

COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Part I: Executive Committee Summary

Context and Beneficiary Population

Political context

The protracted civil war that has been going on for three decades in Angola and which has resulted in massive displacement of the population seems to be drawing the attention of the international community and the civil society in Angola. The death of Savimbi, who was the leader of UNITA for over 25 years, in February 2002 has raised hope in bringing peace to the country. Since the death of Savimbi, situations on the ground are changing fast. The population is anxious to see that peace is restored in the country. Others are cautious since they have lost confidence through the years and have developed the wait-and-see approach. The International community and in particular the humanitarian agencies in Angola have developed various scenarios as part of the preparedness in this fast unfolding situation. The “least likely scenario”, which anticipated the cessation of hostilities has turned out to be the “most likely scenario” at the moment. It is hoped that cessation of hostilities will be followed up with cease fire leading to the process for the restoration of peace. The Government of Angola issued a 15 point policy statement on 13 March 2002 declaring cessation of hostilities and indicating the process for the restoration of peace, demobilisation/demilitarisation of UNITA, socio-economic rehabilitation, reconstruction of infrastructures, resettlement of people and assisting the vulnerable population. The declaration is also thankful for the humanitarian assistance provided so far and invites the international community to do more and focus in rehabilitation, reconstruction and development activities so that the affected population can be settled and live in peace and tranquillity. The tone of the declaration is both of reconciliation and peace. Amnesty will be declared to UNITA combatants and reintegrating them to the armed forces and the civil society is clearly stipulated. The implementation plan for the 15 point declaration is not clearly stipulated by the Government and it is expected to be clear in the coming few weeks.

Negotiations between FAA and UNITA has already commenced in Moxico province, the last strong hold of UNITA. According to Government sources these negotiations are part of phase one of the implementation plan of the 15 point declaration. These negotiations are to ensure the cessation of hostilities is followed up with cease fire. At this stage the Government wants to handle the negotiation on its own and only with UNITA as its interlocutor. However, phase two will involve the church, civil society and the international community. Phase two will focus on the implementation of the peace process, demobilisation/demilitarisation of UNITA combatants and their reintegration to the civil society, rehabilitation and reconstruction of infrastructures, settlement of displaced population and provision of assistance to the vulnerable groups. The UN country team is reviewing the developments and the means of verifying the actual implementation of the 15 points declaration with respect to the demobilisation/demilitarisation of UNITA combatants and other related issues, that could be of concern for the humanitarian community in Angola.

In the meantime there are more questions than answers to the current situation. The modalities and mechanism for implementing the 13 March declaration are still not clear. How strong is UNITA to negotiate? What will be the fate of UNITA? These are some of the questions whose answer will come out through time. Some sources are also raising the question that who in UNITA is negotiating? And how is UNITA leadership co-ordinated? UNITA seems to have been divided into several groups. The external wing of UNITA from its base in Europe is stating that it is more legible to represent the organisation in any negotiations based on the Lusaka Protocol. The military wing that is negotiating with the Government seems to have no credibility by other UNITA factions and the UNITA Renovada whose members are in the parliament are quoted as saying that they represent UNITA. One group is stating that it has established ‘management commission’ and the other is saying that it has established ‘transitional committee’, until they elect a leader that replaces Savimbi. As stated earlier there will be more questions to be raised at this stage.

Latest developments seem to point to the fact that different UNITA factions are getting on board with the negotiations ongoing in Luena and that the many divisions that were foreseen at the earlier stages might be overcome. What is more clear is that the population believes that the war is over.

Private trucks are travelling to the provinces with no military escort. The security situation has improved and incidents of attack have been minimum. In view of the consultations going on between FAA and UNITA, the cessation of hostilities is expected to hold. The current negotiation between FAA and UNITA will be critical at this moment and it will indicate as to how the peace process will proceed. The results of the Luena dialogue will be the determinant factor in the future of the country.

