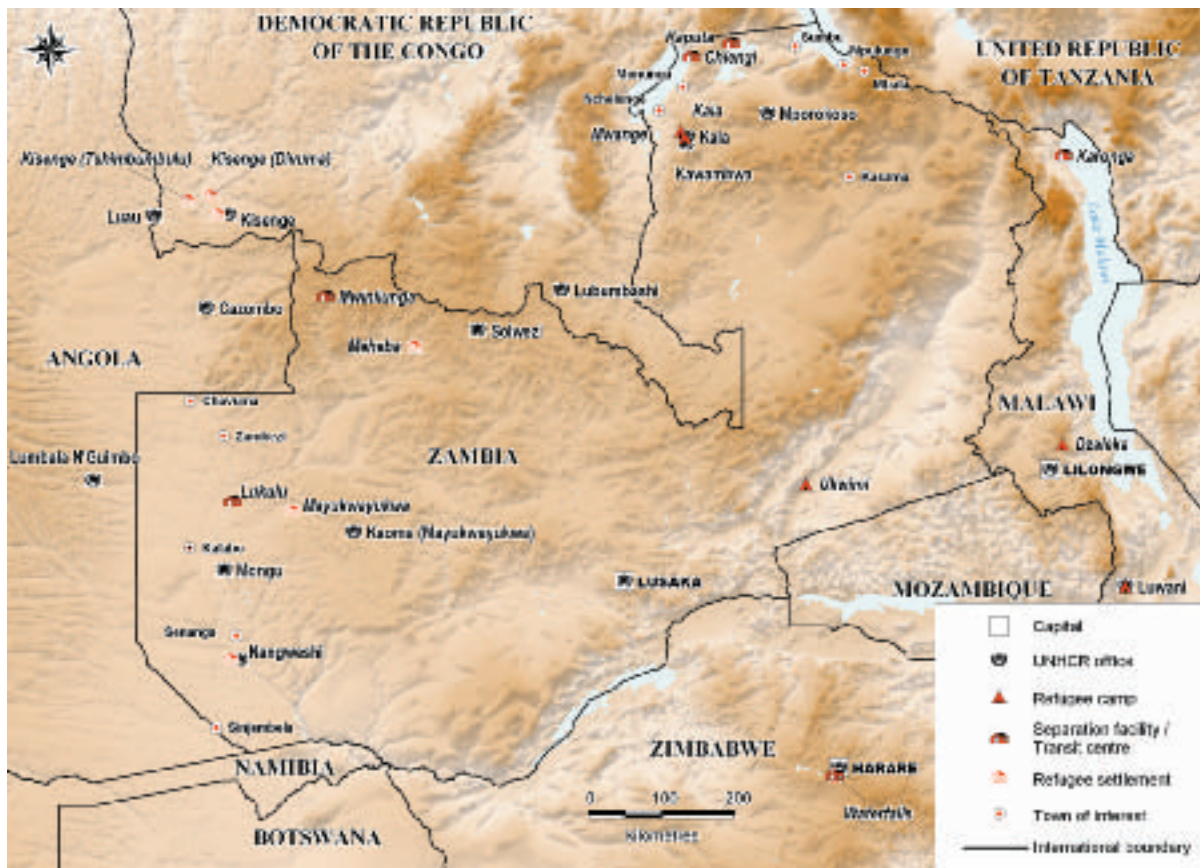


Zambia

Zambia



Main objectives

- Assist some 29,386 camp-based and 30,000 spontaneously settled Angolan refugees to repatriate; support the Government of Zambia in the screening of spontaneously settled Angolan refugees.
- Promote voluntary repatriation of Rwandan and Burundian refugees.
- Continue to provide protection and basic material assistance whilst actively searching for durable solutions for the refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Angola, Burundi, Rwanda and other countries.
- Promote the involvement of donors and partners in the development of the refugee-hosting communities through expanding the scope of the Zambia Initiative (ZI).
- Advocate legal reforms to facilitate local integration by granting permanent residency status with the possibility of eventual naturalization

to those Angolan refugees who choose not to return home.

- Support the Government of Zambia to ensure efficient coordination of refugee affairs and adequate security in and around the refugee camps.

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Others of concern	65,127	30,827
DRC (refugees)	47,605	28,605
Angola (refugees)	29,386	9,386
Rwanda (refugees)	4,247	2,097
Other refugees	3,065	2,185
Asylum-seekers	200	100
Total	149,630	73,200

Total requirements: USD 13,198,251

Working environment

Recent developments

In 2004, UNHCR continued actively to pursue durable solutions through the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees. Immediately after the rainy season in July 2004, repatriation by road to accessible areas in Angola resumed. By August 2004, UNHCR and its partners had repatriated 26,000 Angolans (18,000 in 2003 and 8,000 in 2004). In addition, in September 2004, the Office launched an airlift operation to accelerate the repatriation. By the end of 2004, some 33,000 Angolans would have been repatriated by road and air.

