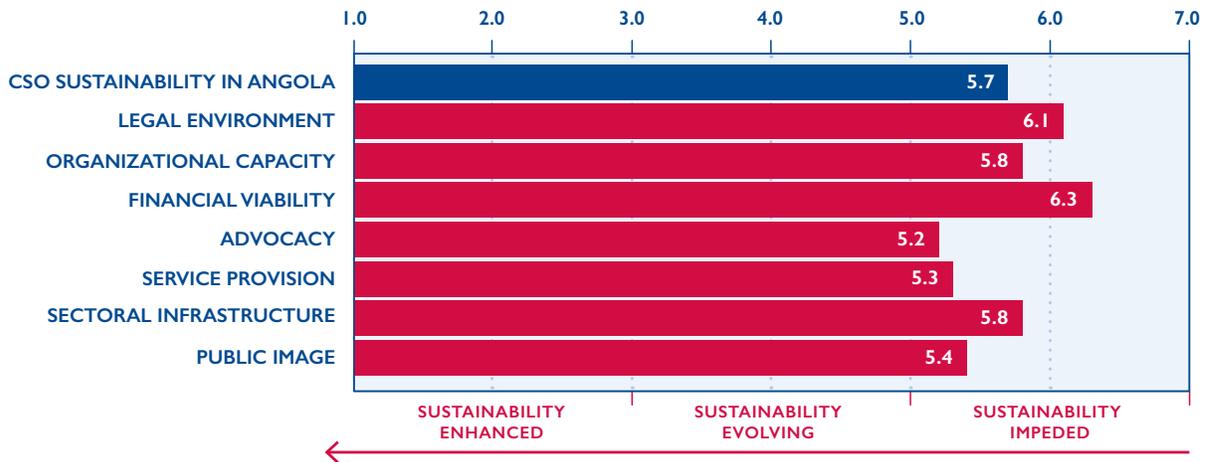


# ANGOLA

**Capital:** Luanda  
**Population:** 29,310,273  
**GDP per capita (PPP):** \$6,800  
**Human Development Index:** Medium (0.581)  
**Freedom in the World:** Not Free (24/100)

## OVERALL CSO SUSTAINABILITY: 5.7



In August 2017, in the first turnover of presidents in thirty-eight years, João Gonçalves Lourenço of the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was elected to lead the country. Lourenço's campaign promises included reducing corruption, creating jobs, and improving the healthcare and educational systems. Although the MPLA received more than 61 percent of the vote in parliamentary elections, five other parties gained seventy of 220 parliamentary seats, the highest proportion ever. The election was significant as a peaceful transition of power, and it opened the door to CSOs to participate in a wider range of activities.

Angola's economy continued to struggle in 2017. As oil represents about one-third of the country's GDP and more than 95 percent of its exports, the sharp, prolonged decline in the global price of oil since mid-2014 has had a significant impact. Reduced revenues caused GDP growth to decelerate from an annual average of 10.3 percent in 2004–14 to only 1.5 percent since 2015. The government has responded by cutting expenditures, devaluing the kwanza, and increasing non-oil revenues. Nevertheless, Angolans continued to experience a marked deterioration of their living conditions in 2017, including a lack of medicines in hospitals, depreciation of salaries, increased unemployment, and constant fluctuations in water and electrical supplies.

The National Teachers' Union (SINPROF) effectively mobilized a countrywide strike to demand better wages for teachers, improved conditions in schools, and the protection of citizens' rights. SINPROF initially called for the strike in February 2017, but after its leaders were intimidated by the authorities, it was postponed until April. The three-day strike affected 99 percent of schools in Luanda and finally ended with the government's promise of wage increases, which were eventually granted by the new government in April 2018. The Union of Workers of the Public Ministry demonstrated in May to demand higher salaries and a better working environment.

