EMERGENCY APPEAL

Angola | FOOD INSECURITY



A mother and her daughter on their way to Namibia, where many Angolan migrants have settled in search for water and grazelands @ IFRC

Appeal №: **MDRAO007**	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: **CHF 8 million** Federation-wide Funding requirements: **CHF 10 million**	
Glide №: DR-2021-000149-AGO	People [affected/at risk]: **1,58 million people**	People to be assisted: **328,880 People**
DREF allocation: **CHF 750,000** ***(DREF loan includes CHF 159,708 released on 18.12.2021, all allocated from the Response Pillar).***	Appeal launched: **26 May 2022**	Appeal ends: **31 May 2023** [1]

[1] After a certain period of time, this Appeal will transition into the IFRC country plan for Angola.



Angolan women with young children in search of water @IFRC

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Angola is facing the **worst recorded drought** in 40 years, with southern provinces, namely Huila, Cunene and Namibe, experiencing the fifth consecutive year of drought conditions. Food insecurity analysis conducted in Southern Angola[2] found that between October 2021 and March 2022, around **1.58 million people** experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (58% of the analysed population), of which 43% are in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and 15% in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). The affected population faces severe constraints in accessing food due to consecutive droughts, poor harvests and depleted reserves, loss of livelihoods and livestock, and rising food prices. Those still able to meet the minimum food requirements do so through crisis or emergency coping strategies, such as skipping meals, borrowing, reducing quantities and eating less preferred foods. Furthermore, the lack of access to safe water and sanitation in most rural communities in the south is prolonging the cycle of malnutrition.

The World Bank places the economic impact of the drought at 749 million US dollars. [3] In addition, the economic crisis that hit Angola since 2014 and the subsequent increase in food prices, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, and the very low crop yield, have severely impacted the most vulnerable and exposed population, eroding livelihoods, agricultural production and coping reserves. Making matters worse, the Southern Provinces of **Cunene, Huila and Namibe** are suffering from consecutive years of below-average rainfall deficits, hence, agricultural yields and pastoral activities have been severely compromised. Another aspect of climate change has been the increase in pests. Another locust outbreak has been confirmed in Dukama, putting the current season's crops at risk. This has, therefore, been another damaging cycle in recent years.[4]

More specifically, a report[5] published in March 2022 showed the results of a drought vulnerability study conducted in Angola with a focus on water availability to different communes. Of the five vulnerable provinces studied, 12 of the 16 worst affected communes were in **Cunene Province,** with **Huila and Namibe** also named as priority regions for interventions. An estimated 1.2 million people are facing water scarcity and will have their water sanitation and hygiene conditions compromised. Many water points have dried-up, and others are not working. In some villages, over 60% of the population consumes water from unsafe sources, and over 90% do not have access to latrines. Access to potable water was already a major constraint in rural areas and was made worse by the drought and escalation in water prices. Water-borne diseases will continue to accentuate malnutrition and lead to severe situations, especially for children. The water availability index predictions show that the bottleneck of the current drought years, as well as the vast variability in water resources in the southern provinces, is **expected to continue in the future**, with decreases of over 50% possible for South Coast Provinces.[6]

[2] Analysis conducted by Integrated Phase Classification partners.
[3] Water security and drought resilience in the South of Angola, World Bank Group, 2022
[4] FAO response to the Angola locust outbreak 2021.
[5] See 2.
[6] The climate in Angola, past, present and future – IFRC climate centre, March 2022

Livestock production has also been affected by the drought. The lack of fodder and rangelands as well as disease, such as the foot and mouth outbreak in 2020, have led to widespread animal deaths over the past three years, with 75% of households reporting having partially lost their livestock. Since March 2021, there has been movement of Angolans into neighbouring Namibia, particularly pastoralists seeking grazing land for their livestock.

