial government, which is responsible for ensuring its maintenance.

World Food Programme (WFP) deputy head of air operations in Luanda, Jose Fernandez, told IRIN that WFP had decided a while ago to use smaller craft to transport food to the airport because the runway could not accommodate bigger planes. Fernandez said the distribution of food to the needy would not be affected by the accident because even though WFP had to suspend its flights to Kuito until the runway was cleared, there was enough food aid in the city to last for about two months.

The state of Kuito's airport, through which more than 80 percent of all relief aid reaches Bie, has made headlines before. While Bie governor Paulino dos Santos told IRIN in May that a private company contracted to the government was responsible for the repairs, work has been sporadic. Only 150 metres of the 2 km runway has so far been rehabilitated and there are fears that the rainy season, which normally lasts until April, could prevent planes from landing there altogether.

[...]

The [UN and US-led] delegation which visited Kuito also raised the condition of the road between Kuito and Camacupa, about 80 km away, which was opened earlier this year, granting humanitarian workers access to thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing fighting between government and rebel UNITA troops. All aid to Camacupa has to be transported by road from Kuito. A bridge and a stretch of road in a state of disrepair near to Camacupa could cause the town to be cut off during the rainy season.

WFP Angola Representative, Ronald Sibanda, said during the visit that the ruined infrastructure could cause a 'logistical nightmare' during the rainy season. 'We are trying our best to pre-position stocks before the rains begin, but there is a limit to how much we can pre-position. It doesn't remove the need for improving the basic infrastructure, because this is a lifeline,' he said.

In another development, humanitarian officials confirmed to IRIN that the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) had begun delivering emergency food supplies to certain areas in the province which were under FAA control but were inaccessible to humanitarian workers. As an initiative of the FAA, the deliveries fall under the authority of the presidency and not the provincial government. IRIN was unable to obtain information on the volume or precise locations of the deliveries." (IRIN 6 November 2001)

Issue of "humanitarian corridors" in Angola revisited by UN Security Council (October 2001)

- UNSC asked Angola's warring parties to permit access for humanitarian workers
- 500,000 Angolans in need of food and medicine cannot be reached
- UN may raise issue of "humanitarian corridors" with Angolan government by end of year

"The United Nations Security Council has asked Angola's warring parties to grant humanitarian workers access to at-risk communities, saying it is deeply concerned about humanitarian conditions in the country. UN statistics indicate at least 500,000 Angolans in desperate need of food and medicine cannot be reached.

Security Council President Richard Ryan said in a statement on Wednesday [18 October 2001] that the Council had received an extensive briefing from Ibrahim Gambari, the Secretary-General's special adviser on Africa, on the work of the United Nations Office in Angola (UNOA). 'Council members expressed deep concern about the humanitarian situation. They asked that access to the at-risk population be granted to humanitarian workers,' Ryan said.

The issue of getting to Angola's most vulnerable populations, who cannot access humanitarian assistance because of the ongoing civil war, was raised by the church and other civic bodies earlier this year, when they called on the government and UNITA to create conditions for the establishment of 'humanitarian corridors' in areas they control. Other international NGOs have also echoed the call. The UN has expressed support for the concept and could raise the issue with Angolan authorities, at least, by the end of the year, a source told IRIN.

However, UNITA spokesman Joffre Justino told IRIN that without a bilateral ceasefire, UNITA could not provide humanitarian workers with safety guarantees. He said it would be impossible since UNITA now operated as a guerrilla force and did not 'control' any part of the country. The responsibility for creating humanitarian corridors, he said, lay with the Angolan government. The Angolan military authorities, however, in spite of claiming to control 90 percent of the country, have had to reduce their security perimeters around many towns in recent months under increasing pressure from UNITA." (IRIN-SA 18 October 2001)

Humanitarian agencies targeted in May and June 2001

- Sixteen World Vision staff members missing following rebel attack in Kwanza Norte
- Two WFP planes deliberately attacked while delivering food to Kuito, Bie

Attack of World Vision staff in Kwanza Norte in May 2001:

"Sixteen World Vision staff members are missing after rebels Monday took over a northern Angola city more than 130 east of the capital city, Luanda. The rebel group known as UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, captured the town of Golungo Alto in Kwanza Norte province. Four other World Vision staff reached the town of Ndalatando shortly after noon Monday, following a 27-mile trek.

The fighting forced the Christian humanitarian organization to suspend its \$1 million Golungo Alto program helping 60,000 people, including 9,700 from outlying areas displaced by fighting.

'We are concerned about our staff and are praying for their safety,' said Anne Mesopir, director of World Vision's work in Angola. 'We're also concerned about the people of Golungo Alto. We were due to distribute monthly food rations to more than 4,000 people today.'

World Vision is working with the United Nations and other aid agencies to establish a relief station for people displaced by this latest fighting. Ms. Mesopir has dispatched a truck to the area to transport staff as they are found, as well as women and children in need of assistance." (World Vision 21 May 2001)

Attack on WFP planes:

"The World Food Programme and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, a.i. in Angola repudiate the second deliberate attack within the last week on two of its food aid aircraft.

A missile was fired on Friday at two WFP chartered cargo aircraft, 45 km from the central highlands city Kuito, capital of Bié Province. It exploded at some distance from the first Hercules airplane, but caused no damage.

The two aircraft, bearing 17 MTs of maize each, were forced to abort their humanitarian mission and return to the coastal airbase Catumbela.

WFP will temporarily suspend all cargo flights in Angola, pending a thorough investigation of the incident.

Failure to re-establish the food airlift into Kuito will result in dire consequences to at risk populations in the city and surrounding areas. With the highest proportion of internally displaced persons in the country and record levels of malnutrition, Kuito has only five days of emergency food stocks to sustain a population of over 200,000 people.

The attack took place at approximately 1300 GMT. The aircraft, one of them painted white and clearly marked with WFP insignia on the side, were following a well-known flight route, and had the clearance of both Angolan air-traffic authorities and the military.

Pilots were careful to follow security procedures established to guard against such instances. WFP and the UN team are greatly relieved that there were no casualties or damage to the aircraft as a result of the attack." (WFP 15 June 2001)

Insecurity triggered international initiative to create humanitarian corridors in 1999

- U.N. agencies lack access to fourteen out of eighteen provinces (September 1999)
- The Government first turns down UN appeals to negotiate the creation of humanitarian corridors because it does not want to "legitimise" UNITA
- It later softens its position after attacks on aid workers attempting to administer polio vaccinations in the provinces

"The most pressing priority for U.N. agencies in 1999 is to get unhindered access for relief efforts. According to the U.N. by April 1999, 1.6 million people have been displaced by the conflict, including 680,000 in 1998. The U.N. agencies do not presently have access to fourteen out of eighteen provinces. Ramiro da Silva and Martin Griffiths, the deputy to the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs visited Luanda in March to have talks with the government on opening up humanitarian corridors and presented the government with a 'non-paper'-a formal document with no official status-on the issue. The government responded that it did not believe in any contact with UNITA as this would legitimize the rebels. On April 2 [1999] in London the World Food Program called upon the government and rebels to accept the creation of humanitarian corridors so that relief could be effectively distributed. The U.N. would also like to do a comprehensive humanitarian needs assessment in government and UNITA-controlled areas. However, on April 6 [1999] the Angolan government turned down this appeal saying the timing was

not right and that the government would eventually open its own corridors. The urgency of safe humanitarian corridors was underscored on April 15 when six aid workers were killed in an ambush on a road south of Luanda between Lobito and Sumbe, when they were on their way to a meeting to discuss help for newly displaced people.

A second, similar attack occurred on June 12 [1999] when two humanitarian workers were killed and two injured near Barraca, Bengo province. The workers, of the NGO Instituto Portugues de Medicina Preventiva were ambushed by an armed group while they were carrying out a polio eradication campaign and driving in clearly identified vehicles. The attackers were reported to have taken some items and set fire to the vehicles. U.N. Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Sergio Vieira De Mello on June 16 [1999] issued a statement urging the Angolan government and UNITA rebels to take immediate measures to bring those responsible for the act to justice and to improve the security and protection for humanitarian workers. A further attack on an aid convoy occurred on July 20 [1999] between Lucala and Samba Caju, on the six hundred kilometer journey from Luanda to Uige. Many people were killed and about thirty vehicles destroyed, including a vehicle belonging to the Catholic aid agency Caritas International.

The government slightly softened its position in July over humanitarian assistance to areas controlled by UNITA. President dos Santos agreed to let the U.N. humanitarian assistance unit (UCAH) and the International Committee of the Red Cross contact UNITA about conducting a polio vaccination drive in rebel areas. On August 10 the government softened its position further and announced that it would authorize the opening of 'humanitarian corridors' under the auspices of the ICRC to ease the transport of emergency aid to the war." (HRW 30 September 1999, chapter X, "Humanitarian Aid Corridors")

For more on the establishment of humanitarian corridors, see report by Anna Richardson entitled "Negotiating humanitarian access in Angola: 1990-2000" [\[External link\]](#).

Shooting down of UN planes underlines the level of insecurity in Angola in late 1998 and early 1999

- Two United Nations aircraft with a total of 15 passengers and 8 crew members respectively shot down on 26 December 1998 and 2 January 1999
- In response to these developments, the UN limited air operations in Angola to the most essential medical and casualty evacuations; it withdrew all personnel from the provinces

"The negative public atmosphere created by the Angola media campaign against the United Nations has been compounded by incidents of harassment and non-cooperation with MONUA in several areas of the country, including Luanda. In view of the increased security threat, MONUA, in close coordination with the Secretariat, continued to review the deployment of its teams and decided, in December 1998, to relocate all United Nations team sites to safer areas.

The exposure of United Nations personnel in Angola to grave security risks was demonstrated by the apparent shooting down near Huambo of two United Nations aircraft, with a total of 15 passengers and 8 crew members, on 26 December 1998 and 2 January 1999 respectively. Both aircraft, chartered by MONUA, went down in areas of active military operations. The two Angolan parties denied any responsibility for those incidents. Despite strong and repeated appeals by me, my Special Representative and the Security Council, UNITA and the Government initially showed no inclination to cooperate with MONUA in the search and rescue operations or to cease hostilities in the areas where the aircraft had gone down. Attempts to survey the sites by using United Nations aircraft were not successful, since neither party gave consent to such an operation. In the meantime, the Government presented to the press a purported deserter who claimed that he was aware of several survivors of the first crash. This statement was repeated by some government officials.

[...]

In response to these developments, the United Nations decided to limit its air operations in Angola to the most essential medical and casualty evacuations and to expedite the withdrawal of all its personnel to Luanda, as also requested by the Government. The deployment and rotation of United Nations personnel to the mission area has been stopped." (UNSC 17 January 1999, paras. 7,8,11)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

Government response

Government of Angola allocates funding to national resettlement programme (2002)

- Government provides almost US\$ 50 million for the first two phases of the national resettlement programme

“The Government allocated US\$ 21.4 million for the first phase of the national resettlement programme and an additional US\$ 28 million for the second phase. Of this, more than US\$ 22.9 million has been disbursed to purchase goods. Through MINARS, the Government procured 23,000 resettlement kits and, through the National Commission for Social and Productive Reintegration of Demobilised and Displaced, an additional 183,000 kits. By mid October, 14,700 of the MINARS kits had been distributed to areas with large return movements and 1,819 large field tents had been pre-positioned for return operations. Between January and September, the Government provided over 17,500,000 litres of JET A1 fuel to the World Food Programme (WFP) at subsidised prices representing an approximate value of US\$ 6.5 million.” (UN, November 2002, p5)

GoA convenes provincial planning workshop in order to facilitate proper return and resettlement (June 2002)

- Government-led workshop results in the development of provincial emergency plans for the resettlement and return of IDPs across the country
- Priority caseloads for resettlement and return include IDPs in sub-standard transit centres and overcrowded camps and IDPs without sustainable coping mechanisms
- Up to 500,000 IDPs may resettle or return before the end of 2002

"Following the cessation of hostilities in April, the Government has indicated that closure of IDP camps and the return of displaced populations to their areas of origin is a major priority. In an effort to ensure that return movements are conducted on the basis of agreed standards, the *reglamento* for the Norms on the Resettlement of Displaced Populations have been adapted. The revised *reglamento* aim to ensure that appropriate conditions are in place at return sites.

In light of these priorities, the Government's Technical Unit for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH), supported by OCHA, will convene the third annual Provincial Planning Workshop on 3-4 June. The 2002 Provincial Planning Workshop will include Government, UN and NGO representatives. The aim of the workshop is to familiarise participants with the new *reglamento* and provide direct training on drafting a Provincial Emergency Plan of Action for Resettlement and Return (PEPARR) in accordance with the Norms and related *reglamento*.

Following the Workshop, participants will be asked to prepare a PEPARR for their province and to submit final plans by the end of June. Each PEPARR will have two phases: the first phase will cover the IDPs that will resettle or return prior to the main 2002 agricultural season. The second phase will cover the IDPs that will resettle or return during 2003. On the basis of their PEPARR, provincial governments will begin the first phase in early July." (UN OCHA, 20 May 2002)

"Following the Provincial Emergency Plan of Action of Resettlement and Return (PEPARR) workshop in Luanda on 3 - 4 June, Government authorities and humanitarian partners have begun developing provincial plans aimed at facilitating the resettlement and return of populations before the beginning of the next agricultural campaign. PEPARRs for all 18 provinces will be completed by the end of June.

Priority caseloads for the first phase of resettlement and return activities include: 1) IDPs living in sub-standard transit centres and overcrowded camps and 2) IDPs without sustainable coping mechanisms. The criteria for selecting return and resettlement sites include: 1) areas without minefields or serious logistical constraints; 2) areas where State Administration is functioning; 3) areas that have sufficient quantities of quality land for agricultural activities; and 4) areas where basic social infrastructures are in fair condition. Preliminary information from Luanda, Huambo, Huila, Cunene and Bié Provinces indicate that more than 267,000 IDPs could resettle or return before the end of the year in these provinces alone. Partners estimate that the total number for all provinces could reach 500,000 persons." (UN OCHA, 24 June 2002)

GoA establishes new demining commission (2002)

- In 2002, Government creates new demining commission responsible for policy-making, coordination of mine action and victim assistance, and designs a new National Mine Action Plan

"There were no reports of new use of antipersonnel mines after the April ceasefire. The government created a new Inter-Sectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance to be responsible for policy-making, coordination of mine action and victim assistance, and the design of a new National Mine Action Plan. According to mine action organizations operating in Angola, 6.8 million square meters of land were cleared during 2001. A total of 339 mine and unexploded ordinance accidents, resulting in 660 casualties, were reported in 2001, a significant decline from the previous year; 75 percent of the victims were displaced people. Angola ratified the Mine Ban Treaty on July 5, 2002." (HRW, January 2003)

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 (INAROOE), 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.

