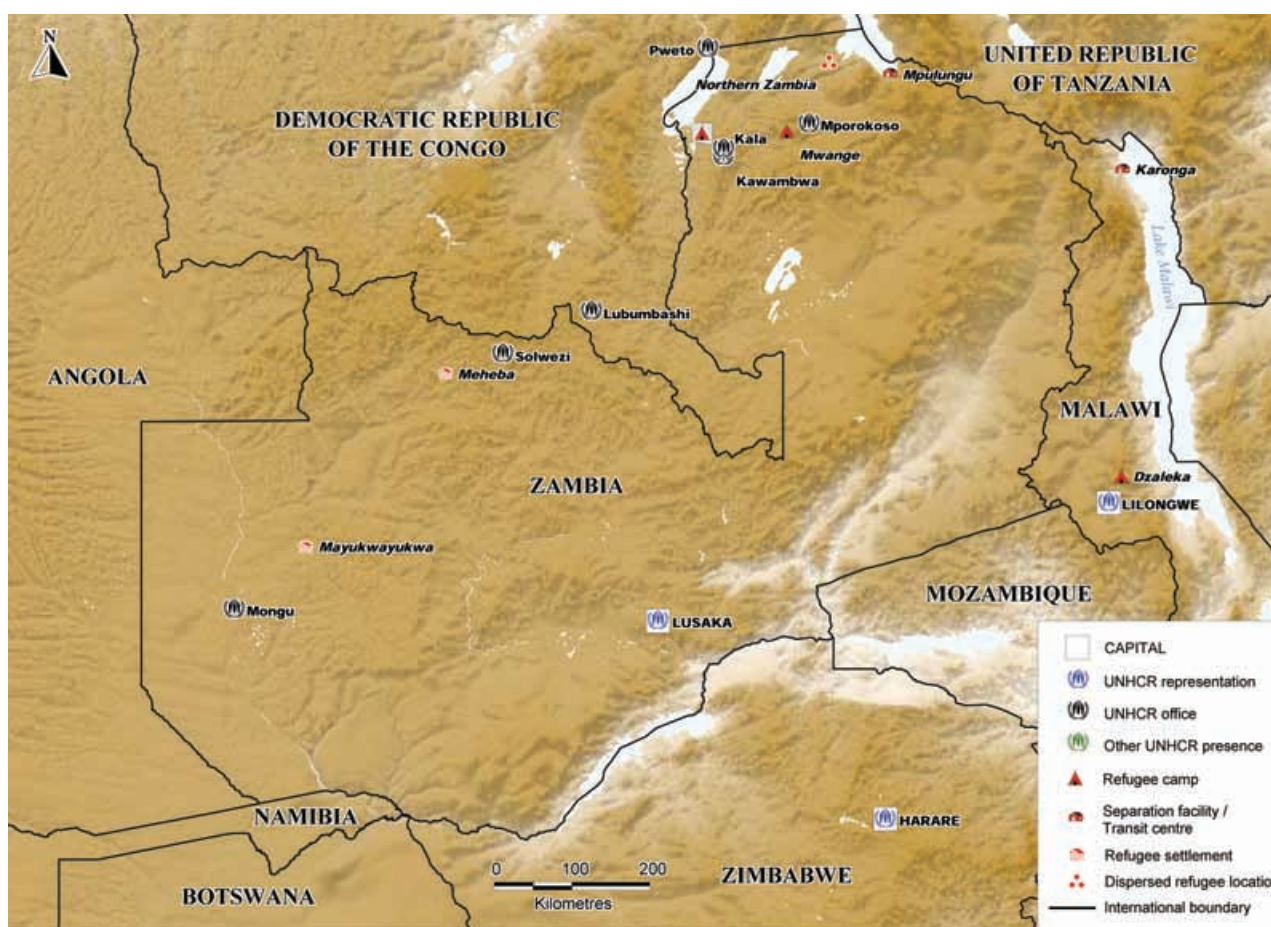


ZAMBIA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR worked with the Government of Zambia to help 9,700 Congolese refugees repatriate to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), mainly to Katanga Province.
- From January to March 2008 UNHCR conducted a comprehensive refugee registration exercise in the Mayukwayukwa and Meheba refugee settlements.
- Most Angolan refugees in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa have become largely self-reliant, allowing UNHCR and WFP to limit food aid to new arrivals and some 2,500 individuals with specific needs.
- The Office submitted resettlement referrals for 604 refugees, while 512 refugees departed for third countries, the highest number in three years.
- The number of people seeking voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services for HIV and AIDS increased. HIV prevalence rates were lower (2.8 per cent) among refugees than in the host community (14.3 per cent).
- UNHCR and its partners maintained a high level of emergency preparedness for a possible influx of refugees from Zimbabwe. Monitors were posted in border areas.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	47,300	30,600	50	55
	Angola	27,100	18,900	50	57
	Rwanda	4,900	2,900	44	46
	Burundi	1,900	700	43	47
	Somalia	1,900	260	40	36
	Various	320	50	37	32
	Asylum-seekers	Various	60	-	-
Total		83,480	53,410		

| Working environment |

President Levy Mwanawasa passed away in August 2008 after becoming ill at an African Union Summit several weeks earlier. The Government is expected to continue its generous policies toward refugees and asylum-seekers under President Rupiah Banda.

UNHCR presented detailed comments on Zambia's draft refugee legislation. The new refugee bill would provide for an independent appeal after negative refugee status decisions. UNHCR also provided comments on proposed immigration legislation.

Few Angolan refugees in the Mayukwayukwa and Meheba settlements expressed interest in voluntary repatriation. The Government continued to discuss the political and legal measures needed to provide permanent residence permits to refugees, who wish to remain in Zambia.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives were to find durable solutions for refugees; improve the capacity of the Government and civil society to protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers in accordance with international standards; and ensure the access of people of concern to national social services.

The Office also provided training in refugee law for government officials and promoted more flexible criteria for refugees to obtain urban residence permits that would allow them to work and benefit from health services. Furthermore, it sought to conduct public-information activities promoting tolerance and protection for refugees.

● Protection and solutions

Asylum-seekers generally enjoyed safety on Zambian territory and access to the national refugee status determination (RSD) procedure, although there were isolated incidents of Zimbabwean asylum-seekers being denied admission or expelled. Following interventions by UNHCR, the Government reaffirmed it would offer asylum to Zimbabweans in need of protection.

