

# SPCP Zambia

## June 2008

### Background

The Strengthening Protection Capacity Project in Zambia (SPCP-Z) is entering its second year with its focus on strengthening the capacity of the government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) to protect refugees and bring needed durable solutions to the thousands of refugees who have been in exile for many years.

The SPCP-Z is supported by a USD 3.2 million financial contribution from the Government of Denmark for capacity building activities until December 2009. The initiative is being implemented in partnership with the Government of Zambia (GRZ), and with the involvement of international and national partners, refugees and hosting communities

### Developments 2008

#### Comprehensive Action Plan to Improve Protection Capacity

On the basis of a protection gaps analysis, a National Consultation held in December 2007, and further detailed consultations with the Government and other protection partners, a Plan of Action has been developed comprising of 17 projects.

These projects address many of the protection gaps highlighted during the consultation process. In particular they focus on improving: legislation and administrative practices; registration and documentation; security from violence and exploitation; equal protection before the law; opportunities for self-reliance and on facilitating durable solutions.

UNHCR and partners have started detailed planning of individual projects so that activities can get underway as soon as approval is given by the donor.



#### Strengthening Administrative Capacity to Protect

Building the skills and knowledge of front line staff working with refugees is key to ensuring that refugees are treated fairly and in accordance with the rule of law. A comprehensive protection training programme is underway targeting immigration and border officials, refugee officers, magistrates, prosecutors, lawyers, police and civil society.

In June 2008 SPCP-Z supported training on human rights and refugee protection principles for regional immigration, police, army and prison officers, and NGO staff in Solwezi, North Western Province. The training included practical discussions on the application of the non refoulement principle as well as on ensuring refugee status determination procedures are consistent with international standards. Participants also considered how to realize durable solutions for refugees in Zambia, where a mix of durable solutions is necessary to resolve the situation of many thousands of refugees.



The discussions resulted in a set of useful recommendations on key issues such as detention and non-refoulement. There was also agreement on the need to register self-settled Congolese refugees in order to identify suitable durable solutions for them.

### Improved Registration

Access to accurate data on refugees is vital to work towards effective protection and durable solutions for refugees. SPCP-Z has supported registration of refugees in camps and urban areas, as well as those who have spontaneously settled elsewhere to ensure that adequate demographic information on refugees is available.

Registration in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba refugee settlements took place from January to March 2008. The outcomes of this exercise will help guide the implementation of durable solutions. For example, it was found that 55.8% of the population of Meheba is actually born in Zambia.



The process of registration has also been helpful in terms of providing hands-on registration training to the GRZ and to consolidate their learning on the new registration software. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) have also been developed for the continuous registration of refugee in collaboration with the Government. A workshop will be held in

July to distribute the SOPs and to ensure that those implementing them have a comprehensive understanding of what is required.

### Access to Justice

In April 2008 the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) began work on enhancing access to legal assistance for refugees with SPCP-Z support. LRF will also ensure that an effective detention monitoring system is put in place. It is envisaged that refugees in all four camps/settlements as well as urban refugees and spontaneously settled refugees will benefit from this project.

SPCP-Z is also supporting mobile courts to ensure that refugees have direct access to justice in camps and settlements.

### Durable Solutions

One of the key objectives of the SPCP-Z is to facilitate durable solutions for refugees in Zambia. In this context, on 7 - 8 May 2008 a tripartite meeting was held in Lusaka on the situation of some 27,073 Angolan refugees who remain in Zambia. 25% of these refugees have expressed a desire to return to the Republic of Angola in 2008.

The Government of Angola agreed to present at the next meeting its position on organized return of Angolan refugees who wish to repatriate in 2008. The Government of Zambia agreed to consider the situation of Angolan refugees who wish to locally integrate and the options available to those who remain undecided or are unwilling to return at this time. The next tripartite meeting will be held before the September 2008 elections in Angola.

More information on the Strengthening Protection Capacity Project, including the Zambia initiative can be found at [www.unhcr.org/spcp](http://www.unhcr.org/spcp)