

Republic of Angola

KAS Fact book

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Office Namibia-Angola

Overview

Independence	11 November 1975 (national holiday)
Capital	Luanda (8.632 million) ¹
Government	Presidential-Parliamentary Republic
Official Language	Portuguese
National Languages	Umbundu 23%, Kikongo 8.2%, Kimbundu 7.8% and Chokwe 6.5%. ²
Ethnic groups	37% Ovimbundu, 25% Ambundu, 13% Bakongo, 21% Other African, 2% Mulatto (mixed European and African), 1% Chinese, 1% European
President	João Lourenço (since August 2017)
Area	1 246 700 km ²
Geographical borders	Democratic Republic of the Congo (north), Republic of the Congo (north), Namibia (south), Zambia (east)
Population	33 642 646 inhabitants ³ , 67.5% urban ⁴
Population growth rate	3.38% ⁵
Unemployment rate	Total: 17.3%
Currency	AOA (Kz) - Kwanza 1€ = 764.89 Kz ⁶ (05/07/2021)
Religion	79.2% Christian (Roman Catholic 41.1%, Protestant 38.1%), other 8.6%, none 12.3%

¹ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

² Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

³ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

⁴ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

⁵ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

⁶ Cf. www1.oanda.com.

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1. History – Colonialism and the Civil War

The area of modern-day Angola had long been inhabited but the beginning of the state started in 1575 with the founding of the Portuguese colony Luanda. Over the next 400 years, the Portuguese would expand their territory until it matched today's borders by 1915. They were met with heavy resistance, however, which culminated in a revolution led by the *National Front for the Liberation of Angola* (FNLA), the communist *Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola* (MPLA) and the capitalist *National Union for the Total Independence of Angola* (UNITA). It began in 1961 and lasted until Angola gained independence on 11 November 1975. Thereafter, the three parties started fighting each other, with the FNLA being forced out of the country, the MPLA occupying the western and northern territories and the UNITA having control over the southern and eastern highlands. This territorial division marked the beginning of a bloody 27 year-long civil war between the UNITA and its western allies (USA and South Africa) and the MPLA that was backed by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The foreign forces stopped their active military support on both sides by 22 December 1988 and their funding in March 1990. The lack of outside help led to the leaders of MPLA and UNITA finally signing a peace treaty in May 1991. Shortly after, the fighting broke out again, however, and lasted 11 more years until the leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi, was killed and another peace treaty could be signed in March 2002. The decade following the devastating civil war was marked by economic growth and the establishment of a presidential republic. The first elections took place in 2008 and had the MPLA with José Eduardo dos Santos as a candidate winning by a landslide (84%). He remained president until 2017 and was peacefully succeeded by João Lourenço.⁷

2. State and Politics

As a presidential-parliamentary democracy, Angola separates its power into three branches of government: the judiciary (the courts), the legislative (parliament) and the executive (president and cabinet). The power is not distributed evenly, however, with the executive having a large influence over the other two branches.⁸ The following chapter provides a closer insight into the functioning of each branch.

2.1 Judiciary

The constitution was subject to substantial changes in 2010. As part of the reform, the judiciary system was rehailed, with the articles 174 to 197 laying out its revised

⁷ Cf. South African History Online (2021).

⁸ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

framework.⁹ The highest courts in Angola are the *Tribunal Supremo* (Supreme Court) and the *Tribunal Constitucional* (Constitutional Court). Founded in 2008, the Constitutional Court deals with legal and constitutional matters. It consists of a president, vice-president and 9 other effective counselling judges.¹⁰ The Supreme Court has a similar structure but instead of 9, there are at least 16 judges that are appointed by the President.¹¹ It is a higher court of general jurisdiction and can exercise original as well as appellate jurisdiction for certain appeals related to decisions by provincial and municipal courts.¹² These are subordinate to the supreme court, with the provincial court being the second highest court and the municipal the third highest court to deal with general jurisdiction.¹³ The legal system is derived from Portuguese civil law but does not include a judicial review of legislation.¹⁴

Members of the Highest Courts¹⁵

Tribunal Constitucional

President: M. Aragão

Vice-President: G. Prata

Counseling Judges: S. Victor, M. Sango, J. Ferreira, C. Teixeira, C. Silva, M. da Silva, V. Izata, C. Magalhães, J. Neto

Tribunal Supremo

President: J. Leonardo

Vice-President: C. Molares de Abril e Silva

Counseling Judges: A. Simba, J. Pedro Kinkani Fuantoni, A. Mendes Vidinhas, N. Moisés Moma Capeça, M. Correia, A. Santos, E. Lima, D. Modesto, D. Mesquita, N. Sodr e, M. Dias de Silva, T. Marçal, L. da Purificação Verífissimo e Costa da Silva, J. Martinho Nunes, J. da

⁹ Cf. Rainha (2017).

¹⁰ Cf. Tribunal Constitucional (2021).

¹¹ Cf. Tribunal Supremo (2021).

¹² Cf. Rainha (2017).

¹³ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

¹⁴ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

¹⁵ Cf. Tribunal Constitucional (2021) and cf. Tribunal Supremo (2021).

Beyond its general structure, it has to be mentioned that the judiciary in Angola has been highly criticised for its lack of impartiality. As the judges of the high courts are mainly appointed by the president, they tend to follow his directives in their decisions. This includes favouring members of his political party and judging harshly on opposition members. The lower courts tend to be more independent but are prone to corruption. Angola also faces the problem that 90% of lawyers have their offices in the capital Luanda, causing people living in the rest of the country to largely rely on their local chiefs for rulings.¹⁶

2.2 Legislative

Angola has a unicameral legislative system, with the *Assembleia Nacional* (National Assembly) being the only legislative institution.¹⁷ The current speaker of the National Assembly is Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos and Pedro Agostinho de Neri is the secretary general. Including the speaker and the secretary general, there are 220 members in the parliament who are elected every 5 years by direct poll off a closed list. Angola has an electoral system of proportional representation.¹⁸ It differs from other systems of proportional representation by having a single mark on a single ballot to elect the president, deputy president and a member of the parliament. Therefore, it is impossible to vote for the presidential candidate from one party and for a member of parliament from another party.¹⁹ Apart from the national level of government, there are also the provincial, municipal and district levels. The members of the other levels are not chosen by elections but by appointments. The president appoints the provincial governors who appoint the municipal administrators who then appoint the administrators of the districts.²⁰

List of political parties in Angola²¹

MPLA	Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
Casa-CE	Broad Convergence for the Salvation of Angola - Electoral Coalition
PRS	Social Renewal Party
FNLA	National Liberation Front of Angola
APN	National Patriotic Alliance

¹⁶ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

¹⁷ Cf. CIA, The World Factbook, (2021).

¹⁸ Cf. IPU Parline (2021).

¹⁹ Cf. Troco (2021).

²⁰ Cf. Troco (2021).

²¹ Only the MPLA, UNITA, Casa-CE, PRS, FNLA and APN are still active parties (Cf. Comissão Nacional Eleitoral (CNE) Angola (2017)).

