

**THREE MONTHLY REPORT TO USAID
FUND FOR DISPLACED CHILDREN AND ORPHANS**

ORGANIZATION: Christian Children's Fund
Richmond, Virginia

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COUNTRY PROGRAMME: Angola

GRANT NAME: Province Based War Trauma Team

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1. CUMULATIVE INDICATORS ON PROJECT STATUS

Note: Two rows of statistics have been removed from this report. They are: no. of children selected for special intervention and percentage change in children's behaviour/symptoms. This is because the project is in the process of establishing methodologies for evaluation and those two lines may not remain the same.

PROGRESS INDICATORS	ACCUMULATED ACHIEVEMENT
1. Number of training seminars held x province	Luanda: 2 Benguela: 3 Bié: 2 Huambo: 2 Malange: 0 Uige: 1
2. Number of adult participants x province	Luanda: 41 Benguela: 85 Bié: 50 Huambo: 59 Malange: 0 Uige: 21
3. No. of children involved in global test and general trauma recovery activities following training of carers	Luanda: 2697 Benguela: To be enumerated Bié: 1528 Huambo: 1100 Malange: 0 Uige: 55
4. Documented follow up meetings/visits/training sessions with govt. depts, community leaders/NGOs and churches x province	Luanda: 22 Benguela: 4 Bié: 4 Huambo: 2 Malange: 0 Uige: 2
5. New projects for children started following CCF training x province	Luanda: 1 Benguela: 0 Bié: 0 Huambo: 0 Malange: 0 Uige: 0
6. Type of project initiated by participants, following CCF training	Indirect psycho-social assistance 1. Awareness raising within own organization/community: 1 2. Educational: 3. Recreational: Direct psycho-social assistance 1. Working with groups of children on emotional recovery:
7. Degree of improvement quality of care of separated children in institutions (test to be developed)	Luanda: 0 Benguela: 0 Bié: 0 Huambo: 0 Malange: 0 Uige: 0
8. Meetings held with traditional chiefs to promote traditional healing and reconciliation	Luanda: 1 Benguela: 2 Bié: 3 Huambo: 1 Malange: 1 Uige: 1
9. Public meetings held to raise awareness about the psycho-social impact of war	Luanda: 2 Benguela: 1 Bié: 1

on children	Huambo: 1 Malange: 1 Uige: 0
10."Peace education" activities (eg. messages exchanged between children across the lines)	Luanda: 0 Benguela: 0 Bié: 0 Huambo: 0 Malange: 0 Uige: 0
11.Reports collected/archived on child care custom and practice and traditional healing practices	7
12.Radio/TV awareness programs produced (with impact testing)	0
13. Radio/TV interviews re: program	Angolan TV: 1 Angolan Radio: 5 Angolan Newspaper: 1 Foreign TV: 0 Foreign Radio: 2 Foreign Newspaper: 1
14.Publication of articles on the psycho-social impact of war in i) professional journals ii) for local distribution to Government/NGOs etc.	Local distribution: 0 Professional journals: 0
15.Working Protocols in preparation or signed	1.Dept Humanitarian Assistance/ UNICEF/Medico International: on demobilization of underage soldiers 2.UNICEF on collaboration in implementation of Program 3.Ministry of Education 4.Ministry of Social Welfare
16.Production of documents to contribute to national policymaking	Initial draft of situation analysis submitted to Working Group of the Prime Minister's Office producing the National Plan of Action for the Child.

2. ACTIVITY STATUS FOR THE PERIOD:

Outputs planned for March/May,1996

2.1 Complete staff training during the month of March.

The training course for all 21 technical staff (15 CCF staff and 6 UNICEF recruits) was successfully completed on schedule between 11 and 29th of March. The course consisted of two weeks technical training (training for trainers) and one week of training in administration and financial management. All trainers were staff from national level of CCF.

By the beginning of April, all 7 provincial teams had returned to their provinces and were ready to begin training adults of all sectors (teachers, social service care workers, health workers, NGO staff, Church volunteers and community leaders).

All staff were evaluated on their performance during the training course and the information was fed back to them on follow up visits to the provinces in April. All staff were initially recruited on three month contracts but by the end of May, a decision was taken to confirm all recruits in their posts (except for the province of Malange, where various problems have arisen - see below in section three, Other Narrative).

2.2 Complete rental contracts and the establishment of provincial offices.

Contracts have been signed for office space in all five CCF managed provinces. Equipment, furniture and office materials have been delivered to all provinces.

2.3 Prepare plans for provincial seminars to be run in the months of April/June, 1996 and run the seminars under close supervision from national level.

