

# Angola

## Main objectives

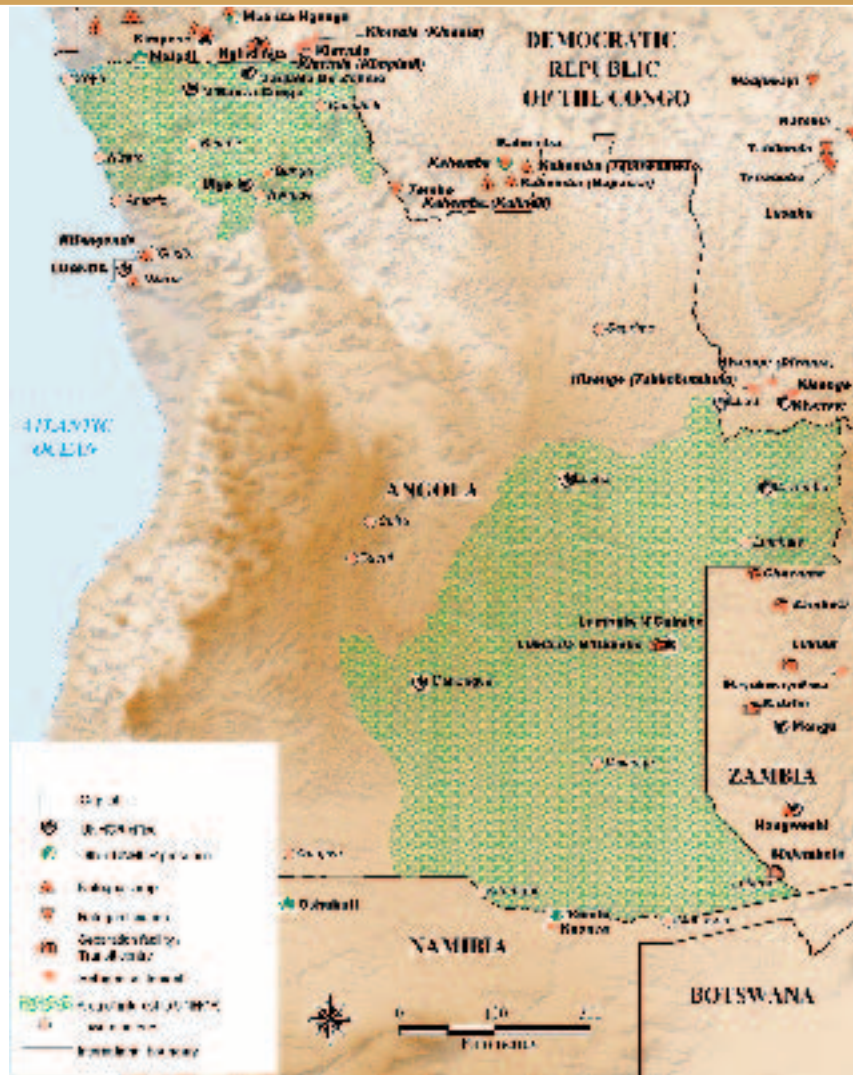
- Facilitate the return of Angolan refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Namibia and the Republic of the Congo (RoC).
- Open up additional areas in key Angolan provinces for organised return.
- Consolidate the reintegration of returnees into their home communities.
- Provide basic protection and humanitarian assistance, and seek durable solutions for the refugee population in Angola.

## Working environment

### Recent developments

In 2003, Angola underwent a massive transformation following the signing of the peace accord between the Government of Angola and UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) in 2002. More than 3.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), demobilised soldiers and refugees returned home.

Under the voluntary repatriation operation conducted in close co-ordination with the Government of Angola and the countries of asylum, the first UNHCR convoys arrived in Angola in June 2003. At the end of September 2003, more than 25,000 refugees had returned home from DRC, Zambia and Namibia, passing through four designated repatriation corridors. The majority had settled in the border provinces of Zaire, Moxico and Cuando Cubango. In 2003, an additional 18,000 refugees spontaneously returned home. They received assistance in the form of food and other essential relief items. By the end of 2003, UNHCR intends to facilitate the return of approximately 75,000 Angolans under the voluntary repatriation operation.



The Government of Angola is rehabilitating basic infrastructure with technical and financial assistance from the international community, but greater resources are needed and progress will remain gradual. In 2003, the humanitarian situation improved substantially, as evidenced by a sharp fall in numbers requiring emergency assistance, the vaccination of millions of children, and a sharply reduced incidence of malnutrition. Nevertheless, millions of Angolans still live in precarious circumstances.

