



HIGHLIGHTS

18,157

Former Angolan refugees assisted to return since 2014

3,873

Former Angolan refugees assisted to return from January to September 2015

1,573

Refugees benefitted from legal and social assistance in 2015

Population of concern

A total of **43,823** people of concern

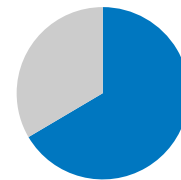
By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Rwanda	342
Cote d'Ivoire	6,424
DRC	13,444
Guinea	9,244
Somalia	2,023
Other nationalities	14,181
Angolan returnees	3,873
Total	49,531

Funding

USD 5,453,056 requested

Gap
33%



Funded
67%

UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 14 national staff
- 3 international staff
- 2 UN Volunteers

Offices:

Country Office Luanda



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian, repatriation and integration assistance with: [Refugee Department of the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration \(MINARS\)](#) | [National Directory for Social Action \(DNAS\)](#) | [Service for Migration and Foreigners \(SME\)](#) | [Refugee Status Determination Committee \(COREDA\)](#) | [International Organisation for Migration \(IOM\)](#) | [Jesuit Refugee Service \(JRS\)](#) | [International Volunteers for Development \(VIS\)](#) |

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- On 17 June, a new asylum law, adopted by the Angolan parliament in April, was promulgated by the President and came into force. In March 2015, UNHCR had been invited to present its remaining comments at a meeting of the 3rd Committee of the National Assembly. The by-laws required for the implementation of the asylum law were not yet published, and the organs foreseen under the new law not yet established. The law severely restricts rights previously granted to asylum seekers and refugees by envisaging the creation of Reception/detention centers (“CARRA”) in the border provinces.
- The Angolan refugee status determination body, COREDA, replaced by a new organ under the new law, suspended its work. This caused asylum seekers to have difficulty in lodging asylum applications and an increasing backlog of appeal cases in the first months of 2015. Although UNHCR advocacy resulted in first instance cases being analyzed individually, first instance decisions by COREDA are normally negative, mainly due to the quality of Refugee Status Determination Reports prepared by the Immigration Authorities (SME). A hearing only takes place during the appeal. UNHCR participates as an observer in the COREDA sessions.
- UNHCR is providing legal assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers through Legal Aid Centers run by JRS. In 2015, this benefited 362 persons of concern through counseling and information on Status determination in Angola in the provinces of Luanda, Bengo and Lunda Norte. JRS lawyers in 2015 also conducted three workshops in Luanda Norte on refugee rights. These targeted border officials, traditional leaders and persons of concern to UNHCR settled in the remote areas of the country.
- A joint UNHCR/Ministry of Justice training on the issue of cessation of refugee status for the Rwandan, Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees was held in December 2014 and an inter-ministerial working group was formed to draft a National Plan of Action for the implementation of the three Comprehensive Solution Strategies. The Action Plan for the application of the cessation clause was adopted by the group and should be endorsed by the government in 2015. The draft ‘Declaration on Application of Cessation’ sets 30 March 2016 as the date for invocation of cessation for refugees from Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Social Assistance and Professional Empowerment

- Angola hosts refugees mostly in urban areas. UNHCR is supporting the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration (MINARS) with an assistance programme for vulnerable urban refugees. This includes ensuring access to public health, strengthening the system through which refugees are referred to local health centers and hospitals, and empowering refugee participation. Social assistance was further provided to 36 vulnerable refugees through DNAS and JRS in the provinces of Lunda Norte and Luanda.
- One protection risk identified during the AGDM exercise is the lack of employment in urban settings hampering local integration. To address this, UNHCR engaged the NGO VIS, specialized in the area of professional empowerment and Vocational Trainings, in the refugee community center of Viana. This year, they taught life-skills through IT/Secretary and Basic Culinary courses, with 32 participants. Another 100 persons were trained on interpersonal relations and management of small businesses.

SGBV

- UNHCR, together with MINFAMU (Ministry for the Family and Women) delivered training sessions in the provinces of Moxico, Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul. During SGBV workshops, UNHCR sensitized Refugees, Asylum Seekers, representatives of several line ministries, and law enforcement officials (Police, Border Police and Economic Police) on the National Law on Domestic Violence.

Voluntary Repatriation of former Angolan refugees

- In 2015, a total of 3,693 former Angolan refugees repatriated to Angola from the DRC. Repatriation from the DRC started on 20 August 2014 and until 31 December a total of 12,482 former refugees arrived in the provinces of Uige, Zaire and Moxico. The repatriation operation will end on 30 September as per the decision of the Government of Angola. Thereafter the former refugees will be able to return by their own means after obtaining the required Angolan personal documents at Angolan Consulates in the DRC.
- In July and August a total of 180 Angolan former refugees returned from Zambia, following the return of 1,620 Angolans in 2014.

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