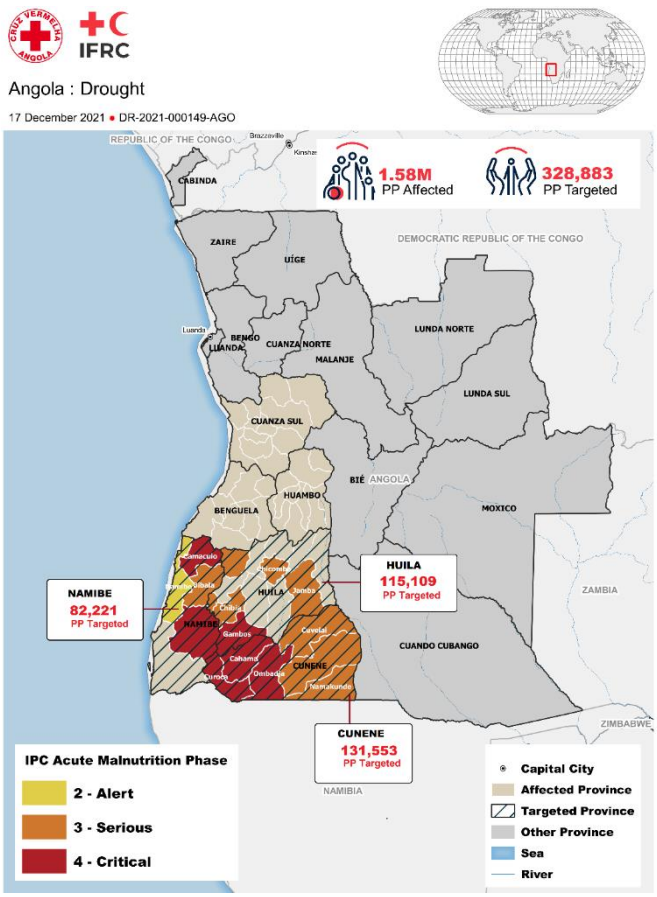
In 2022, 400,000 children are projected to be acutely malnourished. The prevalence of global acute malnutrition in some provinces is already above emergency thresholds (15%). [7] An analysis conducted in 10 municipalities of Southern Angola has revealed that, in these municipalities alone, 114,000 children under five are suffering, or will likely suffer from acute malnutrition and require treatment. However, there is a shortage in the supply of therapeutic feeding due to a pipeline break, and the restocking may take several months. Factors contributing to the malnutrition situation include poor dietary intake, inadequate care and feeding practices, and the high prevalence of water-borne diseases and infections due to the lack of access to safe water and sanitation.

Further, the Russia-Ukraine war is impacting regional food security. The onset of the Ukraine conflict came at a time when global fuel, food and fertiliser prices were already hitting record highs. Wheat is the most imported commodity in Angola and an essential part of people's diet. However, Angola immediately felt the rise in wheat prices - 50% in March 2022 and subsequently increasing further. The inflationary pressure affecting food accessibility will primarily impact the most vulnerable dwellings. Greater discontent, insecurity and upheavals cannot be ruled out.

Droughts like the current one are some of the predicted, and worsening, effects of **climate change** in the region. Unfortunately, the increase in agricultural and ecological droughts is predicted for Angola in future years. While the provision of lifesaving humanitarian assistance is urgent, there is a need to equip communities to be more resilient to such shocks and adapt to the changing context.

[7] https://erccportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/ECHO-Products/Echo-Flash#/daily-flash-archive/4425

TARGETING



The operation will cover the three most affected provinces in **Southern Angola - Cunene, Huila, and Namibe**. The communities of Cahama and Kalonga (Cunene), Gambos/Chiange and Ombadja (Huila), Virei and Calueque (Namibe) were identified as priorities from field assessments, consultations with government authorities and in coordination with local stakeholders, as they are among the most impacted by the drought, have less assistance from other actors and widespread needs. Other localities may be included as required throughout the implementation.

In these areas, the Angola Red Cross has planned to reach **328,880 people (50,597HH)** with emergency, lifesaving assistance, using a *CASH plus* strategy that will allow recipients to cover their basic needs, such as food and water. Alongside multi-purpose cash, the population will also receive adequate information and services for improved nutrition, sanitary conditions, and protection, including the set-up of community nutrition gardens, community kitchens, and nutrition sessions (IYCF). Out of the target families, a total of 32,888 (213,772 people) will receive immediate support through Cash and Voucher Assistance, while 164,442 people will benefit from community nutrition gardens and community kitchens. The map above shows the number of targeted people/households per province. The targeting will be broken down further to the municipality level at the detailed strategy development stage.

In regard to prioritisation, the operation will focus primarily on dwellings with no source of income, households with a high number of children under five years of age, female and child-headed households, households with pregnant women, the elderly, and households with adults that have a chronic illness or disabilities. CEA approaches will be employed to ensure full participation and agreement of community members and their leaders on the selection of targeted families.