ND	New Democratic Electoral Union
PAPOD	People's Party for Development
FUMA	United Front for Change in Angola
CPO	Political Council of the Opposition
PDP-ANA	Democratic Party for the Progress – Angolan National Alliance
PLD	Liberal Democratic Party
AD-Coligação	Democratic Angola - Coalition
PADEPA	Party for the Democratic Support and Progress of Angola
FpD	Front for Democracy
PAJOCA	Party of the Alliance of Youth, Workers and Peasants
PRD	Democratic Renewal Party
PPE	Electoral Political Platform
FOFAC	Angolan Fraternal Forum Coalition

Source: Comissão Nacional Eleitoral (CNE) Angola (2017) and African Elections Database (2012).

National Assembly: Election Results (in %)

	2008	2012 ²²	2017
MPLA	81.64	71.87	61.05
UNITA	10.39	18.65	26.72
Casa-CE	-	6.06	9.49
PRS	3.17	1.69	1.33
FNLA	1.11	1.08	0.91
APN	-	-	0.50
ND	1.2	0.22	-
PAPOD	-	0.14	-
FUMA	-	0.13	-
CPO	-	0.11	-
PDP-ANA	0.51	-	-
PLD	0.33	-	-
AD	0.29	-	-

²² Between the 2008 and 2012 elections, a large number of political parties were made defunct by the 2010 constitution. Before the 2008 elections there were almost a 100 political parties registered (cf. Amundsen et al. (2011)). This number was reduced dramatically by the new constitution, as article 12 determined that “all parties that get less than 0.5% of the votes in an election are automatically de-registered as organizations” (EISA (2012, p.10)). Today, only 6 political parties remain (Cf. CNE Angola (2017)).

PADEPA	0.27	-	-
FpD	0.26	-	-
PAJOCA	0.24	-	-
PRD	0.22	-	-
PPE	0.19	-	-
FOFAC	0.17	-	-

Source: Comissão Nacional Eleitoral (CNE) Angola (2017) and African Elections Database (2012).

Voter Turnout (in %)

	2008	2012	2017
Presidential Election	-	62.77	76.13
National Assembly	87.36	62.77	76.13

Source: IPU Parline (2021) and African Elections Database (2012).

Results of the Presidential Elections (in %)

	2012 ²³	2017
José Eduardo dos Santos (MPLA)	71.84	-
João Lourenço (MPLA)	-	61.05
Isaías Samakuva (UNITA)	18.65	26.72
Abel Chivukuvuku (Casa-CE)	6.00	9.49
Eduardo Kuangana (PRS)	1.69	1.33
Lucas Ngonda (FNLA)	1.08	0.91
Quintino Antonio Moreira (APN)	-	0.50
Quintino Moreira (ND)	0.22	-

²³ Originally, there were presidential elections planned for 2009. These were rescheduled by the former president dos Santos to 2012 (cf. Almeida (2009)). In-between the new constitution was passed, leading to no independent parliamentary and presidential elections taking place from thereon (cf. Troco (2021)).

Artur Quixona Pinda (PAPOD)	0.14	-
António João Muachicungo (FUMA)	0.13	-
Anastácio João Finda (CPO)	0.11	-

Sources: Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) (2012, p.13) and Comissão Nacional Eleitoral (CNE) Angola (2017).

2.3 Executive

President João Lourenço

Vice-President Bornito de Sousa Baltazar Diogo

The 2010 constitution abolished the position of Prime Minister and declared the President to be both head of state and head of government.²⁴ This together with the power to appoint the majority of judges serving in the high courts²⁵ and the provincial governors,²⁶ gave him or her a large influence over all branches of government. The President receives support from the Vice-President, the Council of Ministers, the Council of the Republic and the National Security Council.²⁷ The members of the Council of Ministers are the Vice-President, the Ministers and the Secretaries of State. In 2020, Lourenço merged several ministries to reduce the number of Ministers from 28 to 21.²⁸

The Ministries

	Ministry	Minister
1.	Ministry of National Defence and Homeland Veterans	João Ernesto dos Santos
2.	Ministry of Home Affairs	Eugénio César Laborinho
3.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Téte António
4.	Ministry of Finance	Vera Esperança dos Santos Daves de Sousa
5.	Ministry of Economy and Planning	Sérgio de Sousa Mendes dos Santos

²⁴ Cf Republic of Angola (2010, art.108).

²⁵ Cf. Tribunal Constitucional (2021) and cf. Tribunal Supremo (2021).

²⁶ Cf. Troco (2021).

²⁷ Cf. Rainha (2017).

²⁸ Cf. Dias (2020).

6.	Ministry of Territorial Administration	Marcy Cláudio Lopes
7.	Ministry of Justice and Human Rights	Francisco Manuel Monteiro de Queiroz
8.	Ministry of Public Administration, Labour and Social Security	Teresa Rodrigues Dias
9.	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries	António Francisco de Assis
10.	Minister of Industry and Trade	Victor Francisco dos Santos Fernandes
11.	Ministry of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas	Diamantino Pedro Azevedo
12.	Ministry of Public Works and Regional Planning	Manuel Tavares de Almeida
13.	Ministry of Energy and Water	João Baptista Borges
14.	Ministry of Transport	Ricardo Daniel Sandão Queirós Veigas de Abreu
15.	Ministry of Telecommunication, Information Technology and Media	Manuel Gomes da Conceição Homem
16.	Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation	Maria do Rosário Teixeira de Alva Sequeira Bragança Sambo
17.	Ministry of Health	Sílvia Paula Valentim Lutucuta
18.	Ministry of Education	Luísa Maria Alves Grilo
19.	Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Environment	Jomo Fortunato
20.	Ministry of Social Action, Family and the Promotion of Women	Faustina Fernandes Inglês de Almeida Alves
21.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	Ana Paula Sacramento Neto

Source: governo.gov.ao (2021).

The Council of the Republic consults the President and includes the Vice-President, the President of the National Assembly, the President of the Constitutional Court, the Attorney General, the former President, representatives of the political parties with parliamentary seats and 11 citizens.²⁹

The Council of the Republic

Vice-President

Bornito de Sousa Baltazar Diogo

President of the National Assembly

Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos

President of the Constitutional Court

Manuel da Costa Aragão

Attorney General

Hélder Pitta Groz

The Former President

José dos Santos

Representatives of the Political Parties with Parliamentary Seats

António Kassoma (MPLA),
Isaías Samakuva (UNITA),
Abel Chivukuvuku (Casa-CE),
Benedito Daniel (PRS),
Lucas Ngonda (FNLA).

Citizens

Adriano de Vasconcelos, Fernando dos Santos, Francisco Magalhães Paiva, Ismael Sebastião, Luís da Fonseca Nunes, Manuel Monteiro, Rei dos Baiacas, António Muanaura Cabamba, Reverendo Nguimbi, Rosa Martins da Cruz e Silva, Sérgio Rescova Joaquim.

Source: RFI (2020).