The news on the fast changing developments is being followed up by the population within the country and across the border. There are reports indicating that many Angolan refugees from neighbouring countries are spontaneously coming back to their country of origin. The return of the refugees had started earlier before the death of Savimbi, probably knowing that UNITA was weak to control the borders and since then it is picking up. The number of spontaneous returnees is reported to be in hundreds. In Cazombo municipality, Moxico province, many spontaneous returnees have been reported. They included some 200 families from Zambia. Humanitarian agencies working in Zaire province have reported that some 992 Angolan refugees have returned to M'Banza Congo from DRC.

The displaced population in Angola is said to exceed 4 million. In 2001 alone over 507,000 persons have been displaced. At the end of 2001 and beginning of 2002, when the war was intensified, an escalation in forced displacement of populations have occurred. Humanitarian agencies have been working with underestimated resources which could not cover the needs. Protection assistance to the displaced populations has been of concern all along. With the breathing space created by the prevailing peace, the movements of displaced persons and/or forced returns to places of origin represent a delicate task which will require a co-ordinated approach of the humanitarian community and the Government. UNHCR's role in assisting and/or facilitating spontaneous repatriation will be clearly defined during the coming months. By 2003, a repatriation operation can be launched. However this will depend on the developments of the current situation and the cease fire agreed between FAA and UNITA.

The social dynamic that resulted from displacement has led to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions. Populations fleeing instability in the countryside seek safe haven in provincial capitals, where basic infrastructures are weak or non-existent or crossed the border to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. With an unemployment rate exceeding 70% in the provinces and 60% in the capital city, the war-affected populations, including displaced persons, refugees and residents of hosting and neighbouring communities compete for dwindling resources and limited opportunities to pursue production and employment in an attempt towards self-sustainability.

The high inflation and fluctuations in the economy has eroded the over-stretched coping mechanisms, creating further hardship and destitution, especially among women and children. The destruction of infrastructures is huge. With the window of peace that is being witnessed at the moment and if peace is to hold, a massive reconstruction and rehabilitation programme has to be launched. In the immediate future with peace in place the humanitarian assistance needs will be so great that it will require additional manpower and financial resources. The commitment of the Government and its contribution to the needs is of paramount importance. The repatriation of over 400,000 Angolan refugees in the neighbouring countries has to be planned and co-ordinated with the rehabilitation/reconstruction programme that will be designed to address all the rehabilitation and reconstruction work of the nation. The end result should be a profound structural emergency that can only be overcome with the prevalence of total peace allowing implementation of massive poverty-alleviation, post-conflict rehabilitation, and reconstruction across the board. In the interim, the strategy for humanitarian assistance has to be reviewed in line with the new developments and with the anticipation that some of the inaccessible areas will be reachable and to ensure that the population outside the government control do not flock into government controlled areas looking for assistance. A well-targeted humanitarian assistance should continue to help save lives and stabilise populations, while laying the groundwork for future socio-economic recovery. The arrival of spontaneous returnees will be assessed to determine the trend, numbers and locations where they are settling. It is envisaged that immediate needs will be covered under current projects.

Given the aforementioned context, needless to say that internally displaced persons, returnees, refugees and particularly women, face increasing hardship. Despite this, women have shown remarkable strength, continuing to act as cohesive focal points in communities. By striving to keep families and communities intact, women in Angola play an essential role as peacemakers. Their efforts to persevere and overcome the conflict have been remarkable. Initiatives to build women's capacity in conflict resolution and reconciliation have been launched and more impetus is expected to ensure that they play their decisive role. In the course of the year, several recognised women organisations got together to initiate a Forum on Peace and Reconciliation.

The National Protection Consultations with refugee, returnee and IDP women in Angola provided qualitative information for the revision of this and the forthcoming year's UN protection strategy.

Considering the specific expertise in the protection and assistance of displaced persons, UNHCR's involvement in addressing the plight for the internally displaced population in Angola over the last 18 months has been commendable by the population, the Government and the humanitarian agencies. Within a collaborative approach with other agencies and NGOs, UNHCR has predominantly concentrated in developing and strengthening a strategic framework for the protection of the uprooted persons (IDPs, returnees or refugees) in the country.

