

Advocacy on Angola – a brief review of recent developments

By John van Mossel, July 24, 2003
For Development Workshop

This report will deal with efforts to obtain increased amounts of funding from CIDA for NGO programs in Angola as well as efforts to ensure an appropriate policy on Angola within agencies of the Canadian Government. It will also point out opportunities and barriers to changes in Government policy and program changes on Angola.

Funding; At the present time almost all funds from CIDA for Angola come through the Multilateral Programs Branch (MPB), a situation that has not changed for several years. A few Canadian NGOs have received funds from International Humanitarian Assistance (IHA) Division of MPB related to meeting emergency needs in water and sanitation, school construction and emergency food distribution in Angola (e.g., World Vision, DW, CARE, Oxfam, Alternatives.) This is in addition to funds going to Angola from IHA through UN agencies (e.g. UNDP, WFP). Other funding from MPB has been available through the Peace Building Unit (PBU). A special allocation of C\$1m from CIDA's southern Africa 2002-03 drought fund went for peace building projects in Angola. PBU made three grants to DW over 3 years. One of the projects just received the Minister's approval in late July 2003.

MPB staff members who have come to know Angola have been personally very supportive of making funding available to Canadian NGOs for activities in Angola. There is, however, a lack of continuity of staff working on Angola and there is a lack of knowledge about Angola within MPB at critical levels where sign-off is required for projects to proceed for final approval.

It should be noted that funding from MPB-IHA may be in jeopardy as of mid 2003 if funding is tied to the annual CAP appeal organized by OCHA as OCHA is being closed down in Angola, though some of OCHA's staff and functions are being relocated within UNDP in Angola.

Funding from CIDA's Africa and Middle East Branch (AMEB) for Angola is limited to the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) which is administered in Angola by Development Workshop. There is no bilateral program. Funds from Policy Branch (Child Protection Program/research) have recently been awarded to Christian Children's Fund CCF(I). Wasn't this for CCF Angola?? Defence for Children International (DCI) has also received funds from Child Protection for its CAP project's Angola work.

Funding for Angola from CIDA has been one of the objectives of campaign activities in 2002-03. Minister Whelan received a letter from on January with signed by of ## orgs, ## individuals?? signatures from many sources, Canadian and Angolan. Though we signed the letter I suggest it be presented as a group effort. The letter addressed the new needs in Angola and changes/opportunities in Angola since early 2002 that should attract the attention of the government of Canada. Minister Whelan did not reply to the letter and she purportedly instructed her staff to turn down any request for a meeting as had been

requested in the letter. This clear sign of reluctance to talk is linked to a major policy barrier. CIDA's AMEB VP Paul Hunt resists pressure to open up a new country in Africa for bilateral funding, and does this in line with policy to reduce the number of countries where CIDA works in Africa, as part of CIDA's Aid Effectiveness policy. There is interest in Angola at CIDA, however, at the Southern Africa Program Desk where Director Michele Lemelin and Regional Program Officer Kathryn Dunlop have expressed their interest in Angola and have engaged in dialogue on how to use existing funding windows. Their hands are clearly tied by the lack of authority to operate a bilateral program in Angola. + result of lobbying Mention this year's allocation for CFLI has been increased from 150,000 to 335,000.

It should also be noted that DFAIT and CIDA have been meeting on-and-off on Angola and while there appears to be good dialogue, the lack of a Bilateral Program at CIDA stands as a large barrier to Canada being more involved in Angola.

So far, under the Canada Fund for Africa set up by CIDA following the G8 NEPAD discussions at Kananaskis, no funding has been forthcoming that is explicitly available for Angola. This is despite observations made within Government that the changes in Angola since February 2002 call for a seriously reconsideration of support for Angola, in terms of the NEPAD objectives.

Foreign Policy: The same letter that went to Minister Whelan was also sent to Minister Graham at DFAIT. However, DFAIT personnel are more aware of Angola and there was a much greater positive response to the letter from DFAIT.

