

ANGOLA

Operational highlights

- Angola hosted almost 19,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2009. UNHCR continued to support the development of the national asylum system and to promote durable solutions for persons of concern, particularly the long-standing caseload of around 12,400 Congolese refugees who fled the conflict in Katanga province during the 1960s.
- UNHCR addressed the protection needs of refugees both directly and through its Legal Aid and Reintegration Centres (LARCs) project, which provided legal support and counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers in Luanda and the provinces.
- Some 500 law enforcement officials were trained by UNHCR to sensitize them to issues related to the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and to help the authorities build national capacity to conduct refugee status determination (RSD).
- UNHCR assisted the Government of Angola with preparing an operational plan for the organized repatriation of those among some 135,000 Angolan refugees still in neighbouring countries who wished to return.
- Spontaneous voluntary repatriation continued with the return of some 2,300 persons, mainly from Zambia and Namibia.
- UNHCR provided material assistance and technical support to the approximately 54,000 Angolans who were either forced to leave or had decided to return from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to Angola, and whose presence in the north of the country had created a humanitarian emergency.



Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	13,400	4,500	-	-
	Various	1,400	320	50	42
Asylum-seekers	DRC	1,500	1,000	-	-
	Côte d'Ivoire	1,200	400	-	-
	Sierra Leone	460	200	-	-
	Sudan	240	150	-	-
	Congo	160	0	-	-
	Liberia	160	60	-	-
	Mauritania	110	50	-	-
	Various	360	80	19	-
	Others of concern*	Angolan expellees from the DRC	14,480	6,000	53
Returnees (refugees)*	Zambia	2,200	2,200	52	-
	Various	150	150	60	-
Total		35,820	15,110		

* Demographic breakdown of returnees refers to all returnees



Angolans from the DRC show their voluntary repatriation forms.

UNHCR / T. DIAMONERA

| Working environment |

UNHCR addressed issues such as the repatriation of Angolan refugees remaining in neighbouring countries and the identification of durable solutions for the Congolese refugees from Katanga Province. The Government established an inter-ministerial working group to look into local integration possibilities for these refugees, who have been living in Angola since the 1960s.

With peace, stability and strong economic growth having prevailed in the country since 2002, Angola continued to attract asylum-seekers and economic migrants, and new challenges have arisen related to mixed migratory flows.

The national asylum system needs more support to increase its capacity to receive and process asylum applications and deliver protection and assistance to people of concern to UNHCR. In this regard, UNHCR has submitted to the Government suggestions for revisions to the existing refugee law.

The Government's ongoing campaign to curb irregular migration has resulted in the expulsion of tens of thousands of foreigners, mostly Congolese. In October 2009, the Government of the DRC retaliated by expelling tens of thousands of Angolans, including many refugees for whom UNHCR was preparing voluntary repatriation to Angola. The Government of Angola subsequently renewed its commitment to receive the remaining Angolans in neighbouring countries who have indicated their willingness to return, and has requested UNHCR's help in this regard.

| Achievements and impact |

● Main objectives

UNHCR's main objective in Angola was to ensure the protection of all persons of concern, with priority given to protect them against sexual and gender-based violence, abuse, intimidation and other forms of exploitation. It has also sought to strengthen the protection of refugees within broader migration movements. To this end, it aimed to support the Government to develop its international protection regime by improving its asylum legislation and RSD procedures.

UNHCR also sought to support the social and economic wellbeing of persons of concern through the creation of a functioning referral system for people of concern who need health care to local hospitals and health centres. Another objective was to improve education and create opportunities to promote refugees' self-reliance. Finally, the Office pursued durable solutions through voluntary return, local integration and the strategic use of resettlement.

● Protection and solutions

In January 2009, a tripartite meeting was held in Luanda in which UNHCR and the Governments of Angola and Zambia set a provisional date for organized repatriation from Zambia to resume in May 2009. UNHCR and the Angolan Government also held similar tripartite meetings in April with the Republic of Congo and in May with the DRC. The resumption of organized repatriation was subsequently delayed due to financial constraints stemming from the global economic downturn.

During October and November 2009 an estimated 54,000 Angolans, a significant number of whom had refugee status, were expelled from the DRC. Many were forced to leave without any notice, leaving behind family, possessions and identity documents. Family separation, including forced separation in the case of mixed marriages between Angolan and non-Angolan spouses, was a major concern. UNHCR worked with other UN agencies to help the Government address the emergency situation.

○ *Activities and assistance*

Community services: Refugees in urban areas were provided with economic assistance to help satisfy basic needs, including shelter and food. However, finding affordable accommodation in urban settings was a major challenge for people of concern to UNHCR. Individual refugees were given financial support to pay for medical treatment. UNHCR supported a small repair project for refugee houses damaged by rain or other natural causes and also provided vulnerable refugees with rental subsidies to avoid evictions.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR developed HIV and AIDS awareness activities for refugees in Viana, Sungui and Luanda. The Office's advocacy has helped refugees and asylum-seekers obtain access to public health facilities and services, including voluntary counselling and testing and anti-retroviral treatment for those living with HIV and AIDS. UNHCR also supported a project to strengthen the system for the referral of refugees from the settlements to local health centres and hospitals.

Income generation: UNHCR provided vulnerable refugees with training and materials for sewing, electrical repairs and woodwork. One of UNHCR's partners implemented a micro-credit project for refugees living in Luanda and Viana. This project was discontinued because of high costs and other ways of integrating beneficiaries into a more flexible and cost-effective credit scheme were being explored.

