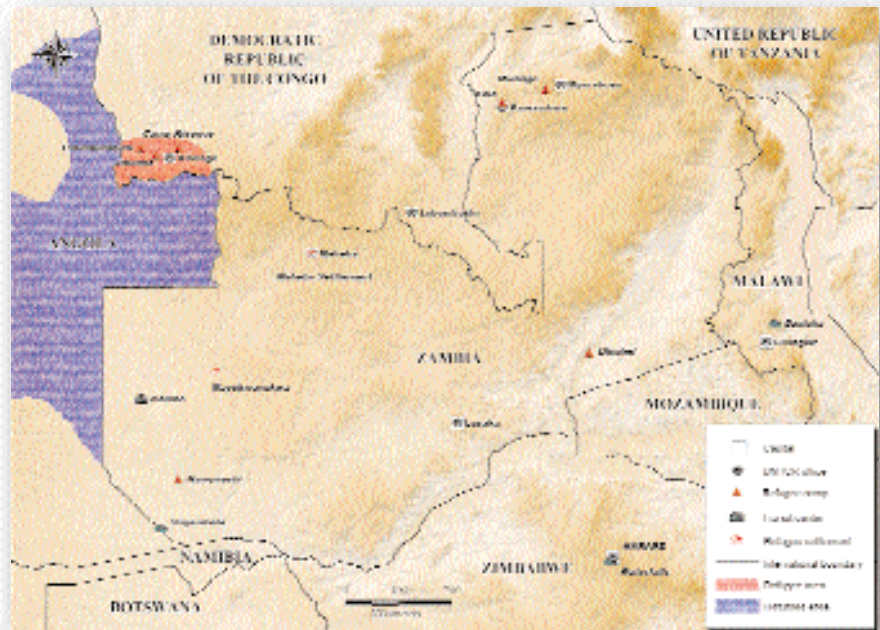


Zambia in short

Main Objectives

- Maintain emergency preparedness for protecting any new refugees who arrive from neighbouring countries and giving them life-sustaining assistance.
- Find long-term solutions for refugees in the form of voluntary repatriation (should the security situation in home countries improve) or local integration and naturalisation (subject to agreement by the Zambian authorities).
- Work towards the local integration of rural and urban refugees, helping them achieve self-reliance; support the sustainable development of areas hosting refugee settlements.
- Encourage a positive climate for asylum and help create a legal framework conducive to the protection and integration of refugees.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

By contrast to its northern and western neighbours, Zambia enjoys a stable political environment, despite economic decline (with unemployment at 40 per cent). The Government has maintained a generous asylum policy for the past three decades. During 2000, however, Zambia faced a mounting refugee crisis as a result of continuing conflict in neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Angola.

Zambia witnessed an influx of refugees from the DRC that began in early 1999 and continued throughout 2000. The refugees, fleeing the continuing civil war in their country and non-implementation of the July 1999 Lusaka cease-fire agreement, streamed into northern Zambia at an average rate of 1,000 per month during most of 2000, bringing the total of

PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Angolan Refugees	180,000	200,000
Congolese Refugees	35,000	45,000
Other Refugees ¹	10,500	11,500
Total²	225,500	256,500

¹ Mainly Burundi, Rwandan and Somali refugees.

² Other 120,000 Angolans and 10,000 refugees from the Democratic republic of the Congo are self-settled. UNHCR's assistance benefits some 40,000 Angolans, 25,000 Congolese and 5,000 other refugees.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 12,187,833

new arrivals to over 25,000 at the time of writing. To cater for the refugees from the DRC, UNHCR was obliged to open a new camp – Kala – in Kawambwa district in August, after Mwange camp in Mporokoso reached its full capacity. The new refugees are transported from the border to Kala camp and receive food and non-food items. Tensions have been rising along Zambia's northern Luapula province bordering the DRC, owing to increased banditry by Congolese elements.

Towards the end of 1999, Angolan refugees also started entering Zambia's north-western and western provinces fleeing an Angolan government offensive to take UNITA strongholds. To

meet the needs of the first wave of new arrivals, UNHCR opened a camp in Nangweshi in south-west Zambia in January 2000 and continued to transfer new arrivals away from insecure border areas to more secure existing settlements (Mayukwayukwa and Meheba). The influx of Angolan refugees picked up sharply in mid-September 2000, prompted by military clashes and bombing raids by the Angolan Armed Forces aimed at taking the UNITA strongholds in Moxico and Cuando Cubango provinces, particularly areas surrounding the towns of Cazombo and



Lumbala N'Guimbo. By mid-October, well over 10,000 new refugees had entered the country, bringing the total for the year to some 33,000. Smaller numbers of Rwandan and Burundi refugees also arrived in 2000.

