

Angola



Population: 18,056,072
Population Growth Rate: 2.748%
Birth Rate: 39.36 births/1,000 population
Life Expectancy: total population: 54.59 years
male: 53.49 years
female: 55.73 years
Literacy Rate: total population: 67.4%
male: 82.9%
female: 54.2%
Net Migration Rate: 0.55 migrant(s)/1,000 population
Unemployment Rate: extensive unemployment and underemployment affecting more than half the population
Gross Domestic Product per Capita: \$5,600
Religions: indigenous beliefs 47%, Roman Catholic 38%, Protestant 15%
Languages: Portuguese (official), Bantu and other African languages
Ethnic Groups: Ovimbundu 37%, Kimbundu 25%, Bakongo 13%, Mestico 2%, European 1%, other 22%
Capital: Luanda¹

Trafficking Routes

Angola is a country of origin for trafficking in women and children. Destination countries for Angolan women and children include the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. Angolan women and children are also trafficked within the country. Children are trafficked from Luanda to Zaire and then to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.²

Factors That Contribute to the Trafficking Infrastructure

Trafficking in African women and children for prostitution and forced labor is exacerbated by war, poverty, and flawed or nonexistent birth registration systems, according to a study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).³ Poverty aggravates already desperate conditions caused by conflict, discrimination, and repression, and unregistered children are easy to move between countries because they never formally acquire a nationality. The study also found that Africa's 3.3 million refugees and the estimated 12.7 million internally displaced persons are the most vulnerable to trafficking.⁴

¹ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>

² Angola: Children's Institute to Strengthen Partnership with NGOs, AFRICA NEWS/ANGOLA PRESS AGENCY, Dec. 12, 2007 [hereinafter *Children's Institute*].

³ Jonathan Fowler, "UNICEF: Human Trafficking in Africa Fueled by War, Economic Hardship, and Lack of Birth Registration," *Associated Press*, 23 April 2004.

⁴ *Id.*

The Angolan civil war, which lasted from 1975 until April 2002, left a legacy of poverty and social decay and increased the vulnerability of Angolan women and children to trafficking.⁵ During the civil war, between 7,000 and 11,000 children served with the opposition forces, the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), or with the government forces, the Forças Armadas Angolanas (FAA).⁶ Despite national legislation prohibiting their conscription, many boys were forced to fight or work for the FAA. Neither former UNITA nor former FAA child soldiers have received substantial assistance from the government, nor have they been included in the demobilization programs available to adult combatants. Women and girls served as domestics, assistants, and “wives” to UNITA soldiers. The women were also known as “comfort” women when they were “given” to important visitors in UNITA-controlled areas.⁷

Refugees, internally displaced persons, and former combatants returning to communities in Angola after its civil war continue to face major challenges. The challenges consist of an absence or, at best, a lack of minimal social services, lack of employment opportunities, mined land, and government authorities’ harassment, extortion, and sexual abuse. Elderly persons, disabled persons, women-headed households, and residents of rural areas experienced the least government assistance.⁸

The Angolan HIV/AIDS population has grown since the end of the country’s civil war, partly relating to freer flows of internal and regional transport and the high rate of returning refugees. Those suffering from HIV/AIDS have little or no protection and also are socially ostracized.⁹ In 2009 the HIV prevalence rate among adults aged 15–49 years was 2.0 percent.¹⁰

Insecurity in Angola intensified when the government forcibly evicted thousands of Angolans from their homes between 2002 and 2006.¹¹ As a result, most of Luanda’s estimated 4 million residents do not own a formal house or land deed. The government conducted 18 mass relocations in a pattern of human rights abuses that affected 20,000 persons, a majority of whom were already poor or especially economically vulnerable.¹²

Forms of Trafficking

An estimated 30 percent of Angolan children aged 5 to 14 years are forced to work. Both economic abuse and sexual abuse of children are emerging problems.¹³ Children work on family farms, as domestic servants, or in the informal economy. Most of the children who work do so because they lost one or both parents in the war. In some cases, children work because there are no schools in their region. Some school-age boys are trafficked from Angola to herd cattle in

⁵ Agence France Presse, *Angola’s 25 Years of Civil War*, GLOBAL POLICY FORUM, Nov. 9, 2000, available at: <http://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/202/41480.html>.

⁶ COALITION TO STOP THE USE OF CHILD SOLDIERS, CHILD SOLDIERS GLOBAL REPORT 2008, (2008) <http://www.childsoldiersglobalreport.org/>.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Angola: Displaced Still Suffering*, Mar. 16, 2005, <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/03/17/angola10322.htm>.

⁹ *Children’s Institute supra*, note 2.

¹⁰ CIA, THE WORLD FACTBOOK 2009 *supra* note 1.

¹¹ *Angola’s Slum Evictions Condemned*, BBC NEWS, May 15, 2007, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6657277.stm>.

¹² *Angola: Thousands Forcibly Evicted in Postwar Boom*, HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, May 15, 2007, available at: <http://www.hrw.org/english/docs/2007/05/11/angola15912.htm>.

