

Vulnerability Analysis and Food Aid Working Group

CHAired BY WFP/VAM UNIT



Angola

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National Overview

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One year after the April 2002 cease-fire agreement, provincial Vulnerability Assessment (VA) working-groups are reporting fundamental changes in where vulnerable people are located and even the reasons people are vulnerable. The transition out of conflict has led to shift away from a focus on IDPs, de-mobilization, and resettlement programs. The large concentrations of hungry people in municipal and provincial capitals that were once basically dependent on the humanitarian community have generally returned home. Food security is now more or less a factor of how well vulnerable people were able to re-establish their livelihoods in rural areas during the last agricultural campaign.

With the addition of Kwanza Sul, the VA process includes the participation of twelve provincial VA working-groups. The provincial VA working-groups are composed of representatives from United Nation agencies, NGOs, and government. These participants are generally active in on-going interventions or administration activities that directly affect vulnerable people. Improved participation at the latest bi-annual workshop provided even more information for the provincial level VA reports. These provincial VA reports are synthesized here in this National Vulnerability Overview document.

The provincial VA working groups focused part of their discussion on risks being faced by vulnerable people. Almost all the reports describe the health situation as critical. Lack of access to services and medicines are putting many people at risk. Markets are growing, but traders still under-serve rural areas. High cost of transportation and lack of any sizable harvest or other products to trade from rural communities maintain most traders' attention on more lucrative markets in municipal and provincial capitals. As roads have not been maintained and many bridges remain damaged, large areas are not accessible during the rainy season. Even larger areas are not accessible to certain UN agencies due to security policies. Recently, hundreds of thousands of food insecure people were cut off from aid in rural Huambo province when the main access road was closed to the humanitarian community for months for security reasons. The main agricultural risks revolved around lack of inputs for the last agricultural campaign. A lack of seeds, tools, and labour often resulted in only small areas being sowed and low production. Risk factors are summarized in a series of maps at the national and provincial level. The maps clearly reflect the increased level of risk along an urban/rural gradient with the most isolated places facing the most difficult situations. In the end, it is clear that vulnerable people are managing a whole host of risks everyday throughout Angola.

Identification of vulnerable people into different groups was another primary function of the provincial level VA workshops. Kuando Kubango was the only province with large populations of new IDPs. The situation in Mavinga, Kuando Kubango was critical with more than 100,000 new IDPs arriving in critical need of food and services. The Mavinga situation was an exception to the trend seen in the rest of the provinces. The majority of reported vulnerable people were the more than 1.4 million former IDPs who had spontaneously returned to their places of origin all across the 12 provinces. Concentrations of vulnerable returnees were largest in areas that experienced some of the most intense displacement from the conflict, in particularly the rural areas of Huambo and Bié. Smaller groups of vulnerable returnees were found primarily in the more isolated rural areas of the other provinces. The second largest vulnerable population, vulnerable residents, were also concentrated in the most isolated locations of Huambo and Bié.

There is a striking difference between the more localized groups of the currently food insecure that need immediate intervention and the widespread expectation that highly vulnerable people will deplete available food resources before the next harvest. The new IDPs of Kuando Kubango and the returnees not able to gain access to seeds for planting are the primary groups in a situation of current food insecurity. Almost everyone else was able to produce at least something from their fields and find other sources of food. Fishing, hunting, mushroom

collecting and honey gathering played an important role in maintaining a certain level of consumption for many vulnerable people. In general, the resources available from the natural environment played a vital role in buffering the many negative shocks that vulnerable people faced. Unfortunately, it seems that the small stocks will be depleted and other activities will not be enough to sustain highly vulnerable people more than 2-4 months. Interventions for the highly vulnerable will have to cover more people over a much larger area. **At the time of greatest scarcity in the lean season, roughly 1,892,500 will need assistance** throughout Angola.

Essentially, food security in Angola is returning to basic questions of re-establishing successful livelihoods. Assets are the building blocks of different livelihood strategies. Community and personal assets were not uniformly affected by the conflict. Certain communities and people suffered more. It takes time to rebuild lost assets and broken community structures. Vulnerability at the end of the last growing season appears to reflect this time lag in recovery of different communities. Some of the provincial VA working groups projected that two successful harvests of cereals or the beginning of cyclical cassava production will put most people in a less vulnerable situation.

Obviously, interventions and policy can either support or constrain this process of asset creation and re-establishment of livelihoods. The key to good interventions and policy is having the correct information for decision-making. The VA process included some indicators of food security and livelihood outcomes. Anthropometrics surveys indicated that the nutritional situation is improving in most places. Figures on morbidity and mortality seem to tell a different story. Decision-making in this transition period will require much more information of why people are vulnerable, when the focus has previously been primarily on how many. The challenge now is to incorporate more systematic collection of information on **how livelihoods and risk management strategies are developing for vulnerable people** in order to clarify what is contributing to more and less successful livelihood strategies.

2. VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The Vulnerability Assessment (VA) relies completely on the participation of government ministries, international NGOs, national NGOs, agencies of the United Nations, and other key informants. Through the VA process, these organizations come together to share information on the current food security and vulnerability situation in Angola. Twelve provinces were included in the most recent VA (see maps 1-3). In each province, a provincial VA working-group convened including participants that are currently involved in local administration activities and on-going interventions. Part of the VA process is the bi-annual workshops of these provincial VA working-groups. The workshop is a consensus-building process to identify current **levels of vulnerability, places where vulnerable people are located, and eventually estimate numbers of vulnerable people**. Key informants, including rural families and other beneficiaries, are included in the process through visits throughout the province by members of the provincial VA working-group. At the end of this process, a provincial level VA report is produced.

The provincial VA assessments included detailed descriptions of the vulnerability situation and technical recommendations specific to the province. Readers are also directed to these reports for specific technical data summaries such as local level food basket prices or production estimations.

At the national level, the VA is an effort of the Vulnerability Assessment and Food Aid Working-group. The national level VA working-group compiles the provincial level VA reports and produces a National Vulnerability Overview. This working group is a technical sub-group of the Food Aid Coordination Committee (FAC) that is responsible for overall coordination of food-oriented interventions. In order to meet the information needs of the FAC, the VA process aims to **provide functional descriptions of the food security and vulnerability** in Angola. Information from the VA is primarily intended to build consensus about current vulnerability situation to improve coordination of food-oriented interventions and help set national level priorities.

Vulnerability levels are largely determined by the expected ability of people to maintain a minimum level of consumption until the next harvest. The **Food Insecure Population** cannot currently meet their consumption needs and are not expected to be able to meet their consumption needs before the next harvest. The months preceding the next harvest are often referred to as the *lean season* because it is common for food stocks to be depleted in this period. The **Highly Vulnerable Population** may meet their consumption needs in the short-term but are expected to have trouble during the lean season. It is possible that the **Moderately Vulnerable Population** will not meet consumption requirements during the lean season as well. The **Potentially Vulnerable Population** is expected to meet consumption requirements unless they experience a serious shock to their food access. These vulnerability levels are primarily intended to help set programming priorities. The Food Insecure Population is in need of immediate food-oriented intervention. The Highly Vulnerable Population will need an intervention during the lean season. Moderately and Potentially Vulnerable Populations need to be monitored for possible problems with food security in the coming six months.

Certain groups of people in Angola are more vulnerable than others. In order to clearly describe these differences in vulnerability, a consistent classification of the vulnerable population was used throughout the assessment. The classification was based on functional and easily definable groups that would help organize information in a way that facilitated targeting and design of humanitarian interventions. The classification was developed by the National VA Working-group through consensus and then verified with each of the Provincial VA Working-groups. Five main groups of vulnerable people were identified in this process. These groups are:

- a) Internally Displaced People (**IDP**) arrived in current location, not area of origin, after October 2001:
- b) Returnees (**RET**): ex-IDPs ex-refugees, or demobilised soldiers and their families that returned to their areas of origin
- c) Resettled (**REA**): ex-IDPs ex-refugees, or demobilised soldiers and their families that resettled in some areas which is not their areas of origin
- d) Vulnerable Residents (**RES**)
- e) Socially Vulnerable Groups (**GSV**): elderly, street children, orphans, handicapped, etc.

At provincial level VA workshops, participants were asked to adjust estimates of how many vulnerable people were in each population group. Estimations of vulnerable people were then made for each commune in the province. Because of accessibility problems or lack of participation, information was not available for all communes in every province. Through structured discussions, relative vulnerability was estimated for each of the identified groups. Specifically, a method referred to as the CVI (Composite Vulnerability Index) was used for these estimates. A full description of this methodology is included as Annex 1. Information was verified with visits to the communes and additional discussions with key informants.

The Vulnerability Assessment has all the strengths and weaknesses of a process based primarily on participation from the humanitarian community and government sources. With the representation of 15 to 20 different groups in most provincial level VA workshops, a fairly extensive view of food security situation as well as some insights into the factors contributing to the current vulnerability situation was possible. The broad participation also allowed a more multi-sector approach. The focus on consensus building during the workshops helped to limit projections of vulnerability to the realm of reason.

On the other hand, the only information that was available was information that was contributed by the participants. Participation and contribution of information was less than perfectly systematic. Sub-groups that could focus on a particular vulnerability issue were very active in some provinces and more passive in others. Perhaps the largest problem is that the participants contribute information overwhelmingly focused in or around provincial or municipal capitals. As the most vulnerable are increasingly moving back to more rural and isolated places, new methods need to be implemented for more representative information gathering.

Specifically, the current VA process is limited because it does not incorporate an objective standard to judge the quality of the information. The information is largely composed of facts about on-going interventions. There is very little focus on outcome indicators of food security or livelihood welfare that is essential to do any true vulnerability assessment. The golden rule of assessments is that the results must be objective and repeatable. These types of results from field-based assessment are becoming increasingly available from sources like nutrition surveys or rapid food needs assessments. The challenge is to now harmonize and expand these information sources to strengthen the VA process.

3. CURRENT VULNERABILITY

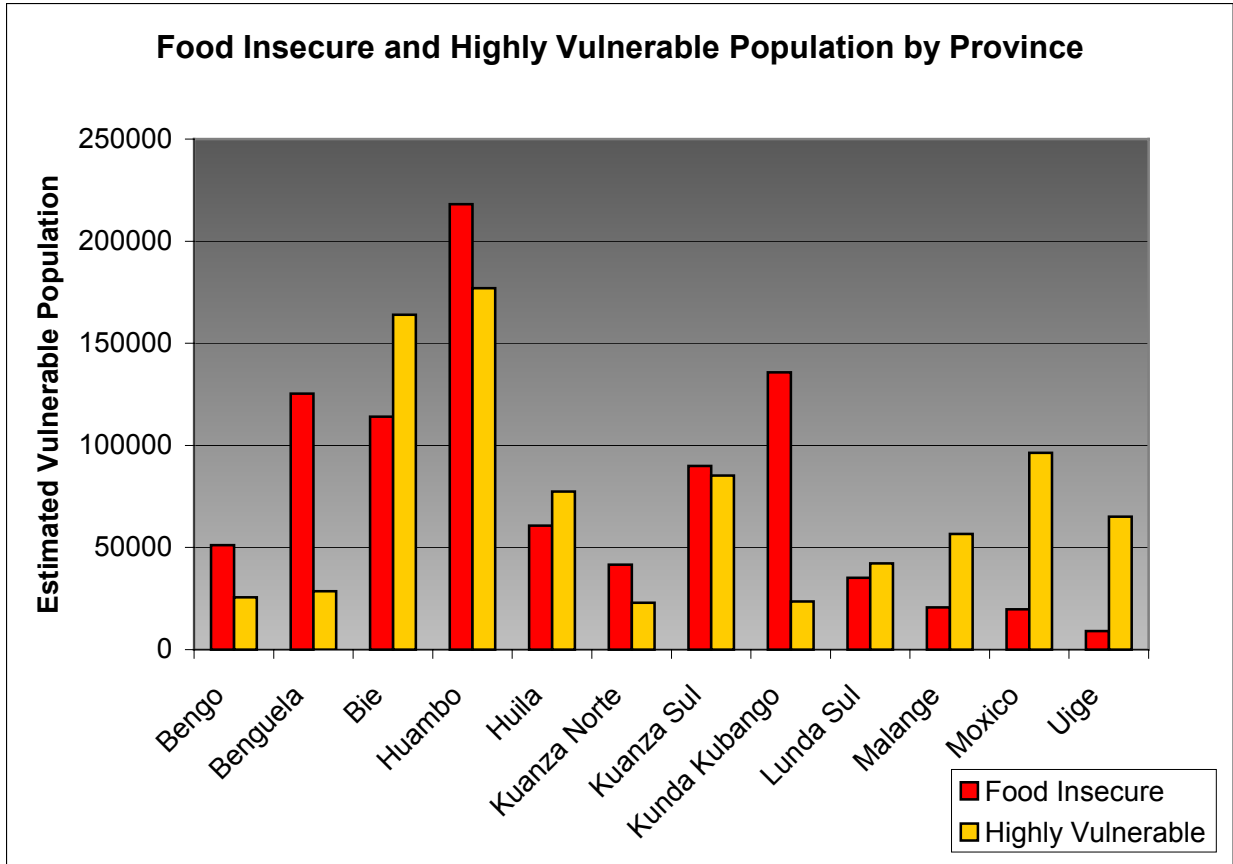
More than two and a half million people were identified as vulnerable to food insecurity in the twelve provinces that participated in the latest Vulnerability Assessment (VA). One third of the vulnerable, or approximately 1 million people, were considered to be currently food insecure and in need of immediate assistance. Additionally, 865,000 people were reported to be highly vulnerable and would need assistance before the next harvest. The remaining third of the identified vulnerable group was more or less evenly split between moderately vulnerable and potentially vulnerable. These groups numbered 447,000 and 317,000 respectively.

Vulnerable population as of May 2003

Province	IDP	RET	REA	RES	GSV	Sub-total
Total Food Insecure	144,499	652,544	33,970	170,750	25,832	1,027,595
Total High Vulnerable	66,350	540,428	56,248	175,262	26,641	864,929
Total Moderate Vulnerable	37,335	160,918	30,838	194,442	23,699	447,232
Total Potentially Vulnerable	18,250	49,282	17,653	222,276	9,599	317,060
TOTAL	266,434	1,403,172	138,709	762,730	85,771	2,656,815

Not surprisingly, the highest numbers of vulnerable people were reported in the most densely populated places and areas that were subject to the most displacement from the conflict. Approximately 25% of all identified vulnerable people and **over a third of the currently food insecure people were reported to be located in the province of Huambo**. Adjacent to Huambo, areas that were subject to intense population movements during the conflict in Bié

also have large vulnerable populations. 12% of the food insecure and almost 20% of the highly vulnerable can be found in Bié. In total, 50% of all the estimated food insecure population was reported in these two provinces of the central plateau. 40% of the highly vulnerable people are also in these same areas.

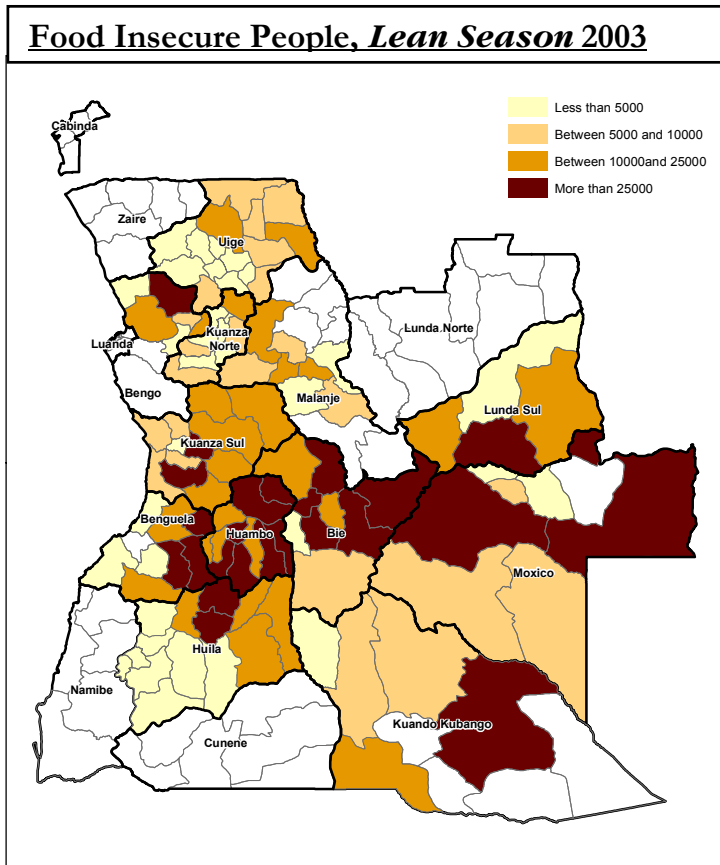
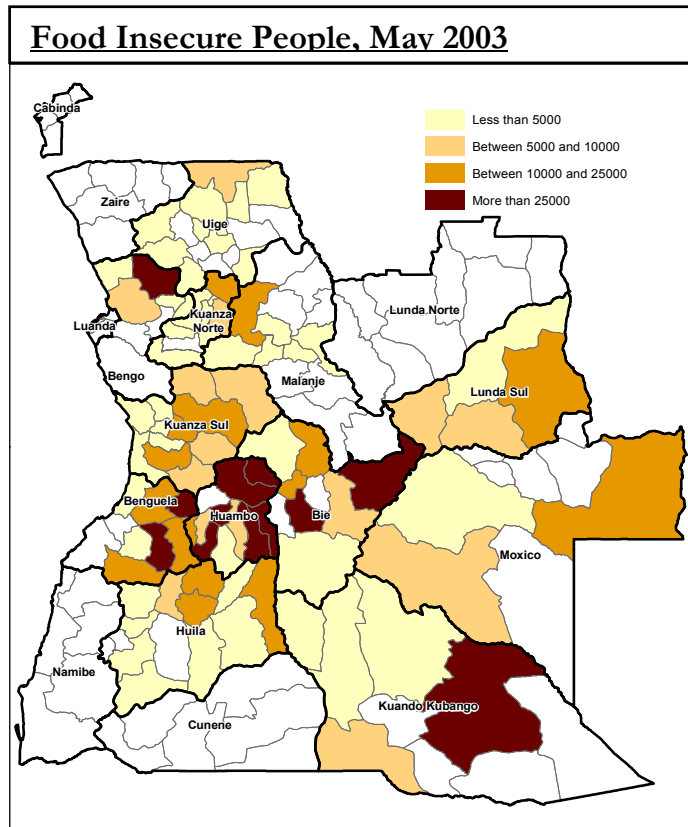


Each reporting 2% or less of the currently food insecure population, Uíge, Malanje and Moxico appeared to be having the least immediate problems with food insecurity. Unfortunately, it seems that these provinces will still need some intervention during the lean period as they report about 25% of the highly vulnerable population.

