

**INTER-AGENCY STANDING COMMITTEE WORKING GROUP
14 JUNE 1994**

**SITUATION IN ANGOLA
INFORMAL NOTE FOR THE IASC-WG**

When specific countries were first chosen for discussion at the 14 June IASC-WG meeting the focus in Angola was on the expansion of humanitarian assistance activities, to include demining, demobilisation and reintegration and resource mobilisation required to do so. Inter-Agency discussion in-country. Facilitated by the UN Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (DHA-UCAH), has since resulted in a consensus on these issues. Since these issues, which were to have been discussed by the IASC-WG, have now been resolved. This note is international in nature.

The recent resurgence of military activities throughout Angola has affected emergency humanitarian programmes in four major locations - Malanje, Kuito, Uige and Huambo, and is jeopardising overall progress made to date in stabilising the situation. UN-WFP cargo flights have been suspended to these areas since 27 May and food stocks and other vital relief supplies are now either depleted or low. The UN evacuated nine expatriate relief staff (1 WFP, 6 MSF, 1 OXFAM and 1 ICRC) from Kuito on 4 June due to the continuous intense shelling, and although most emergency programmes in Malanje and Huambo are continuing, the number of humanitarian staff in these cities has been reduced.

Relief flights have continued as scheduled to all other destinations but food aid deliveries by air have dropped by one third due to the suspension of flights to the above-mentioned areas. Only 934 tons compared with a weekly average of 2,700 tons was able to be delivered last week. Deliveries of relief supplies by road continues to be difficult and security clearances for the Luanda-Dondo and the Lobito-Cubal corridors are sporadic.

Thus, although both UN and NGO emergency humanitarian programmes, which have expanded steadily over the last six months and extended coverage to many destinations in all provinces, are still ongoing in accessible areas, the issues of security and access area now once again major concerns. Should military activity continue to affect relief flights to certain areas or to intensify and suspend relief deliveries to other locations, the dramatic improvement in the general condition of the affected population achieved over the last six months can easily and rapidly be reversed.

Meanwhile the Lusaka peace talks continue, and despite considerable progress made, the major issues of national reconciliation and participation of UNITA officials in the Government structure still need to be resolved and there is no expected early deadline for the signing of a peace agreement. However, it is foreseen that there will be no need for an Inter-Agency Mission to be fielded before 15 July, even if an agreement is reached by the end of June.

Nonetheless, in order to be ready for the continuation of the emergency humanitarian programme and the setting up of mine action, demobilisation and social reintegration programmes once a peace agreement is signed, preparations to determine suitable strategies to handle these issues have been ongoing in Luanda since March. In relation to this, in mid-May, the UCAH Director presented two possible scenarios for the future of the Humanitarian Coordination Unit to the Heads of UN agencies in Angola:

- [1] that UCAH continues to deal only with the ongoing emergency humanitarian assistance programmes targeting the war and drought affected Angolan as per the 1994 UN Revised Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Angola and that a special DHA Department be created within UNAVEM III to address the demining, demobilisation and social reintegration programmes.
- [2] that UCAH is expanded to incorporate the new needs resulting from the peace agreement in order to ensure a coordinate common approach and to bridge the emergency programme and assistance to the demobilisation soldiers. UCAH would in this case have an executive role regarding the mine action, demobilisation and the initial phase of the reintegration programmes.

All agencies present at this meeting - UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and WHO as well as the World Bank agreed unanimously to the second scenario. It was agreed that the staff and material and equipment required by UCAH to this role must be included in the assigned budget of UNAVEM III as DHA did not have its own separate financial and supply management system.

A mines expert, funded by UNDP, is already attached to UCAH on a three month consultancy to lay the groundwork for a coordinated UN-NGO approach towards a mines survey, mines awareness and an eventual mines clearing programme.

Three specialist consultants (social reintegration, water and health), funded by the US, are also already working with UCAH to develop strategies relating to the demobilisation and social reintegration of the demobilised soldiers and their families.

Donor response to the 1994 Revised Appeal has now reached 41 per cent of the USD176 million target but considerable shortfalls are still noted in the non-food sector, especially for UNICEF programmes. Relief and survival items as well as emergency medical supplies are in very short supply. UCAH convened a special donors meeting in May to draw donor attention to the urgent needs of the non-food sector. No contributions have yet been forthcoming for FAO, WFP and UNV. Closer coordination and exchange of information is needed between agency headquarters and the field regarding potential the follow-up of funding proposals and contacts being made with donors.