



# ANGOLA

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Angola should confirm as soon as possible whether it believes that cluster munition remnants (CMR) remain to be cleared.
- Angola should ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) as a priority.

## CONTAMINATION

The extent to which Angola is affected by CMR remains unclear. There is no confirmed contamination, but there may remain abandoned cluster munitions or unexploded submunitions. 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. In 2011, The HALO Trust and the National Institute for Demining (Instituto Nacional de Desminagem, INAD) affirmed that unexploded submunitions remained in Cuando Cubango province.<sup>1</sup>

None of the three international mine action operators working in Angola – The HALO Trust, Mines Advisory Group (MAG), and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) – reported encountering any CMR in operations in 2017 or the first half of 2018.<sup>2</sup>

The last recorded finding of CMR was in August 2016, when The HALO Trust found two Alpha submunitions in Cunene province, which were reported by local residents to a HALO Trust survey team during re-survey operations.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

The HALO Trust informed Mine Action Review that this was an isolated case and noted that it had seen very little evidence of cluster munition strikes in Angola. In addition, the majority of bomblets the organisation had destroyed were aging items from military stockpiles, which the military had identified and requested the organisation to destroy.<sup>5</sup>

According to reports from NGO operators in the national mine action database, CMR ceased to be found in significant numbers after 2008, with the exception of The HALO Trust reporting finding and destroying 12 submunitions in 2012 and encountering the two above-mentioned submunitions in 2016. As at May 2018, the other clearance operators had not found CMR in more than ten years.<sup>6</sup>

More typical of CMR destruction is 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.<sup>7</sup> In May 2018, The HALO Trust confirmed it had not been asked by the military to do any further destruction of cluster munition stockpiles since 2012.<sup>8</sup>

## 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).

## PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT

Angola's national mine action programme is managed by two mine action structures. The National Intersectoral Commission for Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (Comissão Nacional Intersectorial de Desminagem e Assistência Humanitária, 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 INAD, which is responsible, under the auspices of MASFAMU, for demining operations and training.

## Operators

Three international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) conduct demining for humanitarian purposes in Angola: The HALO Trust, MAG, and NPA.<sup>9</sup> A number of national commercial companies, accredited by CNIDAH and mostly employed by the state or other private companies, also operate in Angola.

## LAND RELEASE

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

The HALO Trust reported in May 2018 that it had not been able to deploy any capacity to address the area around the Alpha bomblets identified during the re-survey of Cunene province in August 2016 due to a lack of funding.<sup>10</sup> It had, however, used funding from the United States Department of State to respond to 131 explosive ordnance disposal call-outs across six other provinces during the year.<sup>11</sup>

### Survey in 2017

There was no reported CMR survey in 2017.

### Clearance in 2017

There was no reported CMR clearance in 2017.

## ARTICLE 4 COMPLIANCE

As at May 2018, Angola was a signatory, but not a state party, to the CCM. In addition to its obligations as a treaty signatory, Angola has obligations under international human rights law to clear any CMR as soon as possible.

- 1 Interviews with Jose Antonio, Site Manager, Cuando Cubango, HALO Trust; and with Coxé Sucama, Director, INAD, in Menongue, 24 June 2011.
- 2 Emails from Gerhard Zank, Programme Manager, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018; Jeanette Dijkstra, Country Director, MAG, 24 April 2018; and Joaquim da Costa, Acting Country Director, NPA, 10 May 2018.
- 3 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://weaponsystems.net/weaponsystem/HH12%20-%20CB470.html>.
- 4 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 3 May 2017.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Prior to this, as of 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, 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.
- 7 Response to questionnaire by Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 19 March 2013.
- 8 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018.
- 9 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: <https://laminesinafrica.wordpress.com/2016/02/26/angola-avante-onwards-angola/>.
- 10 Emails from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018 and 3 May 2017. After finding the two Alpha bomblets in August 2016, The HALO Trust was planning to carry out limited battle area clearance around the reported area until fade-out. They were intending to perform this work, subject to funding, in July or August 2017, during Angola's dry season when items can be more easily seen.
- 11 Email from Gerhard Zank, HALO Trust, 17 May 2018.