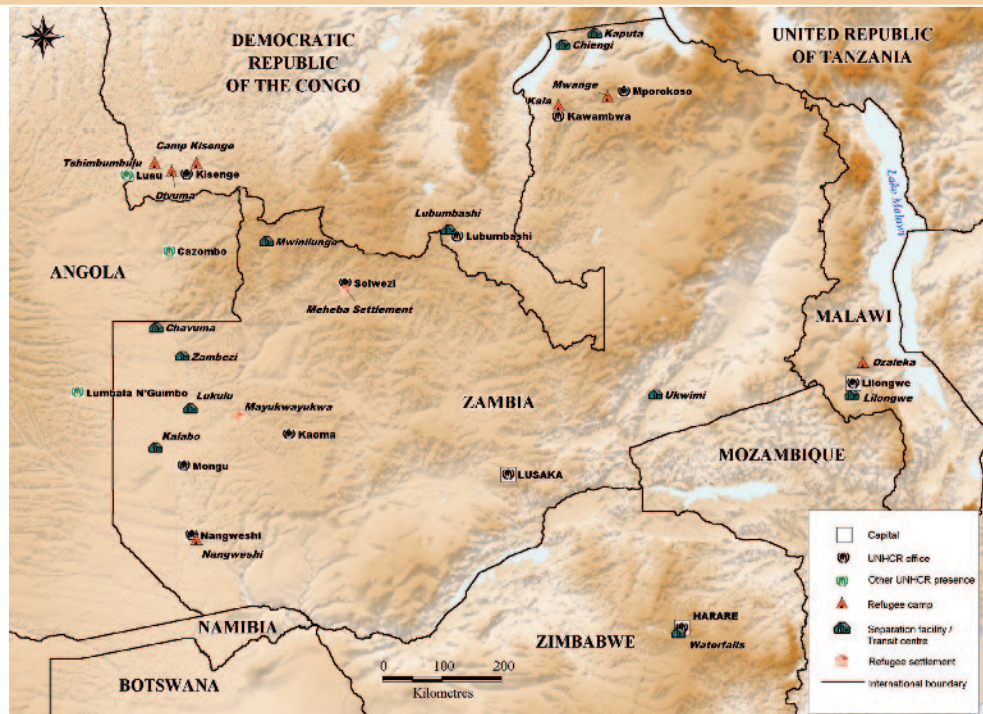


Zambia

Main Objectives

- Continue to provide protection and material assistance, and to search for durable solutions for refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and elsewhere.
- Assist or facilitate the voluntary return of refugees to their countries of origin and explore the potential for local integration (naturalisation) and resettlement.
- Ensure that assistance reflects all UNHCR policy priorities on refugee women, refugee children, HIV/AIDS and environmental awareness.
- Continue to seek the involvement of other development agencies and donors in work with refugee-hosting communities.
- Help the Government to ensure security in and around the refugee camps, and thereby encourage the Government to preserve the institution of asylum in Zambia.



Planning Figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Angolan Refugees	80,000 ¹	40,000 ²
Congolese Refugees (DRC)	40,000	40,000
Other Refugees (Urban)	6,289	6,289
Total	126,289	86,289

¹ Excludes some 130,000 who have spontaneously settled.
² Subject to repatriation to Angola.

Total Requirements: USD 20,360,551

in 2002, it is expected that a certain momentum for peace has been created and that in 2003 further positive political developments may lead to the return of Congolese refugees from Zambia.

The sudden death of the leader of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) on 22 February 2002, led rapidly to relative peace in Angola and the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from neighbouring countries. The challenges associated with the demobilisation of UNITA soldiers, disarmament, extension of territorial administration and the resettlement of more than four million internally displaced persons (IDPs), could well dilute the attention that the

Working Environment

Recent Developments

The positive developments in the Inter-Congolese dialogue in 2002, coupled with recent agreements between the Governments of DRC, Rwanda and Uganda on the withdrawal of foreign troops from DRC, as well as the announced withdrawal of Zimbabwean troops, herald the beginning of a solution to the conflict. Although no major spontaneous repatriation movement has yet taken place

Angolan Government devotes to its refugee population in Zambia and elsewhere.

