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# World Health Organization Annual Report

Angola 2024



Organização  
Mundial da Saúde  
Angola



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# World Health Organization

## Annual Report

Angola 2024



**Organização  
Mundial da Saúde**  

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**Angola**

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# Acronyms

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**AFP** – Acute Flaccid Paralysis  
**AMR** – Antimicrobial Resistance  
**ART** – Antiretroviral Therapy  
**CBS** – Community-Based Surveillance  
**CCS** – Country Cooperation Strategy  
**CSO** – Civil Society Organization  
**DHIS2** – District Health Information System 2  
**EOC** – Emergency Operations Center  
**ENSAN II** – National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security 2024–2034  
**GAVI** – Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization  
**GBT** – Global Benchmarking Tool  
**GBV** – Gender-Based Violence  
**GPEI** – Global Polio Eradication Initiative  
**GWD** – Guinea Worm Disease  
**HIS** – Health Information System  
**HIV** – Human Immunodeficiency Virus  
**HPV** – Human Papillomavirus  
**HR** – Human Resources  
**IHR** – International Health Regulations  
**IMCI** – Integrated Management of Childhood Illness  
**IPC** – Infection Prevention and Control  
**IIMS** – Multiple Health Indicators Survey  
**INALUD** – National Institute for Drug Abuse  
**JEE** – Joint External Evaluation  
**JICA** – Japan International Cooperation Agency  
**LNME** – National List of Essential Medicines  
**LQAS** – Lot Quality Assurance Sampling  
**MDA** – Mass Drug Administration  
**MESCTI** – Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation  
**ML** – Maturity Level  
**MOH/MINSA** – Ministry of Health  
**MoU** – Memorandum of Understanding  
**MPOX** – Monkeypox  
**NCDS** – Non-Communicable Diseases  
**NAPHS** – National Action Plan for Health Security  
**NDP** – National Development Plan  
**NIDS** – National Immunization Days  
**nOPV2** – Novel Oral Polio Vaccine Type 2

**NSP TB** – National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis  
**OCHA** – United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs  
**PEN7** – 7th National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis  
**PHC** – Primary Health Care  
**PLANAPREV-DNT** – National Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases 2024–2027  
**PNASS** – National Action Plan for Health Security  
**PNDS** – National Health Development Plan  
**PRSEAH** – Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment  
**QMS** – Quality Management System  
**RCCE** – Risk Communication and Community Engagement  
**SDGs** – Sustainable Development Goals  
**SRSg** – Special Representative to the Secretary-General  
**STIs** – Sexually Transmitted Infections  
**TB** – Tuberculosis  
**UAN** – Agostinho Neto University  
**UHC** – Universal Health Coverage  
**UKB** – Katyavala Bwila University  
**UNICEF** – United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund  
**UNHCR** – The United Nations Refugee Agency  
**UNSDCF** – United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework  
**WASH** – Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene  
**WHO** – World Health Organization  
**WHA** – World Health Assembly

# Executive Summary

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In 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) continued to provide support to strengthen Angola's health system, driving significant progress across various health domains. This report highlights the key achievements and initiatives supported by WHO throughout the year.

WHO convened several high-level forums to discuss health priorities in Angola. For instance, WHO, together with UNICEF, supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) in organizing a national conference on December 12th, bringing together key stakeholders to discuss the "Luanda Declaration on Primary Health Care and Immunization" and the "National Community Health Policy and Strategy." The event emphasized the importance of routine vaccination and financial protection in healthcare access. On World Health Day and World Mental Health Day, WHO supported various activities, including "Walking for Health," a Mental Health Arts Competition, and an art exhibition, to raise awareness and combat stigma. These initiatives fostered dialogue and promoted well-being and mental health as a universal right.

WHO was fully involved in developing and updating national policy documents and facilitating policy dialogue such as the revision of Angola's basic health laws and evaluating the National Health Development Plan (PNDS 2012–2025). Support was given to enhance Angola's data, analytics, and health information systems' capacity to support evidence-based policymaking. Key initiatives included training, strategic plan development such as the National Health Information System (2025–2030), and consensus building to improve the health information system. Pivotal WHO support for Angola enabled improving its regulatory system for medicines and health products, ensuring quality, safety, and efficacy standards. Key actions included technical assistance, implementing a Quality Management System, and updating the National List of Essential Medicines. Furthermore, WHO collaborated with Angola's Ministry of Health to develop the National Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (PLANAPREV-DNT 2024–2027), integrating NCD management into primary health care services and building capacity within the health system. These efforts align with national strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring a robust legal framework and health plans for equitable healthcare access.

In addition to strategic work, WHO also supported the implementation of priority actions such as immunization and emergency response. Through the "Zero-Dose" project funded by GAVI, WHO supported a significantly increased immunization coverage, reducing the number of children with zero doses by 61%. The organization also supported the development of the National Vaccination Strategy, enhancing vaccine coverage and aligning with the Immunization Agenda 2030. WHO crucially endorsed the HPV vaccine launch in Angola, which resulted in key results in developing protocols, conducting studies, and strengthening the community engagement strategy. WHO's impactful response to the polio outbreak in Angola included conducting a rapid risk assessment, strengthening surveillance systems, and organizing four large-scale vaccination campaigns that administered approximately 17 million doses of the nOPV2 vaccine. Activating Angola's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and mobilizing \$16.8 million in partnership with GPEI was crucial in supporting these efforts. Furthermore, WHO strengthened alliances with key health partners and Angolan universities, leading to advancements in vaccination campaigns, mental health initiatives, health education, and research; collaborations with UNHCR and OCHA ensured that health needs were integrated into humanitarian efforts.

WHO's technical and logistical support significantly contributed to reduced maternal mortality rates and improved maternal and neonatal care. Training healthcare professionals and reactivating Maternal and Neonatal Death Surveillance and Audit Committees were key contributors to these improvements. WHO also worked closely with the Angolan government to address malnutrition, particularly among children under five. The National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security 2024–2034 that prioritizes breastfeeding promotion and integrating nutrition interventions into routine health services was finalized. Key results were successfully reported in WHO support for Angola in tackling neglected tropical diseases, achieving significant progress in preventive chemotherapy coverage, and Guinea Worm eradication efforts. Community engagement and vector control were key components of these initiatives. Key support was also reported in revising national TB guidelines and monitoring the implementation of TB National Strategic Plan 2023–2027, improving programmatic performance and patient care.



WHO supported tobacco control initiatives, including World No Tobacco Day activities and the Global Tobacco Control Report (GTCR X), aiming to reduce tobacco consumption and protect public health. WHO also partnered with the Ministry of Health to launch a national road safety campaign to reduce accidents and fatalities during the festive season. Strategic collaboration resulted in a sustainable funding framework for road safety interventions.

WHO supported the National Malaria Control Programme in launching the “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaign, enhancing community participation and data-driven resource allocation. These efforts contributed to reducing malaria prevalence and improving public health outcomes. WHO supported the 7th National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis (PEN7), advocating for expanded access to HIV services and integrating them into Primary Health Care (PHC). Strategic missions and enhanced PHC-based interventions aimed to reduce new infections and increase treatment coverage.

Regarding emergency preparedness, the WHO provided technical support to Angola in strengthening emergency preparedness and response capabilities, which aligned with the International Health Regulations (IHR). Key areas included validating the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Report, updating the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS), and improving Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices. WHO’s crucial support in response to the MPOX outbreak enhanced surveillance, laboratory capacity, risk communication, and healthcare training. These efforts led to effective case management and international collaboration. Support was given to implement effective RCCE strategies during various health situations, including polio vaccination campaigns, the response to the MPOX outbreak, and the regional cholera outbreak. These efforts strengthened local capacities and raised public awareness.

WHO’s communication efforts in 2024 were instrumental in promoting health awareness, advocating for policy changes, and engaging with the public and stakeholders. Producing speeches, press releases, articles, human impact stories with videos, extensive social media and media engagement, missions in the field, and events significantly enhanced WHO’s visibility.

Through strategic partnerships, policy advocacy, and technical expertise, WHO supported Angola’s health system in 2024, driving progress towards sustainable development and improving public health outcomes. In line with One UN, WHO contributed to overall implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework in Angola (UNSDCF) by ensuring that more people use and have equitable access to quality social services.

# Preface

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As we present the WHO Angola Annual Report 2024, we reflect on a year of remarkable progress and reaffirm our commitment to strengthening Angola's health system. WHO's partnership with the Government of Angola and key stakeholders has been instrumental in achieving significant milestones that enhance healthcare accessibility, improve disease prevention, and ensure a resilient public health framework for all Angolans.

I would like to commend the Ministry of Health for its dedication to improving healthcare in Angola. Through its leadership, the country has made improvements in health governance, expanding essential services, and addressing public health challenges. The Ministry's active participation in global health governance, including the World Health Assembly and the WHO Regional Committee for Africa, reflects Angola's commitment to contributing to regional and global health initiatives.

A central focus of our work in 2024 has been Health System Strengthening. WHO provided technical support to revise national health laws, develop the National Health Sector Development Plan (2023-2027), and develop the National Health Information Strategy. These strategic initiatives have laid a strong foundation for evidence-based decision-making, efficient resource allocation, and improved health service delivery.

Emergency preparedness also remained a priority, with WHO supporting the government in implementing the National Action Plan for Health Security (PNASS), strengthening disease surveillance, and improving Angola's compliance with International Health Regulations. In response to public health challenges, WHO played an important role in the country's response to polio, mpox, and cholera outbreaks, ensuring a swift and coordinated approach to disease control and prevention.

Our immunization efforts have been at the forefront of our collaboration with the Ministry of Health. WHO supported mass vaccination campaigns, reduced the number of zero-dose children, and played a key role in the development of the National Vaccination Strategy aligned with the Immunization Agenda 2030. These initiatives have significantly improved vaccine coverage and protection against preventable diseases.

In addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health, WHO facilitated the development of the National Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (PLANAPREV-DNT 2024-2027). Public engagement campaigns promoted mental health awareness, reduced stigma, and strengthened community-based support networks. Additionally, efforts to improve access to essential medicines, enhance pharmaceutical regulatory systems, and address antimicrobial resistance have contributed to a more effective and efficient healthcare system.

Strong partnerships have been the backbone of our success. WHO's collaboration with national and international stakeholders—including government agencies, UN partners, civil society, private sector and academic institutions—has reinforced the impact of our interventions. These partnerships continue to drive innovation and sustainable solutions in the health sector.

Looking ahead, WHO remains steadfast in its commitment to achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in Angola. By continuing to work hand in hand with the government and our partners, we will build on the successes of 2024 to provide, protect and promote health for all Angolans.

This annual report highlights some of the key achievements in 2024. It is aligned with the WHO General Programme of Work 13 (GPW13) strategies of guaranteeing universal health coverage, protecting against health emergencies and promoting healthier lives.



**Dr. Zabulon Yoti**  
WHO Representative, Angola







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**UNIVERSAL  
HEALTH COVERAGE**

*Improved Access To Quality Essential  
Health Services*



**“HEALTH:  
EVERYONE'S  
RESPONSIBILITY!”**



Family photo from the Universal Health Coverage Day event

©WHO

## Celebration of Universal Health Coverage Day

Universal Health Coverage Day, celebrated annually on December 12th, stood out as an important occasion to reflect on the progress and challenges in equitable access to healthcare in Angola. Under the theme “Health: Everyone’s Responsibility!” MOH, with support from WHO and UNICEF, organized a national conference that brought together members of the central government, deputy governors, provincial health leaders, representatives from the United Nations, national and international organizations, the private sector, and civil society.

During the event, fundamental topics were discussed, such as the implementation of commitments made in the “Luanda Declaration on Primary Health Care and Immunization,” the presentation of the “National Community Health Policy and Strategy,” defining public and private participation frameworks. Additionally, the revitalization of routine vaccination was emphasized as an essential strategy to ensure collective immunity.

The conference reflected on the progress achieved and also served as a call to action to strengthen public policies that ensure financial protection in accessing healthcare, thereby contributing to the country’s sustainable social and economic development.



Angola's Minister of Health, Dr. Sílvia Lutucuta

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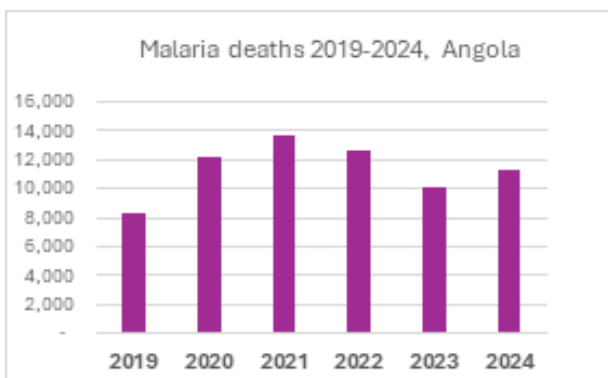
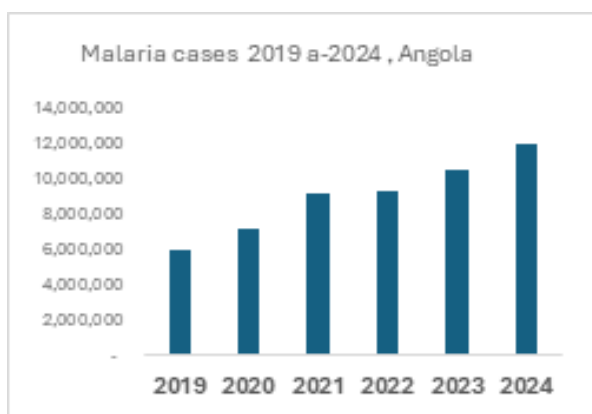


Dr. Fernanda Alves speaks on behalf of the WHO in Angola

©WHO

## Combating Malaria in Angola

Malaria remains a significant public health challenge in Angola, being one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality. The prevalence of malaria stands at 17%, with notable disparities between urban areas (7%) and rural areas (30%). The province of Cunene reports the lowest prevalence at 1.2%, while Uíge faces the highest at 39.7% (Source: Multiple Health Indicators Survey, 2024).



Source: National Malaria Control Program Report, 2024

WHO's Support in 2024: To bolster community involvement and the participation of the private sector, political leaders, and civil society, the WHO supported the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) in launching the “Zero Malaria Starts with Me” campaign. This initiative, introduced during SADC Malaria Day, aimed to reinforce the fight against malaria through widespread community engagement. Furthermore, WHO supported strengthening the use of epidemiological data to guide malaria prevention resources.

### Key Results:

- Enhanced Community Participation:** The campaign successfully mobilized various stakeholders, leading to increased awareness and proactive measures against malaria.
- Data-Driven Resource Allocation:** WHO's support in strengthening the use of epidemiological data has been pivotal. By assisting in data analysis and the preparation of epidemiological reports, resources for malaria prevention are now more effectively allocated based on the epidemiological framework.
- Improved Reporting and Transparency:** Preparing and sharing detailed epidemiological reports with all stakeholders have enhanced transparency and informed decision-making processes. Through these concerted efforts, Angola is making significant strides in reducing the prevalence of malaria and improving public health outcomes. Continued commitment and collaboration are essential to achieving a malaria-free future.

## Strengthening Primary Health Care (PHC) Strategies

A basic health law provides a legal framework that ensures equitable access to healthcare and establishes accountability for health service delivery. Health development strategic documents guide long-term planning, resource allocation, and the implementation of policies to achieve sustainable improvements in public health.

WHO supported the revision of Angola's basic health laws, aligning them with national strategies, such as Angola 2050, and international commitments, including the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Additionally, WHO contributed to the evaluation of the National Health Development Plan (PNDS 2012–2025) and the development of the National Health Sector Development Plan (2023–2027).

These critical documents were presented to the leadership of the Ministry of Health and key stakeholders during a consultative session in June for feedback. Currently, the National Health Sector Development Plan is in the final stages of review by the government while the revised basic law is awaiting parliamentary approval.



## Celebration of International Day of Older Persons

The International Day of Older Persons was celebrated on October 1st in Luanda, with an event organized by the Provincial Health Office of Luanda and WHO, supported by the Embassy of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The theme of the event was “Aging with Dignity: The Importance of Strengthening Systems of Care and Support for Older Persons Worldwide.”

The celebration highlighted the need to strengthen support systems and structures for older people. During the event, inclusive public policies and strategies to combat social isolation and stigma often associated with aging were discussed.

In addition to these discussions, the event served as a tribute to the contributions made by senior citizens to society, emphasizing the importance of ensuring they have continuous access to healthcare services tailored to their needs.



WHO and Government presiding over celebration of International Day of Older Persons

©WHO/Rosa Pedro



WHO with Japan International Cooperation Agency during the celebration of the International Day of Older Persons

©WHO/Rosa Pedro



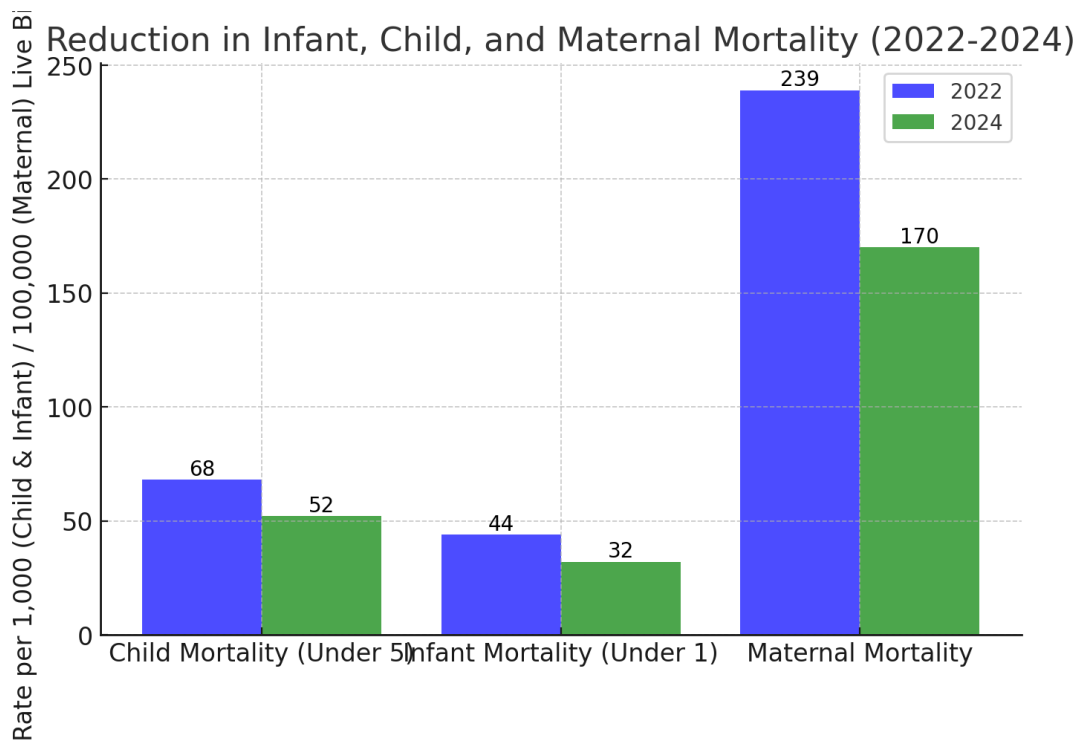
Cultural Moment during celebration of International Day of Older Persons

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## Enhancing Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Services

Recent data from the African Statistical Report (2022) shows a positive trend in maternal health in Angola. The maternal mortality rate has decreased to 222 per 100,000 live births. The 2023/2024 Multiple Health Indicators Survey (IIMS) further confirms this downward trend, showing a reduction to 170 per 100,000 live births. This is a significant improvement from the 239 deaths per 100,000 live births reported in the 2015/2016 IIMS. Despite this progress, continued efforts are essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal target of 70 per 100,000 live births.

