



# WOMEN IN ACTION PLATFORM

Building vibrant and tolerant democracies



## Project "Platform for the Protection of Domestic Violence against Women and Girls" Final Narrative Report

May to November 2021



|                                   |                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Number</b>             | <b>G011904</b>                                                                                            |
| <b>Organization Name</b>          | <i>Women in Action Platform "PMA"</i>                                                                     |
| <b>Country</b>                    | <i>Angola</i>                                                                                             |
| <b>Project title</b>              | <i>"Platform for the Protection of Domestic Violence against Women and Girls"</i>                         |
| <b>Duration of the project</b>    | Start date: October 2020<br>End date: 30 November 2021                                                    |
| <b>Report period</b>              | <i>May 2021 to November 30, 2021.</i>                                                                     |
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## Acronyms

CISP - Integrated Center for Public Security

INSS – National Institute of Social Security

MININT – Ministério do Interior

MASFAMU – Ministry of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women

MINJUD – Ministry of Justice

CSOs – Civil Society Organizations

OGE – General State Budget

GDP- Gross Domestic Product

PGR – Attorney General's Office

PND- National Development Plan

VGB – Gender-Based Violence

SSR- Sexual Reproductive Health

UNOCA- United Nations Regional Desk for Central Africa

REFAC - Network of Active Women of Central Africa

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## 1. Contextualization - Political and social situation in the country

The Angolan economy continued its structuring following the 2018-2022 NDP, with multidimensional poverty levels at the level of the country's 18 provinces presented based on macroeconomic variations and the COVID-19 pandemic that aggravated the economic crisis. GDP in 2020 decreased by 20.4% in the OGE estimate and in the revised budget given the drop in the international market decreased by 19.2% of GDP, while in 2021 GDP fell again by around 18.9%, which corresponds to a slight slowdown of around 0.3%. This slowdown is due to the decrease in the generalized economy in the most advanced countries, creating high social and economic instability in the scarcity of resources and excessive rise in the prices of the basic food basket.<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 has caused **huge shocks to the world's informal and formal economies**, especially in Africa and Angola in particular, women have been particularly affected by this economic crisis, that "women's economic and productive lives will be unequally affected". The disruption of supply chains caused by border closures, production halts and import restrictions, with consequent price inflation, "has ruined the global food economy", with a major impact "on the poorest.

For many women's households in particular the closure of economic infrastructure, social distancing measures have increased women's unpaid care and domestic burden at home, making them less able to take on or balance paid work.

The current state of the pandemic is growing but the necessary measures continue to be taken by the government with constant updating of the decree law of the state of public calamity. One of the measures for access to the vaccine for the population to adhere to the vaccine in a compulsive and preventive way was the public appeal made by the President of the Republic when expanding the opening from the 1st of November, those over 18 years of age will now have to present a vaccination certificate against Covid-19 to access various places, including public services, schools, restaurants and for sports activities. Alternatively, citizens can present a negative test, valid only for one week.

Since the announcement of this requirement that would initially be imposed from this date - vaccination posts in the country have been flooded, **with endless queues** throughout the day. Currently some changes have been created with the extension of vaccination services to informal markets.

In the period from May to October/2021, Luanda was the scene of numerous instabilities for access to the vaccine against COVID 19. The epidemiological situation caused by the pandemic the new variant of Sarc-2 Omicron, considered worrying and very contagious by the World Health Organization (WHO), was detected in Southern Africa and since the South African health authorities gave the alert in November, infections have been reported in at least 110 countries.

The Angolan population was also affected, with high cases of this strain in the country. State of emergency restrictions and border closures for SADC countries were tightened in this period from late November to December 2021. Until new pronouncements were made and

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<sup>1</sup> [https://countrysometers.info/pt/Angola People's Watch in Angola](https://countrysometers.info/pt/Angola%20People's%20Watch%20in%20Angola) - United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 18-10-2021 21:33:55

allowed the opening of the airspace, providing the executive with reinforcement of sanitary measures, biosecurity, including the extension of vaccines to the population, covering minors.

The mass vaccination in the posts created, it was possible to verify a mass influx of the population, even causing at certain times disturbances and disorders in the local areas, which were however solved with the presence of the defense and public security agencies. The country faces limitations on the extension of medical care services (vaccination) in all parts of the country.

In the informal markets of the country's capital, for example where most of the population seeks their livelihood, the population does not always comply with sanitary rules during the sale of products. The agglomerations outside the market enclosure, and street vending are the characteristics that are registered in peri-urban centers people without protective masks. After obeying the normal opening hours until 15.00 in the afternoon, users go out inside the venue and sell on the streets. Garbage and lack of basic sanitation is one of the major problems that can seriously affect the population in this rainy season. **Only 1/3 of the population has been vaccinated , corresponding to 5.07% of the population.<sup>2</sup> Survey made on 28.11.2021.**

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Injustices were found with regard to the vaccination of vulnerable strata both in rural communities with scarcity of care, in capitals and urban and peri-urban areas. Without failing to report that in the period in reference in the municipality of Viana it was also the scene of shouts of voices (demonstrations) in favor of improvements in life, alternation in political power, reduction of the prices of the basic food basket, freedom of expression, price rises in the economic sector and education in an exorbitant and exorbitant way, both in higher education and in private basic education.