The formation of a Government of National Unity in the DRC raised hopes that sustainable peace, stability and security would be restored. However, the volatile security situation in eastern DRC has continued to force Congolese refugees to seek asylum in Zambia, and has also discouraged repatriation.

UNHCR and the Government of Zambia continued to promote repatriation to Rwanda. Despite information campaigns to increase awareness amongst Rwandans of an inclusive new constitution in Rwanda, and peaceful presidential elections, they have taken a negative view of repatriation. At the time of writing, only 26 Rwandan refugees had repatriated in 2004.

The Government of Zambia has continued to maintain an open-door policy to new refugee arrivals, and maintains an excellent working relationship with UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies.

UNHCR strengthened its HIV/AIDS prevention, care and support programmes with a special focus on the repatriation operation to Angola. In 2004, the two camps in the north, hosting a total of more than 50,000 Congolese refugees, were included in the national HIV sero-prevalence survey. The findings of this survey will allow the government and UNHCR to better plan and monitor the impact of 2005 HIV/AIDS programmes.

Constraints

Poor basic infrastructure in Angola – especially the difficult access routes and limited absorption capacity in the areas of return – continues to pose challenges to the reintegration of refugees repatriating from Zambia. In key return provinces, only very few of the existing roads, health facilities and schools are in an adequate state of repair.

Many of the Angolan refugees have lived in Zambia for more than 20 years, and are partially integrated into the local population. However, the Zambian Refugee Control Act of 1970 is outdated and does not provide a legal basis for the integration of refugees into local communities. A review of current Zambian refugee law is imperative, if it is to meet the increasing demands, to allow for viable local integration (through naturalization) of Angolans and other refugees who may choose to remain in Zambia indefinitely.

The current economic situation in Zambia, particularly in urban areas, presents a series of challenges to the local integration of skilled refugees. Employment opportunities are scarce, and basic social, education and health services are limited. Self-help initiatives for vulnerable refugees, such as start-up loans for small businesses, face an uphill task.

The limited access for refugees in northern Zambia to agricultural land causes the Congolese refugees to rely entirely on humanitarian assistance. This dependence could be broken if the Government provided more land in the north.

Insecurity in DRC has led to a continued inflow of refugees to Zambia. The presence of unexploded ordnances, coupled with poor road conditions inside DRC, will make access to areas of return difficult in the event of repatriation.

At most of the UNHCR field offices in Zambia, communication facilities are far from ideal. Access to the camps during the rainy season is extremely difficult, necessitating pre-positioning of food, non food items, fuel and other essential relief items.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR will promote voluntary repatriation of Angolans and Rwandans in close coordination with the Government, UN agencies and NGOs. It will also explore alternative possible durable solutions for other refugees. The Government of Zambia, in particular the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees in the Ministry of Home Affairs, has given careful consideration to the management of the various refugee situations. Zambia has in many ways been a model country in terms of the 1951 Refugee Convention and international asylum law, opening its borders to refugees from all neighbouring countries. However, the Government of Zambia has yet to address legislative and resource constraints which have a direct bearing on the needs of the refugees, e.g. Zambia's reservations on Articles 26 and 27 of the 1951 Refugee Convention with regard to freedom of movement and the right to employment. UNHCR hopes therefore that a new Refugee Bill will be resubmitted to Parliament in 2005 or 2006, allowing for integration of refugees through the ZI, and similar mechanisms, after repatriation is completed.

UNHCR will continue to support the Government's law enforcement agencies in ensuring security in the operational areas, including the deployment of sufficient security personnel in and around camps/settlements. Police will be encouraged to deploy more female officers in the camps and settlements to enhance the protection of women. In addition, UNHCR will help to combat STD/HIV/AIDS, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by raising awareness as well as through other interventions.

UNHCR will continue to organize information campaigns and "go-and-see" and "come-and-tell" visits to promote voluntary repatriation for Rwandans and, conditions permitting, for Burundians as well.

UNHCR will pursue resettlement of eligible cases, such as survivors of violence and torture, refugees requiring life-saving medical care, women-at-risk,

family reunification cases, and/or refugees with no local integration prospects.