In general, the VA reports indicate that food insecurity is concentrated in certain locations. This of course makes programming in the short-term much easier. Only 11 of the 282 communes or municipalities reported more than 25,000 currently food insecure people.

The most striking features of current vulnerability to food insecurity is that hunger will become much more widespread during the lean period. Largely from their own efforts, many vulnerable Angolans have been able to produce something from the last agricultural season for their immediate consumption. Unfortunately, these stocks are generally only expected to last 2 to 4 months. Achieving full agricultural self-sufficiency will take more time for many people as they acquire necessary productive assets and re-establish their communities. Food-oriented interventions will be necessary in the coming months to sustain the most vulnerable and help bridge the transition to more durable food security.

In comparison with the figures from the last VA presented in October 2002, the total number of vulnerable people has reduced by approximately 300,000. This could be largely a seasonal effect as the current VA was completed at the end of the harvest. This is also reflected in a reduction of food insecure people of 750,000 people between the two reports. Unfortunately at the end of the dry season, we will again see an increase in hunger. There are **an additional 520,000 highly vulnerable people** in this VA report compared with the last.



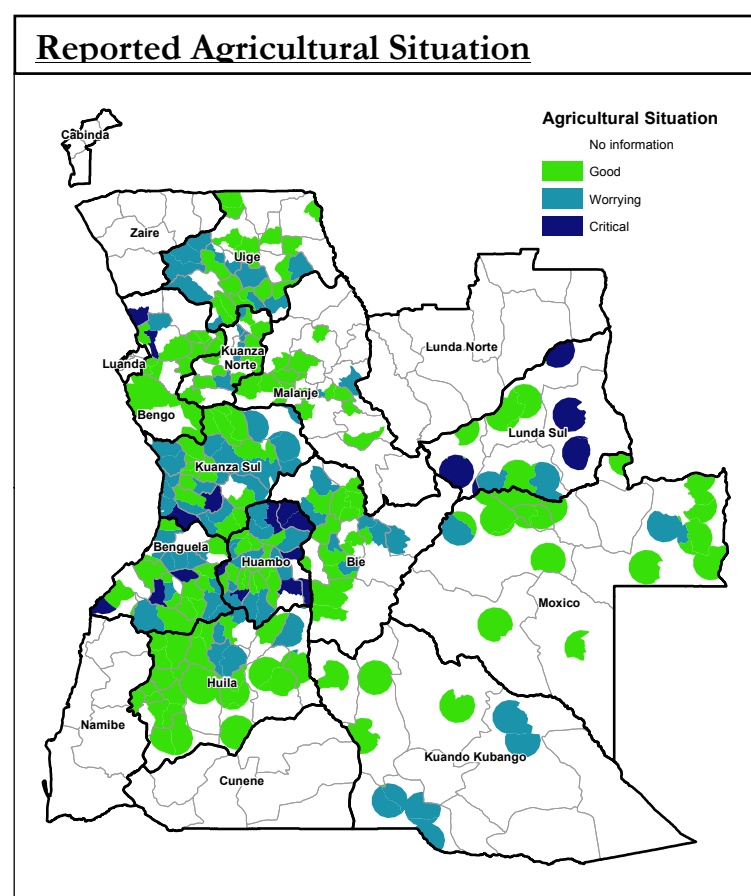
Moderately and potentially vulnerable population remained roughly the same size in both assessments at approximately 800,000 people. Because these people are not anticipated to need food-oriented intervention, their food security status is not always closely followed. They are often in a precarious position and just meeting minimum requirements. Any of the many common negative shocks could put these groups into a position of food insecurity.

4. GEOGRAPHIC RISK

Risk is inherent to the concept of vulnerability. Although comprehensive risk analysis was beyond the scope of this effort, the provincial VA groups focused their discussion on four major risk factors. In most cases, sub-groups of each of the provincial level VA groups worked on a description of **agricultural risks**, **market-type risks**, **accessibility issues**, and **health risks** affecting vulnerable people in their province. Risk was evaluated geographically. In other words, different factors and intensities of risk exposure were described for each commune in the province. Later, this risk information was compiled and a series of national and provincial level risk maps were created.

4.1 Agricultural Risk

The primary agricultural risk reported in the provincial VA reports was a shortage of seeds and tools. Lunda Sul suffered a severe lack of cassava stick for planting in many areas. This is



indicated by the critical in the far eastern portions of the province. Northeast and southeast Huambo also suffered critical lack of seeds for planting. The closure of the main road through Huambo precluded the distribution of seeds and tools in these areas. Seeds arrived as late as January for some of the communities with many returnees in Huambo, Bié, and other provinces. In Uige and parts of Bengo, it was reported that rates of germination for some seeds were as low as 30%.

For those that participated in formal resettlement programs, late arrival or shortage of seed was also considered the major factor in their vulnerability. This was reported in Huíla, Kwanza Sul, and other areas.

Although lack of access to land was only a minor problem, but other factors limited the amount of land that could be prepared to plant. Time for field preparation

was a factor for some returnees. Many of the returnees who arrived in their areas of origin between September 2002 and March 2003 had to split time between rebuilding their accommodation and preparing fields. Because many families and communities were not intact, adequate labour was not available to prepare the land for other returnees and some residents.

Two areas reported natural risks negatively affecting agriculture. Along the coast in Bengo, the communities around Quicabo suffered crop loss when the river they relied on for irrigation went dry at a critical period in the growing season. Further down the coast in Benguela, crops were lost due to flooding in southern Baía Farta.

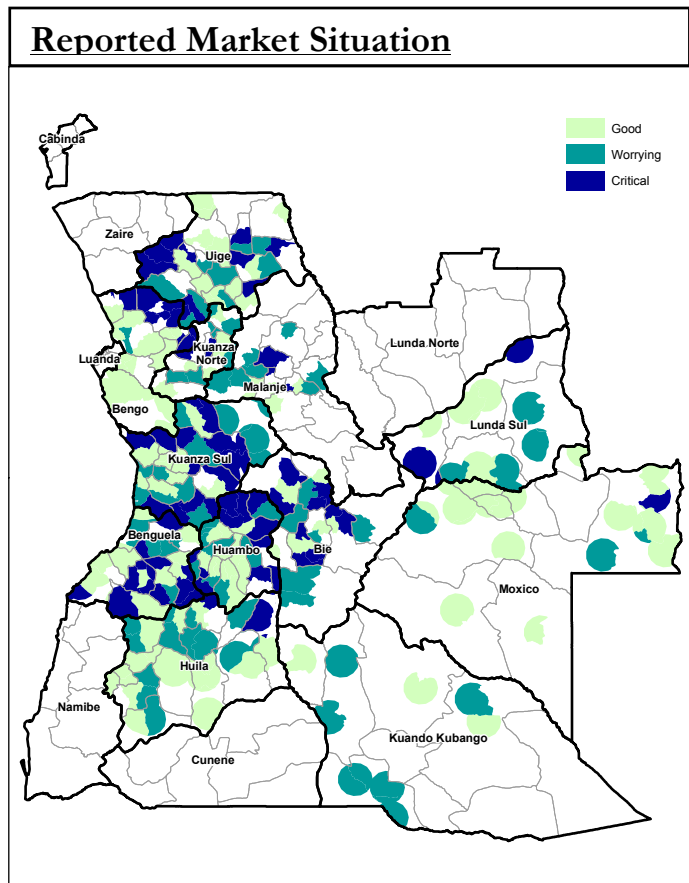
4.2 Market Risks

Although prices for the food basket were up and down over the reporting period, prices generally reduced after peaks in December or January. In any case, prices remained too high for vulnerable families to purchase most goods that were available. High prices were generally considered a result of transportation costs. In interior markets, prices are high for vulnerable people particularly for manufactured items like salt, soap, and second-hand clothes. These are the second priority for households after food. It is important to note that in rural areas that had good production some basic foods have lower prices. Prices were only regularly monitored in functioning markets that were primarily located in municipal and provincial capitals. These markets tended to be well stocked and have a diversity of goods.

Markets were not re-established in many of the rural areas. In rural areas that had some traffic, markets were still infrequent and had few goods. The most isolated rural areas had been reduced to simple bartering between individuals. These communities reported that there were no places to meet to exchange goods and money was not usually used for trade.

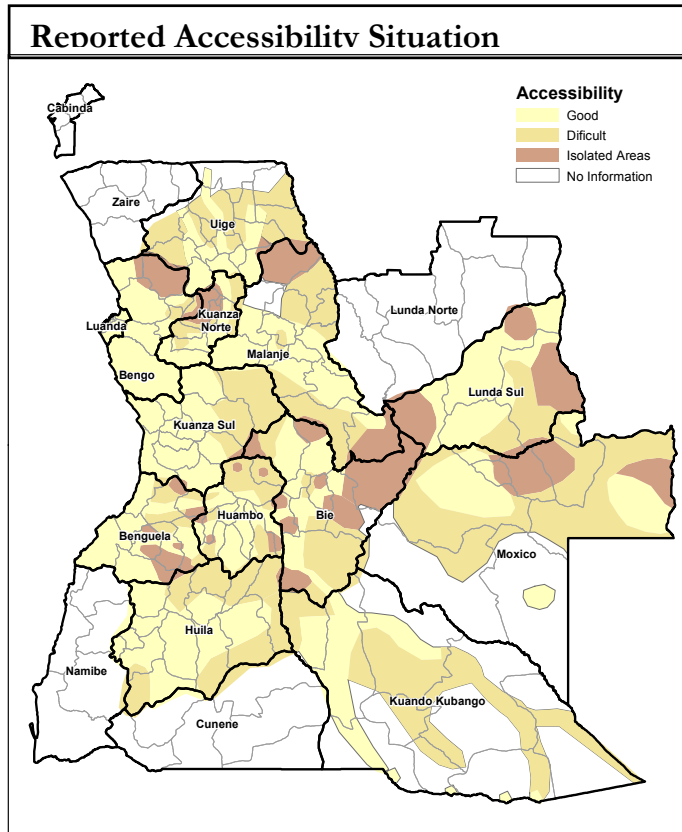
There was a continued disinterest of traders to provision the more rural markets. People in these areas did not have sufficient surpluses or animals to trade for other goods. Transportation costs continued to be too high for bulky items like staple foods to be regularly transported in isolated places.

The market risk map basically reflects this urban/rural gradient. Certain areas such as northern Bengo and Uige had problems with their markets due to inaccessibility during the rainy season. Rural areas of the central plateau also tended to have more trouble re-establishing markets.



4.3 Accessibility Issues

Although road condition and fallen bridges made travel very difficult during the rainy season, more areas continue to become accessible throughout Angola. This is in stark comparison to accessibility maps from the vulnerability assessments of a year ago.

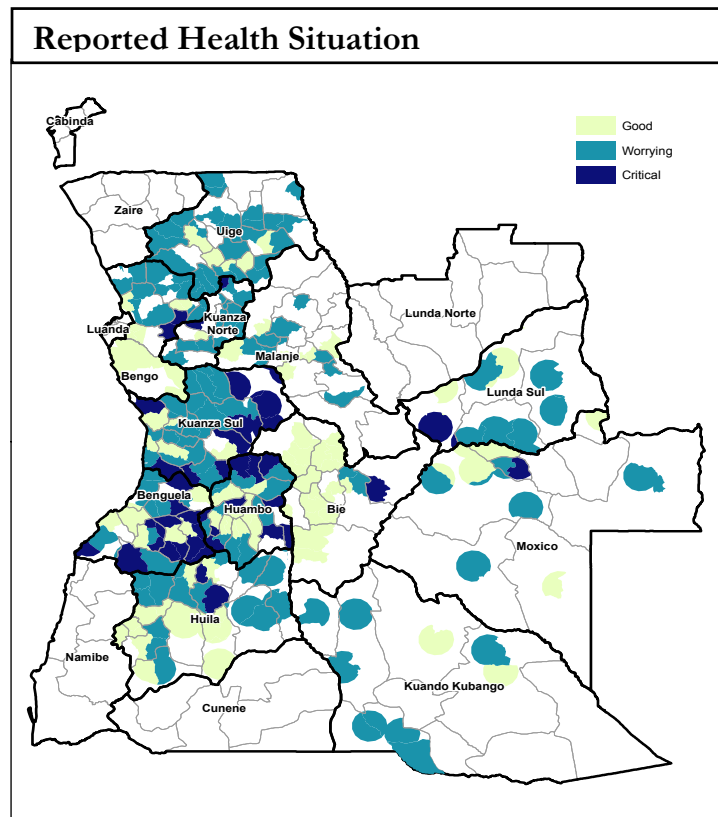


Specific closures of roads are outlined in the provincial reports. Even as some roads were closed to certain UN agencies for security reasons, traders and other actors continued to travel to more and more locations.

4.4 Health Risks

A difficult health situation was the most commonly reported risk in the provincial VAs. A complete lack of services was highlighted as the primary cause for the extreme rates of illness and resulting deaths. There was a nearly universal reported lack of adequate access to health posts and hospitals. The health posts that did exist were located primarily in municipal capitals and not accessible to people in rural areas. Medicines were expensive if available at all. Training for many of the health care providers was reported to be inadequate.

The health situation map reflects the universality of the worrying health situation. Distance to health post or hospital seemed to be the deciding factor for whether the health situation

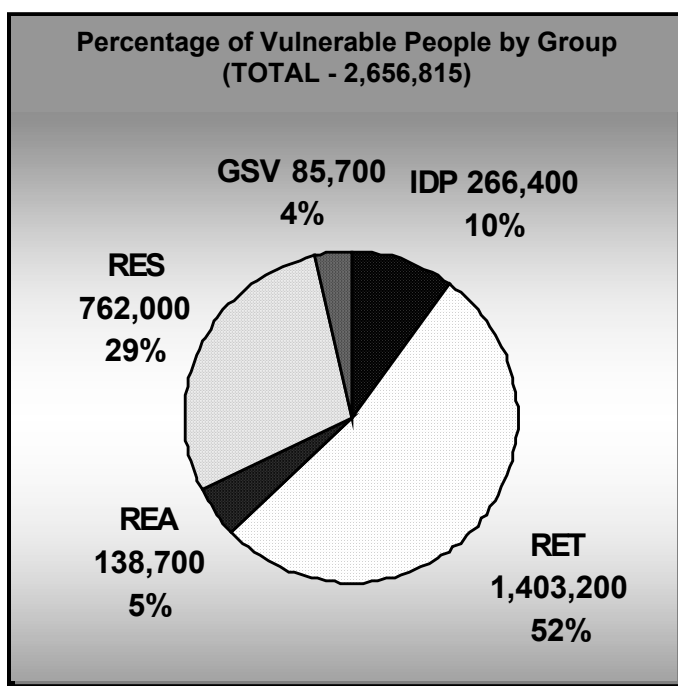


was worrying or critical. In certain areas with large health oriented interventions, the health situation was reported as better.

It is important to note that areas with economic draw or that could be considered relatively better-off still reported unacceptable health situations such as Lunda Sul. These areas are also undergoing large amounts of in-migration. It is feared that this population movement of the people seeking work may be increasing risks of HIV exposure and transmission. The health situation can also be critical in urban areas. For example, Lobito is reported to have extremely high population density with poor access to health services. Urban areas are reported to suffer more disease related to poor sanitation as well.

5. VULNERABILITY PROFILES

Vulnerability profiles are intended to improve the description of the major vulnerable groups reported in the provincial VAs. Diverse groups of vulnerable people are exposed to different kinds of risks. Different groups may also have different portfolios of assets or strategies to help manage those risks. The following sections try to bring these factors together for a more complete picture of how vulnerability is experienced by each vulnerable group.



In sum total, there were estimated to be a total of 2,656,800 people who were vulnerable in the twelve provinces. Over 50% of all vulnerable people were classified as returnees. An additional 29% of the reported vulnerable people were classified as vulnerable residents. These two groups include more than two million people. In the end, only 10 percent of the vulnerable were classified as IDPs. Resettled groups and socially vulnerable groups only constituted approximately 5% each of the identified vulnerable people.

5.1 Returnees

During the year since the signing of the cease-fire agreement and the effective end of hostilities, many of the millions of people displaced in the Angolan conflict have returned home. The majority of this population movement has been

spontaneous and without formal assistance. This makes accurate estimation of the number of returnees to any one location extremely difficult.

The returnee populations under consideration are primarily trying to re-establish agricultural-based livelihoods. Returning to rural areas, these people are now generally outside of the traditional areas of humanitarian intervention. Consequently, NGOs and government do not necessarily have very good information on these isolated rural communities. Also, many of the returnees are not returning as a complete household. Part of the household has returned to the area of origin to begin the work of re-establishing their livelihood while another part of the family remains in their displacement location. The part of the family remaining the municipal or provincial capitals often tries to maintain other livelihood activities including receiving

humanitarian aid and other services. There seems to be a good deal of movement back and forth between municipalities and the more rural areas. The returnees are a very diverse group and we do not have good information on different levels of asset preservation. Some returnees are returning to destroyed communities without even basic assets, as is sometimes the case in Huambo, Bié, and Benguela. Others are returning to functioning community structures that have preserved many assets including many animals such as was reported in Huíla, Kwanza Sul and Kwanza Norte. Extreme cases exist, such as reported in parts of Bengo, where returnees are reported to out-number residents 10-to-1 in some communities. Without proper sources of information on community and personal assets from household surveys, systematic participatory studies, etc., the vulnerability profiles below only try to characterize general trends reported by the provincial VA working-groups.

5.1.1 Food insecure returnees

The Provincial VA working groups estimate that **652,500 returnees are currently food insecure**. More than 70% of the food insecure returnees are located in just four provinces. These provinces that host more than 10% of the food insecure returnees are Huambo, Benguela, Bié, and Kwanza Sul. Other provinces report a population of between 5,500 and 41,500 food insecure returnees. Uíge reported the smallest population at less than one percent of the total number of food insecure returnees.

