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The end of the decades-long civil war with the death of UNITA's leader and subsequent signature of the Luena Peace Memorandum in 2002 paved the way for peace in Angola at long last and created an opportunity for full recovery from the devastating effects of the conflict. Excepting the violence that continued in the Cabinda enclave until 2003, peace has largely returned to the country that saw the death of more than 1.5 million of its citizens, disablement of over 100,000 and forced displacement of some 4 million people.¹

While peace and stability is slowly taking root and a number of major recovery and reconstruction initiatives are underway, notably by the Government, civil society, international partners and NGOs, a large majority of the population is still reeling from the unaddressed consequences of the protracted conflict including slow political, constitutional, security sector and judicial reform, problems in governance and human rights, continued insecurity especially in outlying provinces and areas outside major cities and towns, landmines, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, destroyed and dilapidated infrastructure, poor social services and, slow and uneven economic growth.

Estimates of per capita GDP in 2004 reach some US\$2,100. However, there are serious disparities in income and wealth distribution. Some estimates indicate that less than 10% of the population takes 42% of the national income and about 70% of the country's population lived below the poverty line at the end of 2003. Although the country's economy, as measured by its GDP, has shown significant growth in the past few years, most of the growth is related to increases in production of the main export commodities and their prices in international markets. In 2003 and 2004 for instance, increased oil production accounted for 7% and 12% of GDP growth respectively. While 85% of the country's population depends on subsistence agriculture for its livelihood, the contribution of the entire agriculture sector remained very low – more specifically 8% according to 2001 estimates.²

Inflation, although largely contained from the peak of some 325% in 2000, stood at 43.8% in 2004 and the industry sector (mainly composed of the country's oil and diamond exports) accounted for 67% of the GDP. More than half of the working-age population of 5.41 million is unemployed and the country still depends on food imports. Lack of sufficient transparency in public expenditure management and corruption continue to be other areas of concern, as the Government has not yet implemented a number of IMF recommendations on these issues.³

Although the country had developed and implemented a comprehensive programme for the demobilization of former combatants in cooperation with the World Bank and other partners, questions remained regarding the effectiveness of these programmes especially concerning their ability to help former combatants find alternative employment. Almost all IDPs and a large number of refugees have returned over the past three years. Although the humanitarian situation of the returned populations and their areas of return has been stabilized, addressing their sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation challenges including underlying poverty, security, property rights, access to land owned prior to displacement and employment require further effort. Low capacity of government (especially at provincial and local levels) to plan and implement reintegration and rehabilitation programmes, limited or non-existent infrastructure and basic social services (especially in remote provinces and rural villages), landmines and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons are some of the major impediments in the recovery and rehabilitation process.

¹ CIA. Homepage.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

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Table 18 in the preceding section outlined certain characteristics of the external assistance provided to Angola. Table 19 presents an outline of sectoral challenges as well as weaknesses and gaps in on-going programmes observed during the study. The following preliminary and broad recommendations for further action are based on observations made during this study and the concepts for a comprehensive African recovery and reconstruction framework being developed under the auspices of the AU/NEPAD with the support of the NEPAD Sub-Cluster on "Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Recovery", and other partners including NGOs, Donors and Civil Society.

More detailed recommendations that would help in the development of specific programmes and projects, as well as the role of various stakeholders in addressing these needs and gaps would be made after further review of the situation on the ground. The NEPAD Sub-Cluster has the intention to undertake a joint assessment of developments on the ground in order to validate and update the observations made in this study and refine these recommendations.

Preliminary recommendations

11.1 Political governance and transition

Securing the peace in Angola in the long term requires bold measures to improve the country's governance. The new political dispensation that will be ushered in through the adoption of a new constitution and related laws and regulations as well as the new elections planned for 2006 will determine the country's direction and speed of recovery, reconstruction and progress towards long-term socio-economic development.

