

Alert note**Prolonged Drought Impact, Angola****Completed by:** ACT Angola Forum**Date completed:** 27 July 2023**Forum:** ACT ANGOLA Forum**Type of emergency:** Drought**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** N/A**1. The nature of the emergency**

Angola has been going through a prolonged drought due to three consecutive failed agriculture seasons in Cunene, Huíla and Namibe provinces with recorded 40 % crop losses greatly negatively impacting family and household income and livelihoods.

In Angola, this is the worst drought in 40 years, and it has been characterized by hunger and rising food prices affecting an estimated 3.8 million people resulting in 114,000 children under the age of five acutely malnourished ([UNICEF: HAC 2023 report](#)).

The drought is caused by irregular or lack of rains for farming communities as farmers have not harvested and many have lost their seed stock. Livestock (oxen) that were used for ploughing their field have also died. The drought in Angola falls under one of the most under-reported or forgotten humanitarian crisis (CARE– [breaking the silence, 2023](#)).

The situation is predicted to be critical from August to Oct/Nov 2023. During this period, all food reserves will be depleted, the man-made dams (Chimpakas) will be dry and basic food prices will be at its peak.

According to the Global Network Against Food Crisis ([GNAFC](#)) report, Angola is among the countries where the food security situation is forecasted to remain critical due to below average rainfall and humanitarian assistance until the next harvest is needed to prevent further deterioration.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)

Based on the initial assessment by members of ACT Angola Forum, the drought in Angola is a medium sized emergency affecting farmers in the Southern Region of Angola.

The initial assessment was conducted by ACT Angola forum members in two provinces of Cunene and Huila from 15th to 20th May 2023. The preliminary information gathered from interviews with community members, community leaders, church leaders and government authorities at provincial and local level during the assessment was a call for immediate food and WASH interventions in some of the most affected areas. From the assessment, the team found that the concerns of food insecurity and acute malnutrition rates are high. There is an increase in the number of waterborne diseases due to lack of water and this trend is likely to continue over the next months.

To cope with the drought, many of the affected households have migrated in search of food and water-some fleeing to neighbouring Namibia. Due to this movement, access to education and health is disrupted resulting to low rates of vaccination against infectious diseases which is worsening the nutrition status for children.

Food stocks for the affected households are quickly depleting and the situation has deteriorated and will likely worsen during the lean season. The price of basic food commodities also keeps increasing as it becomes scarcer to find.

Others are migrating to the cities and neighbouring Namibia in search of livelihoods. Water shortage is present in all municipalities in the two provinces. In the cities, 3000 litres of water costing 15 USD. In rural areas, people (boys, girls and women) walking 20-30 kilometres in search of water.

3. Local and national capacity

To cope with the situation, the affected communities are migrating in search for food and water with some fleeing to neighbouring Namibia.

The ACT Angola Forum members are constantly in touch and receiving regular updates from government officials from the Ministry of State for Social Affairs on the drought situation.

LWF and ACT Angola forum members (NCA, CICA and IECA as forum observer) responded to this crisis (severe drought emergency response) from its onset in mid-2013 to mid-2014 through ACT Alliance mechanism appeal in three municipalities of Curoca, Ombadja and Namacunde in Cunene province and Gambos municipality in Huila. Also responded to DRC refugee influx from mid-July 2017 to 2019 (LWF) and to 2021 (NCA). In 2020/21 season, LWF and NCA responded to a similar drought impact crisis with immediate food and WASH interventions in critical municipalities in the two provinces. Furthermore, in 2022, LWF assisted more 6,500 internal displaced persons affected by hunger and water crisis with food and WASH related items in the IDP camps.

From April to May this year, LWF Angola assisted food to 13,489 individuals (3,340 households) in critical identified rural communities in five (5) municipalities of Cunene province. This assistance could not meet the needs in all municipalities.

The UN Disaster Response Coordination Team, Operational Readiness & Preparedness Planning working group and Humanitarian Intersectoral Coordination Group, which LWF Angola is a members conduct monthly meetings to monitor and coordinate the humanitarian response. The Ministry of State for Social Affairs have regular contact with the DRCT.