Finally, the new administrative division of Angola in the increase of new provinces this project of the executive aims to implement, only the provinces of Moxico and Malanje, which will be divided into three, while Uíge, Lunda Norte and Cuando Cubango will be divided into two provinces each. The voter registration period for the general elections scheduled for the year 2022 has begun.

**1.1 Introduction *NOTE: Do not copy the proposal or the last report; What has changed in the region since the previous month? Pertinent information related to the program is required in the introduction. Include an explanation of any recent changes to the project objectives or changes in the overall direction of the programme***

Angola recorded 19 homicides of women victims of domestic violence between March and November 2020, two more cases compared to the same period last year, the Angolan Criminal Investigation Service (SIC) announced. The information was transmitted by the Forensic Sexology department of the national directorate of the SIC, stating that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the country registered a "considerable increase" in crimes perpetrated violently. According to the SIC department, Angola registered, in the third quarter of this year 2021, 2,322 crimes of domestic violence committed by acquaintances, 353 cases of sexual rape committed by acquaintances and 419 by unknown persons. While the MASFAMU family

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<sup>2</sup> <https://countryeconomy.com/others/coronavirus-vaccine/angola>

counseling center registered 3,303 cases of domestic violence between January and October 2020.

At least 11 cases of domestic violence per day were recorded in the country in the first ten months of the year. In less than six months, the SOS Criança line, under the management of the National Children's Institute (INAC) and the Angolan Integrated Center for Public Security (CISP), registered 103,140 cases of violence, with paternity escape leading the way, with more than 38,000 notifications. The country does not have a computerized baseline that allows the registration of data that should unify the information of the different state structures that deal with the mitigation of the VGB<sup>3</sup>.

The Angolan Executive "remains engaged" in the promotion and protection of children, in particular young women, recalling that the SOS Child 15015 line was recently launched. According to UNICEF in Angola, three out of ten women have at some point been victims of physical or sexual violence. One in four children between the ages of 5 and 17 is a victim of child labour.<sup>4</sup>

Abuses occurred that are not reported addressing the relationship between domestic violence and Covid-19 in Angola, the SIC department presented results of case studies carried out mainly in Luanda, concluding that a high number of cases of domestic violence do not come to the attention of police bodies.<sup>5</sup>

The executive was able to implement the strategies that PMA addressed in one of the lectures at the invitation of MASFAMU in the first semester of the execution of the project on the COVID 19 Pandemic and the economy in women's lives, as a result of the dialogue between various actors involved in this meeting;<sup>6</sup>

***One of the project's initiatives was to strengthen community education campaigns so that more citizens would have access to information on VGB, SRH and social security to street vendors to mitigate the incidence of violence in families.***

***The project involved young adolescents in lectures and community education in informal markets and in the WFP community centre. The team used the technique of peer education where the activists worked together in two and groups, during the transmission of information house to house in the surroundings of Zango 0 to Calumbo. Community education was done through newsletters on SRH, VGB information on the social protection of vendors in the markets of this district. These activities contributed significantly and helped community members to meet the activist team through the greengrocers promoted in this district. The greengrocers consisted of the sale of information in bulk during the 6 months of intervention in the 2nd semester.***

***Dissemination of information with loudspeakers and sound equipment, was used during the greengrocers (sale of information on (VGB, SRH and social protection) promoted in the last phase of the project's intervention.***

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dw.com/pt-002/angola-regista-consider%C3%A1vel-aumento-de-crimes-contra-mulheres/a-55728807>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/angola/vih>

<sup>5</sup> Idem 3

<sup>6</sup> See Project Results

**The actions carried out in the period** in question aimed to respond to the fulfilment of the specific objectives of the project described:

1. Promote lobbying and social advocacy actions to influence the replanning to update the Strategic Plan to combat domestic violence in the face of Covid-19 and post covid-19 and Encourage public entities (police officers) in the handling and application of the law against gender-based violence;
2. Create mechanisms for the Dissemination of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Gender-Based Violence in the face of covid-19 in the Municipality of Viana, Neighborhoods from Zango 0 to Zango 5 and Calumbo commune;
3. Identify the number of Women in the Informal Market outside the Social Protection Services system for registration

## 2. Summary of Activities

**Content/Activities carried out – Include the activities carried out within the scope of the project. For instance:**

***Meeting with important partners/actors for the achievement of the general objectives of the project, coordination meetings, successes, including successes and difficulties in the implementation of any activities.***

 **The social advocacy actions provided by the project in this last phase** focused on community education, strengthening cooperation synergies, identifying potential strategic partners to achieve the objectives and ensuring the institutional sustainability of the project respectively.

- [illegible]

- a) Second section of social advocacy for reflection and inclusion of contributions from other actors. ***The activity consisted of extending debates and reflection on the social advocacy plan to influence the updating of the executive plan to combat GBV***. The extended round table involved public agents (MASFAMU and MIINT) and Civil Society Organizations" - In favor of "Strategies and Synergies, Civil Society Organizations in particular; Rede Mulher, Psychology students from CIS University - Higher Institute of Social Sciences and International Relations, Goscop, IECA - Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola, NGO-Rosas e Espinhos, Ajarna, Fuaka, were part of the face-to-face event, while online representatives of other organizations participated, such as; Mwuana Pó, AAJM-HLA (Young Women Support Association of Huila) focal point of WFP Huila, independent consultant (Emilio Manuel) director of WFP.

