

INFORMAL NOTE ON SITUATION IN ANGOLA
13TH IASC WORKING GROUP MEETING
27 JULY 1994

I CURRENT SITUATION

Over the last month, there have been some significant developments which have alleviated, to some extent, the overall grim pattern of stop-and-go humanitarian assistance to priority areas. For example, UN and NGO relief staff were successfully evacuated from Malanje on 29 June, UN-WFP cargo flights resumed to the safe areas of Dundo, Luena and Saurimo on 30 June and to Menongue on 2 July, the ICRC evacuated its remaining expatriate delegates from Kuito on 10 July and several truck convoys have managed to reach Dondo, Kwanza Norte without any security incidents. Furthermore, on 10 July, UNITA gave the green light for flights to all areas except Kuito. The Government in turn, was unable to give clearance for Huambo for the whole week for security reasons.

On 13 July, it seemed that the overall relief operation was back on track with the UN cargo flights once again flying to Malanje and Huambo as well as to all other locations scheduled on the flight plan except for Kuito. However, two security incidents affecting ICRC and WFP relief planes in Benguela and Malanje provinces respectively, both on 14 July, have once again suspended relief flights to Kuito, Malanje, Ganda and Huambo. These latest incidents underline the limited value of the security clearances and the generally insecure environment which is hindering the progression of relief work in critical areas of the country.

For the period 18 to 24 July, UNITA has cleared all flight plans with the exception of Kuito. The Government has cleared it for all areas. A UN Delegation, composed of UCAH, WFP, UNICEF and UNDP, is planning to go to Huambo at the earliest, together with NGO representatives, to discuss with UNITA salient issues relating to the resumption of humanitarian assistance in Huambo.

In summary, the focus of the emergency programme remains on regaining access to all previously accessible locations - especially Kuito and Malanje, re-establishing relations

with UNITA to allow UN and NGO relief workers to work in UNITA-controlled areas unrestricted and to extend assistance to other locations which have not yet been reached.

Despite the suspensions and reduced level of humanitarian assistance in the country (only 1,500 tons of food and relief items delivered by WFP last week), WFP, UNICEF and international and Angolan NGOs are continuing to provide emergency assistance to war affected, drought affected and displaced persons in the southern provinces of Huila, Cunene and Namibe, in parts of Kwanza Sul, and in the provinces of Bengo, Benguela, Cabinda and Luanda. UNCHR's assistance to returnees and refugees, together with implementing NGOs in the northern provinces of Zaire and Uige is also continuing on a much reduced scale, mostly through local staff.

II PERSPECTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Inter-Agency Mission

In light of the present circumstances, an Inter-Agency Mission to define agency programmes in Angola is now expected to be fielded only after the initialling of a peace agreement. However, in consideration of the on-going emergency programme and the expected large-scale need for emergency assistance well into 1995 and the fact that the 1994 UN Revised Consolidated Appeal is due to terminate at the end of July 1994, it is proposed that an extension of the current appeal be prepared at the local level to cover expected food and non-food requirements until the end of the year. Although nearly 50% of the revised appeal is funded, many projects remain unfunded, particularly in the non-food sector. Projects that still need funding will be highlighted in the extension and additional projects concerned with other areas of humanitarian assistance that can be addressed before a Peace Agreement will be introduced. For example, projects involving preparatory studies required to prepare the needs and priorities on mine-related activities which can commence prior to the signing of a Peace Agreement.

Demobilization and Reintegration

Based on an initial study completed in May 1994, a four-staff team have worked since then to establish a Demobilization and Reintegration Unit attached to UCAH, to produce a strategy paper on the issue and to elaborate a preliminary plan for the installation of the

Quartering Areas. A UNDP consultant has also now completed a detailed model of the proposed Angolan Institute for Reintegration.

Until the exact number of soldiers to be demobilized is determined and the Quartering Areas are agreed upon, it will not be possible to define the detailed plans. Meanwhile, a number of studies can and should be completed to help with the social promotion process to be initiated in the Quartering Areas. The focus of such studies should include areas such as credit schemes, rural economic schemes, diagnosis of the labour force and labour market, programmes for the rehabilitation of vulnerable groups, diagnosis of social infrastructures and needs for the rehabilitation of vulnerable groups, diagnosis of social infrastructure and needs and expectations. Each of these studies, if completed before the soldiers enter the Quartering Areas, will help with their preparation for reintegration into civilian society and will condition the development of reintegration strategies. The appeal extension will include specific project proposals which can be funded by the donor community.

Mine Action Strategy

A strategy paper on Mine Action drafted by the consultant hired to create the Central Mine Action Office has been agreed in principle by the Head of UN Agencies in Luanda, and is currently being finalized before distribution to donors. Meanwhile, a sub-committee (UN agencies, the ICRC and NGOs) is working on preparation for the launch of Mine Awareness campaign. Initial funding for this has been made available by UNICEF, UNHCR and the Mine Advisory Group (MAG). Three NGOs, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), Halo Trust and MAG have prepared and submitted for funding programmes related to Mine Survey, Mine Awareness and Mine Clearance. A training component for each sector is also included in their respective plan. SwedeRelief has also expressed interest in funding priority road repair and mine clearance activities along the Luanda-N'Dalatando-Malange corridor. The UCAH project on Mine Action (ANG-94-1/N74) of the Revised Appeal has been partly funded and candidates for the Programme Manager and Survey Officer posts have been recruited as well as basic material and equipment requested to establish the operations room.

Humanitarian Assistance

During the last two months, the humanitarian assistance programme has seriously been hampered by the deterioration of the security situation in the country.