Prior to publication of Norms, GoA worked in collaboration with OCHA to develop minimum operational standards for resettlement and return (September-November 2000)

- Norms describe pre-conditions for resettlement as well as targets for post-relocation assistance
- Norms developed around three themes: voluntariness, security and IDP participation

"In a major step forward, MINARS and OCHA worked closely together during May and June [2000] to develop minimum operational standards for resettlement and return. The draft norms were widely discussed by UN Agencies, NGOs, donors and Government representatives. The norms describe pre-conditions for resettlement as well as targets for post-relocation assistance and were formally approved by the Council of Ministers in mid-October." (UN November 2000, p. 5)

"In order to ensure safe and durable return and resettlement, the Angolan government, in close collaboration with OCHA, has drafted a set of Minimum Standards for Return and Resettlement (MINOPS). These draft standards were presented to the workshop by a representative of the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINARS). According to the representative of MINARS, these standards are developed around three key themes: Voluntariness, Security and IDP Participation. The MINOPS, consisting of nine points of concern, are divided up between conditions to be fulfilled before return/resettlement can be initiated and conditions to be fulfilled after return/resettlement has been completed. They cover issues such as security, presence and functioning of relevant State institutions, the role of the humanitarian community as well as the provision of land and basic social services." (NRC September 2000, Minimum Standards of Return and Resettlement)

Some commitment to humanitarian sectors shown by GoA with implementation of PNEAH (2000-2001)

- US\$ 55 million PNEAH launched in October 1999
- National programme to provide humanitarian assistance to war-affected in two phases: Phase I focuses on humanitarian relief; Phase II focuses on land distribution, resettlement, and the rehabilitation of social infrastructure
- Effective implementation of programme questionable
- It is reported that as much as US\$ 34 million was unspent at end of Phase I

PNEAH launched in 2000 to support humanitarian programming of Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS):

"37. In July 1999, in a belated governmental effort to address the humanitarian situation, the Inter-Ministerial Commission on the Humanitarian Situation was established, comprising MINARS, MINADER, MINSa and also the Ministries of Planning, Territorial Administration, and Commerce. In October 1999, the Commission launched a US\$ 55 million National Programme for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance (PNEAH) to be implemented in two phases. During the first phase (August 1999-March 2000), emergency

assistance was to be provided to 'at-risk populations' in the provinces of Bengo, Malanje, Moxico, Huambo, Cuando Cubango, Uíge and Luan[da]. The second phase (April 2000-January 2001) was to focus on resettlement in the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, Kwanza Norte and Huila." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 35-37)

"[T]he GoA has designed the National Emergency Programme for Humanitarian Assistance (PNEAH) to complement the programmes of Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS). The management and implementation of the Programme are assured by the Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Humanitarian Situation, integrating the ministries of Planning; Social Affairs and Reintegration; Territorial Administration; Health; Commerce; and Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Programme plans two phases of implementation. The first with a value calculated at US\$ 21,580,390 for the priority provinces of Huambo, Bié, Malange, Moxico, kuando Kubango and Luanda, and the second phase calculated at US\$ 34,000,000 that will be extended to the provinces of Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Kwanza Norte.

PNEAH will provide humanitarian assistance to populations affected by the war and aid the process of reinstallation, thus possessing a character of emergency response while establishing the necessary linkages to ensure a perfect union with rehabilitation activities. In this manner, the global strategy of GoA humanitarian assistance should pass through three phases: emergency, rehabilitation, and development in coordination with programmes and projects that benefit from assistance from the international community.

PNEAH plans to shape the concept of assistance through an efficient management of resources that guarantees auto-sufficiency of populations. This will be achieved through close coordination with activities developed by the international humanitarian community and result in the elaboration of a common strategy, the elimination of duplication of interventions, and a clear distribution of responsibilities among programme implementers.

The principal objectives are founded primarily in the necessity to alleviate the needs of populations affected by the conflict and to promote initiatives of agricultural production for auto-sufficiency through resettlement projects for populations, the distribution of land and agricultural inputs, and the rehabilitation of basic community infrastructure.

The lines of strategic orientation will adhere to a coordination structure that will permit transparency of action and accountability to Government; logistical support and transport services to confront the emergency situation in priority provinces; a quick disbursement fund with ready access for commercial trade in rural areas with goods of primary necessity; and technical human resource competence and capacity.

For its implementation, PNEAH is divided into Sub-Programmes focused on assistance to the emergency, resettlement and rehabilitation and aid to the handicapped. It also includes projects that are related to sectors in the Consolidated Appeal, that will be complementary to the GoA Programme for Food Security and Nutrition, Health and Basic Sanitation, NFI, and Mine and Explosive Ordnance Awareness, with special attention given to children at risk." (UN 30 November 1999, pp. 10-11)

Implementation of national programme has been on-going ever since:

"In July 1999, the GRA allocated \$55 million to the National Program for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance (PNEAH) for two phases of activity. Phase I focuses on humanitarian relief; Phase II focuses on land distribution, resettlement, and the rehabilitation of social infrastructure. Under Phase I, \$15 million has been spent, while \$23 million has been distributed to the governors directly in accordance with the government's decentralization policy under Phase II. The remaining \$17 million has been allocated to the governors. At this time, a more detailed breakdown of funds that have been spent is not available." (USAID 2 April 2001)

"A major development during the year has been the increasing commitment to humanitarian sectors demonstrated by the Government. Under the first phase of the Government's National Programme for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance (PNHEA), US\$ 55 million was allocated in July 1999 for assistance to hard-hit provinces. According to Government reports, by the end of August [2000], 14,430 metric tonnes (MTS) of emergency assistance, including food, agricultural inputs, medicines and relief items totaling US\$ 13 million, had been dispatched by the Inter-ministerial Commission for the Humanitarian Situation (CISH)...

In August [2000], the Government announced that US\$ 17 million would be allocated for the second phase of PNEAH, scheduled to begin in the fourth quarter of 2000. The aim of the second phase is to promote sustainability of communities through land distribution, resettlement, agricultural inputs and rehabilitation of social infrastructures." (UN November 2000, 2000 in Review)

Still, the commitment of the GoA to the programme has not been overwhelming:

"65. Yet, the donors' desire to reduce the Government's reliance on the international community is understandable. The Government has in the past, and for reasons related to the collapse of consecutive peace agreements, tended to consider the responsibility of providing assistance to its displaced and war-affected population as resting with the United Nations. It has since shown an increased commitment to emergency assistance, starting with the establishment of the Inter-Ministerial Commission on the Humanitarian Situation in July 1999 and the elaboration by that Commission of the National Programme for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance. However, the inter-agency mission of March 2000 noted that the scale and scope of assistance delivered under the National Programme was yet to be clearly determined. More recent sources indicate that the US\$ 55 million allocated under the first phase of the National Programme was not spent and that in excess of US\$ 34 million remains, though only US\$ 17 million of this was rolled into the budget for 2000, making overall expenditure less than originally claimed." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 65)

Angolan government has been heavily criticised for not taking greater action to support IDPs and other vulnerable populations (January - March 2001)

- Angolan oil and diamond industries support one of fastest-growing economies in Africa
- Still, Angolan people are some of the poorest in the world
- Government attitude toward the displaced has been described as one of "neglect"
- Only 2.8% of GoA budget spent on national health

Comments on the GoA from the UN Senior Inter-Agency Network following its mission to Angola in March 2001:

"The GoA has undertaken a process of decentralisation of responsibilities to the provinces. This, however, has not been accompanied by devolution of necessary resources. The GoA is currently in the process of elaborating its Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). Addressing the issue of internal displacement is a key condition for poverty reduction. Accordingly, there is a need for greater integration of humanitarian priorities, such as the delivery of basic services and the strengthening of the justice system." (OCHA 23 March 2001, Government Responsibility and Accountability)

Comments on the GoA from the UN Representative on Internally Displaced Persons following his visit to Angola in late 2000:

"35. As emphasized in the Guiding Principles, the primary responsibility for meeting the protection and assistance needs of the internally displaced rests with the national authorities (Principle 3). In Angola, however, the Government's attitude to the displaced has, in the past, been described as one of neglect: 'The Government does very little for those people under its control, and most of the time it asks very little of them. They are left alone to sink or swim without the benefit of any social safety net ... Government structures such as MINARS [Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration], and the Ministries of Health and Education exist, but are so chronically underfunded as to be almost entirely ineffectual.' However, 'most Angolans have tended to prefer this form of neglect to UNITA's form of draconian social control'. Such an assessment gives particular cause for concern when one considers Angola's endowments of natural resources, in particular its oil reserves. Angola is the second largest oil exporter in sub-Saharan Africa, with the oil sector accounting for an estimated 53 per cent of gross domestic product between 1994 and 1998, and around 95 per cent of export receipts. In 1997, Angola exported crude oil to the value of over US\$ 4 billion."

[...]

66. Donors are said to feel strongly that the international community should not be expected to provide unlimited assistance and that the Government must assume greater responsibility by reallocating funds towards the social and emergency sectors. Such a view is increasingly convincing given high oil prices, from which the Government gains a substantial proportion of its revenues. Also, the changing military situation in the country, with a move away from conventional warfare to counter-insurgency strategies, should allow for reduced military spending and the redirection of funds to the humanitarian effort – though the Representative was informed by one senior government official that funds freed by any reductions in military spending would be used to expedite payments on debts accrued through government investment in the oil industry. The need to repay such debts notwithstanding, the Representative strongly recommends that the Government commit additional resources to the humanitarian effort, not least because a greater and more visible commitment on its part may prompt a similar response from donors." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 35, 66)

Comments on the GoA in an Economist article published in January 2001;

"IMAGINE two countries. The first, with one of the fastest-growing economies in Africa, will receive \$3.5 billion of investment from the international oil industry each year for the next ten years. By 2005 it will have become Africa's largest oil producer. The second is rated by the UN's Human Development Index a dismal 160th out of 174 countries. With a third of its children dying before their fifth birthday, and with two-fifths suffering from malnutrition, it is considered by Unicef to be "the worst place in the world to be a child". Both descriptions fit Angola, home to shocking juxtapositions.

After decades of civil war between the government and the UNITA rebels, most Angolans no longer wish for much more than to survive from one day to the next. Yet the offshore oil industry, and even the onshore diamond industry, continue to thrive, the revenue financing the war, on both sides, and fattening the pockets of the warlords. Most people get no benefit whatsoever from oil or diamonds; they are kept alive with the help of the hundreds of international aid agencies working in Angola.

But the agencies are growing weary with picking up the pieces left by the country's war, and some are voicing their frustrations in public. At the end of last year, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), which won the 1999 Nobel peace prize, released a strongly worded report; this followed on the heels of two other hard-hitting documents from World Vision and Save the Children. All three pin the blame on the Angolan government and the Angolan rebels and international oil and diamond companies. They all point out that the country has the resources to look after its people, if it cared to do so.

The MSF report illustrates this argument with health statistics. In 1999, it says, only 2.8% of the budget was spent on health. In the city of Kuito, one of the areas worst hit by the war, only 1.2% of the central hospital's requirements is provided by the government. The shortfall has to be made up by aid agencies. "Oil production in the country is estimated at close to 800,000 barrels a day," writes MSF, "yet there is not

a drop of diesel for the hospital generators, the only source of power in most large hospitals." This neglect, says MSF, is not, as the government claims, a consequence of the war but "the result of deliberate choices".

Donor fatigue is making it hard for the relief agencies to raise money for their Angolan operations. The UN has just launched an all-agency appeal for Angola for 2001. It is asking for \$202m but will, as in previous years, be lucky to raise half of that. Adding insult to injury, the Angolan government regularly complains that the relief groups are not doing enough. It also makes their work harder by not issuing work visas: MSF alone is wasting \$100,000 a year on flying its staff in and out of the country to renew their temporary visas.

Some aid workers have begun to ask themselves what they are doing. Clearly, they are helping to keep millions of people alive. Yet, by relieving the government of responsibility, are they too contributing to the continuation of the war?" (The Economist 11 January 2001 as found on MSF website)

See also the OXFAM report entitled "Angola's Wealth: Stories of War and Neglect" for more information on the prosperity of the oil and diamond industries in Angola [\[External link\]](#).

Regional response

Central African countries meet to coordinate policies and efforts on behalf of refugees and IDPs (November 2001)

- Meeting organised by the l'Association des Parlementaires Europeens pour l'Afrique (AWEPA) brings together representatives of five central African governments, including Angola, to attempt to synchronise policies and efforts related to refugees and IDPs
- One point of discussion was the possibility of expanding the mandate of UNHCR to increase its capacity to assist IDPs

"Representatives from the governments of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of Congo, Gabon and Angola met last week in the DRC capital, Kinshasa, to synchronise their policies and efforts on behalf of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region.

The meeting was organised by the l'Association des Parlementaires Europeens pour l'Afrique (AWEPA), in collaboration with the government of the DRC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, from 24 to 26 Oct. AWEPA is an association of current and former members of national parliaments in Europe that works 'to support the functioning of parliaments in Africa and to keep Africa on the political agenda in Europe'.