### **Recommendations of the social advocacy meeting;**

- b) Create technical groups for the prevention of GBV for intervention in schools and communities; creation of round tables for reflection on the theme of gender-based domestic violence in schools;
- c) Influence the executive to promote greater multidisciplinary dissemination of VGB in the media at a national level;
- d) Influence the executive to create social programs for the problem of gender-based domestic violence, Promote the creation of representatives at all levels (Schools, Churches, and communities);
- e) Conduct advocacy on the creation of more shelters at the level of the 18 provinces.
- f) Implement integrated services so that the center creates liveliness and that the rate of violence is minimized.
- g) Create or strengthen an online platform of real and up-to-date data on victims of domestic violence disaggregated by sex and age, and fight poverty.
- h) Implementation of lectures aimed at different social strata; re-education of public security agents, and families (Police, teachers, Communities in general Parents and Children), the poorly educated human being becomes vulnerable in society.
- i) Psychological support for victims of domestic violence and aggressors, influencing and strengthening the effectiveness of dialogue within families
- j) Advocate and take to decision-making bodies to implement a discipline or subject that addresses the issues of domestic violence within families under Law 25/11 and sexual and reproductive health.
- k) Implementation of infrastructures adopted for basic and technical entrepreneurship courses in order to reduce the level of poverty and unemployment, especially among women;
- l) To influence the framing of street vendors and informal markets in the social security system;
- m) Promote multisectoral consultation for the preparation of the national strategy to combat domestic violence, involving the Council of Ministers and civil society;
- n) Promote awareness campaigns, radio debates, lectures, workshops on VGB and SRH.
- o) To request the National Assembly to promote debates that contribute to the creation of specific legislation to protect victims of domestic violence;

- p) That a Participatory Rapid Diagnosis be implemented (**especially with the support of Churches, NGOs and local leaders**) to highlight the real situation of the victim of domestic violence against children, women and the elderly, as well as to promote the elaboration of a mitigation plan and emergency treatment for the victims.

Some of the recommendations to the WFP contemplated the implementation of the project within the framework of dialogue actions with members of the executive, and the strategy of working directly with public institutions dealing with GBV cases was used to reinforce the evidence of the problems raised by the project;

### **Continuation of the activities carried out**

2. Visits were carried out to verify public services at local level in order to assess the response capacity of public institutions in the fight against GBV. Visits to 9 (nine) police units to assess the capacity of both service and means for handling cases and for the procedural instruction of serious cases of GBV; consequently visits to the public hospital unit in the district of Zango to evaluate the existing services for young people and women in the prevention of SRH and care services for victims of GBV;
3. In partnership with MAFASMU, PMA participated in the coordination section with the multidisciplinary technical group, which is working on the revision of Law 25/11 of the VGB for its update in which they are framed; jurists from various state agencies, officials from the Ministry of the Interior, police commanders, members of the FAA public defense agency and civil society in the dialogue of the proposal in work for the revision of the Law scheduled for 2022.
4. PMA was involved in the 16-day campaign to combat GBV, within the scope of the working partnership with MASFAMU with the participation of the UN organization, police, SIC, FAA and other partners in the reflection meeting for greater contribution to the VGB action plan, which this state institution has carried out;
5. 8 (Eight) Lectures on Law 25/11 of July 14 VGB and interviews to verify the services in the police units, in 8 police stations in the perimeter of Zango 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and Calumbo in the period from July to August, reaching a total of 380 agents benefiting from updating knowledge about the Law, elements of the National Police as well as SIC agents assigned to the Municipal Command of Viana. Corresponding to sex-disaggregated data of 21 females and 359 males. It was found that the coordination of the agents in these units is made up mostly of men, and in some police units there was no female staff. The reinforcement of work in gender transversality should continue to be emphasized in the future.
6. As MASFAMU's gender focal point, WFP was part of the meetings of the SADC committees on Gender, Southern Africa in the presentation of the Angolan national VGB plan and the SADC VGB Law as an indicative instruction for member countries to adopt rules that ensure the minimization of the problem;

### **7. Two studies were conducted;**

The study sought to seek information on the economic rights of workers in the informal market in order to seek to understand the challenges of the informal economy and how this sector works, which sustains about 60% of the population. Meetings were held with public institutions, including the communities, in order to collect information on the impact of the monetary contributions made to the vendors, for the state coffers and to advocate for the inclusion of these workers in the social security system, in view of the social benefits resulting from the economic activity carried out by women, mainly. Another study was based on the knowledge about the rights to Sexual Reproductive Health of young women, women and men in the informal sector, outside the social protection system, with a sample of 300 people asked to assess the level of perception of citizens about early pregnancy, care and knowledge about sexual health and the availability of the quality of services existing in this locality. The two surveys correspond to a total of 600 citizens surveyed, of which 350 are women and 250 men, aged between 15 and 60 years old, with the aim of helping the project to identify the most critical vulnerable situations that can help strengthen the agenda of social advocacy actions. The data were submitted for proper treatment and the results point to very **critical indicators** <sup>7</sup> in terms of knowledge about sexual and reproductive health, as well as the vulnerability of the economic sector that supports thousands of families in this municipality during the Covid 19 phase. It is expected to be published in the 1st Half of 2022.

