

**CONFLICT MITIGATION AND PREVENTION
INITIATIVE IN HUAMBO AND MALANJE**

**FIRST REPORT TO THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

11 DECEMBER 2003

**CENTRE FOR COMMON GROUND IN ANGOLA
LUANDA, ANGOLA**

**CONTACT:
HEATHER KULP
DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR COMMON GROUND IN ANGOLA
T: (244-2)-330-035**

**PHILLIP HELLMICH
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND
T: (32-2) 736 7262 / F: (32-2) 732 3033**

I. Introduction

In July of 2003, the Centre for Common Ground (CCG) in Angola received a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to conduct a **Conflict Mitigation and Prevention Initiative in Huambo and Malanje**. Under this grant, CCG agreed to conduct 24 conflict mitigation and prevention training sessions and dialogues, and 20 radio programs targeting community group members (notably women, youth, and church members). CCG aims to reach 800 direct beneficiaries and thousands of indirect beneficiaries through these activities and media coverage.

This report covers activities realized during July to October 2003.

II. Situation Update

Angola's return to peace has been relatively stable, and over the last quarter the nation's attention has turned to its massive repatriation program. By the signing of the peace accords in April of 2002, decades of war had created over 400,000 refugees in neighboring countries. Since this time, an estimated 200,000 have returned home. This year alone approximately 60,000 returnees have received direct assistance from UNHCR programs. Though this process has moved forward with relative calm, such a massive influx of returnees creates an inherently unstable situation for small communities and the nation alike. Therefore, this is a crucial time, requiring an intense focus on building peace.

In addition, a daunting task remains for the government and aid organizations to meet the needs of returnees and their host communities. In September and October, financial and supply struggles hampered aid programs in Angola. In October, the WFP was forced to halve its distributions, as cereal production fell below expected levels. The effects of this reduction were compounded when the WFP and other aid organizations cut services in northern Angola after an October outbreak of violence in Bengo province.

The civil society sector in Angola continues to face many challenges. The economy outside of the oil sector is still brutally weak, which makes identifying resources a major barrier to expanding civil society involvement in building peace and national unity. Modest resources are often available even in Angola if one is vigilant in searching, however. CCG is therefore committed to not only providing funds and other support to local NGOs and working groups, but also to encouraging local groups to seek out whatever local resources possible to support their activities and provide for their future sustainability.

The media sector slowly continues to provide more space for open dialogue on the critical issues facing the nation. While these openings have not yet been protected by legal statutes, journalists have been able to discuss government corruption and transparency. The biggest problem with most media at this point appears to be self-

editorial censorship, as many journalists and editors are still unsure how far they can push against Government boundaries. This situation highlights the need for introducing innovative formats, especially for radio programming, which will allow journalists to explore sensitive topics in ways that will not directly challenge Governmental sensitivities.

In the political sphere, the MPLA, UNITA, and other opposition groups continue to voice their commitment to the peace process and have begun preparing for elections tentatively scheduled for 2005. As the nation begins to prepare for elections, the challenge for any conflict mitigation and prevention program will be finding ways to support the political reform process while at the same time remaining vigilant in countering any threats to the peacebuilding process, such as the politicization of ethnicity.

Improvements in the public sector correspond with positive signs in the private sector as well, as several international companies, such as Yamaha and Coca-Cola, are showing faith in the peace and have announced the reopening of long-closed plants.

III. Summary of Objectives Outlined in Proposal

In order to prevent conflicts in a community, it is important to strengthen its capacity to mitigate conflict and defend the rights of its members in a non-adversarial way. Therefore, CCG has developed the following four objectives in order to strengthen this capacity in Huambo and Malanje:

1. Community groups, civil society organizations (including women, youth and the church) and local government officials become familiar with and are able to use basic conflict mitigation techniques. To achieve this goal we proposed to hold a combined total of nine (9) training sessions for community groups, civil society organizations, and local leaders in Huambo and Malanje provinces.
2. Community groups and civil society organizations (including women, youth and the church) have the opportunity to participate in facilitated dialogue sessions with local authorities about issues of common concern such as the protection of citizen's rights. Thus, we proposed to hold a combined total of nine (9) dialogue sessions for community groups, civil society organizations, and local leaders in Huambo and Malanje provinces. We also proposed to disseminate relevant conflict mitigation material to participants in both provinces.
3. Civil society organizations have the opportunity to use their voice on provincial radio stations during facilitated programs. To achieve this goal we proposed to hold twenty (20) radio dialogues in Malanje province, making listeners aware of positions held by civil society organizations and giving listeners the chance to participate by calling the radio stations.

