

ANGOLA BRIEFING



Right: People in Culo, Angola, supported by Save the Children, are helping to build a new school.

Far right: Children at school in Kitoque, Angola.



'I'm happy we're getting a new school. Because next year I'm going to be in grade five, and then I don't have to walk so far every day.' Jaime, 10, Culo, Angola

Though Angola's 27-year civil war ended in 2002, the country still ranks as one of the worst places for children to grow up. The debt-ridden government spends much of its budget on food and health, leaving little for education. We're working with the Angolan government and calling on your support to increase the number of children – especially girls and the poorest children – who can go to school and complete a good-quality primary education.

The issue

Access: not enough places to go round

Because of the war, many children have missed out on school. High drop-out rates mean many have to repeat grades, in turn blocking places for new pupils who then have to start school late. Late starters are less likely to complete primary education before they start work or marry, and around 16 per cent of pupils drop out of primary school each year for economic reasons.¹ Girls face discrimination – many leave school to become servants, sell goods or to marry. Many children disabled by war are also excluded.

The solution

Ensuring places for all

- Improve 'back-to-school' programmes and accelerated basic education for older pupils, to free up primary places.
- Help local communities with skills and materials to build and repair schools and to add new classrooms.
- Work with community volunteers to identify children who are not in school, particularly girls and children with disabilities, and run community campaigns to enrol and retain more of them in primary education.

The issue

Quality: Education without motivation

Poor quality of teaching – and learning – is behind the 27 per cent of children who have to repeat years.² A lack of schoolbooks and teaching materials make it hard to learn well. There are few trained teachers and a lack of classrooms, which leads to overcrowded schools. Eighty-five per cent of 15-year-olds in school are still in primary education, though the official primary completion age is 11.³

Protection: Danger, violence and disease cast a shadow

There are few policies in place to protect the rights of children, and the judicial system is not up to enforcing protection. Children, teachers, community leaders and parents are unaware that children have rights, or believe that parents have rights over the children. One in four children die before their fifth birthday and one in 50 women die in childbirth. Forty-five per cent of children suffer from chronic malnutrition, while half the population is without safe water.⁴

Finance: An ignored need

Many children leave school to work or do not attend because of the cost. The government, although increasing spending on education, must provide more funds in order to ensure quality education for all. In 2001, only 4.7 per cent of the national budget was spent on education. The forecast for 2005 is 7.1 per cent, compared to an average of 16.7 per cent in neighbouring countries.⁵ Funding by donors declined by 40 per cent in 2004,⁶ and this trend is expected to continue.

The solution

Active learning with trained teachers

- Promote adaptable good practices that improve teachers' performance and increase students' success.
- Assist the government in developing long-term training programmes for teacher certification and establishing resource centres.
- Contribute to school materials and teachers' guides.
- Emphasise how community involvement can produce a safer and more effective learning environment.

Strong, healthy and safe

- Help improve teachers' understanding of how to manage and prevent abuse of girls and former child soldiers, especially in school, and strengthen their links to protection networks.
- Implement programmes to decrease the number of children involved in child labour.
- Use schools, community groups and churches to promote extra activities, such as sports and recreation, and teaching on safety. Help establish children's clubs for such activities.

Ensuring investment for the future

- Request clarity and increased spending of the government's education budgets.
- Press government to provide access to free primary education to all children.
- Press international and national business communities to support education, alongside local communities and parents.
- Offer technical help to the authorities to plan, finance and manage education, so as to ensure improvements can continue.
- Help communities influence municipal planning and decision-making, and to raise funds for education.