Legal assistance: Legal counselling and material assistance were provided to refugee women and girls affected by sexual and gender-based violence in the provinces of Luanda, Lunda Norte and Malange. UNHCR continued to advocate for the formalization of the local integration of 12,400 Congolese refugees from Katanga who have been living in Angola for more than five decades. The Office also conducted six two-day training workshops for almost 500 government officials and border personnel in order to enhance their capacity to protect asylum-seekers within mixed-migration flows. Some 380 manuals in Portuguese on ensuring protection in mixed migration movements were given to participants.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered the operating costs of six implementing partners in Angola, facilitating delivery of their services to the populations of concern.

Transport and Logistics: UNHCR provided vehicles to 4 of the 5 implementing partners during the year, in addition to a budget to cover running costs. The warehouse was maintained, with rental charges paid in full.

Water: UNHCR dug a bore hole to provide water to some 250 refugees living in Kamatende settlement in Malange Province.

○ *Constraints*

Angola remained a magnet for migrants and asylum-seekers. The inflow has put a heavy burden on the asylum system in the country and given rise to negative attitudes towards foreigners, especially those from neighbouring States and from West Africa, who are viewed as trying to take advantage of the economic potential of the country.

Finding affordable accommodation in urban areas has been a consistent problem, not only for refugees but also for Angolan nationals. The costs are high, while buildings are often old and poorly constructed, adding to the risk of collapse, especially during the rainy season.

| Financial information |

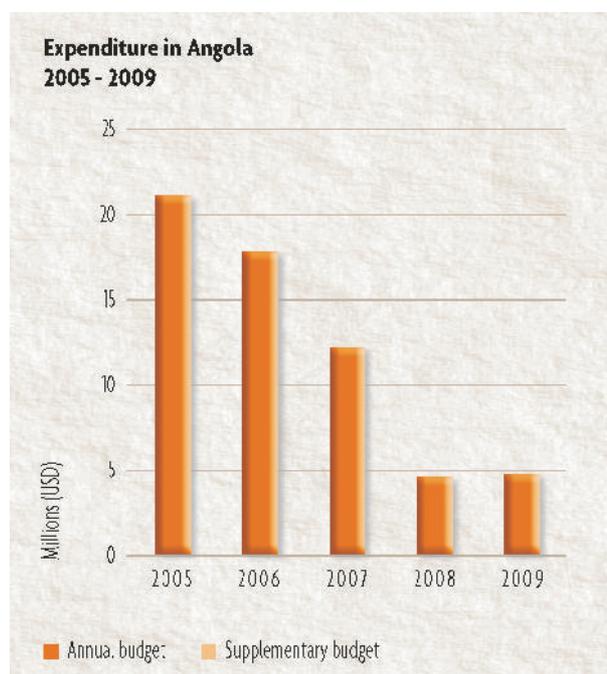
In 2007, when UNHCR was involved in the repatriation and reintegration of Angolan returnees, expenditure was about USD 12 million. In 2008, expenditures fell to USD 4.6 million, as the focus of the operation shifted from the reintegration of returnees to the protection of and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. In November 2009, UNHCR received an additional USD 1.4 million for emergency assistance to the Angolans expelled from the DRC and expenditures remained at the same level as 2008.

| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR's operations are managed by the county office in Luanda which comprises 21 staff (three international staff, one JPO, two UNVs and 15 national employees).

| Working with others |

In 2009, UNHCR worked with six implementing partners in Angola (two government bodies, two local NGOs, one international NGO and an international organization).



UNHCR chaired the protection working group, established under the auspices of the UN Country Team in the aftermath of the expulsions of Angolans from the DRC, which included UN agencies, IOM and NGOs. The Office also collaborated closely with the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs and the Interior.

UNHCR helped address issues of concern within refugee communities, including reproductive health, and conducted intensive technical HIV and AIDS workshops for urban refugees, through the United Nations Joint Team on HIV and AIDS.

Overall assessment

As Angola receives increasing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, often together with migrants, there is a need to revise its refugee legislation. UNHCR is supporting Government efforts to build capacity to identify people in need of international protection in mixed migration flows and to manage mixed migration.

A drawback to the social and economic integration of refugees was the lack of valid documentation. The issue of

registration, which is directly linked to the naturalization or legal local integration of the long-staying Congolese refugees from Katanga, remained outstanding and should be revisited in 2010. The organized voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees was put on hold during 2009, but is expected to resume in 2010.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government: Ministry of Reintegration and Social Affairs (MINARS), <i>Comite de Reconhecimento do Direito de Asilo</i> (COREDA) under the Ministry of Justice	
NGOs: Jesuit Refugees Services (JRS), Development Workshop (DW), <i>Rede Nacional de Pessoas vivendo com VIH/SIDA</i> (RNP)	
Others: IOM	
Operational partners	
Government: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior	
Others: FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO	

Budget, income and expenditure in Angola (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,963,997	182,982	4,522,483	4,705,465	4,687,290

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Angola (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	762,765	0	762,765	0
Community services	968,190	0	968,190	17,347
Domestic needs and household support	40,000	0	40,000	10,600
Education	4,000	0	4,000	2,000
Health and nutrition	84,615	0	84,615	15,161
Income generation	48,586	0	48,586	16,803
Legal assistance	455,778	0	455,778	207,691
Operational support (to agencies)	480,494	0	480,494	154,429
Transport and logistics	147,509	0	147,509	0
Instalments to implementing partners	288,090	0	288,090	(424,030)
Subtotal operational activities	3,280,026	0	3,280,026	0
Programme support	1,407,264	0	1,407,264	0
Total expenditure	4,687,290	0	4,687,290	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(21,789)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	1,223,963	0	1,223,963	
Reporting received	(935,872)	0	(935,872)	
Balance	288,090	0	288,090	
Previous year's report				
Instalments with implementing partners:				
Outstanding 1st January				1,146,027
Reporting received				(424,030)
Refunded to UNHCR				(166,147)
Currency adjustment				(20)
Outstanding 31st December				555,830