
**Special Project to support the Reintegration of Ex-combatants
in the Framework of the Peace Process in Angola**

Quarterly Report

October – December 2003



Table of contents:

I. Introduction	1
II. Activities Implemented	1
(i) Training of central and provincial IRSEM staff	2
(ii) Support to IRSEM	2
(iii) Agricultural Reintegration	3
(iv) Pilot economic reintegration activities	4
(v) Coordination	4
(vi) Project organisation	5
III. Financial Summary	6
IV. Priorities for the I Quarter 2004	6
Annexes	8

I. Introduction

Following extensive discussions held with the national authorities, UN agencies, World Bank and other donors between February and April the Special Project was approved in June and the Grant Agreement signed between August and September 2003.

The Project was officially launched in Ganda – Benguela on October 7, 2003 with the participation of IRSEM central and from Benguela province, Vice Governor of Benguela and representatives of provincial government, Municipal authorities, traditional leaders, NGOs, religious organizations and representatives of the beneficiaries.

The project that is a joint proposal from UNDP/ILO/FAO is intended to support the Reintegration of the Ex-combatants in the Framework of the Peace Process in Angola and was designed as a fast track, start-up implementation to address specific activities for the ex-combatants and activities that will assist IRSEM, in setting up and managing the demobilization and reintegration program. The project will provide agricultural production support, piloting training and employment interventions that can then be applied more systematically under the ADRP program, expected to start in the beginning of 2004.

This report summarizes the activities implemented during the last Quarter of 2003 and presents the priorities for the I Quarter of 2004.

To facilitate the understanding of the activities undertaken, some key documents are included as annexes to this report.

II. Activities Implemented

The activities undertaken by the project were guided by the 1st work plan designed by the project Chief Technical Advisor (CTA) in close cooperation with the UNDP Transitional Recovery Adviser.

The work plan has established six levels of activities:

1. Training of central and provincial IRSEM staff, including field work – in-service training;
2. Support to IRSEM in order to help the Government of Angola to meet the eligibility criteria to the ADRP;
3. Preparation of the agriculture component with FAO;
4. Launching of the pilot economic reintegration activities;
5. Coordination;

6. Organisation of the project.

(i) Training of central and provincial IRSEM staff

To ensure national ownership of the project activities a key element is the training of IRSEM staff. According to the evaluation undertaken by the Head of IRSEM, one of the relevant weaknesses of the previous projects implemented under the Lusaka Agreement (SECOR and ILO projects) was the weak participation of the IRSEM staff in the design, monitoring and evaluation of the Sub projects directly contracted by their CTA without a full involvement of the IRSEM structures. This was confirmed through the assessment undertaken by the advisers of the special project and this lesson was taken into consideration in the planning of the project activities to ensure, since the preliminary stages of the project, the required national ownership.

The training of the IRSEM staff was conducted in parallel with the field activities and the implementation of these activities was coordinated with the launching of the pilot economic reintegration activities. Three key points have guided this exercise:

- The full participation and involvement of the IRSEM central and provincial staff;
- The adoption of a step by step approach ensuring the progressive absorption by the staff of the methodologies and tools prepared by the special project;
- A long term vision guaranteeing that the methodologies and tools developed were consistent with the methodologies foreseen for the Angolan Demobilisation and Reintegration Program (ADRP).

The main activities undertaken to implement the training program of IRSEM staff were supported by the CIDA project and are detailed in the Annex 1. The CTA supported the implementation of the training program for IRSEM staff at the central and provincial level with the preparation of the training materials (see Annex 2).

(ii) Support to IRSEM

The project has provided a continuous support to IRSEM in all activities related with the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria of the ADRP to the Multi-donor Demobilisation and Reintegration Program (MDRP) and others related with the improvement of IRSEM's capacity to perform. In particular, the project team has provided to IRSEM a crucial support on the designing of the ADRP Implementation Manual and its main tools (included as annexes to the manual).

The final version of the Manual was submitted to the World Bank for approval on November 2003. The content of the Implementation Manual is indicated in Annex 3.

(iii) Agricultural Reintegration

As previously reported, due to the late approval of the agreement and as a consequence the late initiation of the procurement process, the distribution of seeds and tools for the 50.000 ex-combatants located in the five selected provinces was postponed for the second season of the agricultural campaign 2003-2004 (January/February 2004).

To minimize the negative impact of this delay, it was planned to cover the ex-combatants in the distribution of the agricultural kits for the first season of the agricultural campaign 2003-2004. The number of ex-combatants that may have been targeted during this distribution (completed during the first half of November) cannot be reported due to the fact that the numbers of ex-combatants by municipality/communes were not presented and the ex-combatants did not identify themselves as such.

The final report of this distribution is going to be submitted by the NGOs following the instructions given to provincial delegations of IRSEM, MINADER and the implementation partners in order to coordinate at the provincial level to register and monitor the distribution of inputs for this target group (see annex 4 with the IRSEM instruction jointly prepared by the project CTA and FAO).

The procurement of the seeds and tools for the second season has initiated and these inputs are expected to arrive in Luanda (Vegetable seeds) and Lobito (Maize, beans and tools) by the first week of January 2003. Currently, a coordination mechanism, including a task force composed by project staff, IRSEM central and provincial technicians, FAO and the NGOs is being established to ensure an adequate distribution of the kits to the target beneficiaries in February 2004.

The NGOs were invited coordinate with IRSEM offices at the provincial level to verify the presence of demobilized soldiers in the areas were they operate and were also invited to inform IRSEM whether demobilized soldiers did already benefit from assistance during the first phase of the agricultural campaign.

This distribution will be closely monitored by IRSEM, FAO and UNDP.

