

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a matter of priority.
- Angola should confirm whether it believes that cluster munition remnants (CMR) remain on its territory.
- Angola should comply with its obligations under international human rights law to clear CMR on territory under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible.
- Angola should clarify if a national capacity and plan to address any residual contamination from CMR is in place.

UNDERSTANDING OF CONTAMINATION

The extent to which Angola is affected by CMR is still unclear. There are no reports of confirmed contamination, but abandoned cluster munitions or isolated unexploded submunitions appear to remain.

According to Angola's national mine action authority, the National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária, CNIDAH), 18 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018, and a total of 164 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2017.¹

CNIDAH has not previously reported on the discovery of submunitions prior to 2017, and the figures reported for 2017 are considerably higher than the findings of the international demining non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Angola over the past decade combined.

According to Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), which was providing capacity development support to CNIDAH in 2018, the submunitions reported by CNIDAH were found and destroyed as a result of explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) spot tasks and community call-outs. It confirmed that no CMR-specific survey or clearance had been carried out in Angola and that the national database does not contain any polygons pertaining to areas of CMR contamination.² This was confirmed by CNIDAH to Mine Action Review in May 2019.³

None of the international mine action operators working in Angola has reported finding any significant areas of CMR contamination or submunitions since 2008.⁴

In 2018, in November, Mines Advisory Group (MAG) reported that a single Russian-made AO-1-Sch submunition was brought in for destruction by a local community member to its operations near to Kapuluta village, Luvuei commune, in Moxico province. As at April 2019, community liaison teams had been sent to survey the surrounding farmlands for further information,

but MAG did not have any evidence that additional CMR would be found.⁵

Previously, the last reported instance of an international mine action NGO locating CMR was in August 2016, when The HALO Trust found two Alpha submunitions in Cunene province. The submunitions were reported by local residents to a HALO Trust survey team during re-survey operations.⁶ Prior to this, HALO Trust reported finding and destroying 12 submunitions in 2012. The HALO Trust informed Mine Action Review that these were isolated cases and noted that it had seen very little evidence of cluster munition strikes in Angola. With these exceptions, as at May 2019, NGO clearance operators in Angola had not found any other CMR in more than ten years.

The HALO Trust has also reported that the majority of CMR destroyed over the course of its operations were the result of the disposal of old or unserviceable cluster munitions identified by HALO Trust's Weapons and Ammunition Disposal (WAD) teams in military storage areas, some of which were earmarked for destruction by the Angolan Armed Forces. Between 2005 and 2012, HALO Trust WAD teams reported destroying a total of 7,284 submunitions.⁷ In 2018, The HALO Trust confirmed it had not been asked by the military to do any further destruction of cluster munition stockpiles since 2012.⁸

CMR contamination was a result of the decades of armed conflict that ended in 2002, although it is unclear when, or by whom, cluster munitions were used in Angola.⁹

OTHER EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR AND LANDMINES

Angola is heavily contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) other than CMR (see Mine Action Review's *Clearing the Mines* report on Angola for further information).

NATIONAL OWNERSHIP AND PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's national mine action programme is managed by two mine action structures. CNIDAH serves as the national mine action authority. It reports to the Council of Ministers or, in effect, to the Presidency of the Republic. The other coordination body, the Executive Commission for Demining (Comissão Executiva de Desminagem, CED), reports to the newly created Ministry of Social Action, Family, and Women's Promotion (Ministério da Acção Social, Família e Promoção da Mulher, MASFAMU, formerly the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration, or MINARS).

In 2002, in order to separate coordination and operational responsibilities, Angola established the National Demining Institute (Instituto Nacional de Desminagem, INAD), which is responsible, under the auspices of the CED and MASFAMU, for demining operations and training.

In 2018, NPA initiated a capacity development project to assist CNIDAH to better manage the national mine action programme, including in key areas such as information and quality management. The project, which is scheduled to run through March 2020, was initiated with funding from the United Kingdom's Department for

International Development (DFID), as part of a joint grant to the three largest mine action NGOs, The HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA.

Angola's government has provided funding for survey and clearance operations for national and commercial operators working under the CED. It has not, however, provided funding for humanitarian demining in recent years, leaving the most vulnerable, mainly poor, rural communities, the most at risk from mines and ERW.¹⁰

International NGOs continued to report lengthy bureaucratic obstacles in securing visas for expatriate mine action personnel, compounded by a new tax law that entered into force in August 2018 and which added further tariffs to those already applied to the importation of equipment.¹¹ Funding for mine action operations carried out by the international NGOs remained critically low for much of 2018, with serious gaps in funding resulting in the reduction of capacity and threatening the closure of international mine action operations. The situation improved significantly with the securing of DFID funding in September 2018 through the partnership grant.