UNHCR continued to build local authorities' protection capacity. Other activities included refugee registration and documentation; ensuring that refugees were not subject to violence and exploitation; improving health and education; promoting self-reliance for camp-based refugees; and helping urban refugees become self-reliant.

The repatriation of Congolese refugees from Zambia to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) resumed in May 2008. By the end of the year, 9,700 refugees had returned home, bringing the total number of people having returned since organized repatriation began in 2007 to some 17,000. Furthermore, 100 Ugandan refugees who had been living in Lusaka and Meheba settlement, as well as 275 Angolan refugees from Mayukwayukwa settlement repatriated with UNHCR assistance in 2008. The Angolan refugees benefited from cash grants and a transportation allowance.

● Activities and assistance

Community services: In Mayukwayukwa settlement, the participation of women in leadership positions rose from 10 per cent in 2007 to 32 per cent. Of the 278 committee members in the settlement, 89 are women. Women also accounted for 62 per cent of food distributors and 93 per cent of the members of the Welfare Committee, which assists individuals with specific needs.

Crop production: UNHCR supported a government survey on crop production, which identified major crops and the most commonly kept livestock. Vegetable gardening activity increased, with some 60 to 70 per cent of households cultivating home gardens in settlements. To promote self-reliance, UNHCR distributed watering cans to farmers.

Domestic needs and household support: All refugee girls and women of reproductive age received sanitary materials. UNHCR distributed soap in all settlements and camps, based on a standard monthly ration of 250 grams per person. The distribution of non-food items focused mainly on refugees with specific needs, and consisted of some 3,700 pieces (2 metres each) of *chitenge* fabric, 600 pieces of soap, more than 1,000 blankets, 9,400 mosquito nets, 125 sets of cooking pots and some 2,600 pieces of women's underwear.

Education: In Kala Camp, more than 73 per cent of school-age children were enrolled in primary and secondary schools. The drop-out rate was 3.7 per cent. A total of 144 students in Mwange Camp took the Grade 12 final exams in 2008. In Mayukwayukwa settlement, almost all children attended primary school. Enrolment rates at the secondary level were lower due to the need to pay school and examination fees and travel greater distances to get to school.

Fisheries: UNHCR rehabilitated 64 fish ponds in the Meheba settlement. Sixty fish farmers were given tools to help them rehabilitate fish ponds, and 58 of them were trained in fish pond management. A new fish farming project benefiting 20 individuals was started in Mayukwayukwa just prior to the end of the year.

