

ANGOLA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Provide international protection to 12,000 refugees, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while improving their access to basic needs such as shelter, water supply, health and sanitation services, as well as primary education for refugee children;
- Promote durable solutions for the long-staying, through settlement in designated sites with adequate assistance to promote self-reliance and local integration. Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of approximately 2,000 refugees;
- Reduce the impact of repeated displacements affecting 200,000 IDPs in the provinces of Zaire, Uige and Viana by providing protection training and by assisting the Government, as well as civil society, to improve their response capacity and ensure that relocations are voluntary, basic services are adequate and opportunities for self-reliance are available. Provide emergency relief items in the initial stages of displacement;
- Strengthen the capacity of the IDP communities and local administrations to cope with the influx through continued provision of basic services and repair of community infrastructure. In doing so, indirectly contribute towards laying the foundation for longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction; and
- Be prepared for the return of Angolan refugees and their future reintegration into original communities.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Congolese and Other Refugees

Angola continues to receive asylum seekers mainly from the DRC and the Republic of the Congo. Out of 59 persons who sought asylum during the first half of the year, 32

were recognised as refugees. During the same period, UNHCR counselled 815 individuals and resettled 9 persons in third countries. As conditions in the DRC were not as conducive to repatriation as earlier expected, only one refugee returned in the first half of the year. Hence, the refugee population remained largely stable at 12,107. The single largest concentration of refugees is located in Viana, with 6,214 persons, while the rest are scattered over the provinces of Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Lunda Sul, Malange, and Moxico.

An attack on Caxito, the capital city of Bengo province, by the *Union Nacional para la Independencia Total de Angola* (UNITA) last May reversed almost two years of efforts at promoting local integration for 545 refugees at Boa Esperanca refugee camp, who were thus displaced for the fifth time. Soon thereafter, UNHCR and its government counterpart, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS), agreed to establish a new camp at a nearby site with good potential for self-reliance development.

As for daily activities, 32 refugee women have been attending literacy and handicraft training in the Adult Education Centre and 182 children have been participating in programmes at the Child Day-Care Centre in Viana. In addition, a day-care programme for some 100 children was quickly established using a makeshift shelter following the refugees' relocation to Kifangondo in early May.

With regards to urban refugees, the refugee community centre in Luanda, established in the last quarter of 2000, has been running language training courses, handicraft training for women as well as offering counselling, health services, indoor games and library services. The services and activities have been attracting an average of 300 visits a month.

Sports activities and training (such as the Coach-to-Coach programme) have proven to be very popular amongst refugees and IDPs in Viana. The introduction of sports activities in schools has boosted attendance rates, in addition to enabling children to acquire real-life skills, such as co-ordination and team-building.

Similar enthusiasm was witnessed during the celebration of African Children's Day and World Refugee Day, on 16 and 20 June respectively, in Viana, Kifangondo, and the refugee community centre in Luanda. Keen interest in refugee participation could be partly attributed to a workshop on community mobilisation held earlier in the year with participants from implementing partners, other NGOs and government ministries.

Regular care and maintenance activities have been carried out as planned, including monthly WFP food distribution; issuance of replacement household items to identified families; adequate and uninterrupted supply of water for domestic purposes; and delivery of curative health services through health posts and referral to hospitals as needed. A monthly average of 3,000 visits was registered amongst refugees and IDPs in Viana between January and June.

Pending their transfer to a more permanent site, some 265 families received plastic sheeting to improve their shelter. Another 180 sheets were given to refugees in Kifangondo.

A primary school in Viana, attended by 257 girls and 268 boys, has greatly improved refugee children's access to primary education in camps. However, opportunities for secondary education are still lacking. To address this, UNHCR, together with two implementing partners, is undertaking an assessment to determine the precise number of affected youth. As for urban refugees, 54

pupils have been helped to attend Angolan primary education classes. Yet, due to the schools' limited capacity and the inability of some refugee children to produce the required birth certificate, access remained restricted. A proposal to address this issue is still pending with the Ministry of Justice.

During the first half of the year, ten women received vocational training in Luanda. Two refugee undergraduates had to be transferred to Libreville in Gabon when student unrest caused frequent interruptions of university classes.

As part of an overall effort to promote self-reliance, UNHCR has been supporting ten refugee families in the development of a horticulture farm on a five-hectare site just outside Viana. The farm is, however, heavily dependent on commercial trucking of water, which may limit its profitability. Lack of water for agricultural purposes is a common problem in refugee sites.

Various income-generating activities, started in 2000, have been ongoing. A total of 64 refugees have benefited from a micro-finance scheme. UNHCR is continuing its policy of promoting these activities especially for women beneficiaries. An implementing partner with expertise in micro-finance has been tasked to assess the impact of UNHCR-funded income-generating activities.

The election of refugee representatives has facilitated dialogues between refugees, UNHCR, the Government and NGO staff, who have had several fruitful meetings to resolve issues of concern. Weekly meetings are now taking place to ensure speedier and co-ordinated response.

One of the main difficulties has been the lack of UNHCR presence and staffing in Luena, Moxico province, where there are some 2000 to 3000 Congolese refugees.

Progress as measured against selected indicators

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Ten refugee families engaged in horticultural activities.	The refugees have planted vegetables in the five hectares of land.
Noticeable improvement in government policy to settle the refugees in permanent sites.	The Government is co-operating fully and the selection of a proper site is in progress.
Health services improved considerably.	Very low mortality rate, expanded community health education.
Enhanced co-ordination of activities.	Regular co-ordination meetings among UNHCR the IDPs and refugees are held.
32 women benefitting from the programmes provided at the Adult Education Centre and 282 children from the ones offered at the Child Care Centre in Viana and Kifangondo.	At least 20 women and 180 children are attending the Adult Education Centre and the Child Care Centre, respectively.
Delivery of 15 to 20 community health education sessions per month.	An average of 20 sessions is conducted monthly.
Reconstruction of shelters with mud blocks	Refugees themselves constructed 80 per cent of the houses.
Expand refugee participation in the language training and recreational activities offered by the refugee community centre.	Some 20 refugees attend Portuguese and French language courses and the overall number of refugees visiting the community centre has reached 300 per month.