Primary objectives of the conference included the promotion of human rights and in particular the rights of refugees, with special attention to women and children in light of their vulnerability; seeking long-term solutions to the problems of refugees and IDPs with a view to a safe return to their place of origin; and adoption in each country of national legislation and a national commission for refugees where no such thing already exists. Discussions were held regarding the possibilities of expanding the mandate of UNHCR to increase their capacity to assist IDPs uprooted by war, and providing assistance to local populations that host refugees." (IRIN 1 November 2001)

International political response

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 materiel 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)

Angolan peace process Troika re-activates activities with the opening of the UN Office in Angola (September 2000)

- Troika of observers composed of the U.S., Portugal and Russia has decided to reactivate activities
- Troika says that mechanisms of sanctions against UNITA must be reinforced

"The Angolan peace process Troika of observers composed of the U.S., Portugal and Russia has decided to re-activate its activities with the opening of the United Nations Office to Angola (UNOA) in Luanda. The decision is contained in a declaration issued on Friday in New York after a meeting of the Troika member countries, held alongside the UN General Assembly summit. The Troika says that the mechanisms of sanctions imposed on Jonas Savimbi's organization must be reinforced as a necessary instrument to coerce the rebel group to give up its military option. The document adds that this measure aims to compel UNITA rebels to abandon bellicose actions and join the Angolan democratic society, as a political partner to contest for power through elections." (GOA 19 September 2000)

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)

International humanitarian response

UN USG for Humanitarian Affairs describes situation in Angola as 'dire' following visit (July 2002)

- UN USG for Humanitarian Affairs visits Angola and cites the return and resettlement of IDPs as one of the major challenges facing the country
- UN USG Oshima highlighted the need for a significant increase in donor support to Angola

"Briefing the Council on the latest developments in the humanitarian situation in Angola, Kenzo Oshima, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, said that Angola, the United Nations and its partners had a unique opportunity to create a new partnership to address both humanitarian needs and reconstruction and development issues.

It was important, he continued, to seize that opportunity with renewed effort and commitment, developing an appropriate framework for the partnership. Mr. Oshima had just returned from a mission to Angola and southern Africa, where he visited three of the six countries affected by the looming hunger crisis — Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia. The mission followed an earlier, broad-based mission led by Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa Ibrahim Gambari.

The purpose of the latest mission, he said, was to assess the situation on the ground, ensure that effective aid coordination was in place, and discuss a set of key issues with the Government of Angola. Despite positive political developments since the signing of the ceasefire in April, the humanitarian situation in the country remained dire. Among the major challenges were the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) combatants and their families, and demining.

Significant step-up of donor support was needed to immediately carry out those activities, he continued. The 2002 Consolidated Appeal for Angola had requested \$233 million. To date, just \$81 million (35 per cent of the funds requested) had been granted. In the light of the changed circumstances and additional needs, there was a need to revise the Consolidated Appeal for Angola." (UN Security Council, 17 July 2002)

Four NGOs give rare oral briefing to the UN Security Council on the humanitarian and human rights situation in Angola (March 2002)

Human Rights Watch, Médecins Sans Frontières, Oxfam and Save the Children testified before the Security Council in an Arria Formula briefing (an informal meeting of the members of the Security Council rather than of the Security Council per se)

***Human Rights Watch** charged that the UN and the government of Angola are failing to protect the rights of millions of people displaced by the country's civil war. For the full briefing [click here](#).*

***Médecins Sans Frontières** focused on the lack of access to vulnerable civilians and the forced displacement of populations. For the full briefing [click here](#).*

***Oxfam** warned that Angola is at a crossroads between peace and a descent into fresh bloodshed. For the news release [click here](#).*

(Save the Children did not publish a briefing paper)

UN Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement conducts mission to Angola in March 2001

- UN Special Coordinator, together with representatives from FAO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP and NGO community, undertook mission to Angola in March 2001
- Objectives of mission were to assess the needs of the displaced and the capacity of humanitarian actors to respond to such needs

"The Senior Inter-Agency Network on Internal Displacement, led by the UN Special Coordinator on Internal Displacement, together with representatives of FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, the Office of the Representative of the Secretary General on IDPs, and the NGO community, undertook a mission to Angola from 12 to 17 March. The main objectives of the mission were to: assess the nature and magnitude of the assistance and protection needs of internally displaced persons, particularly with regard to women and children; to review the operational capacity of UN agencies and other humanitarian actors on the ground to respond to such needs, with a view of identifying any gaps in the humanitarian response; to review existing institutional arrangements within and between the UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement, NGOs and the Government, and to make recommendations to concerned agencies, organisations and the Government for future action. The Mission also set out to assess the extent of implementation of the recommendations stemming from the visit to Angola of the RSG on IDPs in November 2000.

The mission met with Government officials as well as representatives of United Nations, the Red Cross Movement, other international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organisations, and members of the diplomatic community. The delegation travelled to the Provinces of Bié and Huambo and visited Viana in Luanda." (OCHA 23 March 2001, Background)

For full details and recommendations from the Senior Network mission, please refer to the report published in March 2001 [\[External link\]](#).

UN Representative on Internally Displaced Persons visited 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
- Recommendations made by the Representative in the January 2001 addendum to his mission report

"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)

The following list of recommendations was made by the Representative in his full January 2001 report:

"113. Some tangible improvements have been made in regard to the situation of the internally displaced and in the national and international response to the problem. The Representative is encouraged by the steps taken by the Government to improve institutional arrangements at the national and provincial levels and its coordination with the international community, in particular United Nations agencies. The Representative notes with appreciation the development by the Government, in cooperation with United Nations agencies, of the norms for the resettlement of internally displaced persons, based on the Guiding Principles. The Representative also welcomes the progress made by the Humanitarian Coordinator, the United Nations Country Team and NGOs in improving the international humanitarian response, which has resulted in the stabilization of displaced populations, demonstrated most visibly by the resettlement of the majority of vulnerable displaced populations previously residing in deplorable conditions in transit centres.

114. Such developments notwithstanding, the Representative's visits to the field revealed that coordination often is not effective on the ground and that a number of serious humanitarian and protection concerns remain which must be addressed. In particular, the Representative is concerned at the lack of effective protection accorded to the physical security and human rights of the displaced and the civilian population. In the light of such concerns, a number of recommendations, already introduced in appropriate contexts in the previous sections, are summarized in this concluding section.

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. Given the increasing emphasis on resettlement of displaced populations, the Representative encourages MINARS, in cooperation with international agencies, to draft standard operating procedures to ensure implementation of the technical provisions provided in the MINOPS. The Representative also encourages MINARS to ensure the involvement of humanitarian agencies in security assessments of prospective resettlement sites and to provide mechanisms for resolving conflicting security assessments of specific sites between the authorities and humanitarian organizations.

Full implementation of the norms on resettlement within security perimeters

116. The Representative stresses the fundamental need to ensure the safety and security of the displaced. 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.

Increased engagement of the Government and donors in the humanitarian response

117. While acknowledging the increasing efforts of the Government to respond to the humanitarian situation, the Representative strongly recommends that the Government commit additional resources to the humanitarian effort, not least because a greater and more visible commitment on the part of the Government might prompt a similar response from donors. 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.

More effective coordination within the Government and with the United Nations and NGOs, and reinvigoration of the Humanitarian Coordination Group

118. While some improvements have been noted, problems remain at the national level between different ministries which impede the efforts of the United Nations to advocate policies effectively with the Government. In an effort to address these problems, 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. Similarly, emphasis should be placed on ensuring 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.

Agreed criteria for targeting food distributions

119. The Representative, noting the existence of the Vulnerability and Assessment Working Group, underlines the importance of ensuring that there is a consensus among humanitarian partners on the criteria on which targeted food distributions are based, so as to ensure that all vulnerable groups receive food distributions on which, for lack of alternatives, they depend. In this connection, the Representative reiterates his concerns that reductions in general food distributions have been forced on WFP by donors at a time of significant increases in admissions of moderately malnourished displaced and resident children to supplementary feeding centres.

Increased access to populations in need

120. Given the security constraints in areas that are not under government control, 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.

Adequate maintenance and repair of airstrips and provision of logistical capacity

121. Given the humanitarian operation's continued dependency on air transportation, the relevant authorities should ensure that airstrips such as that at Kuito are repaired as soon as possible and adequately maintained thereafter. Requests by WFP for additional aircraft should be responded to positively, so as to ensure that existing levels of access are maintained if not increased.

Extension of vaccination coverage

122. In view of the prevalence of polio and other diseases amongst displaced populations, especially children, the Representative suggests that the Government consider the possibility of allowing international agencies to extend vaccination coverage to UNITA-held areas, assuming that adequate security guarantees can be obtained.

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. Failure to invest sufficiently in education may have serious consequences for the future development of the country.

Increased awareness of abuses against children

124. The Representative was particularly alarmed by reports that children are being abducted and traded by UNITA for use as forced labour. Local NGOs and church groups which may have access to the areas concerned are encouraged to collect additional and more detailed information, which should be brought to the attention of the national authorities and the international community.

A more focused and active approach to protection by the Government in particular and also by the international community

125. Given that the primary responsibility for the protection of the displaced rests with the Government, the Representative suggests a number of courses of action which could be taken by the authorities:

(a) National legislation on internally displaced persons . The Government is encouraged, in cooperation with the international community, to develop and adopt national legislation which clearly articulates the rights of the displaced and the obligations towards them of the national authorities and other actors, such as UNITA.

(b) Dissemination of the Guiding Principles . Efforts should be undertaken to raise awareness among the displaced of their human rights as restated in the Guiding Principles. To this end, wide dissemination of the Principles among local NGOs, church groups and displaced communities is essential.

(c) Training of military and police personnel . Greater efforts should be taken to train the military and police on the human rights of the internally displaced and the civilian population, so as to enhance protection and help prevent arbitrary displacement. The Representative welcomes the efforts which are being taken to this end by the Human Rights Division of UNOA and by ICRC and recommends that such efforts be expanded.

(d) Timely receipt of salaries and supplies by military personnel . In an effort to prevent looting by government troops and the harassment, violence and displacement associated with it, the Representative suggests that the Government take the necessary measures to ensure that military personnel receive salaries and supplies in a timely manner.

(e) Accountability of police and military personnel . 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.

(f) Issuance of personal documentation . Given the problems of harassment experienced by the displaced, 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.

(g) Judicial capacity building and accountability . Serious efforts need to be undertaken to build the national and provincial capacity to prevent and address protection problems. 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.

(h) Enhanced protection role for the international community . 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. A number of measures are suggested in this regard:

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. Despatch 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; in this regard, the Representative strongly recommends that the forthcoming mission to Angola by the Senior Inter-Agency Network give due focus to protection issues and strategies for response and prevention, including by ensuring that members of the mission have sufficient expertise in protection work;

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, either directly or through other actors at the national, regional or international levels; revision, if necessary, of the design, placement and content of relief activities, so as to deter human rights abuses; 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.

Landmines

126. Given the catastrophic landmine situation throughout the country and the problems it gives rise to in terms of security, access and resettlement, the 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.

Comprehensive peace and national reconciliation

127. Although the Government claims to control over 90 per cent of the country, UNITA is still able to effectively employ guerrilla tactics which are exacting a heavy price on the displaced and civilian population. Moreover, the ongoing state of insecurity is a major constraint on the humanitarian response and undermines the long-term development prospects for the country and the possibility of durable solutions for the internally displaced. As such, vigorous efforts must be pursued by all relevant actors towards the achievement of a sustainable political solution to the conflict, and national reconciliation.

128. In the space of seven months, from April to November 2000, the Government and the international community have taken significant steps to improve the conditions of the internally displaced in Angola. And they have done so in very difficult circumstances, characterized by ongoing insecurity, problems of access, logistical difficulties and reduced donor support. Such developments and constraints notwithstanding, further substantial efforts are required to address effectively the ongoing humanitarian and, especially, protection problems identified in this report. The international community has a clear role to play in addressing these problems. However, its efforts should not be substituted for those of the Government but should support the Government, which, in turn, should seek to consolidate its leadership role and fully assume its responsibility for the displaced, including by providing increased financial resources to the humanitarian effort." (CHR 25 January 2001, paras. 113-128)

For the full details of the visit and its findings, please consult the initial release of the UNHCHR about his visit [\[External link\]](#) as well as the full report of the Special Representative [\[External link\]](#).

International donor response (2002-2003)

UN requests US\$ 386 million in 2003 CAP – but response is slow (November 2002)

- 2003 CAP will be the last emergency appeal for Angola
- During 2003, UN agencies and NGOs will provide life-saving assistance to 2 million Angolans and another 3.7 million will benefit from programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency
- Programmes are categorised in food security, public health, protection and education, and access and coordination

By February 2003, only 1 percent of the 2003 CAP was funded. Up-to-date summaries of CAP requirements and contributions can be accessed on the financial tracking system of the UN OCHA ReliefWeb [\[external link\]](#)

“During 2002, the humanitarian crisis in Angola was regarded by the UN as one of the worst in the world. In a major effort to reduce, and finally eliminate the need for emergency assistance, the Government will present a comprehensive framework for national reconstruction during 2003 and launch programmes aimed at alleviating poverty, modernising the economy and promoting reconciliation. This Appeal, which will be the last emergency Appeal, will serve as an interim funding mechanism aimed at meeting critical needs in a timely and effective fashion and laying the groundwork for future development until additional frameworks are in place.

All strategies in the Appeal reflect the key Government priorities of reducing dependency, establishing self-sufficiency, promoting equality and building local capacities. Programmes have been developed in close consultation with relevant ministries and partners and complement the activities contained in Government frameworks, including the national resettlement programme and the Provincial Plans of Emergency Action for Resettlement and Return (PEPARR). Recognising that activities may need to be adjusted after the reconstruction and interim poverty reduction frameworks are finalised, agencies will remain highly flexible. To ensure maximum impact, the operation will be streamlined, prioritised, unified, cost-effective and pragmatic.

During 2003, UN Agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGO) will provide life-saving assistance to two million Angolans dependent on external aid to survive and approximately 3.7 million vulnerable people will benefit from programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency. Agencies expect vulnerabilities to deepen during the first quarter of the year, when large numbers of people will be cut-off by seasonal rains. Although conditions are likely to improve in March and April, major efforts will be necessary to stabilise populations in areas where basic conditions are not yet in place. By the end of the year, approximately one million people, in addition to families who moved during 2002, will have returned to their areas of origin and begun re-building their lives. Progress in meeting the millennium goals will depend on these return movements occurring in compliance with the Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations and *reglamento* and on sustained humanitarian assistance during the period when populations are re-establishing their livelihoods. If humanitarian assistance is withdrawn or reduced, and the humanitarian crisis persists, recovery will be delayed and reconciliation may be jeopardised.