²⁹ Cf. RFI (2018).

3. Economy

Following the civil war, Angola experienced a period of great economic growth that was mainly fueled by the country's rich oil reserves. As the second largest producer in Africa,³⁰ the country benefitted from the high oil prices of the 2000's that only ended in 2014.³¹ Moreover, the construction sector as well as the resettlement of displaced people also contributed to a period of increasing wealth overall.³² Following the drop in oil prices, the country has been struggling, however, with a high rate of inflation and a rising level of debt.³³ Moreover, the income inequality is high in Angola, with only very few people profiting from the country's resources.³⁴

3.1 Economic Data

After a period of sustained growth between 1994 and 2015, Angola's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been decreasing continuously since 2016. In 2020, it shrunk by 4.04% to an overall GDP of US\$ 62.31 billion.³⁵ This places Angola at number 7 of all 48 Sub-Saharan African countries in terms of the size of the economy and at number 15 for GDP per Capita.³⁶ Nevertheless, the IMF has estimated that the economy will start growing again by 0.4% in 2021 and 2.4% in 2022, leading to a positive outlook overall.³⁷ It also has to be mentioned that the majority of Angolans work in the informal sector which is not reflected in the GDP.³⁸ The actual size of the economy is thus likely to be bigger than the GDP. The chart of the composition of the GDP shows the economic performance of various sectors in 2020.

It should be mentioned that in 2004, oil and gas still made up 54.0% of the GDP³⁹ which is considerably higher than the 37.8% that it constituted in 2020. This shift is largely due to the before mentioned drop in oil prices in 2014.⁴⁰

³⁰ OPEC (2020).

³¹ Cf. Trading Economics (2021).

³² Cf. CIA Fact book (2021).

³³ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

³⁴ Cf. CIA Fact book (2021).

³⁵ Measured in current US\$ (09/07/2021). Cf. World Bank (2021).

³⁶ Cf. World Bank (2021).

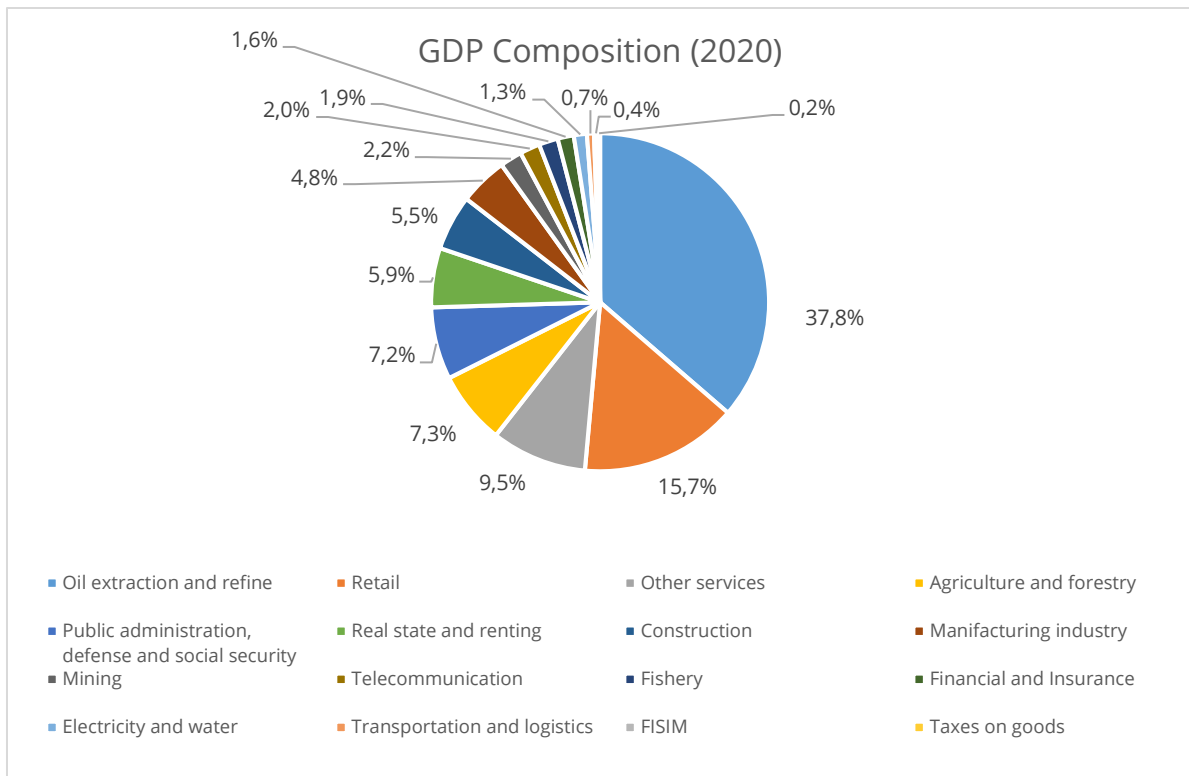
³⁷ Cf. IMF (2021).

³⁸ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

³⁹ Cf. OECD/AfDB (2006).

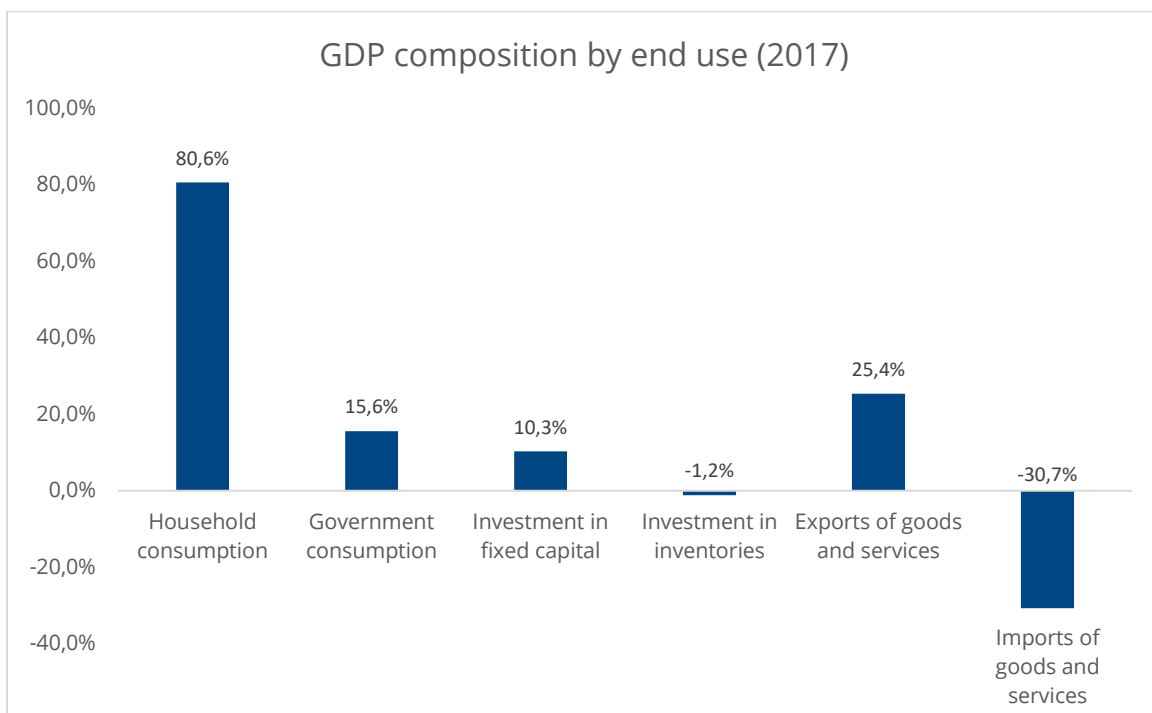
⁴⁰ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

The Composition of the GDP



Source: Statista (2020).

