

## **Angola**

Angola is a country in south-central Africa bordered by Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. Area: 1.246.700 square kilometers. Population: 16,941, 000. Demographic: Ovimbundu 37%, Kimbundu 25%, Bakongo 13%, 2%, European 1%, and 22% other. State Party to the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT).

### **Cause and scope of the landmine problem**

Angola has been plagued by civil war since independence from Portugal in 1975 until the peace accords between the government and UNITA were signed the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2002. Mines as well as a whole other slew of traditional ammunitions, explosive remnants of war (ERW) were used by both sides during the conflict, making Angola one of the most mine infected countries in the world. Large portions of the country are still not accessible due to mines and ERW, and it is estimated that one fifth of the population has its day to day life affected by mines and ERW.

### **NPA history in the country**

Upon request by the UN, NPA involved itself with mine clearance in Angola in 1994. Initially, the task was to map the coastal provinces and other areas pinpointed as camps for demobilized soldiers, as well as clearing the main highway between Luanda and Malanje. Due to the mine problem and the huge distances, three separate bases for clearance were established throughout the country. From 1995 to 2004 these bases were located in the cities of Malanje, Luena and Lubango. In 2003 NPA took part in the country wide survey of the mine problem, and became responsible for 5 provinces in the northwestern part of Angola (Malanje, Kwanza Sul, Kwanza Norte, Uige, Zaire). The result of said survey created the base for strategic plans for mine clearance in Angola by national authorities (2006-2013). The strategic plan then created the basis for a large increase in funding by Angolan authorities for mine clearance. Several international donors have since chosen to pull out of Angola, but NPA has continued support from its donors until 2010-11, albeit at a considerably reduced level compared to previous years.

NPA has since 2003 reduced its assets in Angola such as the bases in Lubango and Luena as well as its mine detection dog project. At the end of 2009 NPA also closed its base in Gabela, Kwanza Sul Province running all provincial operations out of Malanje. Today, NPA is located in Malanje with an EO in Luanda and the programme will continue to decrease until 2011 when further reconsiderations will be made as to whether to discontinue the Angola MA programme or not. Today, NPAs main focus has been less on large scale full clearance and more on the development of methodologies for Land Release to release impacted land via Non-Technical Survey (NTS) and Technical Survey (TS) utilizing its remaining mechanical and manual demining capacities in a more focused, effective and cost efficient manner, as well as support to national authorities on land release policy, survey and capacity building training in these areas.

### **Capacity**

Personnel: 100 local employees, 2 international staff.

Consisting of 40 manual deminers, mechanical demining with 2 Aardvark flail machines, 1 mini MineWolf tiller machine (to be procured late 2010) and 2 Casspir vehicles, 2 Combined Survey/ EOD teams, logistics personnel, medics and communication as well as administrative staff.

### **Donors**

The Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (ends December 2010), The US Department of State, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Statoil.