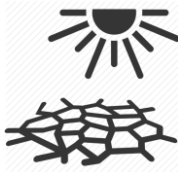


ALERT

DROUGHTS



actalliance

Angola

Nairobi , 2 December 2021

SITUATION

The worst drought in 40 years and rising food prices have resulted in high acute food insecurity in Angola's southwestern Angola's Cunene, Huila and Namibe provinces. Bad harvests have severely affected people's access to food in this region, which is highly dependent on agriculture, and also negatively affected the nutritional situation. As food stocks are depleting, the situation has deteriorated and will likely worsen during the lean season. Humanitarian assistance until the next harvest is needed to prevent further deterioration.

An IPC Acute Food Insecurity analysis of 17 municipalities in southern Angola revealed that, between July and September 2021, around 1.32 million people (49% of the population analyzed) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3 or higher), of which 38% are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 12% in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). These people face difficulties in accessing food or are only able to meet minimal food needs through crisis and/or emergency coping strategies. Between October 2021 and March 2022, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above is expected to increase to about 1.58 million people (58% of the population analyzed), of which 42% are likely in IPC Phase 3 and 15% in the IPC Phase 4. This takes into account that these are months of scarcity characterized by high food prices and that the next harvests will only occur from March if the next rainy season is normal¹.

High levels of acute food insecurity are present in all municipalities. However, the municipalities of Kahama, Curoca and Ombadja (Cunene), Gambos (Huila) and Virei and Camucuio (Namibe) have the highest prevalence of their population in the IPC Phase 3 or 4, with more than 60% of the total population in these two phases between July and September 2021. The high acute food insecurity in this region can be mainly attributed to the recurrent effects of the drought that reduced agricultural and livestock production, the high food prices and locusts, which affected some communities. Other factors that contribute to the loss of animals are disease and theft. Families who moved with their cattle in search of better living conditions are of great concern, as they need to find shelter and livelihoods that guarantee access to food².

The level of vulnerability in the communities is very high, children at risk, women at risk (women headed households), elderly men/women, people living with disabilities (women/men), and child headed households. There is little attention or proactive response to address this situation despite the presence of the local governments and its strategic partners and other stakeholders.

<https://reliefweb.int/map/angola/angola-severe-drought-leading-food-insecurity-dq-echo-daily-map-30092021>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/south-western-angola-ipc-food-security-nutrition-snapshot-afi-july-2021-march-2022-amn>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/drought-south-western-angola-drives-severe-hunger>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/angola/end-cattle-s-paradise-severe-drought-and-food-insecurity-southern-angola>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/church/news/2021-10/angola-interview-wacussanga-drought-crisis-bishops.html>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/press-release/2021/07/angola-millions-facing-hunger-as-thousands-flee-their-homes-as-drought-ravages-the-south-of-angola/>

NEEDS

Food Security: The total population in the municipalities where the assessment was carried out before the crisis was 578 930 people (72 366 families -on average 8 people per household). At least, 347 358 people (representing 60%) are female and 231 572 people (representing 40%) are male. More than 6 805 people are Internal Displaced People - IDPs in

the established Reception Camps in Kahama and Kaluweke. The current overall number of the people in critical condition requiring immediate food assistance is 60 502 people, 7 563 families of which 42,351 people (70%) are women and 18 151 (30%) are men. The number is consolidated for all locations in Cunene Province (Kwanyama, Namacunde, Ombandja, Curoca and Kahama municipalities), Huila Province (Gambos municipality) and Cuando Cubango province (Mavinga and Rivungo municipalities).

Water: In all the affected areas, access to clean and safe water remains below SPHERE standards. Rehabilitation and installation of water systems should be prioritized to improve people's reliance on unprotected and unsafe water sources and to increase overall supply of water from existing assets. Where possible, water distribution should be including in the intervention programming. Rehabilitation of existing and/or construction of new water assets should be implemented to restore and increase water availability and access for the communities. The rehabilitation and construction should be implemented in Kwanyama, Namacunde, Ombandja, Curoca and Kahama municipalities in Cunene province where are insufficient water points and most of the existing ones are not functioning. Water harvesting and storage tanks should also be constructed which can be used for water trucking and distribution, as more long serving solution.