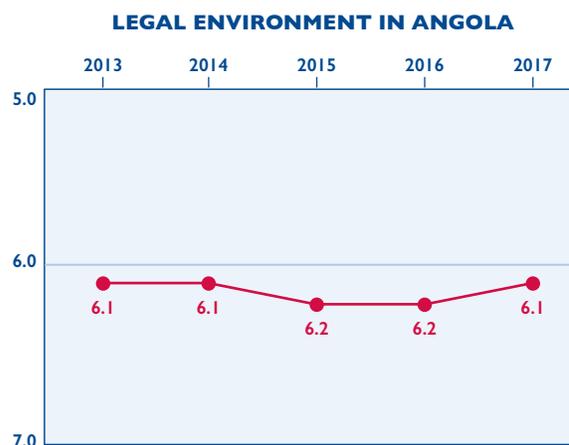
Capital, population, and GDP are drawn from the Central Intelligence Agency, The World Factbook, available online at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-worldfactbook/>. Human Development Index data available at <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/HDI>. Freedom in the World data available at <https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world>.

Overall CSO sustainability improved in 2017. The legal environment improved significantly after the Supreme Court ruled that Presidential Decree 74/15 on the Regulation of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), an unpopular law that had regulated CSOs since 2015, was unconstitutional. CSOs' public image and advocacy also improved in the wake of the court ruling, since CSOs were able to campaign without much interruption from the government, and coverage of their work in the state-controlled media was more positive. While other dimensions of CSO sustainability were stable, the ongoing financial crisis tested the resilience of many CSOs and forced some of them to improve their organizational capacity.

In 2017 the Institute of Promotion and Coordination of Aid Communities (IPROCAC), the government body responsible for overseeing CSOs, reported that 309 domestic and 55 international CSOs, or a total of 364 organizations, were registered and operational in Angola. These figures represent a 23 percent increase in domestic CSOs (from 252 organizations) and an 8 percent decrease in international organizations (from 60 organizations) over 2016. IPROCAC did not state a reason for the significant increase in local CSOs, which focus mostly on service provision, but some observers believe that it was due to young people's lack of employment opportunities as well as their growing interest in community affairs. The number of international CSOs declined because of decreases in foreign assistance. IPROCAC also reported that 29 faith-based organizations (FBOs) (23 domestic and 6 international) were operational in 2017.

## LEGAL ENVIRONMENT: 6.1

The legal environment for CSOs was enhanced in 2017 with the abolition of Presidential Decree 74/15. The government had used the decree since 2015 to impose significant obstacles to CSOs' operations. For example, the decree assigned IPROCAC significant powers to define priority areas for CSOs' interventions, guide their program implementation, supervise their operations, and restrict their access to funding. The decree also required CSOs to undergo costly registration procedures with multiple authorities, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2016 the Angolan Bar Association, SOS Habitat, Rede Terra (Land Network), and the National Counseling Center filed a lawsuit to have the decree declared unconstitutional. On July 5, 2017, the Constitutional Court ruled that Presidential Decree 74/15 violated the constitution and that the authority to regulate CSOs resides with parliament rather than the president. In November the new president announced his intention to abolish the decree.



The court's ruling significantly eased the operating environment for CSOs, especially those that had experienced difficulties in previous years. For example, the Alliance for the Development and Promotion of the Hoji-Ya-Henda Commune (APDCH), SOS Habitat, Omunga, and Human Rights Coordination Council resumed their activities after restrictions on their bank accounts were removed. Rede Terra, whose work on land issues in Kwanza Sul Province had been interrupted by provincial authorities, began to work on land conflicts again. Freedom of speech also opened up as the new government made changes in the management of Angolan Public Television, including removing some close allies of the previous administration. The government allowed Radio Eclésia, which had been confined to Luanda since 1975, to expand the geographic reach of its broadcasts, and the station began to cover FBO activities and promote human rights. Despite these changes, some organizations continued to face hurdles. For example, the Angola Network for AIDS Support Organizations (ANASO) experienced difficulties with its registration, including demands for additional documents by the Ministry of Justice and a longer than normal wait for approval. The Association of Seropositive Friends (AS) in Angola encountered similar obstacles during its effort to register. Both organizations were finally allowed to register in 2017.

