

Angola

Working environment

The context

Angola continues to recover from nearly three decades of civil conflict. Fuelled largely by natural resources, the country's economy is rapidly strengthening with annual GDP growth rates near 10 per cent. However, four years after the signing of the peace accord between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), 68 per cent of the population live below the poverty line. Basic services are severely limited, particularly in rural areas, and maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Legislative and presidential elections scheduled for 2006 have been postponed till 2007. However, key preparatory steps have yet to be taken.

In spite of these difficulties, the humanitarian situation in the country remains stable. Refugees continue to return home, though not as many as the approximately 368,000 who repatriated between 2002 and 2005. In response to requests from the Governments of Zambia and of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), organized repatriation to Angola has been extended for a fourth and final year.



The Government of Angola officially launched its Sustainable Reintegration Initiative (SRI) in March 2006 in the presence of key donors, UN agencies and NGOs, as well as the relevant national, provincial and local authorities. This initiative, developed in cooperation with UNHCR and in line with existing national and

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	DRC	12,590	1,650	12,330	1,500
	Various	390	10	1,670	-
Asylum-seekers	DRC	900	-	950	-
	Côte d'Ivoire	430	-	430	-
	Republic of the Congo	150	-	-	-
	Various	1,080	-	1,120	-
Returnees (refugees) ¹		10,000	10,000	-	-
Total		25,540	11,660	16,500	1,500

¹ Returnee figures reflect the number of returnees in 2006 only. UNHCR's programming also targets the 368,000 returnees who arrived in the 2002-2005 period.



UNHCR's reintegration projects, like this bakery at the women's centre in Cazombo, are designed to be self-sustaining. *UNHCR / J. Redden*

provincial strategies, will address key development gaps in the eight main districts of refugee return. These districts are spread through the border provinces of Moxico, Zaíre, Uíge, Lunda Norte and Kuando Kubango.

The Angolan authorities have indicated their willingness to consider formalizing local integration for some 11,000 long-staying refugees from the DRC. These individuals, many of whom arrived in Angola nearly 30 years ago, are well integrated socially and economically. Most of them wish to remain permanently in Angola. At the time of writing UNHCR and the Angolan Government were planning a registration exercise for these refugees. This will establish Angola's first comprehensive refugee database and is expected to help lay the groundwork for eventual permanent residence or citizenship for those refugees who wish to remain in the country.

The needs

Returnee needs were clearly identified by a profiling exercise in the eight key districts of return, and during a participatory assessment carried out as part of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy in Angola in June 2006. In 2007, the Office will primarily play a catalytic role with respect to reintegration, seeking to ensure that it will have gained enough momentum to continue beyond UNHCR's withdrawal from field locations at the end of 2007. With respect to refugees, a survey identified documentation and the resolution of legal issues related to local integration as the main needs. UNHCR will play an important role in ensuring that these issues are addressed in 2007.

Total requirements: USD 14,836,616

Main objectives

- Support the implementation of the Government of Angola's Sustainable Reintegration Initiative in the main areas of return.
- Consolidate local integration for DRC refugees, particularly with regard to the legal aspects.
- Assist the Angolan Government to ensure that asylum legislation and regulations are consistent with international standards.
- Complete a comprehensive registration of all refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola and establish an asylum database using *proGres* software.

Key targets for 2007

- The number of returnees without identification cards is reduced from 90 per cent to 25 per cent in key districts of return.
- At least 75 per cent of the population in the main districts of return has access to potable water.
- All health centres handed over by UNHCR and its partners to the Ministry of Health are fully operational and have enough staff, equipment and pharmaceuticals.
- All women's community centres are self-sufficient and do not require UNHCR support by the end of 2007.
- At least 50 returnee teachers and five schools constructed by UNHCR are integrated in the national education system.
- 50 communities have a functioning seed bank, and the seed bank project continues in 2008 without UNHCR's assistance.
- At least 2,000 families are capable of producing and selling their products in areas of return.
- At least five local economic development initiatives — including three employment service centres — are established in key areas of return with the assistance of ILO.
- A registration system for refugees and asylum-seekers in Angola is fully operational by the end of 2007.
- Permanent residency or citizenship is granted to at least 5,000 refugees from the DRC by the end of 2007.
- Legal assistance centres are fully operational in Luanda and other key areas of asylum in the provinces.

Strategy and activities

In 2007, UNHCR will focus on the consolidation of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative, primarily by building support for it among other UN agencies, bilateral development bodies, NGOs and ministries. It will assist the Government of Angola to monitor implementation of the initiative and build government and local NGO capacities in regions of return. The Office will also press bilateral and multilateral agencies and NGOs to implement development programmes in the key districts of return.

UNHCR will also help implement projects, but only when it is clear they will continue after the phasing out of its involvement in reintegration at the end of 2007. Key areas for action include the improvement of basic services (water, education and health), the rehabilitation of key transport infrastructure, access to national documentation for returnees and the revitalization of economic activity. For the latter, UNHCR will cooperate with ILO and FAO on existing development initiatives.