(652,544)	
Province	Percentage
	29.5
Benguela	16.2
Bié	13.3
Kwanza Sul	11.2
Bengo	6.4
Huíla	5.7
Kwanza Norte	5.7
Lunda Sul	3.8
Malanje	2.9
Kuando Kubango	2.2
Moxico	2.2
	0.9

Numbering over 192,100, nearly 30% of all food insecure returnees are located in Huambo. Huambo is also generally considered the second most densely populated province after Luanda. The large number of food insecure returnees in Huambo is not surprising because the province was subject to some of the most intense population movements of the conflict. Certain areas, including the commune of Mungo and parts of northern Bailundo, were almost completely depopulated during the fighting. Bailundo has received about one third of all returnees. It is estimated that more than 800,000 people have returned to their places of origin in Huambo since the cease-fire. Recently, external migration into Huambo has overtaken migration from other municipalities within the province.

Large numbers of Food Insecure Returnees were identified in specific municipalities of Huambo. The neighboring localities of Sambo and Samboto in the municipality of Tchicala Tcholoanga report more than 83,000 food insecure returnees. Listing the largest concentrations of food insecure returnees in

Huambo from greatest to smallest;

- Sambo, Tch Tcholoanga 63,100
- Mungo Mungo 30,000
- Longonjo, Tchilata 25,600
- Samboto, Tch Tcholoanga 20,000
- Bimbe, Bailundo 19,700
- Tchinhama, Catchiungo 19,000

Benguela province hosted many of the people during the conflict that are now returning to Huambo. Benguela is also the province with the second highest concentration of reported food insecure returnees. In total, the provincial VA working-group estimates that there are **105,900 food insecure returnees**. Areas in the northeast part of Benguela that border Huambo were most gravely affected by the conflict and report the highest number of food insecure returnees. These areas are isolated and almost completely reliant on agriculture that did not perform well this season. For example in Cubal, the localities of Capupa, Tumbulo, and Yambala report nearly 44,000 food insecure returnees. In Balombo, Chindumbo, Maka-Mombolo, and Chingongo report more than 28,200 food insecure returnees. Three localities in Ganda also reported a large population of food insecure returnees as more than 17,000.

Bié was another province that hosted a large number of IDPs during the conflict. There was a program to assist IDPs from the camps around Kuito return home. It is estimated that 180,000 of these IDPs returned to their places of origin in Bié. The provincial VA working-group reported that more than **87,000 returnees were food insecure in Bié**. Many areas in Bié are still not accessible to the humanitarian community. 16 of the 39 comunas considered in the VA could not be included in the assessment for lack of information. Areas in the north of Bié that were worst affected by the conflict reported large numbers of food insecure returnees such as Cuemba with 25,200. Belo Horizonte in Cunhinga reported 17,100 food insecure returnees. The comunas of Chicala, Trumba, and Cambandua outside Kuito also claim to have a total of 32,500 food insecure returnees.

Kwanza Sul has a large number of food insecure returnees primarily because of the large population of de-mobilized soldiers settling there. During the conflict, there were also population movements near the border with Bié. This was the first time a provincial VA was done for Kwanza Sul and there was not a large amount of information contributed by NGOs or UN agencies for decision-making. A total of 72,700 food insecure returnees were reported in Kwanza Sul. The identified population is more or less evenly spread over 32 different localities. One concentration of 13,500 food insecure returnees was reported in Amboiva, Seles.

Food insecure returnees reported in the VA are exposed to a great deal of **Agricultural Risk**. They achieved little or no production from the last agricultural campaign. The low or non-existent production in the last season could be largely explained by lack of agricultural inputs and small planting areas.

Access to land did not tend to be the major constraint to achieving an adequate planting area. Rather, these returnees did not have adequate time or resources to prepare the fields. Many **food insecure returnees arrived to their place of origin too late to properly prepare for planting**. By and large, they arrived between November 2002 and April 2003. This was too late to plant for the first rainy season in areas where two seasons are possible. Also, many late arrivals missed out on seed and tool distributions. Speed of return home was largely dependant on available opportunities. Government sometimes provided free transportation. Once the rains started, travel was very difficult. Length of journey was often a factor.

Even if returnees arrived in time to plant, time and effort was often divided between rebuilding shelter and preparing fields. Fields for new returnees were usually farther from the centre of the communities. These new fields took more time to reach and were often overgrown taking more time to prepare. After long journeys, some farmers were sick and weak. This all lead to small fields and low production.

It was reported that even if larger planting areas could be prepared, often these returnees could not purchase or trade for enough seeds to plant the additional area. Often, returnees would trade what assets they had to acquire seeds for planting. Many people built their own tools with available materials, but they were not always durable. In some cases, a number of the currently

food insecure returnees had been programmed to receive seeds and tools but poor accessibility kept the necessary inputs from arriving in time.

Certain crop cycles, in particularly for cassava, require more than one year to reach maturity. As staple foods, anyone who planted after the cease-fire is still waiting for his or her first harvest. Conversely, farmers who were already harvesting cassava were not found to be among the vulnerable. For example, Lunda Sul has suffered a severe lack of cassava sticks for planting which putting many of the farming returnees at risk. Returnees in Uige have maintained much better access to cassava stick and seeds for planting. This probably contributes to the low number of currently food insecure returnees in Uige.

Food insecure returnees were located in communities that had serious **Accessibility Problems**. These communities were often completely isolated during the rainy season. Travel by foot was often the only way to reach many of the communities where food insecure returnees lived. Bridges were broken and road were not maintained leading to these communities. Perhaps the accessibility problem that most affected food security for a large number of these returnees was when the CRF, the major thoroughfare in the central plateau provinces, was closed because of a number of mine incidents. It was estimated that 200,000 people were cut off from expected humanitarian aid including the distribution of seeds and tools.

Food insecure returnees generally did not have access to a functioning **Market**. Market mechanisms do not appear to be easing food access for the most isolated communities. In many cases, these communities do not yet have any surplus crops or cash that would be an incentive to traders. The high price of transport is limiting the trade in bulky products like staple foods. These factors combined tend to keep traders working in more lucrative markets, such as provincial capitals or municipalities and across borders.

Health Risks were a serious constraint for food insecure returnees. Although part of a larger problem of very weak health infrastructure, the food insecure returnees often returned to areas that had no health service at all. When returnees left municipal or provincial capitals, they had less access to health care. The journey to the health posts was often long. The journey was possible walking during the rainy season but impossible by motorized transportation from isolated areas.

Food insecure returnees had very **few assets** available to help manage their risks. Most of the food insecure returnees traveled very far and by foot. They returned home with almost no assets they could not carry with them.

Community and social infrastructure were often destroyed when returnees arrived home. In places like Bengo and Mungo in Huambo where returnees outnumbered residents by huge margins, communities would have much more difficulty helping to support the returnees.

Perhaps the most positive food security aspect of the cease-fire was that many people regained access to natural resources. A resurgence of fishing was widespread. Hunting and honey collection was resumed. In particularly, the collection of wild mushrooms and edible leaves played an important role in returnees and resettled peoples meals.

Most of these returnees had also left behind the aid and services that they received in their locations of displacement. Lack of services and transfers seriously reduced most food insecure returnees' asset base. Cutting off aid to groups that have become dependant on aid is beginning to be more and more common. Closing down of IDP camps and FRA was a recurring theme in the provincial VA reports. At the same time, NGOs and government are not able to provide services in the most isolated areas. UN security policy also has complicated efforts to reach isolated areas and left many of the most food insecure without necessary support.

5.1.2 Highly vulnerable returnees

The highly vulnerable returnees usually arrived six months to a year before the less fortunate food insecure returnees. They also usually had slightly more assets. These assets may have been transfers of food, seeds, or tools from humanitarian distributions. Or the assets may have somehow been preserved or built up during their displacement. In any case, this group has managed to harvest something from the last agricultural campaign. In general, provincial reports indicate approximately 2 months of stocks remaining.

The twelve provincial VAs reported a total of **540,400 highly vulnerable returnees**. Highly vulnerable returnees could be found in every province and were much less concentrated than the food insecure returnees. It appears that the highly vulnerable returnees reflect a more national trend of the on-going and uneven process to re-establishing agriculturally based livelihoods. Each with only about 3% of the highly vulnerable returnees, Bengo, Kuando Kubango, and Kwanza Norte reported the fewest number of highly vulnerable returnees. Benguela, Lunda Sul and Malanje also had below average concentrations of highly vulnerable returnees. Of this group, Kuando Kubango had the fewest at only 7,300 reported highly vulnerable returnees.

5.2 Vulnerable Residents

Of the **762,700 vulnerable residents**, the majority was expected to meet their food needs until the next harvest. In fact 55% of vulnerable residents were classified as moderately or potentially vulnerable. As long as these residents do not experience a major shock, they should have access to their basic food needs. 22% of the residents were highly vulnerable, leaving only 21% as currently food insecure. This results in a **reported 170,800 food insecure residents and 175,300 highly vulnerable residents**. This situation is widely seen as encouraging. It indicates that over successive harvests, agricultural livelihoods can be successful in most of the areas.

Food insecure and highly vulnerable residents were concentrated in the same areas as the most vulnerable returnees. 61% of food insecure residents were reported in Bié and Huambo. Additionally, 70% of the highly vulnerable residents were also located in Huambo and Bié. People included in the vulnerable residents category as food insecure tended to have had a very difficult time during the conflict. They were victims of particularly complete looting and destruction of their property. Although they have had more time to begin re-establishing their livelihoods, they still face serious constraints. Many do not have seeds or cassava and sweet potato cuttings to plant. The highly vulnerable residents differed from the currently food insecure primarily because they managed to harvest something. Much of the harvest was maize or beans that were eaten green.

Two concentrations of food insecure residents were reported in the localities of Muconda and Sombo in Lunda Sul. These are cassava-growing regions that have been lacking in cassava sticks to start their fields. Because cassava takes 15 – 24 months to mature, many residents are still waiting on their more recent plantings to mature.

Food insecurity caused by natural risks was reported in two areas. Along the coast in Bengo, the communities around Quicabo suffered crop loss when the river they relied on for irrigation went dry at a critical period in the growing season. Further down the coast in Benguela, crops were lost due to flooding in southern Baía Farta.

Exposure to health risk would be a primary threat for these vulnerable residents. With the high morbidity rates, exposure to injury or illness would most likely be the type of shock that could move a potentially vulnerable resident into a situation of food insecurity.

Lack of good information on the agricultural livelihoods that are being re-established is one of the main constraints in developing good policy and interventions for vulnerable residents. Sources of vulnerability need to be understood in order for appropriate steps to help support risk management can be taken. Over half of the vulnerable residents are just barely accessing enough food to not fall into food security. Safety net programs would benefit these vulnerable residents particularly during the lean season.

5.3 IDPs, Internally Displaced People

The municipal capital of Mavinga in Kuando Kubango was perhaps the last major reception site of new group of IDPs in the later part of 2002. New IDPs continued to arrive in beginning of 2003. Large concentrations of vulnerable IDPs in provincial capitals and municipalities that were common during the conflict are now becoming exceptional situations. These IDPs of Kuando Kubango were perhaps the furthest from their homes and had the least amount of information about the cease-fire. For most of these IDPs, they have gathered in Mavinga to organize their trip back home. 110,600 IDPs are currently registered in Mavinga. Also in Kuando Kubango, 3,700 and 1,800 IDPs are in the communities of Cuito Cuanavale and Cuelel respectively. Because these are recently arriving IDPs, they do not have other means of sustaining themselves and are considered food insecure.

Other groups of food insecure IDPs still persist in other provinces. These are generally not new IDPs that have recently arrived. These are groups that have not returned to their places of origin because it was considered completely inaccessible or were still unsure that the peace would hold. These appear to be isolated cases and are not a widespread phenomenon. The largest groups of these old IDPs that are considered food insecure are in Huíla. A group of 5,100 food insecure IDPs are in Caluquembe and another group of 3,000 in Dongo. In the locality of Parededes in Bengo, a group of 3,200 food insecure IDPs persist. Benguela also has two localities with sizable IDP populations; Balombo has 3,100 food insecure IDPs and Passe has 1,700.

During the conflict, Bié had some of the highest concentrations of IDPs in provincial and municipal capitals. Where these groups persist, many of these people have developed a number of ways to supplement food aid distributions. Nonetheless, many were reported to be highly vulnerable and would need some help through the next lean season. The largest group of highly vulnerable IDPs, numbering 28,900, is located in Cambandua. 11,400 highly vulnerable IDPs were reported in Kuito and another 3,400 in Cunhinga. These IDPs remain for the same reasons described above. Either their homes are still inaccessible or some are waiting for support with transportation. There were some reports that some people were waiting for the next elections before moving home.

IDPs face quite a different set of risks than returnees or residents. In some ways, IDPs face much less risk than people trying to rebuild agriculturally based livelihoods. Old IDPs are integrated in the community and have developed other types of livelihood strategies. The new IDPs are completely dependant on food aid. High prices in the market may actually benefit IDPs who will probably sell part of their food aid rations to buy other necessities. Most of the IDPs are in municipal or provincial capitals so they face much less problems related to accessibility. Being located in these capitals also probably gives the IDPs much greater access to health and nutrition services.

IDPs are vulnerable primarily because they lack assets and are negatively affected by changes in policy governing humanitarian aid. Lack of assets is a particularly difficult problem for the newly arrived IDPs. Many of the new IDPs arriving in Mavinga have been living in very difficult circumstances and surviving primarily directly off natural resources. There is no good evidence on if or how many assets old IDPs have been able to acquire or maintain in the camps. Being

classified as food insecure or highly vulnerable indicates that they do not have many assets and not many opportunities to build new and successful livelihoods strategies while away from home.

In most places, major humanitarian aid for IDPs is coming to an end. General food distribution is beginning to be replaced with food for work activities. Supplementary Feeding Centres and Therapeutic Feeding Centres are being shut down or moved, as they are less in demand.

5.4 Resettled

Relative to other population groups considered in the VA, smaller groups of resettled people were reported as vulnerable. Only **34,000 resettled people were reported as food insecure** while a slightly larger amount of **56,200 were considered highly vulnerable**. Resettled people had often benefited from interventions and particularly from distributions of seeds and tools. In isolated incidences when these distributions did not manage to reach the resettled groups in time for planting, resettled people became vulnerable.

The provincial VA groups from Huambo, Kwanza Sul and Benguela reported over 80% of the food insecure resettled people. The largest group of food insecure resettled people numbered over 13,500 in Luvemba, Huambo. Kassongue and Kibala in Kwanza Sul also reported this larger groups food insecure numbering 2,800 and 5,400 respectively. Benguela reported smaller groups of food insecure resettled people across 6 different communes. Highly vulnerable were primarily reported in Huambo, Huíla, and Moxico. Over 70% of the highly vulnerable resettled people were identified to be in these three provinces. A large group of 12,000 highly vulnerable resettled people were reported in Luena, Moxico. Calquembe in the province of Huíla was home to an additional 10,200 highly vulnerable resettled people.

5.5 GSV, Socially Vulnerable Groups

Of the five vulnerable population groups, Socially Vulnerable Groups (GSV) reported the least number of currently vulnerable people. In the 12 provincial reports, 25,800 GSVs were considered to be currently food insecure. An additional 26,600 people were also considered to be highly vulnerable.

Good information did not generally exist on the actual vulnerability status of GSV. Understanding the vulnerability of GSV and accurately estimating their numbers would require a survey-type assessment. This is well beyond the scope of participation-based provincial workshops. Nonetheless, we can gain some understanding of the situation from their reports.

The provincial VA groups estimated vulnerable GSV numbers in one of two ways. In Huíla, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, and Moxico, the working-groups estimations were evenly distributed across all communes. On average, 330 GSV were reported per commune and estimations in these provinces did not deviate much from this. The other working-groups identified large GSV populations in the provincial and municipal capitals. For example, 6000 highly vulnerable GSVs were reported in the provincial capital of Malanje. These working-groups identified no GSVs as vulnerable in more rural areas. It seems that these estimations were made from on-going interventions.

In the end, both estimation methods probably portray part of the truth. People that could be considered as vulnerable GSVs are probably more or less everywhere. Social systems and government safety nets that should usually protect these people from food insecurity have broken down during the conflict. This would leave a significant amount of the more dependant population in need of external interventions. Because of the higher population and concentration of services in provincial and municipal capitals, the population of vulnerable GSV is probably

higher in these places. You wouldn't expect the disabled and extremely elderly to be travel hundreds of kilometers by foot to reclaim fields in the most inaccessible areas.

The risks that GSV are exposed would be quite different than the other population groups included in the VA. The agricultural risks faced by GSVs would be low because you do not expect them to be labouring extensively on farms. The majority of GSV would not have macro-level accessibility problems because the concentrations of vulnerable GSVs are reported in provincial and municipal capitals. Markets would be functioning in these places, but the most vulnerable GSVs probably do not have adequate sources of income to access the food that is available. Of the risks discussed in the workshops, GSVs are most likely exposed to health risks. The very young and very old are more susceptible to disease. As reported earlier, the health infrastructure is poor in most areas. GSV may actually have better access to health care services that are provided by NGOs or the government infrastructure in the provincial and municipal capitals.

GSVs suffer most from risks that were not explicitly included in the VA. Social and political risks leave the GSV in the most vulnerable position. Informal and formal safety nets that usually would support these people are not functioning well in post-conflict Angola. Families have been separated and people have been removed from their communities. Traditional sources of support are often having a difficult time re-establishing their own livelihoods. Government safety nets do not yet seem to be in place to protect these people. These groups are at risk of changes in policy as external interventions are reduced. There also seems to be pressure to move former IDPs out of the municipal and provincial capitals where many of the GSV seem to be finding support. Once again, little can be said about the risk exposure of GSV without more comprehensive field-based assessments.

Because of the focus on emergency programs and more general distribution of humanitarian aid, not many humanitarian actors had done sufficient assessments to target this group. Estimates were mostly contributed by MINARS.

