

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC
AND
THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
CONCERNING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola,

Wishing to strengthen the existing cordial relations between the two countries and their peoples, and

Desiring to foster development cooperation between the two countries in conformity with the objectives of economic and social development of the Republic of Angola,

Have agreed as follows:

I.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola wish under this Memorandum of Understanding to promote the program of development cooperation, between their two countries, consisting of the following components:

- a) the sending of appraisal and evaluation missions to the Republic of Angola to study and analyse development projects;
- b) the granting of scholarships to nationals of the Republic of Angola for studies and professional training in the Czech Republic, the Republic of Angola or a third country;
- c) the assignment of experts, advisers and other specialists by the Czech Republic to the Republic of Angola;
- d) the provision of equipment, materials, goods and services required for the successful execution of development projects/ program in the Republic of Angola ;
- e) the development and carrying out of studies and projects designed to contribute to the attainment of the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding;

- f) the encouragement and promotion of relations between companies, institutions and persons of the two countries; and
- g) any other form of assistance which may be mutually agreed upon.

II.

1. In support of the objectives of this Memorandum of Understanding, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola may conclude subsidiary arrangements in respect of specific projects involving one or several components of the program described in article I.
2. Subsidiary arrangements will make specific reference to this Memorandum of Understanding.
3. The Attachment No. 1 represents an integral part of the present Memorandum.

III.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of External Relations of the Republic of Angola will endeavour to consult each other in respect of any matter that may arise from or in connection with this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in Luanda, on January 27, 2006

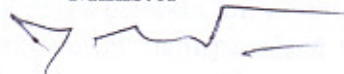
For the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
of the Czech Republic



H. E. Cyril Svoboda
Minister

For the Ministry of External Relations
of the Republic of Angola

H. E. João Bernardo de Miranda
Minister



ATTACHMENT No. 1:

Priorities of Development Co-operation between the Czech Republic and the Republic of Angola for the Years 2006–2010

Sectoral Focus of the Programme

In view of the objectives of the Czech Republic's international development co-operation, in which poverty reduction plays a major role, focus on the agricultural sector is optimal for development co-operation with Angola. Agricultural and rural development (food security and rural development) are among the priorities identified by the Angolan Government. The development of agricultural production, particularly by small and mid-sized agricultural operations, holds out great potential for the reduction of poverty. Development of agricultural production will have a positive impact on the non-agricultural rural sector as well (crafts, services). It will also allow the country to be self sufficient in the area of food supply and thus contribute to resolving the problem of famine. Development of economic activities in rural Angola is also essential to the successful post-civil war reintegration of demobilised former fighters and IDPs, and thus is a requirement for harmonious post-conflict reconstruction. Social reintegration is a priority of the Angolan Government. The agricultural focus of co-operation will allow the Czech Republic to build upon the existing development co-operation that has been underway since 2002.

The education sector is one of the priorities of the Angolan Government. Upgrading the qualification of human resources is absolutely essential for the long-term development of Angola. In the absence of qualified personnel, no distinct improvement in the situation in any area can be expected, including the aforementioned agricultural sector. However, as Angola's education system was completely disrupted in many regions during the civil war, the sector is in urgent need of support from the international community. Achieving universal primary education by 2015 is one of the Millennium Developmental Goals. Focus on the education sector will also allow the Czech Republic to build upon the development co-operation that has been underway since 2002.

If co-operation is to be efficient and effective, it must be concentrated within a limited number of sectors due to the limits on the funds available. However, in the medium run, it may be possible to increase Czech-Angolan co-operation by extending interventions into other sectors (transportation, health) following the 2007 evaluation of the implementation of the co-operation programme.

Geographic Focus of the Programme

In view of the scope of Angola's development needs, the country's size (1.2 million km²), the limits on available funds, and the requirements of efficiency and visibility, the CR will concentrate its development co-operation in one part of Angolan territory.