Since the launch of the Revised Appeal in February 1994, practically none among the 3.3 million affected people has been able to reach a level of self-sufficiency because of a

poor harvest in most parts of the country, reduced access to cultivable land for a large part of the displaced population, the politicization of the humanitarian assistance by both parties and the weak response of donors on key needs such as the non-food sector.

In the same period, about 500,000 new beneficiaries have been identified in different parts of the country. New areas, such as the western part of Benguela province, part of Kwanza Norte and part of Moxico province have become accessible revealing a dramatic situation among the local as well as displaced population. In Huambo province alone the estimated number of beneficiaries has increased from 400,000 to an estimated 750,000 people.

In February, it was assumed that the country-side under UNITA control was self-sufficient in food production. While this remains true for areas such as Uige, part of Malange, Moxico, Lunda Sul, Zaire and Bie provinces, many other areas, such as the country-side of Huambo province, part of Bie province (where recent population movement is reported from rural areas into Kuito town) and the northern part of Huila and Bengo provinces, show that the recent harvest was seriously below the level of production which could assure sufficient food stocks for the local population needs. These areas are also severely lacking in health services and survival items such as blankets, kitchen utensils, soap and salt.

Extensive delays in resuming the food delivery is likely to jeopardize other programmes such as the seeds and tools programme and the distribution of non-food elements such as essential drugs, vaccines and survival items. The poor sanitation conditions in the country-side is resulting in the resurgence of epidemics such as trypanosomiasis, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera and meningitis (in the southern part of the country).

The next months, corresponding to the main agricultural campaign, will present a tremendous workload on the logistics of the humanitarian assistance programmes, especially if a Peace Agreement is reached before the end of August. Road repair and priority mine clearance will not be immediate thus leaving a large proportion of humanitarian deliveries under the airlift operations.

UNHCR Repatriation Programme : UNHCR has completed a study of the situation of the refugees in Zaire and Zambia and have developed a programme scenario based on the assumption that 150,000 out of 250,000 (146,000 in Zaire and 104,400 in Zambia) refugees will return to Angola once a Peace Agreement is reached and minimum security conditions created. A detailed plan of the envisaged registration, preparation of reception centres, design of basic kits of assistance, transport scheme and reintegration package has been conceived. Major concerns include the mine pollution situation in Moxico, the

delay in the signature of a Peace Agreement and the potential hesitancy of the refugees to return to Angola for security reasons. The estimated cost of the total repatriation programme is between US\$ 15 to 20 million. UNHCR still needs to establish contacts with other UN agencies and the NGOs active in the northern part of the country to define basis of collaboration and to harmonize activities to avoid duplication in targeting the categories of affected population.

Other Issues

Secondment : Under the proposed expansion of UCAH, a number of new positions may well be seconded by UN agencies or specialized organizations such as UNICEF, WFP, WHO, IOM and ILO. All positions are for an initial period of one year. It would be appropriate that specialized staff required for the demobilization sector be seconded by UN agencies in accordance with their respective mandate, i.e. UNICEF or WHO could provide the Programme Officer Health, UNICEF could provide the Programme Officer Sanitary Infrastructure, WFP the Food Programme Officer, IOM the Demobilization Coordinator, the Programme Officer for Logistics and Transfer of the Demobilized. UN agencies including UNDP might consider the secondment of one of the following positions which are part of the Reintegration Sector : Programme Officers for socio-economic programmes, social infrastructures and rural and social development. Currently, these positions are part of the proposal submitted to the Secretariat General for funding through the Assessed Budget of UNAVEM III.

NGO Relations : Respecting the independence and specialized areas of work of the NGOs, UCAH continues to make itself available and to respond to need, expressed by NGOs for a coordinated approach to the overall humanitarian assistance programme. An information sharing session is being developed at UCAH as a way of working in a coordinated manner on issues such as NGO participation in Affected Population Survey, Security, Programme Coordination by issues and/or by province, Rapid Needs Assessment methodology and coordination, monitoring and needs re-assessment in areas already assisted, Mine Action, Demobilization and Reintegration programmes, Food distribution monitoring, Seeds and tools programmes and Household Food Security.

Donor Coordination : In view of the expected increased flow of information required by donors on agency needs, on the introduction of new projects on Mine Action, Demobilization and Reintegration as well as the revised humanitarian assistance programmes, new and increased funding will be required, especially when the Peace Agreement is reached. It is thus proposed that a full time Donor Liaison Officer is employed at UCAH to improve contacts with donors, interest them in programme funding and conduct field visits.

Non-Food Sector : Projects in the nutrition, water/sanitation, health, shelter, relief and survival and education sectors have been very poorly funded by donors, thereby seriously affecting the minimum recovery capacity of the affected population who have received food aid, especially at this time of the year. Methods of alerting the donor community to respond to the non-food needs must urgently be considered.

Administration : Despite a slight improvement since May 1994, the slow and weak administrative services available to UCAH - hiring of staff, communication system, transport facilities, office equipment and space are hindering the work of UCAH staff and hence support to UN agencies and NGOs. As long as DHA does not have its own defined administrative capacity to deal with emergencies, little improvements can be made in the heavy administrative system under which DHA and UCAH operate.

III POINTS OF ACTION

- 1. Endorsement by the IASC-WG of a locally prepared Appeal extension following termination of the current Appeal in July 1994.**
- 2. Commitment by the IASC-WG to fully explore the possibility of seconding officials to UCAH in order to meet the needs of an expanded UCAH.**