



Development Relief Program

March 2003 to December 2005

Results Report

CDRA

Consortium for Development Relief in Angola



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List of Acronyms

<i>activista</i>	Activist
AACP	Agricultural Area Clearance Project
ASR	Angola Seed Recovery Program
CARE	Cooperation, Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CDRA	Consortium for Development Relief in Angola
CIMMYT	International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
D&G	Democracy and Governance
DA	Development Assistance
DAP	Development Assistance Program
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRP	Development Relief Program
EU	European Union
FFA	Food For Agriculture
FFP	Food For Peace
FFW	Food For Work
FY	Fiscal Year
GoA	Government of Angola
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HLS	Household Livelihood Security
IDP	Internally Displaced People
INACA	National institution for Angolan Farmer Associations
<i>jango</i>	Community center
<i>lavras</i>	Rain-fed upland areas
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MCH	Maternal Child Health
MINADER	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MT	Metric Ton
<i>nacas</i>	Low-lying, irrigated, in-land valleys
NFI	Non Food Items
NGO	Non Governmental Organization
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
OTI	Office of Transition Initiatives
PDI	Positive Deviance Inquiry
PLA	Participatory Learning Action
PVO	Private Voluntary Organization
SC/USA	Save the Children - USA
<i>soba</i>	Traditional Leader
TPI	Transitional Programming Initiative
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDG	Village Development Groups
VGF	Vulnerable Group Feeding
WFP	World Food Programme
WV	World Vision



1. Angola Country Context



Map of Angola, Southern Africa

Angola, the second largest country in Africa south of the Sahara, is situated on the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered to the north by the Democratic Republic of Congo, to the east by Zambia, and to the south by Namibia and includes the mineral-rich enclave of Cabinda.

Angola gained its independence from Portugal in November 1975 but the ensuing 27-year civil war drained the country of its resources and prevented development of basic infrastructure. Some of the worst fighting broke out in 1992 when hundreds of thousands of people were killed and over two million displaced. The 1994 Lusaka Peace Protocol failed to end the violence and war resumed by the end of 1998.

In April 2002, after several unsuccessful efforts at securing peace, the Angolan government and UNITA negotiated a ceasefire and subsequently a peace agreement was signed.

The civil war caused massive destruction of the country's infrastructure, disruption of markets, social instability and economic disorder.

Before independence, Angola was self-sufficient in all crops except wheat. However, at the height of the emergency in 2002, more than 2 million Angolans were on the brink of death from starvation and at least three million were receiving direct humanitarian assistance. Bié and Huambo provinces, once the breadbasket of the nation, then produced less than half of the country's food needs, and food had to be imported.

Since April 2002, 4 million Angolans who had been internally displaced, and approximately one million refugees who had fled to neighboring countries (Zambia, Namibia & DRC) during the war, started returning to their areas of origin. The majority of the returning population was food insecure and lacked assets with which to re-build their livelihoods.

The country still faces many challenges with limited access to public services, unsafe drinking water, inadequate sanitation and insufficient food contributing to malnutrition and other health problems.

Angola Fact File:

- Angola is ranked 160 out of 177 countries in UNDP's Human Development Index*
- Average life expectancy in Angola is just 41 years*
- Almost 1 in 6 children die before their 1st birthday, and 1 in 4 die before they reach 5 years*
- Almost 40% of primary school age children are not enrolled in school*
- Half the population do not have access to clean water*
- Subsistence agriculture is the main livelihood activity for 85% of the population

*Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2005

2. Consortium for Development Relief in Angola (CDRA)

The Consortium for Development Relief in Angola (CDRA) was established in response to the changing context in Angola brought about by the unexpected peace in April 2002.

CDRA consists of five US PVOs including CARE (as lead agency), Africare, CRS, Save the Children US and World Vision. Prior to 2002, four of the five PVOs (CARE, CRS, SC/USA and WV) had already been working

together as a consortium established in 1999 for the implementation of a Title II DAP program.

Together with Africare, the PVOs brought together extensive country specific experience and relative programming strengths and enabled a broad geographic coverage of food insecure resettlement areas in Angola's Central Planalto provinces.



Africare is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1970. Africare works in partnership with 26 countries in Africa to improve health and nutrition, develop water resources, expand agriculture, foster environmental protection, and provide a rapid response during humanitarian emergencies. Africare has extensive experience with food security program management and non-emergency activities since its inception. Africare is also a leader among development agencies in Africa in building local capacity to manage food security, including the integration of health, nutrition and community capacity building.

Africare has worked in Angola since January 1990 and has supported a number of rural programs focusing on the delivery of emergency health services, the distribution of seeds and tools to resettled IDP families, supporting orphans, street children and other war-affected youth, rehabilitating rural health posts, conducting immunization campaigns, and promoting the recovery of small-scale agriculture. Africare has earned a strong reputation as a leader in the facilitation of forming farmers associations and providing training in market analysis and development in Angola.



CARE began working in Angola in 1989 implementing relief, rehabilitation and development programs. With peace in 2002, CARE began to reorient its activities from emergency response to development approaches. CARE focuses its work in three provinces – Luanda, Bie and Huila, reaching over 400,000 people. Another 800,000 have benefited from CARE's partnerships with other organizations. At present CARE is implementing food security, urban governance and health projects, as well as continuing emergency response.

As an organization committed to ending poverty, CARE Angola embraces a holistic approach to programming, aimed at improving the livelihood of individuals and families in the poorest communities so that they may live in dignity and security. Household Livelihood Security (HLS) is CARE's sustainable development model. At the minimum, HLS depends on social-economic-ecological equilibrium in eight areas of basic needs which include water; food and nutrition; health; education; housing; economic income; environment; and participation in civil society. With an emphasis on holistic contextual analysis through the HLS framework, CARE realizes that no single organization can create the conditions in society for livelihood security.

To achieve its mission, CARE works with international organizations and local partners, including a wide range of community and faith-based groups, in improving the household livelihood security of poor communities by providing institutional strengthening and capacity building.



CRS worldwide promotes four key priorities in its programming, namely: alleviating human suffering; promoting integral human development; changing structures that undermine justice and peace locally, nationally and internationally; and creating the realisation and expression of solidarity.