The Angolan and Congolese (DRC) refugees were accompanied by unprecedented numbers of former combatants (fighting on behalf of the parties to the conflicts in both Angola and DRC). At the time of writing, ex-UNITA combatants numbered nearly 400, with more still arriving, joining nearly 100 ex-combatants from the DRC. The year 2000 also witnessed a breakdown in the WFP food pipeline, which affected food rations in all refugee camps and settlements in Zambia and raised concern about the risk of malnutrition for the tens of thousands of refugees dependent on food aid for survival. Food shortages and the presence of former combatants amongst the refugees also led to a rise in the number of security incidents and raised concerns for the safety of the refugees, as well as UNHCR and implementing partner staff.

Constraints

The economic decline has reduced the resources which the Government is able to devote to refugee protection and fuelled negative perceptions of refugees. As a result, Zambia's asylum policy has become less sympathetic to asylum-seekers, particularly urban groups, making it harder for UNHCR to find durable solutions for them. Local integration continues to be constrained by the lack of a favourable legislative framework. The arrival of new refugees in existing settlements has a negative effect on self-sufficiency programmes. In particular, continued new arrivals in Meheba camp could jeopardise its viability as an integrated agricultural settlement. Soil conditions at the newly established a camp in Nangweshi may not be suited for cultivation, limiting integration opportunities there (if refugees are unable to repatriate). The arrival of ex-combatants heightened tensions between Zambia and Angola and raises concerns about refugee protection in border areas, as well as about the security of humanitarian workers.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

The Government of Zambia is responsible for determining refugee status and for protecting refugees, with the co-operation and support of UNHCR. The Office closely monitors the situation, helps the authorities improve their capacity to carry out individual status determination and works with them to promote solutions. UNHCR will continue to advocate the adoption of the draft amendment to the 1970 Refugee Act to improve the legal framework for the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees. Following a comprehensive re-registration of recognised refugees in urban areas and the issuance of refugee cards at the end of 2000, UNHCR will encourage the rapid issuance of documentation to newly recognised refugees, and a less restrictive application of legislation limiting the employment of foreigners. In 2001, refugees in rural settlements will be re-registered in order to verify their numbers and refine the integration strategy. The results of the proposed census may lead to a significant reduction in overall numbers since more than half of the refugees are believed to have spontaneously settled over the last two decades.

The ongoing armed conflict in Angola will probably preclude the repatriation of refugees in the near future. UNHCR's principal objective is to pursue self-sufficiency for both rural and urban refugees – by helping them become economically productive and by advocating the naturalisation of long-staying refugees (and their children born in the country). Newly arrived refugees receive basic humanitarian assistance, and the means to start food production: a 2.5-hectare plot of land, agricultural tools and seeds. After two agricultural cycles, it is expected that they will

become economically productive, like other long-staying refugees in the settlements. In 2001, UNHCR will carry out technical assessments to explore whether Mayukwayukwa and Meheba can be converted into agricultural settlements. Depending on the outcome, UNHCR may have to launch other income-generating ventures for the refugees.

Current prospects for the repatriation of refugees from DRC and other countries (mainly Rwanda and Burundi) are also limited, although full implementation of the Lusaka Agreement could prompt large spontaneous repatriation movements. UNHCR's principal objective is to consolidate the local integration of refugees from earlier influxes in settlements, and towns, through activities designed to enable them to meet their own needs. In addition, new arrivals will be assisted to become economically productive and self-sufficient.

UNHCR will train government staff to provide international protection, increasing their ability and commitment to protect refugees in accordance with international principles. To foster a more welcoming climate for refugees and their local integration, UNHCR will raise media and public awareness of their plight. It will also encourage UN and Bretton Woods institutions to become more active in the long-term development of settlements and refugee-hosting areas, so as to ease the burden on local communities. The Office will maintain adequate emergency preparedness and regularly update contingency planning for new arrivals.

UNHCR is working closely with the

Government to ensure that ex-combatants are duly screened in accordance with international refugee law principles. Security arrangements in the camps will also be strengthened, by encouraging the Government to increase the number of security personnel, providing security-related training and improving communications.

Assistance

Many new arrivals are self-settled in communities close to border areas. UNHCR provides basic humanitarian assistance for newly arrived refugees in transit centres and transports them to the settlements. Should large influxes continue, new refugee-hosting sites would have to be established.