In a positive step forward, humanitarian partners have adopted a new programme approach for the 2003 Appeal. The aim is to sharpen the focus of the operation by unifying programmes around a limited, but, clear set of time-bound and realistic objectives through four Programme Blocs in food security, public health, protection and education and access and coordination. Basing their activities on a core set of humanitarian principles, partners will help to prevent malnutrition and hunger and lower morbidity and mortality rates. Efforts will be made to reach all vulnerable populations and support safe return through mine action programmes. Agencies will promote the rapid attainment of basic rights and help to expand formal and non-formal learning opportunities. As part of the normalisation process, the UN will progressively and systematically transfer full responsibility for the coordination and delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Government on the basis of an agreed workplan and through capacity-building.

To cover their part of the humanitarian operation, **UN Agencies and NGOs are requesting US\$ 386 million for 166 projects.** UN Agencies have identified the following priorities as necessary for meeting the Appeal’s main goals and ensuring the effective functioning of the operation: a) the four core pipelines for food, non-food items, seeds and tools and essential drugs and emergency health care kits; b) mine action; c) the logistics and security framework; and d) coordination.” (UN, November 2003)

Lack of funding is the main constraint affecting humanitarian operations in 2002

- Least-funded sectors in 2002 were water and sanitation, non-food items, health and mine action
- In the emergency health sector, less than 50 percent of critical needs were met
- Geographical coverage was also uneven

“Lack of funding was the main constraint affecting humanitarian operations. Limited resources forced agencies to prioritise among acutely vulnerable populations and slowed emergency responses. Sectoral coverage was uneven, undermining efforts to promote an integrated approach. Four sectors were seriously under-funded: water and sanitation, non-food items, health and mine action. As a result, emergency responses for populations in critical need were delayed, hampered or abandoned. In the case of water and sanitation, 80 percent of the critical needs identified in newly accessible and family reception areas could not be addressed. For non-food items, 30 percent of critical needs in family reception areas and 60 percent in newly accessible areas were not covered. In the emergency health sector, less than 50 percent of critical needs were met. In the case of mine action, virtually none of the Plans of Action developed for newly accessible areas could be implemented and only a handful of the more than 500 resettlement and return sites identified during the PEPARRs were either demarcated or cleared. Geographical coverage was also uneven, with some hard-hit areas, including the eastern region, receiving only a fraction of the resources channelled into the Planalto, despite large concentrations of acutely distressed people.

US Government has provided significant support to programmes benefitting IDPs in Angola (October 2002)

- USAID/OFDA supports various humanitarian programmes, targeting more than 2.2 million vulnerable IDPs
- US government provided more than US\$ 122 million in humanitarian assistance to Angola in 2002

US government has provided significant support to programmes benefitting IDPs in Angola (October 2002)

“The GRA estimates that the civil conflict affected more than four million Angolans. To date, the United States Government (USG) has provided more than \$122 million in emergency assistance to those affected by the conflict in Angola in FY 2002, channeled through the U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), the State Department's Bureau Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) and Political Military Affairs (State/PM), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Since 1990, the USG has contributed nearly \$774 million in emergency assistance to affected populations in Angola.

[...]

Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Angola: \$20,587,667

Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Angola: \$122,437,667

[...]

USAID/OFDA supports a variety of humanitarian assistance programs - directly targeting more than 2.2 million vulnerable IDPs, the majority of which are women and children.” (USAID, 31 October 2002)

For the full report [click here](#).

See also ‘[USAID Fact Sheet: Assistance to Angola](#)’

France donates US\$ 13 million in humanitarian aid to Angola (October 2002)

- French funds will be used towards various humanitarian aid programmes including the resettlement of IDPs

“France is to give 13 million dollars worth of humanitarian aid to famine-stricken Angola, the French embassy here said Wednesday.

The money will go towards food aid, medical assistance, the building of schools and training centres, and agricultural and demining projects.

It will also help resettle people who fled their homes during the country's long civil war between government forces and National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels.

The United Nations warned on Monday that an ‘extremely serious humanitarian crisis’ threatens Angola despite the end of the 27-year war in April.

The country's food needs are increasing and displaced people returning to their farms do not have the means to work their land, said a report published by the United Nations Development Programme.

The World Food Programme estimates close to two million people in Angola are in need of emergency food aid.” (AFP, 30 October 2002)

United Kingdom supports humanitarian assistance programmes in Angola (2001-2003)

- DFID has provided over £9 million to support humanitarian operations in Angola since September 2001
- Funds have supported food aid delivery, mine action programmes, among others

“In December 2002 DFID provided £2.75 million to the World Food Programme bringing the UK's total support to the humanitarian crisis in Angola since September 2001 to over £9 million.

The humanitarian situation in Angola remains serious and widespread. Since the cease-fire, already over-stretched aid agencies have been able to access thousands more severely malnourished people. The 2003 UN CAP states that 4.3 million Angolans depend on some form of humanitarian assistance. However, humanitarian agencies are still unable to reach 200,000 people and 40% of the countryside.

Despite indications of improved food availability in large areas of the country, the latest Vulnerability Assessment carried out by the World Food Programme over the past few months, estimates that between 2.1 and 2.4 million Angolans will need food aid until the next harvest in April and May 2003.

Mine incidents, poor road conditions and broken bridges continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance. DFID has pledged £750,000 to the WFP for logistical support, to improve the delivery of food to vulnerable populations. We have also contributed £300,000 to UNDP for a project aimed at improving the effectiveness of mine action through strengthened coordination and planning and we will be contributing 19.7% of the 6 million euros which the EC has recently made available for mine action in Angola.

We are also contributing £500,000 to OCHA's Emergency response fund, to help meet critical needs of the most vulnerable, and £200,000 to support their humanitarian coordination structure, which is critical for the effective functioning of the overall humanitarian operation in Angola.

UK Assistance to Angola

Date	Description	Total (£ million)
Sept. 2001	UN Appeal for Angola 2001	0.5
Jan-May 2002	MSF - Assistance to Displaced Population in Kuito and Camacupa	0.45
	UN Appeal for Angola 2002	1.0
	ICRC Appeal for Angola 2002	0.3
June 2002	UN Bridging Request 2002	0.677
July 2002	MSF - Assistance to Displaced Population of Bunjei and Huambo	0.3
	MSF - Assistance to Population of Saurimo and Cuando Cubango	0.3
Aug 2002	ICRC Appeal for Angola	0.75
Oct 2002	IOM - Assistance to Internally Displaced People, Kuanza Sul and Huambo	0.25
	UNDP - Emergency Mine Action Coordination	0.3
Nov 2002	WFP - Food Assistance to Vulnerable Groups	2.0
	WFP - Logistical Support	0.75
	OCHA Emergency Response Fund	0.5
	OCHA Coordination of Humanitarian Activities	0.2
Total	8.277	

In addition, we estimate that our contribution to commitments by the European Commission to date is approximately £767,230 bringing the UK contribution to £9.04 million.” (DFID, 22 January 2003)

IDPs are main beneficiaries of European Commission's Euro 125 million action plan for Angola (May 2002)

- EC package includes Euro 10 million to be channelled through ECHO, mainly for nutrition and health programmes; almost Euro 32 million for operations run by WFP and various NGOs; and Euro 83 million for humanitarian interventions including demining, as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction activities
- In August 2002, the EC announces a further allocation of Euro 2 million for humanitarian operations in Angola

"The European Commission has drawn up an action plan to support the people of Angola following the recent signing on 4 April of the peace agreement between the Government and UNITA. A total of €125 million has been identified from the Community budget and the European Development Fund for a wide range of actions including emergency relief, food aid and food security, support for displaced people and returnees, and de-mining operations. Commenting on the action plan, Poul Nielson, the Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid, underlined the European Union's long-standing commitment to the victims of 'this often neglected crisis'. He continued: 'At last, peace is being given a chance. The Commission fully supports the peace process and is offering substantial and practical assistance to tackle the continuing suffering and help in the huge task of reconstruction.'

Now that the fighting has ended, enormous needs have been identified among the displaced populations in previously inaccessible areas. It is estimated that there are more than 4 million internally displaced people in the country. Significant humanitarian support will be required for the foreseeable future together with rehabilitation and longer term development assistance, to assist the most vulnerable sections of the population and consolidate the peace process.

The €25 million package is made up of three major components:

The Action Plan includes €10 million for emergency actions funded through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO). This €10 million is made up of the 2002 Global Plan plus a recently adopted new decision for €2 million concentrating on nutrition and health actions. A number of nutritional emergencies have become apparent and urgent action is needed to avoid loss of life, especially amongst children. ECHO will work with established partners in the nutritional field.

Almost €32 million is being targeted by the Commission's food security unit in the EuropeAid Co-operation Office for operations run by the World Food Programme and various Non Governmental Organisations.

Resources from the seventh and eighth European Development Funds (EDF) totalling €83 million are also being deployed for humanitarian interventions including essential de-mining activities, as well as for rehabilitation and reconstruction activities." (EC, 29 May 2002)

"The European Commission has announced a further allocation of €2 million for humanitarian operations in Angola. Targeting the country's worst affected provinces, the new decision includes the supply of emergency relief items for 15,000 needy families and the provision of primary health care for up to 200,000 people in areas with no coverage at present. Additionally, 2,000 severely malnourished children will receive therapeutic feeding while 20,000 moderately malnourished youngsters will benefit from a supplementary feeding programme. Although the peace process in Angola offers prospects of a long-term improvement in the living conditions of the population, the recent opening up of areas previously inaccessible to aid agencies has revealed huge unmet humanitarian needs. The lives of many people are at risk due to a lack of food, health care and other basic necessities. The funds are being channelled through the Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) which comes under the authority of Commissioner Poul Nielson. The ECHO-funded projects are being implemented by a number of partner NGOs operating in Angola. Since 1999, ECHO has provided humanitarian aid worth almost €45 million for the victims of the crisis, of which €12 million has been allocated during 2002." (ECHO, 21 August 2002)

IDP children, among others, to benefit from OPEC boost to the education sector (May 2002)

- OPEC Fund for International Development signs US\$ 9.39 million loan agreement with Angolan government, aimed at reforming the country's education system
- Project will target four of the most seriously affected provinces, where there are large concentrations of IDPs
- Activities will include the construction, rehabilitation, refurbishment and equipment of educational facilities, as well as teacher training and job skills training

"The OPEC Fund for International Development today signed a US\$9.39 million loan agreement with the Republic of Angola to help finance a scheme to reform the country's education system, placing a special emphasis on boosting the quality of learning and providing job skills training for youth and adolescents.

After years of civil unrest, Angola has placed a high priority on meeting its educational needs, particularly along the country's western coast, which is home to some four million displaced people. Refugee children's access to schools is limited, as camps are often situated far from population centers. Existing schools are overcrowded and in poor condition, instruction materials and textbooks virtually non-existent and many teachers are inadequately trained. In addition, older children often drop out of school to work and help support their families, adding to the rising number of unskilled workers.

In order to address these shortfalls, the project will target four of the most seriously affected provinces, namely, Luanda, Kwanza Sul, Benguela and Namibe. Works will include the construction of 244 primary school classrooms and rehabilitation of 122 existing ones. The Skills Training Center in Luanda, which provides technical and vocational training in the higher grades, in addition to adult literacy programs, will be refurbished and equipped accordingly. All schools will be fitted out with new furniture, computer and audio-visual equipment, and around 30,000 students will be supplied with learning materials. Over 7,000 teachers, school directors and other personnel will attend in-service training workshops and programs in new course curriculum. A special job skills training program will also be developed for in/out-of-school youth, particularly girls and street children.

Once underway, not only will learning conditions in primary schools be substantially improved, but out-of-school older children, who are less likely than their younger counterparts to return to the regular educational system, will have the chance to partake in skills training programs to help them find good jobs." (OPEC FID, 22 May 2002)

Selected activities of UN agencies (2002-2003)

Coordination mechanisms adapted to reflect post-conflict priorities (2002)

- Humanitarian Coordination Group is reconvened, including newly-named Support Group on Resettlement and Return
- OCHA developed national database for returning populations
- Humanitarian operation is integrated into the new UNMA, under primary responsibility of Humanitarian/ Resident Coordinator

"To ensure that the humanitarian operation reflected the post-conflict priorities of the Government, efforts were made to adapt existing coordination mechanisms. Under the leadership of the Minister of MINARS, the Humanitarian Coordination Group (HCG) was re-convened and the Sub-group on IDPs and Refugees was transformed into the Support Group on Resettlement and Return. As part of the UN's commitment to building coordination capacity, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) developed a national database for returning populations, based on the *regulamento*, and trained the Provincial Coordinators of the Technical Unit for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UTCAH) to manage the new system.

In early September, the UN launched a Mid Term Review of the 2002 Appeal, increasing the overall amount requested from US\$ 232 million to US\$ 292 million. By mid October, 54 percent of the revised Appeal had been funded and additional contributions were expected. In mid August, on the basis of Security Council Resolution 1433, the humanitarian operation was integrated into the new United Nations Mission in Angola (UNMA). Under the terms of the Resolution, the UN Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator continued to have primary responsibility for all policy and operational aspects of the humanitarian operation." (UN, November 2002, p5)

WFP faces dwindling stocks as food needs soar in newly accessible areas (2002)

- 1.8 million people were in urgent need of food aid in October 2002, according to WFP - an increase of 300,000 in just one month
- Under-funding of WFP operations increased risk of 'humanitarian tragedy'
- Food assistance also hampered by poor access

“The UN World Food Programme announced today that the number of Angolans in urgent need of food aid has increased to 1.8 million, compared to 1.5 assisted in September. The increase is putting additional pressure on the already limited resources available to assist those in need.

WFP has only received 26% of the US\$ 233 million needed to keep operations running in Angola until the end of 2003. The poor funding situation will reach a critical point in January when the agency will run out of cereals.