The DRCT, OPPWG, HICG and the The Ministry of State for Social Affairs recommend humanitarian response with food, WASH and nutrition including child protection, gender-based violence.

In mid-March, the ACT Angola Forum members (represented by Council of Christian Churches in Angola General Secretary, The Evangelical Congregational church in Angola (IECA) General Secretary and LWF Angola Country Director) and ACT Alliance Africa Regional Representative are in touch to update on the situation of the drought.

The role of the church and ACT Alliance humanitarian and development work was recognized and appreciated. The Minister raised the drought impact humanitarian crisis in the southern region to be more severe this year affecting more than 1 million people, especially women, the youth (mostly boys and girls). She appealed that the impact is a long period accumulated consequence that need urgent preparedness and coordinated response.

4. Key needs and gaps

The key needs for the people affected by the drought are food and water, sanitation and hygiene interventions in the two provinces in Cunene and Huila, although the whole southern region which includes Namibe province is affected. Information gaps still exist thus there is no concrete number of the affected population. Nonetheless, the DRCT database indicates more than 1.3 million as overall affected population in the three provinces. Some rural areas are difficult to reach due to poor road conditions and no communication networks to connect with affected communities.

Most of the INGOs and NGOs are engaged in long-term development programmes which cannot be immediately redirected to humanitarian response interventions. In addition, these organizations are facing

huge challenges of funds. Despite UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNPFA) working through the government institutions in health and nutrition, school feeding and vaccination including child protection, the immediate food and water needs are not able to reach out to the rural affected communities. The government assistance is very slow.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below. Please refer to your EPRP and Contingency Plan.

The Lutheran World Federation has climate change related long-term projects to build the community resilience in the rural communities and the local partners (CSOs and church) in RRDs and networking. The Council of Christian Churches in Angola (CICA) and the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola (IECA) are implementing long term climate justice and WASH projects. Also engaged in various advocacy networking and platforms to fight against climate change and government response to emergencies in the country.

From April to mid-May, LWF has been doing food distribution in identified critical communities in Curoca, Kahama, Ombadja, Namacunde and Kwanyama municipalities, Cunene province. The outreach is 3,340 households and 13,489 individuals. The distribution was done in collaboration with the provincial government institutions (civil protection and fire brigade, social affairs, church and community leaders and local administration representatives).

LWF supported the ACT Angola Forum team (composed of Council of Christian Churches in Angola General Secretary, IECA General Secretary and LWF) joint visit to Cunene and Huila provinces meeting the Provincial Government Authorities (Governors and Vices), local administrations, church leaders and field visits to the communities. The purpose of the visit was to know the drought impact current context, government plans and other humanitarian actors in the provinces.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Conselho de Igrejas Cristã em Angola (CICA)	Cunene province: Namacunde, Kwanyama, Ombadja and Cuvelai municipalities) Huila province: Gambos, Kilengues, Kacula and Humpata municipalities	Food items and WASH related education	LWF and NCA Angola will give technical support including M&E and coordination/networking at national and provincial levels.	USD 150,000

	including Huila commune)			

5. Potential responses

Information gathered from both provincial authorities indicates that the situation is alarming and may be as severe as of 2013/2014 and 2020/2021 seasons. Preparations for possible emergency response are needed and it is very URGENT. The Council of Christian Churches in Angola, ACT Angola forum national member intend to respond in two sectors: food (distribution of assorted basic food items) and WASH (water sanitation and hygiene related activities including improving existing water facilities). The Council of Christian Churches proposes to support 3084 HH with food for 3 months (Maize, Beans, Cooking oil at 50% Recommended Daily Allowance as recommended by WFP. CICA will also provide livelihood support through construction of water storage tanks and provide seed packages to support smart agriculture. LWF and NCA Angola have strong presence in the two provinces and will provide all technical support during the response period. LWF Angola (member of DRCT, ORPP and HIWG) will engage and connect CCCA (CICA) in these UN and UN OCHA coordination working teams and groups.