Clearly, developments in both countries are substantially affecting earlier projections of population displacement and will impact upon operations in Zambia in the course of 2003, particularly after the rains and harvest.

In respect of refugee protection and assistance, it is expected that the Government of Zambia will continue to maintain an open door policy, a positive climate of asylum, and its traditional excellent working relationship with UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies. However, poverty is the Government's foremost preoccupation. The country faces serious economic problems, mainly as a result of its dependence on a mining sector in continuous decline, and its food deficit has affected more than two million people in 2002. In addition, the scourge of HIV/AIDS is of grave concern.

Constraints

A major constraint to the refugee operations in Zambia has been the lack of logistical capacity to respond to emergencies. Access roads become impassable during the rainy season (December to March) and in Zambezi and Senanga, the roads to Mayukwayukwa and Nangweshi refugee camps are invariably flooded. Even at the best of times, the access road and bridge to Mayukwayukwa are in a precarious state.

Instead of relocating Nangweshi camp from the western side of the Zambezi River, the Government has decided to keep it there but to extend the camp. This means that logistical challenges continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian services to the refugees housed there.

Given the general economic situation in Zambia and in the urban areas in particular, the local integration of refugees residing in Lusaka is still a major challenge for UNHCR. Given the prevailing level of unemployment, job opportunities for refugees are rare.

Constraints affecting the pace of voluntary repatriation from Zambia to Angola include the absence of government administration, the devas-

tated social and economic infrastructure in the major areas of return (Moxico and Cuando Cubango Provinces), i.e. the presence of land mines, the poor state of roads, bridges and access roads, scarce food resources and inadequate health and education services.

Strategy

UNHCR will urge the Government to help provide integration opportunities for at least those refugees who have been in the country for an extended period. At the same time, the Office will follow political developments in the countries of origin of the refugees and seize any opportunities for voluntary repatriation.

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR will work in collaboration with the Government of Zambia to safeguard the humanitarian character of asylum. Technical support will be provided to the Government in respect of the protection of refugee women and children and the management of statistical databases. For urban refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR will focus on the protection regime, with the emphasis on case management, ensuring high standards of treatment while aiming for self-reliance and ultimately for durable solutions for all persons of concern to the Office.

UNHCR will explore opportunities to facilitate and, when opportune, promote voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity. Resettlement will be offered to selected cases, in close consultation with prospective receiving countries. UNHCR will also play a significant role in advocating social inclusion of refugees, pending the identification of other durable solutions for them.

Whilst Zambia has remained faithful to the international principles of asylum and has maintained a positive and open asylum policy, historically, it has felt obliged, for security reasons, to make reservations to the Convention, specifically consigning refugees to designated/gazetted areas and limiting their access to employment. By limiting the scope of development opportunities for refugees, the refugee programme has remained isolated from

the rural development concerns of the people and the Government of Zambia. Through the “Zambia Initiative”, a joint effort lead by the Government of Zambia, several donor governments and international institutions, UNHCR is encouraging development through assisted local integration of refugees, particularly those refugees not intending to repatriate. The initiative will give the Government of Zambia an incentive to include refugees in its municipal development agenda, review the restrictive Refugee Act and open the door to the naturalisation of refugees, many of whom have been in the country for more than three decades.

The Zambia Initiative aims at reducing the negative socio-economic impact of the refugees’ presence while promoting their self-sufficiency, by lessening poverty among local populations and refugees alike. It is expected that this approach will contribute not only towards local development, but also towards the prevention of conflict between refugees and the local population and make the former productive members of society, pending a durable solution to their situation (e.g. local integration).

Assistance

In 2003, UNHCR, in collaboration with national and international NGOs, will provide basic humanitarian assistance in the sectors of water and sanitation, health, education, community services and income-generation activities, in a manner that promotes refugee self-help. This will be strengthened through discussions with the Government and development agencies aimed at supporting socio-economic initiatives in the older refugee settlements. The integration of the settlements into national development strategies will be pursued, with particular emphasis on the participation of line ministries and other UN agencies.