In line with these key elements, CRS Angola has worked for the past 15 years collaborating with communities and local NGOs, Government of Angola ministries, the United Nations and other International Organizations primarily in Benguela Province. An overarching program goal is building the institutional strength and capacities of local NGOs to create the local ownership and sustainability of future programming, and supporting community organisations with a view towards forming a culture of civil society engagement at all levels of decision-making.

CRS is addressing an important and evolving reality in Angola with respect to food security – the need to transition from emergency response to development – by helping Angolans prepare for the future. Through its agricultural development programme CRS focuses on the developmental aspects of medium and long term food security, while also addressing the emergency needs of those directly impacted by the war by collaborating with other organizations to provide basic needs when and where required.



SC/USA Angola is an American non-Governmental Organization that has been operating in Angola (in Kuanza Sul, Moxico, Lunda Sul and Bengo provinces) since January 1994 providing emergency food assistance to more than 180,000 internally displaced persons affected by the civil war. In July 1995, SC/USA began to implement the Agricultural Area Clearance Project (AACP) to support structured resettlement process for more than 91,000 IDP families in the provinces of Kwanza Sul, Moxico and Bengo through the distribution of seeds and tools, basic household resettlement kits, rehabilitation of health posts, supply of essential drug kits, basic medical equipment, rehabilitation of social infrastructure like roads, schools and irrigation channels.

SC/USA is implementing food for agriculture and food for work activities to restore self-sufficiency and enhance the capacity of small-scale farmers through agricultural and social infrastructure rehabilitation. In addition, SC/USA are implementing other projects such as MCH, Polio Eradication, Resettlement for Vulnerable Groups, and Child Protection.



World Vision is a Christian development, relief and advocacy agency working in almost 100 countries around the world to help children and their communities reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty. World Vision has worked in Angola since 1989 with war affected populations in the sectors of agricultural recovery, economic development, primary health care and nutrition, water and sanitation, food aid and landmine awareness.

World Vision initially established operations in Malange, Kwanza Norte and Northern Kwanza Sul and extended operations into Luanda and Cabinda Provinces in 1999, mainly in the agriculture and food security sector. Since the peace in 2002, World Vision has been operational in the province of Huambo in the sectors of agriculture economic development, health and food aid, benefiting more than 500,000 resettling and vulnerable households.

World Vision Angola is pursuing a post-conflict strategy to improve household food security and promote socio-economic development in rural areas of the central planalto and northern sub-planalto. The program has a particular focus on the needs of women and children and involves local government and community participation in program design, implementation and evaluation.

Thematic Lead PVOs

Throughout the program, CDRA designated lead PVOs to take responsibility for ensuring programming consistency and mutual exchange of best practices.

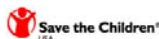
Africare: Farmer associations, marketing and mines awareness education.

CARE: Community mobilisation and conflict resolution.

CRS: Monitoring and evaluation, nutrition surveillance and disaster mitigation.

Save the Children: Food For Work.

World Vision: Agriculture, field trials and seed multiplication.



3. Development Relief Program (DRP)

In January 2003, CDRA, in close collaboration with the USAID/Angola mission, developed and submitted to the USAID Office of Food For Peace (FFP), a development relief proposal designed to support the war affected rural communities to rebuild their livelihoods. The Development Relief Program (DRP) proposed to use food resources to facilitate the resettlement and reintegration of war-affected populations.

CDRA adopted a “developmental relief” approach where immediate nutritional needs of vulnerable, war affected communities were addressed simultaneously with support of developmental programs that focused on building productive assets and increasing community resilience to future food security shocks.

DRP Fact File:

- Duration: March 2003 to December 2005
- Donors: USAID, Chevron Corporation and PVO private funds
- Total value of program: US\$ 72.6 million
- Total commodities received: 80,644.6 MT
- Total number of beneficiaries receiving one month food ration: Approximately 6,922,780 (based on average of 5 people per household).

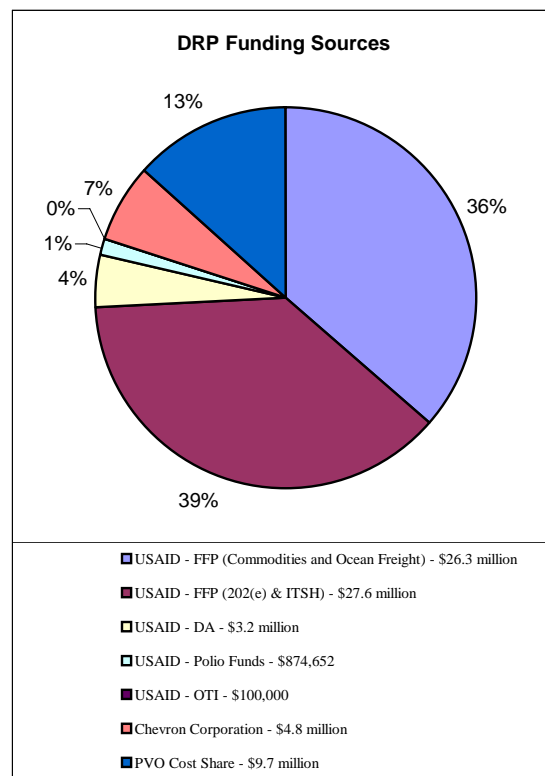
Developmental Relief

The CDRA strategy was based on the concept of 'developmental relief' where emergency relief interventions are implemented simultaneously with longer term, developmental initiatives. The guiding principles of developmental relief are that, i) better relief can set the stage for and reinforce development, while ii) better development would aid in the reduction of frequency and impact of shocks. As well as focussing on the support of victims, developmental relief also emphasizes preparedness, resistance and resilience of the affected population to future vulnerability.

Donors

The United States government, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provided the majority of the funding over the duration of the DRP, totaling approximately US\$ 31.8 million. In addition, USAID provided an estimated US\$26.3 million worth of food commodities and ocean freight. In total, 80,644.60 MT of food commodities were received by CDRA for distribution to rural households in resettlement areas in Angola.

Chevron Corporation also contributed US\$ 4.8 million and the CDRA partners themselves raised a further US\$ 9.7 million to support the implementation of the DRP activities.