The National Society will continue to use existing coordination platforms at both the national and provincial levels to ensure that targeting takes into consideration existing services being provided by various actors and, most importantly, reaches the most vulnerable.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) aims to support the Angola Red Cross in the response to the food insecurity crisis caused by droughts and other compounding issues. The objectives of the 24-month operation are to **save lives, halt and reverse the deterioration of food security and nutrition, and improve the resilience of the affected populations**. It will meet the most urgent needs of 328,883 people (50,597HH) through a *CASH plus* approach that integrates multipurpose cash assistance with other relevant components

(such as nutrition, hygiene promotion, protection, risk reduction) thus strengthening the overall approach to food insecurity.

In line with its Drought Response Plan, the government is undertaking major adaptation and mitigation projects, one of them being *Cafu Canal* which diverts water from the Kunene River with the overall aim of combating the effects of the drought in the southern provinces of Angola. As requested by the government, this EA will harness advantages from this project by supporting community nutrition gardens for populations along the canal, similar to the FRESAN project (supported by the EU in coordination with the government), which has had a considerable impact in WASH and agricultural support. The Ministry of Health, with support partners such as UNICEF, has set up community kitchens targeting malnourished children. The Angola Red Cross is already collaborating with these community kitchens through the DREF and will be replicating and expanding this successful model.

In addition, the government is also piloting a Monetary Social Transfer Programme (Kwenda Project), aiming to mitigate the social risks of selected vulnerable families. The EA will attempt to foster this project in the Southern Provinces via its cash deliveries.

 	**Integrated assistance (Livelihoods and Basic Needs activities)** Immediate life-saving assistance is needed in support of vulnerable families, allowing them to meet their daily food and water needs during the lean season. Some families will transition to community nutrition gardens. The cash assistance will be delivered alongside the health & care activities below, as well as protection and disaster-risk reduction awareness and solutions. • **Provide multi-purpose cash/voucher assistance to 32,888 people** for immediate food and water needs and other necessary commodities such as seeds and tools. • **Set- up of community nutrition gardens that will benefit 164,442 people** in communities and households along the *Cafu Canal.* • **Set-up of 30 community kitchens** specifically targeting children with or at risk of malnutrition.
 	**Health & Care, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** These activities will be complementary to the multipurpose cash, with the aim of improving the food security and nutritional outcomes of the 328,883 people benefiting from this action. This will be done by sensitising the population and households on the most appropriate nutritional practices, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practice sessions, food utilisation, hygiene promotion, water treatment and sanitation, prevention, and control of communicable diseases.

It must be emphasised that the core activities above will be enhanced through Community Engagement and Accountability methods, which will link the views and preferences of the affected population with the design of the operations strategy, i.e., the most appropriate method to deliver the above activities. Furthermore, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion as well as prevention of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence will be mainstreamed in any action, by investing in the capacity of volunteers to raise awareness, identify and refer through appropriate mechanisms.

Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	**National Society strengthening** Strengthen capabilities of the National Society, especially in Operations Management, Finance, Logistics, PMER and Human Resources management. Support the development of National Society strategic documents, including a resource mobilisation strategy. Linking with the RED Ready programme to deliver organisational assessments, including for branches located in the intervention areas. Promote volunteer duty of care through the appropriate management services, provision of equipment, training, and insurance package.
	**Coordination and partnerships** Continue to support the National Society in positioning itself as a strong national humanitarian actor, fulfilling the auxiliary role to the public authorities, maintain influence and advocacy with in-country HCT and Africa Union diplomacy. Engage and leverage partner National Societies in support of the Angola Red Cross. Linking the response with existing government-led response mechanisms for climate and drought, social safety nets, and food security.
	**Secretariat services** Reactivate an IFRC base of support the Angola Red Cross in-country that allows being closer to the National Society's operational implementation and development, focusing on operations management, finance, logistics, and diplomacy.

Sustainability and linkages to longer-term resilience programming

Food insecurity in Angola is directly linked to a long-lasting and severe drought, which is compounded by an economic and health crisis. Consequently, the Angolan government has requested that the Angola Red Cross undertake its humanitarian role in this response by expanding the current DREF activities to additional communities in need. Hence, through this appeal, the IFRC and the Angola Red Cross will, primarily, support the government and humanitarian partners to save the lives of those currently suffering the harsh impacts of this crisis.