Bié province is the ideal region in which to concentrate development co-operation. The level of poverty in the province, the proportion of Angola's population it accounts for, the agricultural sectoral focus of the programme, and the development co-operation that has taken place since 2002, are all factors contributing to that evaluation. Bié is located on Angola's central plateau and is comparable in size to the CR (71 000 km²). The province was among

the areas most seriously damaged in the war; the capital, Kuito, suffered serious damage in the armed confrontations that continued even after the government forces occupied the last UNITA stronghold in Andulo (in the northwest of Bié) in 1999. The war drove Bié social economic indicators (poverty, school enrolment, etc.) below the country's average and the province has the country's largest numbers of internal refugees. As one of the most populated Angolan provinces (pop. 1.5-2 million), the potential impact of development interventions in Bié, in terms of poverty reduction, is relatively large. Bié has favourable agricultural conditions, so funds invested in development in this sector have a relatively high potential to yield benefits. The selection of Bié province as a geographic focus is also based, in part, on the development co-operation that has taken place since 2002, during which exceptionally good relations, based on mutual trust and close collaboration, have been established with the provincial government.

In the medium-term, after evaluating its experiences with development co-operation in Bié, the CR will extend its focus onto the Moxico province, which lies directly east of Bié. The Moxico province is approximately three times larger than the CR (223 000 km²) and its population is approximately 750 000. The main reason behind the selection of Moxico as a focus of co-operation is the province's relatively underdeveloped state, which is due to both its geographic isolation, as well as to the relatively severe damage Moxico suffered during the war (the final phase of the war was fought in Moxico province). The province has also received relatively little attention from the international donor community. Logistical factors also argue in favour of its selection from the perspective of the Czech Republic: Moxico is situated between the province of Bié, where co-operation will be concentrated during the first phase, and Zambia, which the Czech Government has identified as the other priority country in sub-Saharan Africa for CR development co-operation.

Indicative Summary of the Areas for Development Intervention within the Framework of the Programme of Development Co-operation between the Czech Republic and Angola for the 2006–2010 Period

1. Sector of agriculture and rural development

1.1 Strengthening the capacities of agricultural and forestry extension services

Strengthening the capacities of agricultural and forestry extension services is a key requirement for the increase of agricultural production and the optimisation of sustainable use of forest resources. Currently, the productivity of agricultural production in Bié province is very low, although environmental conditions are relatively favourable. One reason for this is the lack of familiarity with efficient production processes. The civil war and the population movements associated with it interfered considerably in the process of knowledge transfer from one generation to another. Dissemination of efficient production techniques is a task of great urgency facing the provincial agricultural ministries, and – in certain cases – facing other bodies as well. The Ministry of Agriculture provides extension services for farmers at the individual district level. However, the extension workers tend to be very poorly qualified (it is not uncommon to find persons with only 4 years of primary education in these positions). Another barrier to the effectiveness of the state agricultural extension system is the lack of transportation. Since the vast majority of the agricultural extension staff works in city centres (except for individuals in commune centres), the lack of transportation represents a fundamental obstacle preventing the state agricultural extension services from reaching

much of the rural community. The CR will support the agricultural extension services by providing classes for agricultural extension workers in the individual districts and through support aimed at increasing their mobility. The classes for the agricultural extension workers will be open to small farmers (based on available spaces) and will focus chiefly on transmitting information about the most efficient production techniques, drawing on the findings of agricultural research (particularly about optimising the combination of suitable crop and fertiliser varieties). Classes will focus on the operation and maintenance of equipment for processing and conservation of agricultural production (see also point 1.2) and on marketing agricultural production. There will also be special classes dealing with poultry breeding, fruit growing, and vegetable farming. Instruction will aim at increasing the ability of the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture to work effectively with the community, both in the area of transferring the acquired information and with respect to adapting it to the actual needs of the particular community. There will be an emphasis on maximising the use of participatory techniques. For the medium term, the establishment of a course of secondary school education with an agricultural focus (see point 2.2) will play a crucial role in creating a supply of qualified staff for the state agricultural extension system. The CR will enhance the mobility of the agricultural extension workers by supplying appropriate vehicles for selected sites and providing training in their operation and maintenance. The experiences acquired during the implementation of the project in Bié province will be evaluated for application in Moxico province. CR support of forestry extension services will consist of classes for the extension service centre staff. These classes will focus on the issues of basic forest management, forest cultivation, and other activities, as well as processing timber and other forestry products. The objective of the classes will be to teach their graduates the fundamentals of permanent, sustainable use of forest resources and basic communications skills that will enable them to transmit new information through their extension activities. The mobility problems are the same as those in the agricultural extension system and they will be addressed in a similar manner.