WHO has been instrumental in this progress, providing technical and logistical support to enhance maternal and neonatal care in primary and secondary health units. WHO's support during 2024 includes training healthcare professionals in various aspects of the Sexual and Reproductive Health program, covering maternal, neonatal, child, adolescent, and nutrition care. Additionally, the WHO supported reintroducing and activating Maternal and Neonatal Death Surveillance and Audit Committees in four more provinces in 2024. These committees are crucial for discussing deaths, identifying underlying factors, and implementing preventive measures. As a result, more provinces are now engaging in maternal death surveillance, strengthening knowledge about causes of death and reducing maternal and neonatal mortality risks.



Source: State of Union Address by President of Angola, 15 Oct 2024



Patient care in Bié province

©WHO/João Carlos Domingos

## Expanding Immunization Coverage

WHO Angola played a central role in increasing immunization coverage across the country. Through the implementation of the “Zero-Dose” project, funded by GAVI, WHO provided technical support that contributed to the reduction of the number of children with no prior vaccinations. This initiative focused on 22 high-priority municipalities across five provinces, resulting in:

- A 61% reduction in children classified as having zero doses.
- Increased PENTA1 vaccine coverage from 91% in 2023 to 93% in 2024.
- Improved PENTA3 vaccine coverage from 74,2% in 2023 to 78% in 2024

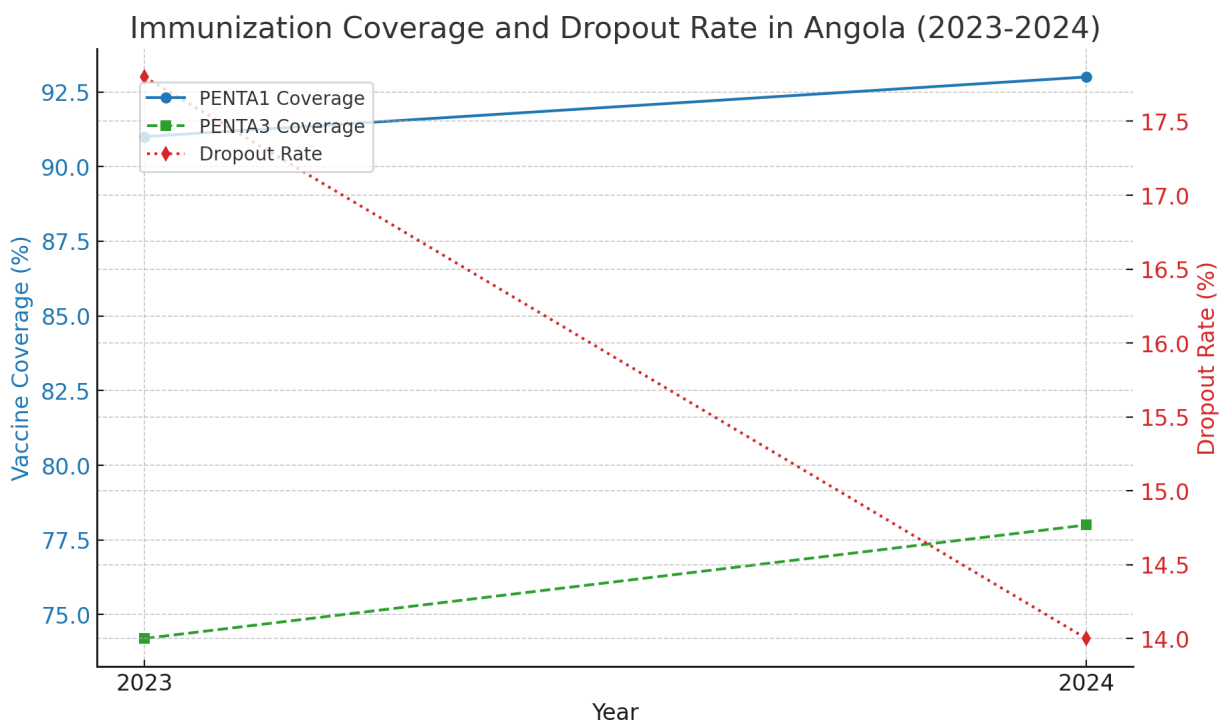
The dropout rate from Penta 1 to Penta 3 at the national level remains high, although it has shown a slight reduction, dropping from 17.8% in 2023 to 14% in 2024. Ideally, this rate should be below 10%. Additionally, WHO supported the formulation of the National Vaccination Strategy (ENV), aligning it with the Immunization Agenda 2030. Workshops were conducted to validate situational analyses, establish monitoring frameworks, and ensure sustainable financing mechanisms for the expanded programme on immunization.

## Addressing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

WHO worked closely with Angola’s Ministry of Health to develop and implement the National Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases (PLANAPREV-DNT 2024-2027). This strategic plan prioritized the introduction of the Essential Package of NCD Interventions (PEN) into primary health care services. WHO also facilitated multi-sectoral workshops and consultations with key stakeholders to strengthen the integration of NCD management into essential service delivery. These efforts contributed to building capacity within the health system to manage and reduce the burden of NCDs effectively.

## Tuberculosis (TB) Response

- Guideline Revision: Revised national TB guidelines in line with new WHO recommendations, facilitating updating national manuals on susceptible and MDR tuberculosis. As a result, Angola now has improved manuals for diagnosing and treating patients with short regimens.
- Monitoring: WHO monitored the implementation of the NSP TB 2023-2027 at all levels (Headquarters, AFRO, and WHO). This monitoring improved the programmatic performance of the NTP.





## Celebration of World Mental Health Day

Mental health remains a global priority, and on October 10th, Angola joined the world in celebrating World Mental Health Day under the theme “Mental Health: A Universal Right.” The event emphasized the importance of raising awareness, combating stigma, and mobilizing for a more effective response to mental health issues.

The key initiative was the Mental Health Arts Competition, organized by MOH with support from WHO, Camões – Portuguese Cooperation Center, and the Private University of Angola (UPRA). The competition brought together 180 participants who expressed their perceptions of mental health through poetry, painting, and photography. Fifteen works were awarded in a special ceremony, recognizing both artistic talent and the participants’ contributions to fostering dialogue on mental health.

With these artworks, WHO co-organized, for the first time, an art exhibition dedicated to mental health, providing an innovative approach to represent and discuss this theme in Angola. The exhibition, held at Camões, lasted three weeks, and the fifteen awarded pieces were displayed to the public throughout this period.

In addition to the competition, a “Tea of Ideas” session was held in July, bringing together journalists, artists, and experts to discuss creative strategies for raising awareness about mental health.



Family photo of the Mental Health Art Competition Organizing Team



There is no health without mental health; art is a therapy that saves lives.

**Tito Vicente S. Joaquim**

Winner of mental health art competition  
Category: Painting

Tito Vicente Samossi Joaquim, known artistically as Tito Vibes, is a young artist from the Santa Tereza neighborhood of Viana who uses painting to express his dreams, struggles, and aspirations. From an early age, he filled school notebooks with drawings that conveyed what words could not. Tito's passion for art deepened when a neighbor attending a renowned art school mentored him. Over time, he became self-taught, mastering new techniques through tutorials and tireless practice, transforming the ordinary into extraordinary.

In 2024, Tito seized the opportunity to share his art and story through the Arts Competition on Mental Health. His winning painting, crafted with dried and damaged wood, symbolizes a journey through psychic struggles toward inner peace and tranquility. Held in Angola on World Mental Health Day, October 10, the competition was organized by the Ministry of Health, WHO, and other partners to raise awareness, fight stigma, and promote mental health. It received 180 entries across poetry, painting, and photography, with 15 participants awarded for excellence.

By winning first place in the painting category, Tito celebrates his achievement and brings attention to often-silenced issues surrounding mental health. His triumph aligns with the Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2030, signed by 194 WHO Member States to promote mental health as an essential right. Dr. Zabulon Yoti, WHO Acting Representative in Angola, highlights the plan's historic significance and its focus on inclusive mental health support and awareness.

Tito's journey and recognition exemplify the transformative power of art and the importance of mental health. Reflecting on his win, he says, "There is no health without mental health; art is a therapy that saves lives." His story underscores the universal right to mental health and serves as an inspiration for others to use their voices and creativity to make a difference.



Opening of the Arts Exhibition on Mental Health

©WHO/João Carlos Domingos

## Strengthening the HIV/AIDS Response

HIV/AIDS remains a critical public health issue in Angola, with 320,000 people living with HIV, including 200,000 women, 96,000 men, and 32,000 children (0-14 years) (Source: UNAIDS Spectrum). The coverage of people living with HIV (PLHIV) on antiretroviral therapy (ART) is 50%, but only 27% for children.

WHO's Support in 2024: Building on its contributions to developing the 7th National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis (PEN7), WHO remained actively engaged in 2024, supporting advocacy and implementation efforts to accelerate Angola's response to HIV/AIDS. In June and July, WHO joined UNAIDS in multi-agency advocacy missions to Lunda Norte and Malanje, reinforcing high-level engagement and pushing HIV services into Primary Health Care (PHC) to expand access for vulnerable and key populations.

