



UNITED NATIONS

Office of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator
Angola

Flood and Cholera Update Situation Report 2 - 23 March 2009

I. Highlights/Key Priorities

- An estimated 160,000 people have been affected by floods in Cunene, Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Malange, Bie, Huambo and Lunda Sul provinces. In addition, 21 people have died;
- From 3 January to 14 March 2009, the country has recorded 528 cases of cholera;
- On 17 March 2009, the President of the Republic of Namibia declared an emergency for the north-central and north-eastern part of Namibia bordering Angola, and appealed for international assistance.

II. Situation Overview



Since the beginning of 2009, the Cuvelai region in Northern Namibia bordering Angola has received excessive rainfalls. Reports indicate that extreme floods in the Kavango, Zambezi and Chobe Rivers are also of concern and require monitoring. An estimated 160,000 people have been affected by floods and the number is likely to increase once assessment teams will reach areas isolated by the waters. A large number of people have lost their houses and have been displaced.

Schools and other public buildings are being used as shelter resulting in the interruption of classes. According to the Angolan Red Cross, more than 100 schools have been destroyed.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Emergency Shelter

In some instances, military air and boat rescue have been required to evacuate the worst affected and isolated areas. The Commission of Civil Protection reports that a large number of people have lost their houses (1,229 houses destroyed in Kuando Kubango, 1,048 in Moxico, 261 in Malange, 625 in Bie, 40 in

Lunda Sul) and many have been displaced (52,646 in Cunene, 1,220 in Malange, 12,000 in Moxico, 12,000 in Kuando Kubango).

Relocation camps for displaced people have been established in Ongiva and Cunene provinces.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene



Ensuring access to water and sanitation for the affected populations is the key immediate challenge for the response. Already, there is a critical need for latrines and medications to address peaks of malaria, water-borne diseases and cholera outbreak with 530 cases, including two cases in the capital Luanda reported as of 14 March 2009. Luanda has a total population of more than 7 million, which provides an environment conducive to rapid transmission of cholera. Inadequate public waste disposal and poor drainage raise concerns for the potential of larger scale outbreaks and increase the risk of spreading water-borne diseases as the rainy season progresses.

UNICEF has committed one water treatment unit to provide safe water in addition to the unit already available in Ondjiva. Access to safe water will be supported by four water bladders of a total capacity of 30,000 L along with 35,000 jerry cans for storage. Chlorine will also be provided in the form of bags for

community use and boxes of aqua tabs for family use as well as 50,000 bars of soap to the affected families.

Oxfam is committing co-participation with the Civil Protection who will provide 3,000 zinc sheets, to deliver 416 latrines at the 3 camps and training 100 volunteers in a joint assessment with Red Cross, to start a health sensitization campaign.

Health

WHO has allocated the equivalent of 21,000 Euros to the MoH for emergency kits to ensure basic health care for about 10,000 people located in the Cunene region. The kits include five tones of medicine for diarrhoeal diseases, chlorine and other emergency materials. In addition, the following commodities are being dispatched to the other affected areas: 20,000 GoA-funded LLINs (Long lasting Insecticide treated Nets), WHO-funded emergency kits containing 10,000 anti-malaria treatment, PMI-funded malaria rapid diagnostic tests, water purifying tablets, IV fluids and bio-safety equipment.

OXFAM and the Angolan Red Cross will start training about 100 volunteers to begin a health sensitization campaign. A joint MoH and WHO team will soon be deployed to the affected areas for further needs assessments. In support to the MoH, WHO has nominated a focal point at the provincial level.

Food and Nutrition

All provinces, in particular Moxico and Huambo are concerned about limited food reserve among the communities. Huambo province reports the destruction of crops which are grown along the river banks and damaged/washed away food reserves. Moxico reports 180 agricultural fields destroyed by elephants. Similarly, in Cunene, 138.148 ha of agricultural land were also destroyed and 150,000 head of cattle are at risk of dying.

There is a concern that malnutrition rates will increase in the coming weeks.

Education

According to the Angolan Red Cross more than 100 schools have been destroyed. Schools and other public building are being used as shelter resulting in the interruption of classes. Alternative classroom arrangements are a priority to ensure children do not miss teaching.

IV. Coordination and Funding

The Government of Angola is coordinating the flood response and has allocated US\$10 million that have been utilized to procure more than 200 metric tons of supplies (food and NFIs). The Government is also providing six cargo planes to facilitate the delivery of these supplies including those provided by international agencies.

Civil Protection has also reinforced its capacities in Cunene and will also make available air transport of products to and from Luanda-Ongiva.

Agencies have already allocated US\$ 600,000 of their own funding to initiate the response. However, given that the number of affected population is likely to increase as well as their needs, UNICEF, WHO and IOM issued a CERF request to secure additional funding for the provision of shelter materials, medicines, NFIs and water and sanitation supplies.

VI. Contact

Please contact:

Jocelline Bazile-Finley, Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, Angola

Tel.: +244 222 39 44 93 / Email: j.bazile-finley@undp.org

Katharina Schnoring, Representative IOM, Angola

Tel.: 244 222 37 08 77 / Email: kschnoring@iom.int