<sup>1</sup> The 2016 CSO Sustainability Index for Sub-Saharan Africa incorrectly reported the score for Angola's Legal Environment as 6.2. The correct score was 6.3.

Law 2/11 of 2011 allows CSOs to provide services and products as private entities. As nonprofit organizations, CSOs may not earn profits per se, but they may charge to recover any costs incurred by the provision of services.

CSOs registered with the General Tax Administration (AGT) under the Ministry of Finance are entitled to duty-free import certain items needed for humanitarian work, such as used clothing and tents. CSOs may apply to AGT to import other items duty free, provided they obtain authorization from IPROCAC and the approval of the relevant ministry before applying to AGT for exemptions. In 2017 several organizations received exemptions, including People to People Development Aid (ADPP), which imported kick-start pumps for agriculture projects. Registered CSOs may obtain income tax exemptions for staff by applying to IPROCAC and the Ministry of Justice and then submitting the approval to the AGT. The application process is generally not difficult. In 2017 Development Workshop (DW) obtained tax exemptions for its staff.

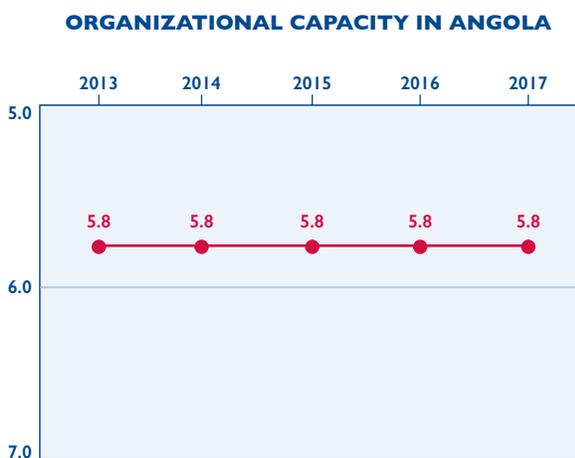
In 2017 a group of independent lawyers known as Mãos Livre continued to provide pro bono services to CSOs needing legal advice, which are usually organizations that promote human rights.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY: 5.8

There was no change in CSOs' organizational capacity in 2017. The country's economic and financial crisis continued to have a negative impact on Angolan organizations, and declines in funding caused some organizations to fail to implement planned activities and others to lay off staff. At the same time, according to statements made by CSO representatives during a workshop in Luanda in July 2018, the crisis tested the resilience of organizations and even forced some to improve their organizational capacities.

Several CSOs sought to manage their financial difficulties by discussing their situation with their constituents. For example, the board of directors of ADRA informed members of the general assembly, National Meeting of Communities, and participants in training workshops on community development about its financial situation and the potential need to scale back some activities. The same approach was taken by OPSA and Christian and traditional churches, such as CEAST and the Angolan Council of Christian Churches (CICA). Their openness helped stakeholders understand and adjust to the situation imposed by the financial crisis.

CSOs in Angola have learned that longer-term strategic planning is beneficial, especially as it helps organizations focus on their areas of strength, develop funding proposals, and build the confidence of donors. In a gradual change from previous years, a growing number of larger organizations have adopted some kind of strategic plan.



For example, DW, ADRA, Prazedor, Network of Women Living with HIV (Mwenho), International Humanitarian Organization (OHI), Youth Forum for Health Support and AIDS Prevention (FOJASSIDA), Rastafara Circle of Benguela (CRB), and Political and Social Observatory of Angola (OPSA) have strategic plans covering multiple years, which include achievable objectives based on their strengths and experience. Local medium-sized urban and provincial-level CSOs also tend to have mission statements, longer-term goals, and a few strategic objectives. Smaller CSOs have a sectoral focus but usually do not have strategic plans.

At a meeting organized by ANASO in 2017, many CSOs revealed that they do not hold meetings of their general assemblies, usually because of members' lack of interest, a

shortage of funds, or fears of leadership change. ANASO successfully pushed a number of its members to organize general assembly meetings during the year.