### Key Results:

- **Strategic Advocacy Missions:** WHO and UNAIDS conducted advocacy missions to Lunda Norte and Malanje, resulting in high-level engagement and commitments to integrate HIV services into PHC.
- **Shaping Strategic Priorities:** WHO played a significant role in shaping PEN7's strategic priorities, reducing new infections, increasing treatment coverage, and addressing structural barriers such as stigma, discrimination, and gender-based violence.
- **Enhanced PHC-Based Interventions:** During the Malanje mission, WHO engaged with the Governor and Provincial Health Directorate to advocate for more substantial PHC-based HIV interventions, particularly in remote areas.
- **Equitable Access for Displaced Populations:** In Lunda Norte, the mission included visiting the Lôvua Refugee Settlement in partnership with UNHCR, emphasizing the importance of ensuring equitable access to HIV services for displaced populations.

By leveraging strategic partnerships, policy advocacy, and technical expertise, WHO continues to play a pivotal role in supporting Angola's efforts to reduce new HIV infections, expand treatment coverage, and achieve the long-term vision of controlling HIV/AIDS as a public health challenge.

In June and July, WHO participated in multi-agency missions to the provinces of Lunda Norte and Malanje, led by UNAIDS, focusing on accelerating the response to HIV/AIDS. These visits aimed to strengthen prevention and treatment services, particularly among vulnerable populations, while advocating for greater integration of HIV services into Primary Health Care (PHC) structures.

Field visits included community awareness initiatives, visits to the Lôvua Refugee Settlement in partnership with UNHCR, assessments of health units, and interactions with civil society organizations. These efforts align with the 7th National Strategic Plan for HIV, STIs, and Hepatitis (PEN7), demonstrating WHO's continued commitment to reducing HIV prevalence and improving health outcomes.

In Malanje, the visit included important discussions with the Governor of Malanje, Marcos Alexandre Nhunga, and the Provincial Health Director, Dr. Ribeiro André José de Carvalho. Conversations focused on improving healthcare delivery through Primary Health Care (PHC) approaches, strengthening interventions in remote areas, and promoting community mobilization. This was the second time that WHO visited Malanje as the first mission was part of a joint mission to accelerate the response to HIV/AIDS.

Looking Ahead: WHO, UNAIDS, and the National Commission for the Fight Against AIDS and Major Endemic Diseases—the custodian of PEN7—are planning additional advocacy missions to other provinces. These efforts will reinforce political commitment, mobilize resources, and accelerate the plan's implementation, ensuring tangible progress toward its ambitious targets.

Beyond HIV: These missions also promoted a One Health approach, integrating agriculture, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) into broader health interventions. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WHO and Queen Njinga Mbandi University was highlighted as a key initiative to strengthen local health research and innovation capacity.

These field visits were organized in collaboration with



## Tropical Neglected Disease Response in Angola

In 2024, the WHO supported Angola in tackling neglected tropical diseases, resulting in key initiatives and achievements. The Mass Drug Administration (MDA) reached 9,583,507 people across 18 provinces, boosting preventive chemotherapy (PC) coverage to 19.17% from 11.42% in 2022. Guinea Worm eradication efforts included treating 87 water points with Abate®, achieving a 77.5% investigation rate of rumors within 24 hours, and expanding community-based surveillance (CBS) in Cunene, Namibe, Huila, and Cuando Cubango. Moreover, 38,528 water filters were distributed to 6,389 families, and 43,683 community members were sensitized through volunteer-led sessions.

Inspections in Namacunde ensured effective larvicide application, and provincial authorities and community leaders were engaged in discussions to address transmission hotspots.

This comprehensive approach, supported by the Carter Center, bolstered local efforts to eliminate Guinea Worm Disease (GWD) through enhanced vector control and community engagement. The initiatives highlight Angola's commitment to eradicating neglected tropical diseases and improving public health.

## Improving Service Delivery Infrastructure

WHO provided technical expertise to improve Angola's health information systems, leading to the development of National Strategy and policy for Health Information. The policy and the strategy will enable significant evidence-based decision-making improvements and enhance efficient planning, implementation and monitoring of health service delivery. Additionally, WHO supported the strengthening of pharmaceutical infrastructure by developing quality management systems, regulatory frameworks, and inspection and pharmacovigilance guidelines. These advancements ensured the availability of high-quality and safe medicines, significantly improving health outcomes across the population.

## Community Engagement and Equity

To address disparities in health access, WHO empowered community health workers and local leaders through targeted training programmes. These initiatives enhanced the delivery of integrated care for children under five and improved community-based management of common illnesses. WHO also supported public-private partnerships to strengthen health service delivery in underserved areas, ensuring equitable access to essential services. By involving communities directly, WHO fostered greater trust, collaboration, and shared responsibility for health outcomes.



Family photo from the field trip to Cunene province to eradicate Dracunculosis in Angola  
©WHO/João Carlos Domingos

## Reduced Number of People Suffering Financial Hardship

In 2024, WHO Angola supported the development and implementation of strategies aimed at reducing the financial burden of health care for the population. These initiatives were aligned with the overarching goal of universal health coverage and focused on ensuring financial risk protection for the most vulnerable.

## Strengthening Financial Risk Protection

As part of capacity-building efforts, WHO identified a senior civil servant from the Ministry of Finance to participate in a two-week training program on health financing at a continental level, focused on Lusophone countries. This initiative aimed to build national expertise and foster regional collaboration on sustainable health financing solutions.

Additionally, the government took steps to revise its health financing structure, with WHO actively participating in a technical working group alongside UNICEF and the World Bank. This group developed a Terms of Reference for a study on health financing that would facilitate policy discussions. The group also provided technical assistance to design more sustainable solutions for health financing.



WHO and MoH presented suggested updates to normative documents to Minister and MoH's senior management team

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Heads of MoH, Ministry of Education as well as WHO, UNDP and UNICEF at the airport to receive HPV vaccines in Angola

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## Improved Access to Essential Medicines, Vaccines, Diagnostics, And Devices For Primary Health Care

Regulatory systems for medicines and health products are crucial for promoting and protecting public health. They ensure that inefficient processes do not hinder access to these products and that they meet quality, safety, and efficacy standards. In Angola, the regulatory system faces several challenges. According to a 2022 assessment by the WHO team using the Global Benchmarking Tool (GBT), Angola's system was classified at maturity level (ML) 1. Recommendations were made to reach ML 3 by 2027, in line with the National Development Plan (NDP 2023-2027) and the standards of regional countries that have already reached ML 3.

To address these challenges, priority interventions are being implemented to strengthen Angola's regulatory system. In 2024, WHO support to Angola made significant progress in improving the availability, accessibility, and quality of essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, and medical devices. Key actions included:

- 1. Technical Assistance:** WHO provided technical assistance to strengthen systems and structures to improve the regulatory system, focusing on seven functions: Regulatory System, Regulatory Inspection, Surveillance and Market Control, Surveillance and Laboratory Testing, Marketing Authorization, Licensing, and Clinical Trials. Proposals were prepared with the ARMED teams, including:
  - » Proposal for a Pharmaceutical Policy
  - » Proposal for a Presidential Decree (Basic Law on Medicines and Disposal of Medicines)
  - » Proposals for Executive Decrees (Regulations on Good Regulatory Practices and Confidence Criteria)
  - » Proposals for specific Regulations (Good Manufacturing Practices, Good Distribution Practices, Good Pharmacy Practices)
  - » Technical Guides (Guide for Planning Risk-Based Inspections, Guide for Monitoring the Safety of Medicines)
  - » Quality Management System (Procedures for Planning and Carrying Out Inspections, Authorization for Importing and Advertising Medicines, Control of Counterfeit and Low-Quality Medicines, Verification of Laboratory Quality, Pharmacovigilance, Laboratory Tests, Training, Internal and External Communication)
  - » ARMED has approved the last three, while the other proposed documents are pending approval by MINSA.

- 2. Improving the Regulatory System:** WHO supported the implementation of the Institutional Development Plan (IDP) with a roadmap to guide the improvement of the medicines regulatory system, monitoring the implementation of the recommendations, and raising the maturity level of the Angolan SR to ML3. In February 2024, the WHO team held a new monitoring session.
- 3. Quality Management System (QMS):** WHO worked with the government to implement a QMS, improving pharmacovigilance and inspection processes to reduce the prevalence of falsified and substandard health products.
- 4. National List of Essential Medicines (LNME):** WHO provided technical support to update the LNME in line with the WHO Model List 23rd edition of 2023, ensuring access to a continuous supply of essential medicines that are safe, effective, in appropriate pharmaceutical forms, of guaranteed quality, and affordable.

## Addressing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

In response to the growing threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), WHO enabled Angola to strengthen its laboratory capacity and surveillance systems. This included providing technical support for infection prevention and control (IPC) programs in health facilities and raising awareness among healthcare professionals and communities about responsible antimicrobial use. Through these initiatives, Angola's ability to detect, monitor, and respond to AMR threats was significantly enhanced.

## Advancing Research and Development

WHO's contributions to research and development were instrumental in addressing neglected areas of public health. Angola's inclusion in the Research4Life initiative, facilitated by a partnership with the University of Katyavala Bwila (UKB), marked a milestone as the country became the first Portuguese-speaking nation in the program. This initiative provided Angola with access to peer-reviewed academic content, expanding resources for researchers and fostering the growth of the national health research sector. Additionally, WHO funded research on vaccine resistance, carried out by provincial directorates of health across five provinces. This research provided critical insights into vaccine uptake and resistance patterns, guiding future immunization strategies. An anthropological study on the social perceptions of cervical cancer and HPV vaccines, conducted with WHO support, further contributed to understanding community attitudes and informed engagement strategies to improve vaccine acceptance.