5.6 Food Security and Livelihood Outcomes

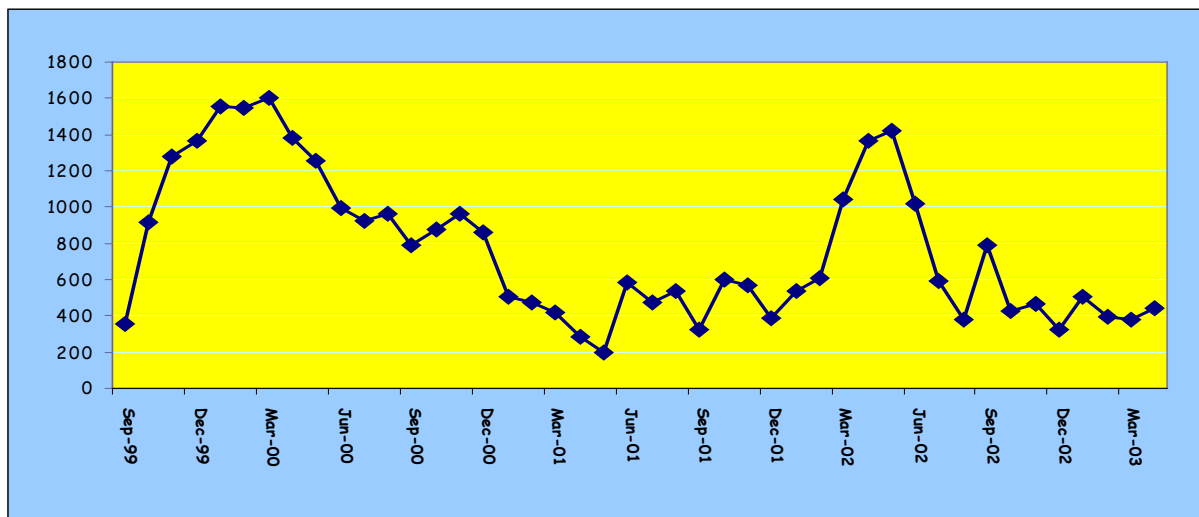
Reliable and comprehensive food security or livelihood indicators were not widely collected during the VA process between November 2002 and April 2003. In general, these types of indicators need to be collected in systematic surveys. Government ministries and United Nations agencies did however provide some statistics. In many provinces for example, MINSA and WHO contributed information on incidence of major diseases. In May 2003, the National Institute of Statistics and UNICEF released the results of the 2001 Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS). This is a rich source of information that is not available from other sources. Information on Education, HIV awareness, Water and Sanitation issues in the provincial VA were not systematically reported and therefore difficult to compile at a national level. MICS results are referred to for these indicators that are not likely to have changed dramatically.

Although not necessarily representative at a national level, a number of nutritional and anthropometric surveys did take place and can provide some quantitative information of food security outcomes for certain locations. A number of more localized nutrition and Rapid Food Needs Assessment (RFNA) surveys were also carried out during the VA period. The RFNA bring together a number of food security outcomes for a more complete picture of community level issues.

5.6.1 Nutrition and Anthropometric Surveys

The nutritional situation in Angola has improved considerably since the same period last year. Indicators supporting this trend are admission rates to Therapeutic Feeding Centers and 14 anthropometric surveys that were carried out between November 2002 and April 2003. It must be noted though that the surveys represent accessible areas and therefore it can be expected that pockets of higher malnutrition rates exist in yet inaccessible and isolated areas.

Admissions to TFCs in Huambo province



Children admitted to therapeutic feeding centers have tended to demonstrate pathological complications. This implies that severe malnutrition seen now is not solely caused by lack of food but by a complex combination of poor sanitation, education, social problems and lack of health facilities. It has been seen in previous years nutritional statistics that the effects of shock and in particular forced movements and migration, affected the nutritional situation more than seasonal differences. It is therefore normal to see an improvement in the nutritional situation by families settling down in one place and restarting their lives in a peaceful environment.

In the reported anthropometric surveys, global malnutrition ranged from 2.6 to 8.4%. Severe malnutrition rates were all under 2% except for one survey from Mavinga in Kuando Kubango. This survey reported severe malnutrition at 2.6 percent.

Crude mortality rate (CMR) and under five mortality rate (U5) were reported from ten surveys. 6 of the 10 surveys had CMR of more than or equal to 1 per 10,000 per day. 6 of the surveys also reported U5 at more than 2 per 10,000 per day. One report from Caconda in Huila reported a very high U5 rate at 4.4 per 10,000 per day. CMR and U5 rates for the survey in Lunda Sul are incredible at 6.3 and 16.7 per 10,000 per day respectively. The fairly low malnutrition rate could be masked by the high child mortality reported in the surveys. The high measles incident seen each year is also a contributing factor to both child mortality and malnutrition. A malnutrition rate of 8.4% is hence of more concern than if aggravating factors did not exist. Therefore the nutritional situation should continue to be monitored regularly.

Angola Nutritional Surveys Nov 02 April 03, Reported by PNN, NGOs, & UNICEF

Province	Place	Date	Organization	Target Group	Results		Mortality (x/10,000/day)
					Global (<-2SD)	Severe (<-3SD)	
					z-Score		
							CM U5
K-kubango	Mavinga	Nov-02	MSF-S (epicenter)	Residents	8.4 (6.3-10.9)	2.6 (1.5-4.2)	1.4
K-kubango	Mavinga	Nov-02	MSF-S (epicenter)	QFAs	6 (4.2-8.3)	1.8 (0.9-3.3)	1.0
Malange	Lombe	Nov-02	MSF-H, MINSA, UNICEF		5.45 (2.45-8.45)	1.36 (-0.17-2.89)	0.30
Malange	Malange	Nov-02	MSF-H, MINSA, UNICEF	IDPs/ Residents	2.63 (0.63-4.63)	0.8 (-0.31-1.93)	1.69
K-kubango	Cuanaval	Nov-02	ACH	IDPs/ Residents	6.7 (5.2-8.6)	2.3 (1.2-4.4)	0.55
Huila	Caconda	Dec-02	ACH MINSA	IDPs/ Residents	8.3 (6.0-11.4)	1.4 (0.6-3.2)	1.18
Huila	Chipindo	Feb-03	ACH MINSA	Residents/ Returnees	5.8 (4.4-7.5)	1.2 (0.6-2.1)	0.8
Huila	Chipindo	Feb-03	ACH MINSA	QFAs	5.2 (3.5-7.5)	1.6 (0.8-3.2)	4.4
Huila	Matala	Mar-03	MSF-E	QFAs Fazenda Kadjanguiti	7.4 (5.4-9.4)	0.8 (0.2-1.4)	1.5
Huila	Matala	Mar-03	MSF-E	Residents	4.6 (2.9-6.4)	0.6 (0.2-1.1)	3.1
Benguela	Ganda	Mar-03	ACH	Residents	6.7 (4.7-9.5)	0.2 (0.0-1.4)	1.0
Benguela	Cubal	Apr-03	CRS/MINSA	Residents/ Returnees	6.6 (4.5-9.4)	0.2 (0.0-1.4)	2.8
Lunda Sul	Saurimo, Muc onda, Dala,	Mar-03	Goal	Residents/ Returnees	6.3 (4.9-8.2)	1.7 (1.0-2.8)	7.4
Huambo	Huambo	Apr-03	MINSA+NGOs	Residents	4.5 (3.3-6.6)	0.5 (0.2-1.2)	16.7

Global Malnutrition rate

Less than 5%
 From 5% and 10%
 >10%

5.6.2 Health and HIV

Representative indicators of health and access to health care are not systematically available from the twelve provincial VA reports. It was therefore difficult to aggregate health information at a national level. The most widely available information was provided from MINARS on diagnosed cases of the most common pathologies. These included Malaria, Diarrhea, and Respiratory Disease. This information was available in eight out of the twelve provincial reports. Simple number of cases cannot be considered a comprehensive health outcome indicator because cases were primarily reported in hospitals of the provincial or municipal capitals. There is no data available to adjust this for estimating the proportion of the population actually affected or even that have access to health facilities. Nonetheless, malaria cases were often reported in the tens of thousands in each provincial report. WHO reports that malaria is endemic with up to 92% of the population at risk. Reported cases of diarrhea and respiratory diseases were commonly very high as well.

In areas lacking health services, no information was available. It is assumed that common diseases were also a problem in these communities.

Malaria, diarrhea, intestinal parasites and respiratory infections remain the most common diseases reported amongst children. A major vaccination campaign against measles took place

during the VA. The mid-term report from WHO covering the period of the VA confirmed that one million children were vaccinated against measles and up to seven million were to be included in the complete measles campaign. Still, outbreaks of measles were reported in the provincial reports from Bengo, Huila Kwanza Sul, and Moxico. WHO provided information about reported measles cases at the provincial level between January and May 2003. Uige reported the highest number of cases at nearly 500. Huambo also had over 250 cases of measles. All the other provinces in the VA reported less than 150 cases.

Measles cases reported, WHO 2003

Voluntary testing for HIV is not widely available in Angola. It was reported by UNICEF in the beginning of 2003 that only 4 testing centers exist and all are in Luanda. HIV data mostly comes from hospitals in the provincial capitals. Screening takes place generally from screening donated blood, tests of people with tuberculosis, or pregnant women. Some form of HIV results were reported in 9 of the 12 provincial VAs.

Information about HIV appears to be a large problem. The recently released MICS reports indicates that 9 of 10 Angolans represented in the survey do not have sufficient knowledge about how HIV is transmitted. Women are twice as likely to be less informed than men about HIV.

5.6.3 MICS, Education, Water and Sanitation

Information on education water and sanitation were not systematically presented in all the provincial VA reports. At the same time as the National Vulnerability Overview was being prepared, the MICS report was released by the National Institute of Statistics and UNICEF. We are fortunate to be able to include some general national level information from this document. Because this information is from 2001 and not collected during the current VA process, we only chose to highlight a few key findings directly relevant to the VA.

An extensive treatment of education in the MICS report indicated some disparities in access to education. Wealth and location appeared to be the primary factors related to access to education. Attendance of primary school was twice as high for children from "better-off" families compared to the poor. Although 56% of Angolan 6-9 year-olds attended grades 1-4, only 6% of 10-11 year-olds reached the 5th or 6th grade. Eventually 76% of children did reach the 5th grade. Quality of education was said to suffer from lack of personnel, infrastructure, and school materials. There are approximately 64 pupils per classroom.

Some disparities in literacy rates were reported as well. Low literacy rates are thought to be associated with poor living conditions, unemployment, and low income. About one third of the population represented in the MICS is illiterate. Men tend to have higher rates of literacy than women. Only 54% of women were reported as literate.

About 60% of Angolans were reported to have access to safe water sources. Rural households are twice as likely to get water from unsafe sources that urban people. A government report on newly accessible areas, the Rapid Assessment of Critical Needs, also found that the majority of rural people did not have safe water or adequate sanitation. About 41% of the MICS sample also did not report a sanitary means of excreta disposal.

5.6.4 Rapid Food Needs Assessments

Additional sources of current information on a number of livelihood and food security outcomes are becoming available from field-based surveys. For example, ten standardized assessments were carried out between March and May 2003 as part of a new initiative from WFP/VAM. Rapid Food Needs Assessments RFNA took place in communities in Kwanza Sul, Huila, Moxico, Huambo, and Bié.

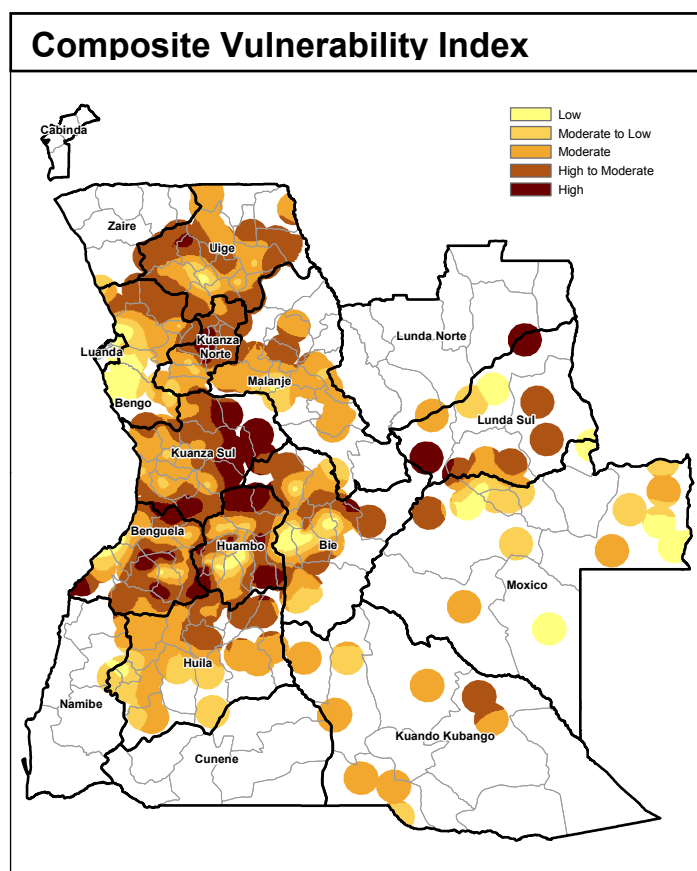
The RFNA largely used participatory techniques to better-understand food security issues for the communities. Presented are abbreviated results in a table describing: access to health, income, assets (proxy by food stocks), water/sanitation, consumption (proxy by number of meals), and MUAC. Access to health was limited or very poor in all the communities. Malaria and diarrhea were the most commonly reported illnesses. Poor water/sanitation conditions may have contributed to poor health status, particularly for children. A number of income generating activities were reported including charcoal production, wood sales, brewing beverages, and temporary agricultural labour. Food stocks varied between 0-4 months. Currently, most communities reported eating 2 to 3 meals a day, with children often receiving an additional meal. MUAC results reported a range of 2-16% global malnutrition rate. Differences in global malnutrition rates were considered to reflect differences in health status, sanitary situation, and length of time in community after displacement.

Livelihood outcomes based on RFNA March-May 2003					
	Huila	Huila	Huambo	Huambo	Huambo
	Chipindo	Galangue	Lomanda	Mandi	Desvio
Access to health	limited	very poor	limited (7km)	poor	poor
Income	50-100Kz/day	no info	no info	barter & exchange	no info
Stocks	2 months	0	2w-1month	4 months	0
Water/Sanitation	poor	v. poor	OK	OK	poor
Number of meals	2/day	1-2/day	2/d child=3/d	2/day	2/d child=3/d
MUAC(global)	6% w/h	5% w/h	6%	16%	3%
	Bie	Bie	Moxico	Moxico	Kwanza Sul
	Chitembo	Cunhinga	Muacanhica	Luchazes	Kipito
Access to health	limited	limited(HC)	has HP	limited	has HP
Income	100-200kz/d	50-100Kz/d	no info	no info	no info
Stocks	no info	2w- 1month	no info	no info	1 month
Water/Sanitation	poor	poor	water=OK, no latrines	OK	poor
Number of meals	2-3/day	2/day	2/day child=3/d	2/d child=3/d	3/day
MUAC(global)	11%	7%	2%	3%	6%

6. CONCLUSIONS

A few clear, albeit broad, conclusions can be drawn for the 12 provincial VA reports. Current food insecurity appears to be concentrating in large groups in specific places. The IDPs of Kuando Kubango and the returnees to isolated communes of Huambo and Bié are the major groups in need of immediate food-oriented interventions. Food insecurity will be much more widespread in the lean period. A significantly larger proportion of returnees as well as resettled people and residents will become food insecure in the coming months. To greater and lesser extents, all the provinces reported to have substantial rural areas that will need some sort of support as food stocks are quickly depleted.

Large groups of IDPs in municipal or provincial capitals are no longer the primary food insecure group. This VA has reported a distinct movement away from a large-scale emergency situation with massive populations totally dependent on the humanitarian community. The consensus is that returnees are now the largest vulnerable group in Angola. The most vulnerable residents in many places could also be considered old returnees as they were displaced at some point during conflict. It is very important to recognize that these people are in the process of re-establishing their agriculturally based livelihoods. They are rebuilding communities and assets. Often they were already able to help themselves with small amounts of agricultural production or harvesting some of countries natural riches. Interventions must be carefully programmed to support this process and not distract people from their priorities.



Vulnerability is a central concept to improving interventions that support re-establishing livelihoods. Newly re-established livelihoods are often more fragile and are more exposed to a wide range of risks. A single shock can destroy any recovery or development gains that had been made. Common shocks often put vulnerable people back into a situation of food insecurity and dependency on external interventions. It is therefore essential that interventions boost the ability of people to manage risk for themselves. More durable and sustainable livelihoods can only be achieved when sufficient assets are available to support effective risk management. Policy and intervention must both come together to support this process of asset creation.

On one hand, it is clear that vulnerable people are exposed to a diversity of risks. The health situation is bad everywhere, but worse for rural people. Reported mortality and

morbidity rates are extremely high. Epidemics of malaria, diarrheal disease, and respiratory disease are not under control. HIV infection is not sufficiently understood or reported. Medicines and health services are not accessible to most rural people. Road maintenance and lack of bridges make many communities inaccessible to anyone during the rainy season. Large

areas can become off-limits to parts of the humanitarian community for security reasons. Prices are high because transportation is expensive. Markets are not functioning because of profiteering by traders. These are generalizations from the provincial VA reports, but most vulnerable people are just generally exposed to all sorts of risk.

What is less understood is how well vulnerable people are able to manage these problems. Some outcomes are showing that people are managing fairly well. Anthropometrics indicators of nutritional status are not as alarming as in the past. People are planting when seeds are available. Fishing, hunting and honey gathering are all reported as profitable activities. Movement back and forth from rural places and municipal capitals is intense as people try to exploit different opportunities available in the different places.

The challenge now is for the VA process to incorporate more outcome indicators into its analysis. Once these levels of welfare can be established, understanding of livelihoods and risk management must also be improved. As the VA process is dependant on participation, the information available reflects those who are participating. Participants now need to implement a process of more **systematic vulnerability information collection in rural areas**, where the most vulnerable people are thought to now be located.