Food: UNHCR provided meals for repatriating Congolese refugees in the Kala and Mwange camps and hired eight cooks through an implementing partner for this purpose.

Forestry: In environmentally degraded areas, homesteads and public places UNHCR planted various types of tree seedlings (some 23,400 in Kala Camp and 17,300 in Mwange Camp). Repatriating Congolese refugees participated in an environmental management workshop, while 816 sensitization meetings were also held with interested refugees.

Health and nutrition: Voluntary counselling and testing services continued in all camps and settlements. In Mwange and Kala camps 317 refugees passed through the VCT centre and 1,130 pregnant women were screened under the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission programme, of whom five tested HIV positive. In Mayukwayukwa, 162 refugees availed themselves of VCT services, with 20 testing positive. The two VCT centres in the Meheba settlement provided an average of 20 tests each month. Refugees living

with HIV and AIDS requiring anti-retroviral therapy could receive it free at the Government's district health centres. Male condoms were distributed and all mothers attended ante-natal services more than four times before delivery.

Income generation: Fifteen new cooperatives were formed and sought registration with the Ministry of Agriculture in 2008. Twenty-two farmers received training in agricultural production and farming as a business.

Legal assistance: UNHCR strengthened relations with Zambian officials at the main entry/exit points in Luapula and Northern provinces and conducted nine protection training sessions for them. Almost 14,400 Angolan refugees were registered in the Meheba settlement. The access of refugees to individual documentation in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba has improved with the completion of the registration exercise and introduction of the *proGres* registration software.

Livestock: With support from UNHCR, the Government conducted a livestock vaccination campaign in Kala and Mwange Camps that covered 12,000 animals.

Operational support: UNHCR paid for the operational costs of implementing partners and monitored their finances and project implementation. Six inter-agency meetings during the reporting period reviewed progress against targets.

Sanitation: The average latrine coverage in the country programme as a whole was 75 per cent, ranging from 52 per cent in the Meheba settlement to 92 per cent in Mayukwayukwa. Regular hygiene education was provided at the health posts and no disease outbreaks related to poor sanitation occurred in 2008.

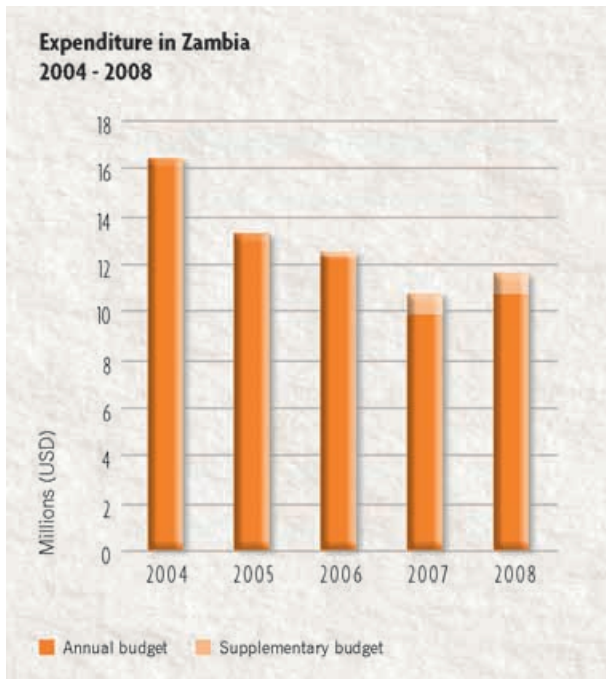
Shelter and other infrastructure: UNHCR began laying the groundwork for the consolidation of Mwange and Kala camps, in anticipation of further progress on the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees to the DRC. The Government rehabilitated the power supply infrastructure in Mayukwayukwa with UNHCR funding and nearby river rapids were used to generate electric power.

Transport and logistics: Two new vehicles were added to the fleet and older vehicles with mechanical faults were taken out of service. UNHCR transported non-food items from the central warehouse in Lusaka to the field.

Water: All those living in the Mwange and Kala camps had access to safe drinking water. Refugee committees in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements worked with the Department of Water Affairs to maintain water points. The average water consumption in the camps and settlements was 20 litres per person per day. Committee members were trained to repair the system with minimal support from the implementing partner.