#### 8. Radio debates and greater institutional and project visibility

4 actions were carried out with the media, including two debates on Ecclesia radio, one on Despertar radio and an interview on Mira do Crime. Below are the links to the work carried out;

9. <https://www.radioecclesia.org/audio/noticiarios/24487-matria-violencia-domestica-proyecto-osisa-ii>
10. <https://www.radioecclesia.org/audio/24478-matria-violencia-domestica-proyecto-osisa>
11. <https://www.namiradocrime.info/show/4169>
12. Participação da PMA no debate radiofonico sobre a situação economica das mulheres e familias no municipio de Viana Radio Despertar;
13. Existence of the project's Blog for greater visibility of the activities of the Community Support Center for Victims of VGB-<https://pmablog.pma-ao.org/index.php>
14. Updated the PMA website page with continued improvements [www.pma-ao.org](http://www.pma-ao.org)

#### 2nd Objective of the project;

**Result** - More than 350 agents of the national police in 8 police units were trained to improve the care of victims of violence in the police stations from Zango 0 to Calumbo, to improve knowledge for handling Law 25/11 against domestic violence, as well as the collaboration of the community in adhering to awareness campaigns based on the rights to sexual and reproductive health, women's rights. The lectures were administered by the National Director of the Department of Violence Dr. Conceição

<sup>7</sup> See SSR fishing report and economic situation attached

Nhanga, who was willing to support the cause within the cooperation with the PMA and the Ministry of the Interior of which she is a part.

### **3rd Objective**

#### **Community education and awareness campaigns**

**Outcome** - More than 6000 pamphlets and newsletters on GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health were produced and distributed during the dissemination of information in the last six months of the intervention;

Community education campaigns on VG, SRH were promoted in the informal markets of Zango and Calumbo.

More than 20,000 indirect people were able to access information through greengrocers and publish the information in informal markets and the media.

Several consultation meetings were held with vendors in the markets from Zango 0 to Calumbo, during the street vending of the information of the community center and the and no registered street vendor was identified, providing the reinforcement of the dialogue with MASFAMU for this effectuation;<sup>8</sup>

## **3. RESULTS ACHIEVED**

1. The project reached about 9 500 users mobilized and educated about Law 25/11 of the VGB and SSR distributed in the 1st semester reached 5000 users; In the second half of the year, the indicator was 4500 users. Corresponding to 7500 women and 2000 men in a total of direct beneficiaries of the project, through the activities in the community center and the community education carried out in the communities;
2. Listeners' audience with 3 (three) radio debates, 2 (two) on Ecclesia radio, one on despertar radio; a media interview on the Mira do Crime program, managed to reach the population of Luanda considering that more than 20,000 listeners had access to information about the project and the situation of VGB in the municipality of Viana mainly;
3. After the section of lectures on the consequences of COVID 19 on the economy and its impact on women's lives presented by PMA at the invitation of MASFAMU, it gladly received the recommendations of the National Director of the VGB Department of SIC with the commitment to do something for the well-being of the affected population. The recommendations presented by the WFP at this event resulted in the creation of synergies and response strategy for the informal sector; the institutions of the BNA - National Bank of Angola, Ministry of Finance, MAPTESS and MASFAMU and other partners joined in the cause for the registration of vendors and their inclusion in the state social fund. The PMA was present at the two meetings held by these entities, as part of the consultation and launch of the campaign that kicked off the registration process of informal vendors, of the 30 market in Viana with the highest density of people in the informal sector. The executive reinforced the information of the commitment to extend this work to all markets in the country; Bié has already started to benefit from the registration and access to the seller card of some women traders, similar to the municipality of Viana in Luanda;
4. The VGB community center created by the PMA is a new social support structure in

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<sup>8</sup> See project result

these communities, it needs greater attention to the knowledge of the target population in the district from Zango 0 to Calumbo, because the users who were able to get to know the work that is being carried out aroused the interest of the local population in involving young people, parents and children in the lectures on the topics addressed, on domestic violence, the rights to sexual and reproductive health in an explicit way by health and SIC specialists and jurists. in order to encourage the strengthening of the reporting of cases of violence as well as the follow-up of cases in the legal instances. Of the **9,500 direct beneficiaries of the project mobilized on the existence of this structure, 90 had access to the presentation of GBV cases, of which 17 more serious cases are under procedural instruction**. According to the Jurist, one of the major problems identified is the lack of identity documents of users for the follow-up of the procedural instruction.

