

Angola

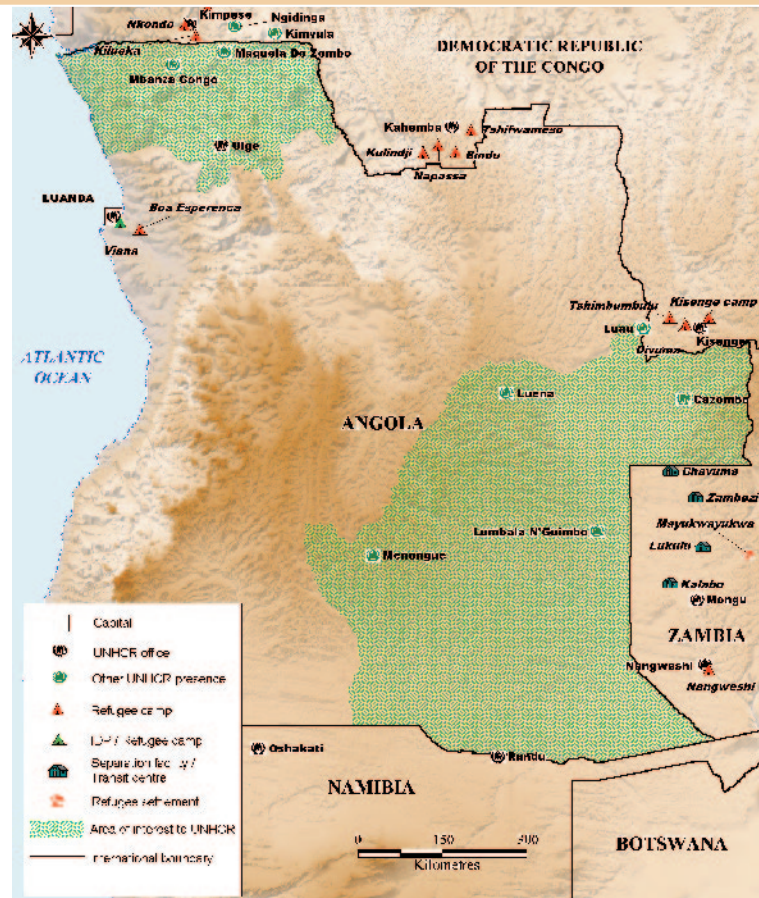
Main Objectives

- Provide basic protection and assistance to some 60,000 returnees expected to arrive spontaneously prior to the initiation of the organised voluntary repatriation operation.
- Prepare areas of return to enable organised voluntary repatriation to occur in conditions of safety and dignity.
- Facilitate and promote, where conditions permit, the organised repatriation of some 170,000 Angolan refugees from Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Namibia and other countries of asylum.
- Consolidate the reintegration of returnees in their communities.
- Protect and provide assistance to some 13,000 (mostly DRC Congolese) refugees in Angola.

Working Environment

Recent Developments

On 4 April 2002, the Angolan Government and UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) signed a Memorandum of Understanding, putting an end to 27 years of fighting. The demobilisation of UNITA forces, efforts to reintegrate them into civilian life, and other confidence-building measures have raised hopes that Angola has finally embarked on a path to sustainable peace, national reconciliation, reconstruction and stability. In a matter of days, Angola was transformed: having been the site of intense warfare, it was now a magnet for solutions-oriented programmes involving the entire United Nations family. As a result of these positive developments, Angolan refugees in the neighbouring countries of asylum spontaneously began to repatriate, mainly to Moxico,



Uíge, Zaire and Cuando Cubango Provinces. The massive internal resettlement of internally displaced populations (IDPs), demobilised combatants and their families started to take place simultaneously in the same areas.

The final stage of Angola's civil war was especially brutal, resulting in unprecedented levels of displacement and human suffering, further aggravating one of the world's most protracted humanitarian

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Angolan Returnees	60,000	230,000 ¹
Congolese Refugees (DRC)	12,500	12,500
Other Refugees	500	500
Total	73,000	243,000

¹ This figure is the sum of the estimated 170,000 returnees from DRC, Namibia and Zambia planned in the organised repatriation and 60,000 refugees who may return spontaneously. It excludes the projection of some 1,000 Angolan returnees from various non-neighbouring countries.

Total Requirements: USD 25,125,793

crises. Only now, as formerly inaccessible areas of the country are being opened up to humanitarian intervention, is the full gravity of the situation becoming more apparent. According to government figures, 30 per cent of the population – four million people – are internally displaced. A rapid needs assessment initiated by the UN system and the Government of Angola ascertained that unfortunately the displaced populations (refugees, IDPs, former combatants and their family members) are to be resettled in areas where there are many life threatening constraints (see below). In an effort to ensure that basic conditions of safety and dignity are in place, the Government of Angola has adopted a law, *a regulamento*, specifically governing the return process, defining norms for the provision of assistance and describing a series of basic conditions which should be in place before populations are resettled.

Constraints

With the opening up of formerly inaccessible areas of the country to humanitarian intervention, the gravity of the situation has become more apparent. According to a joint assessment conducted by the UN and the Government of Angola, malnutrition is widespread, the mortality and morbidity rates are very high, return areas are mined, and there is little infrastructure for the provision of basic education, health and water delivery services.

