

Alert

Angola

Severe Drought Response in Southern Angola

Geneva, 4 October 2016

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

The El Nino climatic event has caused the worst drought in 35 years in Southern Africa. The region normally receives rain between October and April, but the 2015- 2016 season rain did not fall until late February (UNOCHA May, 2016). This crippled rain-fed agricultural production which accounts for the livelihoods of most Southern Africans. The subsequent April 2016 harvest proved meagre, with a regional maize production shortfall of 9.3 million tons. This was the second consecutive poor rainfall season in the region deepening already existing vulnerabilities.

Southern Angola has been experiencing consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. The recent El Nino has exacerbated the situation, affecting access to water for human consumption, irrigation and livestock. There has also been an increase in cases of malaria, diarrhoea, cholera, malnutrition in children under age 5, measles, scabies, acute respiratory infections and yellow fever (258 died of yellow fever between January- April 2016). An estimated 756,000 people in rural areas require humanitarian assistance of which 75,593 require immediate food assistance. An estimated US\$ 261.423 million is required for the response (Angola Vulnerability Assessment Committee Results 2016). The most affected municipalities are Cunene, Namibe and Huila Provinces.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

The affected populations will not be able to meet all their food, water and seeds requirement needs, even with the use of coping strategies. Life-saving as well as strategic long term climate change resilience mechanisms will therefore be important in this situation, to mitigate the impact of the emergency and also to build capacity for these populations so they can better withstand such cyclical stocks in the future. While the national and international response through government, UN and non-governmental channels will in some way help to meet the needs, there are significant gaps that will still not be covered, hence the need for ACT members to respond to complement national and international response measures.

3. National and international response

The Government has been implementing programs to provide people with food and non-food items and healthcare, as well as rehabilitation of some water infrastructure, however, the assistance has been punctual rather than regular, insufficient to cover real needs, and rarely reaches remote areas. A contingency plan is being developed and aligned according to SADC appeal final document.

On 26 July 2016, The Southern African Development Community (SADC) declared a regional drought emergency and launched a regional humanitarian appeal. To support coordination of the drought response and facilitate the delivery assistance, SADC established an El Nino Logistics and Coordination Team. The UN and NGOs developed through the Regional Inter-Agency Standing Committee (RIASCO) an Action Plan to support the efforts of SADC and its Member States. The plan prioritizes the provision of assistance to an estimated 12.3 million people in 7 countries: Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Swaziland and Zimbabwe. The Action Plan is composed of three pillars: humanitarian response, building resilience in the region and macro-economic risk management. All countries, with the exclusion of Angola, have put some form of national response plan in place.

4. ACT Alliance response

ACT Forum members, Lutheran World Federation and Norwegian Church Aid will implement the appeal, due to their presence in the affected areas. The ACT Angola Forum responded to the previous drought emergency in 2013 and 2014, and plans to respond again to the crisis by issuing an ACT Appeal in areas of their technical expertise in humanitarian response and long-term community livelihoods development programming. The Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Council of Christian Churches in Angola will play an integral part as implementing partners. Christian Aid and Bread for the World, the ACT forum Angola non-residents, will play a major advocacy role at global level through the ACT Angola forum under the umbrella of the Council of Christian Church in Angola.

5. Planned activities

Planned activities are WASH interventions, food security through climate-smart agriculture and community based disaster risk reduction [CBDRR] to 5,000 vulnerable households in the municipalities mentioned. The provincial authorities are requesting for interventions that address longer-term issues and not just punctual humanitarian work "*Relatório do Encontro Interprovincial sobre Alterações Climáticas no Sul de Angola de dia 9 de Setembro de 2016*".

6. Constraints

The main challenge is funding for implementation of the humanitarian response programme.

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