- The emerging political system should be based on strict adherence to democratic principles, inclusiveness and participation, respect for human rights, equality, transparency, and a balanced distribution of power and wealth. In this regard it is imperative that the ongoing process for the adoption of a new constitution and holding of national elections is based on genuine dialogue that benefits from the full, free and transparent participation of all sections of Angolan society including women, political parties, civil society, religious and traditional leaders, NGOs, and other stakeholders;
- Free expression of political opinion including unfettered and equitable access to the media, especially in the context of the on-going constitutional process and the planned elections, would be critical in strengthening the process of peacebuilding through democratization, reconciliation and unhindered participation by the people.
- Consideration should also be given to the creation of transparent, independent and credible mechanisms for conflict prevention and dispute resolution including in the establishment of the National Electoral Council and appointment of its members as well as the institution of the country's justice system. In this regard, the role of civil society and religious institutions, which have so far made significant contributions in the peacebuilding process, needs to be further reinforced.
- Devolution of power to lower levels of government and strengthening local governance would expedite the reconstruction and socio-economic development of the country by increasing ownership of the process and active participation of all sectors of society. This should be coupled, however, with systematic and robust capacity building in areas including reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructure, revenue generation as well as delivery of public and social services.

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11.2 Security

While the long-term strategy in ensuring sustainable peace and security should be based on the larger concepts of 'human security', the following recommendations may be considered in order to further strengthen Angola's achievements in ensuring the security of its citizens and the state:

- Continued reform of the security sector and improvements in its governance including through further clarification of the distinctions between civilian police, military, intelligence and other components of the security structure; increased consideration for and investments in the security of the population; establishing clear structures for the overall supervision and accountability of the security sector based on rule-of-law and, involvement of local administrations and communities in such structures and processes;
- Enhancing legislation on management of the security sector including adherence to international standards on respect for human rights in civilian policing, crime control, community relations, training and supervision of security personnel;
- Strengthening the awareness and role of security sector personnel in the protection of vulnerable sections of society such as returned refugees and internally displaced people by taking measures including gender balance at all levels of the security system, training in humanitarian and human rights law, as well as improving coordination between the legislative, executive and law enforcement branches of government with special regard to the rights of such groups in the society;
- Although the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants has largely been completed, numerous challenges remain in regard to their reintegration into society. These challenges range from limited social reconciliation at the grass roots level to lack of adequate and new sources of livelihood and employment for the demobilized especially in rural areas where most of them have been reintegrated. Continued gaps in this regard could erode the chances of sustainable peace in the medium to long term. Further measures that could be taken to address these gaps include:
 - Revitalization of the agricultural sector, through focused intervention in major areas of return and reintegration for former combatants, IDPs and refugees;
 - New investment in the sector including in agro-industry and modern fishing;
 - Increased infrastructure development;
 - Improved access to agricultural extension, education and health services;
 - Measures aimed at creating employment in urban and sub-urban areas through activities that include micro-finance and training in easily marketable skills.
- The significant achievements made so far in regard to land mines should be further expanded and expedited in order to accelerate the country's recovery and reduce the stress factors limiting progress towards full recovery and reconstruction. The Government and international partners need to allocate additional resources in this area through:
 - Increased support to mine survivors including adequate medical and social services as well as rehabilitation and skills training – especially in outlying provinces and rural areas;
 - Further de-mining to facilitate free mobility of the rural population, increase agricultural activities, access to markets, public and social services;
 - Continued support for mine awareness training, demarcation and delimitation of minefields and routes with focus on reaching populations in remote provinces and rural areas.

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- Measures to limit the availability and circulation of small arms need to be scaled up in order to reduce the security risk posed by these items – estimated to number 3 to 4 million countrywide. Consideration may be given to:
 - Further elaboration and dissemination of existing domestic legislation regarding the manufacturing, acquisition and transfer of small arms;
 - strict implementation of the law including through improvements in the national system of control of their manufacture and storage as well as export and import licensing;
 - stringent border controls and regional cooperation and;
 - increased effort in the gathering and destruction of excess stockpiles.
- The effort to bring about lasting peace and reconciliation in Angola should also include solutions to questions relating to Cabinda. The Government, groups in the enclave and other stakeholders need to narrow the gaps between their positions and find a peaceful formula to prevent the issue becoming a source of further conflict.

