

ANGOLA

CHILD PROTECTION

SECTORAL AND OR+ (THEMATIC) REPORT

January – December 2016



© UNICEF Angola/2015/Carvalho

Prepared by
UNICEF Angola
March 2017

unicef  | for every child

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|--------|
| B. TABLE OF CONTENTS | 2 |
| C. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... | 3 |
| D. STRATEGIC CONTEXT 2016..... | 4 |
| E. RESULT IN THE OUTCOME AREA | 6 |
| F. FINANCIAL ANALYSIS | 9 |
| G. FUTURE WORKPLAN..... | 10 |
| H. EXPRESSION OF THANKS | 12 |
| ANNEX 1: HUMAN INTEREST STORY..... | 13 |

C. Executive Summary

In 2016, notable milestones were achieved for both birth registration and justice for children components of the programme courtesy of the generous funding of the European Union. Progress to date in the area of birth registration is reflected in the increased absolute number of registrations and in the expansion of birth registration services in health facilities. The Ministry of Justice (MINJUSDH) reported that, from January 1st to June 31st 2016, 570,500 children aged 0-14 years were registered and issued with birth certificates. Of this figure, 103,907 children were registered by mobile registration teams, which is three times more than in 2015. Cumulatively, 1,711,347 children aged 0-14 years have been registered and issued with birth certificates since 2015. In tandem, thirty-eight birth registration service points were opened in 7 target provinces, which is almost four times the perceived target of 10 service points for this year. UNICEF ensured Government ownership through continued engagement with the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Technical Working Group and consistent joint monitoring of activities.

In the area of Justice for Children, significant progress has been made in expanding the capacity of child justice actors, under the leadership of the National Directorate for Justice (DNAJ) as a pre-condition for the expansion of juvenile courts. In this regard, the project supported the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for police and correctional officers and the training of 160 professionals (60 judges, defenders and prosecutors with 60 police officers from the Judicial Training Institute along with 40 social workers in the Huila province). Consultation meetings were held in all targeted provinces with judges, presidents, police commanders, vice governors, and justice delegates to identify the existing infrastructure for juvenile courts. Two provinces (Huila and Malange) out of the target 4 provinces have already identified locations for the juvenile courts and the process of equipping them is expected to be completed in 2017. The project will expedite identification of infrastructure in the remaining 2 provinces (Bie and Moxico) which are still negotiating with local authorities.

Due to limited funding in the area of violence against children, limited progress was realised. To support child victims of violence, the project provided support to a pilot helpline service in the Viana municipality of the city of Luanda which provided comprehensive services to around 40 child survivors of violence. In 2017, technical support will be provided to the National Institute for Children (INAC) and National Directorate for Children (DNC) under the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration (MINARS) to scale up the service and strengthen the child protection system through Government funding. UNICEF supported the development of a national strategy for to prevent and respond to violence against children. In 2017, UNICEF will support MINARS to develop regulations for the protection and care of children at risk and for the strengthening of the case management system to respond to the most vulnerable children, including children in street situations.

D. Strategic Context

Angola has been faced with a past of intense violence plagued with a civil war ranging from 1975 to 2002. Although Angola is experiencing political stability which represents a favourable context for social and legislative reforms, the nation still faces numerous challenges with severe repercussions on children and their rights. Despite early years of economic growth, the Angolan economy has recently undergone a major structural shock due to lower crude oil prices, and forecasts for the coming years remain filled with uncertainty about the evolution of the country's oil exports and international commodity prices. The African Development Bank, in its report¹ in 2016 noted that growth of gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to remain subdued, at 3.3% in 2016 and 3.5% in 2017, down from 3.8% in 2015. According to Ministry of Finance figures, national budget allocation for birth registration in 2016 has decreased by 78% when compared to 2015 levels. Similarly, the budget allocation for justice in 2016 has decreased by 92% when compared to 2015 levels.