5. **9,590 project beneficiaries** had access to information on VGB and SRH and benefited from community education material for expansion in their families;
6. **The involvement of parents and children in the sexual and reproductive health education sections contributed to greater openness of dialogue in families to talk about sexuality** without taboo and prejudice, as a mechanism to minimize teenage pregnancy, and the use of sex in adulthood verified in the sessions administered in the community center.
7. 10 community activists had a paralegal training in partnership with the Free Hands Association so that in the future they can register the cases, instruct a VGB criminal case and present them to the legal instances for follow-up (local police to the Viana court), a guarantee of sustainability in the procedural instruction.
8. An audience, in person with the Minister of MASFAMU, the Secretary of State, the National Director of the VGB Department, commanders and agents of the police of the district and the provincial command of Luanda and the municipality of Viana, radio debates promoted, contact with members of the beneficiary communities, also contributed significantly to expand information on VGB mainly at the level of the district of Viana and Luanda. As a result in November, the Angolan executive at a ministerial meeting (**MINIT, MASFAMU, National Police Command, SIC**) **presented an agenda for updating the executive plan to combat GBV scheduled for 2022**, in line with the penal code in force within the framework of the increment of penalties and the revision of the Law that is being worked on by a multidisciplinary team of the executive.
9. Produced more than 10,000 newsletters and distributed to the community during education campaigns.
10. WFP has been included in MASFAMU's VGB department as a partner and focal point of this state structure, is involved in local level meetings on the VGB issue and also monitors the evolution of the action plan and policies of the SADC region in the region's gender committees.
11. Creation of the Blog on VGB of the community center for assistance to victims of domestic violence of other actors and partners in the fight for the same cause and reinforcement of synergies for networking;
12. Two project studies on the economic situation of women and sexual and reproductive health were carried out;
13. Existence of two study reports that will serve for social advocacy of the project and for the PMA in influencing public policies in the education, economy, health and human rights sectors;
14. WFP was able to identify other partners for support in the cause of GBV and the rights to general health and sexual and reproductive health, education with the (UNESCO)

Trust Fund, Safaids in partnership with the Zimbabwean network GEAR ALLIANCE, for 2022 in a working relationship with Mwuana Pó for institutional strengthening of this initiative;

15. The municipal police officers and members of the community requested that the project initiative be extended to other communes in Viana such as Capalanca due to the high rate of violence in that community to support the victims.
16. 8 lectures were held to the PN - National Police and SIC personnel in the aforementioned police stations. The lectures were 100% attended by the National Director of the VGB Department, Dr. Conceição Nhangá, who made herself available to support the cause of the project in the context of strengthening knowledge of Law 25/11 of VGB and the procedural procedures and the implications of non-compliance in the application of the standard. Effective of the Ministry of the Interior assigned to the Central Services of the SIC, facilitated the sections administered with the illustrative methodology and with the support of manuals, distributed by the project, namely brochure on SSR and VGB including Law 25/11. The speaker reinforced normative aspects that are in line with the Penal Code in force for those processes or cases that are transferred to the court, with the aim of police officers knowing the consequences of the seriousness of the types of violence that may occur in integrated police units.

#### 17. **Community Support Center for Victims of Domestic Violence**

**The Community Center** promotes legal support with regular operation from Monday to Friday from 9 am to 2 pm, the legal support of the Jurist of the Free Hands. **According to the jurist** 's report "The activities are mainly focused on serving the target audience, lectures, and information campaigns, with a view to increasingly publicizing the existence of the center. In the future we will have to go to public institutions to deal with user cases. That is to say, that those who should be at the center to assist users are the PMA activists and they should gather all the information and then pass it on to the lawyers, in order to give the proper treatment. As for the activities carried out in this period, we found that the users who come to us have serious problems with personal documentation and it makes it impossible for us to act in advance. But in this period it has already attended 179 cases of which; **23 users** , 19 Ladies and 2 gentlemen victims of GBV; Of the 19 participations resulted in 18 invitation letters, but only two of them were answered, 10 conflicts are related to the provision of alimony escape from paternity of minors, in which a father assumed to give monthly alimony and also that the son would start to make appointments at his medical center. Two are related to property violence against a young man who accuses his aunts of taking his father out of the house, putting him on the street and renting the house. The family says they came to this conclusion because he mistreats his father. 7 cases are related to physical violence husbands who beat their wives, 4 to sexual violence husbands who sexually abuse their wives. **156** male employees of the company DEPRON DE SEGURANÇA and SGCILA;-companies that manage the human and financial resources of DEPRON employees in which they do not pay salaries to these employees for one year and six months treating; it is configured as a violation of the human rights of employees who claim to create an outbreak of moral and psychological violence in their homes due to the lack of maintenance to the family so far that the process takes place where many of them have already lost their wives and others are subjugated, this can trigger physical violence culminating in death. As for the other letters, we had no

answers, we were unable to move forward for documentary reasons from the users, just to give you an idea, the case of food, the boys' mothers are aged from 19 to 50 years old and have no record and the boys do not have either, we draw attention to solving this impasse. Because if the father fails to provide maintenance, we will not be able to demand maintenance immediately, before we will have to enter the filiation process and it would take a long time because of the procedural slowness in the courts. Another case that we have also been mediating is the rental of a residence in which the tenant, taking advantage of the fragility of the user, creates some instability, but the parties intend to reach an agreement and put an end to the existing rental contract between them.