1.2 Optimisation of the processing and storage of agricultural production

A substantial proportion of Angola's agricultural production is lost after harvest each year due to inadequate processing and conservation methods. Improvements in this area will contribute decisively to the development of local and regional markets for agricultural products and to the expansion of opportunities for export. The CR will contribute to resolving this problem in agricultural production processing and conservation through the supply of appropriate equipment and the provision of training to people responsible for operation and maintenance of that equipment. In this respect, co-operation will rely on the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture at the commune-level, who will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of the equipment. It will also depend on the adequate levels of organisation of small farmers' associations. In many cases, hydroelectric energy, which represents a large and as-yet untapped potential in the province of Bié, will be an appropriate power source for operating the equipment for processing production. The experiences acquired during the implementation of the project in Bié province will be evaluated for application in Moxico province.

1.3 Support of fish farming and fishery in Bié province

As a consequence of the absolute destruction of the farm animal population during the war, the human population of Bié is suffering from animal protein deficiencies. Bié has a wealth of waterways and many natural reservoirs, hence excellent conditions for freshwater fish farming. Fish farming will contribute relatively rapidly to the supply of animal protein in the population's diet. Its long tradition of fishery means the CR can draw on exceptional know-

how in the area of fish farming. CR support for fish farming and fishery will take the form of identifying appropriate types of fish for the reservoirs in Bié province, launching production of fish spawn in the province, and training the staff of the agricultural extension services: both to launch fishery activities and to work with local communities to disseminate skills associated with fish farming.

1.4 Support of veterinary services in Moxico province

One effect of the civil war was the radical destruction of the livestock population in central Angola. There is reason to expect a renewal of the cattle stocks over the medium term. In addition to the organised export of livestock from Huíla province into the provinces of Huambo and Bié, it is likely that livestock will come in from neighbouring Zambia, particularly into the provinces of Moxico and Cuando Cubango. The movement of livestock from Huíla province can be epidemiologically monitored (despite the limitations of the laboratory in Lubango, Huíla's capital); the movement of livestock from Zambia, however, goes completely unrecorded due to the absolute collapse of veterinary services in Angola's eastern provinces. Thus, there is considerable risk of the spread of cattle disease (especially contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia [CBPP] and brucellosis). CR support will focus on strengthening the capacities of the Angolan veterinary service in Moxico province. This support will have the dual aim of establishing a mechanism for effective disease control of the cross-border movement of livestock (a sanitary cordon) and of strengthening the capacities of the Angolan veterinary service through staff training, mobility support, and the equipment of laboratories.

1.5 Support of agro-forestry and forestry

Angola is very rich in forest resources. It has in total 69.8 million ha of forestland, which, in a country 124.7 million ha large, corresponds to a forest density of 56%. Natural forests dominate, but roughly 121 000 ha of plantations have been planted, largely with eucalyptus, pine, and cypress. Open and fragmented forest structures predominate; continuous growth is found mainly in the northern and eastern parts of the country (including the Bié and Moxico provinces). Deforestation has been taking place relatively slowly (-0.18 % annually) in comparison with the average rate for Africa. However, a considerable area is affected (124 000 ha annually) in absolute terms. The end of the civil war has opened certain possibilities for co-operation in the area of forest management. There is a particular need for development of agro-forestry and forestry activities aimed at creating jobs for former fighters and internal refugees returning to their homelands. Significant issues are the need for consolidation of forestry institutions and the state forest administration, renewal of forestry policy, and an inventory of forest resources. The CR's support will focus on the selection of local trees suitable for forestry and agro-forestry, the cultivation of timber planting material and the subsequent creation of exhibition plots, where appropriate forest management techniques will be demonstrated to the local population. Support will culminate in an entire cultivation cycle, including proposal of enrichment measures and the associated processing equipment in selected communities. The support will also include an inventory of forest resources, which could be useful for mapping forest cover and determining the status of forests in the selected provinces. The acquired data will make it possible to prepare the groundwork for ensuring the function of the forestry sector and will provide the basic information necessary for designing an appropriate state forestry policy.