The composition of the GDP by end use



Source: CIA Factbook (2021).

3.2 Ease of Doing Business Index

The Ease of Doing Business Index is a project by the World Bank that covers 11 different indicator sets and assigns a score for each one to 190 economies. It tries to determine how easy it is to set up and maintain a business in the capital city of each economy, based on the current set of regulations.⁴¹ Each indicator is determined based on a variety of categories such as necessary procedures, time and costs.⁴²

Ease of Doing Business Index (2020)

Indicator	Scores (100 max)	Ranking (190 countries)
Starting a Business	79.4	146
Dealing with Construction Permits	65.3	120
Getting Electricity	54.1	156
Registering Property	43.3	167
Getting Credit	5.0	185
Protecting Minority Investors	32.0	147
Paying Taxes	69.5	106
Trading across Borders	36.2	174
Enforcing Contracts	28.1	186
Resolving Insolvency	0.0	168
Overall	41.3	177

Source: World Bank (2020).

Therefore, it can be said that starting a business in Angola seems to be very difficult, especially when compared to the other 190 countries that the index evaluates. Getting credit is a challenging process and resolving insolvency is impossible within the country. Nevertheless, it has to be mentioned that Angola has been taking steps in the last years to become a more business-friendly country. An example for this is that the procedures for starting a business were reduced from eight to seven in 2015.⁴³

3.3 Angola's Exports

Angola's relatively high GDP within the Sub-Saharan region can mainly be attributed to its trade surplus stemming from oil exports. In 2019, its exports had a total value of \$32.9 billion, with crude petroleum constituting 86.7%, petroleum gas 5.2% and refined petroleum 1.1% of the total value. The petroleum related exports thus amounted to \$30.6

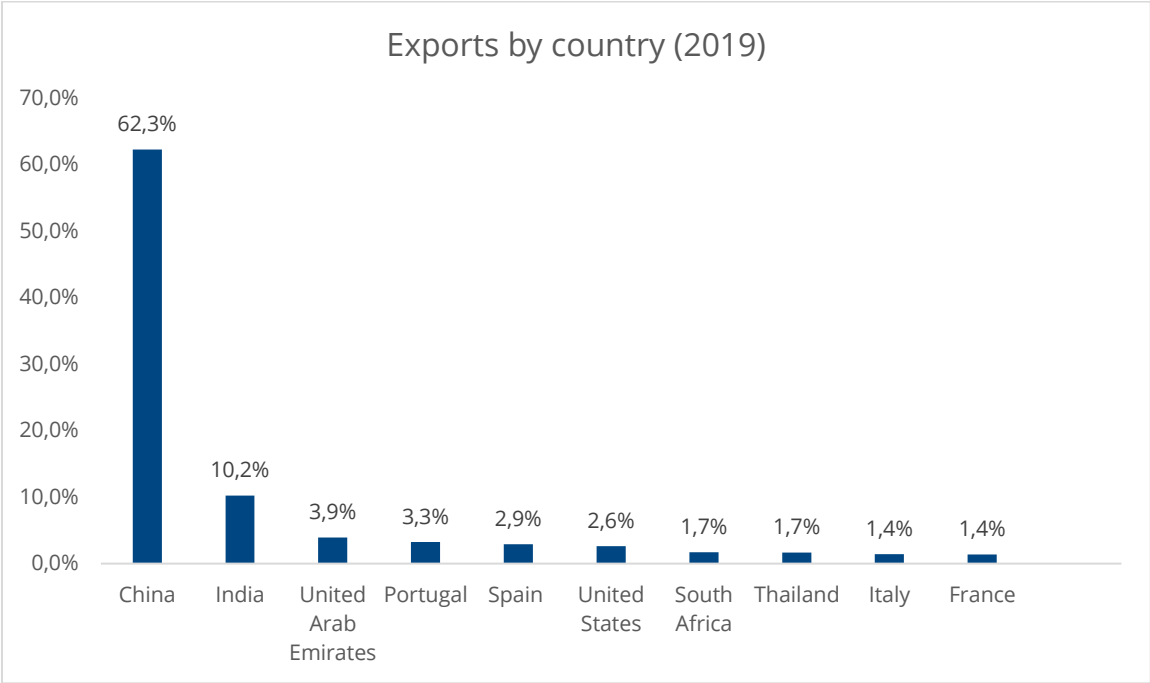
⁴¹ Cf. World Bank (2020, p.3).

⁴² Cf. World Bank (2020, p.6ff.).

⁴³ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

billion.⁴⁴ Other than oil, Angola is also rich in minerals,⁴⁵ with diamonds making up another 5.4% of the value of total exports.⁴⁶

Exports by Country



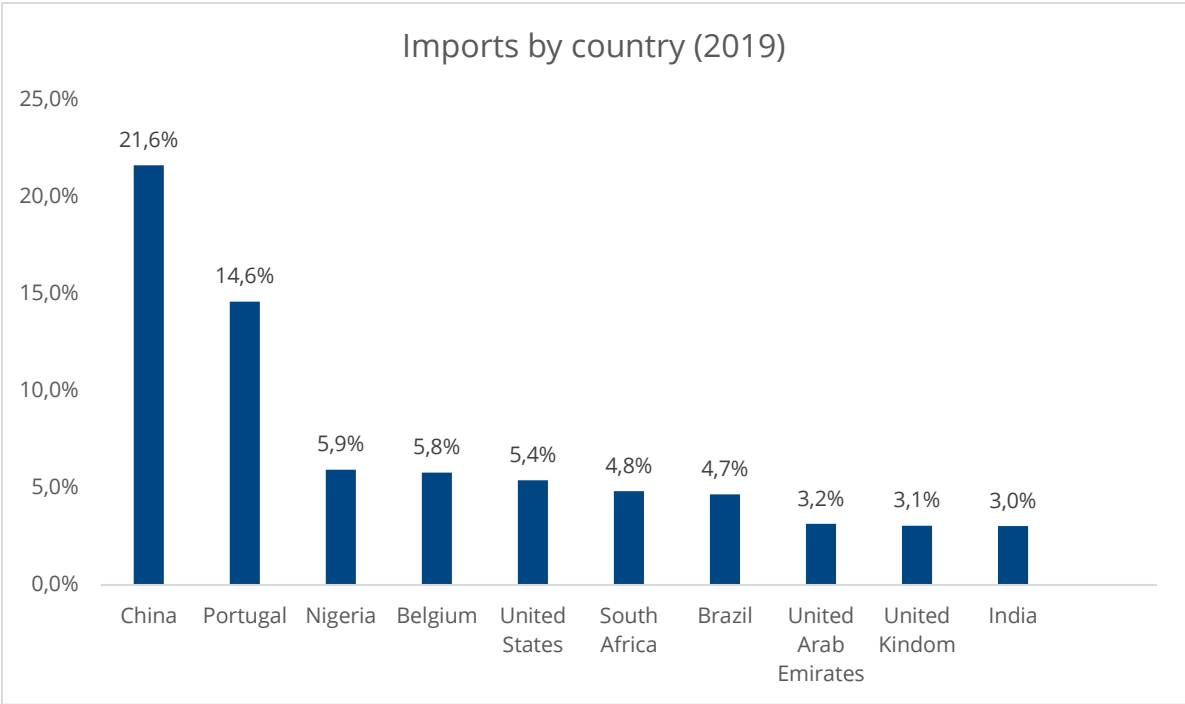
Source: The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) (2019).

