Emerging from a period of post-conflict reconstruction with substantial government resources, this analysis overwhelmingly shows that Angola stands to maximize the quality and longevity of progress by directing its focus and investments towards equity in social development. To do so, every policy and funding decision must deliberately target the most vulnerable and destitute segments of the population to protect their rights and promote wellbeing, thereby ensuring the sustainability of development gains.

Since the end of the war in 2002, Angola has enjoyed unprecedented economic prosperity and social stability. These conditions combined with the active engagement of the State in development and considerable national resources, have paved the way for dramatic improvements in socio-economic indicators in Angola. However, Angola still lags far behind other upper middle-income countries in Sub-Saharan Africa on child survival, health, education and water and sanitation, and in many cases the coverage of services falls well below averages for the entire region. Further, massive disparities are seen within Angola: poorer households and those in rural areas are consistently worse off in terms of access to social services and health, education and protection outcomes for children. Angola now faces the challenge to consolidate progress made to date, expand the benefits of economic growth to the whole population, and increase the pace, efficiency, and sustainability of social development.

Accelerating progress in social development requires tackling the severity of inequality in the economic and social conditions of different populations in Angola. Inequality is not only experienced by those who are worse off, but is harmful to society and the country as a whole: highly unequal societies tend to grow more slowly than those with greater equity, are less successful in sustaining growth, and recover more slowly from economic downturns. When inequality and disparity reach extreme levels, they foment discontent that can lead to political instability and generate conflict.

Prioritising the most vulnerable members of the population will inherently have a greater impact as investments where deprivation is most severe can yield meaningful results at a large scale. The redistribution of wealth and reducing inequality are among the stated priorities of the Government of Angola and the translation of political priority into action is both the greatest challenge and opportunity now facing the country.

Several interventions emerged in this analysis that would enable Angola to accelerate social development while reducing inequality. The remainder of this flyer presents priority interventions which are simple to implement, proven to be effective in developing countries, appropriate in the Angolan context, and in line with existing political commitments.
“Emerging from a period of post-conflict reconstruction with substantial government resources, this analysis overwhelmingly shows that Angola stands to maximize the quality and longevity of progress by directing its focus and investments towards equity in social development. To do so, every policy and funding decision must deliberately target the most vulnerable and destitute segments of the population to protect their rights and promote wellbeing, thereby ensuring the sustainability of development gains.”

SITUATION ANALYSIS

CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN ANGOLA

Summary of Recommendations

unite for children
The ‘Situation analysis of children and women in Angola’ - SitAn - is intended to contribute to the country’s efforts to successfully tackle its development challenges by providing an evidence-based analysis of achievements to date, the factors that have helped or hindered progress and the risks and opportunities in the Angolan context. Within the areas of child survival, education, and protection, the report identifies actionable recommendations that have proven potential to yield rapid and sustainable results for children’s rights and wellbeing in Angola. This leaflet summarises the 24 main recommendations from the SitAn report.
TACKLING HIGH RATES OF CHILD MORTALITY SHOULD BE A NATIONAL PRIORITY. MORTALITY AMONG YOUNG CHILDREN IN ANGOLA IS VERY HIGH. INTERVENTIONS THAT DECREASE CHILD MORTALITY ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN INTO ADULTS ABLE TO REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL. TO ACCELERATE REDUCTIONS IN CHILD MORTALITY, REDOUBLED EFFORTS WILL BE NEEDED IN KEY AREAS. PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE:

1. Scale up and strengthen high-impact interventions through promotional, preventive and curative health services. Priority should be given to:
   - Strengthen routine Immunization (EPI). Ensure that cold chain equipment is reliable, especially in peripheral health units. Scale up outreach strategies to underserved areas.
   - Increase coverage of malaria prevention and treatment services. Increase the use of insecticide-treated bed-nets and indoor residual spraying.
   - Improve coverage and quality of maternal health services, especially in rural areas, to increase the proportion of deliveries that take place in health facilities and ensure the referral and transport of women with high-risk pregnancies to facilities with emergency obstetric services.