Violence against children is among the most critical child protection issues in Angola. The recent formative evaluation of the justice for children system² indicates that the Angolan law does not explicitly prohibit all forms of violence against children, which creates some confusion in regards of corporal punishment. Certain types of corporal punishment against children are an accepted practice in the family and in educational settings (schools and assistance centres), and incidents of violence are widely underreported.³ Children are victims of many different types of violence such as physical and psychological abuse, negligence, abandonment, sexual or labour exploitation, gender-based and domestic violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) is still very present in Angola. This phenomenon has been exacerbated by decades of war as well as the notion of masculinity that equates being a man with dominance over women.⁴ Research on GBV shows an increased risk of physical or sexual violence among young girls, especially those aged 15 to 19.⁵ The main forms of gender-based violence are domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and child marriage. Domestic violence (physical, psychological, and sexual) has been reported as the most common type of gender-based violence against women and female children in Angola. In a 2010 report, 29% of women in a marital union aged between 15 and 49 reported having been victims of physical or sexual violence in the previous 12 months⁶. Although a few relevant initiatives have been implemented to address this issue (such as the criminalisation of domestic violence in 2011, the creation of a specialised unit within the MININT to respond to violence against women and children, as well as nationwide campaigns held in recent years⁷) the problem continues to be reported as a key issue in Angola.⁸ Sexual and domestic violence against women and girls is widespread but few cases are reported to the police and/or

¹ African Economic Outlook (AEO) 2016

² UNICEF (2016) Report on the justice for children system in Angola – A Formative Evaluation conducted for the Justice for Children Project

³ End All Corporal Punishment of Children, “Corporal punishment of children in Angola”, August 2015, available on-line at <http://www.endcorporalpunishment.org/assets/pdfs/states-reports/Angola.pdf> (last accessed 12 May 2016)

⁴ Search for Common Ground, “Positive Masculinity: An approach for the Angola context”, September 2013, Luanda, Angola. Available on-line at https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ANG_LR_Sep13_Angola_Positive_Masculinity_in_Angola.pdf (last accessed 12 May 2016)

⁵ Statistics on GBV - (Krug et al., 2002; WHO, 2005a; Kishor & Johnson, 2004). – Search for Common Ground, “Positive Masculinity: An approach for the Angola context”, September 2013, Luanda, Angola, pg. 4, available on-line at https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/ANG_LR_Sep13_Angola_Positive_Masculinity_in_Angola.pdf (last accessed 12 May 2016)

⁶ UNICEF, *Situation Analysis*, Luanda, Angola, 2015, pg.1

⁷ The Domestic Violence Act (*Lei contra a violência doméstica*) (25/11), *Major campaign* entitled “Zero Tolerance for Gender and Sexual Based Violence” was announced in 2012

⁸ UNICEF, *Situation Analysis*, Luanda, Angola, 2015

prosecuted⁹. In a traditional context, sexual violence is often viewed as a ‘personal matter’ that should be dealt with inside the family and not the justice system.¹⁰

Child marriage is a widespread phenomenon in Angola, influenced by determining factors such as customary norms and traditional practices that set the age of marriage at the onset of puberty, as well as poverty and high birth rates as incentives for parents to marry off children¹¹. Among females aged 15-19, one in five girls are married and 55% have already delivered their first baby¹². Early marriage is not an issue for boys, but for girls, it often leads to consequences such as stopped school attendance, limited future opportunities for employment, risks associated with pregnancies, possible physical or sexual abuse by partners, etc.¹³ Early pregnancies are a key determinant in the country’s high level of maternal mortality¹⁴.

Child labour is another form of child exploitation that is prevalent in Angola. According to UNICEF (2014)¹⁵, poor children and those in rural areas of Angola are at high risk of involvement in some form of child labour. The IBEP 2008-2009 found that one in five children aged between 5 and 14 years was engaged in child labour. Children living in rural areas were far more likely to work (32 per cent) than those living in urban settings (11 per cent).

Witchcraft allegations have also been the cause of many cases of violence against children and abandonment.¹⁶ These allegations are facilitated by the fact that children are easy scapegoats for a family’s troubles.¹⁷ Few stakeholders interviewed explain this practice by the fact that many families are unable to care for their children and use this allegation in order to divest themselves from caring for children.¹⁸ Children with a physical or psychological disability or that show any unusual behaviour are particularly vulnerable to being victims of these allegations. According to the QUIBB 2011, disabilities affect 3 per cent of the total population and 1.3 per cent of children, although it is likely these figures underestimate the true situation as they rely on self-reporting. An important consequence of this phenomenon is that children are stigmatised, discriminated, abandoned, harmed or even killed. They are subject to psychological, sexual and physical violence and torture, either by family and community members, or by church pastors and traditional healers trying to *heal* them. Most often, the accused children are abandoned or expelled by their parents and must resort to being homeless.¹⁹