2. Education Sector

2.1 Increasing the quality of primary education

The civil war interfered substantially with primary education in Angola. One million children still have no access to schools: according to the latest data, only 55% of children attend school and only 28% of school students remain in the education system through to the 5th grade. The low level of qualifications among teachers has a negative impact on the quality of the education provided (some of the teachers themselves have only completed 4th grade), as do the inadequacies in infrastructures and the shortage of school resources and facilities. Czech support will focus primarily on upgrading teacher qualifications, *inter alia* (move to the end of this phrase) through improving the pedagogic methodology so that teachers will be able to engage students more actively into the learning process. Classes will be offered chiefly during the breaks between trimesters. The emphasis will be on activities in those districts where neither the Angolan Government nor UNICEF are working in the area of upgrading teacher qualifications. Supplementary and review classes will be offered in other districts. The CR's contribution towards resolving the problem of inadequate infrastructure and school facilities will be limited to demonstration schools, which will serve for the dissemination of quality education standards in the surrounding areas. The fundamentals of hygiene will always be covered in the demonstration schools, which will serve an educational function for the whole community.

2.2 Introduction of secondary education with an agricultural focus

One significant obstacle to development in Angola is the shortage of mid-level technical personnel. Since agriculture plays a dominant role in the economy of Angola's interior, training in agricultural techniques holds out unusually high potential to benefit economic development in the region. The Czech Republic will focus its support on drawing up curricula for secondary agricultural schools and applying them in instruction long enough to establish a high-quality standard of instruction. Once the programme of secondary agricultural education is up and running in Kuito - Bié's capital - and the Angolan side has fully taken over responsibility for it, an evaluation will be conducted, based on which a similar programme of secondary agricultural education will be set up in Luena, the capital of the Moxico province

Cross-Cutting Issues

1. Mine-clearing activities

During the years of conflict, the fighting was most heavily concentrated in Central Angola. The development of this region is seriously complicated by the presence of landmines, particularly along communication routes, around structures of strategic significance (bridges, airports, power plants, etc.), on agricultural lands, and in areas where the front lines were relatively stable. The mine clearance activities of the Angolan state come under the authority of the National Inter-Sectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance; the actual processes of detecting and clearing anti-personnel explosive devices, however, are carried out either by international organisations (predominantly the Halo Trust) or by members of the Angolan defence forces. In view of the imperative of ensuring the safety of the projects' staff and users, no Czech development co-operation projects with Angola will be implemented until after the relevant sites have been certified as mine-free. The detection and elimination of mines will be a component of any projects that are scheduled for implementation in areas that have not already been cleared. This is in line with the

development priorities of the Angolan Government, which has identified mine-clearance as its second highest priority, right after the social reintegration of former soldiers, war refugees, and their families. This strategy will also enable Czech development co-operation to effectively target the current needs of the recipient country. In the event of specific and urgent requests voiced by the Angolan side, co-operation in the area of mine clearance beyond the scope of bilateral development project co-operation with the CR can also be considered.

2. Strengthening public sector capacity

In view of the imperative of sustainable benefits of co-operation, the CR will emphasise strengthening the capacities of the Angolan public sector, particularly with regard to the management of human and financial resources.

The war had a negative effect on public sector performance and the provision of state services in Angola's rural areas: state administration was effectively eliminated in outlying regions. Another grave problem has to do with the low level of qualification and motivation of public sector employees. In view of the fact that a functioning public sector is absolutely essential for equitable and long-term sustainable service provision, as well as for the maintenance of public order and safety, the CR will respect the necessity of strengthening the capacities of the state in all of its development co-operation projects. The qualifications of state employees will be up-graded. Cooperative relationships, aimed at hastening the pace of reform, will be established with employees who have long-term vision and greater motivation.

3. Promotion of civil society

The establishment and consolidation of a dynamic civil society will contribute substantially to the social and economic development of Angola. Therefore, CR development co-operation will consistently emphasise strengthening the capacities of non-governmental organisations, community organisations and associations of small agricultural operators/farmers..

4. Gender equality

Gender equality is one of the Millennium Developmental Goals, which are supported by both the CR and Angola. There is considerable need for strengthening the position of women in Angola, particularly with respect to access to education. CR co-operation will systematically contribute to strengthening the position of women in Angola.

5. Environmental Sustainability

In its co-operation with Angola, the Czech Republic will observe the principles of sustainable development. Particular attention will be given to maintaining the diversity of animal and plant species and to the use of renewable energy sources.