GENDER

Gender is not referenced in Angola's 2019–25 Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC) mine action workplan, nor is it included in Angola's national mine action standards in place in 2018.

International NGO operators reported, however, that gender- and age-related concerns are taken into account during survey and clearance operations

to ensure that views and needs of different age and gender groups are reflected in the conduct of demining operations. They further reported taking into consideration gender balance in the hiring of staff in mine action operations, ensuring that a mix of male and female staff were employed in operational roles in the field, as well as in managerial positions.¹²

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Angola's mine action programme has long suffered from significant problems with information management and the poor quality of the CNIDAH national database. This is exacerbated by the lack of integration of mine action data held by the CED. During the year, an NPA Capacity Development Adviser was embedded in the CNIDAH team and focused on establishing an up-to-

date and more accurate database, with assistance from operators. NPA reported that, as a result, discrepancies between operator reports from the field and the records contained in the national database were being addressed and consequently, the accuracy of the data recorded in the database and reporting began to improve as well.¹³

PLANNING AND TASKING

As at May 2019, there was no specific strategy or workplan to address CMR contamination in place in Angola.¹⁴ In November 2018, Angola submitted a detailed annual workplan to meet its APMBC Article 5 deadline extension request, for 2019–25. The workplan does not, however, mention CMR or related survey or clearance.

As at May 2019, operators reported that there was no plan pertaining to the management of residual mine or ERW contamination in place.¹⁵ The GICHD will start supporting Angola with developing its next national strategy in August 2019. The new strategy will address all contamination, including CMR.¹⁶

LAND RELEASE SYSTEM

STANDARDS AND LAND RELEASE EFFICIENCY

National Mine Action Standards were in place in Angola in 2018. They do not contain provisions specific to CMR survey or clearance. NPA reported no significant developments with regard to the standards in 2018, but said they would be addressed as part of the capacity development project with CNIDAH in 2019.¹⁷

OPERATORS

Four international NGOs conducted demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola in 2018: APOPO, The HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA.¹⁸ A number of national organisations and commercial companies, accredited by CNIDAH and mostly employed by the state or other private companies, also operate in Angola.

At its peak, NPA deployed seven manual demining teams, and one mine detection rat team, in a partnership with APOPO, which reduced to three manual teams and the mine detection rat team, as a result of the completion of a donor-funded project and subsequent termination of funding. However, the deployment of two additional manual teams in September 2018 was made possible by new funding under the DFID grant.¹⁹ APOPO reported that one six-person manual demining team and one mine detection rat team of six handlers and 15 mine detection rats during the year.²⁰ MAG deployed three manual demining teams, one rapid response team with an EOD capacity, and three mechanical assets in 2018, a slight increase resulting from additional funding. The HALO Trust reported deploying a total of 19 manual teams, 2 survey/community liaison teams, and 2 weapons and ammunition disposal teams.²¹

OPERATIONAL TOOLS

Only manual clearance of ERW, including CMR, is conducted in Angola.

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

LAND RELEASE OUTPUT IN 2018

No land containing CMR contamination was reported to have been released by clearance or survey in 2017.

SURVEY IN 2018

There was no reported survey of CMR-contaminated area carried out in 2018, as was the case in 2017.

CLEARANCE IN 2018

No reported clearance of CMR-contaminated area occurred in 2018, as was the case in 2017.

As stated above, CNIDAH reported that 18 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018, while a total of 164 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2017.²² CNIDAH reported the identification and destruction of these submunitions for the first time in 2019. According to NPA, all 18 submunitions were destroyed as a result of EOD spot tasks in Cabinda province by a national operator, and not the result of CMR-specific clearance.²³

MAG reported that in November 2018, it encountered one Russian-made AO-1-Sch submunition near to Kapuluta village, Luvuei commune, in Moxico province. It stated that a farmer had found it a few kilometres away from a task where MAG teams were working and brought the item to the teams to be destroyed. MAG did not have an indication at the time as to whether the individual submunition was part of a cluster strike footprint or if more submunitions were expected to be found in the area. It reported that a community liaison team had been sent to the area to begin survey and as at April 2019, had yet to report further information.²⁴

The HALO Trust informed Mine Action Review in May 2019 that it remained unable to deploy any capacity to address the area around the two Alpha bomblets it identified during the re-survey of Cunene province in August 2016 due to a lack of funding.²⁵

PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION

As at May 2019, Angola was a signatory, but not a state party, to the CCM. In addition to its legal obligations as a treaty signatory, Angola has obligations under international human rights law to clear any CMR on its territory as soon as possible. It has not publicly reported a date as to when it might be able to declare its territory free of CMR contamination.

