



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

OVERVIEW

Country: Angola

Planning Year: 2006

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ANGOLA 2006

Part I: OVERVIEW

1. Protection and socio-economic operational environment

Operational context

The ending of the war opens a new chapter in Angola's history, with much improved prospects to tackle the country's problems and move towards the fulfilment of rights and the achievement of the development goals over the next few years ¹

However, as revealed in the Angolan MDG report², the overall situation in the country remains very critical after 27 years of war. Angola is ranked 166th out of 175 countries in the Human Development Reports 2004, with an HDI of 0,381. Sixty eight percent of the population live below the national poverty line. Conflict, population displacements and inadequate policies choices have caused an increase in poverty during the past cycle. Two years after the cessation of hostilities, access to basic services is severely restricted, particularly in rural areas, and maternal and child mortality are among the highest in the world³.

The poverty situation contrasts starkly with the resource potential of the country and its proven mineral wealth. According to recent economic studies⁴, after years of serious macroeconomic instability, the overall situation will continue to improve. Real GDP growth is forecast to continue at recent high levels, reaching more than 11% in 2005, mainly because of large increases in oil production. In 2006 GDP growth is expected to be slightly lower, at 8.8%, as increases in oil production will be somewhat offset by the uncertainty surrounding the elections. Post-war reforms are enhancing openness but relations with the IMF are improving slowly and the expected Donors Conference was postponed on several occasions.

The run-up to Angola's first legislative and presidential elections in well over a decade will be the main focus of attention during the forecast period. The legislative election is likely to take place by the end of 2006, although the presidential election may be delayed into 2007. Much work remains to be done before elections can be held, including the establishment of a national electoral commission, so further delays are possible.

Rational of UNHCR's presence

The 27 years armed conflict, which killed hundreds of thousands of Angolans and displaced millions, similarly caused nearly half a million persons to flee to the bordering/non-bordering countries: - Zambia (46%), DRC (42%), Namibia (5%) and Republic of Congo (3%) while the remaining 4 % went to the non-bordering countries like South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe.

The 2002 Peace Accord between the Angolan government and UNITA has paved the way for millions of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees to return home over the past

¹ Angola, the Post War Challenges, CCA 2002

² MDG / NEPAD Report 2003

³ UNDP Country Programme Document for Angola (2005 – 2008)

⁴ The Economist Intelligence Unit Limited 2005, Angola at a Glance: 2005 – 2006, January 2005

three years. Nearly all of the country's four million IDPs have now return home and more than 308,233 Angolans repatriated from the Asylum Countries from 2002 to 2004. As agreed during a Coordination and Planning Meeting held in December 2004 between UNHCR, the Angolan Government and representatives of the main countries of asylum, 2005 will be the last year of organized return to Angola. According to UNHCR's projections, some 49,000 refugees will return in organized convoys and by air, while an estimated 15,000 should come home by themselves.

Returns					
	2002	2003	2004	Projection 2005	Total
Organized Returns	0	43,000	51,673	49,119	143,792
Spontaneous Assisted Returns	33,000	33,000	13,560	15,000	61,593
Spontaneous non- assisted Returns	52,000	57,000	25,000	0	134,000
Total	54,035	135,003	90,233	64,119	339,385

Regarding the coordination with other country operations, Tripartite Commissions were established with the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Botswana, South Africa, and Namibia. Regular meetings were held with each of these countries to discuss operational issues and define policies guiding the repatriation process.

The long term success of the operation rests on the comprehensive and sustained development of areas of return. As confirmed by the Vulnerability Assessment in Rural Areas, coordinated by WFP⁵, the main areas of return are among the most vulnerable in the country. The main characteristics of structural vulnerability are the high proportion of poor and food insecure families, the remoteness and isolation of the municipalities where returnees are concentrated and the lack of access to basic services and infrastructures. Therefore, in line with UNHCR's Global Objectives, the 2006 operations will focus on the implementation and consolidation of a comprehensive programme of rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration in the main areas of return.

Regarding refugees, Angola also hosted a population of some 14,000 refugees with the majority coming from the neighboring DRC. In addition to this group, nearly 1,000 asylum seekers are found, mainly from the DRC and RoC. Despite legal provisions, the Government of Angola has not yet started the process of granting permanent residency to refugees and temporary residency to asylum seekers. It is foreseen that, based on an Intention Survey due to be undertaken during the first half 2005, a detailed plan of action enabling refugees to attain durable solutions will be implemented in the course of the forthcoming years. Voluntary repatriation will be further facilitated and opportunities for local integration will be promoted in close coordination with the Angolan Government.

2. Operational goals and potential for durable solutions

The objectives of this COP were defined in line with UNHCR's Global Strategies, as well as with the priorities set by the Africa Bureau for the Southern Africa Operation. **The main goal**

⁵ Vulnerability Assessment in Rural Areas, WFP / VAM Unit, June 2004

for 2006 in Angola is to promote Durable Solutions for refugees as well as for returnees. All specific objectives were established taking into consideration the strategies, mechanisms and tools developed in the *Framework for Durable Solutions* and *Convention Plus* Initiatives.

The main objectives for Angola are as follows:

- ✓ The main focus of the 2006 operations will be to promote a comprehensive **Reintegration Programme** in the main areas of return. This programme will be planned and implemented in close coordination with the Angolan Government and with the collaboration of UN Agencies, NGOs as well as other stakeholders, and will benefit returnees as well as IDPs and other populations affected by the war.
- ✓ Taking into account that the organised operation will be concluded in 2005, in 2006 UNHCR will facilitate the **Voluntary Repatriation of Angolan Refugees** from non-bordering countries and provide basic assistance to spontaneous returnees. If an agreement is reached to facilitate the return of spontaneously settled refugees in Zambia, the DRC and Namibia, a specific project will be prepared and submitted to the ORB for additional funds.
- ✓ Promote Durable Solutions for **Refugees in Angola**, facilitating Voluntary Repatriation and ensuring that local integration opportunities are provided for those who want to remain in Angola.

The following **cross-cutting strategies** will be integrated in all projects to ensure the sustainability of UNHCR's operations and ensure the effective application of Policy Priorities related to the protection of women, children and elderly people:

- ✓ Enhancing the capacity of the Government to assume the **leadership** and management in protecting refugees and promoting the sustainable reintegration of returnees.
- ✓ Fostering **partnership** and complementarities between UNHCR operators, particularly NGOs and UN System Agencies.
- ✓ Ensuring effective protection mechanisms against **sexual and gender based violence** and promote the social, economic and political **empowerment** of women returnees and refugees.