Security situation

The death of Mr. Savimbi and the declaration of cessation of hostilities have contributed to the decrease in security incidents in the country. The cessation of hostilities announced by the Government of Angola followed by the meeting held between FAA and UNITA military officers in Moxico province in the eastern part of the country, is raising more hope for peace in Angola. Under these circumstances, there are reports that private transport to the provinces has started without military escort. How will this impact in the transportation of relief goods and foster economic activities is yet to be seen. Reports from the provinces shows that there were some incidents in Huambo, and Lunda provinces while the negotiations between FAA and UNITA is going on. This may be due to the fact that some UNITA factions are not informed of the cessation of hostilities and the on going negotiations.

One of the most important factors affecting the overall humanitarian operations is the change in military tactics that shifted in early 2001 to guerrilla warfare. With the current developments in the country, it is hoped that security problem will be reduced significantly, except with some banditry activities. The other factor that could and will be the cause of security problem is mines. The number of mines planted in the country is estimated to be in millions. Until such time that massive demining operation is carried out, mines will be a security problem for the rural population and road transport.

A full scale organised repatriation of the Angola refugees may not be feasible during 2002 since the peace negotiations and related political arrangements will take time. However, the arrival of spontaneous returnees will continue unabated and in larger numbers. As stated above spontaneous returnees are arriving in hundreds to the eastern and northern part of the country. These returnees are joining the impoverished displaced population in the provinces. The presence of mines will continue to be a problem in their reintegration and engaging themselves in farming. Basic material assistance packages will be required to motivate them to restart their livelihood

Protection Issues

Linked to a wider protection strategy through a rights based approach, the delivery of assistance in Zaire, Uige and Luanda provinces through the IDP assistance programme that was launched in mid 2000 has allowed UNHCR to reinforce the respect of the right of residency and gain legitimacy. During the 2000 and 2001 period, UNHCR concentrated in the development of a "protection strategy", with three main components:

- a. Protection of fundamental rights of the IDP population in UNHCR areas of operation through the promotion of legal norms and regulations that would provide the framework for the protection of IDPs;
- b. Institutional development and capacity building of state, civil society, and IDP community and promotion and training of committees for the protection of human rights;
- c. Dissemination activities aimed at creating awareness among the affected populations of their rights and the mechanisms to defend them.

The strategy, which was implemented as of June of 2000 in the areas where UNHCR is present, has had a very positive impact and a great deal of acceptance, not only amongst UN agencies and NGOs, but also at the government level. This protection strategy will be applicable with respect to the returnees. In fact, one of the reasons that UNHCR selected the three provinces is due to the fact that they are potential returnee area.

UNHCR will continue to expand its protection network in order to accommodate the returnees protection needs. Some of the achievements of UNHCR and which will be sound foundation for the eventual repatriation of Angolan refugees from the neighbouring countries are:

- UNHCR has played an active role in the drafting of the "Norms for *the Resettlement of Displaced Populations*", incorporating the "Guiding Principles for the Protection of IDPs".
- The creation, of "Provincial Protection Committees", in which local military, police and civil authorities are represented, together with representatives from the civil society and UN agencies. These committees have provided a forum in which violations of rights are openly discussed and addressed.
- The implementation of dissemination activities, such as radio programs, in which affected populations are made aware of their rights and informed where and how to report any violation. The members of the provincial committees, including the military and the police, implement these activities, thus assuming a public stance and commitment. Programmes have placed particular attention to the specific protection needs of women and children in IDP and refugee camps.

The UN agencies in Angola, under the overall co-ordination of the Humanitarian Co-ordinator, have agreed to adopt UNHCR's protection strategy as the national model to be followed and are increasingly implementing it in other provinces. So far some 14 out of 18 provinces have designed protection working plans within the framework of the joint OCHA/UNHCH capacity building programme for governmental and humanitarian actors. The Protection working group is revising the protection strategy taking into consideration the current developments in the country.

UNHCR will continue to provide inputs for the implementation of the strategy at the national level along with other agencies, during the process for the restoration of peace in the country. Consequently, despite the fact that it was agreed to continue its protection activities in 2002, UNHCR will have to expand its protection activities in 2003 as its expertise will be required as a valuable contribution for ensuring the safety and rights of the refugees, IDPs and returnees.

