

# Angola

## Main objectives

- Facilitate the return of Angolan refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Namibia, Republic of the Congo (RoC), South Africa and Botswana.
- Consolidate the reintegration of returnees into their home communities.
- Achieve durable solutions for all refugees in Angola.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Returnees	145,000	60,423
DRC (refugees)	12,465	5,000
Asylum-seekers	825	480
Other refugees	257	177
<b>Total</b>	<b>158,547</b>	<b>66,080</b>

**Total requirements: USD 21,321,614**

## Working environment

### Recent developments

The April 2002 peace accord between the Government of Angola and UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) paved the way for the return of nearly all of Angola's four million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and a quarter of a million refugees. Since the end of the civil war, UNHCR and its partners have assisted nearly 256,420 of these refugees to return home. Approximately half returned in land convoys and airlifts, with the other half travelling unaided but receiving assistance from UNHCR upon their arrival in Angola.

In 2004, UNHCR and its partners opened five new return corridors, in addition to the four already in use. These include a complex airlift operation with IOM, involving some 25 flights per week from refugee sites in Zambia and Namibia into Lumbala N'guimbo in Angola's remote Moxico province, and Huambo in the more populated central highlands.

With peace holding firm, attention is turning increasingly to the vast development needs of a country devastated by three decades of conflict. The Government of Angola's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), the United Nations' 2004 Consolidated Appeal for Transition (CAT) and the preparation of a UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for the 2005-2008 period, all reflect an emerging consensus on the way forward.

### Constraints

In 2003, UNHCR was unable to organize return to 40 per cent of the key districts of return due to broken bridges, poor road conditions and landmines. While conditions have improved in some locations, a number of communities remain inaccessible, particularly in northern Angola. More and faster road rehabilitation and demining will be required if the refugees in all the camps and settlements in bordering countries are to have the opportunity to return home in 2005.

Economically and socially, Angola is still far from robust. The limited development efforts that are underway in the country are focused primarily on the densely populated and relatively easily accessible Plan Alto provinces. Meanwhile, in the isolated border provinces to which most refugees are returning, poor infrastructure and comparative difficulties of access to services and markets are seriously hampering the sustainable reintegration of returnees. The prevalence of landmines is also a critical constraint on the development of sustainable livelihoods, given the reliance on crop production in areas of return.

The ongoing conflict in the oil-rich enclave of Cabinda, between the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and rebels calling for independence,

continues to block organized return for Angolan refugees in RoC.

For some 15,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola, the realization of a durable solution is constrained by the Government's lack of capacity to grant permanent residency to refugees and temporary residency to asylum-seekers, despite the legal provisions already in place.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

During 2005, UNHCR, in close cooperation with the Government of Angola and other partners, will expect to assist approximately 33,000 refugees to return overland and by air. An additional 30,000 refugees are projected to return spontaneously, including an estimated 15,000 who will be assisted by UNHCR upon arrival in the country.

Organized movements will be planned primarily from Zambia and DRC, with smaller numbers coming from South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and possibly RoC. In addition to the resumption of many of the existing repatriation routes, new land corridors will be opened, linking the DRC with Uige and Lunda Norte provinces in Northern Angola. UNHCR will work closely with the National Intersectoral Commission on Demining and Humanitarian Assistance (CNIDAH), the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) and other agencies to ensure that all key repatriation corridors are demined in 2005.

The long-term success of the Angola voluntary repatriation operation rests on the comprehensive and sustained development of areas of return, a complex task with ramifications that clearly outstrip UNHCR's mandate and resources. UNHCR will therefore focus its efforts in 2005 on advocating that the Angolan Government – supported by longer-term development agencies such as United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, European Commission (EC), United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – assumes the leading role in



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Under the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees from DRC, over 100,000 have returned home since 2003. *UNHCR / S. Hopper*

the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the areas of return.

As a first step, UNHCR will work with the Government and other actors to develop a 4Rs framework for areas of return. The Office will use its geographic information systems (GIS) capacity to develop detailed databases on social infrastructure. UNHCR will also contribute to reintegration

where necessary in order to bridge transitional gaps as government and development agency plans come on line. To ensure the greatest impact, UNHCR will focus its reintegration assistance on six districts in Moxico, Zaire, and Uige provinces with the heaviest concentration of returnees.



In addition, as part of the "4Rs" Framework, UNHCR will work to ensure that comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention measures are implemented in areas of return. To date, the national HIV/AIDS programme has focused on provinces with denser populations and better infrastructure, however it is critical that these initiatives are expanded to areas of return.

UNHCR's core protection activities in 2005 will include direct monitoring of the return process, including participation in each organized convoy; visits to border crossings (where accessible) through which spontaneous movements are taking place; the delivery of training on returnee rights to border officials, police and local authorities, and intervention in individual cases where rights are not respected. The Office will also continue its returnee monitoring efforts to identify critical needs with respect to documentation, basic services, food security, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and conflict resolution.