How Angola measures up

- 44% of all children do not attend school⁷
- 30% of all basic education teachers are not qualified. In rural areas this can drop to 10%⁸
- At least 25% of those attending school do not complete primary education⁹
- 29% of pupils per class fail a year and have to repeat it¹⁰
- There are 57 pupils on average per teacher in grades 1 to 4¹¹

'Our woeful past has unfortunately placed us in a bad situation, and it's very important that other countries help us. It's not just about money, as we have many resources. It's also about knowledge – we don't have enough of that.' Moises Samuel, director of a national children's rights organisation in Angola

References:

1. Indicadores fundamentais da Educação (p.4)/MoE 2005
2. Indicadores fundamentais da Educação (p.4)/MoE 2005
3. Multiple Indicator cluster Survey – INE (p.121)/Unicef 2003
4. Multiple Indicator cluster Survey – INE (p.43)/Unicef 2003
5. Diário da república Dezembro 2004 – 1. Série – no. 104 (p.2647)
6. Humanitarian Situation in Angola, Quarterly Analysis, July–September 2004, OCHA
7. Multiple Indicator cluster Survey – INE/Unicef 2003
8. Education for all – Angola September 2005 (p. 62)
9. Multiple Indicator cluster Survey – INE/Unicef 2003
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PINDI'S STORY

“Being a journalist is my greatest dream”

Pindi is 14-years-old and in sixth grade. He has participated in the radio programme, Child Playground, which is supported by Save the Children and the National Institute of Children. “I’ve made interviews about garbage, illness and education,” Pindi says. “Being a journalist is my greatest dream.” Pindi loves to conduct interviews with children.

The project passes information to children and young people in the village of Uíge. The child reporters do well: Pindi has been a reporter for nine months and he hopes that someday he can become a journalist. Pindi lives with his parents, three sisters and two brothers in a three-roomed house. He is the oldest and would like them to live in a bigger house. But Pindi’s family does not have much money. His father is the only one earning money, and it is not enough.

“My aunt and I must also get a job. Otherwise we don’t have enough money,” says Pindi. He is happy he can go to school. “My favourite subjects are Portuguese, ethics and mathematics. Because I’m going to school, I think I’ll be able to find work later.”

Right: Pindi, (dark shirt) and Clero, children’s reporters for Radio Uíge, Angola, interviewing children.



“Being a children’s reporter has made me wiser. I have learned things I didn’t know before. For example, I’ve learned about the effects of garbage and [about] children’s rights. And I tell other people about it.”

Pindi, 14, Uíge, Angola

Help us rewrite the future of education in Angola.



ANGOLA MEETING THE CHALLENGE

We aim to increase the number of children enrolling in school and to enable more of them to complete their formal education. We will help introduce accelerated learning to speed older children through school. We will train teachers, provide facilities and help communities support education.

Our target

We need the international community to create a climate in which Angola accepts that it must – and can – deliver its education targets for 2010. We will support the Angolan government as it works to:

- increase the number of children completing basic education from 21 per cent to 40 per cent by 2008
- halve the number of children dropping out by 2010
- employ 30,000 new teachers and build 44,000 new classrooms by 2015.

Our direct practical work with community and government partners will help 70,000 more Angolan children go to school by 2010, and offer these plus 200,000 others a better and more relevant education.

Save the Children is putting more than \$3.3 million towards these aims. We need to raise millions more from our partners and supporters. The issues are complex, the solutions must be versatile. Above all, the world must take seriously every child's right to an education.

We will regularly monitor our work in Angola, tracking enrolment, attendance and class sizes. We will also monitor the government's relative spend on education. Donors will receive reports of our progress in December 2006, October 2008 and December 2010.

Help us meet the challenge

Save the Children will work in practical ways to address the availability and quality of schooling for many of Angola's poorest and isolated children. Here are some examples of how your support might help.

Access: Ensuring places for all

- \$100 could equip one teacher with basic teaching materials.
- \$35,000 could supply building materials, furniture and support for a community to build a school.

Quality: Active participation with trained teachers

- \$450 could train one unqualified teacher.
- \$3,000 could help 20 parent committees guide improvements in teaching.

Protection: Strong, healthy and safe

- \$30,000 could promote sports, recreation, and teaching on safety.
- \$4000 could train 200 teachers in children's rights and protection.

But we cannot do everything. Although Angola has a clear plan and targets for education, the government does not allocate enough resources to it. We will also press the government to:

- ensure free education at primary level
- increase national budget spend on education with long-term and reliable funds.

All costs quoted are in US\$

To join our challenge, visit www.savethechildren.net/rewritethefuture

Left: Figurredo at the playground in the village of Cuale, Angola.



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