

# Angola

## Main objectives

- Support the implementation of a comprehensive reintegration initiative in the main areas of return.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia and Namibia and organize the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from the Republic of the Congo (RoC) and South Africa.
- Consolidate local integration for DRC refugees.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Returnees <sup>1</sup>	361,940	371,940
DRC (refugees)	13,450	11,840
Asylum-seekers	900	790
Various refugees	460	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>376,766</b>	<b>385,028</b>

<sup>1</sup>These figures reflect the number of returnees since the beginning of the operation in 2002. In 2006, the number of new arrivals is estimated at 10,000.

**Total requirements: USD 24,066,021**

## Working environment

### Recent developments

Some four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and more than 350,000 refugees are estimated to have returned home following the April 2002 peace accord between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). UNHCR and its partners have assisted the return of more than 200,000 refugees, with approximately 60 per cent returning in land convoys and airlifts through 17 repatriation corridors linking Angola with DRC, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana and RoC. The rest have returned on their own but received assistance from UNHCR upon their arrival in Angola. The last two corridors from DRC opened in October 2005, after two years of preparations to repair roads and clear landmines. The organized repatriation operation from the main asylum countries – Zambia, DRC and

Namibia – is now drawing to a close, with the closure of all corridors planned by December 2005. Nevertheless, refugees returning spontaneously in 2006 will continue to be assisted upon their arrival in Angola.

In 2005, the Government of Angola, supported by UNHCR, launched the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative (SRI) targeting key districts of return in Moxico, Uige and Zaire provinces. Detailed assessments have already been compiled in each district to highlight major gaps in social services, transport infrastructure and economic opportunities, and to identify key development priorities, in line with existing national and provincial development plans. These district assessments were prepared in collaboration with provincial and local authorities, traditional leaders, UN agencies, NGOs, returnee representatives and other key actors. Project planning for 2006 is under way, with the participation of the World Bank and a number of UN development agencies. The United Nations has also made an inter-agency submission to the Human Security Trust Fund for development activities in a key district of return.

Legislative and presidential elections are planned for the second half of 2006, representing a major step in the consolidation of peace in Angola. The Government of Angola recently launched a nationwide documentation campaign to ensure that the entire electorate is able to go to the polls.

### Constraints

Social and economic conditions are improving in Angola but the situation remains extremely difficult, particularly in the isolated rural areas to which most refugees have returned. More than three years after the cessation of hostilities, access to basic services remains severely restricted and mortality rates are among the highest in the world. For example, the average life expectancy is 41 years, only 30 per cent of children are enrolled in school and 50 per cent of the population lacks a supply of clean drinking water.

In the areas of return, the restoration of peace has not undone the effects of 30 years of neglect and war. Most development initiatives remain focused

elsewhere: on the more densely populated and easily accessible highlands and greater Luanda area. The Government has very little capacity to manage reconstruction, and this weakness is compounded by a severe paucity of effective Angolan NGOs and landmines that remain extremely prevalent.

While refugees started to return to Angola's oil-rich Cabinda enclave in 2005, it has not yet been possible to organize movements to all parts of the province due to the ongoing conflict between the Angolan armed forces and rebels calling for an independent state.

For refugees in Angola, the most significant constraint to achieving a durable solution is the lack of a functioning mechanism to grant permanent residence or citizenship for the large majority of the population who wish to settle permanently in the country.

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## Strategy

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### Protection and solutions

During 2006, organized repatriation will be limited to an estimated 5,000 refugees from RoC and South Africa, as well as a possible short extension of movements from DRC and Zambia due to logistical delays. Measures are in place to assist, upon arrival, an additional 5,000 refugees returning on their own. The estimate of 5,000 was intended to cover all those residing outside camps in DRC and Zambia, but registration currently under way in DRC and Zambia suggests that further numbers may wish to return. This will require the allocation of additional resources.

The long-term success of the Angola voluntary repatriation operation rests on the comprehensive and sustained development of areas of return, a complex task that clearly outstrips UNHCR's mandate and resources. UNHCR will focus its efforts in 2006 on building support for the SRI in areas of return. This will include assisting the Angolan Government in the design and implementation of a sustainable reintegration strategy, building up local government and NGO capacities in return



Macumba Massoge was one of the 273 Angolan refugees who arrived home from the DRC in the first convoy that UNHCR has been able to organize along the re-opened road to this city in north-east Angola. *UNHCR / M. Benevides*

regions, and advocating for bilateral and multilateral agencies, as well as NGOs, to implement development programming consistent with the priorities identified for the key districts of return.

At the same time, UNHCR will make a substantial direct contribution towards the implementation of projects assessed as critical to reintegration. This is intended to bridge transitional gaps as government and development agency plans come on line. Initiatives will be focused on the improvement of basic services (water, education and health), the rehabilitation of key transport

infrastructure and the revitalization of economic opportunities (such as micro-credit, vocational training and crop production).

UNHCR will actively pursue partnerships with other UN agencies, such as WHO, UNICEF and FAO. Meanwhile, UNHCR and ILO plan to continue the women's economic empowerment project which is now under way in four return communities, and expand the ILO Local Economic Development initiative in Angola.



will involve visits to border crossings through which spontaneous movements are taking place, the delivery of training on returnee rights to immigration officials, police and local authorities, and intervention in individual cases where rights are not respected. Using as a baseline the district assessments, most returnee monitoring work will be integrated into the regular assessment of conditions under the SRI.