UNHCR will provide emergency assistance when necessary, but will seek to link relief and development in the context of rural poverty alleviation. In so doing, the Office will seek to promote the effective empowerment of refugee women, ensuring equal access to services. Adolescents will be engaged in various community-based programmes built around social inclusion (and increased awareness of HIV/AIDS issues).





Zambia has begun to encourage the local integration of refugees.
Education for Angolan refugees in Nangweshi camp. UNHCR / L. Taylor

UNHCR will deploy sufficient international staff and protection personnel in the key operational locations. Recent recommendations by the Auditor and the Inspector General will be integrated into all aspects of management, programmes, protection and administration. The Office will also ensure that all interested parties, including donors, UN Agencies and the public, are adequately informed about the refugee programme in the country.

Desired Impact

UNHCR will monitor the delivery of assistance, the protection of refugee women and children, and technical efficiency, in order to ensure that professional standards are maintained. The additional deployment of Community Services, Health and Security sector specialists will lead to better evaluation in these strategic sectors, and to smoother communication of policy and priorities to the relevant implementing partners.

UNHCR's overall aims are to facilitate refugees' local integration, freedom of movement and naturalisation. An eventual exit strategy will require a greater investment of resources in: education, including secondary school scholarships; agricultural production; income-generation (through loan support); and legal representation on behalf of refugees. Such efforts will be enhanced by progress on Zambia Initiative projects.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

The Office in Lusaka has 16 international staff, three UNVs and 33 national staff. The Sub-Office in Mongu (including Field Offices in Kaoma, and Solwezi) has five international officers, two UNVs and 27 national staff. In Kawambwa, including the Field Office at Mporokoso, there are five international staff and 18 national staff.

Co-ordination

UNHCR's main government counterpart is the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees at the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). In addition, the

provincial authorities are responsible for providing police officers for the security and safety of operations in the field and in the camps.

During 2003, UNHCR expects to work with eight international and two Zambian NGOs and two government partners in programme implementation. Co-ordination mechanisms exist at the central level in Lusaka and at the field level through monthly inter-agency meetings. These will be maintained and strengthened in 2003.

UNHCR participates in the UN's Common Country Assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process. With the launching of the UNDAF process in Zambia in 2002, the Office collaborates in theme groups related to social services, governance, HIV/AIDS and regional integration. The UN Country Team has adopted a development agenda with a special focus on poverty reduction, including the reduction of gender disparities.

The issues addressed by the UN Country Team (in the context of the UNDAF process) are similar to those addressed by UNHCR and its partner agencies. This situation calls for closer collaboration, particularly in the context of the Zambia Initiative. The Office will work towards the integration of the Zambia Initiative and the UNDAF process, with the aim of including refugees in the process.

The assistance and co-operation of IOM has in the past been instrumental in ensuring the speedy transfer of groups of refugees in Zambia. It is anticipated that IOM will continue to provide logistical support in the transfer or repatriation of refugees.

Offices
Lusaka
Kaoma
Mawambwa
Mongu
Mporokoso
Nangweshi
Solwesi

Partners
Government Agencies
Department of Water Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs (Commissioner for Refugees)
NGOs
African Humanitarian Action
AFRICARE
<i>Afrika Aktion Hilfe</i>
CARE International
Christian Outreach Relief and Development
HODI
IFRC
Lutheran World Federation
World Vision International
Zambia Red Cross
Others
IOM
UNVs

Budget (USD)			
Country	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	3,631,679	389,473	4,021,152
Community Services	379,022	50,000	429,022
Crop Production	353,232	300,000	653,232
Domestic Needs	911,675	30,000	941,675
Education	772,821	350,000	1,122,821
Forestry	78,515	80,000	158,515
Health	1,245,061	330,000	1,575,061
Income Generation	133,870	300,000	433,870
Legal Assistance	395,832	156,726	552,558
Livestock	0	200,000	200,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,050,363	163,000	2,213,363
Sanitation	119,770	128,470	248,240
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	229,847	330,000	559,847
Transport / Logistics	2,566,050	851,586	3,417,636
Water	539,042	114,745	653,787
Total Operations	13,406,779	3,774,000	17,180,779
Programme Support	3,109,168	70,604	3,179,772
Total	16,515,947	3,844,604	20,360,551