# 2

## HEALTH EMERGENCIES

*Angola Prepared For Health  
Emergencies*



Angola has significantly strengthened its emergency preparedness and response capabilities, aligning with the International Health Regulations (IHR). These regulations, legally binding in 196 countries, mandate reporting public health events. In 2024, WHO provided crucial technical support to Angola in several key areas:

#### **Validation of the Joint External Evaluation (JEE) Report**

Conducted a comprehensive validation of Angola's JEE Report, assessing the country's emergency health preparedness across various domains. This process highlighted strengths and identified areas for improvement, contributing to enhanced national health security.

#### **Update of the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) and Development of Action Plan**

Updated the NAPHS to incorporate recommendations from the 2023 JEE, ensuring the health system remains agile and responsive to emerging threats. Developed a detailed 2024-2025 Action Plan with specific, measurable interventions to bolster capacities, upgrade infrastructure, and establish early warning systems.

#### **Preparation of the State Party Annual Report for IHR**

Successfully prepared and submitted the 2023 State Party Annual Report, showcasing progress in implementing the IHR and enhancing health security. The report detailed efforts to strengthen legal frameworks, improve public health surveillance, and increase response capacity.

#### **Infection Prevention and Control (IPC)**

Improved IPC practices through training sessions for healthcare personnel, focusing on hand hygiene, medical waste management, and proper use of personal protective equipment. Organized community awareness campaigns to educate the public on preventive measures and reinforce community engagement.

#### **Support for Refugees and Migrants**

Successfully assisted the Ministry of Health in conducting the first national survey for the inaugural report on the Global Action Plan Monitoring Framework to Promote the Health of Refugees and Migrants. This groundbreaking survey provided critical insights and data, laying the foundation for improved health strategies and policies to support refugees.

## Risk Communication and Community Engagement

RCCE involves the real-time exchange of information, advice, and opinions between experts, officials, and at-risk communities. It also focuses on building relationships and structures that empower communities to actively participate as equal partners in developing effective emergency response solutions. In 2024, WHO played a pivotal role in implementing effective RCCE strategies during various health situations:

### National Polio Vaccination Campaigns

- Held 26 advocacy meetings with community leaders and traditional healers.
- Ensured broad campaign adherence and resolved 48 cases of resistance and 14 cases of refusal in Moxico and Malanje, protecting previously unvaccinated children against polio.

### Mpox Outbreak Response

- Trained 55 health promotion technicians and 685 community actors at central, provincial, and municipal levels.
- Strengthened local capacities for awareness and prevention actions. Conducted 28 advocacy meetings in Luanda, involving 1,967 community leaders, administrative authorities, and economic operators, focusing on social mobilization and disseminating information about mpox.
- The risk communication and community engagement plan for mpox, developed with WHO's support, began implementation in Luanda.

### Regional Cholera Outbreak

- Participated in awareness sessions during the regional cholera outbreak. This initiative reached over 18,000 people, raising awareness and promoting preventive measures.

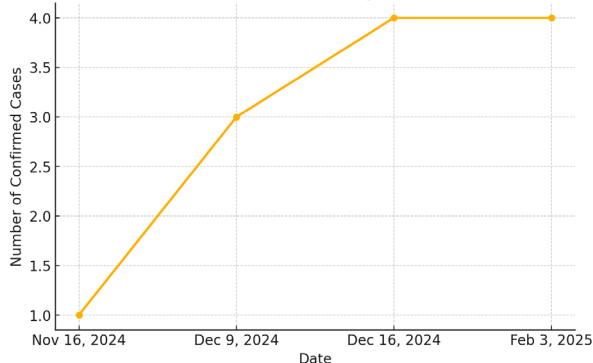
### Support for Refugees and Migrants

WHO also assisted MOH in conducting the first national survey for the inaugural report on the Monitoring Framework of the Global Action Plan to Promote the Health of Refugees and Migrants.

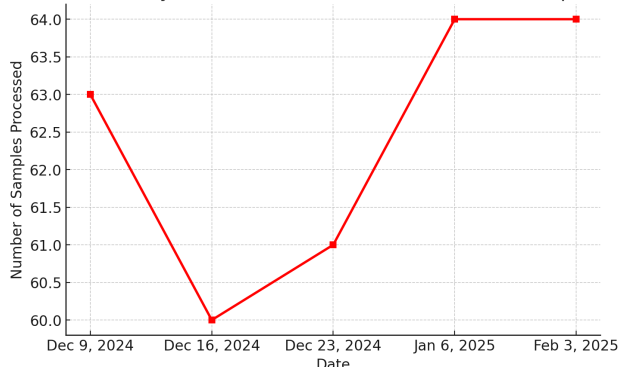
## Health Emergencies Rapidly Detected And Responded To Responding to the MPOX Outbreak

In 2024, Angola showcased impressive preparedness and swift action in response to the emerging threat of MPOX. With the global outbreak raising alarms, WHO was crucial in coordinating and supporting national efforts to prevent, detect, and control MPOX. These collaborative efforts enabled Angola to respond effectively, identifying its first case on November 16, 2024.

Trend of Confirmed MPOX Cases in Angola (Nov 2024 - Feb 2025)



Laboratory Surveillance: Number of Processed Samples



## Enhanced Outbreak Preparedness

- Surveillance system: with WHO's support, Angola reinforced its national surveillance system to identify MPOX cases promptly. Training programs equipped surveillance teams with essential case detection, reporting, and outbreak investigation skills.
- Laboratory Capacity: Strengthened with WHO's provision of PCR diagnostic kits and biosafety training for laboratory personnel.
- Risk Communication: Campaigns and community engagement raised awareness of MPOX symptoms, transmission, and prevention measures, fostering public trust and reducing stigma.
- Healthcare Training: Healthcare professionals were trained at various levels to ensure robust case management protocols and infection control measures.

## Swift and Coordinated Response

- Case Management: By the end of 2024, Angola registered four confirmed MPOX cases with no deaths, and suspected cases were promptly identified, isolated, and treated at designated healthcare facilities.
- Contact Tracing: Teams intensified surveillance in affected communities, supported by WHO's systematic data collection tools.
- International Collaboration: Strong collaboration with Africa CDC and WHO's regional office for Africa ensured Angola benefited from updated guidance, technical resources, and real-time support throughout the outbreak.

## Supporting the Response to the Polio Outbreak in Angola

The World Health Organization (WHO) played a pivotal role in combating the polio outbreak in Angola, providing essential support across several critical areas:

## Rapid Risk Assessment and Enhanced Surveillance

- Conducted a rapid risk assessment, determining the outbreak's scope and trajectory, strengthening the country's capacity response.
- Strengthened Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) and environmental surveillance systems, ensuring active case detection, timely sample collection, and laboratory testing.

## Mass Vaccination Campaigns

- Four large-scale vaccination campaigns (two NIDs and two sNIDs) were successfully organized, administering approximately 17 million doses of the nOPV2 vaccine. Each round achieved over 95% coverage, with LQAS surveys confirming improved vaccination quality across all districts.

## Emergency Operations Coordination

- Activated and operationalized Angola's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for the polio response with a dedicated GPEI Coordinator, enhancing inter-agency collaboration. This ensured the effective implementation of vaccination and surveillance strategies.

## Resource Mobilization and Financial Support

- \$16.8 million was mobilized in partnership with GPEI, supporting vaccination campaigns, surveillance activities, and logistical operations.

## Capacity Building and Training

- Trained over 25,000 healthcare professionals and volunteers using a cascading approach, ensuring alignment and effectiveness at all levels of the campaigns.



Polio vaccination campaign in Luanda province  
©WHO/Omotola Akindipe



©WHO/João Carlos Domingos

## Safe from Polio: Lucie Lusungu's Story of Hope and Protection in the Face of Displacement

"I'm delighted because my children are protected against polio" — Lucie Lusungu.

During chaos, sometimes you can only find relief away from home. Memories are left behind because being safe is now worth more than anything. The experience of migration is a determining factor in health and well-being. Lucie Lusungu and her family are part of the 82.4 million people around the world who, according to the UN Refugee Agency, are displaced from their country, which makes them vulnerable to health, social and mental problems.

Located in the province of Lunda Norte in Angola, about 100 kilometres from the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Lôvua Refugee Settlement represents a haven for Lucie Lusungu and thousands of families, offering shelter and basic essential services such as access to primary health care through the Settlement Clinic, which serves the community in the areas of nutrition, paediatrics, reproductive health, prevention of HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

After Angola reported poliovirus imported from neighbouring countries, the fight against polio gained momentum in the Lôvua refugee settlement. With more than 1,700 vulnerable children living in the settlement, the polio vaccination campaign, implemented by the Angolan Ministry of Health with technical and financial support from WHO, UNICEF and other partners, brings peace of mind to Lucie and the other families. They can now have confidence in a healthy future for their children, knowing they will not be crippled by poliovirus.

"This vaccination campaign is welcome here in the camp, as the settlement's clinic is close to the borders, where there is entry and exit." — Dr. Maria da Graça of The Evangelical Church of the Brethren in Angola and Director of the Lôvua Settlement Clinic.

Families had the opportunity to receive their vaccinations at the settlement's clinic, and vaccination teams went door-to-door to ensure that no child was left behind. The health technicians, mobilisers, registrars, vaccinators, and all the living forces involved contributed to the success of this initiative, demonstrating the Angolan Ministry of Health's commitment to promoting child health and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities.

"I feel grateful to be able to contribute to protecting children. Since we started the awareness-raising and mobilisation campaign, the residents have had open arms, and some have even followed us to ensure that all children are vaccinated." — Francisco Cavula, campaign mobiliser at the refugee settlement.

As a result of the commendable work of the Ministry of Health and partners in strengthening immunisation, Angola has remained free of wild poliovirus since July 2011 and officially declared the interruption of polio transmission in November 2015. Unfortunately, this year, Angola reported other variants of poliovirus from environmental samples and susceptible children. As a response, a national polio vaccination campaign was carried out from May 17 to 19, 2024, to reach more than 5.5 million children under five. This initiative seeks to protect children against the threat of polio, a debilitating disease that can cause permanent paralysis.