Angola is viewed within AFAIT as ready for renewed international support and closer official relations. This is due to the end of the long standing civil war, efforts underway to reconcile conflict among the parties, the plans for post-war reconstruction now in process, and the plans now being developed for elections, constitutional reform and other democratic reforms. There is hope that Angola will soon agree to IMF transparency requirements. In addition, Angola is playing an important role internationally, on the UN Security Council, within the African Union and within SADC. Angola's oil makes it an object of attraction for trade interests (firms), including Canadian sales within the oil sector, though many firms still see great risk in making investments in Angola. In addition, the expected increase in oil revenue for Angola in the near future - projected from oil sales agreements and augmented oil extraction rates - suggests that Angola will increasingly be an object of attraction for corporate salesmen and investors. Also, as diamond sales are now regularized through state enterprises and visible/formal/regulated diamond trade enterprises, diamonds mining will also be a source of new revenue for Angola and will add to its national wealth/income. The major Kimberlite pipes in Angola suggest long-term diamond mining prospects, if political and security conditions are right.

Within DFAIT's East and Southern Africa Division, efforts have made for staff and others to visit Angola and to get to know Angola. In particular, Denan Kuni has obtained Minister Graham's approval to set up an Interdepartmental Working Group on Angola.

Currently ADM John McKee and East and Southern Africa Division Director David Angell are working with CIDA's Paul Hunt to work out the terms of reference for that IWG. This dialogue was necessitated by Minister Whelan's insistence on meeting and jointly setting the TORs of the IWG before making the decision to participate in its work.

Minister Graham has personally been involved on the Angola file, however briefly, and met with Dr. David Strangway, member of the Board of DW and head of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), as did David Angell. Dr Strangway, an advocate for a renewed interest in Angola, lived at one time in Angola (for several years – his father was a United Church missionary doctor) and has the ear of several Ministers in the current Chrétien government.

Denan Kuni has traveled to the UK and met with DFID, the UK Foreign Office and attended a meeting of the British Angola Forum (BAF) in late 2002. He is leading a delegation to Botswana in October 2003 and will make his second visit to Angola following that mission. He has been involved in monitoring the Kimberly process re conflict diamonds. Denan has also been instrumental in setting up a visit to Angola by the Commissioner for De-mining, which resulted in a project that netted an allocation of funds from CIDA for de-mining work in Angola in early 2003. Also Denan has worked to keep DFAIT's Human Security Program (HSP) interested in Angola. HSP has funded PAC proposal for their Diamonds and Human Security Research program, in particular the Angolan component, and HSP consideration is now being given to a DW proposal for research on land and resettlement of IDP/demobilized soldiers and returning refugees. In addition, DFAIT has also commissioned a trade mission to Angola in 2003 as part of its Team Canada mission to Africa.

So far NGO advocacy on Angola has been limited to direct meetings with DFAIT and CIDA staff with direct responsibility for Angola, to letters to the Ministers of CIDA and DFAIT and to a few meetings with people at the political level. This advocacy has been supported by a continual information sharing among interested NGOs and individuals, led by Jim Kirkwood and Africafiles. Allan Cain of DW met CIDA and DFAIT officials in Ottawa in May 2003, as he has done annually for several years. He met with most people in the Government who have anything to do with Angola. His visit created or stirred a good amount of attention on Angola and saw some developments, some movement and the discussion of some possibilities for new funding and programs. Given the changes in Angola, the 2003 round of meetings were particularly fruitful.

It is important that those kinds of activities are maintained. However, the community of interest in Angola would do well to undertake activities to enlarge itself and to agree on a common vision and a set of objective for the coming period. This might include an active program of advocacy that is highly targeted or focussed. Choices for focus for an advocacy initiative could include:

- Develop evidence of support or a constituency base for more GOC Angola funding of programs and initiatives.
- Create opportunities to learn about Angola for CIDA and other GOC staff, especially those who might become involved in the IWG.
- Push for opening a Bilateral Program, or a special review of Angola by Bilateral.

- Push for an allocation under the Canada Fund for Africa that would benefit Angola's democratic processes and reconstruction.
- Push for a Special allocation of funds for Angola via NGOs through Canadian Partnership Branch.
- Push for continuation of IHA funding for Angola, with attention to annual appeals made by the UNDP Emergency Office.
- Push for NGO meetings with DFAIT and CIDA parallel to the IWG meetings or NGO participation in those meetings.
- Push for NGO participation on any GOC delegation to Angola in advance of any Ministerial visit.

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JvM, July 25/03. Ottawa