### Planning figures

Population	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004
Returnee refugees	170,000	120,000
DRC (refugees)	11,800	11,000
Other refugees	500	400
Asylum-seekers	570	430
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,870</b>	<b>131,830</b>

**Total requirements: USD 18,881,586**

Only some 30 per cent of returnees have settled in areas meeting the criteria set out in the *regulamento*, a government decree outlining local conditions required before populations are to be resettled. A further one million IDPs and thousands of ex-soldiers and their families remain displaced, awaiting resettlement. Many areas of return are plagued by landmines, which hinder road access. These, and other areas – have little surviving public services or infrastructure and offer little access (sometimes no access whatsoever) to educational or health services.

Various strategies have been pursued in the search for durable solutions for the refugee population in 2003. Proposals have been made with regard to the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees, which has been held up by the delayed response of the DRC. Others proposals are based on the provision of land, as agreed by the Government of Angola and UNHCR to enable refugees to achieve self-sufficiency. The process of resettlement of refugees to a third country has also been pursued by UNHCR as a solution for the refugees who cannot be integrated into settlement sites.

## Constraints

UNHCR faces major constraints in facilitating return to large areas of Angola due to the civil war legacy of broken bridges, destroyed roads and landmines. As of September 2003, organised return to nearly 40 per cent of the key districts of return remained impossible. This leaves tens of thousands of refugees in limbo in their countries of asylum. Meanwhile, thousands of refugees have returned to these areas on their own, travelling for days on foot, and taking great risks. They remain inaccessible to UNHCR. The continuing civil conflict in Angola's oil-rich enclave of Cabinda has also rendered impossible the return of Angolan refugees hosted in the Republic of the Congo.

In 2004, UNHCR will expand the four main repatriation corridors. However, the Government of Angola will need to repair dozens of bridges and roads, and improve basic facilities before additional districts can be opened up. The influx of returnees to urban centres has caused chaos, putting an intolerable strain on socio-economic structures, as there is virtually no employment for the returnee and refugee populations.

Efforts have been made to reintegrate refugees in areas where organised repatriation has commenced. Such efforts are complicated by the paucity of basic social services, including schools, health clinics and potable water points. Although UNHCR is financing the rehabilitation of dozens of schools, health facilities and

water posts, a sustainable return requires much greater investment by the Government of Angola and other long-term development actors.

An additional constraint in terms of seeking improved durable solutions is the slow pace of the refugee status determination process for asylum-seekers.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

In close co-ordination with the Government, UN agencies and NGOs, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of 145,000 Angolan refugees during the course of 2004. Repatriation will continue, in a phased pattern, with the gradual extension of the organised return to areas meeting a set of minimum conditions. These conditions include: accessibility; a relatively low risk of landmines; and basic health, education and water facilities. UNHCR will contribute its share by rehabilitating a number of key bridges and roads, particularly in the more remote areas of the country. Priority will be given to collecting and sharing information on areas of return with potential returnees to allow them to take a fully informed decision.

UNHCR will increasingly focus in 2004 on reintegration activities, stepping up initiatives to rehabilitate social and physical infrastructure, promote food security and stimulate alternative small-scale business opportunities. UNHCR will continue to stress to the Government its obligation to meet humanitarian needs and to ensure that schools, health clinics and hospitals function effectively. The durability of return will ultimately depend on sustained economic and social development in the relevant areas. In order to achieve this, UNHCR will press for the inclusion of border regions into the longer-term development programmes of the government and agencies such as the World Bank, UNICEF and UNDP, including the relevant Provincial Transition Plans and the 2005-2008 UNDAF.

UNHCR's core protection tasks will include verifying that conditions conducive to safe and dignified return are in place. This will include: the updating of verification and registration of the returnee population; expanding registration for returnees to include adults as well as children; supporting mine awareness; peace and reconciliation activities; ensuring the delivery of appropriate assistance to vulnerable peoples; and monitoring the reintegration process in communities of return. By means of protection workshops, UNHCR will work to strengthen the capacity of local authorities to carry out monitoring in the areas of return where the Office does not have a presence.





Angola: Returnees from Zambia who receive basic assistance from UNHCR in Cazombo. UNHCR / M. Brook

UNHCR will develop partnerships with and organise workshops for other UN agencies and NGOs to carry out monitoring and protection activities.

In addition to the four border provinces currently covered in the voluntary repatriation operation, UNHCR will expand its activities to include the provinces of Malange, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. A substantial number of refugees in DRC have expressed a desire to return to these provinces, whilst thousands of Angolans have already returned spontaneously. UNHCR's expanded presence will include the establishment of a sub-office in Malange and a field office in Lunda Norte.

UNHCR will continue to provide international protection, through its monitoring of the National Eligibility Committee, and will support the status determination procedures for the refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola. The Office will help the Immigration Department to increase its work rate and thereby reduce the processing time for the review of applications. UNHCR will also continue to promote local integration as a durable solution for those refugees with little possibility of returning home in the

near future, in particular for the long-standing group of DRC refugees. Negotiations with the Government to facilitate local integration will continue. The issuance of national documentation such as birth certificates and the identification of new settlement sites will be given a priority. Measures to increase the refugees' self-reliance will be undertaken. UNHCR will also facilitate voluntary repatriation for refugees who desire to return home.