4. Post-conflict situation

Since the signing of the cease-fire agreement in April 2002, approximately 4.3 million Angolans who had been internally displaced and nearly half a million refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries (Zambia, Namibia & DRC) during the war, started returning to their areas of origin.

The majority of the population movements were spontaneous and without formal assistance. It was estimated that approximately 70% of returnees resettled without any aid from local authorities or humanitarian organizations in areas where conditions fell well below standards outlined in the government's Minimum Norms for the Resettlement of Displaced Populations.

The majority of the returning population lacked sufficient food stocks, and returnees came back to destroyed communities without even the basic assets with which to establish livelihoods, especially in Huambo, Bié and Benguela.

Community and social infrastructure were often destroyed. In some areas, for example Huambo, the returnees outnumbered the residents. Consequently, the residents had difficulty in supporting the returnees.

As they arrived back home, returnees were exposed to high agricultural risk given that they lacked seeds and tools to re-establish agricultural activities.

The majority of the returnees arrived at their places of origin between November 2002 and April 2003. This arrival time was too late in the growing season to initiate meaningful cropping activities. Even for the few returnees who had arrived in time to start cropping, time and effort were divided between rebuilding shelters and preparing the fields.

Land preparation was an arduous task as the fields were overgrown from long periods of disuse. Moreover, most of the returnees were exhausted and too weak to prepare the fields.

Paradise Lost: A struggle for survival in Angola's Central Plateau February 2003



At first glance, Cangolo village looks like a paradise. A steady flow of water meanders along a canal network with thick green foliage providing ample shade and an array of fruit. The early morning sun gently warms the earth as residents emerge from their huts to embark on early morning chores.

But behind this idyllic scenery is a harsh reality. After 27 years of civil war, bringing death and utter isolation to this community in the northern corner of Huambo Province, residents and recent returnees face a daily struggle for survival against disease and hunger.

Joaquina Kunjikissa's face reflects that struggle. Flanked by six-year old son Emaculado and three-year old João, with 15-month old Rodrina sitting passively in her lap, Joaquina knows she is in a desperate situation.

Two of her seven children have already died and Rodrina, whose mouth was deformed at birth, struggles to access the nutrients in her mother's breast. "It is not easy to have children here," says Joaquina. "There is a lack of food, clothes and seeds. We are surviving on bananas now and the upcoming harvest will only last a couple of months. I don't know what we will do then."

5. CDRA Response

DRP Objectives

The DRP aimed to improve food security in targeted rural resettlement areas in post-conflict Angola through three main objectives:

- i) Increased food availability and decreased transitory food insecurity;
- ii) Increased food production in targeted communities;
- iii) Enhanced capacity of rural households to protect their food security.

I. Increased Food Availability and Decreased Transitory Food Insecurity Among Vulnerable Rural Households

Vulnerable Group Feeding

Throughout the first phase of the DRP (March 2003 to April 2004), Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) represented a significant component of the CDRA program. Emergency food rations of maize, beans and vegetable oil were distributed to new arrivals returning to their place of origin as well as vulnerable households already living in targeted villages. The aim was to improve the nutritional status of the most severely affected families, supplement ongoing farming activities and give these individuals a chance to rebuild their lives.

VGF Beneficiaries

Vulnerable individuals were identified at the community level using the following criteria:

- Elderly widowed women and men;
- Female headed households;
- Families caring for orphans or chronically ill family members;
- Families caring for the disabled;
- New arrivals returning to their places of origin.

Target: 84,057 individuals

Achieved: 103,295 individuals (123%)

CDRA successfully provided 103,295 food insecure vulnerable individuals with food rations, exceeding the target that had been set at 84,057.

As had been planned at program inception, VGF was terminated in April 2004 as the general food security in the target area had

significantly improved. Collaboration with WFP ensured that any remaining vulnerable households continued to be assisted.



Distribution of seeds and tools

One of the major constraints to food security, that faced both the returnees and previously resettled households in the program area, was the lack of seeds and tools for cultivation. Using complementary funding, CDRA provided seeds and tools to the vulnerable households thus enabling them to cultivate the land. In general, vulnerable households received an agricultural kit comprising of tools (2 hoes, 1 machete and a file) and seeds (10kg maize and 3kg beans).

CDRA distributed agricultural kits to 481,642 newly resettled households exceeding the target by 25%. Furthermore, in FY05 171366 households who had received one round of seeds and tools in FY04 received a distribution of seed only. These seed beneficiaries exceeded the target by 16%.

CDRA was therefore successful in providing basic agricultural inputs to support the reestablishment of cropping activities by the returnees.



Food for agricultural promotion

Food For Agricultural Promotion Achievements:

Land Preparation

Target: 175,904 households
Achieved: 215,328 households (122%)

Seed protection

Target: 222,320 households
Achieved: 227,462 households (102%)

Harvest Protection

Target: 169,888 households
Achieved: 149,710 households (88%)

Seed Swap

Target: 79,935 households
Achieved: 89,816 (112%)

Vegetable Gardening

Target: 6,000 households
Achieved: 11,567 households (193%)

Total number of households assisted by Food For Agriculture Activities: 693,883

CDRA supported the return of IDPs to the villages and protected agricultural cultivation activities by providing farming households with food for land preparation and seed protection. This enabled farmers to clear and prepare their land for cultivation and discouraged families from consuming their seeds.

The food also provided farming households with the nutritional requirements to actively participate in agricultural and other non-farm income earning activities. Land preparation during the first year was particularly laborious involving the clearing of extensive overgrowth from years of non-cultivation.

In addition, CDRA provided food rations to farmers to protect their harvest. The months prior to the harvest are typically the most food insecure months in the year and so the provision of a two month harvest protection ration met the nutritional needs of the households preventing the need to consume crops prematurely.

Farmers were also provided with one month's full ration in exchange for a portion of their seed. This activity promoted seed protection as CDRA partners worked closely with MINADER and farmers' groups to undertake seed multiplication, promote seed saving and facilitate local community seed production and storage. The seed was distributed to other returnees in the following season.

CDRA also successfully promoted the involvement of female-headed households in vegetable gardening activities. A total of 11,567 female-headed households received food for vegetable gardening surpassing the target by 93%. This encouraged agricultural diversification, improved household micronutrient quality and provided an alternative source of income.