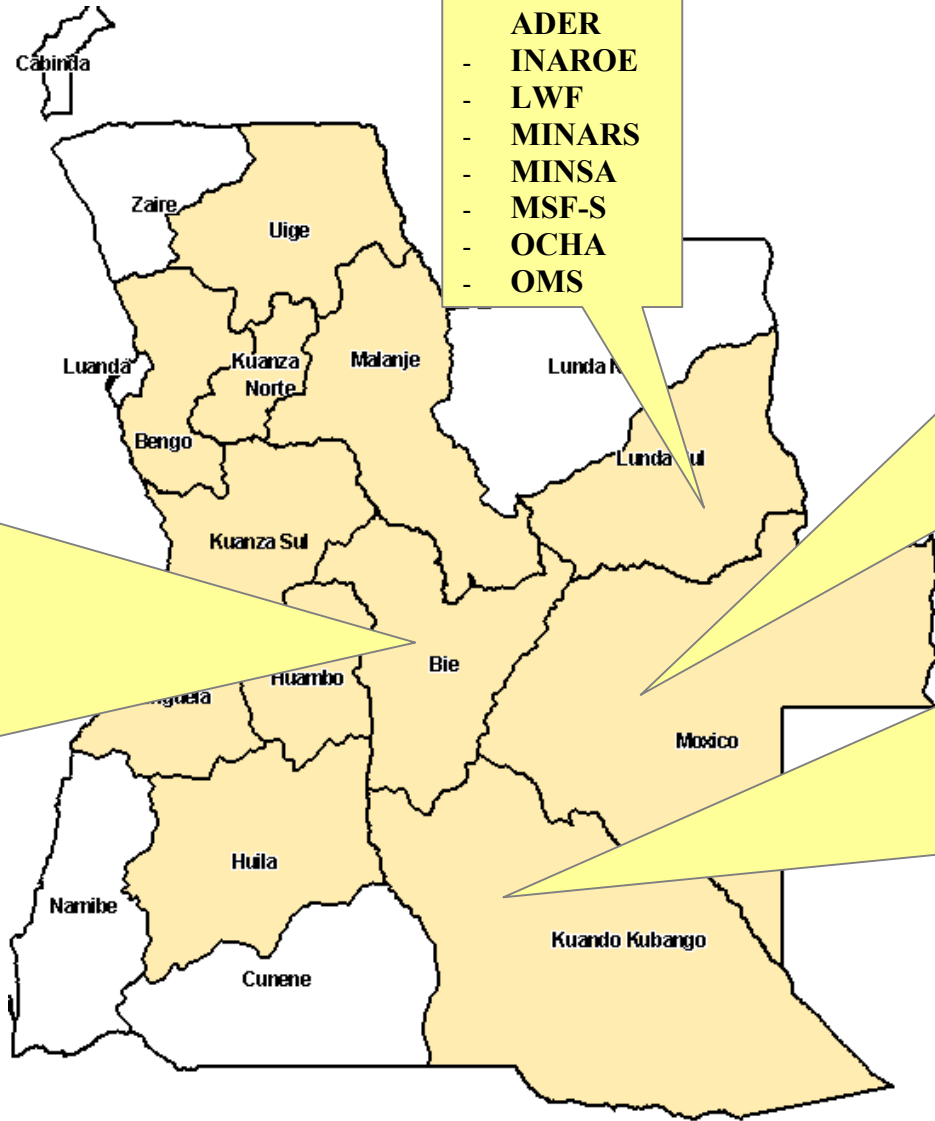
Partners Participating in Provincial VA, Map 1

- BIÉ**
- ACORD
 - ADMA
 - AFRICARE
 - APS
 - AVIMI
 - Caritas
 - CESVI
 - CICV
 - CONCERN
 - CVA
 - CVE
 - GAC
 - HALO TRUST
 - MINADER/IDA
 - MINARS
 - MINSA
 - MOVIMONDO
 - MSF-B
 - OCHA
 - OMS
 - OXFAM
 - PAM
 - UNICEF
 - UTCAH

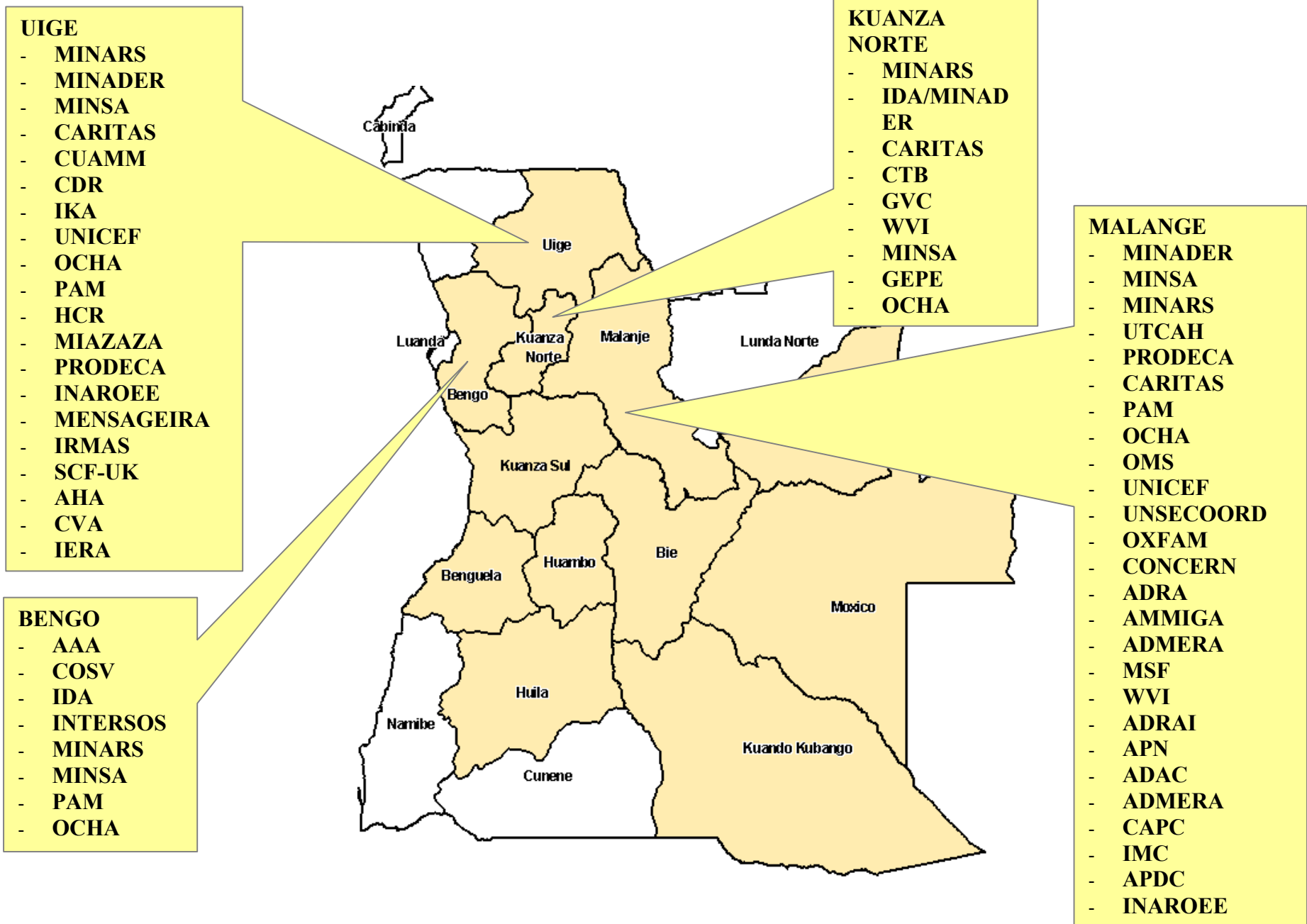
- LUNDA SUL**
- GOAL
 - GSA/MINADER
 - INAROE
 - LWF
 - MINARS
 - MINSA
 - MSF-S
 - OCHA
 - OMS

- MOXICO**
- APN
 - CAPDC
 - DOM
 - BOSCO
 - GOAL
 - JRS
 - LWF
 - MAG
 - MEDAIR
 - MINADER-GSA
 - MINARS
 - MINSA
 - MSF-B
 - OCHA
 - PAM
 - SCF-USA
 - UNICEF
 - VVIF
 - AAA

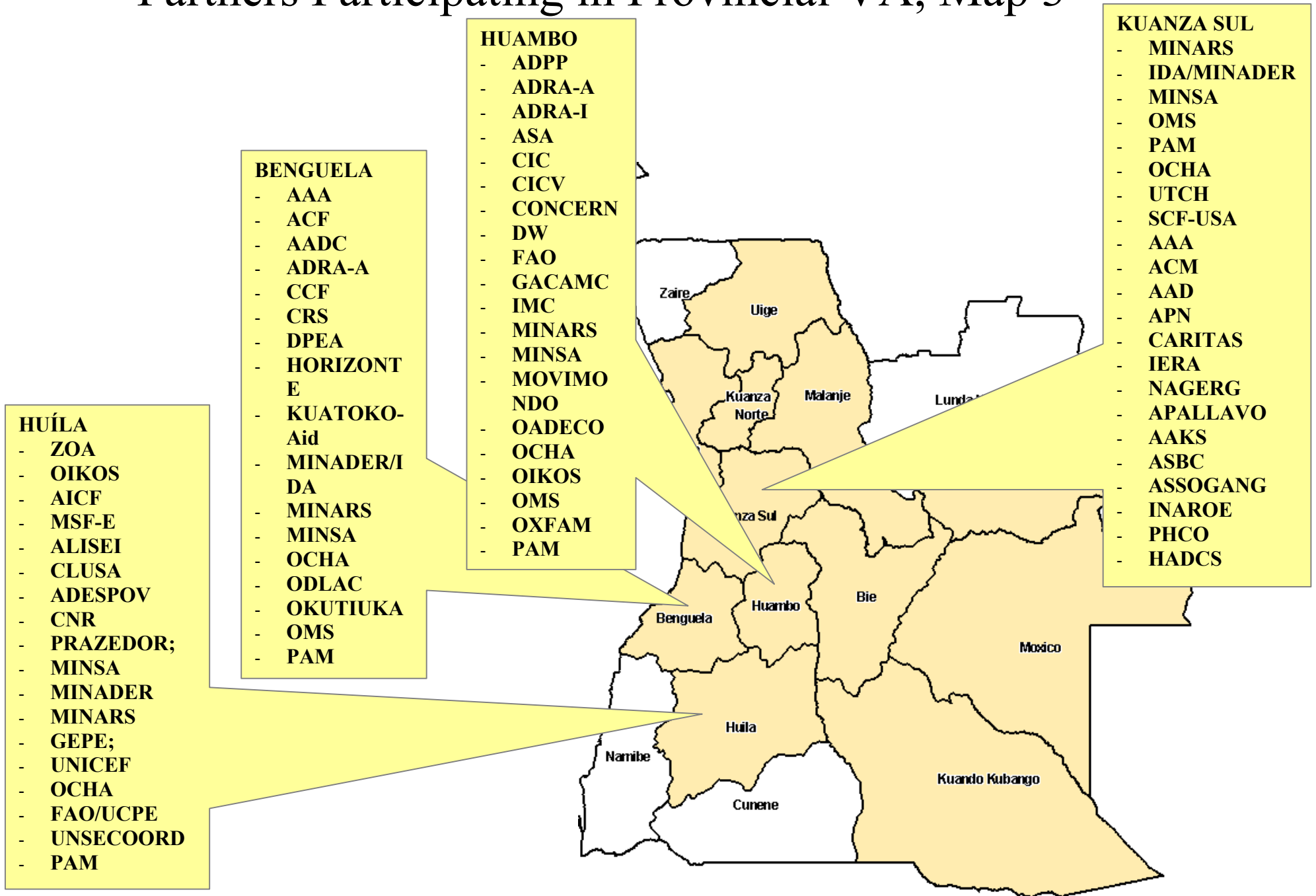
- KUANDO KUBANGO**
- ADC
 - CARITAS
 - CNR
 - DPA
 - GSA/MINADER
 - INTERSOS
 - MINARS
 - MINSA
 - MOVIMUNDO
 - MSF-S
 - OCHA
 - OMS
 - PAM
 - UIEA
 - UTCAH



Partners Participating in Provincial VA, Map 2



Partners Participating in Provincial VA, Map 3



Annex 2 CVI, Composite Vulnerability Indicator

Analytical Criteria

Following extensive internal discussions within the VAM Unit and, subsequently, within the VA&FA Working Group five main elements of analysis were chosen in order to determine geographic risk of food insecurity and identify the most vulnerable population groups. These elements were:

- *Accessibility and population movements*: for their impact on livelihood systems and demographic pressure on natural resources and income generating opportunities.
- *Agriculture*: being the main activity of the vast majority of the war-affected population in Angola.
- *Markets functioning and price trends*: for their impact on food availability and accessibility.
- *Health, nutrition, and sanitation*: because these are directly or indirectly related with productive capacity.
- *Income and coping strategies*: being them clear indicators of people's capacity to face food insecurity.

In attempt to measure the impact of the above element of analysis on the vulnerability situation of a given area, a series of analytical criteria were determined in order to classify the situation in terms of each element according to a scale of four possible situations:

1. Good (+)
2. To be monitored (\pm)
3. Worrying (-)
4. Critical (—)

It was decided that, in order to determine the geographic risk of food insecurity in a given area, information related to at least four out of the above five elements of analysis was needed. The summation of the algebraic symbols utilised to indicate one of the four possible situations for each element is compared with the intervals of two possible ranges of results:

- a) From -10 to +5, if information is available to determine the situation of all five elements of analysis
- b) From -8 to +4, if information is available to determine the situation of four out five elements of analysis

Each one of these two possible ranges is divided in five intervals which are used to determine if the risk of food insecurity in a given area (geographic vulnerability) is high, moderate to high, moderate, low to moderate, or low.

Population Groups Ranking

The possible mechanisms for an efficient local level targeting within a complex emergency context such as the Angolan one has been one of the most discussed issues within the VA&FA Working Group since the beginning of its activities. Although everyone agrees that the food economy approach would be the best technical tool to specifically identify the needs at community and household level in order to target the most vulnerable members of the population, it is also widely recognized that a systematic use of this type of assessments is not a practical solution within the Angolan context for the following reasons:

- the disruption of livelihood systems in the vast majority of the country

- the wide geographical dispersion of the population in the country
- the limited human/financial resources of all actors involved in the Vulnerability Analysis Exercise
- the high level of technical skills necessary for this type of assessments

However, it is recognized that more field based information is needed to improve the local level targeting which as of present is performed at community level by the provincial VA groups that identify the population groups present in the community and rank them according one of three possible vulnerability level based on length of residence, access to land and agricultural inputs, capacity to develop alternatives income strategies based on the knowledge of the area and their social linkages with other population groups.

In the after-war Angolan context five populations groups have been considered to be representatives of the entire vulnerable population in the country at the time of the harvest, in April-May 2003. These groups are:

- f) Internally Displaced People (IDP) arrived after October 2001: these might have access to their first harvest in April 2003
- g) Returnees (RET): ex-IDPs or ex-refugees that returned to their areas of origin
- h) Resettled (REA): ex-IDPs or ex-refugees that resettled in some areas which is not their areas of origin
- i) Vulnerable Residents (RES)
- j) Socially Vulnerable Groups (GSV): elderly, street children, orphans, handicapped, etc..

Composite Vulnerability Index

Through an empirical combination of the geographic risk of food insecurity and the degree of vulnerability by which the population groups are ranked at local level by the provincial VA groups, it is obtained the Composite Vulnerability Index (CVI) for each of the population groups in a given locality where enough information is available to determine the geographic risk of food insecurity.

This is done by using the below matrix:

Risk of Food Insecurity	Locality	VL-I					TOTAL	VL-II					TOTAL	VL-III					TOTAL		
		IDP	RET	REA	GSV	RES		IDP	RET	REA	GSV	RES		IDP	RET	REA	GSV	RES			
High																					
Moderate to High																					
Moderate																					
Moderate to Low																					
Low																					
Total																					

VL = Vulnerability Level

Different colours are assigned to four different degree of the CVI as illustrated in the following table:

Composite Vulnerability Index	Description
Food Insecure Population	Indicate those population groups whose livelihood systems have been heavily affected or disrupted and whose minimal nutritional requirements cannot be met unless they have access to food assistance
High Vulnerability	Those populations who will not be able to meet their minimal consumptions needs until next harvest and therefore will most likely be food insecure during the lean season
Moderate Vulnerability	Those populations who might not be able to meet their minimal consumptions needs until next harvest and therefore might become food insecure during the lean season
Potential Vulnerability	These are population groups that should not face food insecurity until the next harvest. However, should some unexpected event affect the availability of food or its accessibility, these groups might not be able to face the crisis and could eventually become food insecure

The cells of the CVI matrix, once filled with estimated number of population groups by location, enable the Provincial VA Groups and, at national level, the VA&FA Working Group to do the following:

- Estimate the number of food insecure population at the end of the VA Exercise
- Qualify the type of population groups that face food insecurity
- Identify the geographic areas with highest risk of food insecurity
- Make a medium term projection of the potential beneficiaries caseload of for food aid/food security interventions
- Plan appropriate integrated interventions to re-establish livelihood systems of war-affected populations

It has to be said that only the latest VA Exercise, carried out in October 2002, has reached a level of sufficient sophistication which allowed to the humanitarian community, at both the national and provincial level, to use the results of the exercise as indicated above.

WFP has used the results of the VA to review its programme of intervention by population group and by district, and to take programming decisions for the first half of 2003.

Limitations

The information on the multi-sectoral food security indicators is collected primarily by the Government institutions, NGOs and Agencies, which are members of the Provincial Vulnerability Analysis Group. Gathering data that satisfies both spatial and time dimension of every single vulnerability indicator is an enormous task, probably beyond the capacity of existing institutional framework. Due to the lack of a “gold standard” measure of vulnerability, the VA&FA working group continues to search for more viable indicators and refine the methodology so as

to reduce the subjective perceptions of the problem and at the same time broaden the ground for a clear understanding of livelihood capacities and strategies.

A categorical distinction of vulnerable groups is made difficult due to the high degree of integration among the various population groups in the country. The current data collection methods and the food security monitoring practices further complicate the identification of the factors determining differential vulnerability to food insecurity across groups and the quantitative estimation of affected people. It is therefore difficult to trace with high degree of accuracy, the time sequences and the source of vulnerability of these population groups at the local level following the first level screening provided by VA Exercise.

Only limited information is available in the areas outside of the municipality centre, or in areas outside the humanitarian intervention range. This is due, in part, to the limited presence of government institutions, NGOs and Agencies in the outlying areas of the provincial and municipality capitals.