It is still too early to draw conclusions regarding the ongoing processes, it is a new and necessary initiative, but our advice is to move forward because the project is new and has a lot to offer in the community. And we will be here to give an impute taking into account the experience we have as lawyers. We just have to thank you for the trust placed in us, we are here, willing to collaborate in whatever is necessary so that the activities are increasingly growing. ***The initiative is good and of added value to the community.***  
***Words by lawyer Vanda Rodrigues;***

**18. Training of Activists as Paralegals for Community Center Sustainability.** Within the scope of the project, PMA carried out a training for community activists as paralegals, administered in partnership by the Lawyers of the Mãos Livres Association, which took place from 17 to 19 November 2021 to respond in the best way in the service (victims and aggressors in cases of GBV and human rights violations). Challenges that stand out with the institutional capacity of this structure and the team in service. The training aimed to reinforce learning in the monitoring and treatment of cases received and received by the center, with a view to resolving conflicts between the parties, whether resolved gracefully (extrajudicial or judicial).

Paralegals are professionals in legal science, who perform procedures autonomously or semi-autonomously, as part of a legal service system. Performs tasks that require understanding based on legislation for their proper execution. The following topics were administered:

Notions of State and Law; Fundamental Principles enshrined in the Constitution, **two components that are: Principles of Criminal Law – Fundamental Rights and Principle of Adjective Criminal Law**; The training section was administered by Lawyers of the Free Hands Association; Salvador Freire dos Santos, Manuel da Cunha, Vanda Rodrigues Neto and Guilherme Neves respectively;

**19- Monitoring and lectures were held in 8 police units in the district of Zango 0 to Calumbo;** While the lectures were taking place, a survey was carried out in each of the police stations that produced the following results:

| Description                             | Dates      |
|-----------------------------------------|------------|
| Lecture at the Zango 0 Police Station   | 20/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango Police Station1    | 21/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango2-A Police Station  | 22/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango 2-B Police Station | 22/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango 3 Police Station   | 23/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango 4 Police Station   | 03/08/2021 |
| Lecture at the Zango 5 Police Station   | 28/07/2021 |
| Lecture at the Calumbo Police Station   | 24/08/2021 |

| Description                            | Esq. Zango0  | Esq. Zango1  | Esq. Zango2  | Esq. Zango3        | Esq. Zango4  | Esq. Zango5  |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Attorney                               | n/e          | n/e          | n/e          | n/e                | n/e          | n/e          |
| SIC Researcher/Instructor              | s/e          | s/e          | s/e          | s/e                | s/e          | s/e          |
| Knowledge and application of Law 25/11 | 10%          | 15%          | 10%          | 10%                | 7%           |              |
| Case follow-up                         | Insufficient | Insufficient | Insufficient | Insufficient       | Insufficient | Insufficient |
| Victim Shelter House                   | n/s          | n/s          | N/S          | N/S                | N/S          | N/S          |
| Technical means                        | Difficulties | Difficulties | Difficulties | Difficulties       | Difficulties | Difficulties |
| Car                                    | S/E          | S/E          | S/E          | Motorized Equipped | N/A          |              |
| Number of Troops/ Squad                | 0            | 0            | 0            | 0                  | 0            | 0            |

**Legend: (n= no/ s= Yes/ e= exists/ n/e= does not exist)**

The staff are police officers who work and scale in these police units, not identified permanent agents due to interference from the COVID 19 pandemic.

### **Difficulties encountered**

- ✚ The district is extensive and the team at times felt difficulties in reaching the communities due to access difficulties given the problem of unpaved roads and transport;
- ✚ The PMA vehicle had serious breakdowns in this semester, with very high costs for repair after prospecting in the market, where the costs were beyond the financial reach of the project and PMA, one of the reasons for renting a car and using a taxi to work in the communities;
- ✚ Clusters of garbage due to lack of collection by health services and lack of coordination by public agents continue to be a serious problem; we realized after several marches that the collection of solid waste is the responsibility of Zango 8000 which is almost outside the perimeter of Zango 0 to Zango 5, making it difficult to access some areas and streets for community work and risks against public health;
- ✚ There is a need to strengthen the dialogue in order for the executive to determine the situation of domestic violence as a multidisciplinary problem and should encompass a greater number of the executive structures and thus strengthen institutions such as the Ministry of Commerce, Economy and Planning, academics, doctors, psychologists and others to contribute significantly to the improvement of the VGB executive plan and reinforce the budget increase in these areas to face the reduction of VGB in families in the phase COVID 19 and post Covid;
- ✚ In the population clusters of the district, the citizens sell on top of the garbage and due to the conditions of poverty of the families, limited knowledge about health and the non-adequate use of biosecurity measures, provided the worsening of the flu (new strain) in the period from October to November almost the entire PMA team that worked in that

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perimeter was affected and the project without some assistance from the project employees to minimize the problems health;

- ✚ Youth in this perimeter have few opportunities and weak social initiatives, alcohol, drugs are one of the problems of greatest consumption of young people due to lack of employment;

Given the Covid 19 phase security measures, police officers work on a shift basis in the police units of this district, they are effective from the Ministry of the Interior.