⁹ Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict, “Issue 2: Angola,” 25 April 2002, available online at <http://www.watchlist.org/reports/pdf/angola.report.pdf> (last accessed 25 April 2016)

¹⁰ Adebayo Oyeade, *Culture and Customs of Angola*, Westport, CT, Greenwood, 2007

¹¹ Julia Sloth-Nielsen, “Assessing the Implementation of the Convention of the Rights of the Child in Lusophone Africa (Angola and Mozambique)”, South Africa, University of the Western Cape, 2012, p.27; United States Department of State, “2010 Human Rights Report: Angola”, 8 April 2011, pg. 36, available on-line at: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160519.pdf> (last accessed 21 March 2016)

¹² UNICEF, *Situation Analysis*, Luanda, Angola, 2015, pg. 111

¹³ UNICEF, *Situation Analysis*, Luanda, Angola, 2015, pg. 22

¹⁴ United States Department of State, “2010 Human Rights Report: Angola”, 8 April 2011, pg. 36, available on-line <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/160519.pdf> (last accessed 21 March 2016)

¹⁵ UNICEF (2014) *Situational Analysis: Children and Women in Angola*

¹⁶ European Parliament, “Child witchcraft allegations and Human Rights”, 2013, pg. 18, available online at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT\(2013\)433714_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT(2013)433714_EN.pdf) (last accessed 12 May 2016)

¹⁷ European Parliament, “Child witchcraft allegations and Human Rights”, 2013, pg. 9, available online at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT\(2013\)433714_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT(2013)433714_EN.pdf) (last accessed 12 May 2016).

¹⁸ European Parliament, “Child witchcraft allegations and Human Rights”, 2013, pg. 18, available online at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT\(2013\)433714_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT(2013)433714_EN.pdf) (last accessed 12 May 2016).

¹⁹ European Parliament, “Child witchcraft allegations and Human Rights”, 2013, pg. 11, available online at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT\(2013\)433714_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/note/join/2013/433714/EXPO-DROI_NT(2013)433714_EN.pdf) (last accessed 12 May 2016).

The UNICEF formative evaluation report²⁰ also highlights that growing rates of offences committed by adolescents and the involvement of children by adults in criminal activities have been declared by most of the stakeholders. 1,116 criminal cases were recorded in 2009 compared to 2,000 in 2012, including 500 only during the first three months. The age group most in conflict with the law is young people aged between 13 and 15 years old, with frequent reports of cases of robbery and petty thefts (39% and 23%, respectively)²¹. Cases of assaults, rape and murder cases are also reported²². There is consensus on the fact that a large majority of the offences are committed by boys. Children in conflict with the law are victims of negative perception from the community and even from actors working in the juvenile justice system characterised by stereotypes and stigma. These perceptions constitute an important obstacle to child offender social reintegration and among the key drivers of violence against children in the justice system.

In Angola, birth registration coverage currently stands at 25% for children under-5, according to the 2014 Census results. Vulnerable children, including children orphaned, abandoned or separated, children living in difficult to reach zones, and homeless children are particularly affected. Distance, direct/indirect costs, lack or expired identification documents for parents²³ and a lack of knowledge of the registration process and its importance on the part of the parents have all been cited as the main barriers for parents to register their children²⁴.

E. Results in the Outcome Area

In 2016, UNICEF continued to support the Government of Angola ensure that the most vulnerable children and adolescents benefit from accessible, affordable, equitable and high quality child protection services including birth registration, response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and child-friendly justice. Key achievements have been in the following strategic areas:

- Successful completion of a comprehensive assessment of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system and a national CRVS action plan
- Support for the development of outreach services and the implementation of the Regulamento de Simplificacao. Findings will inform the development of handbook on procedures for the birth registration process
- Technical support to Government in coordinating the multi-sectoral working group “Nascer com Registo” and implementing agreed resolutions.
- Training of trainers in birth registration procedures for 38 health workers from across the 7 targeted provinces
- Thirty eight (38) civil registration service points have opened and are functional in the 7 targeted provinces under the project supported initiative “Nascer com Registo”, which aims at increasing registration immediately after birth.
- A diagnostic study on the current justice system for children were completed in 2016