Annex 3

Vulnerable population as of May 2003 by province, by category and vulnerability degree

Food insecure population as of May 2003

Province	IDP	RET	REA	RES	GSV	Sub-total	%
Bengo	3,500	41,500		6,200		51,200	5.0
Benguela	5,231	105,903	4,565		9,623	125,322	12.2
Bie		87,031		27,094		114,125	11.1
Huambo		192,189	14,545	117,402		324,136	31.5
Huila	19,650	37,450	700	1,350	1,570	60,720	5.9
Kuando Kubango	116118	14,545		2900	2250	135,813	13.2
Kuanza Norte		37,100	700	1,640	2,100	41,540	4.0
Kuanza Sul		72,685	8,100	2,564	6,627	89,976	8.8
Lunda Sul		24,900	1,800	7,500	1,050	35,250	3.4
Malanje		19,200			1,500	20,700	2.0
Moxico		14,500		4,100	1,100	19,700	1.9
Uige		5,541	3,560		12	9,113	0.9
Total	144,499	652,544	33,970	170,750	25,832	1,027,595	
Percentage	14.1	63.5	3.3	16.6	2.5		

High vulnerable population as of May 2003

Province	IDP	RET	REA	RES	GSV	Sub-total	%
Bengo		17,640		8,000		25,640	3.0
Benguela	52	22,613	4,853		1,169	28,687	3.3
Bie	43,758	77,578		42,564		163,900	18.9
Huambo	3,467	79,977	11,520	80,864	1,140	176,968	20.5
Huila	4,600	51,967	16,450	2,900	1,590	77,507	9.0
Kuando Kubango	5623	17630		100	200	23,553	2.7
Kuanza Norte		15,250	1,550	2,540	3,800	23,140	2.7
Kuanza Sul		67,361		10,604	7,212	85,177	9.8
Lunda Sul	450	26,100	3,000	11,500	1,200	42,250	4.9
Malanje	8,400	37,900	3,200		7,200	56,700	6.6
Moxico		65,850	12,000	16,190	2,330	96,370	11.1
Uige		60,562	3,675		800	65,037	7.5
Total	66,350	540,428	56,248	175,262	26,641	864,929	
Percentage	7.7	62.5	6.5	20.3	3.1		

Moderate vulnerable population as of May 2003

Province	IDP	RET	REA	RES	GSV	Sub-total	%
Bengo		16,120	2,550	3,559	7,290	29,519	6.6
Benguela		1,570			4,253	5,823	1.3
Bie	1,720			59,637		61,357	13.7
Huambo		39,615	1,000	59,038	2,762	102,415	22.9
Huila	6,000	6,230	3,600	36,700	250	52,780	11.8
Kuando Kubango			11000	1500	800	13,300	2.97
Kuanza Norte	1,715	5,550	2,700	860	1,110	11,935	2.67
Kuanza Sul		16,546		4,748	2984	24,278	5.43
Lunda Sul	1,300	10,000		3,000		14,300	3.2
Malanje	2,600	17,900	9,600		2,050	32,150	7.19
Moxico	24,000	25,200		25,400	2,200	76,800	17.2
Uige		22,187	388			22,575	5.05
Total	37,335	160,918	30,838	194,442	23,699	447,232	
Percentage	8.3	36.0	6.9	43.5	5.3		

Potentially vulnerable population as of May 2003

Province	IDP	RET	REA	RES	GSV	Sub-total	%
Bengo							
Benguela							
Bie				16,380		16,380	5.17
Huambo			903	130,746	893	132,542	41.8
Huila		350		48,050		48,400	15.3
Kuando Kubango							
Kuanza Norte	3,250	650	5,750	200	150	10,000	3.15
Kuanza Sul		4,688		1,300	856	6,844	2.16
Lunda Sul	8,500	5,500		2,000	5,300	21,300	6.72
Malanje	4,000	2,400	11,000		500	17,900	5.65
Moxico	2,500	19,100		23,600		45,200	14.3
Uige		16,594			1,900	18,494	5.83
Total	18,250	49,282	17,653	222,276	9,599	317,060	
Percentage	5.8	15.5	5.6	70.1	3.0		

TOTAL	266,434	1,403,172	138,709	762,730	85,771	2,656,815
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Annex 4

Province summaries

BENGO

There was a reduction in the circulation of people and goods to inland districts due to a deterioration in road conditions during the rainy season. For this reason humanitarian assistance did not get through to about 50,000 returnees in the localities of Muxaluando, Cage, Quixico, Quicunzo, Canacassala, Zala and Gombe in district of Nambuanguo.

A total of 1,544 demobilised and 2,492 dependents were taken by the Government from reception areas of Mimbota in the district of Dande and from Fazenda de Santa Cruz in the district of Dembos Quibaxe to their homes, mainly to the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Huambo, Bengo, Uige and Bié. There are around 479 demobilised soldiers and 1,050 dependents registered in Bengo from other provinces of the Country. Conditions for settlement and access to basic services are unstable and inadequate.

In coastal districts, about 12,000 families cultivated maize, beans and sweet potatoes during the dry season with an estimated production of 20,790 MT, mainly for consumption and commercialization in the more competitive and dynamic/attractive markets of Luanda, rather than the local market.

Improvements in access to inland districts meant that more agricultural produce became available in main markets, and there were more industrial products in municipal markets. The resident population maintained its buying power and the markets of Luanda continued to be the main suppliers of industrial goods to the province.

The monthly average cost of the food basket consisting of maize, beans, oil and salt, whose prices (in kg or liter) were the lowest in the market and that allows a family of 5 to have meals that supply 2,100 Kcal /person /day for 30 days, was equivalent, in April, to 30.01 USD, a decrease of about 13.44% in relation to the month of October 2002, increasing the buying power of the most vulnerable sector of the population in the town of Caxito and on its outskirts.

Malaria remained the main cause of morbidity-mortality at the provincial level and there was an increase of 42.93% in comparison with the previous period. The incidence of diarrheal disease was 24.99% and there was an increase in the number of cases of acute respiratory infection, a rise of 14.58%.

The districts in the coastal zone absorb 68% of available human resources and 72% of infrastructures of the operational health network in the province.

During the national campaign against measles 96,095 children were vaccinated and 21,496 children were given Vitamin A.

Rains were irregular and light in the coastal zone, leading to the loss of 60% of crops in the districts of Ambriz (Tabi and Ambriz) and Dande (Libongos and Quicabo). Rainfall was even and steady inland from October onwards and rains continued during the campaign.

About 18,240 families (78.1% returnees and 21.9% residents) benefited from 140.58 MT of seeds, 7,560 agricultural tools and 409.00 MT of fertilizer. In their home areas families were able to reclaim their plots of land and the average size of land cultivated per family went from about ¼ of a hectare in the last campaign to 1.5 hectares in the 2002/03 campaign.

Most peasant families, who returned to inland districts, complained of a lack of tools and vegetable seeds. In the districts of Pango Aluquem and Bula Atumba there was a shortage of cassava and sweet potato cuttings.

IDA estimate a production of 800-kg/hectare of maize, 350-kg/hectare of beans, and 400-kg/hectare of groundnuts. Average food stocks for the resident population are estimated at one

to 2 months for maize, 3 months for beans and 1 month for groundnuts apart from the production of cassava and sweet potato. Returnee families will be able to produce reserves estimated at 2 months for maize, 3 months or less for beans and one month for groundnuts.

In terms of food insecurity the province has approximately 50,700 people who need food aid in order to have access to staple foods and there is little basis for subsistence.

There are 25,716 people (17,679 people returnees) who are highly vulnerable in the districts of Bula Atumba, Dembos Quibaxe and Pango Aluquem, they will not be able to sustain production in order to guarantee family subsistence until the next harvest. The possibility of implementation of programs like "Food for Work" exists during the dry season that means that some of these groups will be absorbed, and access to food by the next harvest will improve, with better and greater access and a growth in better-paid subsistence activities.

BENGUELA

Between November 2002 and April 2003 new areas became accessible to humanitarian assistance within the province of Benguela: Hungulo and Amera (Balombo), Cubal do Lumbo, Cangoia and Passe (Bocoio) and Yambala (Cubal), even though a perimeter between 5 km and 40km was maintained, to the north, south and east around most main small localities. Although the areas of Chindumbo, Caala and Maka Mombolo (Balombo), Chila (Bocoio), Chicuma, Casseque and Ebanga (Ganda) and Capupa (Cubal), are potential areas for return and resettlement they continue closed to humanitarian operations. Chindumbo (Balombo), Chila (Bocoio), Uya Ngombe and Canhamela (Caimbambo), Capupa and Yambala (Cubal) remain inaccessible as a result of the deterioration of roads and bridges caused by the rains. A worsening in the food security situation is expected in the next months and there could be an increase in isolated acts of banditry on the main access roads between the coast and the interior.

In accordance with MINARS there are no more IDP camps in the province. Return to the province increased, but control over these movements is limited to those from the FRA within the province or from FRAs in other provinces to main district towns (internal movement) or movement which is directed to other provinces (external movement). Transit centers have been created in all districts to give assistance to returnees; the CRM, in Benguela, is only to shelter demobilized soldiers and their families from other provinces, who are going to inland districts. Two out of five FRA still exist, namely: Chingongo (Balombo), with about 3,131 people and Passe (Bocoio), with approximately 1,606.

At the time of the first planting season of the 2002/03 agricultural campaign, 71,276 families were given agricultural tools: Residents - 40,378 (56.7%), IDPs and FRA - 27,966 (39.2%), Returnees - 2,932 (4.1%). The districts of Ganda (32%), Cubal (23%) and Balombo (9%) were those with the best coverage. Areas cultivated varied with population groups, residents cultivated between 1.5 to 2 hectares, IDPs and their families from FRA 0.25- 0.5 hectares, only maize and beans were planted and returnees 0.5 hectares. The yields, however, were lower than in the last campaign. The production of maize and beans are not enough to build up food reserves for longer than 3 months for the three population groups, with the exception of residents in Ganda and Balombo. Sorghum should produce good yields, it could fluctuate between 800-1,000 kg/hectare. The second planting season was in the month of February and mainly consisted of maize.

The buying power of resident populations in inland districts is steadily improving, to the extent that pressure on the main productive resource, land, was substantially relieved and this is reflected in the cost of the basic basket. Moreover, the gradual dynamism of district markets brings with it opportunities to work and trade. In the case of returnees from the FRA, buying

power is low, as they are impoverished and have no productive resources and poor families living on the periphery of the coastal zone cannot afford to buy much. The difference in prices between markets on the coast (Benguela with the highest price) and the interior (Cubal with the lowest price) in the first trimester of 2003 was assessed at between 30% and 40% for the basic food basket composed of maize, beans, oil and salt.

The district of the Ganda has adult and child mortality rates above danger levels. In this period the trend in the number of admissions to SFC of Ganda was upward; in TFC, the trend is downward in Benguela, Cubal, Ganda and Lobito. The districts of Caimbambo, Chongorói and Bocoio are considered critical from the nutritional point of view. None of them carried out nutritional screenings, and nutritional network structures do not exist.

In this period food stocks, based on maize are depleted, as a result of low production, which can lead to a deterioration in the situation in regions where its replacement with sorghum is not possible: as in the case of Bocoio, Balombo and Chongorói. However, in Benguela the adoption of extreme survival strategies (cutting out meals or selling productive goods) were not evident, except occasionally in the case of returnee groups (many of them former-residents in FRA), normally in transit in the main district towns.

The areas at high risk to food insecurity are the localities of Equimina (Baía Farta), Chindumbo and Maka Mombolo (Balombo), Chila (Bocoio), Cayave, Canhamela and Uya Ngombe (Caimbambo), Capupa and Tumbulo (Cubal), Camuine (Chongorói), Chicuma (Ganda), with factors such as: Isolation or serious problems of access, large numbers of people concentrated together, as well as the absence of State administration (established some kms from the capital/principal small town in a locality), people who did not benefit from the distribution of agricultural tools and no market.

The areas at *moderate – high risk of food insecurity* are the localities of Calahanga (Baía Farta), Cubal do Lumbo and Passe (Bocoio), Catengue (Caimbambo), Yambala (Cubal), Bolonguera (Chongorói), Babaera and Casseque (Ganda).

There are 125,322 people affected by food insecurity, whose subsistence systems are seriously affected, without any food reserves, or other ways to satisfy their minimum food needs and a total of 28,600 people are highly vulnerable, with food stocks in short supply and not enough to satisfy minimum food needs until the next harvest; their food stocks will not last more than 2 months.

Of these people only a total of 17,431 are assisted in zones where the population groups are situated. They are suffering from food insecurity and 3,233 people are highly vulnerable.

BIE

The Province of Bié remained closed to humanitarian circulation in the localities of Luando, Munhango and Sachinemuna (Cuemba), Ringoma and Umpulo (Camacupa), Caiuera and Sande (Catabola), Cangote (Chinguar) and Lubia (Nharea). In the case of Chinguar, Cutato and Cangote, traffic was suspended in Dec /02, as there were repeated mine incidents on the road Kuito-Chinguar. Bad road conditions and the inexistence of some bridges, together with the presence of a large number of mines, made roads impassable to the district town of Cuemba and during the rains, access to the district of Nharea and the localities of Soma KwTanza, Mutumbo and Mumbué (Chitembo) as well as to Belo Horizonte (Cunhinga) became very difficult. These factors affected humanitarian assistance to about 232,000 people who could be at risk and in a critical state (32,700 in the localities of Luando, Munhango and Sachinemuna; 6,500 in Ringoma and Umpulo; 70,000 in Chiuca, Caieura and Sande; 12,500 in Mumbué and 110,700 in Chinguar, Cutato and Cangote).

As regards population movements, until Sept/02 the government supported the organized return of 58% of IDPs concentrated in camps in Kuito, whilst in Dec /02 36,532 IDPs, stated their intention not to return home. There were about 62,568 IDPs still in camps in the districts of Cunhinga, Camacupa and Chitembo. Since the cease-fire in April 2002, controlled return in the province totals 180,041 people, whose main destinations are: (1) Kuito, that received more than 50,000 people; (2) Cuemba and Cunhinga, about 30,000 people; (3) Andulo, Camacupa and Catabola, received between 10 and 20,000 people ; (4) Chinguar and Nharea received less than 10,000 in the period. The return movement was significantly larger in the period between May-Oct/02 (106,039 people), than in the subsequent period (Nov /02 /April /03), when it only reached 74,002 people. The highest percentage of returns were due to internal migration (more than 98%) of total movement in the province.

The distribution of agricultural tools for the first planting season of the 2002/03 agricultural campaign provided about 115,897 families with 770 MT of cereals, 603 MT of legumes, 314 kg of diverse vegetables and 258,104 agricultural tools. The resident population benefited (49%), followed by returnees (26%) and IDPs (21%). The district of Cunhinga received the most (19%), Camacupa (17%), Kuito (16%), Cuemba (14%) and Chitembo (13%). All other districts received much less than 10%. The average area cultivated per family varied according to the region and the population group, dependent on factors such as the type of agriculture and the productive capacity of assisted households. The number of active members of resident families varies between 3 and 5 and in the case of returnees and IDPs between 2 and 3. In the former group, there was an increase in cultivated areas, to 1.5 hectares and the latter group did not have more than 0.5 hectares. The production of maize was higher than in the previous campaign, but the same could not be said for beans, due to hailstorms. In terms of food stocks the group least well off are the returnees, especially in Nharea, Catabola, Chinguar and Cuemba.

Only one survey was carried out in Kuito and the provisional results indicate that malnutrition and mortality rates in children < 5 years will probably be lower than those encountered in the same period of last year in the case of IDPs in camps (April /02: 7 and 0.5 global and severe malnutrition respectively and a mortality rate of: 2 /10,000 /per day). The trend for the number of admissions to SFC and TFC has been downward since last year in Kuito and Camacupa, but the nutritional network does not reach vast inland areas where the situation could be critical. According to MSF -B, more than 50% of recorded admissions to the TFC in Kuito are of malnutrition (kwashiorkor type), that can be caused by poor variety and lack of protein. This year in Kuito, cases of pellagra are almost the same as in 2002, even so March and April they reach a peak and will continue so during the period of crisis (May-August).

The localities of Luando, Munhango and Sachinemuna (Cuemba), Gamba (Nharea), Mumbué, Mutumbo and Soma-Kuanza (Chitembo), Cassumbe (Andulo), Ringoma and Umpulo (Camacupa) and Sande (Catabola), continue to be most at risk in terms of food survival, due to the recent return of populations from the bush and isolation, making food aid and the distribution of agricultural tools difficult. However, this year, strategies like cutting out meals were not mentioned; but in periods of great shortage strategies are adopted, such as replacing food for less well liked products and reducing the amount of food. The same is not true as regards the sale of productive goods i.e. agricultural tools, which took place previously.

The areas at highest risk of food insecurity in Bié are the localities of Cassumbe and Chivaulo (Andulo), Cuanza and Muinha (Camacupa), Cuemba (Cuemba), Belo Horizonte (Cunhinga), Chicala and Trumba (Kuito) and Gamba (Nharea), classified as moderate- high risk.

There are about 114,125 people at risk of food insecurity in the province, whose subsistence systems are seriously affected, they do not have any food stocks, or any other ways to meet their minimum food needs. There are about 163,900 people in a less critical situation, but who

are still highly vulnerable, who do not have enough food stocks to meet minimum food needs until the next harvest; their stocks will not last longer than 2 months.

Out of a total of 278,025 people 228,300 people receive food aid, including 10,000 from the localities of Cangote (Chinguar) and Sachinemuna (Cuemba) who receive assistance in the main district towns.

HUAMBO

In the period between November 2002 and April 2003 access to the province of Huambo remained stable, with isolated incidents of banditry to the north of the district of Londuimbali and mine incidents, namely in Etunda (Calima, Huambo), Tchilata (Longonjo) and Sambo (Tchicala Tcholoanga). The localities of Tchiaca (Tchindjenje), Cambuengo (Mungo), Mundundo and Cacoma (Ukuma), Samboto (Tchicala Tchol.) and Tchiumbo and Tchinhamo (Catchiungo), remained closed to the humanitarian community either because of the presence of mines (Mundundo, Samboto), or the destruction of vital bridges (Tchiaca and Tchinhamo).

In the same period, Huambo continued to record important changes in the dynamics of organized and spontaneous return. About 396,931 people returned home. The districts that continue to receive most returnees are: Bailundo-32%, Caála-22% and Tchicala Tcholoanga and Mungo with nearly 10%. In the previous period internal migration was more significant within the framework of controlled return (70%), but in this period, external migration started to take its place (64%). Since the end of the cease-fire, it is estimated that about 800,000 have returned to Huambo. In Huambo and Caála resettlement areas, there are 27,968 long-term IDPs who do not intend to return to their homes before the next elections. In the FRA in Huambo in April, a total of 81,919 people were assisted, they have not returned because of problems with transportation.

