COI QUERY

Country of Origin	**Angola**
Title	**Situation of individuals with mental health conditions in Angola, in particular Luanda**
Reference period	January 2024 to 12 October 2026
Topic(s)	1. Background information on mental health in Angola, including prevalence 2. Treatment by society 3. Access to support services
Date of completion	12 October 2026
Query Code	Q27-2026
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	**N/A**

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COI QUERY RESPONSE – Angola

Situation of individuals with mental health conditions in Angola, in particular Luanda

1. Background information on mental health in Angola, including prevalence

In the 2024 Presidential decree for the adoption of Angola's National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2024–2027, article 37 states that, according to data from the National Directorate of Public Health (DNSP), 359 579 people with various mental disorders were assisted by mental health services nationally between 2020 and 2023, corresponding to an average of 119 860 patients per year, or 0.34 % of the population annually.[1] The decree notes, however, that comprehensive and up-to-date national studies were lacking and that available surveillance data were underreported, indicating that these figures did not represent the full prevalence of mental health conditions in the country.[2]

In August 2024, the local news source O País, citing the country's National Mental Health Coordinator, Dr Massoxi Vigário, reported that more than 200 000 people in Angola were affected by mental health conditions. The coordinator identified substance abuse as one of the main factors contributing to mental health problems. The source also identified anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia among the most frequently reported conditions and stated that people aged 24–49 were the most affected age group.[3]

In Luanda, the Provincial Programme for Mental Health and Substance Abuse recorded a significant increase in cases in 2025. In the first half of 2025, the programme registered 26 124 cases, compared with 10 417 cases during the same period in 2024, representing an increase of 15 707 cases related to mental health and substance abuse.[4]
In January 2025, O País reported that the most frequently reported conditions in Luanda were neurotic, stress-related and somatoform disorders, which accounted for 57 % of cases, followed by mood disorders, at 19.3 %, and disorders associated with physiological or somatic dysfunction, at 10.5 % of cases The 24–40 age group was identified as the most affected, accounting for 58.2 % of cases among males and 60 % among females.[5] According to the same article, the coordinator of Luanda's Provincial Programme for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Sebastião Kinguati, described Luanda as a province characterised by high levels of stress associated with noise, traffic and poor working conditions, which can

[1] Angola, Decreto Presidencial n.º 244/24 de 06 de novembro [Presidential Decree No. 244/24 of November 6], 6 November 2024, url
[2] Angola, Decreto Presidencial n.º 244/24 de 06 de novembro [Presidential Decree No. 244/24 of November 6], 6 November 2024, url
[3] O País, Mais de 200 mil pessoas sofrem de doenças mentais em Angola associadas às drogas [More than 200,000 People in Angola Suffer from Mental Illnesses Associated with Drugs], 26 August 2024, url
[4] O País, Saúde mental em Luanda regista mais de 26 mil casos no 1.º semestre de 2025 [Mental health services in Luanda recorded more than 26 000 cases in the first half of 2025], 9 September 2025, url
[5] O País, Programa de saúde mental regista 20 mil casos de perturbações em Luanda [Mental health programme registers 20,000 cases of disorders in Luanda], 9 January 2025, url

contribute to issues such as irritability.[6] Luanda's Provincial Programme recorded 124 suicide attempts in the first half of 2025, alongside 3 374 cases of depression.[7]

2. Treatment by society

Information on treatment by society was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this query response. However, the following information may be relevant.

In June 2024, O País reported that 50 of the 76 patients at the Psychiatric Hospital in Huíla province had reportedly been abandoned by their families. The article noted that some patients had been without contact with their relatives for 15 to 20 years.[8] A local news article published by Radio Nacional de Angola (RNA) in June 2025, covering information the same facility, reported that 60 patients that had been considered clinically recovered remained abandoned by their families for approximately 10 years, according to the hospital management.[9] O País, citing the hospital director, reported that mental illness was highly stigmatised, particularly among patients' family members, and that this was contributing to an increase in cases of family abandonment.[10] Regarding the city of Cabinda, O País also reported that some family members failed to maintain contact with or support relatives receiving psychiatric care, with the mental health supervisor stating that some recovered patients remained in hospital for years because their families did not accept or reintegrate them into their families or communities.[11]

A study by researchers from the Universidade Católica de Angola, published in Academicus Magazine in March 2024, examined attitudes of family members of people with psychosis at the Psychiatric Hospital of Lubango and the Arimba Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre. Based on interviews with eight relatives, the study found that some families tended to distance themselves from relatives with psychosis, expressed a desire to abandon them, and attributed psychosis to witchcraft, family or personal problems, drugs, or alcohol.[12]