3.4 Angola’s Imports

Whilst the country is rich in resources, Angola still lacks a large manufacturing industry.⁴⁷ Currently, there is only one refinery in the country, leading to the most imported product being refined petroleum, \$596 million, despite Angola’s large oil reserves.⁴⁸ Total imports amount to \$9.5 billion in value, with other heavily imported goods being scrap vessels for the offshore production of oil,⁴⁹ \$566 million, and agricultural products such as poultry meat, \$262 million, rice, \$193 million and palm oil, \$162 million.⁵⁰ Overall, over half of the food in the country has to be imported even though a majority of Angolans live from subsistence agriculture.⁵¹

⁴⁴ Cf. OEC (2019).
⁴⁵ Rodrigues (2014, p.1).
⁴⁶ Cf. OEC (2019).
⁴⁷ Cf. ch.3.1.
⁴⁸ Cf. EIA (2021).
⁴⁹ Cf. EIA (2021).
⁵⁰ Cf. OEC (2019).
⁵¹ Privacy Shield Framework (2019).

Imports by Country



Source: The Observatory of Economic Complexity (OEC) (2019).

3.5 Tourism

Following the end of the civil war, tourism was rising steadily until 2013, with 650,000 tourists visiting the country that year.⁵² This number has dropped drastically since then, however, leading to only 218,000 tourists coming to Angola in 2019.⁵³ In general, the country benefits from its diverse and untouched landscapes as well as its cultural variety.⁵⁴ However, the development of the tourism sector has been somewhat limited by a high level of crime, with foreigners being a particular target. Apart from muggings, armed robberies and thefts there have also been incidents of rape and kidnappings reported.⁵⁵

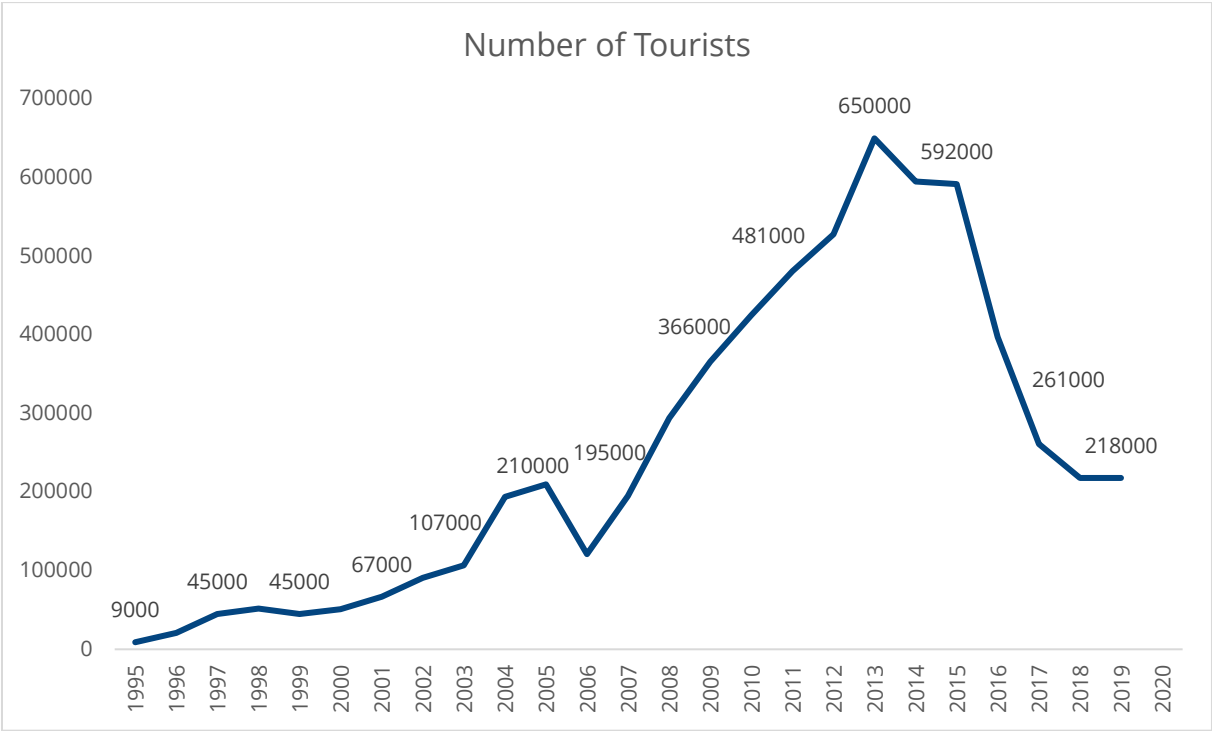
⁵² Cf. World Bank (2020).

⁵³ Cf. World Bank (2020).

⁵⁴ Global Tourism Forum (2019).

⁵⁵ UK Government (2021).

Number of Tourists



Source: World Bank (2020).