Only a few large organizations, such as ADRA, Mwenho, and DW, reported that they hold regular board meetings to discuss organizational issues, including key policy issues. Otherwise, CSOs continued to demonstrate weak internal policies and accountability procedures in 2017. For example, many CSOs do not have policies on human resource management, financial accounting, fundraising strategies, or administrative procedures, mainly because they lack the organizational knowledge and financial resources to develop them. However, several CSOs, including Prazedor and OPSA, made progress in developing manuals and guidelines during the year.

Most CSOs had difficulty retaining experienced and qualified staff because of their lack of longer-term income in 2017. Many organizations did not pay salaries, reduced salaries, delayed payment, or, in extreme cases, laid off staff. Their financial difficulties caused many staff still working with CSOs to have parallel jobs. The absence of adequate staff undermined organizations' management and in turn made it difficult for them to attract new funding. Whenever possible, CSOs relied on volunteers. The country's high unemployment caused many young people to organize local groups to provide humanitarian assistance and other services, which they operated on a volunteer basis. These groups sometimes partnered locally with more established CSOs, and volunteers could sometimes receive meals in exchange for work performed.

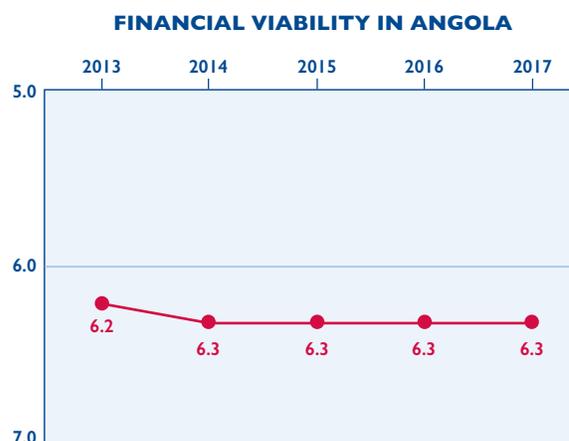
CSOs in the major cities with a number of projects rent offices equipped with computers and reasonably good furniture. CSOs in rural areas usually have basic office space in private houses close to municipal or communal administrative offices. Organizations in Luanda and other large cities have relatively good access to the Internet, but in remote areas Internet services are sparse, and CSOs usually rely on smartphones to access it. CSO staff with good communications skills often disseminate information through social media accounts in the names of their organizations or, in smaller CSOs, their own names.

## FINANCIAL VIABILITY: 6.3

The financial viability of CSOs did not change appreciably in 2017. Angolan organizations have been greatly affected by the ongoing economic and financial crisis. The organization OHI reports that national and international funders tend to fund the same organizations repeatedly, overlooking and thereby marginalizing other CSOs. According to ANASO, only those organizations with diversified sources of revenue or good connections with the government were active in 2017. A number of other organizations became temporarily inactive because of their lack of funds.

Bilateral and multilateral donors issued a limited number of calls for proposals during the year. For example, USAID solicited applications for a \$63 million grant for services related to malaria and HIV/AIDS, which was awarded to Population Services International, an international CSO. USAID also continued its LINKAGES project, which funds local CSOs to provide HIV/AIDS-related services to key populations. The World Bank continued to provide funding to the Social Aid Fund (FAS), a government entity that manages World Bank funds for social projects, including community activities involving local organizations. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria, and Tuberculosis continued to provide funding to CSOs through various United Nations (UN) agencies, and World Vision sub-contracted with local CSOs such as FOJASSIDA for projects aimed at improving the lives of children, families, and communities. The European Union (EU) also continued its funding programs.

Government funding is available to CSOs through contracts for services offered by municipalities and provincial administrations. For example, FOJASSIDA developed a credible niche in Cazenga municipality in Luanda working on youth development, which led to multiple service contracts with Cazenga and the administration of Bié Province.



Funds from the corporate social responsibility programs of oil companies are directed to a limited number of CSOs. In 2017 Eni, an Italian oil company, funded a four-year social integration project focused on solar energy, water, and farmers' training in Benguela and Namibe provinces in cooperation with ADPP, and Unitel provided funding to Okutika Child and Adolescent Center in Huambo for vocational training for fifteen youths. Otherwise, funding from the private sector, private foundations, and individuals was extremely scarce in 2017.