‘We have 1.8 million people who have little to eat, and whose survival depends on food aid,’ said WFP’s Country Director for Angola, Francisco Roque Castro. ‘If donors do not come forward with funds, we could face a humanitarian tragedy.’

With swelling numbers of needy populations in previously inaccessible areas, as well as former UNITA soldiers and their families, displaced people returning to their areas of origin, and refugees returning from neighbouring countries, WFP is being forced to expand dramatically and very quickly its operations.

‘The true dimension of the crisis is still unfolding,’ said Roque Castro. ‘The number of people in need is growing by the day, and the challenges to respond promptly and adequately are considerable.’

Extremely poor transport infrastructure is severely hampering access even in areas where landmines are not a threat. Broken bridges and extremely poor roads are preventing WFP from reaching populations in need. Many airstrips and roads which could be used for humanitarian deliveries are not cleared of land mines. Despite these logistic difficulties, WFP is providing food assistance to all but one of the 42 reception areas for former UNITA soldiers and their families. Several broken bridges and too small an airstrip have prevented the agency to deliver food to Mussende’s quartering area. In the case of Ngumbi, where the explosion of landmines forced the temporary suspension of operations, food distribution will resume next week.

In the past few months, WFP has also reached 60 locations previously inaccessible, adding 426,000 people to those in need of assistance.

In September, given the delays in the Government’s assistance to reach them, WFP decided to start feeding demobilized UNITA soldiers.

‘The soldiers’ families in these areas were sharing the food they were receiving from WFP with the former soldiers and hunger persisted. We could not ignore their plight,’ said Roque Castro.

With the start of the rainy season, access to remote locations will deteriorate even further, and many areas will become inaccessible. WFP is, therefore, urging the Government to carry out emergency repairs to transport infrastructures, thus facilitating the provision of assistance to populations in need.

To avoid a major hunger disaster and create a buffer stock, WFP has started to pre-position food in strategic locations around the country. A solution to the access problem is, however, required as WFP expects the number of people in need to continue to increase, reaching 1.9 million by the end of the year.” (WFP, 2 October 2002)

[Click here](#) to access WFP's *Protracted relief and recovery operation for Angola (July 2002)*

Wide-ranging UNICEF programme benefits displaced children in newly accessible areas, among others (2002)

- Displaced children, among others, benefit from UNICEF projects in health and nutrition, water and environmental sanitation, education and protection, and mine risk education

“Immunization: Immunization coverage remains low throughout Angola, with 70% of children under five not fully immunized against preventable diseases according to the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2001. UNICEF continues to be the main supplier of vaccines to the Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) of the Angolan Ministry of Health (MoH). A total of 34 million doses of vaccines were purchased for the MoH in 2002, which included 1.5 million DPT vaccines, 10 million doses of measles vaccines, 22 million doses of OPV (polio) and half a million doses of Yellow Fever vaccines. Throughout the year, UNICEF supported targeted measles vaccination campaigns to prevent outbreaks of the disease among the most vulnerable groups of Angolan children. In total, over 1 million vulnerable children were vaccinated during these targeted efforts. During the latest vaccination activities in September, 310,564 children were immunized in high risk areas of Lunda Sul, Moxico, Huila, Benguela and Kuando Kubango provinces and in Gathering Areas throughout the country.

In spite of sustained efforts, continued displacement during 2002 affected immunization coverage and reinforced the need to conduct a nation-wide vaccination campaign to protect Angolan children against measles. UNICEF is collaborating closely with the MoH to prepare the first-ever national measles vaccination campaign, which will start on 21 April 2003. Throughout the country, the network of health centres and posts are being re-activated in preparation for the campaign. Measles vaccines and vaccination materials as well as cold chain equipment have been purchased and the first training sessions for health workers on vaccination techniques have been held. Already 75% of funds required for the operation, set to reach 7 million children from 9 months to 15 years old throughout the country at the cost of some US\$ 1.1 per child, have been secured. Additional financial support is, however, required to cover the US\$ 1.85 million shortfall. The expected outcome is not only to reduce child mortality through measles immunization, but also to revive routine vaccination centres as a first step toward rebuilding Mother and Child Health care services throughout Angola.

Polio: Coverage achieved during the 2002 National Immunization Days (NIDs) constituted a marked improvement in relation to the previous year. Three million children were reported vaccinated, of which 2.5 million received a high dose of Vitamin A. Improved accessibility from April 2002 onwards allowed vaccinators to reach all but four of the targeted municipalities during the final rounds of the NIDs, compared to 27 municipalities not reached during the 2001 NIDs. Although the numbers of confirmed cases of wild poliovirus have been dramatically reduced, with a single confirmed case reported in 2001, Angola remains one of the few countries in the world where polio has not yet been completely eradicated. The unconfirmed occurrence of polio cases on the border with Zambia make it crucial to step-up polio eradication efforts during 2003, especially as 40,000 Angolan refugees in the area are expected to return home by the end of next year.

UNICEF together with the MoH, WHO, Rotary and other NGOs will continue to pursue those strategies that have proved successful in 2002. In addition to another two rounds of NIDs planned for June and August 2003, intense efforts to expand cross-border vaccination activities will allow the EPI to reach populations in areas of difficult access. House-to-house vaccination supported by intense social mobilization efforts, which have proven to be successful during 2002, will continue to be pursued.

Malaria and Essential Drugs: Malaria remains the single biggest cause of child mortality and morbidity. With the onset of the rainy season, the number of reported cases of malaria is expected to increase throughout the country. The situation is particularly worrying for the segments of population without access to basic health services. A total of 236,000 mosquito nets benefiting over 70,000 families were distributed in 2002 in the Provinces of Huambo, Luanda, Benguela, Uíge, Malanje, Moxico and Zaire. Of these, 42,000 were distributed to benefit pregnant women and vulnerable children in Gathering Areas in Bengo, Benguela, Huambo, Huíla, Kwanza Norte, Malanje, Moxico, Bie, Uíge and Zaire provinces. In 2002, UNICEF also continued to support the creation of community-based mosquito net treatment units, through the establishment of 41 units in 13 provinces.

Essential drug kits, which are crucial to treat malaria, diarrheal diseases and acute respiratory infections, continued to be distributed throughout the country. Since the beginning of the year, 690 kits benefited some 700,000 vulnerable people in Bengo, Benguela, Bié, Huambo, Huíla, Luanda, Malanje, Moxico and Uíge provinces. Prompt distribution of over 100 kits allowed to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations in Gathering Areas. As the process of return and resettlement gets under way, UNICEF is in urgent need of funds to extend the distribution of both mosquito nets and essential drugs to resettlement sites where basic services are absent.

Nutrition: While the nutritional situation has now stabilized in comparison to the dramatic levels of malnutrition observed in May 2002, over 10% of all Angolans still depend on external food assistance to survive. Although major efforts were made to ensure that agricultural inputs were in place before the start of the rainy season, significant numbers of families were unable to prepare their land for growing staple crops before the start of the main growing season for maize in October. With the start of the rains, the humanitarian community has expressed its concerns that a significant majority of the 1.42 million Angolans likely to require food aid might be cut off from support due to the ever-present danger of land-mines and the poor state of roads.

UNICEF continued to prioritize the support given to the implementation of the National Protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of severe and moderate malnutrition to ensure that the services provided at Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding Centres adequately address the needs of vulnerable children and women. To this effect, the training centre in Benguela continued to be jointly supported with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for the continued training of national nutritionists. UNICEF also continued to play a critical role in monitoring nutritional situation through an active network of NGOs partners. The graph below shows the number of malnourished individuals admitted throughout the country in Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) from September 1999 to August 2002. It shows a decrease following the highest peak of May 2002. To support nutritional centres, UNICEF provided in 2002 over 380MT of nutritional food that benefited 60,000 severely and moderately malnourished children.

[...]

Water and Environmental Sanitation: UNICEF continued to support the expansion of the water supply and sanitation network with a particular focus on those areas that have been the most affected by displacement. As of November 2002, eleven water supply systems were completed or totally rehabilitated, benefiting around 88,700 people. A major drilling campaign in Huíla and Cunene Provinces has resulted in the completion of 33 new boreholes, which now provide safe drinking water to some 77,000 people. Currently, construction of water supply systems and drilling of boreholes is ongoing in Namibe, Cunene, Huíla, Moxico and Kwanza Norte provinces to benefit a further 60,000 people.

In addition to the most vulnerable rural areas, Luanda, which has the highest concentration of population in the country, continued to be targeted for the implementation of sanitation programmes. Throughout the year, 2,500 latrines were constructed in the area with the support of Medicos Mundi and GOAL. Beneficiary families were involved throughout the process to ensure the sustainability of the benefits acquired through the programme. UNICEF has also continued its support for the essential disinfection of the water supplied by truck to 65% of all inhabitants of Luanda City (or about 2.5 million people), thus preventing possible cholera outbreaks.

As populations begin to spontaneously return to their areas of origin, UNICEF in association with the National Directorate for Water (DNA) has already identified further projects to benefit additional 140,000 people. Funds are urgently required to extend activities to the identified sites.

Education: In the present phase of reconstruction and consolidation of the peace process, UNICEF and the Government of Angola (GoA) have prioritised educational activities, which are crucial to providing for children disproportionately affected by over 25 years of civil conflict with a sense of normalcy and hope for the future. Acknowledging the immense problems of the formal education system in terms of infrastructure and teaching staff, the Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) and UNICEF launched during 2002 the Education for Life and Peace (ELP) Programme to provide informal learning opportunities and life-skills education to vulnerable children out of school. The ELP addresses basic literacy and numeracy skills through 17 topics, of which 5 focus directly on life skills. ELP is presently running through a network of NGOs partners in 11 Provinces, benefiting 25,000 children through a participatory methodology used for small learning groups. The programme will expand to reach a total of 50,000 vulnerable children during 2003.

A sustained effort has been made to support formal education with the major educational challenge presently facing UNICEF and its partners being the beginning of the 2003 school year. Basic learning materials such as pencils, notebooks, slates and chalk have arrived in Luanda and will be pre-positioned to address the educational needs of 500,000 children across 11 Provinces. Efforts continue to be made nationwide to reinforce teaching staff in formal education through adequate training.

The preparation for a "Back to School" campaign in the Province of Bié to ensure that all school-age children in the Province have the opportunity to attend school in 2003 is now well underway. A further US\$ 2.8 million are, however, urgently required to secure the full implementation of the project. Bié, one of the Provinces most affected by the conflict, was chosen to pilot the Back to School initiative that will benefit over 140,000 children presently out of school and 120,000 vulnerable children in school. Materials have been pre-positioned for essential small repairs to 450 schools and training of teachers has already begun with 83 trainers trained during November 2002. The Government has committed to hiring and supporting the required number of additional teachers needed in Bié province. The successful implementation of the campaign is expected to fuel the interest of authorities in other provinces. Operational details are being finalized for a similar campaign in Malanje province, for which UNICEF needs another US\$ 1.9 million for the integration of 90,000 out-of-school children.

Child Protection: The child protection needs in Angola are overwhelming at this time while the response capacity of child protection organizations remains limited. The Birth Registration campaign initiated by UNICEF has so far allowed 1.4 million children to have access to their legal identity. Efforts to reach particularly vulnerable children in Newly Accessible Areas resulted so far in the registration of 95,600 children. Support for Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) during 2002 has centered around the strengthening of the FTR policy of Ministry of Social Affairs and Integration (MINARS), while building the capacity of the Catholic and Methodist churches and networks of national and international NGOs to address the immediate needs of separated children.

An emergency response to the closure of a significant number of Gathering Areas in Kuando Kubango, Huambo, Benguela, Moxico, Bié and Kwanza Sul was prioritized. Protection teams are currently implementing response plans developed during October and November in the mentioned areas to step-up birth registration and FTR. UNICEF was successful in securing the inclusion, through the Government institutions, of 3 key principles for child protection during the process of closure of the Gathering Areas. Firstly, all children under 18 are to have their birth registered and to be issued a birth registration ID before leaving the area. Secondly, local authorities should ensure that all children below 18 years of age under the responsibility of adults, which are not their biological family, are registered with the Family Tracing and Reunification Units. Finally, protection is to be given to vulnerable groups during the transportation process. In the period of September-November 2002, 48 children in Luanda were reunited with their

families in Bié, while a further 211 children in Gathering Areas in Uíge Province were reunited with their families across the country.

UNICEF is acutely aware that, while responding to the present emergency, it is crucial to support longer-term solutions to the protection needs of Angolan children and to begin exploring community-based solutions for reintegration and psychosocial support. To this effect, UNICEF has set-up a network of actors in provincial capitals. These actors are equipped to use a range of methods and materials and constitute an important local human resource for protection activities.

HIV/AIDS: Massive internal movements of population towards resettlement areas and an increasingly high number of returning refugees have created an additional challenge to effective awareness raising on HIV/AIDS. Since September 2002, UNICEF continued to support community-based interventions reaching a total of 350,000 vulnerable youth across 9 Provinces, 150,000 of which were in 25 Gathering Areas. Building on its experience of community-based awareness raising, UNICEF recently developed two new flip charts to be used nation-wide by both communities and health practitioners. With all of the information presented graphically, the materials were specifically designed to provide information on HIV/AIDS and on the management of symptoms to smaller children.

The Youth-to-Youth project launched by UNICEF with the support of the UN Foundation is presently ongoing with over 250 peer-educators trained. Peer-education, one of the most effective means of information dissemination on HIV/AIDS, is expected to reach 50,000 youths over the coming months in Huíla, Benguela and Luanda. Final preparations are presently being made for the opening in Cabinda of the first Youth Information and Recreation Centre supported by UNICEF. The centre will provide young people in the Provincial capital with access to accurate information on HIV/AIDS transmission and safe behaviour. The opening of similar centres in Huambo and Luanda in the first quarter of 2003 will closely follow this pilot experience.

As the country's national strategy for HIV/AIDS comes to an end this year, UNICEF has intensified its advocacy efforts to secure a solid government commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention through contributing to the creation in October 2002 of a New National Commission on HIV/AIDS including all GoA Ministries. UNICEF and UNDP also jointly initiated a socio-economic study on the impact of HIV/AIDS in October to provide policy makers with crucial baseline information for the formulation of the new HIV/AIDS national policy.