Walk The Talk For Health event in Luanda to celebrate World Health Day





3

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

*Determinants of Health Addressed*

## Determinants of health addressed

In 2024, WHO Angola implemented a wide range of initiatives to address the social, environmental, and economic determinants of health across the life course. By focusing on multi-sectoral action and technical support, WHO contributed to significant progress in addressing malnutrition, improving water and sanitation in health facilities, combating gender-based and child violence, and mitigating the impacts of climate change and environmental risks.

## Combating Malnutrition

Angola faces significant food and nutrition security challenges, with over 5.7 million people suffering from malnutrition and 28.7% of the population experiencing severe food insecurity. Moderate food insecurity affects nearly half the population (48.7%), while less than a quarter of Angolans are food secure. These figures, aligned with global trends of increasing hunger, underscore the urgency of achieving the 2030 Agenda goals.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has worked closely with the Angolan government to reduce malnutrition, particularly among children under five. Technical assistance was provided to develop and implement the National Strategy for Food and Nutrition Security 2024–2034 (EN-SAN II) and its corresponding Action Plan. This plan prioritizes breastfeeding promotion, addressing child malnutrition, and integrating nutrition interventions into routine health services.

WHO also supported training health professionals in nutritional assessment and treatment through the Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) program. This training has improved the identification and management of malnutrition cases. By enhancing the capacity of health professionals in nutritional assessment, preserving natural resources, and strengthening food resilience, Angola is paving the way for a healthier, more sustainable future.

## Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Violence Against Children

WHO enabled targeted sub-national areas to implement technical packages aimed at addressing gender-based violence and violence against children. These interventions included multi-sectoral action plans and capacity-building for healthcare workers to identify, report, and manage cases of violence. Technical assistance and advocacy efforts strengthened the response to GBV and child violence, ensuring that survivors received appropriate care and support.

Additionally, WHO, alongside UNICEF, supported Angola's participation in the first-ever Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children, held in Bogota on 7-8 November. This conference was an initiative led by the UN Special Representative to the Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence Against Children, supported by WHO and UNICEF. Preparations for Angola's participation were spearheaded by The Ministry of Social Action, Family and Women's Promotion (MASFAMU), with preliminary meetings organized by WHO and UNICEF in Geneva earlier in the year. These meetings provided Angola with an opportunity to engage with the SRSG, prepare for the conference, and understand the framework of the Global Alliance to tackle violence against children.

Furthermore, WHO collaborated with key stakeholders to complete the country questionnaire for the Second Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children which will cover the last 5 years since the launch of the first report in 2020. This process involved contributions from multiple ministries, including Health (MoH), MASFAMU, Justice, and Education, Ministry of the Interior and the National Institute of Statistics, as well as academic institutions such as the Private University of Angola. Civil society organizations, including the Association of Children with Disabilities, also actively participated in this collaborative effort.

WHO also worked with inter-ministerial partners to improve technical alignment on gender-based violence, promoting integrative policies and preventive strategies. At Cacucaco Hospital in Luanda, WHO supported activities to raise awareness about the social determinants of cervical cancer, enhancing community knowledge and response strategies. These activities included public education campaigns that reached underserved communities.

## Promoting Road Safety

Road traffic accidents remain a critical issue, as highlighted by the 2023 Global Road Safety Report. These accidents are the leading cause of death among children and young people aged 5 to 29 and the 12th leading cause of death across all age groups. Alarmingly, 92% of these fatalities occur in low- and middle-income countries, including Angola. The economic impact is staggering, with global road traffic accidents costing an estimated US\$1.8 trillion, equivalent to 10–12% of the worldwide GDP.

Recognizing the seasonal spike in road accidents, the World Health Organization (WHO) partnered with the Ministry of Health to launch a national campaign to enhance road safety during the festive season. This initiative focused on educating the public about safe driving practices, significantly reducing accidents and fatalities during this high-risk period.

### Key Results:

- **Reduction in Accidents and Fatalities:** The public education campaign led to a measurable decrease in road accidents and fatalities during the festive season.
- **Strategic Collaboration:** WHO, in collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the United Nations Office for Project Services, and several key government ministries, developed a comprehensive proposal and strategic plan to secure domestic financing for road safety initiatives in Angola.
- **Sustainable Funding Framework:** The collaboration resulted in a robust framework designed to fund and implement road safety interventions sustainably.

By prioritizing road safety, we are saving lives and reducing the economic burden on our society. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to creating safer roads and a healthier future for all.

## Risk Factors Reduced Through Multisectoral Action

In 2024, WHO Angola worked collaboratively with government institutions, civil society, and other stakeholders to address critical risk factors contributing to the burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). These efforts focused on reducing the prevalence of tobacco use, harmful alcohol consumption, and substance abuse, while also fostering the development of data-driven policies to support sustainable health interventions.

## Tobacco Control

Smoking remains one of the most significant threats to public health, causing over 8 million deaths globally each year. Consequently, tobacco control is a critical global health priority. In Angola, tobacco consumption has been on the rise. According to the National Statistics Institute (INE 2018), 14.3% of men and 1.8% of women aged 15 to 49 consume tobacco, with 9% of men and 1% of women smoking daily.

### WHO's Support and Key Results:

- **World No Tobacco Day Initiatives:** WHO supported organizing activities to highlight the dangers of tobacco use and promote cessation programs, leading to increased public awareness and participation in quitting smoking.
- **Technical Assistance for GTCR X:** WHO supported the Ministry of Health (MoH) for the 10th edition of the Global Tobacco Control Report (GTCR X). This involved comprehensive assessments to evaluate Angola's progress in implementing tobacco control policies and identifying areas for improvement.
- **Policy Evaluation and Improvement:** The assessments helped identify gaps in current tobacco control measures and provided actionable recommendations for strengthening these policies.

By focusing on these initiatives, Angola is making significant strides in reducing tobacco consumption and protecting public health. Continued efforts in tobacco control will contribute to a healthier population and a reduction in tobacco-related diseases and deaths.

## Monitoring Alcoholic and Sugary Beverages

WHO collaborated with the Ministry of Health to conduct research on the pricing and taxation of alcoholic and sugary beverages. This initiative aimed to collect critical data to inform evidence-based policies that discourage unhealthy consumption patterns. The findings from this research are expected to play a key role in developing interventions that address the risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases.

## Addressing Substance Abuse

WHO maintained its strong partnership with the National Institute for Drug Abuse (INALUD) to address substance abuse and improve mental health outcomes. Key achievements included:

- Supporting outpatient consultations for detoxification, providing necessary care to individuals struggling with substance dependence.
- Conducting workshops to promote mental health and prevent illegal drug use, targeting vulnerable populations.
- Assisting INALUD in harmonizing data on psychoactive substance dependence using the DHIS2 platform. This improvement in national data infrastructure enabled better tracking and analysis of substance abuse trends, informing policy and intervention planning.

## Promoting Multisectoral Collaboration

WHO facilitated multisectoral engagement to address determinants and risk factors of NCDs. This included collaboration with government ministries and civil society organizations to ensure alignment of strategies and actions. By leveraging technical and financial resources, WHO supported Angola in implementing targeted health promotion activities, leading to progress in reducing preventable risk factors across the population.



WHO and the UN Refugee Agency assessing health services in Lóvuá Refugee Settlement



WHO with health partners during a health partners' meeting

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Training on Angola's major public health problems for Members of the 6th Committee

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WHO and senior members of the Luanda Provincial Government after a session on improving vaccination in the province

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WHO with UNHCR and their partners during a mission to assess health services in Lôvua Refugee Settlement

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4

**MORE EFFECTIVE AND  
EFFICIENT WHO PROVIDING  
BETTER SUPPORT TO  
COUNTRIES**





In 2024, WHO Angola focused on enhancing the country's capacity in data, analytics, and health information systems to support evidence-based policymaking and drive impactful health interventions. Through technical and financial support, WHO enabled Angola to improve its statistical and research capabilities, laying the foundation for sustainable health innovations.

### Key Initiatives and Support for HIS

- **Training and Methodologies:** WHO experts trained the national team on methodologies and approaches for HIS review, facilitating a comprehensive evaluation and identifying priorities.
- **Rapid Assessment:** Conducted a rapid assessment of the Health Information System (HIS) with financial support from the European Union, involving experts from various government ministries, UN agencies, and national and international organizations.
- **Consensus Building:** Used evaluation findings to build consensus and stakeholder participation, ensuring a collaborative approach to improving the health information system.
- **Strategic Meetings:** Held a working meeting with the Minister of Health to assess progress in developing the Strategy and Policy for the National Health Information System, addressing governance, financing, data systems harmonization, and human capital strengthening.

### Enhancing Health Information Systems

- **Evaluation Results:** WHO's evaluation of Angola's National Health Information System (NIS) highlighted the need for better information on key development indicators, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for health, birth registration, and causes of death with medical certification from major hospitals, systems integration and interoperability, human resource and financing for HIS.
- **Strategic Plan Development:** WHO supported the development of the Strategic Plan for the National Health Information System (2025-2030), providing strategic guidance to strengthen Angola's national health information system.
- **HIS Policy Development:** WHO supported the development of the National Health Information System Policy as well. The policy facilitates the alignment of multisectoral HIS interventions, providing overarching legal guidance for their implementation and improvements.

## Strengthened Leadership, Governance, and Advocacy for Health

In 2024, WHO Angola played a pivotal role in enhancing leadership, governance, and advocacy for health, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the General Programme of Work (GPW 13). By fostering partnerships, supporting the government in global and regional governance structures, and engaging in strategic communications, WHO ensured impactful and sustainable contributions to Angola's health priorities.