The provincial teams drew up plans for the first series of seminars during the training course in Luanda. Target groups were selected based on the intimate knowledge that all staff have of their own provinces and their assessment of the most urgent need. Seminars began in April and national level staff have been present at all provincial seminars to ensure quality control.

In many cases, national level staff have been pleasantly surprised by the obvious capacity of provincial level staff to communicate effectively with local populations and transmit messages about the needs of children affected by war. This seems to be strongly reinforced by the use of local languages in training sessions. At their own initiative, teams have translated words relating to the wide range of emotions that children experience in relation to traumatic events and have also been simplifying terms in Portuguese.

All participants are being tested before and after the seminar to assess their assimilation of the contents and an initial analysis of these tests will be included in the next three monthly report.

Provincial Trainers are stimulating discussions during seminars about traditional healing and are already beginning to discover a wealth of practices and ceremonies which appear to be very much alive and in regular use. During the three monthly meeting of heads of teams, discussions will begin on how to promote the use of these ceremonies, in which circumstances and how to test impact.

At the present time, seminars are concentrating largely on Government social services: teachers and care staff of childrens homes and creches. However, the team at national level expect that once provincial staff have developed some experience and are confident in using a variety of approaches during training sessions, the work can be taken to community level. This will mean training at village level, with a strong emphasis on the involvement of their traditional leaders and will require more work on developing audio visual aids to use with illiterate populations.

In one Province, a very innovative idea emerged of running a three day workshop with local journalists to promote the publication information on the psycho-social impact of the war in Angola on children. 22 local journalists attended the workshop and there was a great deal of coverage on local radio. It should be possible to develop a relationship with local journalists such that programs (most importantly on local radio) are published on a regular basis updating information and ideas as they are developed. Publications of this nature will serve as a vital contribution to public awareness and peace education.

It will be exciting for CCF to bring these experiences together at the first quarterly meeting of Heads of Teams at the end of June. Through regular quarterly meetings between provincial programs, we can guarantee the cross fertilization of ideas and approaches, successes and failures. Learning from our own experiences will help to ensure that the program is well coordinated, dynamic and responsive.

2.4 Follow up seminars to be run in the provinces and to begin the use of monitoring instruments with the participants and children from those seminars.

Follow up visits have begun on the seminars already run and the next stage is to promote a clear understanding amongst teams that the seminar itself is only the beginning - the real test is the extent to which trainees are able to implement the program following training and make use of practical exercises with children.

To be effective, plans developed at the end of each training seminar need to be very clear about specific objectives and which activities trainees intend to use in their work with children. The exercises should relate to the age group and to their situation i.e. children in hospital, victims of landmines, will require different exercises to those in children's homes or those in school.

To ensure that follow up work is appropriate to the target group of children, the following steps are being taken:

. The quarterly meeting of heads of teams will consider how to help trainees to develop more specific plans at the end of seminars and how to ensure that follow up visits monitor the implementation of that plan.

. More practical exercises are being developed by the national level team, focussed on the needs of specific target groups of children (e.g. children aged 10-15 in schools; children 2-6 in creches; children of all ages who have recently experienced a traumatic event - for example landmine accident; children in institutions, separated from relatives).

These exercises will be shared with Provincial teams which will then become part of their toolkit to use as appropriate, both during seminars and in follow up.

Monitoring instruments are being firmed up (see below) and should be in use from July.

2.5 Review instruments being used to monitor work.

Dr. Mike Wessells of Ralph Macon University, Virginia is acting as a Consultant to the Regional Adviser for CCF, Carlinda Monteiro, who is based in Luanda in the development of the instruments being used to monitor the work. Full evaluation of the program, based on cumulative information from these instruments, will be held in March, 1997 (halfway point) and at the end of the program in September, 1998.

Carlinda Monteiro is coordinating staff training in the use of the instruments developed. It is expected that very useful information will arise from the evaluation, both for the Angolan program and the international community.

2.6 Prepare detailed proposal for evaluation of program.

A detailed proposal for the evaluation should be completed following Mike Wessell's expected visit to Angola in early July, 1996.

2.7 Begin detailed provincial assessments analyzing opportunities/constraints in all aspects of work.

Work has begun on provincial situation analyses in all provinces. The analyses are being undertaken by Provincial Teams based on a format set up at national level. Provincial situation analyses will be prepared by mid June and the information will be used to draw up the following:

- . Priority target groups for training
- . Identification of geographical zones with similar characteristics which could be used as control groups (if the decision is taken to use control groups in the evaluation).