11.3 Humanitarian assistance, reconstruction, and socio-economic development

As noted in section 7.2 of this report, Angola has undertaken a number of steps aimed at the recovery and stabilization of its economy. In addition to the continued need for rigorous implementation of the various initiatives already underway – including the PRSP approved in February 2004, the following broad recommendations may be offered to expedite the country's recovery and reconstruction as well as its progress towards sustainable and longer-term socio-economic development:

- Increased focus of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, especially of basic infrastructure critical for delivery of public and social services, in areas outside of the national capital and major cities and towns with particular attention to areas that bore the brunt of the conflict as well as those that host a large number of people who returned from internal displacement and refuge abroad. It would be critical that such programmes are designed and implemented in a manner that ensures effective transition from relief and recovery to longer-term socio-economic development.
- Further refinement of the country's macroeconomic policies focusing on employment-creation and poverty-reduction measures including in large population centers as well as rural areas; further investment in the agricultural sector and initiatives aimed at the speedy build-up of the country's human capital including through more efficient allocation of resources to improve the population's nutritional and health status, education, skills development and expansion of social and public services;
- Creating an environment that fosters private investment including macro-economic stability, diversification and strengthening of the country's export base, increased efficiency and transparency in public administration and finances, measures to eliminate possibilities for corrupt practices, as well as further public investment in key productive sectors such as agriculture and fishing as well as infrastructure including roads, power and communication systems.
- Restoring fundamental infrastructure and basic social services, and provision of houses to returned refugees and IDPs especially in the isolated rural areas to assist the reintegration efforts are urgent tasks. International donor community should not only maintain sufficient level of assistance for that purpose, but also pay adequate attention to helping the national as well as local governments enhance required administrative capacities for them to plan and carry out reintegration activities. Conducting similar studies to the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative mentioned in section 7.3.2 is highly

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recommended to assess the actual local conditions and determine local development priorities, through which the local authorities feel encouraged and responsible for the reconstruction of their own communities.

11.4 Human rights, justice, and reconciliation

- Progress achieved in regard to respect for human rights since the end of the conflict in 2002 should be strengthened especially in provinces far from the Capital and in rural areas through, inter-alia, further implementation of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the constitution and various laws of the country; ensuring independence of the judicial and law enforcement system and; increased training, monitoring, supervision and accountability of the police, and security forces, judiciary and administrative organs of the Government.
- Substantial additional effort and investment is required to strengthen reconciliation in Angola, especially at the grassroots level. Measures that focus on community participation and involve all sectors of society including the government, the armed and security forces, local leaders, political groups, civil society, traditional leaders and faith-based organizations would be critical. Peace education that targets the youth, special support for efforts of institutions such as women's organizations in regard to their activities focusing on peace and reconciliation and, collaboration between state and private actors to promote further peace-building initiatives are among the other avenues that may be pursued.
- Full implementation of the institutional and legal framework of the judicial system as stipulated by the country's constitution would require expansion of the justice system throughout the country. Angola needs to invest more in its justice system in the provinces and areas outside major cities and towns.
- The on-going reform of the judicial system including adoption of a new family of criminal, civil, civil procedural and commercial codes and simplification of other legislation needs to be expedited and further enhanced including through fast-tracked capacity building, improvements in the employment and service conditions of justice-system personnel as well as establishment of clear mechanisms of accountability in the system.

11.5 Gender

- Survey the reality of the educational status of women and identify their specific needs to redress the gender imbalance in education.
- Strengthen education and advocacy for healthy family planning and protection against HIV/AIDS in schools and community-level activities.
- Establish legal measures to promote employment of women and prohibit discrimination in employment.
- Institute policies and legislative protection against sexual and gender-based violence. Also, advocate for respect for human rights, higher awareness of gender equality. Police, security, judicial, medical and administrative personnel who handle sexual and gender-based violence should receive specialized training and instruction to ensure comprehensive and coordinated protection and support to victims.
- Bettering the living condition of women in rural areas requires special attention, including equipping them with technical and financial resources to support their efforts to achieve

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socio-economic self-reliance and restoring and extending basic social and administrative services to rural areas.

- Put in place mechanisms and processes that ensure the active political participation of women at all levels of society and, where appropriate, introducing instruments of affirmative action to enhance the female representation in political institutions and decision-making process. Such efforts are needed particularly at the local and regional level where women's participation in political and administrative institutions is extremely limited.