¹³ Angola’s children, <http://www.unicef.org/angola/children.html>.

northern Namibia.¹⁴ According to one report, many young girls sell goods during the day and prostitute themselves at night.¹⁵

Many women and girls are trafficked from Angola for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation in other African countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, and South Africa, as well as the United Kingdom.¹⁶ These girls are often deceived by traffickers and do not realize they will be forced into sex work upon arrival in these destination countries.

Government Responses

Angola does not have a specific anti-human trafficking legislation, and trafficking is not explicitly forbidden or defined under the penal code.¹⁷ In addition, Angola still has not signed the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the so called Palermo Protocol. However, since 2004, the government has increased its attention to trafficking in children and strengthened prevention efforts.¹⁸ In 2007 the legislature passed a statute requiring documentation for international travel by unaccompanied minors, and the National Commission to Combat Child Labor and Trafficking in Minors has since then met monthly. Furthermore, national awareness campaigns have been conducted, and police and border officials have been trained in ways to deal with child trafficking.¹⁹

In November 2007, Angolan Home Minister Roberto Leal Ramos Monteiro ‘Ngongo’ lauded Angola’s Directorate of National Criminal Investigations (DNIC) for its ability to ensure a democratic and lawful state and recognized the DNIC as ready for the challenge of urban and violent crime including drugs, arms, and human trafficking. The government prosecuted one police officer and dismissed 10 other police officers for various offenses.²⁰

In the same year was established the National Council of Children (CNAC) with the purpose to promote and defend the rights of the child. It is a financially and administratively autonomous body and has a legal status²¹. In February 2008, and again in March 2008, the Interior Ministry and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) hosted a workshop on trafficking in persons and addressed assistance, security, and care to victims; management of migratory movements; and measures for an “efficacious” border control. The meeting was

¹⁴ *Namibia: Child labour in Namibia ‘Must be Tackled Head-On’*, AFRICA NEWS/THE NAMIBIAN, Feb. 1, 2008, available at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200802010144.html>.

¹⁵ *Angola: Attempts to Curb Child Exploitation*, UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED REGIONAL INFORMATION NETWORK, Jan. 14, 2004.

¹⁶ Mario de Queiroz, *Rights-Angola: Free rein for human traffickers*, IPS - INTER PRESS SERVICE, (Mar. 20, 2008), available at: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=41673>.

¹⁷ Convention on the Rights of the Child, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding Observations: Angola, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.246 (Nov. 3, 2004).

¹⁸ “Countries at the Crossroads: Angola, Freedom House, May 22, 2008, available at: <http://blog.freedomhouse.org/weblog/2008/05/angola-mpla-ube.html>

¹⁹ *Angola: New Counter-Trafficking Initiatives Underway*, EYE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING: BULLETIN (IOM, Pretoria, South Africa), Nov. 2006, at 7, available at: <http://www.dfa.gov.za/consular/2006/eyeoct2006.pdf>.

²⁰ AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ANGOLA: ANNUAL REPORT, (2007).

²¹ Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 44 of the Convention on the rights of the child *Consolidated second, third and fourth periodic reports of States parties due in 2008: Angola*. U.N. Doc# CRC/C/AGO/2-4 available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/publisher,CRC,COUNTRYREP,AGO,4cdcf0982,0.html>

attended by representatives from Interior, the Foreign Relations ministry, and other institutions dealing with trafficking.²²

In 2010 the entry into force of the new Angolan Constitution created under art 30 a legal framework for the rights of the child²³

Overall, the justice system lacks capacity. For example, an ombudsman is elected to defend citizens' rights, but his power is limited and he is only able to make recommendations. In addition, women often lack access to formal justice and are challenged by workplace discrimination, domestic violence, and general discriminatory societal attitudes. As a result, many women found to be involved in sex work at home or abroad are often treated as criminals, not as victims of trafficking. Angolan officials have repeatedly expressed their need for help on this issue and have urged that the region join together to combat trafficking.²⁴

Nongovernmental and International Organization Responses

In 2000, Molo Songololo, a Cape Town based NGO, addressed for the first time the problem of Human trafficking in Southern Africa publishing a report on sexual exploitation of woman and children in Western Cape.²⁵

In August 2006, IOM's South African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Program organized the first roundtable discussion and workshop on trafficking in persons at its Luanda office. The aim of this gathering was for government agencies, civil society members, and international organizations to work together to develop and implement countertrafficking plans. A number of key organizations were represented at this event, including Terre des Hommes, Save the Children U.K., National Children's Institute (INAC), Angolan Women's Organization, Angolan Ministry of Interior, U.N. Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. One of the factors discussed was the lack of data on trafficking in Angola. INAC brought attention to the fact that fighting trafficking would be easier if the government had more data.²⁶

Closely following the roundtable discussion, the IOM organized Angola's first counter-trafficking workshop in August 2006. Twenty government officials and more than 70 police students participated in the workshop, which took place at a police school. The participants gained a wealth of knowledge on the definition of human trafficking, how to differentiate trafficking from other forms of migration, how to identify and help victims of trafficking, and local and international legislation on dealing with human trafficking.²⁷ In September 2008, IOM announced the signing of an agreement with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The IOM and Norway are working together on a 17-month program to train 570 Angolan police officers and immigration and law enforcement officers on counter-trafficking and human rights.²⁸ From 2007 and to August 2008, the IOM in Angola also worked closely to create

²² *Angola: Update of Juridical Instruments on Human Trafficking Urged*, ANGOLA PRESS AGENCY, Mar. 19, 2008, available at: http://www.iomvienna.at/files/Upload/SLM_Vienna_TiP_News_Digest_March_2008.pdf at 10.