The groups we are targeting include local NGOs, community based groups, youth political associations, university student associations, church leaders, traditional leaders,

women associations and local officials from key ministries. [See attached participant lists for a complete list of partners with whom we are currently working. We anticipate that this list will grow with our program.] We are working in an integrated manner with people who have and will have decision-making capabilities within their community or the larger community. These individuals may also disseminate techniques learned and engage in further dialogues with their constituencies on key issues of common concern.

As part of our methodology, CCG is also committed to linking, whenever possible, our journalists and civil society groups to pursue joint actions and to learn how to use one another as resources. Indeed, we see facilitating such linkages as a crucial secondary objective to this program. In Huambo, under a project funded by USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives, this linkage process has already begun. CCG will continue to work and build upon this network as part of our work with this grant.

IV. Activities Realized during Reporting Period

Throughout this first reporting period, the majority of our efforts have been focused on developing the project in Malanje and Huambo, while just beginning to implement activities.

We will be working under a two-phase plan with this grant. The initial phase, which has already begun, will include the assessment and training of our local partner groups. In consultation with our local partner groups we will also, as part of this phase, create and test the project's monitoring plan—including the development of indicators in collaboration with the local USAID office. The development of reliable indicators will ensure that we are able to track and learn from the impact of our projects.

In order to tailor our interventions with civil society groups and to aid in measuring concretely the groups' progress, CCG is currently developing a civil society index. This tool will have concrete benchmarks on several aspects of developing a strong and effective civil society group, including proposal writing; implementing and evaluating effective conflict programs; sustainability (through identifying local resources); ability to work with the government, media, and other civil society; ability to establish horizontal and vertical linkages; and budgeting and financial reporting. The tool will be scaled from 1 to 5, with 1 representing a group with very nascent skills (as most of our Malanje groups will be) and 5 being an organization that is ready to be self-sufficient. Part of CCG's objectives under this project will be to advance our participant groups up the scale.

This grant does not cover straight organizational skills training like proposal writing and financial planning. We expect, however, that our involvement and training in conflict resolution skills, facilitation of open dialogue and relationship building with community actors, and the civil society participation in radio programs will have an impact on where the groups with which we will work in Huambo and Malanje stand on the index.

We are anticipating that the index will be developed by the beginning of 2004. Once the index is complete, CCG will share its criteria with USAID and invite feedback. CCG will undertake Rapid Organizational Assessments with our participant groups, which will allow us to establish a base line. We will then use the resulting data to create, in conjunction with our partner groups, a strategic intervention plan that will specifically meet their needs. As the project continues, CCG will continually assess the groups' progress, and provide this data to USAID as part of our quarterly reporting. Under the first phase, we will then conduct trainings, which specifically address the needs uncovered in these assessments.

The second phase of the grant will focus on the implementation of the following activities:

- Dialogue sessions;
- Trainings that reinforce and build on the material in Phase One trainings
- Workshops on specific topics such as human rights, working with the government, and elections;
- Workshops with the goal of demonstrating how conflict resolution techniques learned can be practically applied to relevant community concerns; and
- Radio programs.

At this point we expect the first phase to be conducted during the first year and the second phase to correspond to the grant's second year.

The Civil Society team undertook an assessment trip to Malanje in July. The assessment trip was CCG's first step toward ongoing work with civil society in the province. Civil society in Malanje, due to strong government control over the years, remains fractured and weak, leaving significant space for growth and strengthening in which CCG will work. CCG's civil society team assessed during the trip at what level the civil society groups are operating so that our team will be able to take the most useful approach when conducting activities and building relationships with the civil society there.

While the CCG civil society team was in Malanje, they also conducted a dialogue with 19 representatives from civil society organizations, three political parties, and three governmental agencies for a total of 34 participants. The objective of the dialogue was to bring representatives of various groups together to analyze the conflicts and tensions in the community and see where there was space for the participants to work together. For many, this was the first time that they had met, underlining the relationship building that needs to happen in order for sustained and open dialogue, and collaboration to occur.

Also during the assessment trip, the CCG team was live on air for a radio magazine program about civil society's role in peacebuilding. This will serve as a lead-in for the civil society groups' upcoming participation in the on air dialogue around community peacebuilding.

V. Constraints

CCG's Angola team hired a new Program Director for Angola, Heather Kulp, in October 2003. Ms. Kulp's predecessor left the program in July, creating a two-month period in which the Angola team lacked a director. Despite the able leadership of its resident staff, this period of transition forced the program to reduce its output. Looking to the future, however, Ms. Kulp, who spent much of 2002-2003 working to support the Angola office from Washington, DC, is well situated to begin moving forward on the Angola team's program goals and we anticipate completing the program's first phase by our July 2004 target.