In partnership with the Ministry of Family Promotion and Women, UNHCR will provide training to authorities and community organizations on prevention and response to SGBV. It will also support the Government's documentation campaign in areas of return. While the Government recognizes the UNHCR-issued voluntary repatriation form (VRF) as a temporary identification document, most spontaneous returnees have not repatriated with a VRF.

For the refugee caseload, UNHCR will consolidate its shift in emphasis from assistance to the promotion of local integration. This will include: an enhanced partnership with the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS), to which the management of refugee settlements and reinstallation has been delegated; advocacy for the granting of permanent residence for those refugees wishing to remain in Angola; and the strengthening of a centre in Luanda to focus on promoting the social and economic integration of refugees. At the same time, UNHCR will provide support to *Comite' de reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo* (COREDA) and the immigration authorities to accelerate the processing of asylum applications. UNHCR will also facilitate the individual repatriation of refugees on a case-by-case basis, where prevailing conditions in the area of origin permit.

### **Assistance**

Initial assistance to returnees, including food, plastic sheeting, a construction kit, sanitary materials and blankets, will be distributed through UNHCR's network of reception centres, which will

continue to operate during 2005. However, several centres will be reduced in capacity or closed, in view of the expected pattern of returns. HIV/AIDS and mine-awareness training will be delivered in the reception centres and documentation provided for all returning refugee children. Onward transport will be provided to the accessible point closest to the returnees' final destination. Spontaneous returnees will continue to be assisted upon their arrival in Angola.

Additional assistance will be provided to returnees in their home community. WFP will provide basic food rations until the first harvest. UNHCR will set up Portuguese language tuition for returning refugee children, training of community health assistants, support to community-based HIV/AIDS programmes, vocational training, the expansion of women's empowerment centres and peace and conflict resolution workshops. UNHCR will support the rehabilitation of key schools, health posts and water points, as well as school supplies and essential medicines in the main areas of return. UNHCR will work with FAO to ensure new returnees are provided with seeds and tools.

In 2005, refugees in Angola will no longer receive direct assistance from UNHCR, with the exception of recently arrived asylum-seekers and the most vulnerable.

### **Desired impact**

UNHCR expects all Angolan refugees in camps and settlements will be offered the opportunity to return in conditions of dignity and safety during the course of 2005. Therefore no organized repatriation for this caseload is expected beyond 2005, with the exception of return to Cabinda. Discussions will continue between UNHCR and the concerned governments on how spontaneously settled refugees in bordering countries will be assisted to return.

UNHCR anticipates that significant progress will have been made by the end of 2005 to ensure that the Government and development actors are fully engaged in the reintegration efforts in areas of return under a 4Rs framework. Nevertheless, it is expected that there will be the need for a

continued, albeit reduced, UNHCR presence in 2006 to consolidate the transition from repatriation to reintegration, particularly in terms of its advocacy, coordination and monitoring roles.

Given continuing instability in DRC and other parts of Africa, UNHCR will also be required to maintain its involvement in seeking durable solutions for refugees in Angola and in strengthening the protection capacity of the Government of Angola.

## **Organization and implementation**

### **Management structure**

In 2005, UNHCR will have 126 staff in Angola: 30 internationals (including two JPOs) and 96 nationals. Activities will be managed by the Representative in Luanda, with the support of two sub-offices, six field offices and two antenna offices.

### **Coordination**

UNHCR's operations will be implemented in close coordination with MINARS and other relevant national and provincial institutions. Alliances will also be expanded, particularly in the reintegration sectors, with the Government, other UN agencies, bilateral and multilateral donors and NGOs present in the bordering provinces. UNHCR will continue its active participation in the UNDAF and PRSP forums, as well as with the provincial commissions responsible for facilitating the reintegration process, to ensure that the needs of returnee areas are fully incorporated into national and provincial development plans.

Offices
<b>Luanda</b>
Camaxilo
Cazombo
Huambo
Luau
Luena
Lumbala N'guimbo
Malange
Maquela do Zombo
Mbanza Congo
Menongue

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
CNIDAH
<i>Comite' de reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo (COREDA)</i>
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Family Promotion and Women
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Justice
Ministry of Public Works
Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration

<b>NGOs</b>
<i>Atlas Logistique</i>
Caritas
Don Bosco
Jesuit Refugee Service
Lutheran World Federation
Medair
Norwegian Refugee Council
OXFAM (GBR)
Save the Children (USA)
<b>Others</b>
FAO
IOM
UNICEF
UNV
WFP

Angola

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,214,248
Community services	1,103,307
Crop production	500,000
Domestic needs	380,000
Education	1,755,000
Health	1,495,000
Income generation	500,000
Legal assistance	1,360,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,377,770
Sanitation	120,000
Shelter/other infrastructure	870,000
Transport/logistics	1,000,000
Water (non-agricultural)	895,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>17,570,325</b>
Programme support	3,751,289
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,321,614</b>