²³ *Supra* note 22

²⁴ *Angola Appeals for Joint Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking*, XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE, July 14, 2007.

²⁵ *Southern Africa Counter- Trafficking Programme (SACTP) Review*, NORAD COLLECTED REVIEW, June, 2010

²⁶ IOM, Angola: New Counter-Trafficking Initiatives *supra* note 20.

²⁷ *Id.*

²⁸ IOM, *Counter-Trafficking and Human Rights Awareness Programme for Angola's Law Enforcement Officials Receives New Funding*, Sept. 26, 2008.

reintegration programs for child soldiers. These programs focused on education, rehabilitation, employment, and ultimately providing care for these victims.²⁹

In 2007, the theme for Commemorating African Children's Day was human trafficking. UNICEF's representative in Angola, Angela Kearney, encouraged the Angolan government to ratify the U.N. Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.³⁰ However, the government has not yet ratified this international convention.

UNICEF, Human Rights Watch, and other well-known international nongovernmental organizations work closely with the government in Angola to fight human trafficking and to help the victims of trafficking. Angola has collaborated with UNICEF to create the Special Protection Project, which works to strengthen the rights of children against juvenile injustice, violence, sexual and economic exploitation, and trafficking, while promoting early childhood development.³¹

Multilateral Initiatives

In April 2007, Angola and Zimbabwe signed a security accord regarding public order and security cooperation. It addresses terrorism, arms trafficking, drug trafficking, human trafficking, and money laundering. The agreement allows for exchange of information on criminals such as diamond smugglers.³²

In June 2007, police delegations from Angola and Namibia met in the Cunene provincial capitol Ondjiva, where they analyzed increasing crimes at common border areas. Participants decided to plan to expand two border areas to facilitate police operations, migration, and customs services. Drug trafficking was identified as one of the most common crimes committed at the border (others were cattle theft, drug trafficking, illegal tree cutting, poaching, and "border jumping").³³

At the third annual conference of the Africa Prosecutors Association in July 2007, Angolan Minister of Justice Manuel da Costa Aragao highlighted the problem of human trafficking and implored countries to work together to adhere to the international U.N. Protocol, control their borders, and provide effective legal aid.³⁴ Angolan deputy speaker of the National Assembly, João Lourenço, opened the conference by discussing the international scope of the problem of trafficking in persons and urged participants to see human trafficking as a serious threat to state security and stability and also to the basic rights of citizens. He called for regional coordination among states and partnership with Interpol, civil society, the media, police and justice institutions, universities, and churches. Lourenço also argued that a society incapable of reducing or ending domestic violence is less capable of engaging in initiatives against human

²⁹ IOM, PROGRESS REPORT ON IOM ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA: JANUARY TO APRIL 2008, (2008), available at: http://www.iom.int/angola/resources/reports/updates/IOM_angola_up-date_2008.pdf.

³⁰ *Angola Advised to Join Convention Against Transnational Crime*, XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE, June 17, 2007.

³¹ Children's Institute *supra*, note 2.

³² *Zimbabwe signs security deal with Angola*, THE FINANCIAL TIMES, March 22, 2007, Available at: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/102bb954-d8ab-11db-a759-000b5df10621.html#axzz1uDWdNEpz>

³³ *Angola, Namibia Strengthen Cooperation Against Border Crime*, XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE, June 29, 2007.

³⁴ *Angola Appeals for Joint Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking*, XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE, July 14, 2007.

trafficking, forced prostitution, child labor, and pedophilia—and less prepared and motivated to do so.³⁵

Recently, on April 17th 2012, Angola signed a bilateral agreement with Italy, establishing cooperation between the two countries in fight against organized crime and human trafficking among others.

The Angolan Minister of Interior welcomed this agreement as an “action of great practical benefit to both people and country”.³⁶

³⁵ *Angola: Over a Million People Sold as Slaves Yearly*, ALLAFRICA/ANGOLA PRESS AGENCY, July 13, 2007.

³⁶ *Angola, Italy sign Police Cooperation agreement*, ANGOLA PRESS AGENCY, April 19, 2012. Available at: http://www.portalangop.co.ao/motix/en_us/noticias/politica/2012/3/16/Angola-Italy-sign-police-cooperation-deal,266bcaa8-974c-466e-ab77-1e7e897c880e.html