2. Strengthen capacity to deliver nutrition programmes. The package of nutrition interventions identified in national policy documents needs to be translated into operational reality. Central, provincial and municipal levels must be equipped with human resources proportionate to the scale of malnutrition in Angola. Adequate capacity will be essential to operationalise the official nutrition package including:
   - Reduction of micronutrient deficiencies through twice-yearly vitamin A supplementation, enforcement of the legislation on salt iodization, zinc to treat diarrhoea, and iron folic acid to prevent maternal anaemia.
   - Prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition through expanded coverage of in-patient facilities, outpatient therapeutic programmes and community management.
   - Behaviour-change interventions promoting early breastfeeding and hygiene.

3. Scale up the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS in children and adolescents as part of a broader drive to contain the disease and its impact. The actions to be taken are already set out in the accelerated response strategy, priorities include the rapid scale-up of PMTCT, HIV testing and treatment, as well as redoubled communication efforts to improve knowledge and practices.

4. Set up and rapidly expand community-based management of childhood diseases. Health policy in Angola inadequately addresses the promotion, prevention and treatment of common childhood diseases at community level through community health resources.

5. Expand coverage of improved water sources and sanitation facilities, in particular in rural areas and peri-urban slum settlements. To consolidate progress made in expanding access to water in cities and rural town, priority should be given to the following actions:
- Drilling and maintenance of village boreholes to reduce extensive use of surface water sources in rural areas.
- Expand the community water management model in villages and peri-urban areas.
- Complete and implement the National Environmental Sanitation strategy.
- National scale-up of Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).
- Implement institutional and financial reforms to ensure urban water and sanitation systems are financially viable and pricing is equitable.

6 **Strengthening primary health care.** The PNDS places a high priority on primary health care (PHC). To operationalise the political commitment to PHC, it will be necessary to improve budget allocations to and within the health sector. Specific actions to strengthen PHC include:

- Increase investment in health infrastructure to extend the network of health posts and health centres in rural and peri-urban areas.
- Increase human resources for health in rural areas by providing training for large numbers of additional health staff and deployment to rural areas, supported by a system of incentives for health personnel to work and remain in underserved areas.
- End drug stock-outs, through measures to improve forecasting and stock management and the procurement, storage and distribution of essential medicines.
- Establish an effective referral system from primary to secondary health facilities. Standardized protocols as well as transport (ambulances) will be crucial inputs.
- Strengthen outreach to bring services to remote and underserved communities, including through mobile teams.

7 **Scale up social communication interventions to improve knowledge and promote healthy behaviours for better child and maternal health.**

---

## EDUCATION PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

HAVING ACHIEVED PROGRESS IN INCREASING PRIMARY SCHOOL ENROLMENT, ANGOLA NEEDS TO FOCUS ON IMPROVING QUALITY, LEARNING OUTCOMES AND EQUITY IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. PRIORITY ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN ACCESS TO EDUCATION AND IMPROVE LEARNING INCLUDE:

8 **Invest greater resources in early childhood education including pre-school/iniciação.** Angola needs to draw on regional best practices to strengthen the quality of iniciação and to develop and expand a sustainable, cost-efficient community-based preschool model.

9 **Improve the quality of education by scaling up training and support for teachers in the areas of child-oriented teaching, integrated pedagogy and learning assessment.** Angola needs to dramatically strengthen teacher training, supervision and school management. In-service training for teachers should be expanded.

10 **Accelerate investment in school construction and maintenance at all levels of general education and in particular in secondary education.** The geographic targeting of new schools must be improved to reduce geographical disparities.
Increase demand for education through adoption of detailed regulations to enforce adherence to the principle of free primary education and community awareness activities to promote the value of education.

Promote equity in the education system through: a policy framework that promotes access for children with special needs; the adjustments to the school calendar to accommodate agricultural cycles and mitigate the opportunity costs of education for children in rural areas; the adoption of bilingual education for the early grades of primary school.