Sanitation and Hygiene support: Water supply activities should be complemented with community level sanitation and hygiene education sessions and construction of family latrines. This should be implemented at camping sites where open air defecations are done outdoors. This would be crucial for raising awareness on importance of hygiene and sanitation among the communities including importance and methods of water treatment at household level. This shall support the behavioural change initiative in the community hence facilitating better WASH outcomes. Distribution of sanitation and hygiene kits to the most vulnerable households is fundamental to promote family latrine construction and hygiene. Distribution of sanitary kits to women and girls is also very important.

Livelihood Support: Families left behind most (or even all) of their livelihoods (livestock, fishing, trade, crafts, etc.). They declare themselves fragile, hampered by idleness and unable to meet most of their basic needs, even the most basic ones, such as food, water or decent clothing. Families who had with them animals such as oxen, sheep, goats or chickens, mention the scarcity of pasture for food. Rapid response to alleviate stressed household food security and livelihoods should focus on assistance to cushion the vulnerable households against further deterioration and facilitate recovery. Other livelihood support should be prioritized to protect household livelihood assets, these include promoting resilient agriculture, establish farm schools, agricultural inputs support (assorted improved and early maturing and drought resilient) seeds, tools and equipment (hoes, irrigation kits, ox-ploughs), etc.

Protection (human rights and citizenship): There is lack of issuance of personal identification documents (birth certificates and identity cards); There is currently no protection committee and little information is collected on child abuse and violence. Some children are separated from their families, others are unaccompanied, disabled, orphans. Some child-headed families were identified. Children and parents often live in the same extremely small space (less than 7 m²), and in high promiscuity compared to other families, all of which promote risks related to child protection and gender-based violence. Many young people and men

emigrated to Namibia and Zambia in search of better conditions to support their families. Disputes and land expropriation have caused tribal conflicts. Apart from minor tribal or community land conflicts, there are unconfirmed (not official) incidences of land occupation by private companies which could be another threat topping up to the existing people on move due to hunger and in search of water. Facilitate identity cards/birth certificates, human rights awareness building, gender related issues, alternative care for elderly and people living with disabilities, establishing and strengthening community mechanisms, psychosocial monitoring, child friendly viable spaces.

Education: There are approximately 30% of children from these affected families in the region who are studying, even in the displacement camps, some were in school before moving to urban areas, others not. The lack of schools, especially in rural areas, increases the number of children outside the education system. Most parents say they are unable to afford money to buy food and lack funds to send their children to school. In addition, most students are required to travel a long distance to schools.

Schools available also lack minimum conditions for teaching and learning, with learning going on under trees. Schools also lack basic sanitation facilities namely latrines or safe drinking water points. There are also, very few teachers, and teaching equipment and materials/stationary are stretched.

Shelter: Most of those who live in shelter camps moved without the slightest need for survival, hygiene, and cooking. They sleep mostly on the ground, in shelters built with a few branches and covered with some old tarpaulins. Children and parents often live in the same extremely small space (less than 7 m²). There is great need to provide temporal shelter to the families at the camp sites and the people on move.

Advocacy: Since 2013, the civil society organizations, the church, INGOs, UN agencies and the opposition political parties have been advocating with the government for the long drought impact recognition and declaration as an emergency but there is silence. This has caused a big obstacle for the stakeholders and their back donors to proactively move in to assist the government to respond. There is need to bringing the voices of the affected people to provincial, regional and national forums and networking, support to strengthen the civil society organization joint advocacy initiatives at regional and national levels.