Food For Work

CDRA adopted Food For Work (FFW) activities as the main strategy for increased livelihood options for communities, through the promotion of community recovery and the provision of much needed resources to individual households. The major aims of FFW activities included improving access to remote areas, improving agricultural infrastructure and increasing access to potable water.



CDRA's achievements in infrastructure rehabilitation and construction were extensive, resulting in the rehabilitation and construction

Food for work has lasting impact on communities

Laura Nene, 28, is married with four young children. She is one of the many members of Chandenda community, in Huambo Province, who has participated in CDRA's Food For Work program. "I helped build the 'jango' (community meeting place) and the warehouse," says Laura, proudly.

As we sit inside the newly constructed jango, a stream of other community members join us, sitting inside the impressive structure, while hoards of inquisitive children peek through from the outside to see what's going on. The Soba (traditional leader) also takes his place and is quick to explain the importance of the Food For Work projects in their community.

"Our community has become famous. We take pride in our community because of our jango and our warehouse," he says. "The jango has helped the whole community. It is a focal point where we can receive visitors. It is used by the children as a classroom and the Farmers' Association also use it to have their meetings".



One of the farmers explains "we used to meet under that tree over there, but now we can meet here, even if it is raining." The farmers are also pleased with the new warehouse "We expect to have a good harvest next year and we will use the warehouse to store it" one of the farmers says.

Another Food For Work project in Chandenda is the rehabilitation of the road. This too has made a significant impact on the community. "Since we rebuilt the road, we

have been able to take sick people to hospital much quicker," one woman explains. The new road made such a difference that the community wanted to do more. "They repaired the first stretch of road as part of the Food For Work project," explains Miguel Kassule, a CDRA community development worker. "Having gained the skills and seen the benefits to the community, they organised themselves to repair even more roads out of the village."

But the food had been an important incentive for many of the families at the beginning. "The food really helped the families who were hungry," the Soba explains. "They were very happy to receive food for the work that they did."

In Kwanza Sul, bridge reconstruction as a Food For Work activity also had a lasting impact on the CDRA communities.



In collaboration with the Government of Angola (GoA), CDRA partners reconstructed bridges at strategic points in Kwanza Sul Province. The DRP food paid for the workers and the GoA contributed towards the cost of the materials.



As a result, strategic routes from Kwanza Sul to Huambo and Bié provinces were restored and access between provinces, towns and rural areas was significantly improved. The farmers were especially grateful as it meant that it was much easier for them to access distant markets to sell their produce at better prices.



of infrastructure throughout the project areas that had been extensively destroyed during the war. A total of 5,595 kms of tertiary and secondary rural road network were rehabilitated, resulting in improved access to service centers for marketing of agricultural produce and health services. Previously isolated areas were reconnected through both road rehabilitation and bridge construction.

Food For Work Achievements:

- 5,595 km road rehabilitated
- 144 bridges reconstructed
- 1,276 km irrigation canal rehabilitated
- 3,429 ha nacas rehabilitated
- 549 ha cultivated for seed multiplication
- 29 ha fruit tree nurseries planted
- 23 ha forestry trees planted
- 10,195 plots for vegetable production
- 29 seed storage for Farmers' Associations
- 10 community seed centers constructed
- 87 community warehouses constructed
- 203 community centers (jangos) constructed
- 108 schools constructed
- 1,577 latrines constructed
- 160 shallow wells constructed
- 14 piped water systems constructed
- 76 water-holding tanks constructed
- 358 bee hives constructed
- 36 development centers constructed
- 6 health posts/centers constructed
- 1 local market constructed

In support of the program objective of improving food availability to food insecure families, irrigation canals were rehabilitated, increasing farmer access to irrigation, nacas were rehabilitated and community warehouses for seed storage were constructed.

FFW activities also focused on water and sanitation infrastructure through the construction of latrines, shallow wells, piped water schemes and water-holding tanks.

Increased Food Production in Targeted Communities

Promotion of improved agricultural practices

Technical assistance in crop production played a pivotal role in CDRA's efforts to increase food production in targeted communities. A total of 3,863 lead farmers and 446 *activistas* were trained in improved agricultural techniques and provided with technical material to undertake training of other farmers.

By December 2005, some 1,283 trained lead farmers were operational and had established farmer demonstration plots. CDRA PVO extensionists worked directly with the *activistas*, lead farmers and MINADER extensionists to guide proactive engagement through agricultural training and extension activities. By the end of the program, 27,646 households were involved in farmer field demonstrations exceeding the target by 72%.

During FY05, 93,044 households actively participated in extension/education training conducted by CDRA extension staff, lead farmers, *activistas* and MINADER extensionists., exceeding the target by 51%.

CDRA extensionists intensified the facilitation technique of Participatory Learning and Action (PLA), to mobilize farming households to identify location specific constraints and conditions and then apply new agricultural production techniques. To facilitate the transfer of extension messages, CDRA supported the development of village farmer associations and conducted training days around relevant agricultural themes. A total of 1,364 farmers associations, farmer field schools, women's groups and mixed farmers groups were established and trained in improved agricultural production.

Promotion of animal traction

In order to promote animal traction and increase land under cultivation, CDRA distributed ploughs and oxen to farmer groups and associations. This activity was funded by other donors as complementary activities demonstrating CDRA's ability to leverage a significant amount of additional funding. CDRA had anticipated that 7,250 households would receive oxen and ploughs coupled with relevant training. By December 2005, CDRA surpassed this target as 7,737 households were reached.



Strengthening community seed systems

Access to quality seed is critical for the achievement of agricultural recovery. One of the many constraints faced by both the food insecure returnees and settled communities was the inability to access sufficient quality seeds for agricultural production. CDRA was instrumental in reducing the dependence of farmers on imported seed varieties and increased production capacities by building community seed systems.



CDRA put in place mechanisms that allowed farmers to successfully multiply their seed and produce quality seeds of improved varieties. Over 1,000ha of land in CDRA program area was under seed multiplication producing seed in excess of 7,000 MT.