VI. Future Activities

In November, CCG will conduct its first conflict resolution training with civil society and local government officials in Huambo. This will serve to solidify our network there as well as introduce the basics of conflict resolution techniques. In addition, we will continue to facilitate the emerging network with journalists and work with our civil society participants to work with the media. We will also be conducting our Rapid Organization Assessments, based on our completed civil society index, which will then produce concrete intervention plans. For a complete list of activities over the coming three-month period, please refer to the attached 3-Month Plan.

Activity	Objective	Expected Result	Time
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct impact assessment of civil society project impact over the previous year (lessons learned, successes, stories for follow-up) 	Continue to refine monitoring system	<p>Report covering impact of activities over past year</p> <p>Will contribute to strategic planning session for program's next 2 years</p>	January 8-16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCG strategic planning 	Evaluate civil society program, including its relation to other CCG programs	Two-year strategic plan for civil society program, including indicators and expected results	January 19-23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize civil society index tool and seek input from USAID and partners 	Create tool that will CCG better tailor our interventions with Angolan civil society	Stronger civil society partner groups who are receiving individualized capacity building programs	January 8-30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct assessment of Huambo partner groups, using civil society index tool 	<p>Evaluate the results, indicators and impact of the program in Huambo thus far</p> <p>Identify areas of focus for future CCG interventions with Huambo groups</p>	Create a one-year strategic plan with Huambo group	February 2-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess ease of using tool and make modifications 	Refine civil society index tool	Better and more user-friendly tool that more accurately guides our interventions	February 9-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write up report from strategic planning session, distribute to local and international partners and elicit 	Share CCG strategic plan to ensure partner's concerns and strategies are also included	Stronger 2-year plan, incorporating outside feedback	February 2-20

feedback			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct third in 3-cycle workshop for Malange group and conduct assessment of group needs using civil society index tool 	Reinforce conflict resolution techniques	Formalize the groups' structure Create a one-year strategic plan with Malange group	March 15-20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write up and submit quarterly report to USAID, including new three-month plan 			March 20-31

Lista de Participantes/Instituições ao Programa Capacitação da Sociedade Civil MALANJE – USAID

N.º	NOME	FUNÇÃO	ORGANIZAÇÃO / INSTITUIÇÃO
01	Angelo dos Santos Francisco	Oficial de Ligação	Ong. Associação Mãos Livres
02	Paulo Francisco	Representante	Ong. ABA-SHUD
03	Helder de Melo	Director	Ong. Associação Mãos Livres
04	Joaquim dos Santos	Chefe de Depart. da Juventude	Direcção Provincial da Juventude
05	Ana Bela das Dores	Direcção da Promoção	LIMA – UNITA
06	Abraão José Narciso	Leigo	Igreja Metodista Unida
07	Simão Cambongo	Técnico Comunitário	Ong. ADRA
08	Caetano Manuel Domingos	Oficial de Justiça	Delegação da Justiça
09	Guilhermina Adão Viegas	Secretário Provincial	Juventude do PRD
10	António José Nicolau	Director	Ong. AMIGA
11	Rafael da Silva Cambolussge	Representante	PRS
12	Armando Matadi Albino	Delegado Provincial	PLD
13	Nelson Joaquim Musondo	Administrador	Ong. AFC
14	Luísa Ramos	Técnica Comunitária	Ong. ADRA
15	Ludina Ladislau Peso	Secretária Municipal	JURA
16	Manuel Panzo	Pastor	Igreja do Sétimo Dia
17	João Pedro Namuissi	Evangelista	I.N.A.
18	Rui Baltazar do Céu Neto	Depart. De Educação Cívica e Moral	Comando Provincial da Polícia Nacional
19	Franciscoendonça Fuxe	Coordenador de Projectos	Ong. ASAVECA
20	Alberto Eduardo Kiole	Relações Públ. e Protocolo	Forças Armadas de Angola
21	André Canatumbi	Directora	Igreja ERA
22	Massué Paulo Afonso	Mobilizador Social	Ong. AUFA
23	Simão Gaspar Manuel	Assistente de Logística	Ong. AUFA
24	Maria Nazaré P. Manuel	Funcionária	Direcção da FAMUL
25	António Gomes Sebastião da Costa Bula	Director	Dir. do MINARS
26	António das Dores Francisco Miguel	Secretário p/ Informação	Delegação Prov. UNITA
27	Manuel Massanza	Delegado Provincial	FNLA
28	Mário Augusto	Secretário para Informação	PDP – ANA
29	António Lisboa Gamboa	Director Geral	Ong. CAPC
30	Domingos Lurão António	Coordenador	UTCH
31	Ver. Alfredo	Moderador	CICA
32	Luís Francisco Manuel	Ambientalista	Ong. Ambiente