

Angola

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Angola were to assist the return of Angolan refugees from Botswana, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Namibia, the Republic of the Congo (RoC), South Africa and Zambia; consolidate the reintegration of returnees into their home communities; and achieve durable solutions for all refugees in Angola.

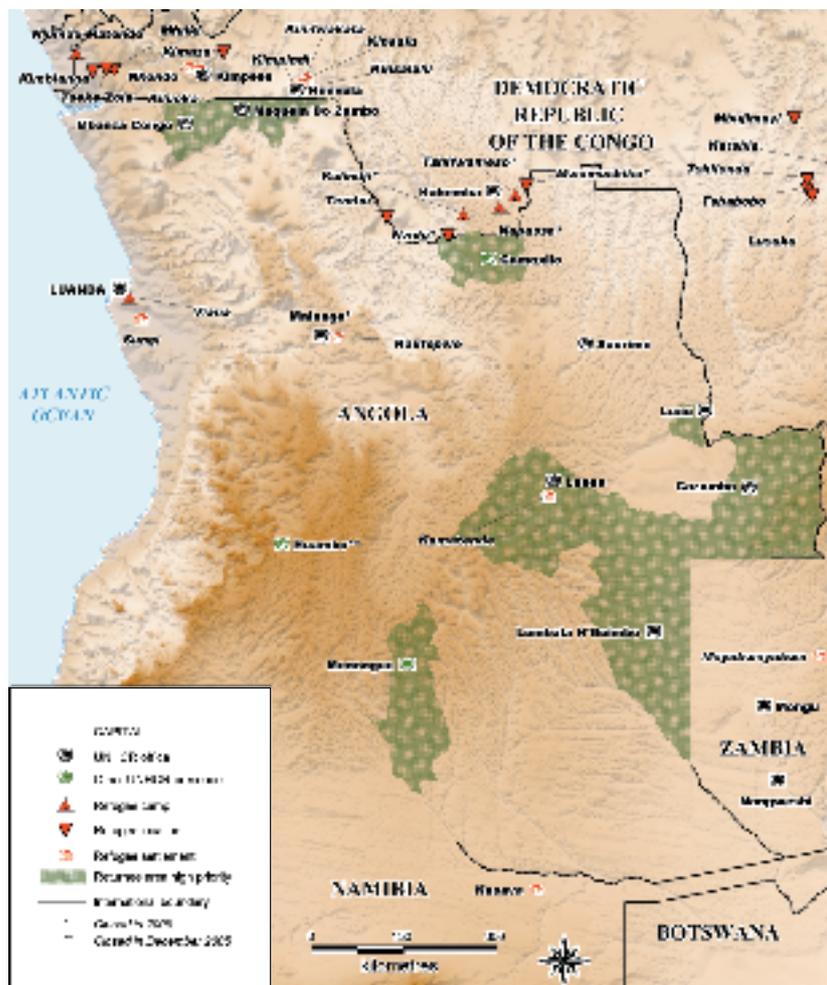
Impact

- 39,000 refugees were assisted to return home from Botswana, DRC, Namibia, RoC, South Africa and Zambia in conditions of safety and dignity. Organized movements of camp-based populations were completed for DRC and Namibia.
- The final two repatriation corridors linking Angola with DRC were opened after nearly two years of preparations involving the removal of landmines, repair of destroyed bridges and rehabilitation of poor road conditions.
- Preparatory work was undertaken on the Government of Angola's Sustainable Reintegration Initiative (SRI), which targets key areas of refugee return; six district plans of action were prepared.
- UNHCR started discussions with the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice on the eventual naturalization of long-staying DRC refugees in Angola.
- Four women's community centres were established in key areas of return and 16,000 women in returnee communities were made aware of their rights.

Working environment

The context

Since the signing of the Luena Peace Accord in April 2002, some 360,000 refugees and four million IDPs have returned home. Although the humanitarian situation was relatively stable, economic and social conditions



remained extremely difficult. Despite a steadily strengthening economy (11 per cent GDP growth rate in 2005), Angola ranked 160th out of 177 countries in the Human Development Index. Life expectancy was the eighth lowest in the world at 41 years, and school enrolment (combined primary, secondary and tertiary) reached only 30 per cent.

The political situation remained relatively stable in 2005 and the Government announced legislative and presidential elections for 2006. However, government statements that elections should only take place when basic infrastructure is in place – and the absence of key preparatory steps in that direction – suggested that they were unlikely to be held in 2006.

Investment by the Government and development actors in the main provinces of return remained extremely low in 2005. However, UNHCR was optimistic that with the launch of the SRI in mid-2005, the situation of returnees would improve in 2006.

Constraints

Returns from Zambia remained lower than anticipated, with some 22,000 Angolan refugees remaining in the three Zambian camps at the end of the year, notably Nangweshi in Zambia's Western Province. In view of indications that a large number of these refugees could repatriate in 2006, the Zambia-Angola-UNHCR Tripartite Commission agreed to extend organized repatriation into 2006. Repatriation movements from DRC were suspended for several months due to an outbreak of the Marburg virus in Uíge Province, but were eventually completed by the end of the year, following a major collaborative effort between the Governments, NGO partners and UNHCR.