²⁰ UNICEF (2016) Report on the justice for children system in Angola – A Formative Evaluation conducted for the Justice for Children Project

²¹ Birth Registration and Justice for Children in Angola, Government of Angola / EU Delegation in Angola / UNICEF, 2014-2017, p. 17

²² European Commission, “Action Fiche of the Commission Decision on the Annual Action Programme 2013 in favour of the Republic of Angola to be financed from the 10th European Development Fund - Project to support the Government of Angola to define and implement an effective policy for Social Protection and Social Solidarity”, 23 July 2013, pg. 18-19, available on-line at https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/aap-social-protection-angola-action-fiche-20130723_en.pdf (last accessed 12 May 2016).

²³ Parents not able to register their children because their identification documents (such as ID cards) have expired.

²⁴ UNICEF, *Situation Analysis*, Luanda, Angola, 2015; Officially, there are 25 civil registries nationwide and 137 sub-offices in each of the country's municipalities. As a result of the war, only 40 per cent of these offices were in operation at the end of 2002.

- A national conference on Juvenile Justice Law and Family Code attended by close to 100 participants
- A curriculum on children's rights was developed for the police and about 60 police officers were trained in collaboration with the National Institute for Judicial Studies (INEJ)
- 60 judges and prosecutors from Angola and 5 other Portuguese speaking countries were trained on "Jurisdiction Protection of Children's Rights"
- Successful completion of a formative KAP study on the perceptions of children's rights and perceptions of children in conflict with the law

Results Achieved:

Outcome:

By 2019, most vulnerable children and adolescents will benefit from accessible, affordable, equitable and high quality child protection services including birth registration, response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect and child-friendly justice.

Output 1:

The Government of Angola has increased national capacity to provide birth registration services to all children, with special emphasis to those under 5 years-of-age and under 1 years-of-age

In 2016, UNICEF supported the Government of Angola to complete and pass the *Regulamento da Simplificação* (Simplification Regulation) which provides guidance to the Simplification Law of 2015 and is aimed at removing some of the barriers to birth registration while facilitating access of civil registration services by communities. During the year, the Ministry of Justice reported that birth certificates were issued by "Conservatorias" (Civil Registration Offices) to 570,500 children aged 0-14 during the first 6 months of 2016. This same period saw the, project-supported mobile teams register 103,907 children aged 0-18, which is over 3 times more than those registered in 2015. With support from the project, a protocol between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Justice has been drafted and is awaiting approval. The protocol will allow for birth registration mobile units to deploy to primary schools during school enrolment weeks. Through support from the project, the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system is operational. In tandem, Birth Registration data feeding the wider CRVS system/INE is already being received from 6 of the 7 target provinces.

Output 2:

The Government of Angola has increased national capacity to provide access and quality of justice and police services for children in contact with the law (perpetrators, survivors, witnesses and third parties) in at least 5 provinces

In 2016, significant progress was made in strengthening the quality of child justice services for both children in conflict with the law and those in contact with the law as victims or witnesses of a crime. The exchange mission and training packages offered resulted in the improved capacity of 45 Angolan judges and prosecutors to deliver child sensitive justice services. In addition to judges and prosecutors, 60 police officers and 40 social workers had their knowledge in the application of social measures increased. Anecdotal evidence from monitoring visits conducted in the target provinces indicates that the judges and prosecutors are applying their new knowledge and skills.

Key strategic partnerships and interagency collaboration

UNICEF is well respected and recognised as a key of government on child protection issues. UNICEF also enjoys a convening role on children's rights with civil society, academia and other development agencies. To advance the child protection agenda, in particular, prevention and response to VAC, UNICEF collaborates closely with other UN agencies under the human rights working group (UNFPA, UNHCR, and UNDP), relevant Government agencies.

In the area of civil registration, UNICEF will continue to work with UN agencies under the interagency group on CRVS (UNFPA, UNHCR and WHO) and government agencies under the CRVS Technical Working Group (DNRN, National Institute for statistics [INE], Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education).

Under the Justice for Children component, UNICEF will continue to work through key justice actors - DNAJ, DNC, and Ministry of Interior. In the particular area of violence against children, UNICEF will strengthen the Child protection Networks and will work through INAC, DNC and civil society organisations.