Through the complementary, USAID funded, Angola Seed Recovery Program (ASR), WV promoted sustainable seed production networks by contracting farmers associations and community seed multipliers to produce seed. The ASR program increased seed production from 31.9 MT in 2002 to 5,325 MT by January 2005. For the FY04/05 season, ASR provided 80% of total seed distributions in the central highlands of Angola.



CRS developed a close partnership with the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) to disseminate improved maize seed (ZM521) in CRS and other PVO-targeted areas of the Planalto, including Huambo, where WV purchased nearly 31 MT from CRS trained farmer groups. Through support from EuronAid, CARE supported seed multiplication for farmers in Bie with over 700ha of land cultivated for the production of maize and bean seed. Africare supported 65ha for the production of seed and cassava cuttings.

By December 2005, approximately 9,924 households were involved in seed multiplication, exceeding the target by 32%. CDRA played a critical role in strengthening community seed systems thus ensuring seed sustainability at the community level.

Food Production Achievements:

- 1650 animals distributed
- 9,924 households involved in seed multiplication
- 28,766 households planting new crops
- 13,911 female-headed households involved in vegetable gardening
- 93,044 number of households participating in extension education/training
- 446 activists trained

Promotion of agricultural diversification for improved nutrition

In order to support increased agricultural diversification, food production and improved nutrition, CDRA promoted vegetable gardening, an activity that mainly targeted vulnerable female-headed households. Households were encouraged to produce diverse vegetables in order to provide a supplementary food source, improve household micronutrient quality and provide a source of income. By December 2005, 13,911 female-headed households were involved in vegetable gardening.

CDRA's success in supporting agricultural diversification is evidenced by the observation that 28,766 households were planting new crops (excluding maize, beans, sorghum, groundnut, cassava and sweet potato) by December 2005. In addition 868 households established fruit nurseries and 1,677 households planted forestry trees (63% above target).

CDRA supports collaborative community initiatives to expand area under cultivation

In the small village of Capeco, located in the Balombo municipality of Benguela Province, if farmers wanted to grow vegetables during the dry season they had to pay or work for the owner of the only pipe in the village. There was no irrigation system in place, and the only way to water their vegetable gardens was by paying for the services of the pipe. To do this they had to make and sell charcoal, or work on the pipe owner's land in exchange for the service.



The villagers met with CDRA staff to discuss their idea of constructing a diversion dam on the small stream near their community. The dam would allow all members of the community, and not just those with enough money to rent the services of the irrigation tube, to produce vegetables and field crops during the dry season. It would also increase the irrigated area allowing more farmers to cultivate during the dry season. A plan was established where the villagers would provide all the local materials and labor for the construction of the dam and canals, and the CDRA project would provide tools, cement and technical support. The village "soba" (traditional leader) agreed with the plan, and promised to donate plots of communal land to families participating in the project who did not have any in the areas targeted for irrigation.

The community was able to divert the water flow using locally available resources and a tarpaulin/canvas provided by the project, enabling the dam to be constructed. A work plan was established involving all members of the community, with the men cutting poles, transporting rocks and sand, preparing the cement and constructing the dam, and the women collecting firewood, cooking meals, and preparing the shallow canals that would carry the water to the fields.



With the strong motivation of the community, the dam was completed in just three weeks and now irrigates 8 hectares of land. The 37 families cultivating this land (23 men and 14 women heads-of-households) are extremely happy as they no longer have to pay for the use of water, and can now cultivate during the "lean/hungry" five month dry period. CDRA project staff helped the farmers establish communal vegetable nurseries and all the families were able to produce vegetables without fear

of losing their gardens due to a lack of water. Additionally, they are also able to cultivate beans, maize and sweet potatoes.

After the completion of the dam the villagers asked CDRA project staff for assistance in establishing the cultivation of Irish potatoes in the area. The farmers realized that with a secure water source they could now begin increasing their production activities and sell their produce in the local markets. A pilot activity was initiated and CDRA provided each family with 10 kg of potato seed which produced a harvest of over 1.5 MT of potatoes. They are planning to conserve enough seeds for the next planting season, or save money from their sales to purchase seeds again next year.



This small irrigation dam has made a significant impact in the community and the farmers are already beginning to plan for the next dry-season production period. Other neighboring communities are asking for similar support as they can see the positive changes that have occurred in Capeco.

Small animal husbandry

Small livestock are an important source of protein and revenue for rural households. In order to revive small stock production, CDRA distributed goats, chickens and rabbits to groups of vulnerable women and farmer organizations. The livestock were distributed to farmer organizations on credit while vulnerable women were required to pass the first offspring to the next recipients as determined by the beneficiary community. 319 farmer's associations and women's groups received livestock on credit and 2,178 households received training in animal husbandry.



Enhanced Capacity of Rural Households to Protect their Food Security

The main purpose of introducing this third objective in FY05 was to promote the inclusion and active participation of communities to eventually take over control of their own development process and protect the food security within their communities. This was essentially the initial step towards ensuring community resilience to future food security shocks.

Village Development Groups (VDGs)

CDRA appropriately adopted the Transitional Programming Initiative (TPI) to build community capacities through the establishment of village development groups (VDG). TPI reinforces community social structures and promotes active participation of all social groups; promotes community responsibility in identifying participants, planning and implementation of developmental activities; encourages community group solutions to conflict; and establishes mechanisms to bring together community

development groups and local authorities to discuss community development issues.

Under the leadership of CARE, CDRA partners mobilized communities to set up VDGs. By December 2005, a total of 278 VDGs were established and trained. With CDRA's support, the VDGs facilitated the convening of 1,529 meetings between communities and local government, surpassing the target by 136%.

CDRA was highly successful in the creation of VDGs. By the end of the program, the communities had VDGs who were dedicated to spearheading development in the communities. It was impressive to note the enthusiasm with which the communities and traditional leaders "sobas" and local government welcomed the VDGs. The Administrator of Chivaulo Commune described the VDGs as "the eyes and ears of Administration".

Empowering communities through VDGs

"The establishment of VDGs (Village Development Groups) has been a cause of great joy and celebration in the communities," says one of CDRA's Democracy and Governance field coordinators in Benguela Province. "People feel that they are taking control of their own destiny and that they will have increased control over the development of their community. The feeling has been one of empowerment and communities have shown great enthusiasm."