Conditions remained extremely difficult in the relatively isolated border provinces to which most refugees returned in 2005. Access to basic services continued to be highly restricted, particularly in the education and health sectors. While incremental progress was evident, the continued prevalence of landmines and poor transport infrastructure remained critical constraints on the resumption of economic activity, as was the lack of formal credit. Several returnee communities were completely isolated during the long rainy season, with the exception of occasional flights operated by WFP.

Funding

Donors continued to provide strong support for the Angola operation in 2005, thereby ensuring that funding was sufficient for repatriation movements. However, given the higher than expected costs of opening up the two remaining corridors linking DRC and Angola, a considerable portion of the funds originally intended for reintegration had to be transferred to prepare for repatriation, particularly road rehabilitation. Austerity measures were adopted within the administration component of the operation in light of the substantial reductions in available resources. Travel was curtailed, including the cancellation of a number of key missions and workshops at the end of the year, as well as most procurement.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

The legal framework governing repatriation continued to function through regular meetings of the six tripartite commissions established by the Government of Angola, countries of asylum and UNHCR. Returnees – either repatriating in organized convoys and IOM airlifts or returning of their own accord – were received at a network of 16 reception centres located in key areas of return, including, for the first time, Cabinda Province. Refugees were provided with a WFP-supplied two-month food ration, as well as a reintegration kit. Special assistance was provided to at-risk populations, particularly unaccompanied minors and female-headed households, including designated shelters in the reception centres and support in constructing permanent shelters in their home community. Upon arrival home, all returnees were provided with food assistance until their first harvest. Birth certificates were provided to approximately half of all returnee children through a joint Ministry of Justice-UNICEF-UNHCR initiative, with the remainder to receive documentation in 2006.

To ensure the sustainability of return, UNHCR supported the Government in the development of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative, targeting six main districts of refugee return. As a first step, detailed district profiles were prepared in a participatory process involving community leaders, local authorities, entrepreneurs, women's community groups, local and international NGOs and UN agencies. In the second phase, a detailed plan of action was developed for each district, indicating specific priorities for reintegration. Having achieved closer cooperation with the Government on reintegration, UNHCR signed a series of memoranda of understanding with the provincial departments of education and the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women.

Direct assistance to approximately 15,000 refugees and asylum-seekers continued to be phased out in favour of an increased emphasis on local integration and self-

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Returnees	From Zambia	29,800	22,600	-	-
	From DRC	20,100	13,700	-	-
	From Namibia	2,700	1,300	-	-
	From RoC	700	700	-	-
	From Botswana	500	500	-	-
Refugees	DRC	13,500	2,100	55	62
Asylum-seekers	DRC	600	-	54	26
	RoC	200	-	49	30

Note: The number of returnees between 2002 and 2005 was some 362,600, of whom 214,000 were assisted by UNHCR.



Angolan returnees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrive in the first repatriation convoy organized by UNHCR along the reopened road to Camaxilo in north-eastern Angola. *UNHCR / M. Benevides*

reliance, given the express wish of 92 per cent to remain permanently in Angola. Only 26 per cent of the most at-risk refugees received food assistance, and their number was expected to further decrease in 2006 following a new socio-economic assessment carried out by WFP. Initial consultations with the Ministry of the Interior on the provision of residency to long-staying DRC refugees proved encouraging. For refugees in Angola, residency is a crucial step towards eventual naturalization.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Four women's community centres were constructed in key returnee communities. Several women's cooperatives were established in these centres, which also provided literacy training and workshops on sexual and gender-based violence.

Crop production: A total of 12,000 returnee families were provided with seeds and agricultural tools, enabling them to attain food self-sufficiency by the following harvest.

Domestic needs and household support: Over 39,000 returnees benefited from the provision of a kit, which included a jerry can, buckets, plastic sheeting, soap, blankets, sanitary materials, a kitchen set, a set of tools and a mosquito net, in order to help them settle down upon return. Following transport to their home communities, returnees were provided with food assistance until their first harvest.

Education: Some 11,500 returnee children attended Portuguese-language training, thereby removing a main obstacle to reintegration into the Angolan education system. Five primary schools were constructed in communities receiving large numbers of returnees, increasing

the capacity of the education system to accept returnees. Education kits were distributed to schools in the main communities of return.

Health and nutrition: Two health clinics were constructed and nurses in 26 health posts in return communities were trained.

Income generation: Under a new microcredit initiative launched in 2005, some 200 refugees received loans and comprehensive training on basic business concepts. Microcredit to women's cooperatives were delivered through the newly-established women's community centres. In Luanda, 193 refugee women and 82 refugee men organized in 24 groups benefited from microcredit schemes.

Legal assistance: Approximately 50 per cent of returnee children were provided with documentation upon arrival in a reception centre, through a joint Ministry of Justice-UNICEF-UNHCR initiative. In addition, 16,000 women in rural returnee communities in Angola were made aware of their rights through participatory workshops, focusing especially on their right to participate in planned elections as candidates and voters.

Operational support (to agencies): Each implementing partner was supported through the Luanda office to ensure the appropriate technical supervision of field operations.