4. Society and Stage of Development

Angola has a rapidly rising population that still faces dire problems despite the country's high GDP. Unemployment, illiteracy and overall poverty is widespread among the general population⁵⁶ and there is little done by the government to improve the situation.⁵⁷ In Luanda, 90% of people live in slums while, at the same time, few Angolans have become very rich from the country's oil exports.⁵⁸

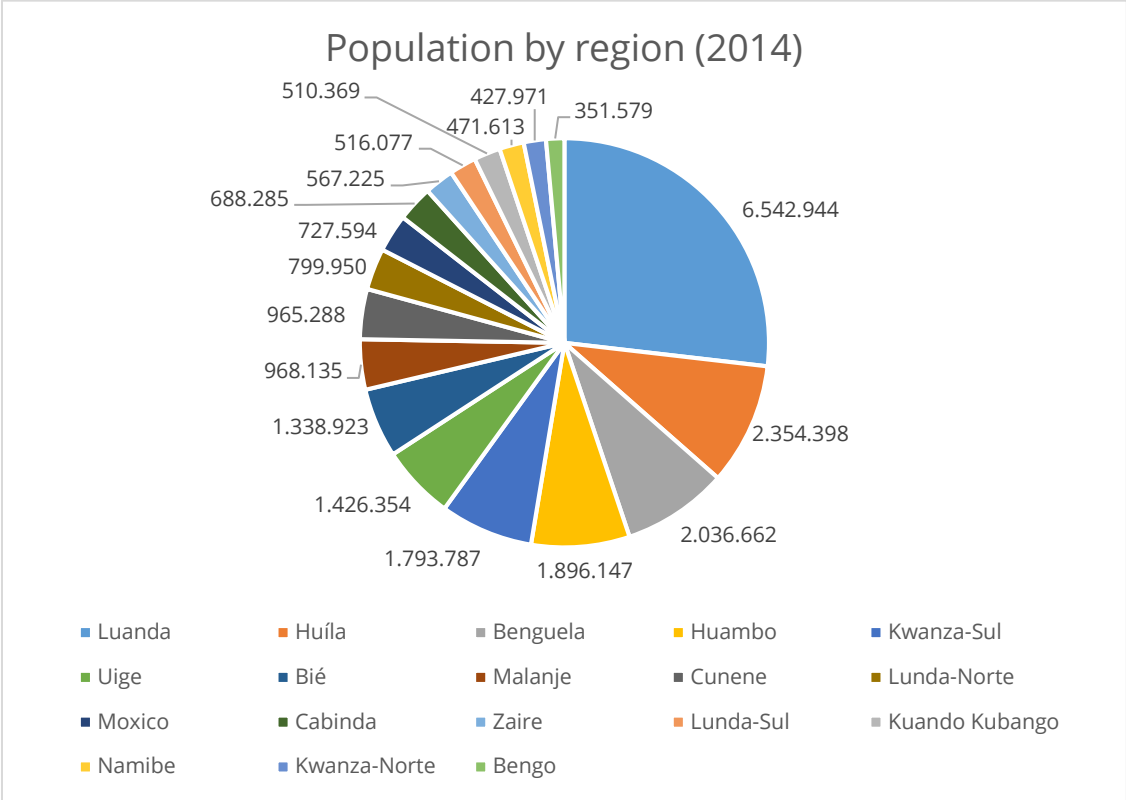
These are all part of the political elite, since economic success largely depends on political influence in the country and can both come and go with it, as can be seen by the example of Isabel dos Santos.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Cf. CIA Fact book (2021).
⁵⁷ Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).
⁵⁸ Cf. Harper (2015).
⁵⁹ Cf. Dolan (2021).

4.1 Population

Angola’s population has been rising continuously since 1970, from 5.9 to 32.9 million in 2020.⁶⁰ This is due to a high number of births, averaging 5.9 per women in the country.⁶¹ The population growth rate is still only 3.4%, however, as especially the rural regions remain neglected in terms of hygiene, drinking water and general access to physicians.⁶² Countrywide, it can be said that there are only 0.2 physicians per every 1000 people, with 50% of the population having no access to health care at all.⁶³ The last populations consensus was performed in 2014⁶⁴ and indicated that a large part of the population resided in the west of the country, especially around the capital in Luanda. The lowest population density could be found in the south-eastern province Kuando Kubango, with only 2.6 people per km².⁶⁵

Population by region



Source: Consulado Geral em Londres (2014).

⁶⁰ Cf. World Bank (2020).
⁶¹ Cf. CIA Fact book (2021).
⁶² Cf. CIA Fact book (2021).
⁶³ Cf. CEMI (2012).
⁶⁴ Cf. Statista (2021).
⁶⁵ Calculations by the author and cf. Consulado Geral em Londres (2014).

4.2 Stage of Development

Angola has been classified by the UN as a least-developed country since 1994 but is set to exceed that status by 2024.⁶⁶ In fact, it has already exceeded the threshold in terms of Gross National Income (GNI)⁶⁷ and the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index (EVI).⁶⁸ It lacks behind considerably in the Human Assets Index (HAI), however, which is a composite index of education and health.⁶⁹ Moreover, the country performs very badly in terms of income inequality, as reflected by the Gini Index, and has a government that only provides a very low level of necessary goods and services to its citizens as indicated by the IIAG.

Indexes indicating Angola's stage of development

Index	Score (max)	Ranking (Nr of Countries) ⁷⁰
Human Development Index (HDI) (2020) ⁷¹	0.581 (1.000)	148 (189)
Gini Index (2018) ⁷²	51.3 (100.0)	11 (174)
Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) (2020) ⁷³	40.0 (100.0)	43 (54)
Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI) (2020) ⁷⁴	4.16 (10.00)	105 (137)

Source: UN (2020), CIA (2021), Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2020), Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020)

⁶⁶ Cf. UN (2021).

⁶⁷ The GNI consists of the GDP, "plus net receipts from abroad of compensation of employees, property income and net taxes less subsidies on production." (OECD (2021)).

⁶⁸ Economic vulnerability is defined as an economy's vulnerability to external shocks whereas environmental vulnerability describes the extent to which the environment is subject to damage and degradation. Cf. Cariolle (2010, p.2) and cf. Kaly et al. (2003, p.6).

⁶⁹ With a score of 52, compared to the threshold of 62. Cf. UN (2021).

⁷⁰ Always based on highest score to lowest score.

⁷¹ The HDI measures development by combining indicators of life expectancy, educational attainment and income. The HDI sets a minimum and a maximum for each dimension, called goalposts, and then shows where each country stands in relation to these goalposts, expressed as a value between 0 and 1. Cf. UNDP Human Development Report (2020).

⁷² The Gini coefficient measures inequality; a value of 0 indicates total equality, a value of 100 maximal inequality, cf. CIA (2018).

⁷³ The Ibrahim Index measures the delivery of public goods and services to citizens by government and non-state actors in African countries, using indicators like safety and rule of law, participation and rights, sustainable economic opportunity, and human development (score out of 100). The countries of Southern Africa are: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Cf. Mo Ibrahim Foundation (2020).

⁷⁴ The BTI is a ranking of 137 developing and transforming countries referring to their political and economic development (Status-Index, SI) and the outcome of reform strategies of governments to achieve rule of law, democracy and social market economy (Management-Index, MI). Cf. Bertelsmann Stiftung (2020).