### Strategic Partnerships for Health

Partnerships were central to WHO's efforts in transforming Angola's health system, uniting resources, expertise, and innovative approaches. In 2024, WHO strengthened alliances with Angolan universities, including Rainha Njinga A'Mbande University, Katyavala Bwila University (UKB), and Agostinho Neto University (UAN). Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed with these institutions enabled significant progress in vaccination campaigns, mental health initiatives, health education, scientific research, and professional capacity development.

Collaborative projects, such as the art competition to promote mental health awareness and the "Jango Comunitário" initiative in Benguela, showcased the power of partnerships to create tailored solutions to public health challenges. Additionally, WHO collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESCTI) facilitated Angola's inclusion in global platforms like Research4Life, which provides online access to peer-reviewed content. This marked Angola's first membership as a Lusophone country, enhancing local research capacities.

In the humanitarian field, WHO partnered with UNHCR to integrate refugees into the national health system, ensuring benefits extended to local communities. WHO also worked with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to integrate health needs into humanitarian intervention planning, ensuring that health responses were documented and aligned with broader humanitarian efforts.

Another significant partnership involved the Venâncio de Moura Diplomatic Academy, where WHO introduced diplomacy students to multilateralism and international organizations based in Angola. This initiative strengthened the connection between health and diplomacy, preparing future leaders to advocate for health as a central pillar of international relations.

## Advances in Health Research and Education in Benguela

On July 9th, 2024, WHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Katyavala Bwila University (UKB) in Benguela, marking an important milestone in health research and education partnerships between WHO and academic institutions, as this MoU marked the first formal agreement between WHO and a university outside Luanda. The agreement aims to strengthen health research, technical capacity building, and evidence-based decision-making.

The collaboration prioritizes innovative interventions aligned with Angola's National Health Development Plan, enhancing data sharing and promoting academic excellence. The visit included a tour of the university's facilities and the community health project "Jango Comunitário," reflecting the practical implementation of the partnership's objectives.

## Governance and Support to the Ministry of Health

As a Member State of WHO, Angola actively participated in the Organization's global and regional governance mechanisms. Angola's involvement in decision-making structures guided health policies, set strategic priorities, and oversaw WHO's operations at both regional and global levels.

- **World Health Assembly (WHA):** Angola actively participated in the 77th World Health Assembly held from May 27 to June 1, 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. Under the theme "All for Health, Health for All," WHO supported Angola's delegation in preparing statements and engaging in strategic discussions.
- **WHO Regional Committee for Africa:** From August 26 to 30, 2024, Angola participated in the Regional Committee meeting in Brazzaville, Congo. WHO provided technical assistance to Angola's delegation, including the preparation of statements and positions on critical health issues. Angola's membership in the Programme Subcommittee (PSC) for the 2023-2026 term allowed the country to contribute to policy and governance discussions effectively.
- **Programme Subcommittee (PSC):** WHO supported Angola's delegate in reviewing budgets, strategies, and resolutions, ensuring alignment with national health priorities. Angola's contributions during the PSC discussions demonstrated the country's commitment to strengthening health governance and policy formulation.

Minister of Health, Dr. Sílvia Lutucuta and National Director of Public Health, Dr. Helga Freitas during the 74th Regional Committee in Brazzaville

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## Interview with Dr. Maria Madalena Chimpolo

Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Katyavala Bwila University

### 1. Academic Partnerships and Global Health:

*Dr. Maria, could you start by explaining the strategic importance of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between WHO and Katyavala Bwila University? How does this partnership align with the university's goals and aspirations in the field of medical education and health sciences?*

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WHO and Katyavala Bwila University (UKB) represents a significant step towards improving public health, especially in underserved communities. This partnership brings academic research closer to practical health interventions, aligning with UKB's mission to train health professionals focused on community health, preventive care, and evidence-based practices. Collaboration with WHO enhances our ability to address local and global challenges, improving the quality of education and preparing graduates with essential clinical and social skills.

### 2. Practical Applications of the MoU

*The 'Jango Comunitário' project, launched in April 2024, is a clear example of the MoU's objectives in action. Could you discuss how this initiative aligns with UKB's goals and WHO's global health objectives, and what outcomes you foresee from these community engagement efforts?*

The 'Jango Comunitário' project exemplifies the MoU's objectives by addressing health challenges in Cubal and Fábrica Velha. It focuses on essential health services for vulnerable populations—children, the elderly, pregnant women, and adolescents—aligning with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Through primary care, disease prevention, and health promotion, we anticipate improvements in health indicators, reduced inequalities, and increased health literacy. The initiative integrates education and community health, creating a replicable model for other regions and reinforcing SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

### 3. Academia's Role in Health:

*As Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, how do you see the role of academic institutions like UKB in transforming Angola's health landscape? Specifically, how can academic research facilitate practical health policies and interventions?*

Academic institutions play a fundamental role in transforming health through education and research. UKB is positioned to influence both policies and practices, producing data-driven research addressing maternal health, infectious diseases, and non-communicable diseases. With adequate support, our research can inform evidence-based health policies. Collaborations with WHO and government agencies ensure alignment with national priorities and global best practices, enabling UKB to promote impactful solutions.

### 4. Impact of Research4Life:

*UKB's status as a National Connector for Research4Life is a significant milestone for Angola. How do you foresee this access influencing the quality and quantity of health research produced in Angola, and how does WHO's support reinforce this benefit?*

Being a National Connector for Research4Life provides UKB access to global academic resources, improving the quality and scope of health research in Angola. This opportunity enables rigorous studies that inform policies adapted to local needs. WHO's support ensures the effective and sustainable application of these resources, fostering collaboration and positioning UKB as a regional center for health research.

### 5. Future Vision for WHO-UKB Collaboration:

*Looking ahead, how do you see the relationship between WHO and Katyavala Bwila University evolving? Are there specific areas or projects you consider particularly important for the future of health education and public health initiatives in Angola?*

The partnership will deepen through projects like 'Jango Comunitário' and Research4Life. These initiatives demonstrate scalable models for community health and access to advanced research resources. Future collaborations will focus on specialized training in epidemiology, public health, and health system management. Research on infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and social determinants of health will drive effective policies and practices. This partnership is essential for building a resilient workforce and advancing health education in Angola.

## Communications

In 2024, WHO Angola's communication efforts reached new heights, marking a year of significant achievements and impactful initiatives. As the first country office to finalize and publish its annual report, WHO Angola set a precedent for transparency and accountability, a tradition it aims to continue.

WHO developed several communication initiatives that played a crucial role in promoting access to quality healthcare, advocating for health policies, and raising public awareness about health issues. These initiatives included producing over 13 speeches, five press releases, 40 articles and photographs on WHO's website, and six human impact stories with videos. Engagement with the media was robust, featuring dozens of radio, TV, and newspaper articles, with notable highlights including six opinion articles published in *Jornal de Angola* and *AFRO Health Observatory*. Institutional visibility was further enhanced by producing four quarterly newsletters highlighting WHO's work in Angola.

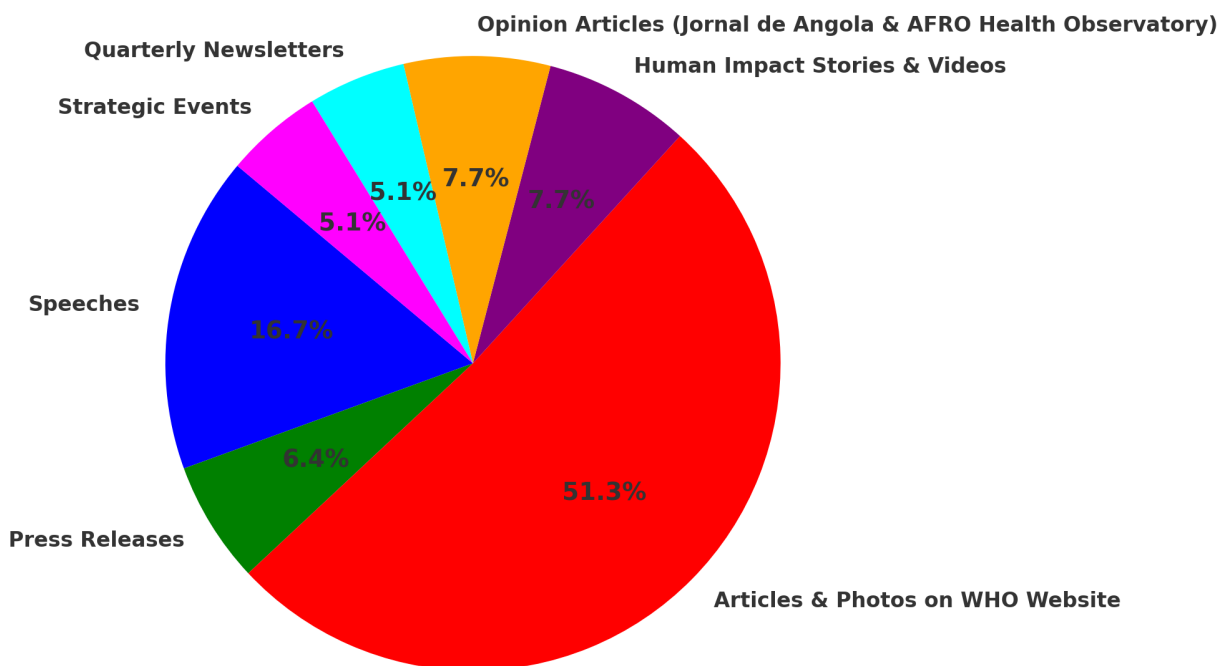
Strategic events were a cornerstone of WHO's communication efforts, with four major events held in partnership with public and private sectors to celebrate World Health Day, World No Tobacco Day, World Mental Health Day, and Universal Health Coverage Day. These events raised awareness and fostered community engagement and advocacy for health system improvements.