CSOs do not conduct fundraising campaigns, and they do not usually charge membership dues. A few CSOs generate revenue for programs by selling products. For example, CRB sells handmade garments, Prazedor performs consulting work, and People Living with AIDS (LPV) sells handicrafts.

The financial management systems of most smaller CSOs are weak, mainly because they lack the skilled human resources and funding to develop such systems. Larger organizations, such as DW, Mosaiko, and APDCH, continued to maintain sound financial management systems and conduct annual audits in 2017. CICA and ADPP adopted a new financial system called Primavera, which enabled them to generate financial reports more efficiently.

## ADVOCACY: 5.2

CSO advocacy improved in 2017. After Presidential Decree 74/15 was declared unconstitutional in July, CSOs were able to campaign to protect human rights without significant interference from the government. For example, Rede Terra resumed its support to small landholders seeking to end land grabbing by business entities in Kwanza Sul. Omunga worked in human rights and local development, with a focus on local issues that have national implications, such as the demolition of houses by the government. Omunga began a local campaign on the issue that eventually went national, and it also played a prominent role in preparing shadow human rights reports for the African Union and the UN. SOS Habitat resumed advocacy on human rights and democratic practices in Angola, especially those involved in land rights issues.

CSOs continued to interact effectively with governmental bodies in 2017. Local CSOs worked on voter education with the Election Commission, which recognized that CSOs had valuable connections with local and grassroots communities. ANASO held several national and regional workshops with CSOs from Cuanza Norte,



Benguela, Huíla, and Cunene provinces to discuss the inclusion of CSOs in municipal and provincial consultative forums. Some government officials participated informally in these meetings. Afterwards, as a result of these efforts, the vice president, other central government officials, and National Assembly deputies met with ANASO representatives, and municipal administrations invited CSOs to take part in local consultative bodies to discuss developmental plans.

A number of other advocacy efforts were successful in 2017. For the first time in Angola, SINPROF mobilized a countrywide movement to demand better wages for teachers and the protection of citizens' rights enshrined in the law. In a rare show of tolerance, the authorities allowed a group of women to protest

the proposed criminalization of abortion. In Benguela, a campaign coordinated by OHI and CRB and financed by the EU promoted protections against human rights violations. Other civil society actors also became more assertive. For example, the Union of Workers of the Public Ministry demonstrated for better salaries and working environments, and the Union of Air Traffic Controllers negotiated with the Ministry of Transport for better salaries. A strike by Luanda taxi drivers for more taxi stands, increased fares, and less police harassment had a great social and media impact, although the strikers did not achieve most of their demands. Benguela CSOs hosted so-called Thursday debates to promote themes of social change.

CSOs also engaged in successful lobbying in 2017. For example, a women's group from Benguela met with the Sixth Commission, the parliamentary sub-committee overseeing health-related issues. At the group's urging, the Sixth Commission held back the proposed law to criminalize abortion pending further public consultation.

Throughout the year CSOs continued to raise the issue of reforming the restrictive legal environment and, especially, repealing Presidential Decree 74/15. A coalition formed by SOS Habitat, Rede Terra, and the National Counseling Center was among the parties requesting that the Constitutional Court eliminate the decree. They won a successful verdict in the case in July.