UNHCR faces major constraints in accessing returnee populations in the four main provinces. Security assessments of roads in the returnee areas have not yet been completed and UN personnel are therefore not authorised to travel in these areas, except by air. In other areas, destroyed bridges and the poor state of the roads hinder travel outside of the municipal centres. The presence of land mines and other unexploded devices in areas of return hamper the re-institution of agricultural production, which in turn, is affecting food security.

Strategy

Protection and Solutions

In close co-ordination with the Government of Angola, UN agencies and NGOs, UNHCR plan to

take advantage of political momentum to facilitate and promote, where conditions permit, the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees. UNHCR plans to strengthen its presence in four strategic provinces (Moxico, Cuando Cubango, Uige and Zaire) for the reception and the initial reintegration of some 170,000 refugees: from Zambia (70,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of the Congo (RoC) (total 90,000), and Namibia (10,000)

UNHCR's core protection tasks include ensuring that a proper legal and normative framework is in place, ensuring voluntariness of return, verifying that conditions conducive to safe and dignified return are in place, expediting registration and the personal documentation of returnees, monitoring protection in returnee communities and supporting mine awareness and reconciliation activities.

If voluntary repatriation is to become a durable solution, there is much to be done, without delay: the repair of basic infrastructure (transit centres, roads and bridges) and the construction and rehabilitation of water points, community centres, health facilities, primary schools and sanitation facilities in the main communities of return. Food security will be supported through activities designed to re-start agricultural production (including mine clearance), improve storage capacity and support small industry.

For the Congolese and other refugees who are in Angola, UNHCR will provide international protection, monitor and support status determination procedures, and seek durable solutions, especially local integration. These refugees have lived in Angola for over twenty years of war, and were repeatedly displaced from host communities and refugee sites. UNHCR and the Government of Angola will jointly identify appropriate arable land for permanent settlements for those who wish to integrate locally.

Assistance

UNHCR will assist returning Angolan refugees with transport and logistics and provide them with essential relief items such as blankets, buckets, kitchen sets and soap. Upon arrival at transit centres, nutritional and medical screening will be

carried out and returnees will be registered by government officials and given temporary documentation. Basic food assistance will be provided in co-operation with WFP until the first harvest is in. Quick impact projects will be developed in areas of return to build and rehabilitate basic infrastructure, facilitate transport, support small-scale production and generate employment. Given the alarming rates of infant and maternal mortality in areas of return, nutrition, reproductive health,

Desired Impact

By increasing access to the rural provinces bordering neighbouring countries (Moxico, Cuando Cubango, Uige and Zaire), UNHCR will contribute to improved monitoring of return processes and the reintegration of all categories of the displaced population. The immediately desired impact includes the reduction of malnutrition, and of maternal and infant mortality rates. During the course of the operation, improved access will result in better situation analysis, which will in turn increase the likelihood of sustainable return and reintegration, and the consolidation of peace. It is expected that former refugees returning after many years of asylum will bring back skills and knowledge which will be an asset to local communities, particularly during the current transitional phase of national reconstruction.



IDPs and refugees in Malanje at a feeding centre. UNHCR / C. Sattlberger

HIV/AIDS awareness, environmental sanitation and hygiene interventions will be afforded priority attention. Community development initiatives will aim to mobilise communities towards self-reliance, and to ensure that assistance is provided equitably to all demographic categories, including vulnerable groups.

All assistance programmes for returning populations will be planned according to the minimum basic assistance criteria set out under the *regulamento*, and programme interventions will take a community-based approach.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

Management of the operation in Angola will be under the direction of the Representative in Luanda who will closely co-ordinate with the Regional Co-ordinator's Office in Pretoria.

All matters of sub-regional importance will be handled through regular operational meetings involving UNHCR staff in neighbouring countries. There are currently 37 staff of whom 21 are international and 16 national. In 2003, under the auspices of the Angolan repatriation and reintegration, some 78 new posts are being created – 17 of these will be international and 61 national.

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 other organisations 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

Luanda
Cazombo ¹
Luau ¹
Luena
Lumbaia N'Guimbo ¹
Lumbala ¹
Maquela Do Zombo ¹
Mbanza Congo ¹
Menongue ¹
Uige

¹ Offices to be opened in 2003.

Partners

Government Agencies

Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action
CARITAS
GOAL
Lutheran World Federation
MedAir
Médecins Sans Frontières
Norwegian Refugee Council
OXFAM
Save the Children

Others

FAO
IOM
OCHA
UNICEF
UNAIDS
UNHCHR
UNVs
UNDP
WFP
World Bank

Budget (USD)

Country	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	613,039	4,421,039	5,034,078
Community Services	230,000	300,000	530,000
Crop Production	66,000	400,000	466,000
Domestic Needs	144,000	1,596,200	1,740,200
Education	120,000	320,000	440,000
Fisheries	900	0	900
Food	40,392	0	40,392
Health	424,000	2,444,000	2,868,000
Income Generation	95,900	200,000	295,900
Legal Assistance	246,000	1,698,000	1,944,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	246,000	2,396,200	2,642,200
Sanitation	21,500	50,000	71,500
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	355,578	789,200	1,144,778
Transport / Logistics	140,330	4,329,300	4,469,630
Water	61,200	605,000	666,200
Total Operations	2,804,839	19,548,939	22,353,778
Programme Support	1,331,545	1,440,470	2,772,015
Total	4,136,384	20,989,409	25,125,793