Monitoring, studies, evaluations

As mentioned in the sections above, UNICEF has already conducted diagnostic and formative studies in the areas of birth registration and justice for children. In 2017, UNICEF will support the implementation of major recommendations and the communication and social mobilisation strategies of the two components.

Critical factors or constraints

Despite good progress achieved by the GoA in the areas of birth registration and justice for children, significant gaps remain. In addition several constraints affect Government efforts to more effectively prevent, early detect and respond to Violence against Children. Expected Government investments (financial as well as human resources) contributing towards the overall results in child protection have not been forthcoming. The deteriorating financial crisis has prevented the Government in matching planned investments.

- The area of violence against children (VAC) is worst affected with inadequate budget allocation to the National Institute for Children (INAC) and the National Directorate for Children (DNC). The area of VAC is also the least funded within UNICEF making it difficult to sustain capacity building and system strengthening efforts in this area.
- The Government's investments towards *massification* aimed at ensuring adult legal identification has been particularly constrained. In Angola, the civil registration of parents is a precondition for the birth registration of their children. The roll out of the Government's *massification* programme was therefore paramount to the realisation of the project's major objective of registering 80% of all children by 2018.
- Similarly, The Government budget for the justice sector was cut by almost 90% in 2016, resulting in a major freeze on all planned expansion projects. The Government suspended construction of provincial courts across the country and put a freeze on recruitment of new staff. This has jeopardised project plans to expand juvenile courts which heavily relied on this Government investments in terms of infrastructure and human resources. Limited Government funding has resulted in major institutions of child justice (e.g. juvenile courts, police units, social services and

bodies, such as the Commission for the Protection of Children (CTM) and Social Reference Centres) failing to expand and to operate effectively.

- The recently published J4C KAP study reveals that social norms and public opinions still promote punitive measures toward children in conflict with the law in parallel to the secondary victimization of survivors of violence and exploitation.
- In addition, challenges within the data management system, inadequate planning and multiple, contradictory, reporting lines prevent timely progress of planned interventions.
- Among the major lessons learnt under the birth registration component, is the need to further expand birth registration outreach to cover children born outside maternity facilities. This will need stronger collaboration between Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Family and Women Promotion. The project has already started to support the training of traditional birth attendants on this aspect.
- Another important lesson learnt was the need for the project to find a strategy to accelerate outreach registration through mobile brigades. This has become even more urgent with Government's suspension of the "Massification". Some modification of the project may be required to allocate more resources towards this component. The electronic registration system remains largely inefficient, taking a long time to register each person resulting in long queues which frustrates the high demand for birth registration services. The project needs to be reviewed to provide more technical assistance in this area

F. Financial Analysis

Table 1: Planned budget by Outcome Area

| Outcome Area 6: Child Protection South Africa Planned and Funded for the Country Programme 2016 (in USD) | | |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| Intermediate Results | Funding Type | Planned budget |
| Child Protection | OR | 3,659,615.00 |
| | RR | 690,749.00 |
| Total | | 4,350,364.00 |

Table 2: Country-level thematic contributions to outcome area received in 2016

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection

Thematic Contributions Received for Outcome 6 by UNICEF Angola in 2016

| Donors | Contribution Amount | Programmable Amount |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Norwegian Committee for UNICEF | 7,414.56 | 7,414.56 |
| Total | 7,414.56 | 7,414.56 |

Table 3: Expenditures in the Outcome Area

| Outcome Area 6: Child Protection Angola 2016 Expenditures by Key Results Areas (in Dollars) | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Organisation Targets | Expenditure Amount | | | |
| | Other Resources- Emergency | Other Resources- Regular | Regular Resources | All Programme Accounts |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 06-05 Birth Registration | 0.00 | 571,421.00 | 451,751.00 | 1,023,172.00 |
| 06-04 Justice for Children | 0.00 | 1,277,161.00 | 238,998.00 | 1,516,159.00 |
| Total | 0.00 | 1,848,582.00 | 690,749.00 | 2,539,331.00 |

Table 4: Thematic expenses by programme area

**Outcome Area 6: Child Protection
Angola
2016 Expenditures by Programme Area (in USD)**

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 06-05 Birth Registration | 0.00 |
| Total | 0.00 |