Strengthen planning, financing, management and monitoring of the education system. Improvements to the education management information system should incorporate data on learning outcomes and teacher performance. The production and distribution of learning materials should be improved through stronger supply chain control.

Increase the overall allocation of public expenditure to education. Currently, just 8.2 per cent of all public spending in Angola goes to education. Education allocation should aim to at least match the level of per-pupil expenditure in other middle-income SADC countries.

Assess school feeding programmes and roll out a viable national model as a solution to attract and retain children in schools particularly in deprived areas.

CHILD PROTECTION PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIONAL POLICIES AND COMMITMENTS PROVIDE A STRONG FOUNDATION TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN IN ANGOLA. LEGAL COMMITMENTS MUST BE OPERATIONALISED TO ENSURE CHILDREN GROW UP IN A PROTECTIVE ENVIRONMENT. AN INTEGRATED CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM SHOULD PROVIDE PREVENTIVE AND RESPONSIVE SERVICES AT LOCAL LEVEL AS WELL AS ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN ARE REGISTERED AND ABLE TO REALIZE THEIR RIGHTS TO PROTECTION, JUSTICE AND ACCESS RELATED SERVICES.

Establish a more effective child protection system through the provision of preventive and responsive services in front-line units. To this end: Adopt legislation defining the functions and procedures of front-line protection units, covering case management and referral systems; introduce an official cadre of social workers within the staffing of municipal administrations, train and deploy them to front-line protection units; designate front-line protection units as budget units to receive direct financing and allocate adequate resources.

Empower informal child protection networks at community level as pillars of an integrated response with training and financial resources as well as appropriate guidelines to regulate their interaction with social services through referral systems.
Strengthen civil registration and vital statistics systems. The Government of Angola recently embarked on a large-scale programme to modernize the civil registration system. In order for the programme to grant equitable access, the legal and policy framework for registration needs to be improved. Most importantly, vital registration services must be scaled up beyond the major urban areas to reach more remote and underserved areas of the country. Well coordinated multi-sectoral strategies will be essential to expand access and service points for civil registration.

Build in all provinces an appropriate model for justice for children that clearly designates institutional responsibilities and the procedures to be followed. Children entering in contact with the justice system should encounter specialised processes at the police and within the court system and social services that are adapted to their specific needs. The model should provide for the training of personnel and specific budget allocations for provincial courts to offer specialized protection for children.

SOCIAL PROTECTION
PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

NON-CONTRIBUTORY SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES, INCLUDING CASH TRANSFERS, SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED AND EXPANDED AS A STRATEGY FOR BETTER REDISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES, TO ADDRESS THE FINANCIAL BARRIERS HOUSEHOLDS FACE TO ACCESS SOCIAL SERVICES, AND ULTIMATELY IMPROVE WELLBEING IN POOR HOUSEHOLDS AND COMMUNITIES.

Ensure the expansion of social protection is guided by a cohesive sectoral policy, to avoid duplication and poor coordination of efforts by different government institutions. Once approved, the draft New Social Assistance Policy will provide a solid basis for the expansion of non-contributory social protection.

Base programme design and implementation on sound analysis and lessons learned from other countries. A large body of international evidence shows that cash transfer programmes achieve stated objectives when they are based on rigorous design and implementation. The programme design must define appropriate and transparent criteria for targeting and registration of beneficiaries and establish strong information systems for monitoring and evaluation done from the level of the service providers.

Establish a specialised national institution responsible for managing implementation of social transfers. Experience from other countries highlights the importance of creating a specialised national body responsible for managing social transfers. The need for this institution is recognised in the National Development Plan (PND). It is also necessary to establish and progressively expand a network of front line units that provide an accessible point of entry for beneficiaries to access non-contributive social protection services and programmes.

Build the administrative capacity and systems needed to implement the social protection programme, including the design and set-up of a computerized management information system and mechanisms for transferring payments to beneficiaries.

Allocate sufficient government funds for the social protection programmes. Financing can be facilitated by curtailing expensive and regressive fuel subsidies.