



ANGOLA'S HEALTH SECTOR

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1. Country Overview

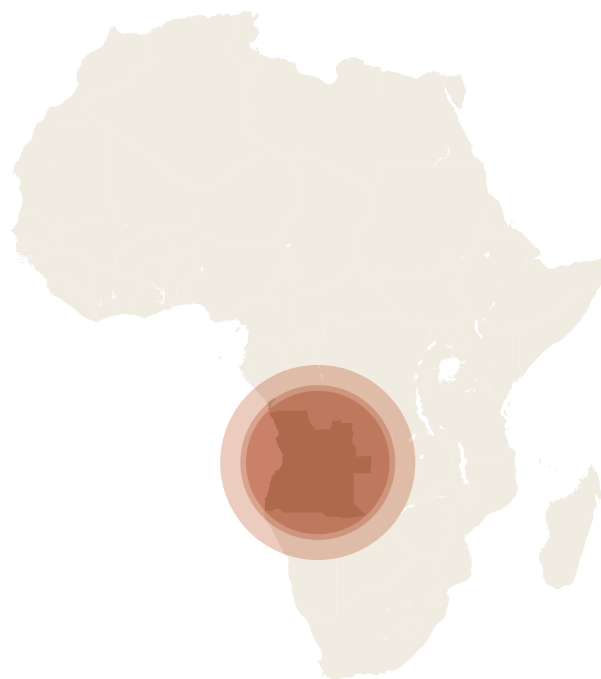
The Republic of Angola is located on the Southwestern side of Africa. Angola is bordered by Namibia to the South, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the North, Zambia to the East, and the Atlantic Ocean to the West. The capital city of Angola is Luanda, which is also the largest city in the country. The name of the country was derived from N'gola, meaning King in Kimbundu language. N'gola (King) Kiluange was the king of the Ndongo Kingdom when the Portuguese arrived in Angola. The country occupies 1,246,700 km² land area. ^[1]

As of 2020, the population of Angola was 32,866,26. ^[2] The official language is Portuguese, which is spoken by about 39% of the population as their mother tongue while the rest speak it as the second language. Angola has more than 18 national languages. Other foreign languages spoken in Angola are English and French. Angola has two levels of subnational governments: 18 provinces, 164 municipalities, and 557 communes. Provinces are headed by governors who are appointed by the executive. Municipalities are headed by municipal administrators who are selected by governors of the respective provinces. The Constitution of Angola defines sub-national governments as separate legal entities subject to their independent budgets.

Angola gained independence on 11th November 1975 from the Portuguese after 14 years of armed resistance after which Agostinho Neto became the president. After his demise in 1979, President José Eduardo dos Santos took over and ruled for 38 years before being succeeded by the current President João Lourenço in 2017. According to the Angolan Constitution, which was adopted in 2010, the president has executive power and a certain degree of legislative power. The presidency is limited to two five-year terms.

Despite having vast amounts of resources, Angola has been classified among the most inequitable countries in the world. The country also struggles with funds mismanagement. In 2021, it ranked 136 out of 180 in the corruption perception index. ^[3]

Angola's transportation network comprises roads, railways lines, airports, and seaports. The infrastructure suffered greatly during the civil war, but the country has been focusing on rebuilding. As of June 2020, Angola had a road network of 76,000 kilometers. About 58% of the roads are placed in different categories while the rest are unclassified and lack records of their conditions or characteristics. Of the roads that are classified, about 26,000 kilometers connect the capital city to the 18 provinces and about 17,500 kilometres connect the main cities. About half of the Angolan population lives about two kilometers away from any road. The



Angolan government manages three railway lines: Luanda line that is about 425 kilometers and runs from Luanda to Malange, Benguela line that is approximately 1344 kilometers and connects Lobito port to Luau along the Democratic Republic of Congo border, and lastly Moçamedes line that is about 857 kilometers long and connects Namibe to Menongue. ^[4]

Angola has been a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since 1996, Southern African Development Community (SADC), Economic Community of Central African States that promotes economic cooperation in Central Africa, Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) with the United States of America, and African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (AfCFTA) that aims to boost importation and exportation amongst member countries with free access to markets, free or no levies, and no barriers. ^[5]