Mine Risk Education (MRE): Although official information gathering systems are still unable to provide comprehensive figures on landmine accidents, 113 accidents were so far recorded for 2002 by the National Institute for the Removal of Landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (INAROE) database. During the last 3 months, efforts by humanitarian agencies to step-up support to vulnerable populations in newly accessible areas continued to be hampered by the presence of unmarked mines and UXOs. Since September 2002, vital assistance was delayed to areas of Huambo, Huíla, Kuando Kubango and Malanje as a result of road closure following mine accidents. Displaced populations have been anxious to resettle and begin cultivating/preparing the land before the start of the rainy season, with a further 300,000 spontaneous returns registered since September 2002.

UNICEF continued to support community-based NGOs working in the 7 most landmine-affected Provinces in order to provide life-saving information to children and women in displacement prior to resettlement. A large presence of landmines throughout the country as a result of the country's 25 years of civil war makes it almost certain that returnees will be travelling through or returning to mined areas that have not yet been surveyed. Furthermore, half of the sites identified for the resettlement of IDPs were found to be mined in a preliminary survey conducted in August and September 2002. As neither the GoA nor Mine Action organisations presently have the capacity to completely clear these sites before the return of displaced populations, targeted Mine Risk Education (MRE) interventions are the most effective short-term solution to keeping displaced women and children safe. Further MRE activities are planned to start by January 2003 among Angolan refugees in Zambia in response to the expected influx of incoming refugees from border

areas. In collaboration with UNICEF Zambia, UNICEF Angola will conduct Mine Risk Education in the four refugee camps located closer to the border to benefit around 85,000 out of 230,000 Angolan refugees presently in this neighbouring country. The level of knowledge in these areas assessed in November 2002 by AAR worryingly indicated that over 60% of refugee children had no knowledge of mines. Similar interventions for refugees in Namibia and DRC are being explored. Although project implementation has been seriously hampered in 2002 by lack of funding, the Government of Italy recently pledged US\$ 1.8 million to UNICEF for MRE activities in Angola.” (UNICEF, 12 December 2002)

FAO assists IDPs and other vulnerable groups to resume agricultural activities (2002-2003)

- Food insecurity remains at high levels, warns FAO, particularly in areas of return for IDPs and refugees
- FAO has launched a US\$ 12.7 million appeal for 2003, to assist the most vulnerable people to resume agricultural activities
- FAO involved in various projects, including land tenure, quality seed production, animal breeding and small fisheries

“In Angola, the food situation of a large number of displaced people gives serious cause for concern, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said today.

A cease-fire agreement between the government and UNITA forces in April this year brought peace to Angola, a country devastated by almost three decades of conflict. Massive numbers of people are now returning to their places of origin.

The number of people in need of emergency food aid has been increased to 1.9 million from 1.42 million estimated by a joint FAO/World Food Programme mission in May. Some 4.35 million people are estimated to be at risk next year, including more than 2 million who will be highly vulnerable.

Malnutrition rates have declined over the past months with better access to the needy population, FAO said. But food insecurity remains at high levels and most of the areas to which the refugees and internally displaced people are returning have no basic health services.

Relief efforts and internal trade are hindered by the consequences of war on Angola's infrastructure, FAO said. Roads are in very poor conditions, bridges are in ruins, and minefields prevent the creation of alternative routes and impede farmers to work on their fields.

Heavy rains have turned roads into rivers and access to vast areas, such as the north of Huambo province, have been cut off. People are facing difficulties accessing local markets.

For 2003, FAO has launched a \$12.7 million aid appeal to assist the most vulnerable people to resume their agricultural activities. The UN agency is planning to continue the distribution of urgently needed quality seeds and tools.

‘Good quality seeds were not available within the country, so we have identified skilled farmers in nine provinces and strengthened their ability to produce quality seed. We then buy a part of their production and distribute it to other needy farmers,’ said Fernanda Guerrieri, Chief of FAO's Emergency Operations Service.

Land-tenure projects, currently funded by Italy, to facilitate the return and reintegration of farmers are also important for the rehabilitation process undertaken by FAO and its partners.

Projects on quality seed production, animal breeding, small fisheries and land allocation to internally displaced people who have returned to their homes will also be part of FAO's emergency activities.

In 2002, FAO provided seeds and tools throughout the country, including some of the remotest areas of Angola, funded by the United States and Japan. The relief assistance reached farmers just in time for the September/October sowing season. All in all more than 300 000 families received tools, vegetable seeds and food crop seeds such as maize, beans and sorghum, enabling them to resume food production." (FAO, 2 December 2002)

WHO and partners provide health assistance to 40,000 IDPs in Bengo province (2002)

- WHO finds 'substantial improvement' in the standard of health services, sanitation and water supply in the IDP camp at Boa Esperanca, Bengo province
- According to WHO, improvement is partly due to strong coordination in the health sector between the government and international partners

"Health assistance to 40 thousand IDPs located in Boa Esperanca (Bengo), 40 km north of Luanda was evaluated last Wednesday by MoH, MINARS and WHO. The delegation, led by the Vice Minister of Health, Dr José Van Dunem, was composed by the Vice Minister of MINARS, the Vice Governor of Bengo Province, the WHO Representative, the UNICEF Representative and various delegates from implementing partners.

The visit was carried out to evaluate health assistance to the IDPs proceeding from Nambuangongo Municipality, that was given after the WHO Representative assessed the situation as alarming on 5 December 2001.

Since that visit, partnership and health assistance to IDPs has been substantially improved in the areas of health and nutrition services (MoH, WHO, ECHO/EU, HCR, UNICEF and COSV), Sanitation (WHO, GOAL, Swiss Cooperation), First Needs Kits (LWF, ECHO, HCR, UNICEF and MINARS); Water supply (DNA, Swiss Cooperation, InterSOS, UNICEF), Food distribution (WFP and German Agro Action). Other entities, that also have supported the actions, are the Provincial Government, MINARS, OCHA among others.

According to the Vice Minister of Health 'Partners have shown a great cohesion and this has led to substantial achievements'. 'Now - he stated - after the cease fire signed between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA military forces, conditions for return to Nambuangongo need to be created and good practices learnt while in the camp should be replicated and strengthened once back home'.

The WHO Representative, Dr Balladelli, pointed out: 'I am learning with satisfaction of the big improvement of health services, sanitation and water supply in the camp'. 'This results - he stressed - was achieved because of the strong coordination achieved in the health practices between the Government and the international partners: vaccinations against polio, measles and tetanus; malaria control; STD and HIV actions; fight to infection diseases; motherhood protection, sanitation are only some good example of how all partners involved have been able to work together in the camp for the well being of its population'.

In the camp, along with the local health technicians, a medical doctor and a laboratory technician supported by WHO, are currently working on a permanent basis. A small but very operational laboratory set is operational in the camp. A well equipped pharmacy is providing all essential drugs on a regular basis and without charges. Besides the vaccination to all children under five against polio, measles, tetanus and BCG, other 4,488 children with more than 5 years were vaccinated against measles; 5 laboratory technicians, 15 health technicians; and 15 traditional midwives have been trained in the first 4 months of 2002." (WHO, 10 April 2002)

With UNHCR's IDP programme in Angola under threat, assessment team recommends continuation until at least the end of 2003 (May 2002)

- Since 2000, UNHCR's IDP programme in Angola has been aimed at addressing the immediate protection and assistance needs of IDPs in 3 provinces, and following up the emergency response with protection and assistance activities aimed at building local coping mechanisms
- Building upon previous evaluative studies, and considering various criteria to justify a UNHCR programme continuation, the EPAU/ DIP review recommended that the UNHCR Angola IDP operation be continued through at least 2003

"1. Although, with some 3.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), Angola has one of the largest IDP populations in the world, UNHCR's operations with IDPs there are relatively recent. Previous operations in Angola had focused on refugees and on preparations for an anticipated repatriation. In 2000, emanating from publicity regarding UNHCR and Angolan IDPs and pursuant to requests from both the government and the Security Council, UNHCR embarked on a geographically limited and time-bounded intervention on behalf of IDPs in Angola. The original goals of that operation were to:

- address immediate and acute protection and assistance needs of the IDP population in the provinces of Uige, Zaire and Luanda; and,
- follow the emergency response with carefully designed protection and assistance activities to promote some degree of self-reliance among the beneficiary population. The purpose was to build local coping mechanisms so that the communities would not slip back into a crisis situation when UNHCR phases out.

2. These activities have been implemented in the context of a tight inter-agency structure.

Mission objectives

3. With the deadline for UNHCR's continued involvement with internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Angola fast approaching (31 December 2001), the Regional Directorate for Southern Africa requested that a joint Department of International Protection (DIP) and Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit (EPAU) team review the operation. The review was intended to assess the effectiveness of the programme to date, examine the consequences of an eventual UNHCR withdrawal or, if pertinent, explore the parameters of any possible future UNHCR involvement with IDPs in Angola. More specifically, the review was tasked with making a recommendation on one of the following possible actions for 2002:

- terminate the IDP programme as planned on 31 December 2001;
- extend the present programme until end March 2002 using available carryover funding;
- establish a new IDP programme for 2002 focused on protection of IDPs using the carryover from the 2001 programme and appealing for new funding during 2002.

4. The review was undertaken by Guillermo Bettocchi, Special Advisor, DIP, and Arafat Jamal, Operational Policy Officer, EPAU. In addition to ensuring that both protection and evaluation perspectives were incorporated, both mission members had undertaken previous missions to Angola, and were well acquainted with the programme. The mission travelled to the region and met with UNHCR, UN, government and NGO staff, donors and IDPs, in Luanda, Uige and Mbanza Kongo, and debriefed the Regional Directorate in Pretoria (31 October – 12 November 2001).

5. UNHCR's involvement with IDPs in Angola has been the subject of a number of evaluative studies, and the present review builds upon them. A UNHCR rapid appraisal undertaken in early 2000 recommended that 'UNHCR intervene immediately to assist IDPs and refugee returnees in the Zaire, Uige and Luanda provinces.' In June 2000, a DIP mission recommended, *inter alia*, that UNHCR develop concrete protection activities, ensure that international protection standards are adhered to, establish a systematic protection reporting system and identify areas where policy guidance and training might be needed.

6. In November 2000, a real-time assessment recommended that the IDP programme continue until end 2001, and that UNHCR bolster its protection function and commit itself to guaranteeing a stable staffing situation and an adequate financial one. A mission of the senior IDP network in March 2001 recommended the UN agencies to support the establishment of the Provincial Committees for the Protection of IDPs, which had been included as part of the UN strategy at UNHCR's initiative.

7. The present report has been prepared with the intention to facilitate decision-making by senior management and the Operational Review Board (ORB). Earlier versions of the report were presented and discussed with the UNHCR offices in Luanda and Pretoria, and comments from these sessions were incorporated. The report was then presented to the High Commissioner and other senior managers at a meeting held in Geneva on 22 November 2001. It was also used to assist the ORB in its deliberations on the issue (14 December 2001).

Recommendation

Based on its findings and on the assessment of the current state of the UN programme with IDPs in Angola, the DIP/EPAU assessment team recommends that the UNHCR Angola IDP operation be continued at least through 2003.

8. The mission's decision to recommend a UNHCR programme continuation is based on the criteria for IDP involvement, the momentum that already exists, the impact of UNHCR activities to date, and the potential for the Angola experience to serve as a model for future IDP involvement." (UNHCR, EPAU/DIP, May 2002)

UN's humanitarian strategy based on pragmatism, constrained by logistics and funding (May 2002)

- Most agencies were already working at full capacity at the beginning of 2002
- 'Significant and rapid increase in funding' is required before further expansion of humanitarian programmes can take place
- Approximately 800,000 vulnerable people in newly accessible areas need emergency aid

"The aim of the UN's humanitarian strategy is to continue providing assistance in areas where programmes are already underway and to initiate life-saving operations for vulnerable populations in newly accessible locations as well as in family areas established under the 4 April Memorandum of Understanding. Operations will be extended in a pragmatic manner within current logistical and funding constraints. In addition, humanitarian partners are working in close collaboration with Government authorities to accelerate resettlement and return on the basis of minimum standards specified in Angolan law." (UN OCHA, 20 May 2002)

"The ability of humanitarian organisations to address the needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and newly accessible populations is strained. Most agencies were already operating at full capacity in January, particularly in areas receiving large influxes of IDPs, including Kuito, Camacupa, Caála and Luena. Although major efforts have been made since March to extend existing programmes, further expansion is dependent on a significant and rapid increase in funding. Only 30 percent of the amount requested in the 2002 Consolidated Inter-agency Appeal has been funded. In light of the enormous needs in the country, agencies are working closely together to identify the highest priorities until the end of the year.

New Areas: In a major effort to reach populations in critical distress in newly accessible areas, provincial and national teams composed of Government, UN Agencies and NGOs conducted rapid assessments in 28 locations in 12 provinces during April and May. The assessment confirmed that 800,000 people are living in these areas and that the most critical humanitarian conditions exist in areas where insecurity was

persistent and agricultural fields were destroyed during military operations, resulting in large-scale displacement and extreme vulnerability. Malnutrition rates among IDPs and residents have reached alarming levels in more than half of the assessed locations. Morbidity and mortality rates are also high in most locations, particularly where large numbers of IDPs are concentrated in locations without adequate access to water and basic sanitation." (UN OCHA, 18 June 2002)

"Humanitarian partners continue to respond to the life-saving emergency needs of highly vulnerable people while supporting the return of as many internally displaced persons (IDP) as possible before the next agricultural season. During the next six months, humanitarian activities will focus on:

meeting the emergency needs of 1.9 million vulnerable people, including newly arrived IDPs, in areas where there were operations prior to the 4 April 2002 Memorandum of Understanding;

meeting the emergency needs of approximately 800,000 vulnerable people in newly accessible areas;

meeting the emergency needs of approximately 250,000 people in family areas;

providing support for the first phase of resettlement, repatriation and return." (UN OCHA, 24 June 2002)

Inter-agency teams carry out assessments in newly accessible areas (April 2002)

- Following April 2002 ceasefire, joint teams proceed to carry out rapid assessments of critical needs in 36 areas in 13 provinces
- Most of these areas had been without humanitarian assistance for a long period of time
- UN estimates that up to 500,000 people in these locations may need some kind of emergency, life-saving assistance

"The United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator, Mr Erick de Mul, announced the launching on 18 April of a rapid assessment of critical needs. During the next three weeks, joint teams will assess conditions in 36 areas in 13 provinces. These areas have been inaccessible during the past several years to humanitarian agencies due to insecurity and logistical constraints. The aim of the assessment is to identify the most acute humanitarian needs of at-risk populations and the concrete actions that are urgently required to stabilise vulnerable populations.