The distribution of agricultural tools for the first planting season reached 143,672 families (18,783 families in the FRA received vegetable kits and a European hoe per family), and 716MT of cereals and 783MT of vegetables were distributed. Distribution included mainly returnees (53%) and residents (25%), especially in the districts of Huambo, Caála, Bailundo and Ekunha between 10 to 20% of total tools) and smaller amounts to all the other districts (rarely reaching 5%). For the second time, CICV and FAO distributed vegetable kits (10 gr. of 4 different varieties) and tools to 11,0157 families in the districts of Bailundo, Ekunha, Catchiungo, Huambo and Tchindjenje (Tchiaca and Chicoco).

The average area cultivated by family varied according to population group, depending on factors such as agricultural bias in the region and productive capacity of the assisted households: Resident population: 2.5 hectares; Returned population: 1.25 hectares; Displaced population: 0.25 hectare. Estimated production for this agricultural campaign is very much higher than last year for maize and beans, except in the districts of Caála, Ekunha and Huambo (ie for beans), due to heavy rains in December. In the case of groundnuts (still not harvested), total production may turn out to be much lower than estimated, because of poor germination of distributed seed (too much time in storage and inadequate transport and unloading). In terms of food stocks in general IDPs resident in the district of Mungo and returnees to Bailundo, Catchiungo, Tchicala Tcholoanga and Tchindjenje are in the worst situation as they have cereal stocks for not more than 2 months.

Between March and April of 2003 there was an increase in the availability and variety of produce, that is reflected in the cost of the basic food basket in the main market in the city of Huambo. Compared to the same period of last year there was a considerable fall in the cost of the basket, a fact that indicates that markets are re-opening and local agricultural production and supply lines have started to function again. This drop in prices benefited population groups

on low incomes, taking into account that their incomes do not increase proportionally when prices fluctuate in the market. The buying power of those living in the main urban centers was influenced by changes in the exchange rate (that devalued the salary of public sector workers) and in agricultural areas by inadequate income in this period.

Two nutritional surveys were carried out by CONCERN. In Londuimbali, although malnutrition rates are not alarming, taking in account confidence gaps, the nutritional situation is worrying. In Ekunha, rates are similar to those encountered during the survey conducted in April /02, but the situation in Tchipeio (included only in this survey) is worse than in the district capital. In this case, in addition mortality rates are alarming, especially if compared to those in the April survey. Some screenings using the MUAC method were carried out, within the scope of the system of fast assessment of critical food needs, whose findings are presented in table 6. The most serious situation is in the locality of Chilata, where there was a severe risk of mortality with 7% malnutrition. Although not part of the province of Huambo, the situation of the population of Menga (K.Sul), managed administratively by Huambo, is equally serious (6.18%).

From April 2002, since people began returning home the trend in admissions to provincial nutritional centers is clearly downward. There are, however, sharp increases that occur annually in this "period of hunger" (January-March). To be noted that, from January, the SFC in Huambo and Caála were closed down due to this fall, only 1 SFC and 2 TFC in Huambo remain open. Admissions increased gradually to SFCs in other districts, reflecting the return movement, especially to Bailundo. To note, however, generally speaking nutritional network coverage is restricted to a limited area around the main district towns, which makes it difficult to widen its scope of action, except to Londuimbali.

The most critical nutritional situations occurred in the localities of Bimbe (Bailundo), Tchinhama (Catchiungo), Cumbira and Galanga (Loduimbali), Chilata (Longonjo), Cambuengo (Mungo), Mbave, Sambo and Samboto (Tchic.Tchol.), Tchiaca (Tchinjenje) and Cacoma and Mundundo (Ukuma), as they are isolated or very difficult to obtain access to, their health service provision is inefficient or practically non-operational and there is no humanitarian assistance. The localities of Hengue, Lunge and Luvemba (Bailundo), Catata and Cuima (Caála) Tchiumbo (Catchiungo), Tchipeio (Ekunha), Catabola (Longonjo), Mungo (Mungo), Tchicala Tcholoannga and Tchinjenje are in a less serious situation, but it is nonetheless alarming.

Casual agricultural labor was the main source of income for most household returnees and residents on a income low, namely: preparing land, collecting and transporting produce. In terms of extra-agricultural activities, returnees from the FRA carried out temporary building work on houses in the zones where they settled with their families. Another source of revenue was the use of "trots" (hand carts) for transportation of goods from district markets to more remote zones and those which are difficult to obtain access to.

The areas at highest risk to food insecurity are the localities of Bimbe and Hengue (Bailundo), Tchinhama and Tchiumbo (Catchiungo), Tchipeio (Ekunha), Chilata (Longonjo), Cambuengo (Mungo), Sambo, Samboto (Tchicala Tcholoanga), Chiaca (Tchinjenje) and Mundundo (Ukuma). The areas at moderate to high risk of food insecurity are the localities of Lunge and Luvemba (Bailundo), Cumbira (Loduimbali), Catabola (Longonjo), Mungo (Mungo), Tchicala Tcholoanga and Mbave (Tch.Tcholoanga), Tchinjenje (Tchinjenje) and Cacoma (Ukuma).

There are about 324,136 people at risk of food insecurity in the province, whose subsistence systems are seriously affected, and who do not have any food stocks, or other ways to satisfy their basic food needs. Of these, about 14,545 people are in resettlement zones, 192,000 are returnees to different regions in the interior of the province, 117,402 residents are highly vulnerable structurally. There are about 176,968 people in a less critical but highly vulnerable situation, with insufficient food stocks to satisfy minimum food needs until the next harvest; their food reserves will not last for more than 2 months.

In April WFP assisted about 115,000 people in the localities at most risk and 88,000 in the localities at moderate – high risk. One notices, however, that, in these same areas, about 110,000 are isolated (localities of Tchinama, Tchiumbo, Cambuengo, Samboto, Tchiaca and Mundundo classified as at high risk).

HUILA

During the period from November to April, there were some alterations in access to the province, which did not cause great constraints to the movement of people and goods and to the activities of humanitarian organizations. Amongst incidents reported, that had a negative impact on the circulation of people and goods, were the identification and removal of an anti-tank mine (new) on the stretch Galangue II, in the second fortnight of December, causing the temporary suspension of circulation of vehicles belonging to UN Agencies and humanitarian organizations that must adhere to the U.N. security system on this road, this continued until the end of the first week of January.

In the period in question, there were return movements of families (IDPs, demobilized soldiers and families who were in different reception/quarterming areas) to their homes. Most displaced families who were found on the outskirts and in resettlement areas in the district of Matala, spontaneously returned home to villages in districts of Chicomba and Jamba.

Between November and January the basic trend of food prices and other consumer goods was upward. As a general rule, during the festive season there is an increase in prices, because of higher demand and traders raise prices. From February onwards there was a gradual fall in prices. As a result of price increases low income families faced difficulties in access to certain foodstuffs and consumer goods - because of their reduced buying power.

In relation to the previous semester, there were improvements in the nutritional state of families in district capitals and some localities in the districts of Kuvango (district capital and Galangues), Chipindo (district capital) and Caconda (district capital and Cusse). The present rates of acute malnutrition (global and severe) indicate that the situation is not alarming, but constant monitoring is recommended, as well as the continuation of nutritional programs. In other provincial districts, the nutritional situation is not worrying - malnutrition rates are within limits considered normal.

Malaria and diarrheal disease and acute respiratory disease continued to be the most frequently diagnosed diseases in health units during the period in analysis, malaria caused the most deaths.

In urban areas (with the exception of Lubango, where a system of garbage collection exists in some neighborhoods - garbage containers are spread throughout the city and on the outskirts) and in rural areas, garbage is placed in landfills and/or on rubbish tips where periodically it is burnt.

In the period in analysis, whether in urban or rural zones, families had a number of opportunities to carry out different income generating activities. In urban zones they mainly traded informally; provided casual domestic work; loaded/transported goods in markets and stores, sold pebbles or gravel and carried rocks for civil construction. Some families living on the outskirts of urban centers worked as farm laborers and sold homemade fermented drinks. In rural zones, the main income generating activities were farm laboring; sale of homemade fermented drinks; sale of various artefacts and running small businesses in local markets.

Rains started in some districts in the northern region of the province (Caluquembe and Quilengues) from September onwards, while in most districts there was rainfall in October. Between October and March, rains fell regularly and varied from moderate to heavy.

Some humanitarian organizations that intervene in the agricultural sector, distributed agricultural tools in ten of the fourteen districts of the province, benefiting a total of 30,851 families (IDPs, returnees and residents). Difficulties of access to land were not mentioned.

In general, crop development was healthy, auguring well for the harvests with a satisfactory total production rate, guaranteeing a build up of stocks. The period of food reserves that families will be able to build up will vary. Considering the areas cultivated by different population groups, it is presumed that residents will have enough stocks of cereals and vegetables to fulfil their families' needs for 7 months or more from the date of the harvest (May). Resettled families and others that returned before October /02 were able to cultivate areas of 1 - 2 hectares, they will be able to build up reserves for between 4 -6 months and families who only cultivated areas of between 0.5 - 1 hectare, their stocks will cover periods that vary from 2-4 months.

In the area evaluated, the geographic risk to food insecurity was higher (Moderate to High) in the localities of Cusse and Uaba (Chicomba), Chicomba, Cutenda, Chipindo and Galangues (Kuvango). In most localities where it was possible to get information for the vulnerability analysis, the geographic risk was evaluated as Moderate, while in main district towns and some villages, which are traditionally accessible, risk was evaluated as Moderate to Low. The district of Lubango has a minor geographic risk to food insecurity - Low.

The population groups at risk of food insecurity and highly vulnerable, are mainly returnees, and resettled IDPs, who need immediate food aid, mainly in the districts of Cacula, Caluquembe, Jamba, Kuvango, Quilengues, Caconda, Matala and Lubango.

KUANDO KUBANGO

Throughout the period from November - April, despite difficulties encountered on some stretches of main inter-provincial roads and inter-district roads, there was a certain regularity in the flow of vehicles. From the city of Menongue, there were regular movements (in both directions) to the localities of Caiundo, Savate, Catuitui, Cuchi, Cutato, Kuvango - Huíla, Longa, Cuito Cuanavale, Soba Matias and Mumbué - Bié.

There were also movements of four wheel drive vehicles from the district town of Mavinga to Rivungo and Mucusso, while from Catuitui, (going through Namibian territory, because of a broken bridge between Catuitui and Cuangar), in order to guarantee the link with the localities of Mucusso, Dirico, Calai and Cuangar. The road Cuito Cuanavale/Riabela/Nancova/Mavenga was also used by traders and vehicles from State and Government bodies.

In the period in analysis, new IDPs were found and registered in the districts of Mavinga, Cuito Cuanavale and Menongue. Furthermore, families returned (verified and registered) to various villages and neighborhoods in the districts of Menongue, Cuito Cuanavale and Cuchi. Except for people found in the Quartering and Reception areas where the return process is organized, other families returned home spontaneously and by their own means.

The basic trend of food prices and other consumer goods was upwards during the festive season (November) and later there was a gradual fall in prices. With an increase in prices, low income families could not afford to buy basic products, and could only buy alternative consumer goods of lesser quality, sold at low prices.

In comparison to the previous semester (May), there were significant improvements in the nutritional state of IDP families in the main district towns of Menogues, Cuito Cuanavale and Mavinga. As regards residents, resettled returnees their nutritional state is not a cause for alarm.

The main diseases continued to be malaria and diarrheal disease and acute respiratory disease. Some recently accessible areas were covered by vaccination campaigns against measles. Although somewhat inadequate, public and private health units provided services and medicines to patients who went to different operational units in the province.

According to where families were situated (rural or urban areas), they adopted different subsistence strategies. Type of action depended on the abilities and creativity of families. The main activities are farm laboring, working as traveling vendors – selling a variety of products, selling firewood and coal (not very frequent) and homemade fermented drinks/beverages.

In some districts, the rains started towards the end of the third week of September, however, they were irregular and light. In some localities in the districts of Menongue, Cuchi and Cuito Cuanavale, rains occurred steadily and were moderate in intensity towards the end of October until the end of April, while in other districts they continued to be irregular and uneven.

In most districts rainfall was irregular and did not favor healthy crop development, causing a fall in income, basically in the districts of Cuangar, Calai, Dirico, Rivungo, Nancova and Mavinga. However, despite the negative effect of crops on income, it is presumed that overall production is better than in previous agricultural campaigns, not only because it rained for longer, but also because families were more involved in food production.

In relation to estimated food reserves, it is presumed that in areas where production is expected to drop, families will not be able to build up food reserves for more than three months. In zones where reasonable production is expected, families will be able to build up food reserves for a period that will vary from four to six months, counting from the date of the harvest.

In accordance with the results of the vulnerability analysis (areas in which it was possible to get information), in the districts of Mavinga, Cuangar, Cuito Cuanavale, Cuchi and Menongue there are people at risk of food insecurity, who are highly vulnerable and who need food aid. Most of these families are IDPs (Mavinga, Cuito Cuanavale and Menongue), followed by returnees.

KUANZA NORTE

Throughout period in analysis, there was a drop in the circulation of vehicles between localities, districts or provinces. The bad state of repair of some chunks of road, made worse by rain, were the main constraints on the circulation of vehicles. From December, roads leading to the main district towns of Banga, Ngonguembo, Quiculungo and Bolongongo deteriorated further, truck drivers stopped going to these areas, and there was only occasional circulation of four-wheel drive vehicles.

Between November and April, there were return movements to various villages and small localities in the districts of Ngonguembo, Banga, Quiculungo, Bolongongo, Samba Cajú, Cazengo, Lucala, Golungo Alto, Cambambe and Ambaca. Most families returned by their own means (some were transported/assisted by the Government). Moreover in the period in analysis, demobilized former-soldiers and their families were transported to their homes or zones where they had decided to settle.

Between January and November the basic trend in food prices and other consumer goods was upwards but prices fell between February and April. The increase in prices was a consequence of greater demand and consumption during the festive season, (in general it is period when traders raise prices), while the fall was a result of an increase in the supply of produce harvested and falling demand - reduced consumption and less expenditure by families.

Official sources from the Provincial and District Health Authorities in some districts visited, reported that the nutritional state of families is not worrying. However, the continuation of

nutritional screening is recommended, and where necessary, nutritional surveys should be carried out.

Malaria, diarrheal disease and acute respiratory disease continued to be the main diseases diagnosed in the health units of the province; malaria caused the most deaths.

In the main urban centers of the province, garbage is left on rubbish tips where later it is burnt or collected (not frequently) by community services. In agricultural zones and in some cases, in urban centers (where there is waste ground or yards which are not cemented), garbage is deposited in landfills to be buried.

In the period in analysis, whether in rural or urban zones, families had some opportunities to engage in a number of income generating activities. In urban centers, the main activities were informal trade (food and non-food products); selling fermented homemade drinks; sale of meals in the markets and yards; casual domestic work; cleaning palm trees; transporting goods in the market, warehouses and stores and carrying different product loads in the markets. Some families, who live in semi-urban areas, also worked as farm laborers for residents who are able to pay.

In agricultural areas, the most common income-generating activities were farm laboring; cleaning palm trees (scaling the trees); selling homemade fermented drinks and small-scale informal trading .

In districts in the northern region of the province, rainfall started at the end of September, while in other districts (with the exception of Cambambe, where it only started at the end of October), rains began in the first ten days of October. In the northern region, rains were steady and moderate from October onwards but in central and southern regions they only became steady from November onwards. From December to April, except for the districts of Cazengo, Cambambe and Golungo Alto, where there was a break in the rains lasting about one month (from 15th December to 15th January), rain was steady and moderate or heavy.

During the present agricultural campaign (2002/03) only 7,200 families (returnees and residents) in the districts of Ambaca, Samba Cajú and Cambambe, benefited from the distribution of seeds and tools in October through some humanitarian organizations.

Development of crops planted in the first planting season was satisfactory, with good yields at harvest time, except for families who planted groundnut seeds, distributed by humanitarian organizations. Crops planted in the 2nd planting season developed well, a good omen for harvests to come.

In relation to estimated food stocks - mainly beans and groundnuts, as maize is consumed preferably fresh (sweet corn), it is presumed that returnee families, whose areas were reduced, have stocks to satisfy consumption needs for a period of about three months. Resident families, who cultivated larger areas, will be able to build up food reserves that will satisfy consumption needs for periods from four -six months. However, returnee families as well as residents will get new harvests of maize, beans and groundnuts (2nd season) between June and July. Families (mainly residents) that planted cassava more than 18 months ago have now enough guaranteed food (staple foods) to satisfy their needs. The cassava harvest is generally spaced out and the period of consumption will depend on how production is dealt with.

Of evaluated areas, the geographic risk to food insecurity was more pronounced (High) in the district town of Banga and in the locality of Caculo Cabaça. Some local and main district towns and the districts of Ambaca, Bolongongo, Golungo Alto, Ngonguembo, Quiculungo and Samba Cajú were at moderate-high risk. In most traditionally accessible localities in the districts (Cambambe, Cazengo, Golungo Alto, Lucala) and main district towns, some of which are located along the main access roads (Camabatela and Samba Cajú), as well as in the small locality of Tango, the geographic risk to food insecurity was evaluated as Moderate. In the main

district towns of Cazengo and Golungo Alto the risk is Moderate to Low, while in the district town of Cambambe the risk was assessed as Low.

KUANZA SUL

During last the three years, the Vulnerability Analysis Unit and Maps (VAM) of the World Food Program (WFP) made significant headway concerning the development of methodologies and analyzes of vulnerability to food insecurity in 11 provinces of Angola. The results of these analyzes are published twice a year, and they have proved to be very useful in the decision-making process related to food aid and others interventions in the food security area. However, this is the first time that the exercise of analyzes of vulnerability has been made in the province of Kuanza Sul. The lack of analysis in previous periods is essentially due to the limited presence of WFP and other humanitarian partners in the province. But due to a new framework for humanitarian intervention, there is a need to create a mechanism for analysis of food security in order to supply, in a timely and systematic form, a solid basis for planning and channeling humanitarian aid.