1.1 Key Country Statistics



61
Life expectancy at birth, total (years), 2019^[6]



5.4
Growth Domestic Product (GDP) growth (annual percentage) 2020^[7]



37.8
Exports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP 2020^[9]



29.1
Imports of goods and services as a percentage of GDP 2020^[8]



Exported goods (2019):^[10]
Crude oil (**\$28.5B**),
Diamonds (**\$1.78B**),
Petroleum gas (**\$2.09B**)



Imported goods (2019):^[10] Refined petroleum (**\$596M**), Scrap vessels (**\$566M**), Poultry meat (**\$262M**)



\$30.556B
Balance of trade
Positive

2. COVID-19 Situation

The first case of COVID-19 was reported on 21st March 2020. As of 21st January 2022, the total number of COVID-19 infections were 95,220, 1881 deaths, and 86, 274 recoveries.

The country has vaccinated 32.11% of the total population; 16.80% fully vaccinated and 15.31% partially vaccinated against the COVID-19.

3. Health Overview

The Angolan healthcare system is classified into the public and private sectors. Operations in both are overseen by the National Health System (NHS) which is supervised by the Angolan Ministry of Health. Medical services in the public sector have been free for all citizens since 2008, but they are substandard due to understaffing, poor sanitary conditions, unstable supply of medical supplies, and analog data management systems ^[21]. The health system is based on the Primary Health Care and Hospital Assistance Programme. This covers services across all delivery levels. It consists of five sub-programmes: safe blood transfusion, promotion of healthy habits, development and management of a national laboratory network, pre-hospital assistance, and operationalization of services. Medicine in Angola is regulated by the National Directorate of Health which manages the National List of Essential Medicines, and General Health Inspection.

Angola is not as donor-dependent for health as other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Public health facilities are mainly financed by the government and to a smaller extent by NGOs, provincial government budgets, and companies that support certain vertical health programs. The government of Angola accounts for approximately 70% of the total health expenditure while the rest comes from private sources, especially out-of-pocket. The health plan that is being implemented is the National Health Development Plan (NHDP) 2012- 2025. The plan recognizes health as the primary factor for overall development and set an objective of strengthening maternal and child medical services, fighting against communicable and chronic diseases, and the improvement of all health systems.

The Top 10 Causes of Mortality Are:



85.35%

Cardiovascular diseases



81.76%

Respiratory infections and Tuberculosis



67.22%

Maternal and Neonatal disorders



63.68%

HIV/AIDS



45.86%

Enteric infections



42.44%

Cancer



38.16%

Neglected tropical diseases and malaria



31.74%

Transport injuries



29.77%

Digestive diseases

12%

Other infectious diseases

3.1 Key Health Statistics



2.55
Current health expenditure as a percentage of GDP, 2018. [24]

54.75
Private health expenditure as a percentage of current health expenditure, 2018 [25]

41.93
Government health expenditure as a percentage of current health expenditure 2018. [26]



36.80
Out-of-pocket expenditure as a percentage of current health expenditure, 2018. [27]



281
Maternal mortality, 2016. [28]



50
Under-five mortalities (total): , 2019. [29]

4. Key Challenges Faced by the Private Sector

- Unregulated private health insurance providers.
- Most private healthcare facilities are in urban areas hence inaccessible to people living in rural areas. Some travel to South Africa to access medical services.
- Shortage of human resources for health and maldistribution to facilities located in urban areas and little in rural areas.
- The slow expansion of the telemedicine network.
- Stockouts of medical supplies coupled with lengthy and expensive importation processes.

5. Key Opportunities for The Private Sector

- Establishment of reliable private health insurance policies to gain public confidence.
- Decentralization of private healthcare facilities to rural strategic areas to offer treatment to individuals who prefer to travel to South Africa and other neighboring countries for medical services.
- Extensive education of healthcare workers and distributors to healthcare facilities regardless of the location.

- Establishment of national blood management systems and enhancement of partnerships with the public health sector and other private facilities.
- Establishment of mobile clinics for people in far-off areas that have poor network coverage to access telemedicine services.
- Provision of technical expertise in connectivity such as cost-friendly internet services and data management solutions.
- Local manufacturing of medical supplies such as gloves and gauze. Importation of medical supplies and distribution to healthcare facilities.

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