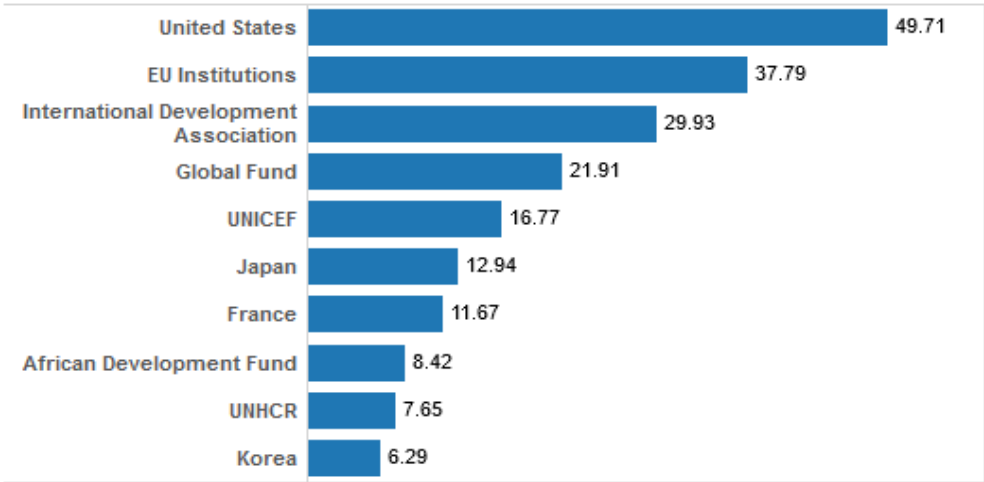
Governance and Status Index for eastern and southern African countries



Source: Cheeseman (2020, p.17)

Official Development Assistance⁷⁵

Top Ten Donors of Gross ODA for Angola, 2018-2019 average, USD million



Source: OECD (2021).

⁷⁵ Notably, most of the development assistance does not go into health and population or education, where Angola is faring badly in the international comparison. Instead, 49% go into the production sector that incorporates the production of oil and mining of diamonds. Cf. OECD (2021).

Demographic Development and Socioeconomic Factors

Live expectancy at birth	2021	61.71 years
Median age	2020	15.9 years
Infant mortality rate	2021	60.58 deaths/1,000 live births
Total Fertility Rate	2021	5.9 children born/woman
HIV/AIDS - adult prevalence rate	2019	1.8%
Obesity - adult prevalence rate	2016	8.2%
Literacy	2015	71.1%

Source: CIA Fact book (2021).

4.3 Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment in Angola is high, with around 1.6 million of the 10.6 million people in the labor force without a job. This amounts to a total of ca. 15% of the total population in Angola currently looking for employment.⁷⁶ Nevertheless, this number is fairly low in the Southern African comparison, since total unemployment rates amount to 28%.⁷⁷ Out of the entire population in the labor force, young people have the highest unemployment rates at 29% and 55- to 64-year-olds the lowest with 2%. Most of the unemployed people also tend to live in urban areas, 88%,⁷⁸ and two thirds come from higher earning, educated backgrounds.⁷⁹ This indicates a lack of jobs requiring a high level of qualification.

It also has to be considered that around 12% of the labor force are discouraged from working. This means that they would be available to work but are not actively looking for employment.⁸⁰ This number is captured through the term “broad unemployment” in the following statistics and leads to the actual unemployment rate rising from 15% to 27% for Angola.

⁷⁶ Cf. World Bank (2020, p.54)

⁷⁷ Cf. Barisone et al. (2021, p.4).

⁷⁸ Calculations by the author and cf. World Bank (2020, p.61).

⁷⁹ Cf. World Bank (2020, p.61).

⁸⁰ Cf. World Bank (2020, p.62).

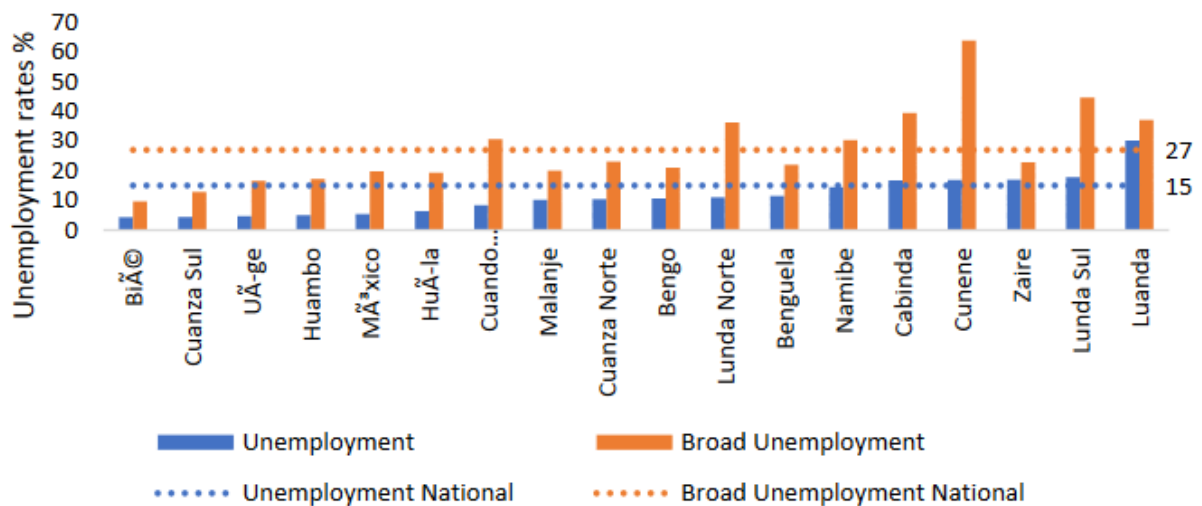
Unemployment rates by groups



Source: World Bank (2020).

Unemployment is not only distributed unevenly in terms of age group, area of residence and poverty level but also between the different regions. Whereas the highest rate of unemployment can be found in the urban province Luanda, ca. 30%, the highest rate of broad unemployment is in the Cunene region, ca.65%, in the southwest of the country.

Unemployment rates by province



Source: World Bank (2020).

4.4 Angola's National Development Plan 2018-2022

The second National Development Plan, 2018-2022, is supposed to realize the development aims stated in the Long-Term Strategy, *Estratégia de Longo Prazo*, Angola 2025. It was designed in collaboration with sectoral and provincial bodies, different to the first national development which fell short of expectations.

In the plan included are 25 strategic policies with their specific contexts, objectives, and priority actions as well as the responsible entities and other entities participating in the implementation.⁸¹ The first eight refer to the human development and well-being of the country and shall be presented in more detail.

Program structure of the National Development Plan 2018-2022

Policies	Aims
1. Population	Local Development and Poverty Alleviation, Protection and Promotion of Children's Rights, Promotion of Gender and Empowerment of Women, Enhancing the Family and Strengthening Family Skills and Comprehensive Youth Development.
2. Education and Higher Education	Training and Management of Teaching Staff, Development of Pre-School Education, Improving the Quality and Development of Primary Education, Development of General Secondary Education, Improving and Developing Technical and Vocational Education, Intensification of Literacy and Youth and Adult Education, Improving the Quality of Higher Education and the Development of Scientific and Technological Research, Social Welfare, Health and School Sport.
3. Development of Human Resources	National Plan for Executive Training, Strengthening of the National Vocational Training System and Establishment of the National Qualifications System.
4. Health	Improvement in Medical and Medicinal Assistance, Improvement of Maternal and Child Health and Nutrition, Combat the

⁸¹ Cf. República de Angola (2018, p.10-13).

