

Angola

Operational highlights

- UNHCR assisted 47,000 Angolan refugees to return home.
- The Office helped the Angolan Government launch the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative, targeting gaps in services, transportation and economic opportunities.
- The number of returnee children attending primary school increased by 16 per cent.
- All refugees with special needs received assistance at reception centres, and 50 per cent of them received vocational training.
- UNHCR opened the first legal aid centre for refugees and asylum-seekers in Luanda.



Working environment

The humanitarian situation in Angola remained relatively stable, but significant economic and social problems persisted, particularly in the remote border regions to which most refugees have returned. In spite of annual GDP growth of about ten per cent, fuelled by natural resources, some two-thirds of Angola's population remained below the poverty line. Basic services such as potable water, primary education and health remained extremely limited, while maternal and child mortality rates were among the highest in the world.

In what was to be the last year of the repatriation operation for Angolan refugees, 47,000 returned to the

country. Since 2002, some 400,000 Angolans have returned home. The year 2006 also saw UNHCR, for the first time, assisting thousands of spontaneously settled Angolans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to return home. This operation received the financial support of the Angolan Government. As logistical constraints prevented the conclusion of this programme in 2006, it was extended to 2007.

A small but regular flow of asylum-seekers continued to arrive in Angola. At the same time, the number of pending asylum applications nearly doubled, to 1,600, as only 320 decisions were taken in 2006. The Government voiced increasing concern over mixed flows of refugees and economic migrants, and said it would organize a national conference in 2007 on asylum and mixed migration flows.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Angola were to complete the repatriation operation, support the implementation of a comprehensive reintegration initiative in the main areas of return, and consolidate the local integration of refugees from the DRC.

Protection and solutions

Under the framework of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative, officially launched by the Government in March 2006, UNHCR supported district authorities in designing and implementing action plans to tackle some problems hampering reintegration. These obstacles included insufficient access to education, water and health services, damaged bridges and roads, as well as the lack of economic activities in the major return areas. The main achievements in 2006 included the provision of 27 new water points, an increase of 16 per cent in the number of returnee children attending primary school and the granting of national documents to 3,000 of them.

The Government and UNHCR took the first steps to establish a national registration and documentation system for refugees and asylum seekers. The system will be based on the *proGres* registration software, and is a response to the protection risks induced by inadequate documentation. Moreover, registration is a crucial first step towards the local integration of long-term refugees from the DRC, which the Government has agreed to consider. The registration and documentation system is expected to be operational in 2007.

UNHCR launched a network of legal aid centres for refugees and asylum-seekers. The first centre was

established in Luanda in the first quarter of 2006 and provided assistance in areas such as the asylum process, detention and birth registration, besides guidance on refugees' rights to education, health and employment. The centre was instrumental in assisting in numerous cases of detention and *refoulement*. Additional centres will be set up in other locations in Angola in 2007.

Activities and assistance

Community services: All refugees with special needs received assistance during their stay at the reception centres. In Moxico, more than 50 per cent of returnees received vocational training to help them become self-sufficient.

Crop production: One thousand six hundred returnee families received seeds and tools and some 50 farmers' associations were established, substantially increasing the returnees' prospects for self-sufficiency. However, many families did not receive the kits due to logistical constraints faced by UNHCR's partner in the exercise.

Domestic needs and household support: Returnees received essential non-food items and construction kits. Refugees with specific needs received non-food items on a case-by-case basis.

Education: Some 6,300 returnee children attended Portuguese language classes to help them join the Angolan education system. Three schools were rehabilitated, while another eight are to be completed in 2007. About 19,000 children received school kits and 70 new teachers were trained and incorporated into the national system. UNHCR and the local authorities signed a memorandum of understanding to allow all returnee children to attend primary school. The results of these initiatives were already visible by the end of 2006, with a 35 per cent increase in returnee enrolment in the main areas of return.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	12,600	700	55	61
	Asylum-seekers				
	DRC	600	-	-	-
	Côte d'Ivoire	500	-	-	-
	Various	300	-	-	-
	RoC	200	-	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From DRC	24,400	24,400	-	-
	From Zambia	21,900	21,900	-	-
	From RoC	500	500	-	-
Total		61,000	47,500		

Food: All returnees passing through UNHCR's reception centres received a three-month food ration from WFP. Returnees who returned on their own also received assistance, although not always for the full three months due to funding shortages at WFP. Refugees with special needs received WFP food rations for an additional 12 months.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR held HIV and AIDS and malaria awareness sessions for all returnees stopping at reception centres. Ten health posts were constructed and/or rehabilitated in the main returnee communities. Refugees with special needs living outside Luanda received medical support.