The Government will ensure registration and issuance of identity cards for recognized refugees. UNHCR will assist the Government, through training, equipment and other support, to assume full responsibility for eligibility determination and registration systems. In addition, it will ensure observance of international standards of treatment, particularly prevention of wrongful arrest and detention. The Office will engage with the relevant authorities to press for freedom of movement for refugees and access to employment in urban areas.

According to government estimates, about 30,000 Angolans have spontaneously settled in the western and north-western provinces of Zambia. UNHCR will therefore support the Government in screening the spontaneously settled refugees.

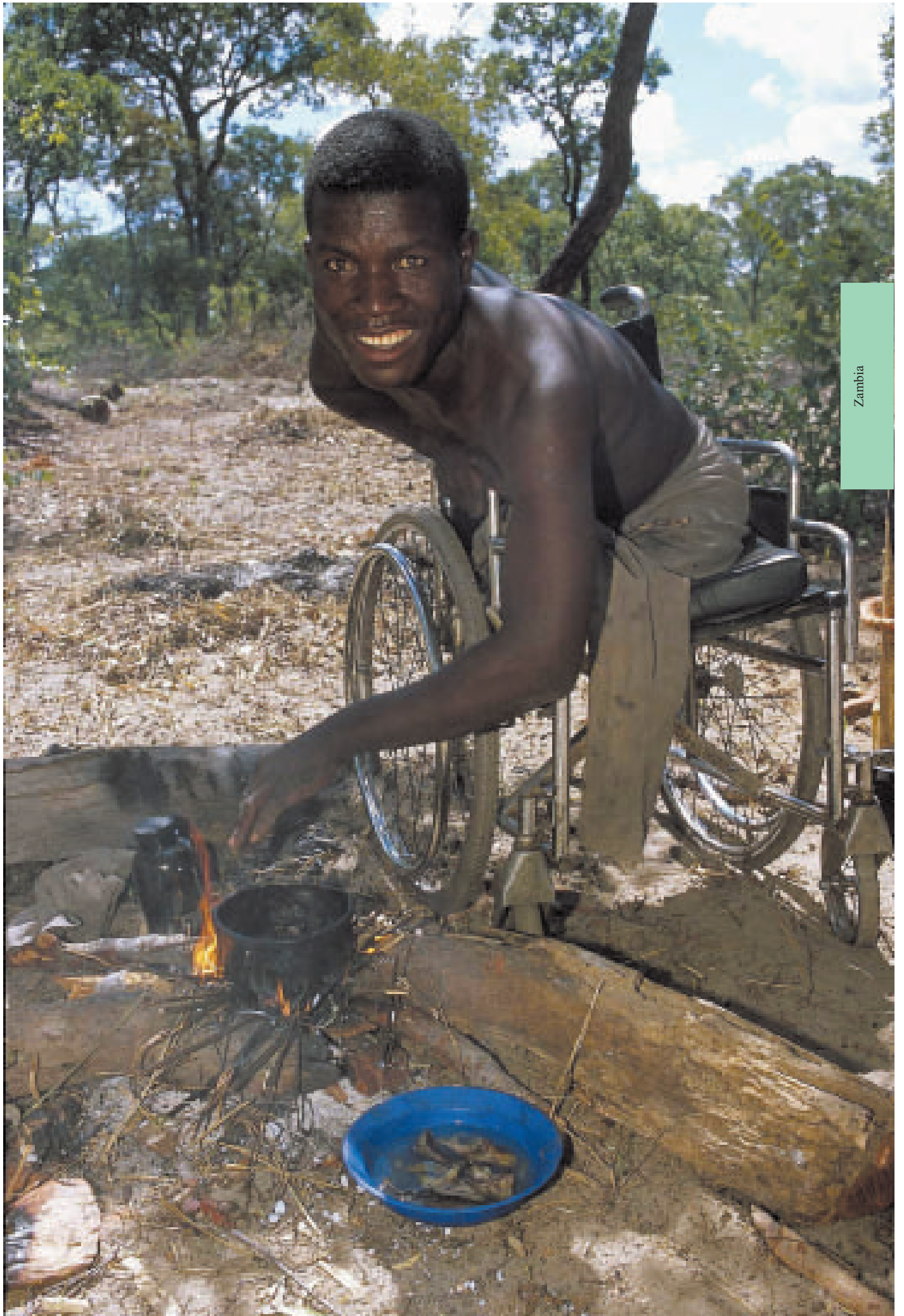
UNHCR will continue to provide legal assistance to urban refugees, and partners will provide limited material assistance to refugees and to vulnerable cases.