This report presents the results of the first analysis of vulnerability to food insecurity made in Kuanza Sul. The exercise was within an institutional framework still at an embryonic phase, and in the absence of a database that satisfies the model of analyzes used by VAM. There are therefore three important factors to consider in this report: (i) the results reflect the type of available data up to the date of its design; (ii) data presented are not representative of the province but of the areas where it was possible to collect them; and (iii) any geographic and/or socio-economic comparison with other provinces must be made with some care, (iv) the data are not comparable in their totality.

In general terms, the northeastern part of the province of Kuanza Sul presents a worrying picture of current or temporary vulnerability to food insecurity, essentially due to the great flow of returnees to the province, which still have difficulties in reestablishing life systems. Although there is not a uniform standard of geographic risk, the localities of Gungo, Honhe, Dumbi, Atome, Sanga, and all the districts of Mussende are the areas that had the highest risk of food insecurity. Difficulty of access to the district of Mussende and the locality of Honhe in Kibala was the great determinant factor in the level of vulnerability of these areas.

The total number of people vulnerable to food insecurity was estimated at 206,275 of whom 43.6 percent are already at risk of food insecurity, 41.2 percent are highly vulnerable, and only 3 percent are potentially vulnerable. The analyzes enabled us to estimate that 45 percent of returnees to the province are already at risk of food insecurity and 42 percent are highly vulnerable. On the other hand, while there was no great variation amongst those resettled, all of them are at risk of food insecurity, 55 percent of residents, particularly in inland localities, are highly vulnerable, although it is considered a transitory situation.

Despite improvements in opportunities for income generation, whether on the coast or inland areas of the province, low-income families are still forced to adopt other survival strategies to tackle the situation of food deficit. They collect wild food, cut down papaya; branches of "matebeiro" palm and produce wood carvings/ handicrafts. It is to be stressed that income-generating activities provided supplementary foods to vulnerable resident families as well as returnee families and demobilized soldiers.

It is clear that the 2002-03 agricultural campaign was better than the last one for the vast majority of resident farmers, while resettled returnees still lack basic resources such as seeds and tools. Therefore the priority intervention in this province to alleviate the effect of current food insecurity, falls again to the agricultural sector, particularly the provision of tools in the localities of Gungo and Kikombo/Sumbe, Capolo/Porto Amboim, Dala Caxibo and Lonhe/Kibala; Amboiva

and Botera/Seles; Cunjo/Conda; Cassange and Choa/Ebo and in the district of Mussende. However, the implementation of Food-for-Work programs are recommended in the next six months but these are complementary to the agricultural and/or programs directed at the rehabilitation of productive infrastructures .

LUNDA SUL

During the rainy season the circulation of people and goods was irregular to the localities of Alto Chicapa and Sombo due to the bad state of repair of access roads. Some areas in the localities of Chiluge and Cassai South remained inaccessible to the circulation of people and goods because of collapsed bridges and the danger of mines.

The provincial sub-group for registration and verification reported that by April about 43,000 people, long-term IDPs, had returned home and about 3,200 former-refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had returned to the country over the borders at Luau and Muconda. As a part of the process of reintegration of demobilized ex-soldiers of UNITA and families, the reception areas of Tchineje and Velho that sheltered 9,200 people were closed down. Between January and April 6,200 people were transported to the provinces of Malange, Bié and Lunda Norte. The other 3,000 chose to remain in the province of Lunda Sul to set up residence.

The diversity and amount of basic food produce in the market of Saurimo was good and remained stable during the period in analysis, there was a fall in the prices of food products that make up the basic food basket of maize, an alternative to cassava. The average cost of the basic basket of maize that allows a family of 5 people to have meals that supply 2,100 Kcal /person /day for 30 days was calculated at USD 26.96 - 45.3% lower than in October /02. The basic basket of cassava fell by 5.14%

The nutritional state of children under 5 was negatively reflected in an increase in admissions to the TFC. The nutritional survey carried out by GOAL in the province from 13th – 22nd March 2003 using the method weight by height disclosed rates of 6.3% and 1.7% of global and severe acute malnutrition that indicate danger levels. The survey report says that gross mortality rates of 6.3/10,000 and in children under 5 of 16.7 in 10,000, considered as an out of control emergency situation. The rate of global acute malnutrition, that is inside the normal range, indicates that in the next period the situation may get worse if there are no improvements in factors that influence nutritional state, mainly food availability and access and quality of health services.

The health situation continues alarming. About 12% of morbidity-mortality was caused by malaria and 11% by acute diarrheal diseases. In the districts of Muconda, Dala and Saurimo cases of measles in children under 5 were notified and in the hospital of Saurimo 467 cases were confirmed resulting in 23 deaths.

In the province rains began in 2002 October, with a slight delay in the district of Muconda, but without negative impact on planting. After October and in all districts rainfall was even and moderate.

MINADER reported that about 30,000 families were involved in the present agricultural campaign. The distribution of tools included 11,664 families of whom 39% were peasant farmers. Of the population groups who benefited 91% are returnees, 3% residents and 6% IDPs, in the districts of Muconda, Cacolo, Dala and Saurimo. The average size of areas cultivated by families was between 2-3 hectares for residents, 1-1.5 for returnees and 1 for those resettled. In the district of Muconda the areas cultivated by returnees were about 1 hectare, but there were not enough cassava cuttings.

Total production in the province was estimated at 81,750 MT of maize, 29,340 MT of beans and 22,820 MT of groundnuts, amounts that are not enough for families to build up food reserves. In

the districts of Dala (with the exception of Cazona and Cazage), Cacolo and Saurimo, the cassava harvests will cover the food needs of residents until the 2004 harvests. In Muconda, where cassava will not be harvested until April, families will depend on alternative subsistence activities.

There are approximately 35,250 people who are highly vulnerable and at risk of food insecurity and who require emergency interventions and food aid in the districts of Cacolo, Dala, Muconda and Saurimo. Mainly returnees (24,900) and vulnerable residents are concerned (7,500).

There are about 42,250 people who are highly vulnerable in the localities of Cacolo, Luma Cassai (Saurimo and Dala (Cazage) classified as moderate and moderate – high risk. They are mainly returnees and vulnerable residents, the agricultural production of these families was very low and they did not build up enough food reserves until the next harvest. In the next period the food and nutritional state of these groups could get worse as their only food source and income will be alternative subsistence activities.

The areas of Cassai South and Chilunge are still inaccessible; there are about 6,000 people at risk of food insecurity.

MALANJE

The most striking aspect in this VA is the absence of areas at high risk. This is primarily due to the fact that there have been improvements in the areas, which previously were at a high level - Ngola Luije and Kiwaba Nzoji. These areas showed moderate and moderate to high levels of vulnerability respectively due to the fact that no markets are functioning, an inadequate health service, and access during the rainy season is limited. It is estimated that total food production on average covers 45 days of annual consumption needs. The poor resident population and returnee families, who were not in time to participate in the first and the second seasons of the current agricultural campaign, are strongly affected by food insecurity. In order to survive these people developed attitudes and strategies that enabled them to tackle food crises, such as reducing the amount of food and the number of meals a day in the districts of Cacolo, Dala, Muconda and Saurimo.

The busiest roads were those that link the district town of Malanje with the following localities: to the west, the district town of Cacuso, including links with Lombe, Kizenga, to the northeast, the town of Calandula, passing through the localities of Lombe and Quota, to the south the district towns of Cangandala, to the east the district town of Caculama (including the localities of Muquixi and Caxinga) as well as the locality of Xandele which is part of the district of Quela. The roads that lead to the main district towns of Quela, Kiwaba Nzoji, Kahombo, Kambundi Catembo - including Tala Mungongo/Kitapa/Dumba Kabango, Kunda dia Baze - including the locality of Milando and links with Ngola Luige (Malanje), Soqueco (Cacuso) and Kinge (Calandula) were less busy.

With the approach of the dry period in the next few months it is expected that certain roads will be reopened and there will be an increase in road circulation on the road that links the main provincial town to the main district towns and small localities and settlements. However, the localities of Bembo, (Cangandala), Mufuma (Kiwaba Nzoji), Lemba (Kunda dia Base), Cambaxe (Malanje), Cambombo (Marimba); Massango (Massango), Mission of Bangalas/Moma (Quela), Qurima and Sautari (Quirima) and Luquembo, Kimbango, Dombo, Kapunda, Cunga-Palanca and Rimba (Luquembo) will remain cut off. Commercial exchanges, the distribution of agricultural produce and assistance to returnees will be easier, although people can go on foot to the main district towns.

It is estimated that about 147,234 people corresponding to 39,236 families returned home by the end of February. Resident families, displaced people as well as returnees, who were involved in the present agricultural campaign, increased the area they cultivated in comparison

to the previous agricultural year. This increase in area cultivated was possible thanks to a series of strategies adopted by different groups, i.e. (i) Residents: using existing human resources in household group, contracting a workforce, each 10 'mubangas' (plot) of 15 meters in which those employed received payment per day, foods such as a 'quinda' (kind of wicker basket) of 'macrueira' or a basket of cassava and sometimes a 100KZ, and (ii) Returnees and IDPs: the Government of the province through the provincial Agriculture Office of MINADER subsidized land preparation in the districts of Cacuso - (856.8 hectares), Calandula - (1,558.7 hectares), and Malange - (200.2 hectares).

Although an increase in the area cultivated has been mentioned there were some difficulties which affected the success of the agricultural campaign such as: (i) some new NGOs lacked transport; (ii) Difficulties of evaluation, technical follow-up and monitoring; (iii) not enough seeds and tools to cover the projected number of families; (IV) delay in the arrival of seeds to the province; (v) weak germination of groundnuts and maize; (vi) too much rain or on the other hand, drought; (vii) not enough cassava cuttings; (viii) inadequate vegetative growth of maize planted on waste land; (ix) inadequate storage capacity, handling, transport and conservation of reimbursed seeds; (x) loss of groundnut seeds during transportation; (xi) absence of technical information on seeds received and (xi) delivery of hoes which were not appropriate for the job.

The MUAC assessments were carried out in newly accessible areas (Calandula, Marimba, Soqueco, Kiwaba Nzoji, Cacuso and Quela) where evaluations of critical need took place as well as fast assessments of food needs, which showed that not many children had been identified at risk of malnutrition or were even undernourished. These results, added to the big drop in admissions to nutritional centers indicate that the nutritional state of families is normal.

However the implementation of a health education program is recommended, with emphasis on: (i) Food Education, (ii) Better use of local resources; (iii) Community vegetable plots; (IV) Guidance on household and personal hygiene; (v) Importance of completing vaccination calendar; (vi) The use of impregnated mosquito nets; (vii) Comply with medical norms/instructions for the treatment of malaria (viii) adequate disposal of human waste (feces); (ix) Treat lagoons and swamps, to control vectors, especially mosquitoes; (xi) Carry out antenatal check-ups on pregnant women and vaccinate with tetanus toxoid; (xi) Training for teachers, youth community leaders, traditional healers, etc. on AISS/STI/STDs; and (xiii) Monitoring of water sources etc.

MOXICO

The circulation of people and goods fell considerably during the last six months because of deterioration of access roads. Some localities in the districts of Luacano, Luau and Alto Zambeze continued inaccessible by road due to the existence of mines and broken bridges.

Information from MINARS refers to the fact that about 83,086 people will have returned home, of whom about 10,000 are former-refugees returned to the districts of Luau, Alto Zambeze, Lumbala Nguimbo and Moxico. In the process of reintegration reception areas for families of demobilized soldiers from UNITA were closed down. In this process, about 9,949 people were transported to the provinces of Huambo, Bié, Lunda Sul, Malange, Bengo, Cando Cuban go and Uige.

The situation of food security in the province of Moxico improved in relation to the previous period, mainly in the districts of Lactases, Lumbala Nguimbo, Alto Zambeze and Luau, as a result of an increase in trade with neighboring countries, and access to agricultural tools and a general improvement in the health situation.

The prices of food products that make up the basic and alternative food baskets were very high, with increases of around 37.45% and 26.58 % respectively, in April 2003, compared to the same month of last year, they continue to be high due to low production levels and increased transport costs in Luanda. In April, the average cost of the basic food basket was USD 35.12 – 33.4 % lower than in October 2002 .

In the next period availability of local food produce in the markets could go up due to better access and the circulation of people and goods. The prices of some basic products will be lower thus increasing the buying power of poor people.

Although there have been improvements in the supply system for essential medicines to health units, the health situation continues to be alarming. Many cases of morbidity from malaria were recorded, i.e. about 38% of cases diagnosed in health units. In all districts cases of measles in children under 5 years of age were notified. During the first trimester of 2003, 208 cases were confirmed in the provincial hospital Luena.

The nutritional security network in the province was reduced, and was made up of two SFC and a TFC. There was also a fall in the number of admissions to centers, that is associated with an improvement in access to a variety of food sources. The average number of admissions to the TFC in Moxico fell from 316 to 25 children in April 2003 (-92%) compared to April 2002: In the SFC the number of admissions dropped from 338 to 66 in April 2003, 80% less compared to the same period last year.

In the districts of Moxico and Camanongue rains began in August and in the districts of Bundas and Luchazes they were slightly delayed. In general they were steady and they ensured good crop development.

There were improvements in the availability of agricultural tools, especially for returnees. According to MINADER about 70,300 families cultivated land in the present agricultural campaign and tools distributed will have reached about 57% of these families. The average areas cultivated per family were estimated at 2 hectares for residents, 1 hectare for resettled returnees and 0.5 hectares for IDPs.

The total production of the province was estimated at 3,367 MT for cereals, 952 MT for beans and 1,007 MT for groundnuts and 141,000 MT of cassava. In Camanongue families will be able to build up reserves of maize and beans to last them for about 4 months. In the districts of Leua, Cameia, Luau Alto Zambeze and Camanongue cassava harvests will be able to cover food needs until 2004. In the districts of Luacano and Luchazes, where the source of cereals and vegetables is the market, buying power will depend on how much fish is caught in this fishing season.

In the districts of Moxico, Alto Zambeze and Luchazes, approximately 19,700 people, mainly vulnerable returnees (12,500) and residents (4,100) are at risk of food insecurity and need food aid. Around 17,200 of these people are in the locality of Lovua, Lumbala Caquengue and Cangamba, localities that have good subsistence opportunities. In the next period it is thought, however, that these groups will be able to reduce their degree of vulnerability if they are supplied with production factors.

In the localities at moderate risk, there are about 96,000 people, who are highly vulnerable. They are mainly returnees (65,850 people) and residents (16,190). Food support for this group will help to prevent the deterioration of their nutritional state.

In the inaccessible areas of Macongo, Cavungo, Luacano, Luchazes and Bundas, about 20,000 are at risk of food insecurity, which will become worse in the next months, if these areas remain inaccessible to humanitarian assistance.

UIGE

The comparative analysis of geographic vulnerability frameworks in the last two semesters in question point to some improvement in food security in the province of Uige. The situation is much better in the localities of Ambuila, Kibocolo (Maquela of Zombo), Sanza Pomba, Cuilo Pomba, Macocola, and Buengas Sul. This trend is essentially attributed to higher agricultural production, increase in circulation to areas of high commercial activity, and the fact that people have better opportunities for income generation. It is stressed that the deterioration of the situation in the district town of Maquela of Zombo, is attributed to an alteration in the state of health in the district town, that worsened essentially because of the arrival of external returnees from DRC and due to the irregular supply of medicines to the district Hospital. However, the total number of people who are vulnerable was estimated at more than 115,000, of who about 9,113 are already at risk of food insecurity. These people are mainly returnees and resettled, concentrated in the west of the province, almost without resources and also they have had virtually no access to production factors. The fact is that economic activity in localities where most resettled returnees are found is quite inadequate or almost non-existent and there are few opportunities for families to generate income outside the agricultural sector.

There were no significant improvements in access to the province compared to the previous period. The activities of humanitarian organizations during the period between November and April, continued limited in the districts of Uíge; Negage; Songo; Sanza Pombo; Puri; Ambuila; Quimbele; Quitexe; Bembe (FRA Valley of Loge), Bungo; Damba; Maquela do Zombo and Cangola. There was a spontaneous movement of external returnees from the refugee camps of Kimpesse and Kimpangu (Democratic Republic of the Congo). The entry points of these returnees were the districts of Maquela do Zombo, Quimbele and Milunga. The most critical zones in terms of access are in the districts of Songo (village of Kinvuenga), Maquela do Zombo, and Quimbele, the latter has great agricultural potential.

In general terms, and making a comparison with the last agricultural campaign, during the 2002-03 agricultural campaign there was an increase of about 40% in area cultivated (resident and returnees) compared to the previous campaign (2001/2002). From information provided by some local residents and those that returned before October 2002, most of them will be able to satisfy some of their basic needs through agricultural production. Most of these population groups will possess food reserves from their harvests, (cassava, beans, groundnuts and in some cases maize) which could satisfy food needs for over two months.

In global terms, the agriculture situation in district localities of the province is good (where information is available), except for the districts of Bembe, Ambuila and Bungo. Most families had access to seeds and agricultural tools which they could purchase in local markets, stocks from the previous campaign, through barter or exchange, through provision of services (farm laboring) in exchange for seeds. Groundnut seeds and beans were distributed by IERA in the districts of Sanza Pombo and Kimbele, germination was below 10% (negative), and that consequently affected incomes.

However, there was a marked decline in prices during the first trimester of this year, which in fact started earlier than in previous years. The main basic basket fell 13% while the alternative dropped by 11.7%. The positive relation between the two baskets at this time of the year indicates greater availability of foodstuffs in the market of Uige. It can be inferred from these data that families who buy foodstuffs from the market are making little use of the alternative food basket. This behavior of prices indicates on the other hand, an increase in agricultural production in the province of Uige, and on the other hand, as projected in the last report of analyzes of vulnerability, supply of foodstuffs continued despite difficult conditions of access during the rainy season. It is expected that the downward trend in the cost of the main basic basket is going to be maintained until August or September.

Given the current picture of vulnerability in the province, the provincial group of analyzes of vulnerability recommended that intervening humanitarian organizations and government agencies should make efforts towards improving conditions of access to allow analysis of geographic risk in currently inaccessible areas. Also from the same angle, secondary roads should be rehabilitated in the district of Quimbele that give access to areas at risk of food insecurity and areas with a high degree of vulnerability (Quimbele/Icocha and Quimbele/Alto Zaza). Parallel to this, it is recommended that food aid and distribution of agricultural tools continue during the 2002-03 agricultural campaign for those at risk of food insecurity, but the immediate suspension of food aid to groups found in areas with a degree of moderate vulnerability.