	Major Endemic Diseases by Addressing Health Determinants, Strengthening of the Health Information System and Development of Health Research
5. Social Assistance and Protection	Support for Victims of Violence, Improving the Well-being of Former Combatants and Homeland Veterans and Modernization of the Compulsory Social Protection System.
6. Housing	Housing.
7. Culture	Enhancing the Value and Dynamism of the Historic and Cultural Heritage, Promoting Art and Cultural and Creative Industries.
8. Sport	Generalizing Sports Practice and Improving Performance Sport.

Source: República de Angola (2018).

4.5 Culture

Angola's cultural landscape is shaped by the diversity of its various indigenous groups:

Ovimbundu

The Ovimbundu are the largest ethnic group, representing 37% of the population in Angola. They are a Bantu-speaking people with a language called Umbundu and are located in west-central Angola, south of Mbundu inhabited regions. Before the Portuguese colonized their land, the Ovimbundu had twenty-two large kingdoms and reigned over a large territory. Whilst they had to give up their power under Portuguese rule, they were able to retain their cultural identity through the setting up of Christian institutions, such as schools. This also made them stand united during the revolution against the Portuguese and the civil war later on, with the people being firm supporters of UNITA.⁸²

Ambundu

North of the Ovimbundu territory live the Mbundu who speak Kimbundu. The two groups fought heavily against each other during the civil war, with the Mbundu people being the firmest supporters of MPLA. Today, the ethnic group constitutes the second-largest ethnic group in the country, 25%, and makes up the political elite, with former president dos

⁸² Cf. Collelo (1991).

Santos being a Mbundu. They also intermarried with some native Portuguese during colonial times, leading to the creation of the *mestiços*.⁸³

Bakongo

Making up 15% of the population, the Bakongo are largely situated in Uíge, Zaire and Cabinda provinces. They speak Kikongo, a Bantu language just like Kimbundu and Umbundu. During the revolution against the Portuguese, they formed a large part of the FNLA and were forced to flee Angola into exile in Zaire. They were able to return after the war, however, and have since regained their ethnolinguistic integrity.⁸⁴

Lunda- Chokwe

The Lunda- Chokwe were originally two separate ethnic groups that started to mingle with each other in 1900. Before that time, the Lunda were largely situated in the southwestern part of modern-day Congo and ruled over the region in the form of the Lunda Empire. The Chokwe used the decline of the empire in the late 19th century to invade the region, causing a mixed population to arise. After 1920, they started considering themselves as one people and now make up 8%⁸⁵ of the population in Angola. Based on their rich cultural history, there are three different languages spoken by the Lunda Chokwe: Ruund, Lunda and Chokwe. They still mainly reside in the northeastern Lunda Norte Province, close to the Congolese border.⁸⁶

Nganguela

The term Nganguela is used to describe several different ethnic groups residing to the east and south of the Ovimbundu people. It encompasses the Lwena, Mbunda and Luchazi among several other ethnicities and was largely rejected by them as an official name. The different groups together make up about 6% of the Angolan population and speak Bantu languages that are most closely related to the ones spoken by the Lunda- Chokwe. Different to the larger ethnic groups mentioned before, the Nganguela did not traditionally rely on agriculture but rather cattle-raising or fishing.⁸⁷

Ovambo, Nyaneka – Khumbi, Herero

Three other Bantu-speaking ethnic groups can be found in southwestern Angola: The Ovambo, Nyaneka-Khumbi and the Herero. These make up 2%, 3% and 0.5% of the total population in Angola and speak Oshivambo, Nyaneka and Otjiherero, respectively. Apart from the similarities in their languages, the groups are also united by largely or fully

⁸³ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁸⁴ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁸⁵ It must be mentioned that the size of the ethnic groups presented here, represents their share of the population 1988, meaning that they might not be the same in present-day Angola. However, no more recent surveys could be found by the author, leading this to be the best estimate for the population in 2021.

⁸⁶ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁸⁷ Cf. Collelo (1991).

relying on cattle-raising for subsistence. Their cultural history differs significantly, however, with the Angolan Herero descending from the Namibian Herero that fled the German genocide. The Ovambo are also much more largely represented in Namibia and only the Nyaneka-Khumbi are just native to Angola.⁸⁸

Mestiços

Mestiços are the descendants from mostly Portuguese and Ambundu marriages.⁸⁹ They make up around 2% of the population today and were well-integrated, *assimilados*, in Portuguese colonial society. This also meant that most grew up speaking Portuguese and living in largely urban areas. Due to their status as *assimilados* they faced strong aversions within Angolan society which only changed when they became more politically significant within the MPLA.⁹⁰

Whites

Whites only represent around 1% of Angolan population today. They are mostly from Portuguese descent and also speak the Portuguese language. Their group had been much larger before Angolan independence in 1975, where an estimated 350,000 people returned to their homeland.⁹¹

5. Climate

Angola has a very varied climate depending on the part of the country. The south and the coastal regions are characterized by a hot, semi-arid climate that gives way to a desert in the most southwestern part of the country. In fact, the southern areas have experienced serious droughts in recent years, leading to a large number of people fleeing to Namibia for food and water.⁹² The center of the country has a much higher amount of rainfall, causing a humid, subtropical weather to occur in the provinces of Menongue, Catala, Cumbúndi Cungo, Quissecula and Luassinga. For the more elevated provinces in the west of the country, Bairro da Lage, Chitonga, Cacondá, Catanda and Cambambe, the weather conditions change to a subtropical highland oceanic climate that is characterized by mild summers and cooler winters. In contrast, the north and east have a tropical savanna climate with a high amount of rainfall during summer and no rainfall during the winter.⁹³

⁸⁸ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁸⁹ When Cuban troops were stationed in Angola in the 1970s, there were also mestiços born from Angolan-Cuban descent, cf. Collelo (1991).

⁹⁰ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁹¹ Cf. Collelo (1991).

⁹² allAfrica (2021).

⁹³ Cf. World Bank (2021).

Overall, Angola has a mean annual precipitation of 987.6mm per year and an average temperature of 21.83°C. The rainy season takes place from October to May in the country and is accompanied by a hot and humid climate, averaging 22 to 23°C. During the rest of the year, there is a dry season with slightly lower temperatures of 18 to 20°C. Different to the summer months, however, there can be wide disparities in temperature between day and night the further away the region is from the coast.⁹⁴ Apart from the general climate conditions, it has to be noted that the mean annual temperature has increased by 1.5°C and the mean annual rainfall decreased by 2 mm since 1960. It is currently predicted that this trend will continue in the next decades, with a warming taking place in the eastern and central parts of Angola, especially.⁹⁵

⁹⁴ Cf. World Bank (2021).

⁹⁵ Cf. World Bank (2021).

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