Most of the 14,000 mainly DRC refugees in Angola have been in the country for more than 20 years. UNHCR will facilitate repatriation for the small number wishing to return home. However, UNHCR's focus in 2006 will be squarely on local integration, particularly on the establishment of a functioning mechanism for the granting of permanent residency for the vast majority of refugees who wish to remain permanently in Angola. At the same time, to facilitate economic integration, a revamped micro-credit initiative will be launched in the Luanda area, where nearly half of all the refugees are located. For those in border provinces, UNHCR will undertake to include refugees in the SRI.

In light of the ongoing revision of the Refugee Act, a key priority for the Office in 2006 will be to provide input to ensure that both the Act and new domestic immigration legislation adhere to international standards. At the same time, UNHCR will continue its support of the *Comité de Reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo* (COREDA, asylum committee) and immigration authorities to accelerate the processing of asylum applications, building on the significant advances already made in 2005. UNHCR will also maintain its training of authorities, especially in the border provinces, on national and international refugee law and procedures.

A key aspect of reintegration is the availability of documentation, which in the case of Angola is a prerequisite for access to basic services and formal employment. Consequently, UNHCR will be working to ensure that areas of return, including the isolated communities in which many former refugees are living, are fully incorporated into the government documentation campaign currently under way in the country.

As part of its core protection functions, UNHCR will continue to monitor the return process. This

### Assistance

UNHCR's network of reception centres is planned to be handed over to the Government of Angola in early 2006. Angolan refugees wishing to return home will be given a voluntary repatriation form at the point of departure, as well as material assistance upon arrival at one of the reception centres administered by the Government of Angola. Assistance will include a two-month food ration

from WFP, plastic sheeting, a tool kit and construction materials. Except for returnees from RoC and South Africa, transport will only be provided for those with specific needs.

For refugees in Angola, assistance will be restricted to those assessed as the most vulnerable, as well as recently arrived asylum-seekers.

### Desired impact

While recognizing that reconstruction is a long-term process, UNHCR expects by the end of 2006 to see measurable improvements in social and economic conditions in the areas targeted under the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative. The Office expects to see areas of return integrated into the programming of government line ministries such as the Ministries of Agriculture, Planning and Health and Education, as well as multilateral institutions with a development mandate, such as UNICEF, FAO, ILO and the World Bank, and bilateral aid agencies.

UNHCR expects that refugees will begin to receive permanent residency or citizenship before the end of 2006. UNHCR also expects that the number of refugees requiring assistance will further decrease as self-reliance becomes more prevalent.

## Organization and implementation

### Management structure

In 2006, UNHCR will have a total of 92 staff: 25 international, including two JPOs, and 67 national staff. Overall management of all operations in Angola will lie with the UNHCR Representation in Luanda, which will have a key role at the national level in catalyzing the involvement of other actors in reintegration. UNHCR's structure will be substantially revised to reflect the change in focus from repatriation to reintegration in 2006. Most importantly, field offices will be downsized to field units, administered by a national staff member with a mandate to monitor the implementation of the reintegration programme and assist the

Government to receive spontaneously returning refugees. In light of the decentralization of government decision-making to the provincial level, the two existing sub-offices will be maintained at their current staffing levels but with a mandate to focus on reintegration, with repatriation playing only a relatively minor role. UNHCR's work for refugees will be based in Luanda.

### Coordination

UNHCR's operations will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and other relevant national, provincial and local institutions. UNHCR will vigorously pursue partnerships with the government, bilateral and multilateral development agencies and NGOs, in support of the SRI. Moreover, UNHCR will actively participate in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and Poverty Reduction Strategy forums, as well as the relevant provincial commissions, to ensure that returnee areas are fully incorporated into national and provincial development plans.

#### Offices

**Luanda**  
 Camaxilo  
 Cazombo  
 Luau  
 Luena  
 Lumbala N'guimbo  
 Maquela do Zombo  
 M'banza Congo  
 Saurimo

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
<i>Comité de reconhecimento do Direito do Asilo</i>
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Family Promotion and Women
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration
<b>NGOs</b>
Caritas
Development Workshop
Halo Trust
Intersos
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Medair
Mines Advisory Group
Norwegian People's Aid
Oxfam

Others
FAO
UNHCHR
UNDP
UNICEF
UNV
WFP
World Bank

Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget <sup>1</sup>	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,211,077	60,000	<b>6,271,077</b>
Community services	1,162,866	20,000	<b>1,182,866</b>
Crop production	780,160	0	<b>780,160</b>
Domestic needs	110,000	0	<b>110,000</b>
Education	2,030,000	0	<b>2,030,000</b>
Health	2,367,950	0	<b>2,367,950</b>
Income generation	785,644	0	<b>785,644</b>
Legal assistance	1,263,280	40,000	<b>1,303,280</b>
Operational support (to agencies)	1,724,361	40,000	<b>1,764,361</b>
Sanitation	250,000	0	<b>250,000</b>
Shelter/other infrastructure	702,000	0	<b>702,000</b>
Transport/logistics	821,698	337,500	<b>1,159,198</b>
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>19,211,036</b>	<b>497,500</b>	<b>19,708,536</b>
Programme support	4,357,485	0	<b>4,357,485</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,568,521</b>	<b>497,500</b>	<b>24,066,021</b>

<sup>1</sup> The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees.  
 Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 34,825) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (headquarters and field).