

July 14, 2020  
Diocese of Angola

My sincere thanks to the Southern African Link Committee for its work to put together a picture of the COVID 19 situation across Southern Africa.

Since the March 27 Declaration of the State of Emergency due to the pandemic, we have witnessed a calamity with many social and economic problems. The Church is working to get out messages on prevention and other information and to help the Government through joint efforts. We are training and preparing teams to work in the areas hardest hit by COVID 19, at this time mainly Luanda and Kuanza Norte provinces, but lack the financial and material resources to support the needy communities with essential biosafety supplies.

Both Luanda and Kwanza Norte have been locked down, with people confined to their homes. As of the end of July there were 812 positive cases, with 226 recovered and 33 deaths. 800 companies have already dismissed more than 8,000 employees, with the expectation of a similar number of layoffs in the next couple of weeks. Hunger and extreme poverty are affecting people more and more every day. Famine is now a reality for many.

The Government has called on churches, civil society, and other non-governmental organizations to combat the pandemic by helping the most vulnerable and needy families. Churches, schools, and other institutions of learning are closed and the situation worsens, day by day. Nevertheless, we have faith that God will help us to solve this problem, and we assure you that you remain in our prayers as you go through these difficult times, as we do.

As the Bible says, we are often in trouble, but never defeated. Sometimes we are in doubt, but never desperate. We have many enemies, but we never lack a friend. Sometimes we are hurt, but not destroyed. We always carry in our mortal bodies the death of Jesus, so that we can also see his life in our own bodies. (2 Corinthians 4: 8-12)

With peace and love.

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