Income generation: UNHCR and ILO finalized various components of a joint economic development initiative for 2007 in Moxico province. Under a revamped microcredit scheme, 85 per cent of refugees with specific needs now have access to loans and vocational training.

Legal assistance: Some 3,000 returnee children received documents, increasing their access to education and other services. More than 80 per cent of the returnees were trained in mine awareness and human rights. UNHCR also trained Angolan civil and military personnel on refugee rights, leading to a notable decrease in the harassment of refugees and returnees.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR paid the basic operational costs of its partners, enabling them to provide adequate services to refugees.

Sanitation: Latrines in all reception centres were rehabilitated. In addition, about 1,700 pit latrines and 820 rubbish pits were constructed in selected returnee communities. Hygiene-awareness sessions were organized in 15 communities.

Shelter and infrastructure: All reception centres were rehabilitated in 2006. Key roads, airstrips and bridges were maintained to ensure repatriation could continue uninterrupted. Improvements were made to refugee accommodation in Sungi settlement.

Transport and logistics: Returnees were given onward transport or cash grants at transit centres. A small number of refugees were assisted to return home, primarily to the DRC, during the course of the year.

Water: A total of 27 water points were constructed or rehabilitated, providing new sources of potable water to returnee communities. Around 20 water committees were established to ensure maintenance of the water points.

Constraints

Both repatriation and reintegration activities were hampered by the termination of WFP's passenger and cargo air services returnee areas due to financial difficulties. In almost all cases, WFP had provided the only means of transport to these communities in the rainy season. As a result, UNHCR had no other choice than to speed up the planned closure of several field offices.

Implementation of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative was hampered by lack of capacity among provincial and local authorities, the need for more coordination between various government entities and a dearth of funds. The insufficient presence of NGOs in the main areas of refugee return remained a major concern, as did the reluctance of some donors to support development-oriented initiatives in Angola in light of the country's rich natural resources.

With regard to refugees, the ministries and other state entities involved in asylum issues did not have the necessary legal frameworks and budgets to allow them to comply with their responsibilities.

Financial information

Donors provided strong support for the Angola operation in 2006, although indicating that they would make no further contributions towards repatriation. The continuation of repatriation in 2006 reduced the human and financial resources that UNHCR could field for reintegration.

UNHCR's expenditure in Angola has been decreasing since the start of the voluntary repatriation in 2003. The bulk of spending in 2006 was dedicated to reintegration activities, as UNHCR focused on supporting the Government's Sustainable Reintegration Initiative in key areas of refugee return. A smaller portion of the budget was allocated to assisting the small refugee population in Angola and building the Government's asylum capacity.

Organization and implementation

Management

Apart from the Luanda office, UNHCR operated in Angola through two sub-offices and six field offices. However, all field offices with the exception of Menongue, UNHCR's sole outpost in southern Angola, were closed during the course of the year as repatriation wound down.



UNHCR/J. Redden

Returnee women participate in the construction of a women's centre supported by UNHCR in north-eastern Angola.

At the beginning of the year, a total of 105 personnel supported the operation, including 40 international and 65 national staff. By the end of 2006, UNHCR had reduced its workforce to 74 people, with 32 international and 42 national staff.

Working with others

To secure wide participation in the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative, UNHCR worked with more than 50 implementing and operational partners in 2006. These included government bodies, UN and intergovernmental agencies as well as international and national NGOs. A memorandum of understanding was signed with WFP to cover food assistance to returnees and refugees. Of particular importance were UNHCR's links with the Ministry of Social Assistance and Reintegration, the Office's direct counterpart in Angola, as well as the administrations of those districts targeted under the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative.

Overall assessment

With the extension of the voluntary repatriation operation for a fourth year, UNHCR reached its objective of giving all Angolan refugees in camps in neighbouring countries the opportunity to return home. However, since this objective was not reached for spontaneously settled refugees, it was decided to extend repatriation from the DRC and Zambia to the first part of 2007.