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[6] O País, Programa de saúde mental regista 20 mil casos de perturbações em Luanda [Mental health programme registers 20,000 cases of disorders in Luanda], 9 January 2025, url
[7] O País, Luanda com mais de três mil casos de depressão e 124 tentativas de suicídio [Luanda records more than three thousand cases of depression and 124 suicide attempts], 11 September 2025, url
[8] O País, Cinquenta pacientes abandonados no Hospital Psiquiátrico da Huíla [Fifty patients abandoned at the Huíla Psychiatric Hospital], 28 June 2024, url
[9] RNA, Huíla. Sessenta pacientes recuperados estão abandonados há cerca de dez anos no Hospital Psiquiátrico do Lubango [Huíla. Sixty recovered patients have been abandoned for about ten years at the Lubango Psychiatric Hospital], 10 June 2025, url
[10] O País, Hospital Psiquiátrico da Huíla 'caça' familiares de 50 pacientes abandonados [Huíla Psychiatric Hospital 'Hunts' for Relatives of 50 Abandoned Patients], 13 May 2024, url
[11] O País, Cabinda regista crescimento exponencial de casos de pessoas com demência [Cabinda registers exponential growth in cases of people with dementia], 10 October 2024, url
[12] Lopes, M. and Veloso, H., Atitudes das Famílias Face aos Membros Portadores de Psicose, Estudo de caso do Hospital Psiquiátrico do Lubango e do Centro de Reabilitação Psicossocial do Lubango – Angola [Families' Attitudes Toward Family Members with Psychosis: A Case Study of the Lubangoe Psychiatric Hospital and the Lubangoe Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center—Angola], Academicus Magazine, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2024, pp. 30–43, 19 March 2024, url, p. 38

3. Access to support services

Information on access to support services was scarce among the sources consulted by EUAA within the time constraints of this query response. However, the following information may be relevant.

The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that mental health services in Angola were integrated into the National Directorate of Public Health, with the Coordinator of the Ministry of Health's Mental Health Programme, stating that an integrated network had been established in six provinces between 2013 and 2018 to provide care at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. Between 2013 and 2024, the number of health facilities offering mental health services had increased from 184 to 202, with services available throughout the country.[13]

A study on the mental health of healthcare workers in Angola, published in April 2025 in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, described 'a critical shortage of mental health professionals', reporting 0.06 psychiatrists and 0.18 psychologists per 100 000 inhabitants, and a healthcare workforce 'far below' WHO standards. The study identified that 'poor working conditions, inadequate remuneration, and professional undervaluation' represented 'significant psychosocial risks', particularly for public-sector nurses.[14]

An April 2024 article by the Borgen Project, a non-governmental organisation, stated that mental health care in Angola had been 'neglected', citing 'limited funding, inadequate mental health care policies, shortages of health care personnel and deficient training of health care workers', as some of the challenges.[15]

In August 2024, O País, citing Angola's National Mental Health Coordinator, reported that mental health service coverage in Angola was approximately 4.6 %. The coordinator also stated that the Integrated Mental Health Services Network comprised 321 clinical psychologists and 29 psychiatrists, and that although Luanda had the largest number of mental health professionals and facilities, these remained insufficient. The coordinator also identified shortages of specialised human resources and financial resources as challenges to the provision of mental health care.[16]

In May 2025, Angola's Ministry of Health reported that an average of 250 patients were treated in the Psychiatric Emergency Department in Luanda, while an average of eight patients were admitted each day. The Ministry also reported that 496 patients were

[13] WHO, Mental Health: A right for all, 22 August 2024, url
[14] Serra, E and Magalhães, T., Telemedicine as an Approach to the Mental Health of Healthcare Workers in Angola. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 22, no. 4: 565, 4 April 2025, url, p. 2
[15] Borgen Project (The), Mental Health in Angola, 15 April 2024, url
[16] O País, Mais de 200 mil pessoas sofrem de doenças mentais em Angola associadas às drogas [More than 200,000 People in Angola Suffer from Mental Illnesses Associated with Drugs], 26 August 2024, url

hospitalised at the time, including 302 permanent residents and 194 patients considered eligible for medical discharge.[17]

The National Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases 2024–2027 also provided for subsidisation of mental health treatment costs, beginning at 10 % in 2024 and aiming to gradually increase to 20 % by 2027.[18]

[17] Angola, Ministry of Health, Ministério da Saúde Debate Papel Transformador da Enfermagem na Saúde Mental [Ministry of Health Discusses the Transformative Role of Nursing in Mental Health], n.d., url
[18] Angola, Decreto Presidencial n.º 244/24 de 06 de novembro [Presidential Decree No. 244/24 of November 6], 6 November 2024, url, art. 37

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