In addition, the situation analyses will allow for:

- . An analysis of opportunities for collaboration with Governmental agencies and Non Government Organizations, specific to each province
- . Information on traditional healing practices, which will contribute to the debate on how to bring together traditional practices with taught techniques to promote psycho-social reintegration
- . Opportunities and constraints on movement and safety of the civilian population in order to debate the potential for increasing work in UNITA controlled zones.

5. OTHER NARRATIVE

5.1 Significant Program Developments/Activities

Work with UNITA

A visit was made to Bailundo, the civilian capital of UNITA controlled zones, at the invitation of a senior UNITA staff member. The objective was to initiate the debate about how to extend the program to UNITA controlled zones. The meeting was held chaired by Dr. Lizeth Pena, Director of Humanitarian Affairs and the Director of Education, plus senior staff of Health and NGOs were present.

CCF was extremely warmly received and an agreement was made to run a workshop in Bailundo on the psycho-social impact of the war on children on 11th June. There will be a debate on how to extend the program to Bailundo and other UNITA controlled zones. The Director of Education for UNITA has suggested that teaching staff be nominated to be trained as trainers to run seminars. A second (and more positive solution) would be to extend the work of our Huambo Province Team into Bailundo, which is a municipality of Huambo. This will depend largely on security guarantees for our staff.

Working with UNITA will allow for opportunities to discuss cross line recreational and cultural activities for children, aimed at breaking down the lack of confidence which exists on both sides.

To protect staff and promote Government/UNITA technical collaboration, the Huambo Provincial Government has been informed of our work in Bailundo. The response was very positive, accepting that reconciliation is vital to promote a lasting peace in Angola. CCF will attempt to bring Government and UNITA staff together to debate specific issues related to the psycho-social impact of the war on children. Those in planning are: i) how to prevent the growth of institutional care for separated children ii) how to promote demobilized child soldier's access to education.

Underage Soldiers

This aspect of the program is moving on at a rapid rate. The Joint Political and Military Commission, comprising the Government and UNITA, chaired by the Special Representative of the UN, Maitre Blondin Beye, have reached a time schedule to begin the demobilization of troops from the quartering areas and the first group to be demobilized will be the troops under the age of 18 years.

CCF will be the lead agency in the follow up of this group, by working together with the Government Social Services in Government controlled areas and training a network of social assistants who will work in UNITA controlled zones. The numbers of child soldiers are expected to reach well over 3,000 on the UNITA side, while the Government has not yet released the statistics.

The program is being coordinated by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (UCAH, in Angola), and partners are UNICEF and the Organization of International Migration and Save the Children-UK (who will take advantage of the social assistants to increase the tracing network). All work will be carefully monitored and should produce some very useful information for the future.

Public Meetings

Carlinda Monteiro presented the program and results of a study undertaken during 1995 to a meeting organized by German Government Aid, in the presence of Angolan Ministers and the Armed Forces. The presentation was so well received that virtually all present chose to be part of the group that Carlinda was chairing.

5.2 Problems/constraints

The Provincial Team in Malange has found it extremely difficult to get the program started. This is because i) the Provincial Government resisted intervention for some weeks in the absence of the Provincial Governor ii) internal problems in the team and lack of managerial capacity of the Head of Team. Given the problems, a decision was taken not to offer full term contracts to the staff in this team until the problems are resolved. The team has been given a set of specific tasks to complete, while work is being undertaken on internal team relations and on public relations. Decisions will be taken on the future of the team within two months.

6. PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

6.1 Complete the plans for the evaluation and all instruments to be applied. Train all staff in the objectives of the evaluation and application of instruments.

6.2 Seek a solution for the management problems in Malange Province. The test will be whether Malange is able to function to the same level as other provincial teams.

6.3 Draw up plans for CCF's work in the interior, in areas controlled by UNITA.

6.4 Complete the plans for the follow up of underage soldiers and ensure that:

- . A network of Social Activists has been established
- . Training sessions have been run for Social Activists in provinces where the first group will be demobilized.
- . All CCF and UNICEF teams have been trained in how to work with underage soldiers.

6.5 Complete the provincial situation analyses, draw up provincial strategies and share them with Provincial Governments and NGOs in each province.

6.6 Hold the first quarterly meeting of the Heads of Teams and bring together a report on the conclusions.

6.7 Begin the development of more specific activities for age groups and "problem" groups.

6.8 Begin the development of audio-visual instruments to be used with illiterate populations.

6.9 Train national level staff in the collection of anthropological data on customs and practices.