CDRA is working with 45 communities in Benguela, supporting the establishment of VDGs. The process involves extensive preliminary contact with sobas and other village leaders and a variety of other groups within the community to discuss the idea of creating a VDG, how it could be done and why it would benefit the community.

Communities identify social groups within their communities (such as women, young people, elderly, farmers, nurses etc) and elect representatives to form the VDGs. CDRA works with the community to ensure that there is no exclusion during this process in order to avoid political, religious or ethnic divisions.

"These VDGs will enhance and strengthen the capacity of communities to identify and prioritize their development needs both in the short term, through identifying priority FFW projects, as well as in the long term through collaboration with the local administration," explains the D&G coordinator.

Build capacity of community farmer associations to enable community participation in agricultural promotion

As CDRA transitioned from an emergency to a more developmental focus, capacity building of farmers associations to enable them to produce for local and provincial markets was regarded as a means of achieving and sustaining food security and livelihoods at the community level. Farmer groups and associations were appropriately identified as the focal point of agricultural interventions. Farmers associations were an entry point for farmer training and demonstration fields.

By the end of the DRP, a total of 2,880 farmers associations, farmer field schools, women's groups and mixed farmers groups were established. In the former DAP areas, farmer associations were well established and functional while in the recently settled areas, the associations were still at the formative stages. CDRA also assisted farmer associations with the legislative process required for registration with INACA, the established National Institution for Angolan Farmer Associations.



Farmers groups and associations were trained in marketing their surplus produce for increased income – a strategy that ensured that farmers moved beyond subsistence production. Furthermore, with assistance from other organizations that included CLUSA, CDRA helped farmer associations to establish producer/marketing associations. By December 2005, 109 farmer associations were linked to input suppliers. CDRA provided farmers with short-term seasonal loans, mainly for

production enhancing inputs (fertilizer and pesticides). CDRA partners also facilitated farmer access to credit. In Huambo, WV facilitated farmer access to credit through the provision of a bank guarantee to farmer associations, while in Bié, CARE supported the establishment of small savings and credit associations.



CDRA was successful in mobilizing communities to form VDGs and farmer associations. Established farmer associations were capacitated and linked with input suppliers and markets. Access to credit was improved. Although a lot of technical and input support is required for farmers to achieve full self-sufficiency in food production, CDRA was successful in enhancing the capacity of the communities to protect their food security.

Capacity Building Achievements:

- 278 Village Development Groups (VDGs) or other community groups established and trained.
- 1,529 meetings between communities and local government held on community development issues.
- 635 additional farmer's associations established.
- 159 farmer's associations trained in marketing.
- 109 farmer's associations with established links with input suppliers.
- 297 women's groups established and trained.
- 862 mixed farmer groups established and trained.

6. Population Demographics and Impact Trends

Monitoring and Evaluation

The CDRA M&E group designed and carried out three household surveys during the course of the DRP. The baseline survey was conducted in August 2003, a midterm survey was carried out in August 2004 and a final survey was carried out in July 2005. The information obtained from the surveys was used to provide a range of information on population demographics as well as production trends. This information was used to enhance the CDRA partners' understanding of the target groups and to inform implementation of activities as well as to indicate the impact of the DRP over the three years by comparing final production indicators with the baseline.

Population demographics

Program planning was based on the assumption that the DRP target population included a large number of female-headed households resulting from war and displacement. The survey results indicated an average of 21% of households headed by women, although there may have been additional 'undeclared' female-headed households which has been shown to be common in other African countries where men are socially dominant.

The gap between numbers of males and females was also lower than expected, with an average of 0.92 males to every 1 female. However, variations among provinces are significant with almost equal numbers of males and females in Kwanza Sul and lower ratios in the most war affected provinces of Bié and Huambo.



Population Demographics

- 21% female headed households
- 0.92 ratio of males to females
- 1.88 dependency ratio (excluding households with no adults)
- 2.32 dependency ratio for female-headed households

Dependency ratios (sum of children and older people divided by number of adults in a household) is another significant demographic indicator in relation to agricultural production. Excluding households with no adults, the dependency ratio was found on average to be 1.88. The ratio increases to 2.32 for female headed households, as would be expected.

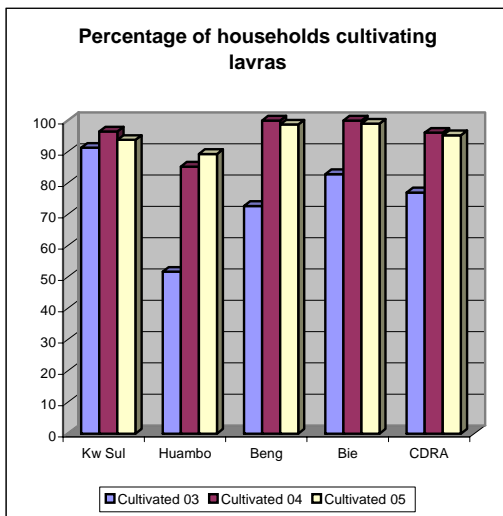
The DRP target population, while not yet significantly affected by HIV/AIDS, already bears a high burden of dependency. Not surprisingly, a lack of labor was identified as the most significant constraint for more than 40% of households on increasing production.

Impact Trends

Land under cultivation



The average % of households cultivating *lavras* increased significantly from 77% in 2003 to 96% in 2004 and 2005. The impressive gains achieved in all provinces between 2003 and 2004 were maintained in 2005, indicating that the vast majority of the population has successfully re-established their agricultural activities.



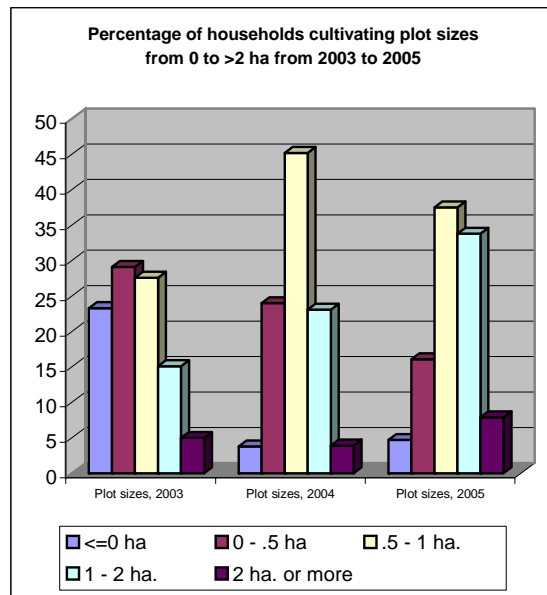
The proportion of households cultivating *lavras* increased significantly from an average of 77% in 2003 to 96% in 2004 and 2005.