## 20 Participatory Activities and Synergies with other Partners

- ✚ Meeting with civil society organizations with the 4th Commission of the National Assembly on the General State Budget and Gender;
  - ✚ PMA's participation in the swearing in of the new management bodies of the SOS Habitat organization and the Forum of Women Journalists;
  - ✚ PMA's participation in the "Conference on the Sexual and Reproductive Health of Young Women and the Guarantee of Sexual Rights, Health Care and Services; promoted by AJME - Association of Empowered Young Women;
  - ✚ Capacity Building Sections on Illicit Flight of Public Resources and Money Laundering in partnership with the AJPD;
  - ✚ Meeting with the MAT- Ministry of Administration and Territory on participatory budgeting and local governance in partnership with DW;
  - ✚ PMA's participation in meetings with Thota promoted by civil society partner organizations in the context of human rights violations;
  - ✚ Participation in the section and training on Budgeting and gender promoted by UNDP Cape Verde and Angola within the framework of the partnership of the PROPALOP and East Timor program;
  - ✚ Meeting to evaluate the Human Rights Monitoring group for its restructuring;
  - ✚ Participation in the meeting between UNOCA – United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa, WFP and Women's Network with the aim of evaluating the level of intervention of NGOs, Women and civil society in economic life and in diplomatic relations and cross-border trade in the SADC and Africa region;
  - ✚ Meeting with REFAC, the Cameroonian organization network of active women in central Africa works for the fight against poverty by fraternizing women in Africa and the world in partnership with MASFAMU and the Women and Women Entrepreneurs Network;
  - ✚ Participation in meetings in partnership with AJUDECA in the Angolan Citizenship Platform on Public Debt;
  - ✚ Participation in the Pro bono Angola conference on public debt and repatriation of capital;
  - ✚ Participation in the meeting on human rights in Angola in partnership with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights and the Catholic University;
  - ✚ Meeting with children and CRNSA SADC region's network of influence of the SADC Protocol on the rights of the child with the aim of assessing the consequences of COVID 19 on education and its impact on the lives of children, including children's rights, and influencing policies in favor of minors in Angola;
- ✚ **Conclusion- Include a brief review of the month in question, plans for the month ahead, and any other information they find relevant. Assess where the program stands in terms of achieving its overall goal and objectives. Discuss actions that worked and those that**

**failed to achieve. Describe how any change in the policy environment has impacted the direction of the programme or implementation. Explain any lessons learned.**

#### **4. Challenges**

##### **a) External**

Domestic violence is seen as a problem of full responsibility of MASFAMU and the Ministry of the Interior, leaving other public institutions with little involvement in minimizing the basic problems that afflict families and that foment violence in a transversal and multisectoral way; there is a need to influence state agents in greater understanding so that the Angolan state assumes the VGB as a multisectoral problem that encompasses most of the structures that deal directly with the well-being of the populations in various areas;

- The programs and projects financed by the partners must include some expenditure for medical assistance of the team linked to the project in order to minimize health needs, in cases where the subsidies do not meet the coverage for these costs;
- The reduction in the capacity of taxi drivers that varied between 50% and 75% of passengers increased the value of taxi expenses for fieldwork by the project team due to COVID 19 restrictions and the new strain in the 2nd phase of execution;
- Poor attendance of participants at the venues of the lectures during working hours, sometimes coinciding with the same dates as the activities of the ruling party in the election campaigns in the municipality, allowing activists to stay in the markets to talk directly to vendors and educate citizens; some community education lectures, the strategy was to meet people, holding lectures in places of sale and entertainment for young people; and administer lectures on Saturdays;
- The direct contact with the Provincial Government and the changes of the governor, created delays in responding to the required hearings, making it impossible for the team not to have access to the requested meeting with this state entity.
- Some resistance with the heads of the market administrations in the informal sector, limiting the dialogue about information about the money paid by the sellers and its destination.
- PMA received many requests from other districts for the extension of the project as a result and positive impact of the actions developed by the project, in the area of intervention the project time limit of only 12 months seemed to be short for the ambition that the project achieved, where the demand for information services in the center is increasing requiring some extralogical intervention by the organization;
- The context of the elections served as an influence for the launch of improvement programs in the informal sector, for greater mobilization of the disadvantaged population and its framing in the social sector;

##### **b) Internal**

- The change of online financial transactions was an exercise that the organization carried out during the execution of the project, and which ensured greater reliability in accountability, reducing the greater flow of movements in cash; Although there are still many services in which payments are not banked, it is considered an internal challenge in the planning and prospection of services that allow this system to be adapted;
- Resource constraints in some administrative lines of the project created difficulties in view of the increase in material costs (inkwells, paper and office maintenance supplies) due to the excessive rise in market prices;

- The lack of available transport, unfortunately in the middle of the project the PMA vehicle was identified a breakdown valued at a high value for its repair and without working funds for this purpose, making the logistics of the project difficult;
- Changes in organizational management due to the absence of the manager due to health reasons absent from the country and new adaptations of online work provided some limitations for the team, which consisted of the presentation of operational plans, detailed budgets for the disbursement of funds for the execution of online activities;
- Transport to the project's interaction areas, as due to the increase in cases, even with the decree of 75% of passengers plus motorists, has to exceed the price of the route, thus creating large expenses with transport fees on the part of the target group to participate in the project activities.
- The bureaucracy and the lack of interest in dialogue on the part of public entities (provincial government and market administrations) were sent letters to request an audience to lobby and advocate in favor of the rights of women workers in informal markets to be included in Social Security systems.
- Lack of refunding for the extension of the project is considered a challenge for the WFP because the intervention communities are the first time they have worked with a civil society organization in that perimeter, and there is still a lot of work to be done in the framework of women's rights and human rights beyond the problem of VGB and SRH, due to insufficient public services and knowledge of the procedures to safeguard human life. This is a work planned for at least 3 years of intervention, so that the population would have the opportunity to be well within the protection networks that should be created in this locality to mitigate the problems, until the existence of the new VGB executive plan, to highlight the structural changes of the state and the target group.