## SERVICE PROVISION: 5.3

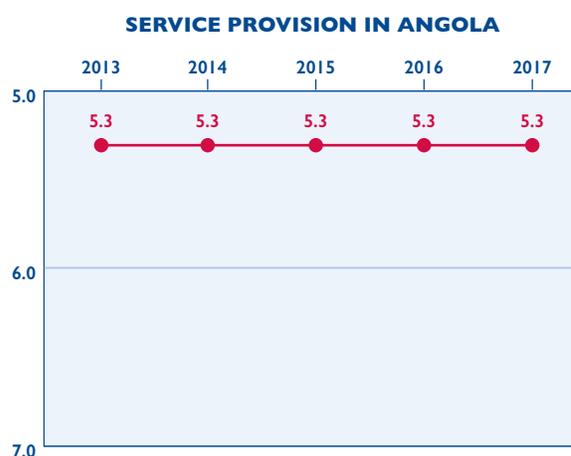
CSO service provision was steady in 2017. CSOs continued to help improve the basic services available to Angolan communities in areas such as education, water and sanitation, agriculture, health, and road safety. ADPP completed a USAID-supported, three-year water and sanitation project in Benguela, during which students, teachers, and community activists in 100 primary schools and their adjacent communities were trained in the promotion of personal hygiene and community sanitation. The UN Development Program (UNDP) funded a consortium of five CSOs—Prazedor, Mbakita, Etungafano, Association for Community Development (ADC), and the Association of Seropositive People and Activists in the Fight Against AIDS—to implement an HIV-response project in Cuando Cubango, Huila, Namibe, and Cunene provinces.

CSOs worked with community groups to strengthen their capacities in 2017. For example, with funding from USAID, ADRA and DW continued to provide training on water project management to local administrations and community groups and organized farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices. A community-based malaria project by Core Group and ADPP strengthened communities' capacity to prevent and treat malaria. Mafiku and other organizations provided services to FAS to help develop municipal profiles and development plans.

Some local organizations such as LPV earn income by selling Angolan handicrafts. CSOs also earn income through contracts for services with the government. For example, Beneficial Christian Action Angola, Prazedor, and OHI have service contracts with municipal and provincial administrations. Some organizations charge for services to recover costs.

CSOs generally provide their services without discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. Larger organizations such as ADRA and DW publish yearly reports, which they share with other CSOs.

In 2017 the government showed increased trust in CSOs' ability to provide services, and CSOs themselves perceived their relationship with the government to be closer in the area of service delivery. For example, the governor of Benguela directed government officials to participate in debates on local developmental issues organized by CSOs. FOJASSIDA continued to partner with the municipal administration of Cazenga to promote community health issues for youth and participated in a weekly program on the government-affiliated Radio Cazenga about gender equality, human rights, and public health. The National Forum on Malaria, which has a membership of approximately 100 CSOs and government entities, continued to meet quarterly in the Ministry of Health to exchange experiences and coordinate activities.



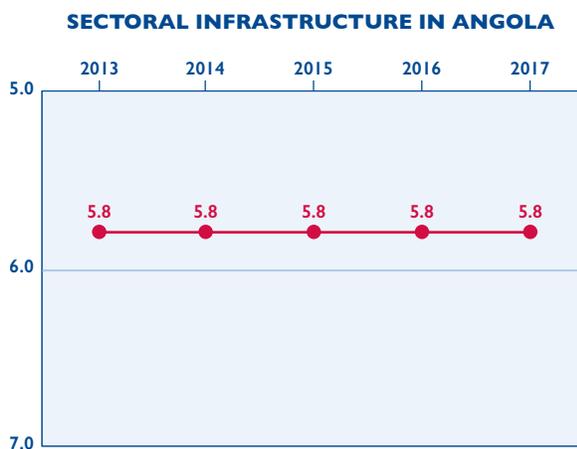
## SECTORAL INFRASTRUCTURE: 5.8

The infrastructure supporting CSOs in Angola did not change in 2017. Few resource centers or libraries offered CSOs opportunities to learn, research, and exchange ideas and information. DW, AJPD, ADRA, Omunga, and Mosaiko are among the few organizations that offer CSOs space to meet and share information.

In addition to the major donors, several other organizations awarded grants to CSOs in 2017. Doctors of Africa CUAMM, an Italian CSO, awarded grants for malaria-related projects to local organizations, including Caritas, Prazedor, and ADPP, with funding from the Global Fund. A fund created by twelve petroleum companies and administered by USAID awarded a grant to a CSO to construct a health center in Benguela to benefit people to be relocated from high-risk areas prone to floods. Petroleum companies also have CSR programs that fund local organizations directly. Local businesses such as UNITEL and Grupo Simples provided funding to ADPP for projects in education and agriculture in 2017.