- 1 CNIDAH, "Angola Mine Action Programme 2019–2025", Newsletter, 1st Edn, February 2019, at: <http://bit.ly/2E2HVfo>. The CNIDAH newsletter reported that 85 submunitions were found and destroyed in 2018; however this was later clarified to have been misreported in the database and that a total of 18 submunitions were found in 2018. Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, Capacity Development Advisor, NPA, 27 April, 19 May, and 4 July 2019.
- 2 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 27 April and 19 May 2019.
- 3 Interview with Dr. Adriano Gonçalves, Focal Point, CNIDAH, Geneva, 24 May 2019.
- 4 Prior to this, as at February 2008, NPA reported clearing 13 submunitions in Kwanza Sul province; MAG reported clearing 140 submunitions in Moxico province; and The HALO Trust reported clearing 230 submunitions in Bié province. NPA reported finding no CMR during its operations in northern Angola, with the exception of a small number of submunitions found in 2008. Menschen gegen Minen (MgM) reported that no CMR had been discovered in its areas of operations in south-east Angola from 1997 through to May 2016 including near Jamba, an area in the south-east of the province where contamination might have been expected. Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 19 March 2013; and emails from Vanja Sikirica, Country Director, NPA, 11 May 2016; Kenneth O'Connell, Technical Director, MgM, 5 May and 15 June 2016; Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2016; Bill Marsden, Regional Director, East and Southern Africa, MAG, 18 May 2016; and Mohammad Qasim, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/CNIDAH, 22 February 2008.
- 5 Email from Shadrack Njamba, Programme Operations Coordinator, MAG, 18 April 2019.
- 6 A number of damaged bomb casings were also found but, according to The HALO Trust, it was unclear if the bombs had been fired at a target in the area or if they were jettisoned after an unsuccessful mission and the bomblets scattered on the ground. The Alpha bomblet was developed in Rhodesia in 1970 and later in South Africa in the 1980s. It was produced to be incorporated into the CB470 cluster bomb, which contained 40 Alpha submunitions each and were designed to be dropped from baskets or "hoppers" in the bomb bays of bomber aircraft. Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 2 May 2017; and Weapons Systems, "CB470", at: <http://bit.ly/2Jd01hl>.
- 7 Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 19 March 2013.
- 8 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018.
- 9 Interviews with Jose Antonio, Site Manager, Cuando Cubango, HALO Trust; and with Coxe Sucama, Director, INAD, in Menongue, 24 June 2011.
- 10 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018.
- 11 Email from Joaquim da Costa, Deputy Programme Manager, NPA, 6 May 2019.
- 12 Ibid.; and emails from Shadreck Njamba, MAG, 22 May 2019; and Ralph Legg, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 21 May 2019.
- 13 Email from Joaquim da Costa, NPA, 6 May 2019.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 Email from Rory Logan, GICHD, 4 July 2019.
- 17 Email from Joaquim da Costa, NPA, 6 May 2019.
- 18 MgM closed its operations in November 2015 upon completion of its last task in Cuando Cubango which formed part of a European Union-funded project. Previously, DanChurchAid (DCA) was forced to close its operations in early 2015 due to lack of funding. M. P. Moore, "Angola Avante – Onward Angola", Landmines in Africa blog, 26 February 2016, at: <http://bit.ly/2Hem3jx>.
- 19 Email from Joaquim da Costa, NPA, 6 May 2019.
- 20 Email from Ashley Fitzpatrick, APOPO, 9 May 2019.
- 21 Emails from Shadreck Njamba, MAG, 22 May 2019; and Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 21 May 2019.
- 22 CNIDAH, "Angola Mine Action Programme 2019–2025", Newsletter, 1st Edn, February 2019; and emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 27 April, 19 May, and 4 July 2019.
- 23 Emails from Robert Iga Afedra, NPA, 27 April, 19 May, and 4 July 2019.
- 24 Email from Shadrack Njamba, MAG, 18 April 2019.
- 25 Emails from Ralph Legg, HALO Trust, 21 May 2019; and Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018 and 3 May 2017. After finding the two Alpha bomblets in August 2016, The HALO Trust had been planning to carry out limited battle area clearance around the reported area until fade-out. They had intended to perform this work, subject to funding, in July or August 2017, during Angola's dry season when items can be more easily seen. This did not occur.