Cross-cutting issues (Gender and child protection): As a well-known factor, women and girls are the most vulnerable group because they are the ones who take care of the family welfare than men. Also women/girls more affected by the food shortage than men/boys because of the cultural nature. Female (women/girls) tend to give first priority to men/boys. This indirectly or directly affects the gender relations and roles (boys, girls, male, female) when a crisis strikes or even after the crisis. There is no estimated rate of employment of men or women to measure the economic status of households before the crisis. In the southern region, culture is still strongly preserved. The participation of women and girls in the household decision-making process is still a nightmare. More investment intervention to create space and promote a gender-based inclusiveness and participation. The freedom of movement of all (men, women, boys and girls), their social-cultural rights, economic rights (for livelihood) could be in danger as they are considered as “displaced hunger refugees”.

STAKEHOLDERS

SECRETARIAT: 150, route de Ferney, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switz. TEL.: +4122 791 6434 – FAX: +4122 791 6506 – www.actalliance.org

Core Humanitarian STANDARD The ACT Alliance Secretariat's continuous improvement in the application of the Core Humanitarian Standard is independently verified by HQAI

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

☒	National government	Humanitarian coordination in Angola happens at three levels. At central level it is led by the National Civil Protection Commission (CNPC), the provincial government leading coordination at ground level (operational body with other stakeholders - the humanitarian actors and the private sector) and local administrations.
☒	UN Agencies	The CNPC links with UN agencies through bilateral agency discussions and working groups. Coordination also happens at the UN Disaster Management Team (DMT) level for matters of interagency concern and as appropriate, it is expanded to included relevant Government entity. UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, UNDF and FAO has already partnered in some sectors with the Government of Angola on the ongoing action plan to mitigate drought in the affected areas
☒	INGOs	Although not directly responding to the crisis; LWF, World Vision International, CODESPA (CODESPA a non-profit organization dedicated to international development with 35 years of experience), Development World, Instituto Camões/EU, NCA, People In Need are on the ground with their ongoing development programmes.
☒	Local NGOs	The following local NGOs are currently positioning themselves to undertake the responses: ADRA, ACC, ANO and Southern Regional Drought and Hunger CSOs platform.

Despite not been declared as an emergency, the response is currently being coordinated by National Civil Protection Commission (CNPC), at central level and at provincial level under the Office of the Provincial Vice Governors for Social and Economic Sectors. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT Angola Forum members will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (National Civil Protection Commission (CNPC), UN Disaster Management Team (DMT) meetings and Provincial government steering committee) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

☒	ACT Angola Forum is currently monitoring the situation. LWF Angola and its partners (NCA and IECA forum members) already conducted a rapid needs assessment from 27 th September to 4 th October 2021 which has enabled the members to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
---	--

☒	ACT Angola Forum is monitoring the situation. The emergency teams can be constituted immediately to respond according to the results rapid needs assessment and availability of financial resources.
☒	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT Angola forum has identified a gap in food security, WASH, livelihoods, protection (human rights and citizenship), education, temporal shelter and advocacy which should be resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
☒	The ACT Angola forum is planning to submitting an Appeal to provide the much-needed emergency food and WASH related support to ensure that the drought affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to the current drought situation. The agencies include Norwegian Church Aid, Conselho de Igrejas Cristã em Angola, Igreja Evangelica Congregacional em Angola and Lutheran World Federation- World Service
☒	Furthermore, ACT Angola Forum will engage in joint advocacy on the regional and national levels to ensure that the voices of those affected by the drought are amplified.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Nancy Ette (Nancy.ette@actalliance.org) with a copy to the Finance officer Marjorie Schmidt (Marjorie.schmidt@actalliance.org) and Head of Humanitarian Affairs (Niall O'Rourke (Niall.orourke@actalliance.org))

For further information please contact:

ACT Angola Forum, Abrao Mushivi (abrao.mushivi@lutheranworld.org)

ACT Regional Representative, Elizabeth Kisiigha Zimba (Elizabeth.zimba@actalliance.org)

ACT Humanitarian Officer, Caroline Njogu (Caroline.njogu@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>