## 5. Project Impact

The impact of the actions carried out during the last half of the current year is scrutinized as follows:

- By increasing the understanding of the project's contribution to the social development of communities and the reduction of gender-based violence among populations in the vicinity of the community center, the project serves as a resource for the presentation of testimonies and quixas about VGB.
- The dialogue between PMA and MASFAMU after the meeting on African women with the ambassadors, members of civil society, deputies diplomatic corps representative in Angola on the analysis of the economic situation of women and the COVID 19 pandemic, Commendable initiative of the government in the launch of the social security program and registration of sellers in the informal sector in the municipality of Viana market of the 30, waiting for the extension to the perimeter from Zango to Calumbo;
- The project's social advocacy actions highlighted the violation of human rights and women's rights, the lack of knowledge of law 25/11 against domestic violence by national police officers in the district, the excessive use of public order force, absence of social protection for informal vendors, reinforced the executive to improve and schedule the update of the executive plan to combat GBV for 2022, and involved a multiplicity of state institutions (BNA, Finance, MASFAMU, Ministry of the Interior, Economy, MAPTESS) in promoting the defense and guarantees of sustainability from informal to formal economic activity;

- The relationship created between the PMA and the project and the national department of VGB, the national command of the police, contributed to the fact that in the institutional meetings of the Ministry of the Interior the national director of this department of the SIC presented the problems that were experienced during the training and lectures held by her in the district in all police units and reinforced the creation of the agenda for updating the executive plan to combat VGB.
- The beneficiary families of the project dialogue without fear SRH and VGB problems appear at the center for testimonies, request for help and legal assistance and begin to become familiar with the social work administered by the community center as a social asset that is helping families, women, girls and young boys to better take care of their sexuality, and prevent themselves against GBV;
- WFP is considered a partner and resource organization of MASFAMU for gender and VGB issues and is the focal point of this ministry for SADC in this sector;
- The executive became aware of the improvement of the baseline of GBV cases given the existing records by various institutions MASFAMU, the Ministry of the Interior and SIC, with plans to improve the registration system of cases unaggressed by sex, and typology of GBV crimes after the multisectoral meeting held in December 2021;

## 6. Lessons Learned

The process carried out in the period in question promoted an important interaction with individuals and people with varied social and political convictions, including with different levels of intervention. It should be noted that lessons learned are sufficient elements to facilitate the development of subsequent actions in the pursuit of the project's objectives. The following aspects characterize the interaction with stakeholders:

The persistence in the dialogue and approximation with public agents in the current political context was beneficial to strengthen cooperation and greater understanding between the actors of the project with the prospect of achieving greater success and synergies of action;

The argumentation of the project's social advocacy plan helped to show public agents that VGB is not the sole responsibility of one or two institutions of the executive, but rather of the involvement of various public sectors in the fight against hunger, extreme poverty, and improvements in access to education and health and other means of life for the target population.

The evidence presented has helped public officials determine changes in action to improve the informal economic sector, with plans already underway to combat the problem.

- Some change in awareness and behavior of the communities in the identification and reduction of domestic violence problems in the vicinity of the community center is beginning to be noticed, noting a greater insensitivity of people to report cases in the community.
- Domestic violence, especially at the affective level, is still interpreted in a normal way, disassociating the idea of crime by some people and even by many police officers due to ignorance of law 25/11, which leads to the non-adoption of legal principles, which facilitate its contribution to inadequate action to solve cases of GBV in the police stations, where the plaestras and direct contact with police officers helped to improve the understanding

of the public order officers benefiting from the project; The operational strategy of the command of the municipal police of Viana is manifested in embracing these calls to reduce problems of violence caused by the legal coercion measures to which the population has been targeted;

- The Viana police officers request the intervention of the PMA in other communities for greater community education in other locations where they operate in Viana.
- The synergies created by the project with a variety of actors strengthen the cooperation mechanisms, it is because we understand that unity is strength and it is necessary to involve other organizations with the same spirit of progress in favor of the defense and rights of women and girls.

## 7. Conclusion

In terms of completion, the project is the result of the commitment between PMA and the partner OSISA, a goal of 90% compliance in terms of achieving the project's objectives. It is important to report that the PMA will make efforts to continue to follow up on the government agenda for the approval of the executive plan to combat GBV and update the law 25/11 of VGB in Angola in 2022, through the synergies created and other financial opportunities that may feed the scope of work developed by the project.

Our satisfaction goes to the families who today know the center and attend it as a social space for community innovation in that district in favor of the fight and protection of women and girls against GBV in Angola.