The 36 areas were chosen on the basis of information received from local administrations, churches and humanitarian agencies. According to Mr de Mul, 'Most of these areas have been without humanitarian assistance for a prolonged period of time. We estimate that as many as 500,000 people in these locations may require some kind of emergency, life-saving assistance.'

The assessments will be coordinated under the leadership of the Inter-sectoral Commission for the Peace Process, with support from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Assessment teams will be composed of Government representatives, UN Agencies and NGO partners. The teams will assess critical needs in food security, health, nutrition, water, sanitation, shelter, non-food items and education in each location. A standardised assessment report and plan of integrated action will be drafted for each location. The integrated plans will identify the roles of the Government, UN Agencies and NGOs in each sector. A consolidated final report will help to prioritise emergency interventions and will serve as the basis for the mid-term review of the 2002 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola.

'The humanitarian situation in Angola remains critical. Once we have identified the most acute needs in the 36 locations, it will be crucial that the Government takes the lead in providing humanitarian assistance. UN

Agencies, donor and NGOs are willing and ready to support the Government's activities to assist vulnerable Angolans,' said Mr de Mul." (UN OCHA, 19 April 2002)

Selected activities of the Red Cross Movement (2002-2003)

ICRC assists and protects victims of Angolan conflict, including IDPs (2002)

- ICRC in Angola provides assistance to IDPs, among others, in the fields of protection (tracing), agriculture and food security, health and nutrition, mine action, water and sanitation, non-food items and shelter, and preventive action (dissemination)
- ICRC covers all 18 provinces of Angola, and some activities are carried out in close co-operation with the national Red Cross Society

"The Angola Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carries out a range of activities to assist and protect victims of armed conflict. Currently, the delegation employs 44 expatriate staff and 360 Angolan employees, working in the capital, Luanda, as well as in the sub-delegations in Huambo, Kuito, Lobito and offices in Lubango and Luena. All 18 provinces of Angola are covered by the ICRC, either through the sub-delegations or by field delegates travelling from Luanda on a regular basis. Some ICRC activities are carried out in close co-operation with the national Red Cross Society, the Cruz Vermelha de Angola (CVA).

The figures provided refer to the ICRC's activities in Angola in the months from January to October, 2002.

Protection

Following the signing of the ceasefire agreement between the parties to the conflict on April 4th, the Tracing Agency of the ICRC has seen a substantial increase in its activities. Thus, in the first ten months of this year, more than 30'500 Red Cross messages have been collected and more than 29'500 distributed in the different provinces of Angola, including in formerly inaccessible areas. In order to provide a better service in the face of this increase, 118 new Red Cross offices have been established throughout the country, and new ones are continuously being established.

More than 3'100 families have opened tracing requests asking the ICRC for assistance in finding out the whereabouts of their loved ones. At the same time, 960 unaccompanied minors have been registered by the ICRC. Assisted by new software and digital cameras, the delegates strive to localise their family members. Since the beginning of this year, it was possible to reunite 175 children with their families. All these activities are carried out in close collaboration with the national Red Cross Society (CVA).

In the framework of its programmes in favour of persons deprived of freedom, the ICRC has carried out 42 visits to 24 different locations since the beginning of the year.

Assistance to conflict victims - Agriculture and Food Security

The ICRC's Agriculture and Food Security programmes are concentrated in the provinces of Bié and Huambo. In Huambo, food distributions were made to 10'000 families on a regular basis in the camps for displaced persons (IDPs) of Caala and the now closed camp of Cruzeiro. In October, the caseload was increased to 17'400 families who received seeds, tools and food as seed protection. Furthermore, vegetable seed kits were distributed to 10'000 families in the province of Bié and to 42'000 families in the province of Huambo. Tree seedlings, providing for 500'000 trees, are distributed by the ICRC in these same provinces.

Health and Nutrition

The ICRC in Angola works in close collaboration with the Ministry of Health, providing assistance in government hospitals. In this way, the ICRC supports the Surgical and the Paediatric Wards of the Central

Hospital in Huambo, for a range of 15'000 beneficiaries each. Furthermore, in the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Uíge, the ICRC supports 12 Primary Health Care centres and promotes HIV/AIDS preventive action for a range of 300'000 beneficiaries, in collaboration with the national Red Cross Society (CVA) and the Ministry of Health.

Mine Action

The ICRC continues to support three Ministry of Health rehabilitation centres, located in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito, and provides support to a range of 3'000 disabled persons from 7 provinces. Since the beginning of the ICRC's orthopaedic programme in Angola, over 15'000 amputees have been fitted with prostheses. From January to October 2002, over 1'400 mine victims have received prostheses in these rehabilitation centres. The development of ICRC technology contributes to an annual production of over 2'000 lower limb prostheses. The assistance provided covers technical and financial support to these 3 orthopaedic centres, including the manufacture and fitting of prostheses, as well as the manufacture and distribution of wheelchairs and crutches. All these services, including physiotherapy, transport and accommodation, are provided free of charge.

Water and Sanitation

Well and spring protection is carried out by the ICRC in Kuito (Bié Province) for a range of 12'000 beneficiaries, and emergency sanitation programmes are provided to 28'000 persons. In collaboration with the national Red Cross Society (CVA), soap is distributed to 280'000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kuito and Huambo. In the Central Hospital in Huambo, the ICRC has supported the maintenance of the water and sewage system.

Non-food Items and Shelter

20'000 families of internally displaced persons (IDPs), mainly in Huambo and Bié provinces, were given non-food items, in collaboration with the national Red Cross Society (Bié).

Preventive Action - Dissemination

The ICRC actively promotes the dissemination of International Humanitarian Law and the principles of the Red Cross Movement to members of the armed forces, the police, traditional authorities and civilians, both through formal dissemination sessions (so far this year to over 6'100 arms carriers) and through more informal sessions and theatre presentations (to over 16'700 persons so far). Regular radio programmes in Luanda, Huambo and Kuito also contribute to the dissemination of these principles." (ICRC, 25 November 2002)

For an overview of ICRC in Angola, [click here](#)

Red Cross Federation launches appeal for Angola – but response is poor (2002-2003)

- IFRC launches appeal for US\$ 3.3 million in September 2002, aimed at supporting Angolan Red Cross to assist 100,000 people over 6 months
- Three months after the appeal was launched funding was still at a very low level, with the result that programme activities were 'severely hampered and delayed'

“The International Federation has launched an appeal to support the Angolan Red Cross (ARC) in the country's recovery efforts after 27 years of conflict. The appeal is for nearly US \$ 3.3 million to assist 100,000 people over the next six months. In total, nine provinces will benefit from the appeal. Most of the Angolan Red Cross health posts were destroyed during the civil war and will be rehabilitated. Training of volunteers, HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, restocking essential drugs and laboratory equipment as well as rehabilitation of clean water supply lines and sanitation, are all part of the appeal programme. It also includes distribution of agricultural tools and seeds, as well as food and non-food relief. ‘This emergency

appeal is targeting the most vulnerable, amongst them, internally displaced persons. But equally important is the support to the Angolan Red Cross - itself a victim of this long civil war,' says Jean Ayoub, Federation Director of Operations." (IFRC, 19 September 2002)

"Three months after the launch of Appeal 26/02 the total amount of cash contributions pledged stands at a very low level, meaning that implementation of any activities to be carried out by the Angola Red Cross Society as well as the related capacity building initiatives are being severely hampered and delayed. There is still an urgent need for one health delegate, one finance development delegate and one OD delegate. According to a recent UN statement, the humanitarian crisis in Angola remains one of the worst worldwide, with at least 4.35 million Angolans depending on some form of humanitarian assistance to cover their basic requirements and more than 2 million are highly vulnerable and completely dependent on aid to survive. It is therefore of paramount importance that the Angola Red Cross receives the necessary support to enable it to increase its participation in the current humanitarian response and, as important, in assisting the population in the future to address their different humanitarian requirements." (IFRC, 9 January 2003)

Selected activities of international NGOs (2002-2003)

Save the Children (US) helping to provide food, medicine, and reunifying families (2002)

- SC (US) assisting IDPs in Luanda, Moxico and Kwanza Sul provinces

"In Moxico Province, where much of the war was fought and fertile land is scarce, Save the Children is distributing approximately 4,000 metric tons of food donated by the United Nations World Food Program.

Save the Children is also distributing 2,000 metric tons of food in Kwanza Sul, the province with the largest number of internally displaced persons.

To combat severe health and nutrition problems, Save the Children has recently started an emergency measles vaccination and vitamin A treatment campaign in Kwanza Sul.

A Save the Children health program for mothers and children has begun in Luanda, Angola's capital, where approximately 40 percent of the population resides.

By supplying food, medicine and reunifying families, Save the Children hopes to help rebuild a country that has been torn apart by a three-decades-long war." (Save the Children, 28 August 2002)

CARE focusing on food aid, agricultural production and mine awareness (2002)

- CARE's activities are focused on the Kuito area of Bié province
- Activities include improving food security of IDPs and landmine action

"A ceasefire in April between the government and rebels has ended, for now, Angola's 25-year civil war, which has caused tremendous suffering for millions of people and has destroyed much of the country's infrastructure, productivity and environment. Only now, with the ceasefire in place, have CARE and other organizations been able to begin fully assessing the humanitarian crisis, which includes severe food shortages; veteran CARE staffers say conditions here are among the worst they've ever seen. Approximately 1.5 million Angolans need immediate food assistance. Efforts to help them are proceeding,

but slowly, owing in large part to bad roads, a profusion of landmines and a large, mobile population in need.

CARE's Response

We've focused much of our efforts in the Kuito area of Bié province, where we're improving food security for internally displaced persons (IDPs) through emergency food relief and a longer-term agriculture project. CARE is working with several partners, including the World Food Programme, to distribute monthly food rations to more than 113,000 displaced persons in camps around the city. The ration includes maize, beans, vegetable oil and iodized salt. We're working closely with the community leadership to maintain effective and timely distributions.

We're also promoting increased agricultural production through a project that reaches approximately 15,000 displaced families in the camps. During the past two years, CARE staff have been working with these families to help them farm land in the area. These families arrived with very few personal belongings. They were given basic household items as well as seeds and tools to grow crops to supplement emergency food distributions. CARE has overseen the distribution of seeds that include maize, beans, tomatoes, cabbage, onion, groundnuts, sesame and soy. We've also worked closely with government officials to find land for farming that is fertile, close to the city and free of landmines." (CARE, 18 September 2002)

"This project aims to integrate landmine removal and mines awareness programme in Angola's Central Planalto region. The project, which builds on the success of an earlier landmines awareness, training and clearance programme, operates from Kuito in Bie Province.

The landmines programme is closely integrated with CARE International's relief and rehabilitation programmes in health, water and agriculture and covers a range of activities including clearance and mapping, mines awareness and the training of local staff to deal with the danger of mines and unexploded ordnance. Greenfield Consultants, the British firm hired by CARE International as consultants to the project, introduce and test promising new mechanical systems which can clear vast areas of explosives in a fraction of the time this work previously took.

The programmes beneficiaries include the local community and internally displaced people who, because of the recent conflict, are being helped to resettle in the region." (CARE, 30 September 2002)

Handicap International runs mines awareness project in eight provinces of Angola (2002)

- Handicap International runs mine education and awareness programmes in eight provinces of Angola
- Intervention is both indirect, through institutional support, and direct community-based assistance

"I - CONTEXTE

L'Angola est l'un des pays les plus minés au monde, avec une estimation de 6 à 7 millions de mines dispersées sur le territoire. Sur 12,7 millions d'habitants, le nombre de personnes déplacées en raison de la guerre est estimé à presque 4 millions. La majeure partie du territoire est inaccessible par la route, et les trois quarts de l'aide humanitaire doivent être acheminés par voie aérienne. Le nombre de personnes mutilées, victimes directes de mines terrestres, est évalué entre 70 000 et 90 000. 70 % des victimes sont des civils, et plus de la moitié d'entre elles sont comptées parmi les personnes déplacées. Le groupe d'âge le plus touché est celui des 19-35 ans. La situation politico-militaire est fragile et a même empiré depuis la reprise des hostilités, en décembre 1998.

II - HISTORIQUE

Après les accords de paix de Lusaka (1994), a été mis en place l'Institut national angolais, chargé de la coordination des programmes de déminage et de sensibilisation aux dangers des mines: l'Inaroe. Handicap International lui apporte son appui depuis 1995. D'abord nationale, cette assistance technique s'est recentrée en 1998 sur quatre provinces du centre du pays: Bié, Benguela, Huambo et Kuanza-Sul. En 2000, le partenariat avec l'Inaroe s'est étendu à deux nouvelles provinces: Kunene et Kuanza-Norte. Parallèlement, Handicap International a initié des programmes d'éducation à la prévention des accidents par mines et engins non explosés (Pepam), dans les provinces de Bengo et de Kuando Kubango. Depuis 1999, nous intervenons également à Luanda (4 millions d'habitants). D'abord axés autour des infrastructures sanitaires et éducatives dans des quartiers à forte proportion de populations réfugiées (déplacés de guerre), nous concentrons nos efforts, depuis 2001, sur l'insertion socioéconomique des personnes handicapées. Cela se concrétise par l'appui à un centre de formation professionnelle (CFP) pour jeunes adultes handicapés à Luanda.

III - STRATÉGIE

L'Angola représente un enjeu majeur pour Handicap International. La sensibilisation aux dangers des mines est un axe fort de sa stratégie: présence dans huit provinces et engagement à deux niveaux, institutionnel (appui à l'Inaroe dans six provinces) et direct (actions au niveau des communautés dans deux provinces). Nous avons également souhaité travailler avec les populations vulnérables de Luanda: microprojets, infrastructures sanitaires et scolaires, insertion socioéconomique des personnes handicapées (le volet Orthopédie étant assuré par la section belge de Handicap International).