As the financial crises continued, CSOs developed a better understanding of the benefits of working together in networks and consortiums. CSOs helped other organizations implement projects and develop strategic plans. For instance, Prazedor, an established CSO in Huila, led ADC in Namibe, ASPALSIDA in Huila, and other organizations in jointly implementing a UNDP-funded HIV project.

CSO networks and consortiums also supported their members with training opportunities in 2017. For example, ANASO offered refresher training on project implementation and budget management and organized four regional conferences to develop common positions among members on combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. Two networks of CSOs formed in 2016, the Group on Natural Resources Angola and the



Group of CSOs for Participatory Budgeting, offered their members training on developing projects and participating in public budgeting processes in 2017. Among several capacity-building events offered by donors, USAID provided training in financial management to representatives of twenty CSOs. As a result of the training, the CSOs were better prepared to advocate effectively for budget policy reform. USAID also provided funding to the Financial Services Volunteer Corps to build the capacity of the Budget Monitoring Group, a CSO consortium working to improve budget transparency through advocacy with government budget authorities at the national level.

In 2017, in contrast to previous years, the Angolan government seemed to regard CSOs as important

partners. In July the secretary of state for agriculture and livestock publicly recognized CSOs' contributions to improved food security, and in August the minister of planning acknowledged that CSOs had an important role to play in improving infant and maternal mortality rates, community sanitation, and malaria prevention. In March FAS invited representatives of CSOs and the public and private sectors to participate in a discussion of community development agencies. The discussion emphasized the link between the work of the agencies and CSOs. In July, when the Ministry of Social Affairs established the Social Solidarity Fund so that people could donate money and used household items to vulnerable people, it delegated responsibility for managing the fund to a CSO, Caritas Angola. Partnerships between CSOs and business continued in 2017 as a business incubator created by Chevron Oil and Unitel helped CSOs gain knowledge in such areas as microfinance and securing small loans for start-up business projects. CSOs participating in the project included DW and Human Action.

During the year CSOs worked with private radio stations, such as Radio Eclésia, Radio Cazenga, Luanda Antenna Commercial, and Radio Despertar, as well as local private newspapers in the provinces, to address issues such as potable water, domestic violence, the political participation of youth, and the role of communities in malaria and HIV prevention.

## PUBLIC IMAGE: 5.4

In 2017 the public image of CSOs in Angola began to improve slowly thanks to the openness and political goodwill of the new government.

The government-controlled Angola News Agency published positive articles about CSOs' activities across the country. The agency provided considerable coverage of CSOs' work at the provincial level and usually covered CSO stories if informed in advance. The *Jornal de Angola*, a widely read daily newspaper, also frequently published stories on CSOs. Overall, CSOs perceived that there was more attention paid by public and private media to their activities during the year because of the positive attitude of the new government.

The government perceived CSOs to be a productive partner in local development in 2017. For example, at an April meeting of the National Forum on Malaria, the secretary of state for public health applauded the work of CSOs and noted that their contributions had substantially reduce the number of cases of the disease. Officials in the new administration continued to recognize CSOs' contributions. In October the secretary of state for higher education praised the work of CSOs, citing a successful ADPP water project in Benguela. The public was also more interested in the work of CSOs in 2017 and overall viewed them as more transparent and supportive of local community involvement than government agencies. The private sector had a similarly positive view of CSOs, as evidenced in the funding that larger business entities provided for small CSO projects in 2017.

During the year several CSOs continued to publicize their activities on their websites and in social media. ANASO, Mwenho, and other organizations attracted increased numbers of followers on their Facebook and Twitter accounts. CSOs also use local radio and provincial newspapers to publicize their activities. CSOs sought to cooperate with journalists to publicize project launches, visits by donors, and other noteworthy events.

CSOs often have codes of ethics or conduct, and their strategic plans may address their implementation. CSOs share reports about their projects with their international and bilateral partners, relevant ministries, and municipal and provincial administrators.