An increase in area of land under cultivation was an important impact indicator for the DRP. Clear shifts in distribution patterns from 2003 to 2005 suggest a significant increase in the

ability of households to increase their farm size over the duration of the project.

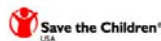
Land under cultivation increased significantly with 80% of households cultivating more than half a hectare in 2005.

The data showed a significant drop in numbers of households cultivating no land and a gradual reduction of households cultivating less than half a hectare. In contrast there was a steady increase in households cultivating 1 to 2 hectares and between 2004 and 2005, those households cultivating more than 2 hectares almost doubled. There was also a significant increase in households cultivating 0.5 to 1 hectare between 2003 and 2004, during the first year of the program.



Food Production

The average total production of major field crops (maize, beans, groundnuts and sorghum) increased from 176kg in 2003 to 379kg in 2005. Among the households that harvested, production increased from 245kg to 404kg. Using a standard CDRA ration, which provides an estimated 1755 calories per household member per day, it is estimated that the farmers increased the number of months of the year when the household can depend on its own *lavra* production from 3.5 months in 2003 to 5.8 months in 2005.



The increase in availability of food in 2005 was due to larger farm areas under cultivation than the previous two years and less crop failure.

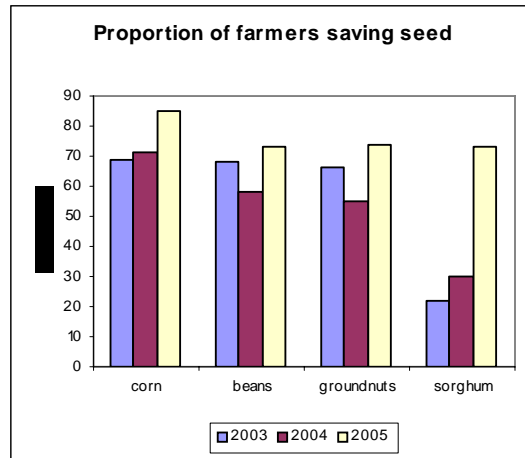
The inter-seasonal production in the *nacas*, or lowland plots near to rivers, is considered one of the most important means of bridging the hunger gap in most of the CDRA project areas. For the 97% of households who cultivated *nacas* in 2005, a further 2-3 months of household food requirements were met, increasing the average household food security from own production from 3.5 months before the DRP to 8-9 months at its conclusion.

Food security from own production increased significantly from 3.5 months before the DRP to approximately 8-9 months in 2005 including *lavra* and *naca* production.

In addition, two major root crops, cassava and sweet potato, also contributed significantly to household food security, providing food at different times of the year from the main harvests. Both these crops were shown to be an important part of food production in the CDRA areas, with 60% of farmers growing cassava and 55% growing sweet potatoes.

Seed Saving

Critical to the sustainability of an agricultural recovery process is the ability of farmers to be self sufficient in seed. Reimbursements and seed swaps improved the availability of seed to farmers through seed banking or re-distribution. By 2005, over 70% of farmers were saving seed for all the four major field crops. In addition, a substantial increase from 39kg in 2003 to 46kg in 2005 was recorded for the average amount of seed saved.



By 2005, over 70% of farmers were saving seed for all the four major field crops.

Average amount of seed saved increased from 39kg in 2003 to 46kg in 2005.

Economic Recovery

There is clear evidence that the economic recovery process is continuing in the CDRA project areas. Households are re-capitalizing their assets with a reported drop from 11% of households not possessing any form of assets in 2003 to just 2.5% in 2005.

Proportion of households who did not possess any assets reduced from 11% in 2003 to 2.5% in 2005.

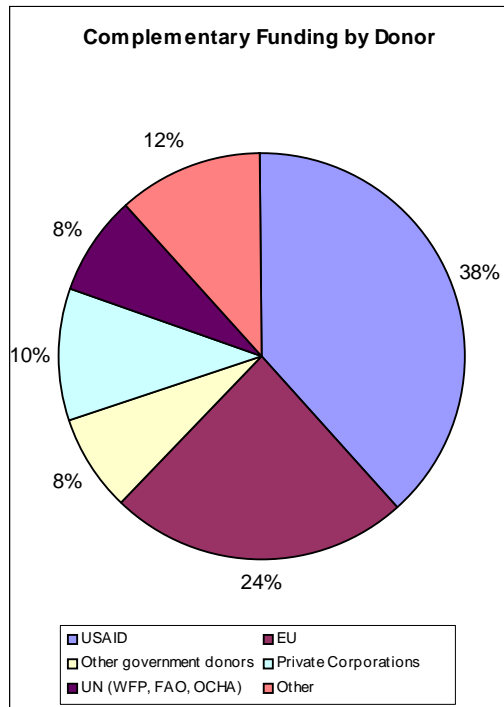
However, the dependence on non-sustainable or negative livelihood/coping strategies such as casual agricultural labour (58%) and sale of wood or charcoal (8%) is still high.

In contrast, the percentage of households selling agricultural products increased from 24% to 32%, indicating a strengthening of the agricultural sector activities.

The percentage of households selling agricultural products increased from 24% in 2004 to 32% in 2005.

7. Complementary Funding

In addition to the DRP resources provided by USAID and Chevron Texaco, CDRA was able to leverage a further \$33.8 million in complementary funding from a variety of donors over the period of the DRP.



USAID was the biggest contributor to CDRA's complementary activities, with the EU, private corporations and the UN also providing significant resources.

The majority of this funding was for the agricultural sector (62%) with a further \$5 million being raised for Health and Nutrition activities and \$4.2 million for Economic Development.

CDRA partners also implemented complementary activities in mines awareness, education, food aid, peacebuilding and conflict mitigation and the distribution of non food items (NFI).

