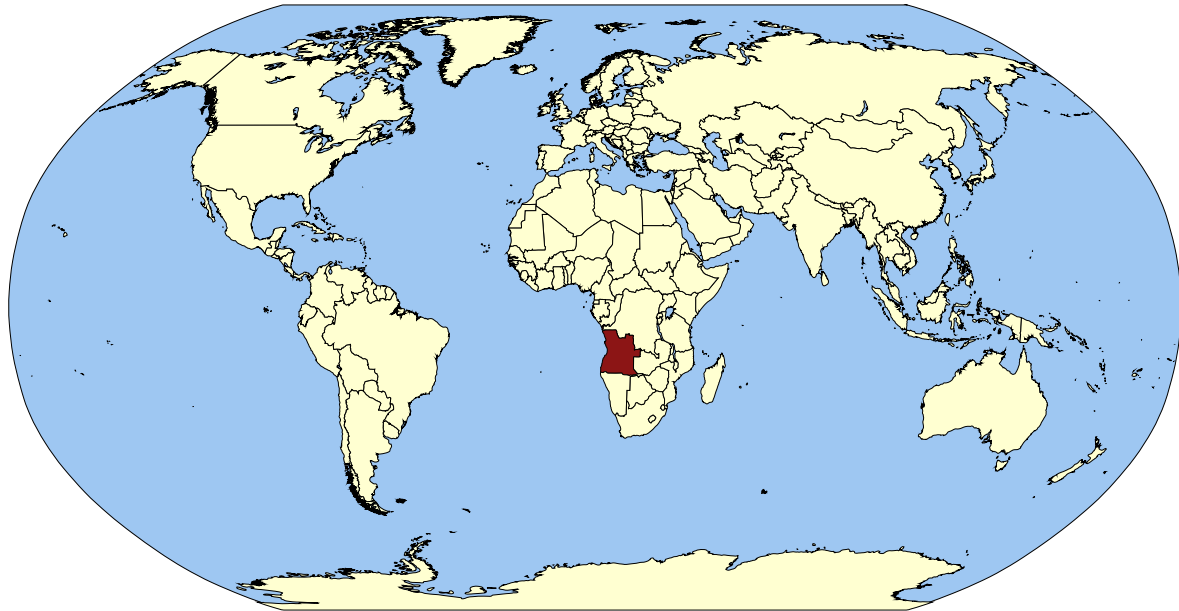


Angola



Recent Schistosomiasis Control in Angola

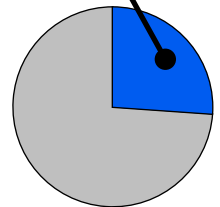
Reports on schistosomiasis prevalence in Angola show a marked decrease in the last decade. Rollinson reports that from 2003 to 2010, prevalence of the intestinal and urinary forms of the disease decreased from 44.0% to 28.8% [1]. However, no formal schistosomiasis elimination efforts have been put into effect in Angola as of yet, leaving the root causes of these positive changes in disease prevalence unclear. While national tropical disease elimination programs have, in the past, been neglected, Angola's government has adopted a "National Strategic Plan for the Elimination of NTD's 2012-2016" through coordination of The ENDFund and Angola's Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education. NTD mapping of endemic diseases including schistosomiasis, intestinal worms, lymphatic filariasis, and river blindness was scheduled to begin in 2013 with an MDA in the same year [2].

Schistosomiasis in Angola [6]

Nearly 60% of the population is at risk

26% of the population requires preventive chemotherapy for schistosomiasis

Angola adopted a plan to eliminate schistosomiasis and other NTDs, or neglected tropical diseases.

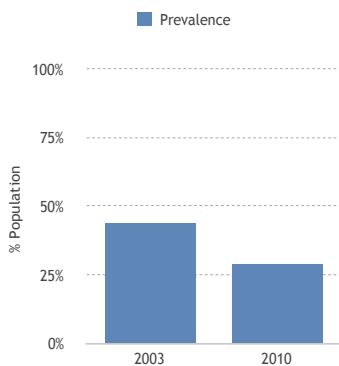


Overview of Angola [7]

- » Population in 2014: 19,625,353
- » Official Language: Portuguese
- » Capital: Luanda
- » Republic
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Drinking Water in 2012: 54.3%
- » Percentage of Population with Access to Improved Sanitation in 2012: 60.1%

The History of Angola

Angola's recent history has been plagued by oppressive Portuguese colonial rule and over a quarter century of civil war following colonial collapse in 1974, lasting until peace settlements in 2002 with short, fragile periods of peace [3]. Peace settlements were first broached in 2005, but political strife and civilian fighting resumed by 1998 and lasted until 2003. The 27 years of war resulted in humanitarian devastation. Since the end of the civil war, Angola's government has transitioned towards democracy, and with oil exports and foreign loans has since experienced economic growth [3]. The Ministry of Health now works alongside The END Fund and local NGO's to develop partnerships to combat NTD's [2].



Disease Prevalence in Angola

Schistosomiasis disease prevalence, measured as the percentage of infected individuals within the total population, has decreased in Angola since 2003. More research is needed to support this trend.

Land Use in Angola

Agriculture is the main economic activity of the population (71% of population in 2004). In 2011, 3.52% of land covering Angola was arable and/or in permanent agricultural use, a percent that has risen from 3.00% in the 1990's [5]. The abundance of available freshwater, too, has remained unchanged. In the same time period, the area equipped for irrigation has also remained stable, increasing from 80,000 to 86,000 ha [5]. Surface water is relatively abundant, and agriculture consumes over 60% of surface water. The long period of war from 1975 to 1994 led to degradation of previously well-developed irrigation schemes. Currently, the majority of agricultural efforts rely on rainfall for water. Irrigation is nonetheless important, mainly as large private irrigation systems for the most profitable crops [4]. Before the civil war beginning in 1974, Angola was self-sufficient in terms of satisfying consumption through agriculture, but had to rely heavily on import and humanitarian aid during and following the conflict [4]. While most of the population currently exists on subsistence farming, oil production contributes to close to 85% of GDP and diamonds to 5% [2].

The Geography of Angola

The geography of Angola, and changes in land use, do little to disclose the process by which schistosomiasis rates have dropped in the last decade. The country is located on the eastern Atlantic coast of southern Africa and shares borders with Congo, the DRC, and Zambia. Angola is a large country dominated by woody vegetation and forests in the north and central regions and an arid dry climate in the south [4].

Looking Ahead

The new efforts to map and address NTD's including schistosomiasis in Angola comes from rapid economic growth and stability following years of war [2]. In time, it is hoped that the outcomes of this research will shed light on the real extent of schistosomiasis in Angola, including snail habitat distribution and abundance, and the best route towards establishing widespread control.

References

1. Rollinson, D. et al. Time to set the agenda for schistosomiasis elimination. *Acta Trop.* 128, 423-440 (2013).
2. The End Fund Angola. at <<http://www.end.org/ourimpact/wherework/angola>>
3. BBC News - Angola profile - Timeline. at <<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13037271>>
4. AQUASTAT - Système d'information de la FAO sur l'eau et l'agriculture. at <http://www.fao.org/nr/water/aquastat/countries_regions/ago/indexfra.stm>
5. FAO Angola Country Profile. at <http://faostat.fao.org/Country-Profiles/Country_Profile/Direct.aspx?lang=en&area=7>
6. WHO. PCT Databank for Schistosomiasis. at <http://www.who.int/neglected_diseases/preventive_chemotherapy/sch/en/>
7. Central Intelligence Agency. (2014). Angola. In *The World Factbook*. at <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ao.html>>