Table 5: Expenses by Specific Intervention Codes

**Outcome Area 6: Child Protection
Angola
Expenses by Specific Intervention Code**

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| 06-05-01 Birth and Civil Registration | 570,390.01 |
| 06-05-01 (013) Operation Costs - Staff | 452,781.99 |
| 06-04-01 Access to Justice (for all children) | 759,602.95 |
| 06-04-01 (013) Operation Costs - Staff | 732,335.55 |
| 06-04-02 Diversion Programmes and Other Alternative to Detention | 24,220.51 |
| Total | 2,539,331.00 |

G. Future Work Plans

In 2017, UNICEF will continue to support the Government of Angola to expand birth registration and justice for children under the partnership with European Union. Priority will be placed on further expansion of birth registration points in maternity and health facilities throughout the 7 targeted provinces towards the target of 60 registration points by 2018. UNICEF will also continue to support the expansion of justice for children services to 5 targeted provinces through expansion of juvenile courts and its related structures to cover the remaining 4 provinces by 2018. UNICEF will also continue to strengthen the implementation of alternative to detention measures for children in conflict with the law, through development of standard operating procedures and training of actors. While the section is addressing two important programmatic areas under child protection, it is important to formulate current efforts and adapt them within the wider frame that aims at building a solid system, adaptable to changes and that addresses child protection comprehensively in the long term.

The area of violence against children (VAC) which is core to UNICEF's mandate remains largely underfunded. While the Programme is currently focusing in two key CP programmatic areas, Angola is currently suffering from rapid deteriorating changes in its social and economic structures. There is an emerging need for the National Child Protection System to be strengthened and reactivated in order to gain ability to prevent and respond to protection risks faced by children and their families. Additional resources to the programme would allow for further articulation and strengthening of current system building efforts, particularly in the areas core to violence against children.

Some immediate areas of intervention:

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">LEGAL AND REGULATORY SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health services do not offer integral services following health protocols to children victims of sexual abuse or violence. Support Ministry of Justice and Health to operationalize legislation particularly legislation core to violence against children. Need to engage the Legal Institute of Medicine.• Strengthen coordination between stakeholders on data collection and create/ strengthen monitoring systems of key child protection indicators that could influence and inform action and policy making. |
| <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIAL WELFARE /SERVICES SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthen coordination between stakeholders to improve case management and overall service delivery.• Support the National Directorate of Children (DNC) to strengthen minimum standards and regulations for the protection of children without appropriate care and children at risk.• Develop a mechanism for reporting and addressing violence against children.• Technical support to Government for the implementation and management of a national child helpline service. |
| <p style="text-align: center;">SOCIETAL BEHAVIOUR CHANGE SYSTEM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support INAC and MINARS to reactivate Community, Municipal and Provincial Child Protection Networks. They are key for achieving a multisectoral response, especially at community level.• Develop interventions at community and family levels that result in practices and behaviours that allow for better harmonization between customary law and international child protection standards and commitments.• Support INAC to develop an overarching violence against children communication strategy (communication for social change). |

Table 6: Planned budget for 2016

Outcome Area 6: Child Protection

Angola

| Intermediate Result | Funding Type | Planned Budget | Funded Budget | Shortfall |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 06-05 Birth Registration | OR | 1,195,777 | 1,195,777 | 0 |
| 06-04 Justice for Children | OR | 2,510,000 | 2,500,000 | 0 |
| | RR | 450,000 | 100,000 | 350,000 |
| Total | | 4,155,777 | 3,795,777 | 350,000 |

H. Expression of Thanks

UNICEF Angola wishes to express its most sincere appreciation for the thematic funding to the Norwegian Committee for UNICEF. Though the funding was not utilised due to lack of complementary funding to make a meaningful intervention, the outstanding amount of US\$7,414.56 will be utilised to supplement regular resources in support of VAC interventions in 2017.

Annex 1: HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

Travelling to Angola's remotest communities to register new births

By Paulo Helio Mendes, Field Project Officer

In Angola's rural areas, villages can be extremely difficult to reach, sometimes only accessible on foot. This limited access is one contributing factor to the country's low rate of birth registration, as parents are unable to travel to urban areas to register their children. In the Chipindo municipality, a UNICEF programme is helping one man on his quest to register new births in the area.



Chipindo is a remote municipality in Angola's Huila province, located 450 km north from Lubango, the province's capital city. Reaching Chipindo is not easy. Poor road conditions, particularly during the rainy season, mean that getting there from Lubango requires a 4x4 vehicle and usually takes around 6–7 hours.