Nevertheless, the IFRC and the Angola Red Cross are also working with different parties (the government, African Union, Africa Development Bank, UN agencies, among others) in a long-term engagement strategy that will contribute to address the root causes, creating mechanisms that will allow people to adapt and be more resilient to climate shocks. This longer-term strategy is aligned with the IFRC[8] Call for action and Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative that undertakes a holistic approach to food security, associating specific interventions for rapid nutrition, food security and livelihood support for acute food-insecure communities, with a long-term strategy working towards zero hunger and more sustainable development. Through this Emergency Appeal, community-led vulnerability and capacity assessments will be carried out to design long-term plans to address the root causes of hunger and break the cycle of aid dependency, aligned with the Angolan government's policies and strategies to address the immediate needs of the population. These plans and the interventions under this Appeal will be articulated in multi-year objectives in 2023 through the IFRC Angola plan and lead to proposals for longer-term funding requirements, to maximize the impact of funds available for the emergency through this Appeal and long-term resilience programming.

[8] IFRC Call for Action – Africa Hunger Crisis

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Angola Red Cross

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	**120**
Number of volunteers:	**9,000**
Number of branches:	**18**

With headquarters in Luanda, the **Cruz Vermelha de Angola** (CVA, Angolan Red Cross) is organised into **18 branches**, one for each provincial capital, covering 28 municipalities nationwide. The National Society runs nine health clinics as its main activity and source of income. In 2016, sixty-six (66) nurses were employed at health posts. The Angolan Red Cross also continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic with risk communication and community engagement, hygiene promotion, and immunisation activities. In April 2022, the CVA signed a Cooperation Agreement with the Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY) aiming to strengthen the public health and first aid capacities of the National Society. The National Society has a strengthened and trustworthy collaboration with the Government of Angola, which fully recognises its status in the country and relies primarily on the National Society for humanitarian activities.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC Delegation in Maputo covers two countries, namely Angola and Mozambique. The Angola Red Cross has been receiving strategic and technical support in the areas of health, food security and National Society Development from the delegation in Maputo as well as the IFRC Pretoria Cluster. The IFRC deployed 2 surge personnel to Angola for direct technical support in the implementation of the DREF[9] launched initially in December 2021. Many years after the last emergency operation in Angola, the IFRC has supported the COVID-19 response of the National Society, and recently launched a DREF to support the Angola Red Cross to provide relief to 2.500 people (500 households) affected in the three Southern Provinces of Huila, Cunene and Namibe, for a period of five months.

The Angola Red Cross has a partnership agreement with the Turkish Red Crescent that focuses on strengthening the first aid provision of the National Society. In 2021, the Turkish Red Crescent supported the in-kind distribution of food to 500 families in drought affected areas. Through this Emergency Appeal, the Angola Red Cross and the IFRC will call for Participating National Societies to support of the Federation-wide approach, through the provision of technical expertise and financial resources.

[99] DREF – Angola drought

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

The ICRC Pretoria delegation supports the population movement work of the Angola Red Cross. The ICRC does not have a physical presence in Angola but provides remote support for migration and restoring family links to the Congolese refugees in Angola. Initials discussions were held with the ICRC official in Pretoria regarding the IFRC's support to the National Society.

External coordination

The Government of the Republic of Angola is leading the drought response through a plan that is in place. There is an inter-ministerial committee in place that coordinates the response at the policy level. The Minister of State for Social Affairs is the chair of the inter-ministerial committee. At the technical level, the coordination and management of the response plan is headed by the Department of Civil protection.

There is an active Humanitarian Country Coordination Team which meets frequently. The Red Cross is part of the HCT. Most UN agencies such as the WFP, UNICEF, and WHO are present in-country with small to medium-scale interventions in various parts of Angola. The FAO, with funding support from the European Union, is complementing the government's efforts in agriculture and WASH in Huila Province. UNICEF is supporting the Ministry of Health with nutrition interventions in some municipalities across three provinces, while the WFP has been supporting food distribution in Cunene province targeting drought refugees, who came back from Namibia, in settlement camps. Other NGOs in the country include ADPP, the Jesuit Refugee Service, Norwegian Church Aid, and World Vision International.

The IFRC and Angola Red Cross convened a joint mission with the African Union to Angola, between April 22 – April 29, 2022. The mission was hosted by the Government of Angola, specifically the office of the President and the Ministry of State for Social Affairs. The delegation, accompanied by senior Angolan government officials, visited the affected areas. At the end of this visit, the parties agreed to combine efforts to develop a strategy to address the root causes of food insecurity and drought in the country and will call pan-African entities and donors to support this urgent concern. This Emergency Appeal will generate evidence from community-led vulnerability and capacity assessments which will add value to these long-term plans.

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