Internally Displaced Persons

Within the framework of UN inter-agency co-ordination, UNHCR and OCHA have started a joint nationwide protection capacity-building programme. As part of this activity, provincial protection plans have been issued. OCHA Field Officers and UNHCR Protection Officers will follow up and monitor the implementation of the programme.

UNHCR conducted a one-week protection training for OCHA staff, and started registering births among the IDP population in Uige to prevent recurring problems arising from lack of documentation. Progress was also made in finalising the provincial protection plan for Uige. UNHCR helped promote the development of a protection regime in the country by posting a guide on protection and related issues on Angonet, a locally designed and maintained website.

Despite security constraints (between January and June, Uige was attacked three times, once necessitating the evacuation of staff) and the resulting logistics problems,

UNHCR and its implementing partners have managed to achieve positive results in their intervention.

As a result of continuous training efforts by an implementing partner, some 800 outdoor patients have been assisted per month at the M'Banza Congo Hospital. Thirty per cent were children under five years of age; 54 per cent were female and 46 per cent were male. Malaria continues to be the main health problem. There are 125 to 150 in-patients per month, 20 to 25 per cent of which represent birth deliveries. Maternal mortality rate has dropped to seven per cent while stillbirths represent 13 per cent.

The attack on Caxito has also displaced some 15,000 local residents. Negotiations are ongoing with the Government to provide an alternative settlement site for them. In the meantime, the group has been receiving emergency assistance at a temporary site on a former football ground at Kifangondo, 22 kilometres from Luanda.

Progress as measured against selected indicators

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Increased consciousness amongst individuals and IDP communities to build and defend their rights.	420 training sessions on IDP protection principles, local legislation, refugee protection, gender, peace building and conflict resolution issues were undertaken in internally displaced camps and settlements located in Bengo and Luanda Provinces. 10,454 IDP, refugee and returnee persons, of whom 60 per cent were women, participated in those capacity-building activities.
Increased awareness among state authorities and civil society concerning their role and responsibilities towards IDPs and the population at risk of displacement as well as their ability to operationalise a protection response.	Ten provincial seminars on IDP protection principles were delivered in co-ordination with OCHA. Trained government officials included representatives from the Ministry of Justice, military, police and MINARS. Participants also included humanitarian and key civil society actors. Protection working plans were issued during these seminars for the provinces of Uige, M'Banza Congo, Malange, Benguela, Bie, Huambo, Bengo, Huila, Kuando Kubango and Kuanza Norte.
The IDP population has adequate and continuous water collection, pumping, reserve storage, treatment and distribution systems, thus reducing the risk to health of water/sanitation related diseases in areas of intervention.	The water system at Coragem Irmaos settlement in Viana is completed and operational. A water committee has been established and trained. The population has received water and sanitation education. The rehabilitation of 13 water points initiated during 2000 was completed, directly benefiting a total of 84,415 persons. Indirect beneficiaries are an estimated 98,332 persons. Water committees were established and trained. Water points were handed over to the Water Department and the communities. Water and sanitation education was provided through seminars and by a radio programme broadcast in local languages.
Gender considerations are incorporated in the design of communal sanitation services in order to a) reduce physical risk for women and children; and b) improve the working conditions of women and girls.	Communal sanitation services were constructed around water points, including separate latrines and showers for men and women and collective laundry places.
Continuous on-the-job-training for health and administrative service staff provided at the M'Banza Congo Hospital.	Continued to train health and administrative staff at the M'Banza Congo Hospital.
Local and international health NGOs undertake HIV/AIDS sensitisation, prevention and identification in Maquela do Zombo and M'Banza Congo areas.	Initiated a continuous HIV/AIDS prevention campaign. Ten young health promoters have been trained and seminars have been delivered to church, civil society and governmental actors, including the armed forces at the hospital and in other public places such as the market.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER

For the remainder of the year, UNHCR will:

- Prepare a policy paper to integrate protection practices into programmes for IDPs in all provinces;
- Develop more specific criteria for resettlement to third countries;
- Follow up with the Ministry of Justice on a pending proposal for the issuance of birth certificates;
- Depending on land available, relocate all or some of the refugees in Viana and the displaced refugees in Kifangondo to a safe site with sufficient land for crop cultivation;
- Ensure that the refugees engaged in horticultural activities achieve a fair degree of self-reliance;

- Review income-generating activities and expand micro-financing schemes;
- Ensure that the refugee databases in the provinces are updated. At the same time, monitor their living conditions and undertake needs assessment for any material assistance, without undermining efforts aimed at local integration;
- Prepare a comprehensive phase-out plan for IDPs, outlining hand-over of responsibilities to government departments or international NGOs;
- Maintain sufficient quantities of essential emergency relief items;
- Expedite relocation of remaining IDPs to Irmaos Coragem in Viana; and,
- Review programme implementation for IDPs in Maquella de Zombo and M'banza Congo.

FINANCIAL DATA (USD)

	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available¹	Total Funds Obligated
APB	4,234,182	4,260,581	2,181,469	1,531,540
SPB	11,455,054	5,427,220	5,682,746	2,100,000
Total	15,689,236	9,687,801	7,864,215	3,631,540

¹Includes income from unrestricted contributions, income from contributions restricted to the regional, sub-regional and/or country level, opening balance and adjustments.