UNHCR strives to reduce refugees' dependence on outside assistance by encouraging them to participate actively in meeting their own needs and by developing income-generating activities, such as agricultural production and marketing. Vocational training and education will be designed to take account of the eventuality that they will repatriate to their home country in due course. UNHCR will begin to convert Mwange camp in Mporokoso (housing Congolese refugees since 1999) into an agricultural settlement, by providing agricultural extension services and expanding community services. The objective is to encourage self-sufficiency by 2003. Infrastructure (schools and other learning centres, clinics, registration and distribution centres) will be improved and handed over to the competent government ministries. Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to increase water supply, repair access roads and improve communal facilities will be implemented to benefit surrounding communities. Environmental conservation activities have been implemented since the camp's inception and will continue to be an integral part of settlement strategy.

In all settlements, UNHCR will support the maintenance of infrastructure, nutrition and health care, environmental preservation, psychosocial counselling and other services. Women will be encouraged to play a more active role in camp management and other activities. The population will receive information on how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. Projects will target children and adolescents in particular. Ex-combatants will be screened and transferred to a separate facility in Patauke.

In urban areas, UNHCR will help refugees to reach a threshold of sustainable subsistence. Refugee children and adolescents will receive scholarships for secondary and post-secondary education to facilitate their integration. Priority will be given to female students. UNHCR will assist with vocational and language training, work permits, job placement and legal assistance. Micro-credits will be provided to vulnerable refugees, particularly women heads of household. A small number of needy refugees will receive medical care. Peer edu-



cators will sensitise refugees to reproductive health issues and HIV/AIDS prevention.

Desired Impact

Beyond meeting the basic needs of refugees, UNHCR aims to achieve attendance rates of 90 per cent for primary school children (with 80 per cent reaching grade seven). Eighty per cent will attend secondary school. By the end of 2001, 80 per cent of families will be involved in growing food for consumption and sale and 70 per cent will use fuel-saving stoves. In the settlements, reforestation and soil conservation will be an integral part of camp-management and development activities. Women will play a larger role in community activities and decision-making, and will be aware of their rights. Women's productive initiatives will be supported (for both individuals and groups) increasing their economic independence and self-reliance. UNHCR will continue to facilitate repatriation of individual refugees and their families. It is expected that some 600 refugees will have resettled or been reunited with their families abroad by the end of the year. Furthermore, strengthened security arrangements should improve the protection of refugees and limit risks to humanitarian personnel working in border areas and in the camps.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

In 2000, UNHCR opened new offices in Kaoma (north-west Zambia), and Mongu (western Zambia), to respond to the influx of refugees from Angola. In 2001, the country operation will be run by 51 staff (eight internationals and 43 nationals), supported by five UNVs, working in Lusaka, Kaoma, Kawambwa, Meheba, Mongu and Mporokoso. The Regional Office in Lusaka also supervises UNHCR's operations in Zimbabwe and Malawi.

OFFICES

Lusaka
Kaoma
Kawambwa
Meheba
Mongu
Mporokoso

Co-ordination

UNHCR plans to work with seven NGO partners (five international and two national). UNHCR also co-operates closely with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education in the long-established settlements of Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. Key UN partners include UNFPA, UNICEF,

BUDGET (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,885,797
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,430,546
Community Services	415,270
Crop Production	265,173
Domestic Needs/Household Support	548,988
Education	1,168,428
Food	19,964
Forestry	129,667
Health/Nutrition	943,656
Income Generation	267,211
Legal Assistance	688,213
Sanitation	42,711
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	785,883
Transport/Logistics	1,963,064
Water (non-agricultural)	300,426
Total Operations	10,854,997
Programme Support	1,332,836
Total	12,187,833

WFP and WHO. Closer co-operation will be pursued with the World Bank, FAO, UNESCO, and bilateral development agencies, to hasten the self-sufficiency of long-staying Angolan refugees, and to accelerate the development of refugee-hosting areas. The Office also co-operates closely with the UN Resident Co-ordinator on the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The Resident Co-ordinator actively supports UNHCR's co-ordination role in refugee matters and involves the Office in regular donor briefings.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies
Commissioner for Refugees/Ministry of Home Affairs (COR/MHA)
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Education
NGOs
African Humanitarian Action
AFRICARE
CARE
Christian Outreach Relief and Development
IFRC/Zambian Red Cross
Lutheran World Federation
YMCA
Other
United Nations Volunteers