Assistance

In 2005, humanitarian assistance will be provided to enhance coping mechanisms and to empower refugees, especially vulnerable groups. UNHCR plans to assist a population of almost 150,000.

Assistance will focus on the priority needs of refugees in a manner that promotes self-reliance. To achieve this goal, UNHCR will strengthen the role of task forces and self-help groups in ensuring adequate water, sanitation, education, health care, and environmentally beneficial income-generating activities.

In the camps hosting the Angolan refugees, competent government departments will be encouraged to gradually take over the provision of key services such as health care, education and water supply. Refugees will gradually gain access to national social services, which will facilitate the eventual phase-out of international assistance.



Zambia

A disabled Angolan refugee in Nangweshi Camp cooking his midday meal. *UNHCR / L. Taylor*

In the context of long-term partnerships, development actors, including the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and bilateral donors, will be encouraged to carry out projects in the context of the ZI. Training and experience-sharing will precede a reorientation of the ZI, leading to streamlining of implementation policies and arrangements, plus the formulation of collective work plans. The ZI will also be linked to Angolan refugee repatriation and reintegration programmes.

If Congolese refugees repatriate in sufficient numbers, the emphasis on care and maintenance assistance programmes will be reduced, and focused increasingly on a community-based approach to care for the vulnerable. Demographic data will be collected during the camp-wide registration exercises planned for 2004. They will include details on ethnicity, areas of return and special needs.

Agricultural activities will be reoriented in view of the expected repatriation. Capacity building of refugees will be emphasized to equip refugees with the knowledge and skills that will be useful when they repatriate to their country of origin. Interventions will also address existing and potential environmental damage. Whilst the successful completion of the ongoing repatriation will entail a scaling down of construction activities, limited infrastructure development will continue to facilitate repatriation.

The ZI will focus on the inclusion of refugees in the Government's rural development agenda. ZI has proved a very effective tool for engaging other partners in addressing the development and poverty reduction needs of the refugees and their host communities. UNHCR's role will focus increasingly on facilitating the takeover by the line ministries of the viable social infrastructure in the camps, and on rehabilitating the environment in and around the camps.

Desired impact

UNHCR's current assistance programmes for Angolan refugees will be gradually phased out in 2005-2006 as the organized repatriation of Angolan refugees progresses, and social and economic prospects improve for local integration of Angolan refugees who choose to remain in Zambia indefinitely.

If conditions in DRC improve and repatriation becomes possible in 2005, UNHCR will promote the voluntary repatriation of the Congolese. Prospects for local integration are somewhat more promising for rural refugees than for their urban counterparts. However, these prospects are diminished by the absence of favourable legislation allowing permanent residence or naturalization, and limited access to adequate farming land in the vicinity of the Congolese camps.

As the voluntary repatriations to Angola and DRC progress, UNHCR will intensify proactive efforts to identify durable solutions which will contribute to building a sustainable future for the refugees who choose to remain in Zambia.

Given the complex history of the urban refugees in Zambia (in particular the Rwandans) and the severely limited expectations of repatriation for many of them, UNHCR will continue assistance activities for urban and other refugees in 2005.

Organisation and implementation

Management structure

In 2005, UNHCR will have 126 staff: 26 international staff, three JPOs, 10 UNVs and 87 national staff.

Coordination

UNHCR works closely with several implementing partners including Government departments, UN agencies and NGOs. Other agencies involved are WFP, IOM, ICRC, UNFPA, UNICEF and the Zambian Mine Awareness Centre. In the context of the ZI, cooperation with the bilateral and multilateral development agencies will be further strengthened in Lusaka and other areas.

Offices
Lusaka
Kala
Kaoma
Kawambwa
Mongu
Mporokoso
Nangweshi
Solwezi

Partners
Government agencies
Department of Water Affairs
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Home Affairs

NGOs
<i>Africa Aktion Hilfe</i>
Africa Humanitarian Action
Africare
Christian Outreach Relief and Development
<i>Hodi</i>
Lutheran World Federation
World Vision International
Young Men's Christian Association
Zambia Red Cross Society
Others
FAO
IFRC
IOM
UN agencies
UNESCO
UNFPA
UNICEF
WFP

Zambia

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,551,744
Community services	239,005
Crop production	174,712
Domestic needs	288,867
Education	593,124
Forestry	151,766
Health	890,981
Income generation	55,145
Legal assistance	779,611
Operational support (to agencies)	2,047,488
Sanitation	48,221
Shelter/other infrastructure	270,097
Transport/logistics	1,264,288
Water (non-agricultural)	188,799
Total operations	10,543,848
Programme support	2,654,403
Total	13,198,251