IV - DESCRIPTION DES ACTIONS

Actions de sensibilisation/éducation pour apprendre aux populations à gérer le risque des accidents par mines et autres engins explosifs.

Appui institutionnel à l'Inaroe.

Soutien aux populations vulnérables de Luanda.

Poursuite de l'appui au CFP (Centre de formation professionnelle) Sao Paulo, en l'intégrant dans un programme plus global d'insertion socioéconomique des personnes handicapées." (Handicap International, 15 October 2002)

Medair aiming to address emergency and rehabilitation needs of returned IDPs and refugees in Moxico province (2002)

- Medair activities include seed, tool and food distributions, as well as various food for work projects in southern Moxico

"Medair is providing emergency assistance to the remote, and largely forgotten, communities of Lumbala N'guimbo and Cangamba in the southern region of the Moxico province, Angola. Medair participated in the UN's rapid assessment of critical needs in these two areas in late July and immediately prepared for seed, tool, household kits, and food distributions to these communities suffering from years of neglect and hardship during the long war.

Battles between the Armed Forces of Angola and the UNITA rebels were fought in both areas, completely destroying the municipalities. When the FAA gained control, IDPS began to settle in the areas controlled by the government forces. The towns now consist of traditional grass huts built among the ruins of the destroyed townships. With peace, more people are returning from Zambian refugee camps and from the bush in hopes of restarting their lives.

As the only NGO operating in these areas, Medair is working to develop projects and programs to address the emergency and rehabilitation needs of each municipality. The people in these areas have very little to start over with. Whether coming from the bush or from Zambia, most were forced to sell any remaining

possessions for food as they walked to Southern Mexico. Those who settled here last year were unable to participate in the agriculture campaign due to lack of seeds and tools, and without assistance from Medair, would be unable to participate again this year.

As the seed, tool, and food distributions continue, Medair has initiated several Food for Work programs to rehabilitate community facilities in Lumbala N'guimbo. The school, clinic, and several potable water projects are underway in partnership with the World Food Program. Medair will provide medical training, medicine, and equipment to the clinics in both locations to help restore the health systems. Another food for work program, the rehabilitation of buildings to provide a transit center, will soon be underway to create a shelter for spontaneous returnees traveling through Lumbala N'guimbo during the rainy season. In the spring, in partnership with UNHCR, the transit center may be expanded to accommodate 1000 people at a time during the formal repatriation program expected to begin in early 2003.

Additionally, the team is attempting to access other communities in the southern region of Mexico to assess the critical needs of these remote villages and provide assistance in the near future. The war damaged roads and bridges make road access difficult and extreme caution must be taken to avoid mined or suspected mined areas." (Medair, 4 November 2002)

MSF maintains 44 feeding centres in 11 of Angola's 18 provinces (July 2002)

- In July 2002, MSF said it expected Angola's severe malnutrition crisis to last for another six months to a year - Africa's worst malnutrition crisis in the past decade
- MSF is running 44 feeding centres in 11 of Angola's 18 provinces, feeding over 14,000 people at any one time
- Estimates are that up to 500,000 people throughout Angola are in varying states of malnutrition

"With the severe malnutrition crisis in Angola expected to be the situation for the next six months to a year, MSF has shipped over 280 tonnes of milk and food to the country. These supplies will allow MSF to maintain its feeding centres in Angola for another three months.

The last of the shipments arrived in Luanda, Angola on June 26 and shall be distributed to the various MSF operations throughout the country. Part of the nutritional supplies left from Antwerp harbour three weeks ago; shipments take about three weeks to reach Angola from Europe.

MSF is currently running 44 feeding centres across 11 of the 18 provinces of Angola, feeding over 14,000 people at any one time. Estimates are that some 500,000 people throughout Angola are in varying states of malnutrition.

The shipments include 92 tonnes of milk, 40 tonnes of plumpy nuts, 30 tonnes of high-protein biscuits and 120 tonnes of corn-soya blend. All supplies have been delivered to the main feeding centres in Luena, Kuito and Camacupa. From there the supplies will be distributed to the MSF feeding centers throughout the country.

MSF has over 190 expats and over 2,000 national staff members working at the emergency, which is considered the worst malnutrition crisis in Africa in the past decade. MSF is active in 11 of the country's 18 provinces." (MSF, 1 July 2002)

For more information on MSF in Angola, [click here](#)

Action by Churches Together members upscale humanitarian programmes for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in Angola (July 2002)

- New needs emerging after April 2002 ceasefire prompts ACT members, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Reformed Church of Angola (IERA) to revise their appeals
- LWF will, in addition to relief assistance, focus on on peace building programmes and assistance in the return of IDPs and refugees to their home areas
- IERA will continue to provide relief items and health facilities to IDPs in the camps and also provide assistance to the newly resettled populations

"The killing of the UNITA rebel leader, Jonathan Savimbi by government forces on 22 February 2002 brought to an end the 25-year brutal civil war that was responsible for the displacement of about 4 million people within the country and tens of thousands as refugees in the neighbouring countries. The end of the war further revealed the plight of hundreds of thousands of people that had been behind the UNITA military lines and could not be accessed by humanitarian organisations. The situation of these people was made worse by the government's scorched-earth policy in pursuit of the rebels - meaning that people were left with no food or personal belongings. These form part of the worst caseloads of people needing urgent humanitarian attention. The government working with the UN and non-governmental organisations has accessed some of the worst areas in trying to determine the numbers of people needing urgent humanitarian assistance. The number of people in critical need in these newly accessed areas has been found to be around 800,000. It should be mentioned though that some areas are still inaccessible due to the presence of land mines.

Among those in particular need are 250,000 family members of the rebel soldiers who came out of the bush and entered government quartering areas for demobilisation. The 420,000 people still in IDP camps also continue to need relief assistance.

The surfacing new needs has prompted ACT members the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Evangelical Reformed Church of Angola (IERA) to revise their proposals in the original AFAO-21 Appeal in accordance with the current needs. For the LWF this revised appeal will, in addition to relief assistance, also focus on peace building programs and assistance in facilitating the return of IDPs and refugees to their home areas. IERA will continue to provide relief items and health facilities to IDPs in the camps and also provide assistance to the newly resettled populations.

Project Completion Date:

LWF 31 December 2002

IERA 31 December 2002

Summary of Appeal Targets, Pledges/Contributions Received and Balance Requested

	ACT Evaluation	LWF Angola	IERA	EASDA	Total US\$	Target
Total Appeal Target(s)	50,000	1,664,001	1,038,832	1,433,604	4,186,437	
Less: Pledges/Contr. Recd	0	665,422	151,350	9,728	826,500	
Balance Requested from ACT Network	50,000	998,579	887,482	1,423,876	3,359,937	

[...]

The Lutheran World Federation/Department for World Services (LWF/DWS) involvement in Angola dates back to 1985 when it initiated an emergency relief program in the Moxico Province for displaced people

fleeing the civil war. The program focused on providing assistance to a destitute displaced population, returning refugees and other war affected people.

Since 2000 LWF has been the leading agency in a settlement program for the displaced people in the Moxico and Lunda Sul provinces with the view on one hand to stabilize their situation and on the other to enable them to become self sufficient in food. 15 settlements have been established for 80,000 people. They include a wide range of services from the basic in shelter, water and sanitation to construction of schools and health posts, food security, income generation, environmental protection, preventive health, promotion of mine awareness, human rights and peace building.

On 19 December 2001 an ACT appeal was launched to meet the humanitarian needs in Angola. It included the humanitarian work of both the Lutheran World Federation (LWF/DWS) and the Evangelical Reformed Church of Angola (IERA). The LWF/DWS budget was for 1,146,681 US\$. What is now presented is a revision of that same appeal, because since then the situation in the country has completely changed." (ACT, 26 July 2002)

CRS responds to increased needs of IDPs following the April 2002 ceasefire (May 2002)

- CRS in Angola is working in the areas of health and nutrition, institutional strengthening of local partners, and agricultural recovery
- In Angola since 1989, CRS has five offices in the country

"Activities and accomplishments include:

Emergency Nutrition

In Benguela Province, the Emergency Nutrition Program, which is funded by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance, has provided life-saving nutritional assistance to over 60,000 malnourished children. The goal of the program is to reduce mortality and morbidity among war-affected children by providing quality nutritional treatment and services, as well as adequate preventive feeding and regular nutritional surveillance. In April, the program was expanded to fully integrate curative and preventive feeding with surveillance and preventive education activities for another 12 months.

CRS has partnered with the National Nutrition Program and UNICEF to conduct training for nutrition center workers from five provinces.

CRS' Emergency Nutrition and Child Survival Programs have conducted a project to improve preventive education and to learn the root causes of malnutrition.

CRS in partnership with the UN World Food Program has assisted 3,030 IDP families (9,576 persons) in Ganda. Security permitting, CRS will help resettle these war-affected populations this year.

Improving Children's Health

The Child Survival Project reaches 8,217 children under the age of five in the communities of Cubal and Balombo. CRS trains community health activists who teach mothers about the most common health issues affecting children in the region. CRS Child Survival staff visit the families and the activists to monitor program activities, and Health Days are conducted bi-monthly to address health issues through role-plays, songs and poetry. These essential health education efforts will be expanded as previously inaccessible areas are secured.

Polio Eradication Campaign

As part of a coalition of five U.S.-based PVOs (private and voluntary organizations), supporting the Angola polio eradication effort, the CRS Polio team works with other local partners to build capacity of the provincial and municipal Ministry of Health authorities. CRS participates in National Immunization Days, trains community volunteers for Acute Flaccid Paralysis surveillance, and supports routine immunization activities by providing both material and human resources to the national effort of eradicating polio. In the first quarter of 2002, CRS trained 768 surveillance volunteers. Polio campaigns will be stepped up to include people in areas isolated by the war.

Building Farmers' Capacity. With 20,000 beneficiaries, the Agricultural Recovery Program provides important assistance to farmer associations (FAs) in the province of Benguela. Despite the massive disruptions caused by the war, farmers are eager to enhance their knowledge and learn new techniques that will help them regain or maintain their ability to grow food in this harsh environment.

Working with local FAs, project staff are teaching farmers how to cultivate, select and conserve maize, beans, groundnuts and sorghum seeds.

The Agricultural Team introduced a new building technique for grain storage using local materials, and 43 of these structures are scheduled for completion in 2002. They are used by FAs to store the seeds that are distributed to their members.

The program is also promoting vegetable production and provides technical and material assistance for the rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation systems. Seven systems have been refurbished, providing improved water management capacities to over 800 farmers.

CRS is also collaborating with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to address the agricultural crisis created by the war by distributing seeds and tools to 6,000 IDP families. Plans are underway to include demobilized soldiers and their families in the next emergency distribution of agricultural supplies.

[...]

Background

Over the past few years, the violence and fighting in Angola have steadily increased, causing major population movements. Humanitarian assistance remains difficult due to limited road access and attacks that target civilian vehicles, putting both drivers and supplies at risk. Despite the challenges, CRS/Angola remains dedicated to helping the most vulnerable.

CRS began working in Angola in 1989 when it provided food assistance to war and drought-affected people. In early 1992, a semblance of peace returned to the country and the agency began to focus on rehabilitation and development activities. When war broke out again later that same year, CRS/Angola reverted to providing emergency relief.

CRS/Angola's work has since shifted towards rehabilitation and development in hopes of encouraging long-term solutions to Angola's key social and economic problems. CRS currently works in the areas of health care and nutrition, institutional strengthening of local partners, and agricultural recovery. The agency has five offices in Angola." (CRS, 22 May 2002)

Action Against Hunger running five new programmes to assist IDPs (February 2002)

- AAH has seven bases, two logistic bases and five new programmes to assist IDPs in Angola
- Programmes include nutritional and health assistance, as well as development activities with food security and water activities
- AAH is the only international organization present in some locations

"Action Against Hunger has been present in Angola since 1993. Specifically, AAH has seven bases, two logistic bases and five new programs to assist the many displaced victims in the civil war-torn country.

Caconda base, situated in the center of Plano Alto region (Huila Province) is one of the emergencies of the year 2001. In the last month alone, 5,000 displaced victims arrived and the global malnutrition rates are over 21%. Two programs give nutritional and health assistance to the population (resident and the displaced). Action Against Hunger is the only international organization present in this area. Due to security reasons we had to evacuate the base two weeks ago, but the team is back from a two week forced absence.

Ganda base, situated also in the Plano Alto region (Benguela Province) has been our emergency base since 1999. Today the nutritional situation is under control with one Therapeutic Feeding Center and three Supplementary Feeding Centers. AAH also supports the hospital with a capacity building and health program. We are the only international organization in the region with three expatriate fieldworkers who stay in Ganda Town due to the instable security situation.

Matala Base has a development program with food security and water activities. A team of three expatriates just arrived. The program started in January. In the next months the humanitarian situation could be worse due to the arrival of thousands displaced in the last months.

Cuito Cunavale Base, known as "the end of the world", has a nutritional and health program in a very difficult and lonely place. It will probably be one of the major emergencies for the next year due to the military operation in the east of Cuando Cubango Province. There is one expatriate fieldworker there today, maybe two next month.

Lubango and Menongue bases: Logistical bases to support the operation in Cuito Cunavale, Caconda and Matala.

Luanda, Capital Base has a coordination team residence and a nutritional program. Next year we hope to have a very strong Nutritional and Capacity Building program." (AAH22 February 2002)

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 regulamento 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]

<p>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.</p>
<p>Date: November 2001</p>
<p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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]

<p>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.</p>
<p>Sources: Angolan government, national and international NGOs, UN agencies</p>
<p>Date: 29-31 August 2000</p>
<p>Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report of the Workshop on the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, NRC, 29-31 August 2000 [Internal link]

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

LIST OF SOURCES USED

(alphabetical order)

Action Against Hunger - USA (AAH-USA), 22 February 2002, Angola mission update 22 Feb 2002

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