Conducting a sexual health survey in Mwange camp, northern Zambia



○ Constraints

Implementation of the local settlement project for Angolan refugees fell short of expectations, largely due to the lack of a legal framework defining the criteria for permanent residence to enable local integration. The operation had difficulty finding partners with the necessary capacity to implement planned activities for Congolese and urban refugees, and to provide legal assistance to refugees.

The initial target of more than 19,000 refugees voluntarily returning to the DRC in 2008 was reduced to some 11,500 during the year, and by the end of the year, only 9,700 had gone home. Refugees continued to be apprehensive about conditions in the areas of return, particularly with regard to health care and education. Interest in repatriation also waned following the resumption of fighting in North Kivu, with many refugees waiting to see whether the conflict would spread to other parts of the DRC.

| Financial information |

UNHCR's annual programme in Zambia was fully funded in 2008. The dramatic appreciation of the Zambian currency during the first half of 2008 resulted in a 22 per cent reduction in the budget. This had a severe impact on project implementation.

| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR managed operations from the Representation Office in Lusaka and two sub-offices and two field offices located close to the refugee camps and settlements. The total workforce included of 15 international and 59 national staff.

| Working with others |

In 2008, UNHCR cooperated with eight implementing NGOs (six international and two national) in the northern provinces. In addition, WFP provided food aid to the refugees and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) was responsible for the logistics of repatriating Congolese refugees. In the Western and North-Western provinces, UNHCR worked with six governmental implementing partners.

Oxfam joined UNHCR's group of implementing partners in the second half of 2008 with the objective of strengthening the economic capacities of refugees and their prospects for self-reliance in Mayukwayukwa.

| Overall assessment |

UNHCR continued to search for durable solutions for refugees in Zambia, although the pace of voluntary repatriation did not meet expectations. Furthermore, the creation of a legal framework for the local integration of Angolan refugees remained elusive. Most Angolans have nonetheless achieved a significant level of self-reliance and fewer than 10 per cent remain dependent on food assistance. New opportunities for voluntary repatriation to Angola began to emerge following successful elections in that country, but interest in returning home among the refugees from that country in Zambia remained fairly limited after so many years in exile.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government:	Commissioner of Refugees (Ministry of Home Affairs), Ministry of Health, Ministry of Water Affairs, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
NGOs:	Africa Humanitarian Action, Aktion Afrika Hilfe, HODI, International Federation of the Red Cross/Zambian Red Cross Society, Legal Resources Foundation, Norwegian Church Aid, Oxfam GB, World Vision International
Operational partners	
NGOs:	FORGE
Others:	ICRC, IFRC, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

Budget, income and expenditure in Zambia (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	11,687,721	3,283,681	7,334,798	10,618,479	10,671,170
Zimbabwe Situation SB	934,579	0	655,202	655,202	494,481
Water and sanitation SB	200,000	0	162,297	162,297	162,297
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	190,000	0	187,488	187,488	187,488
Supplementary budget subtotal	1,324,579	0	1,004,987	1,004,987	844,266
Grand total	13,012,300	3,283,681	8,339,785	11,623,466	11,515,436

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Zambia (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,576,429	159,057	3,735,486	0
Community services	112,924	0	112,924	38,527
Crop production	55,452	0	55,452	22,477
Domestic needs and household support	125,630	112,858	238,488	0
Education	188,579	0	188,579	85,339
Food	2,754	4,092	6,846	6,226
Forestry	19,528	0	19,528	14,904
Health and nutrition	869,417	8,950	878,367	205,176
Income generation	39,841	10,225	50,066	13,624
Legal assistance	597,453	434	597,887	166,334
Livestock	4,425	0	4,425	0
Operational support (to agencies)	1,319,013	78,885	1,397,898	250,385
Sanitation	16,399	85,130	101,529	20,854
Shelter and infrastructure	14,741	0	14,741	17,011
Transport and logistics	816,273	122,730	939,003	60,706
Water	61,418	109,833	171,251	29,060
Instalments to implementing partners	732,437	152,072	884,509	(930,623)
Subtotal operational activities	8,552,713	844,266	9,396,979	0
Programme support	2,118,457	0	2,118,457	0
Total expenditure	10,671,170	844,266	11,515,436	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(309,932)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	2,934,937	152,072	3,087,009	
Reporting received	(2,202,500)	0	(2,202,500)	
Balance	732,437	152,072	884,509	
Outstanding 1st January				1,717,170
Reporting received				(930,623)
Refunded to UNHCR				(135,472)
Currency adjustment				11,804
Outstanding 31st December				662,879