(iv) Pilot economic reintegration activities

The preparation of the economic reintegration activities was started with the design of the municipal reintegration plans in selected municipalities of four provinces, namely: Kwanza Sul, Benguela, Huambo and Bié. These plans were the basis for the elaboration of the municipal reintegration plans for the same municipalities.

The development of this activity was made with full ownership and involvement of IRSEM staff at the central and provincial level. The objective was to create on the basis of the training workshops a local capacity that could be improved through new exercises. As result of this training effort, local reintegration plans have been completed in 5 more Municipalities (Cubal, Balombo, Quibala, Londuimbali and Camacupa) and other plans are being prepared by the Provincial IRSEM in Chongoroi, Mussende, Bailundo, Catabola and Caluquembe, with a limited support from the project technical assistance.

The objective is to disseminate and multiply this type of activities in all Municipalities of the five provinces during the first quarter of the next year. The delegations of IRSEM in the provinces will be evaluated in accordance with their capacity to promote local studies and mobilise implementation partners that could present viable reintegration proposals of Sub Projects that take into consideration the local market absorption identified through the local studies.

The details of the work supported by the CTA under this component is included in the report of the CIDA Project (Annex 1).

(v) Coordination

The coordination unit of the Special Project has been established within IRSEM. The Unit integrates the UNDP CTA that started working in the second half of September and selected staff of the Department of Projects of IRSEM. The coordination unit works under the responsibility of the Director General of IRSEM and ensures the daily management of all project activities.

To analyse the proposals of Sub projects, IRSEM has set up an Evaluation Committee of Sub Projects that integrates representatives of the following institutions:

- Representative of the Director General of IRSEM;
- Representative of UNDP Country Office;
- Representative of the Ministry of Planning;
- Representative of the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration;
- Representative of the NGOs / UTCAH.

This committee is responsible for (i) evaluating the projects proposed by the provinces (ii) recommend the approval, alteration and/or cancellation of the projects, (iii) monitor the implementation of the projects on the basis of reports submitted and field visits, and (iv) evaluate the impact of the projects in terms of effective reintegration of the ex-combatants

The committee meets regularly every two weeks and exceptionally by decision of the Director General of IRSEM. Until now, the committee undertook five meetings where the Implementation partners' proposals collected by IRSEM have been evaluated.

The first meeting of this Committee has approved the rules of functioning and the working methodology.

(vi) Project organisation

The following activities have been carried out to promote an adequate organization of the project:

- Support to the establishment of a list of material to be purchased by UNDP under the framework of the CIDA project;
- Recruitment of the local support staff and a Consultant on Economic Reintegration;
- Designing of financial programs to manage and control the project expenditures;
- Organization of a set of administrative files;
- Organization of the project inventory.

The recruitment of the administrative staff was undertaken through an open competition among candidates previously selected by UNDP Country Office (CO). The selection was conducted by a Committee including two representatives from IRSEM and two representatives from UNDP CO.

The Economic Reintegration Consultant was recruited under the CIDA project for a three-month period (until the 15th December 2003). The recruitment of a long term Economic Reintegration Expert planned under the Special Project is a priority of the I Quarter of 2004.

The main difficulty the project faces is the delay in the implementation of the procurement plan associated with the long delays of the customs clearances of the goods (for details of the procurement of goods and services see Annex 5). It should be noted that the project has been working in difficult conditions that required additional efforts to undertake the above-mentioned tasks.

III. Financial Summary

The first disbursement in the amount of US\$ 2.538.356 was received on 16 October 2003. The amount spent/committed until the end of December 2003 is around US\$ 1.840.801.

The details of the estimated expenditures for the quarter ended are included in Annex 6.

IV. Priorities for the I Quarter 2004

The priorities for I Quarter 2004 include:

- ✓ The planning and the distribution of the agricultural inputs;
- ✓ Recruitment of the economic reintegration expert;
- ✓ Continuation of the assessment of the local reintegration opportunities in the five selected provinces;
- ✓ Identification of new implementation partners, evaluation of proposals and signature of new contracts;
- ✓ Monitoring of the reintegration activities under the framework of the contracts signed;
- ✓ Improvement of the quality of the proposals presented by the Implementation Partners (IPs);
- ✓ Preparation of the tools and methodologies for the Micro Business Advisory Services (MBAS) and Micro Credit,
- ✓ Launching of pilot MBAS and Micro Credit.
- ✓ Provision of technical support to IRSEM (central and provincial levels) to implement the special project and to prepare the launching of the ADRP.

The Table below presents the calendar of the planned activities.

ACTIVITIES	I QUARTER 2004					
	Jan.		Feb.		Mar.	
Project Coordination						
Regular support to IRSEM						
Meetings of the Evaluation Commission						
Progress Report/World Bank and Partners						
Subproject 1 - Agricultural Reintegration						
Planning of the distribution						
Inputs Arrival						
Distribution of the Inputs						
Monitoring						
NGO Reports						
Report to UNDP						
Subproject 2 - Economic Reintegration Piloting						
Recruitment of Economic Reintegration Expert						
New assessment of reintegration opportunities						
Selection and approval of new proposals						
Monitoring and Evaluation of Pilot Projects						
Improvement of the proposals/ staff IPs training						
Launching of pilot MBAS and Micro Credit						

Annexes

1. CIDA Project Report
2. Presentation to support the provincial workshops
3. Content of the ADRP Implementation Manual
4. Instructions to provincial delegations of IRSEM (Instrução a enviar pela DG aos IRSEM Provinciais)
5. Procurement Monitoring Report
6. Sources and Uses of Funds
7. Physical Progress Report