The municipality was severely affected by the Angolan Civil War that ended in 2002, and the region is still recovering. Social services are basic and housing conditions are often precarious. Normally the city does not attract young trained professionals to live and work.

But Abel Eduardo Tchitata, the Head of Civil Registration Services, has been working in this challenging environment since 2013. This young lawyer from Lubango admits that it was not an easy decision to move here. As the only staff member working on birth registration in the municipality, his workload does not allow him to travel home much more than once a year.

"It was very difficult to leave my wife and two children. But without any job opportunities in Lubango, I had to make a sacrifice for the good of my family, and accept the challenge to work in Chipindo," he says.

Despite these personal challenges, Abel is strongly committed to his professional responsibilities, which he views as not only the fulfilment of a person's rights, but also an act of solidarity. "My greatest gratification is to be able to provide an identification document to a person. It is very rewarding to see that satisfaction in people's faces, particularly for those in vulnerable conditions," he says with a smile.

The right to be registered at birth

When a child is registered at birth, the government has an official record establishing the existence of the child under law. This seemingly small step provides the foundation for protecting many of the child's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Birth registration is a matter of high priority in Angola. According to the 2014 census, fewer than 25 per cent of children under 5 years have been registered in the country. The situation is especially worrying in rural areas, where just 29.6 per cent of the population is registered compared to 67.7 per cent living in cities.

Indeed, after moving to Chipindo, Abel soon realized that he alone was not able to meet the demand for birth registration, particularly in rural communities.



© UNICEF Angola/2016/Mendes

Abel sits at his desk at the civil registration office in Chipindo main town. Before UNICEF's birth registration programme, he was the only person in the municipality working to register new births.

"Before, I was only able to issue an average of 15 birth registrations per day. The services were only available in the main town of Chipindo. Due to the high demand of people every day, I could not register all of them and I had to select those coming with children from remote areas," he says.

In an effort to support municipalities like Chipindo with birth registration, UNICEF recently launched a programme to provide technical and financial support to the Delegation of Justice and local registration services. The programme, which was funded by the European Union, helps to strengthen

local government capacity to issue registrations and to reach remote areas.

"Almost 50 workers were trained and deployed in four municipalities of the provinces where it is most difficult to deliver birth registration services," says Lidia Borba, Child Protection Officer at UNICEF Angola. UNICEF also provided computers, information materials and motorbikes to support the work and mobility of the outreach teams.

Chipindo is one of the selected municipalities. According to Abel, this support increased overall birth registrations, and has helped his team reach areas where these services have never before been delivered. "We have been able to increase from 15 birth registrations per day to nearly 240," he says. In 2015, only around 5,000 birth certificates among children and adults were issued throughout the whole year in Chipindo.



© UNICEF Angola/2016/Mendes

José António Ndimba with his wife Augusta Jamba and son Pedro Nhani, showing Pedro's new birth certificate. A mobile registration team helped register Augusta Jamba and all three of their children.

Reaching remote areas

José Antonio Ndimba and his family are some of the real faces behind these numbers. They live in the community of Camuanha, located 30 km from the main town in Chipindo.

"I was worried because my wife and our three children – 9, 4 and 2 years old – were not registered. I could not make it because I would have to pay a lot of money to travel with all the family to Chipindo," he says during his visit to the mobile registration post in their community. The little amount of money he gets from casual labour is only enough to buy food and clothes for his family.

“Now, my wife and children are also Angolan people who can access their rights and, thanks to birth certificates, they will be able to get their identification cards.”

Abel is hopeful for the future, but recognizes that there are still a lot of challenges. Some of the most remote areas are virtually inaccessible because of poor road conditions. There are some villages that can only be reached on foot.

“If we could deploy more outreach teams to areas where birth registration services are not in place, have a regular supply of registration materials and adequate mobility to perform supervision, we would be able to considerably reduce the rates of children and their parents without birth certificates in the municipality,” he says.

In the meantime, Abel continues his pursuit to help protect the rights of all children in Chipindo through birth registration.

Breaking the silence on sexual violence against children

By Ruth Ansah Ayisi, Communication Consultant

When called, Teresa immediately leaves her playing friends and treads carefully around a large muddy pool left after a torrential morning downpour. She has managed to keep her bright yellow dress spotless; her hair is neatly braided in multi-coloured hair bands.