WHO's communication team undertook extensive field visits to over six provinces, from Zaire in the north to Lunda Norte in the east and Namibe in the south. These visits allowed the team to collaborate with local WHO colleagues and authorities, capturing and documenting ongoing initiatives to improve health outcomes. The team also conducted internal training for WHO staff, including two communication training sessions and media and photography skills workshops, ensuring that the organization's communication capabilities were continually enhanced.

WHO's digital presence achieved remarkable results in 2024, reaching over 1,000,000 people on social media, with an increase of 18,000 new followers and direct interaction with more than 4,500 people during live broadcasts. WHO Angola now boasts the second-highest following on Facebook among UN Angola pages, jumping three positions in 2024. Promoting essential information on universal health coverage and strengthening health systems was complemented by producing visibility materials, including brochures, covers, roll-ups, bags, and five videos, amplifying the impact of key messages among communities and strategic partners.

In summary, WHO Angola's communication efforts in 2024 were instrumental in promoting health awareness, advocating for policy changes, and engaging with the public and stakeholders. These initiatives enhanced WHO's visibility and contributed to the overall improvement of the health system in Angola.

**WHO's Strategic Communication Actions in 2024**





WHO representative in Angola speaks to the media in Malanje province

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WHO talking to media during the joint WHO-UNAIDS HIV advocacy visit to Malanje

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WHO speaks to the media during the polio vaccination campaign in the province of Luanda-Norte

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## Financial, Human & Administrative Resources

To enable the achievements of the WHO Angola public health goals through the implementation of the Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS), the financial, human, and administrative resources must be fit for purpose and ensuring accountability, budget allocation and investments, compliance and risk management, as well as ensuring zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse of communities we serve, zero tolerance of sexual harassment within the workforce.

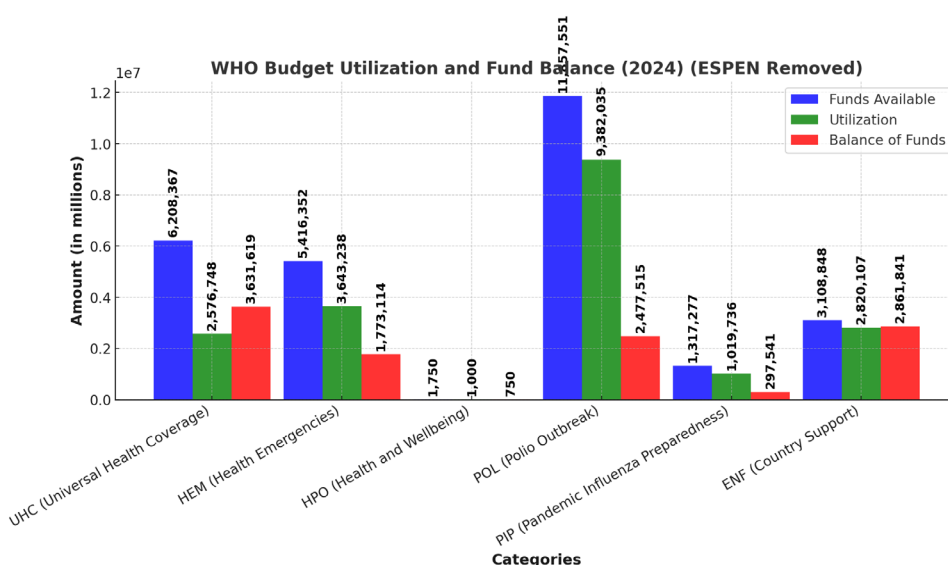
### Notable accomplishments:

- Full funding of all occupied posts.
- Recruitment of administrative assistants to support the Polio vaccination campaigns.
- Physical verification of fixed assets and the submission of the year-end annual certification.
- The use of the Global TrackPoint system for all official vehicles.

### 1. The year 2024 Financial Implementation

Category	Allocated Budget	Planned Costs	% PC vs Allocated Budget	Funds Available	% Funds Available vs Allocated Budget	Utilization	Balance of Funds Available	% Utilization vs Funds Available
01 UHC	5,357,560	4,793,536	89%	6,208,367	116%	2,576,748	3,631,619	42%
02 HEM	12,304,203	12,303,940	100%	5,416,352	44%	3,643,238	1,773,114	67%
03 HPO	545,642	545,642	100%	1,750	0%	1,000	750	57%
04 ENF	7,860,195	7,777,483	99%	3,108,848	40%	2,820,107	288,741	91%
10 POL	11,343,000	11,238,657	99%	11,857,551	105%	9,382,036	2,475,515	79%
13 EOA	3,494,250	3,094,250	89%	1,317,277	38%	1,019,736	297,541	77%
14 PIP	110,000	110,000	100%	87,500	80%	14,961	72,539	17%
50 ESPEN	568,336	568,336	100%	0	0%	0	0	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>41,583,186</b>	<b>40,431,844</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>27,997,645</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>19,457,826</b>	<b>8,539,819</b>	<b>69%</b>

Workplan Type	Planned Costs	Workplan Funding	% Workplan Funding vs Planned Cost	Award Budget	Utilization	% Utilization vs Workplan Funding
Activity	23,384,591	17,330,133	74%	16,679,515	12,795,510	74%
Staff	17,047,253	10,667,512	63%	10,667,512	6,662,317	62%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>40,431,844</b>	<b>27,997,645</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>27,347,027</b>	<b>19,457,826</b>	<b>69%</b>



### Workplan Utilization



### 2. The Year 2024 Workforce

Category	Total(s)	IP	NPO	GS	International		National	
					M	F	M	F
Staff	37	7	14	16	4	3	22	8
SSA	74	0	23	47	0	0	54	20
UNV	5	2	3	0	1	1	2	1
Consultants	11	10	1	0	6	4	1	0
Temp. App.	2	2	0	0	1	1	0	0
<b>Total(s)</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>29</b>



## Human Resources at the WHO Country Office in Angola

The main components of the Human Resources strategy are organizational structuring and workforce planning, talent acquisition, talent management and the creation of a respectful and welcoming work environment.

Objectives include applying policies and procedures, providing advisory support to management, colleagues and partners, attracting and securing highly competent staff for the Country Office's programs, and promoting staff career development, learning and performance. In addition, the HR department offers support for all HR-related issues.

## WHO Angola's Workforce in 2024

In 2024, the WHO in Angola had a total workforce of 128 professionals present in all provinces to support the implementation of the programs, with various types of contracts, as described below:

- Continuous appointment: 23
- Fixed-term appointment: 13
- Short-term appointment: 2
- International consultant: 10
- National consultant: 1
- United Nations national volunteers: 3
- United Nations international volunteers: 2
- Special services agreement: 74

The workforce is spread across 18 provinces (see table below):

N <sup>o</sup>	Província	Número total da força de trabalho
1	Bengo	3
2	Benguela	5
3	Bié	4
4	Cabinda	2
5	Cuando Cubango	3
6	Cuanza Norte	3
7	Cuanza Sul	5
8	Cunene	6
9	Huambo	5
10	Huíla	3
11	Luanda	68
12	Lunda Norte	3
13	Lunda Sul	3
14	Malange	3
15	Moxico	3
16	Namibe	3
17	Uíge	3
18	Zaire	1



## Training and development

The HR team benefited from training for the Staff Development and Learning Focal Point at the Regional Office in June 2024; and a development mission at the HR Unit of the Regional Office in September 2024.

## Activities Conducted

- Creation of a roster of drivers in 15 provinces.
- Reactivation of the Coffe with HR: Coffe with HR was created to facilitate interactive discussions with workforce on specific topics. In 2024, a Coffee with HR session was organized to inform employees about strategies to increase their chances of obtaining international positions. Two international staff members from Angola and Cape Verde were invited to share their experiences and testimonies.

## Awareness-raising activity

- A live broadcast activity was held on the theme: “Career opportunities for young Angolans at WHO”.
- The presentation covered the application process, requirements and opportunities for young.
- Angolans interested in contributing to public health and global well-being.



WHO staff during an all staff meeting

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## Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PRSEAH)

Sexual misconduct, which encompasses exploitation, abuse, harassment and violence, is a profound violation of the rights and dignity of individuals. Such behavior undermines the trust and well-being of the populations we serve, as well as the safety and integrity of our workforce. WHO unequivocally condemns all forms of sexual misconduct.

### What is PRSEAH?

Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (PRSEAH) is a pillar of WHO's commitment to ethical conduct and accountability. PRSEAH focuses on preventing sexual misconduct through awareness-raising, education and robust policy implementation, while ensuring a survivor-centered response to incidents.

#NãoHáDesculpas



## Main Activities in 2024

In 2024, the WHO in Angola intensified PRSEAH efforts through targeted activities that prioritized prevention, awareness and response:

### 1. Trainings and Awareness Campaigns:

a. Several training sessions on PRSEAH were held to disseminate the WHO's standards of conduct. These sessions aimed to raise awareness of the zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

### 2. Production and Distribution of Educational Materials:

a. WHO produced 1,000 stickers, 1,000 posters, 10 roll-up banners and a vinyl billboard. These materials were distributed to all WHO offices with PRSEAH focal points and used in awareness-raising campaigns.

b. The materials emphasized WHO's zero-tolerance stance and provided clear guidance on reporting mechanisms for sexual misconduct.

Through these initiatives, WHO reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to preventing and responding to sexual misconduct, ensuring that the rights and dignity of all individuals are respected.

**ZERO RECORDS OF SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION, ABUSE OR  
HARASSMENT AT OMS OFFICES  
IN ANGOLA DURING 2024.**

**#NoExcuses**



Thank you

to all the partners who have worked with WHO and contributed to supporting the government of Angola to promote, provide and protect health for all Angolans.







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Mundial da Saúde**  
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