The official launch of the Sustainable Reintegration Initiative in March 2006 marked the achievement of UNHCR's key objective related to reintegration. To ensure that the gaps identified in the main return districts are filled, the Office must rely on its partners. Documentation remains a priority before UNHCR's withdrawal from return areas at the end of 2007. It is estimated that some 50 per cent of returnees lack identification papers.

Initial progress on the legal aspects of local integration for long-term refugees from the DRC was promising. This will remain a major focus of UNHCR's work in Angola in 2007.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Comité do Reconhecimento do Direito do Asilo*, Directorate of Public Works, Zaïre; Foreigners and Migration Service; Ministry of Family and Women; Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration in Bengo, Cabinda, Kuando Kubango, Moxico, Uíge and Zaïre; National Directorate of Assistance and Social Promotion; Provincial Directorate for Water and Sanitation, Zaïre.

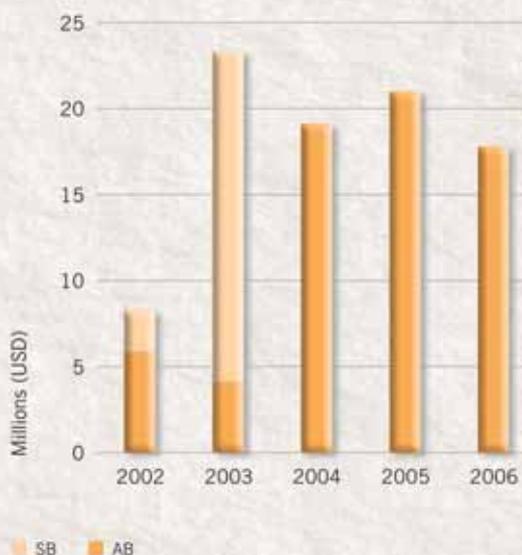
NGOs: *Ação Integrada para o Desenvolvimento das Comunidades*, AHA, *Associação Cristã de Desenvolvimento em Angola*, *Associação de Apicultores de Moxico*, *Associação de Conservação Ambiental e Desenvolvimento Integrado Rural*, Caritas (Maquela do Zombo), Caritas (Zaïre), *Cruz Vermelha Angolana de Kuando Kubango*, *Cruz Vermelha Angolana de Moxico*, CUAMM, Development Workshop, *Dom Bosco*, *Flor da Vida*, *Fraternidade Capuchina De Nagage*, Halo Trust, *Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola*, INTERSOS, Jesuit Refugee Services, *Kukwava*, MAG, MALTESER, MEDAIR, MENTOR, *Organização de Ajuda para o Desenvolvimento Comunitário*, OXFAM, *Salva Vida*, *Solidaridade e Desenvolvimento do Campo*, *União para o Desenvolvimento Social*, World Vision.

Operational partners

Government agencies: Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration; Ministry of Justice (central government and in Kuando Kubango and Zaïre); Ministry of Planning and Statistics; Provincial Directorates for Foreigners and Migration; Provincial Directorates for Planning and Statistics in Cabinda, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Norte, Moxico, Uíge and Zaïre; Provincial Governments of Cabinda, Kuando Kubango, Lunda Norte, Moxico, Uíge and Zaïre.

Others: *Deutsche Geschellshaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNV, WFP, WHO, World Bank.

Expenditure in Angola 2002 - 2006



Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	21,186,532	7,716,231	10,229,486	17,945,716	17,798,069
SB ³	497,500	0	0	0	0
Total	21,684,032	7,716,231	10,229,486	17,945,716	17,798,069

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 SB figures apply to the Repatriation and Reintegration of Congolese Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The 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	Previous years' projects
	AB	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	4,448,829	0
Community services	249,591	62,686
Crop production	514,914	(5,313)
Domestic needs and household support	129,178	0
Education	732,420	237,632
Forestry	3,800	0
Health and nutrition	619,458	99,576
Income generation	167,476	12,424
Legal assistance	969,525	59,558
Operational support (to agencies)	913,441	256,099
Sanitation	406	400
Shelter and infrastructure	690,842	885,086
Transport and logistics	2,785,175	301,112
Water	352,659	11,999
Instalments with implementing partners	2,360,887	(1,921,260)
Sub-total operational activities	14,938,602	0
Programme support	2,859,467	0
Total expenditure	17,798,069	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(178,471)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	6,765,099	
Reporting received	(4,404,212)	
Balance	2,360,887	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		2,623,167
Reporting received		(1,921,260)
Refunded to UNHCR		(263,963)
Adjustments		14
Balance		437,958