Teresa seems younger than her 11 years, partly because she is so slightly built and partly because she is so timid. Having the centre's director, Maria Esperança Pires dos Santos, near her as she talks seems to reassure her.

Teresa gathers a little more confidence when asked about her friends. "I have four friends," she says in a whisper, still keeping her head down, and lists their names. However, the mention of school makes her look up and speak a little louder. "I want to learn to read and write," she says. So far, she has only completed one year of primary school, and she is due to start Grade 2 next week. When asked what she would like to be in the future, she responds immediately in a quiet but determined voice. "I want to be a doctor."

Teresa, not her real name to protect her privacy, has recently had plenty of contact with doctors. She has only just been discharged from the hospital after receiving treatment over a period of two months for the severe injuries she sustained when she was raped by a group of men, one of whom is thought to have been close to the family.

Her mother brought her to the hospital following the rape, but since at least one of the men suspected of raping her may have been living in or near her home, it is not safe for Teresa to return home. Instead, a local NGO, "Cuidados da Infância", brought her to this centre which is run by another local NGO, Horizonte Azul.

The centre, set in the outskirts of the capital Luanda, is home to 86 girls and young women aged between 4-25 years, all of them here because they were abandoned or abused and reuniting them with family members is, for now at least, impossible. However, in the past 10 years, the centre has reunited 400 girls with their families; most of those had been separated during the country's 27-year-long civil war that ended in 2002.

Besides offering the girls a safe place to stay, they are cared for and given emotional support by the centre's 'mothers', who are members of the community. They eat and sleep at the centre, but attend the local school with other children in the neighbourhood.



© UNICEF Angola/2016/Ayisi

Teresa talking to Maria Esperança Pires dos Santos, the centre's director and Arnaldo Camalacogue, the coordinator of "Cuidados da Infância".

Although they do not have a psychologist at the centre, they give space to the children every Saturday to come together in a meeting with the 'mothers' and the directors where they are able to discuss issues and raise any problems. "They bring up their worries and we try to find solutions together," says the deputy director.

She gives the example of how, recently, the girls who were moving from primary to secondary school were concerned as they had no birth certificates. "In the past, the teachers turned a blind eye, but I was getting worried," concedes the deputy director.

So at the end of 2015, the NGO, "Cuidados da Infância", helped organise the birth registration of the girls, without their parents present if necessary. Teresa is the only one without her birth registered because she was still in hospital at the time, but they will start her process shortly.

However, one of the main challenges has been getting justice for the girls, and moreover, in an appropriate way while protecting their rights. Funded by the European Union, UNICEF's Justice for Children project aims to support the Government increasing the national capacity to provide access to quality justice services for children in contact with the law. Among others, this will be achieved by expanding legal services for children with functional juvenile courts, supporting curricular plans with child protection rights subjects, enabling the training of actively employed judges, prosecutors and defenders, and modernizing the national justice administration for children.

UNICEF former Representative in Angola, Dr Francisco Songane, highlights that, "Although laws and policies for child protection in Angola are well established, traditionally, domestic violence is seen as a family matter that could bring dishonour to the whole family, so there is a culture of silence around the issue, making it difficult to enforce the law." Moreover, Dr Songane adds, "There is an urgent need for integrated social care services in rural communities, as most of the services, including most social workers, are concentrated in Luanda and the provincial capitals."

Importantly, public debate about domestic violence increased last year, particular through social media campaigns and radio programmes highlighting real life stories of violence against children and the importance of publicly denouncing them. "The radio programmes have been invaluable as many people phone in to discuss the issue," adds the representative.

Florentino Joaquim, from the NGO "Cuidados da Infância", also gives talks at community meetings and in churches. "We tell people not to keep quiet about violence against children; gradually more people are coming forward to inform us about these cases."

His work has been helped by a child helpline project, piloted in 2015 with UNICEF support. The helpline is integrated into child protection services in Viana municipality, Luanda province, where the centre for the girls is based. Last year, it served over 900 children who were victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Teresa's case is currently being investigated, but any allusion to it is avoided in the interview with her. After her brief chat, Teresa manages a shy smile, before running off to play with her friends again in the grounds of the centre.