CDRA partners were able to integrate these complementary activities into the DRP areas, providing additional resources to enable an effective holistic response to the needs of the people.

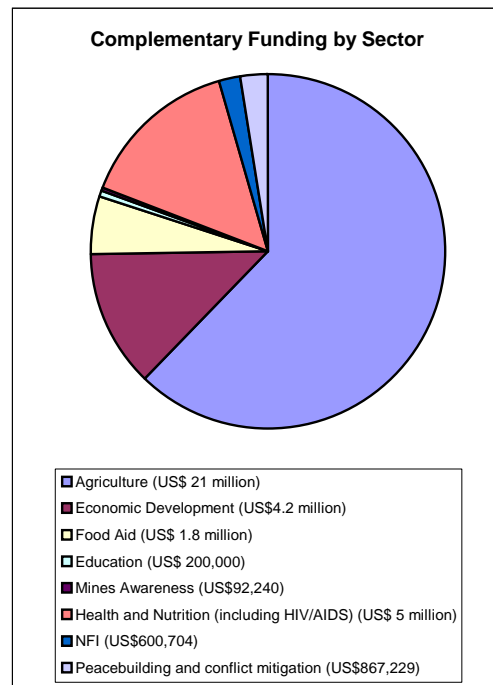
Complementary funding for Health and Nutrition Activities

Whereas the DRP was able to contribute to improved nutrition through increased food availability and agricultural diversification, the complementary funding enabled a broader approach to be taken.

Africare piloted a health and nutrition approach known as Positive Deviance to rehabilitate malnourished children (PDI), also known as the Hearth Model. This approach seeks to rehabilitate malnourished children under 5 by promoting the consumption of locally available foods and enabling households to maintain the enhanced nutritional status of children at home.

Other PVOs implemented community based health and nutrition activities, supporting the Ministry of Health by providing curative assistance and vaccinations, as well as training community volunteers and Traditional Birth Attendants with a focus on preventative health education.

HIV/AIDS was a cross-cutting theme across all CDRA areas and advantage was taken to conduct awareness raising activities at DRP food distributions when large numbers of people had gathered in one place.



8. Conclusions

Developmental Relief Strategy

The 33-month Development Relief Program in Angola has been very successful in assisting approximately 1.8 million resident and resettling populations in five provinces of the Planalto in reviving their livelihoods. The different and flexible operational modalities designed during the DRP enabled CDRA to tailor interventions in such a way that they addressed the specific needs of each area and population group.

Under CDRA, food aid was used to facilitate resettlement and re-integration of war-affected communities to ensure that they possessed the means to successfully rebuild and most importantly, sustain their livelihoods. The DRP provided targeted food aid to vulnerable, food insecure families while helping them restart agricultural production so they could meet their own food needs within one or two seasons. In addition, the DRP assisted the communities to rebuild local infrastructure through Food For Work FFW activities. Rehabilitation of infrastructure e.g. roads and bridges ensured improved access to markets and thus promoted agricultural production.

Through the strengthening of village development groups to implement development activities, and the development of sustainable community social structures and networks, CDRA enhanced the capacity of communities to protect their food security, the first step towards rebuilding safety nets and attaining resilience to future food security shocks.

The developmental relief strategy adopted by CDRA was very effective as it sought to ensure that within the shortest time possible i.e. two agricultural seasons, vulnerable food insecure households in the target areas would, through their own food production and labor, meet their subsistence needs. Furthermore, the strategy sought to equip the communities with management capacities to plan and implement activities that would enable them to cope with future food security shocks.

Impact

The 2005 household survey revealed that households had been able to increase their production considerably. This increased level of food production translated to an increase in the number of months of the year during which a household could expect to depend on its own *lavra* production from 3.5 months in 2003 to 5.8 months in 2005. For the 97% of households that also cultivated *nacas*, food security from their own production was increased by a further 2 to 3 months to reach a coverage of between 8 to 9 months. This did not include the production of vegetable gardens, small animal husbandry, seed multiplication and other income generating activities that were promoted in this program and also contributed significantly to an improvement in the overall household food security situation.



Sustainability

Since its inception, CDRA incorporated strategies for sustainability into the design of the DRP. All PVOs worked with MINADER to build their capacity through training activities and inclusion in DRP activities. The extensive training provided to farmers on a range of issues was also an important element of sustainability, as was the establishment of Village Development Groups and Farmer Groups/Associations to build social capital within the communities. However, it is clear that 3 years was not sufficient to reach full sustainability and that additional programming is required to further strengthen the communities' ability to reach self sufficiency,

to reduce chronic malnutrition levels, and to develop household coping strategies to protect food security and to mitigate against shocks.

MINADER, at the local level, will also require substantial resources from the central government to enable them to function effectively and provide appropriate services to farmers.

Consortium Approach

Throughout the design, implementation and evaluation process, the five PVOs have also demonstrated how effectively they were able to work together, promoting cross learning and covering a large geographic area of the Planalto, by using the consortium model. Working together, the partners found that they were stronger than the sum of the parts and the final evaluation concluded that a consortium approach is strongly recommended for future programs.

Partnerships

The significant financial contributions from USAID/FFP, USAID/DA, and OFDA and Chevron Texaco (including 81,000 MT of food) and additional resources that the PVOs were able to leverage from several other donors and private sources enabled the program to distribute food and non food items, such as seeds and tools, to approximately 1.8 million people in the five provinces over the 33-month project period.

Partnerships were also an important factor contributing to the success of the program. The local USAID mission was involved in most of the strategy discussions, while MINADER was heavily involved in the implementation of the program in the field. Other partners in the program included WFP, other UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and several research institutes.



Conclusion

Angola is a country with considerable agricultural potential, particularly in the Planalto, the breadbasket of the country. There is land in abundance, rainfall is good, and soil fertility is reasonable in many of the provinces, all prerequisites for a substantial local production.

In addition, Angolan farmers are resilient and hard working but they require investments in infrastructure and a continued support for the rehabilitation of farming systems and marketing channels.

This can only be achieved if the Government of Angola, as well as the international community, remains committed to invest in the rural hinterlands of Angola.

Appendix 1: Provincial location of DRP interventions by PVO

