

The project "Policing and Freedom of Expression and Assembly" was also successfully implemented and led to the adoption of the Guidelines on Policing of Assemblies by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Regarding the EUR 6.5 million programme "The African Union Capacity in Election Observation (AUCapEO)" whose main objective is to enable the AU to conduct credible long-term election observations, the technical assistance (TA) component of the project (EUR 0.5 million) was successfully completed in June 2018. As an illustration, the main achievements of the TA component, to name just a few examples, were the agreement on the structure and the development of standard terms of reference for election observations missions (EOMs), the establishment of trained and experienced AU facilitators, the development of a wide range of training materials, the consolidation of AU Election Observation Missions (EUOM) output through a seminar and a study on AUEOM reporting and the AU communication strategy for its EOMs.

The grant component (EUR 6 million) continued supporting the electoral unit of the African Union Commission in the deployment of long-term electoral observations.

Finally, the EUR 10 million project "Strengthening the African Human Rights System" made significant progress in 2018. The four beneficiary institutions, African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR); Pan African Parliament (PAP); African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR); African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) were supported through direct contributions to their budgets and technical assistance. During 2018, the four supported organs advanced on their communication strategies, monitoring frameworks, upgrading of IT systems, reviewing internal procedures and improving internal efficiency.

## Angola

**1. Overview of the human rights and democracy situation:** 2018 was a momentous year in Angola, having seen a number of positive developments: revitalisation of the decentralisation process (elections scheduled for 2020), ongoing National reconciliation (repatriation of UNITA General Ben Ben's body to Angola and the extremely symbolic exhumation of the remains of Jonas Savimbi, and the possible burial in his home town), recognition by a Government member that atrocities were committed by the ruling party in the aftermath of "27 May 1977". The reforms of the Justice Sector and of the Public administration system, alongside the fight against corruption and impunity, have been key points of the Government's programme. The first National Strategy on Human Rights was also submitted for public consultation, before publication by presidential decree. President Lourenço has met with several human rights activists, inviting them to join the Government's ongoing efforts to fight corruption, increase the levels of transparency and promote and defend human rights in Angola. The media environment continued to improve, with reduced self-censorship and more reporting on previously taboo topics. The new climate of openness and increased freedom of expression has allowed the multiplication of instances of peaceful street protests while instances of political intolerance have decreased. However, civil society reports on human rights abuses persist, namely regarding police brutality and extrajudicial

killings. At the end of the year, the dismissal of 127 members of the security forces was presented as the result of internal investigations into corrupt practices and murder investigations. In the last quarter of 2018, the Angolan authorities launched two wide police operations to restore order and control the number of migrants in the country ("Operation Transparency" led more than 400,000 foreign migrants to abandon the country) and introduce some level of formality and State control in many predominantly informal sectors of the economy.

**2. EU action - key focus areas:** Four grants were awarded under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), focusing on the following areas: access to justice, freedom of expression and violence against women and girls. The EU also carried out activities in the following priority areas:

- Access to justice: The EU worked towards strengthening the rule of law and democratic participation of citizens by promoting access to justice, civic education, training on conflict resolution with focus on women and youth. The EU also extended a project for the protection of children victims of violence and to improve birth registration, which is extremely low.

The EU Delegation also signed grant contracts (EIDHR) with civil society organisations (CSOs) working on: the rights of incarcerated women (AJPD), the rights of immigrants in Angola (Omunga) and the rights of displaced persons from their homes (SOS Habitat).

Other priorities included increasing access to legal advice and information on land rights disputes, succession rights of women, equity in employment and distribution of land. These activities contributed to sensitising Angolan citizens about their rights within existing law, lobbying for improvements to the law, and providing practical support for those whose rights are violated.

- Elections: work resumed on the future for support to CSOs with the aim of raising awareness and knowledge of Angolan citizens' rights and duties with regards to the 2020 electoral process. The objective is to increase their participation in the various stages of this process through civil education and strengthening the role of the civil society. The project should enable a constructive dialogue between the civil society and local authorities.

- Cultural, social and economic rights – including gender and land: EU support helped the government to design and implement a cash transfer scheme, considered essential to mitigate the impacts of the current macroeconomic stabilisation program on the most vulnerable sections of the population. Steps were taken to implement the municipalisation of social action, allowing improved access to basic social services for the most vulnerable community members. Several programs focused also on improving women's lives in rural communities, addressing issues such as domestic violence, maternal and child health and access to land.

**3. EU bilateral political engagement:** Taking advantage of the openness of the new government, the EU had a political dialogue on Human rights between the EU Heads of Mission and the Minister of Justice and Human Rights on 27 September 2018, under article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement and in the framework of the Joint Way Forward Partnership. A concrete result of the political dialogue was the creation of an EU-Angola Human Rights working group, aimed at providing a more fluid dialogue mechanism, therefore allowing

regular coordination and exchange of information. This working group will also prepare the yearly political consultations and ensure the implementation of the decisions made at EU Heads of Mission/Ministerial level. The group can also be tasked with the coordination and prior consultation in preparation for international discussions (UN General Assembly, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2019 and other discussions at the Human Rights Council).

The first Workshop on Migration, people in movement and minorities in Angola, was organised in partnership with the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs. Government officials of relevant ministries and members of civil society and refugee groups exchanged on migration, integration and discrimination related issues and the best ways to tackle them. A renowned anti-racism activist from Portugal delivered communication on the situation in Europe. The activity aimed to sensitise and inform society about migration from a human rights perspective, to reflect on the importance of building a society of rights, to strengthen the EU-Angola partnership, and to promote the culture of human rights in Angola.

In the framework of the commemorations of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a video was produced, featuring Human Rights Defender Samussuko and showing how hip hop has played a pivotal role in the human rights/civil society discourse in Angola.<sup>14</sup>

In March 2018, Lucia Kula, an Angolan-Dutch academic at SOAS in London came to Angola as part of the EU collaboration with the Ondjango Feminista organisation. Ms Kula addressed the audience in a series of events on feminism and gender issues.

For the second year, the EU Delegation awarded its Human Rights Prize, this time to the organisation Horizonte Azul, for its work with orphan young girls.

**4. EU financial engagement:** Four grants were awarded under the EIDHR national allocation, for a total amount of EUR 810,000, on the following areas: right to land, access to information and freedom of expression, access to justice for female detainees and migrants' rights. Other ongoing EIDHR project also covered: local democracy and human rights groups, as well as land rights.

The country also benefited from the Civil Social Organisations and Local Authorities (CSO-LA) programmes, supporting activities on the following fields: local governance, capacity building for civil society's work on governance, fight against social exclusion of homeless children, women empowerment, inclusive governance and children's rights.

Finally, EUR 6 million was set aside for CSOs to promote participatory local democracy.

**5. Multilateral context:** Angola is a party to the main international and regional human rights treaties. Angola is currently member of the Human Rights Council (term expires in 2020) Angola's national priorities include human rights education for the population; reinforcement of human rights institutions, and work with civil society. Angola's regional priorities are abolition of the death penalty; women empowerment; mitigation of massive human rights violations, and migration. The country will undergo a UPR in 2019.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/angola/51517/human-rights-defenders-samussuko-angola\\_en](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/angola/51517/human-rights-defenders-samussuko-angola_en)