In 2007 UNHCR will work with the Government to set up a system for the potential naturalization of the approximately 11,000 long-staying DRC refugees. Critical to this effort is the expanded network of legal counselling centres which UNHCR will support in 2007 in Luanda and key outlying areas.

UNHCR will also help the Angolan authorities to revise legislation and regulations which affect refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure that they are consistent with international standards.

UNHCR will phase out its field and sub-offices in Angola during the course of 2007 in line with the completion of its involvement in reintegration. As of January 2008, UNHCR will be present only in the capital, Luanda, where the majority of the refugee population lives.

The long-term success of the Angola voluntary repatriation operation, under which more than 220,000 refugees have been assisted to return by UNHCR and its partners over a four-year period, rests on the comprehensive and sustained development of areas of return. However, it is clear that it is the Government of Angola, assisted primarily by its development partners, that will have to take primary responsibility in this regard. UNHCR will continue to play a supporting role till the end of 2007.

As most refugees in Angola have indicated their wish to integrate locally, UNHCR will focus on this area. However, voluntary repatriation will continue to be facilitated for all those refugees who wish to return home. Resettlement will be used as a durable solution on a proactive basis for those individuals in particularly difficult situations and with limited prospects for local integration or voluntary repatriation.

Constraints

Implementation of the comprehensive development strategy envisioned under the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative continues to be complicated by the weak capacity of provincial and local authorities, insufficient coordination between various government entities and a paucity of financial resources at the provincial and local levels. The extremely limited presence of NGOs in key areas of refugee return is of major concern. Moreover, some donors have indicated their reluctance to support more development-oriented initiatives in Angola in light of the country's rich natural resources. Others have focused their activities in the central highland provinces, paying little attention to the less developed, and more inaccessible, border provinces to which most of the refugees have returned.

With regard to refugees, Angola's current asylum legislation dates back to 1990 and contains only general provisions. The ministries and other state entities with responsibility for asylum issues do not have the detailed regulations and budget necessary to comply with their responsibilities. Moreover, there is no functioning appeals mechanism in the country.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

Number of offices	7
Total staff	72
International	16
National	44
UNVs	10
JPOs	2

Coordination

UNHCR's operations will be implemented in close cooperation with the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) and other relevant national, provincial and local institutions. In 2007, UNHCR will focus on partnerships with line ministries, national NGOs, other UN agencies and bilateral development entities, as part of its effort to ensure the consolidation and continuation of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative in and beyond 2008. In the area of refugees, UNHCR will work closely with MINARS, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, on issues of local integration and improving the legal asylum framework.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: *Comité de Reconhecimento do Direito do Asilo*, Ministry of Interior (Department of Migration), Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration.

NGOs: Angolan Red Cross, CARITAS, Development Workshop, Dom Bosco, *Flor da Vida*, *Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola*, Jesuit Refugee Services, KUKWAVA, OXFAM.

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, FAO, ILO.

Operational partners

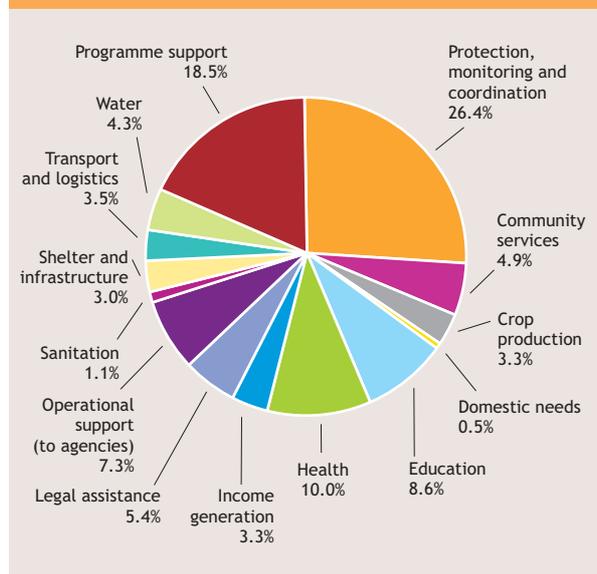
Government: Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Family, Promotion and Women.

Others: IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, UNV, WFP, World Bank.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,211,077	4,107,704
Community services	1,162,866	520,000
Crop production	780,160	800,000
Domestic needs	110,000	0
Education	2,030,000	900,000
Forestry	0	250,000
Health	2,367,950	610,000
Income generation	785,644	1,850,000
Legal assistance	1,263,280	658,000
Livestock	0	200,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,724,361	1,100,000
Sanitation	250,000	300,000
Shelter and infrastructure	702,000	500,000
Transport and logistics	821,698	112,000
Water	1,002,000	500,000
Total operations	19,211,036	12,407,704
Programme support	4,357,485	2,428,912
Total	23,568,521	14,836,616

2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