Sanitation: All latrines in the 16 existing reception and transit centres were maintained to provide adequate sanitation facilities for the returnees.

Shelter and other infrastructure: UNHCR and its partners operated 16 returnee reception centres throughout Angola in 2005. A total of 435 kilometres of road was rehabilitated in order to open two new return corridors in Uíge and Lunda Norte, and to improve access from Zambia to Cazombo.

Transport and Logistics: All refugees returning under UNHCR's auspices received transport to the reception centres, as well as onward transportation to their home communities or closest accessible point. In addition, those refugees returning to Angola of their own accord who passed through a reception centre received onward transportation. These movements were financed in part by IOM. Transport was also provided for the return of 42 Congolese and two Burundian refugees.

Water: Twenty-two water points were constructed to supply potable water in key returnee communities.

Organization and implementation

Management

Apart from the Luanda office, UNHCR operated in Angola through two sub-offices, five field offices and two field units. The field unit in Camaxilo, supported by the newly-opened field office in Saurimo, was established in the isolated Lunda Norte Province for a six-month period in order to support the opening of the Kahemba (DRC)-Camaxilo corridor. A small UNHCR presence was established in Menongue and Huambo to support the larger than expected number of returns from Zambia to southern and central Angola.

A total of 142 staff supported the operation, comprising 96 national staff and 46 international staff, including two JPOs, 11 UNVs, two Swiss Development Cooperation deployees, one Danish Refugee Council deployee and one International Rescue Committee Surge deployee. Refresher sessions on UNHCR's Code of Conduct were held for UNHCR and implementing partner staff.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 23 partners, including government bodies, UN and intergovernmental agencies as well as international and national NGOs. In addition, a memorandum of understanding was signed with WFP to cover the provision of food assistance to returnees and refugees. Other partners contributed substantially to the operation through their directly implemented activities. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS), the Migration and Foreigner Services (SME), the *Comité de Reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo* (COREDA), the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Family and Promotion of Women played important roles in UNHCR's operations. Moreover, the district administrations of Luau, Cazombo, Lumbala N'Guimbo, Maquela do Zombo, Menongue, Luena, Mbanza Congo, and Cuimba assumed a critical role in coordinating activities implemented in their respective districts, especially in the preparation of the district profiles and plans of action.

Overall assessment

With the opening of the two final repatriation corridors from DRC to Angola, UNHCR reached its objective of providing all Angolan refugees in bordering countries with the opportunity to return home, despite extremely difficult climatic conditions.

While funds invested directly by UNHCR in reintegration were lower than anticipated, critical targets were reached for the implementation of a major reintegration initiative in

2005, most importantly the preparation of six district plans of action. The key task in 2006 will be to secure the participation of the Government of Angola as well as bilateral and multilateral development agencies.

With regard to refugees, the initial progress made on the naturalization of long-staying DRC refugees was a positive indication of the emergence of a durable solution.

Offices

Luanda
Camaxilo
Cazombo
Huambo
Luau
Luena
Lumbala N'Guimbo
Mbanza Congo
Maquela do Zombo
Menongue
Saurimo

Partners

Government agencies

Comissão nacional intersectorial de desminagem e assistência humanitária
Comité de Reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo (COREDA)
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

NGOs

Africa Humanitarian Action
Agrisud
Atlas Logistique
Caritas
Comitato di Coordinamento delle Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario
Development Workshop
Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola
INTERSOS
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Medair
Médecins sans Frontières (BEL)
Oxfam (GBR)
Search for Common Ground
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
FAO
IOM
ILO
UNV
WFP

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets

	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual programme	21,572,377	7,174,011	13,826,195	21,000,206	21,000,206
Supplementary programme ³	130,000	0	3,682	3,682	3,682
Total	21,702,377	7,174,011	13,829,877	21,003,888	21,003,888

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Congolese (DRC) Refugees.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	5,990,534	0	5,990,534	0
Community services	269,788	0	269,788	81,764
Crop production	588,133	0	588,133	208,971
Domestic needs and household support	793,412	0	793,412	0
Education	268,972	0	268,972	24,678
Health and nutrition	850,652	0	850,652	193,387
Income generation	41,050	0	41,050	0
Legal assistance	706,906	0	706,906	75,129
Operational support (to agencies)	1,505,327	0	1,505,327	245,741
Sanitation	1,100	0	1,100	0
Shelter and infrastructure	1,872,840	0	1,872,840	360,193
Transport and logistics	2,218,890	0	2,218,890	299,612
Water	301,733	0	301,733	33,659
Instalments with implementing partners	2,230,611	0	2,230,611	(1,523,134)
Sub-total operational activities	17,639,948	0	17,639,948	0
Programme support	3,360,258	3,682	3,363,940	0
Total expenditure	21,000,206	3,682	21,003,888	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(291,433)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	8,579,768	0	8,579,768	
Reporting received	(6,349,157)	0	(6,349,157)	
Balance	2,230,611	0	2,230,611	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				1,973,125
Reporting received				(1,523,134)
Refunded to UNHCR				(313,753)
Adjustments				256,318
Balance				392,556