### Assistance

Initial assistance will be delivered primarily through the network of reception centres, where returning refugees spend their first few days back in Angola. This assistance will include the distribution of essential relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets, sanitary materials, plastic sheeting and tools to assist returnees in rebuilding their homes, and an initial allocation of food rations provided by WFP. In addition, returnees will participate in mine awareness and HIV/AIDS sensitisation sessions. UNHCR will transport returnees to their home communities, where they will be provided with seeds and tools to facilitate food self-sufficiency, plus additional food rations until

their first harvest. Community services workshops will focus on the identification and provision of specialised services, such as transport arrangements and medical care for vulnerable groups.

In return communities, UNHCR will implement a series of initiatives focused on vulnerable groups. A community-based approach to return and reintegration activities will be employed in the identification and implementation of appropriate projects. In view of the large number of female-headed households, women will be particularly involved here. Returnee children who are not fluent in Portuguese will be offered accelerated language training to facilitate their integration into the Angolan education system. The enhancement of child protection will be the focus of capacity-building efforts in the form of workshops on Action for the Rights of Children (ARC). Women will benefit from workshops on family violence and vocational training, whilst single-female heads of households and the elderly will be assisted to rebuild their homes. Peace and reconciliation programmes will aim to reduce conflict between returning refugees and other community members, while initiatives to facilitate the re-establishment of social networks will help to regenerate local communities. An initiative undertaken in collaboration with the Government will target the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence. Finally, return communities will benefit from a comprehensive HIV/AIDS awareness programme covering both prevention and care.

UNHCR will provide initial assistance through facilitating the settlement of Angolan returnees in sites identified by the Government. Inputs for the development sites of will include: shelter materials; non-food items; primary education; vocational training and income-generating activities; health services; and water supply. UNHCR will put in place a system, delivered through reception centres, whereby limited assistance will be provided to urban refugees.

### Desired impact

UNHCR aims to ensure that all refugees in neighbouring countries of asylum have the opportunity to return to Angola in conditions of safety and dignity. By investing in quick-impact activities and lobbying for the inclusion of areas of return in longer-term development initiatives, UNHCR will contribute to the improvement of conditions for all populations.

UNHCR will not get involved in any long-term assistance for the older refugee population, which has been in the country for 20 years and is for the most part well-integrated into local communities. However, intervention

will be required from time to time in certain sectors, such as infrastructure and agriculture. Each case will be considered on its own merits, and in the overall context of the pursuit of self-reliance.

## Organisation and implementation

### Management structure

In 2004, UNHCR will have 132 staff in Angola: 39 international, 93 national and 11 UNVs.

### Co-ordination

Various UN agencies and other humanitarian organisations are involved in complementary activities targeting displaced populations in Angola. Through its general food assistance and seed protection programmes, WFP will work closely with UNHCR to provide food aid to returnees, FAO will provide seeds and agricultural tools and UNICEF and WHO will support immunisation programmes. At the provincial level, close co-ordination with UNDP and the World Bank will be crucial to ensure economies of scale and avoid duplication of efforts. In the capital, OCHA will co-ordinate overall UN responses to the humanitarian crisis.

Offices
<b>Luanda</b>
Cazombo
Luau
Luanda Norte
Luanda Sul
Luena
Lumbala N'Guimbo
M'Banza Congo
Maquela Do Zombo
Menongue
Uige

(Offices in Malange and Camaxilo will be established in late 2003 or 2004)

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
Ministry of Family and Advancement of Women
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Public Works
Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration
<b>NGOs</b>
Africa Humanitarian Action
<i>Atlas Logistique</i>
CARITAS
Centre for Common Ground
Christian Children's Fund
Dom Bosco
GOAL
International Medical Corps
InterSOS
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Relief
Medair
Handicap International
Mines Advisory Group
Movimondo
<i>Médecins sans frontières</i>
Norwegian Refugee Council
OXFAM
Save the Children
<b>Others</b>
FAO
IOM
OCHA
UNDP
UNICEF
UNV
WFP
WHO
World Bank

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	5,590,953
Community services	380,000
Crop production	380,000
Domestic needs	661,200
Education	295,000
Fisheries	25,000
Food	38,000
Health	1,548,940
Income generation	387,000
Legal assistance	766,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,561,660
Sanitation	175,000
Shelter / other infrastructure	1,398,800
Transport / logistics	1,832,300
Water	665,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>15,704,853</b>
Programme support	3,176,733
<b>Total</b>	<b>18,881,586</b>