Angola has a refugee and asylum seeker population of 13,152, the majority of which are from DRC and with a rural background. Most of them have been in the country for more than 20 years after fleeing the war in their countries of origin. They had reached some degree of local integration but as mentioned above they were subsequently displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict. This has rendered them more vulnerable than the IDP population who, relatively, have a social and family network to rely on. The refugees in Viana started arriving in Luanda in 1997 when UNHCR started assisting them on the basis of the needs assessment which took place. The government of Angola and UNHCR are in agreement on the basic principles of settling these refugees in an area where they can re-establish self sufficiency in food production which characterized their livelihood before their displacement. Settling the refugees in a site with farm land will start in 2002 and will continue in 2003 and beyond.

The protection assistance of the refugees in Angola has considerably improved during the last two years. The assistance programme has also been brought up to acceptable level. The registration and/or verification of the refugee population has been successful. Through the intervention and capacity building of the pertinent Government offices, the status determination has shown improvement in processing application. In consultation with Headquarters, exploring possibilities for resettlement in a third country is underway. These and other activities will be pursued further in 2003.

However, one of the main issues that has been pending, is the settlement of the refugees in a safe site with land for farming. In view of the security problems and due to the fact that there are over 4 million IDPs in the country, the Government could not identify an appropriate site. However, it continues to pay attention to the issue. It was anticipated that during 2002, land will be allocated to the settlement of the refugees. The settlement will be carried out in phases. It was also envisaged that the 476 displaced refugees (136 families) from Bengo province and who are currently accommodated in Kifangondo school sport field will be settled in 2002. There are 2496 registered refugees in Luena, Moxico province, out of which 1,459 (274 families) are settled in Kaupetwe site. The settlement site has been hastily done by the Government. In 2002 and 2003, the settlement site will be reorganised and improved to include water supply, health services, and educational facilities. Similar actions will be taken regarding the refugees in other provinces.

The Viana settlement which accommodates 6,559 refugees (1,182 families) will also undergo some rehabilitation in 2003 and 2004. In the meantime, the introduction of micro credit scheme has shown positive results. Over 100 refugee women are engaged in various types of income generating activities. The repayment of loans has been successful with the exception of some few defaulters. Some refugee women have gained profits and have used the money to improve their living conditions.

In 2001, 118 women have benefited from income generating activities and their number is increased in 2002 to 250 beneficiaries. In 2003 additional 100 women will be participating in the income generating activities.

Urbanisation in Luanda has increased at alarming rate. Almost one third of the estimated 12 million population in the country is living in Luanda and the city is congested. The influx of IDPs into urban centres like Luanda has completely overwhelmed and overburdened the city infrastructure as well as public and social services. The collapse of the socio-economic structure and the economic constraints have resulted in the exclusion of the refugees despite their good education level. As a result, they found themselves unable to make any type of income. To minimise the frustration that is developed due to lack of employment for refugees, a "Refugee Community Centre has been established in Luanda. This centre which is run by GOAL has established several programmes to assist the integration of refugees. Language classes (Portuguese, French and English), recreational activities, medical assistance, and various training programmes on HIV/AIDS, etc.

Despite the fact that a considerable number of refugees have expressed their desire to return, the situation in their country of origin is still not secure. Attempts made to assist Congolese refugees who opted to repatriate since 2000 have not materialised given the difficult security situation prevailing in DRC. During the registration/verification exercise carried out at the end of 2001, some 219 refugees have expressed their wish to repatriate to DRC. The list has been sent to DRC and a reply is expected. The repatriation demands of Congolese refugees in line with their voluntary wish will be processed during 2003.

UNHCR's Role

- 1) UNHCR will continue to provide protection assistance to the 13,152 refugees in the country. The protection intervention includes individual status determination, settlement in a site with farm land, issuance of ID cards and related interventions geared toward self sufficiency pending a durable solution.
- 2) UNHCR needs to provide protection to thousands of spontaneous returnees in Zaire and Uige and in Moxico provinces. These persons fall under UNHCR's mandate. Protection assistance will continue to be provided in 2003 in the above provinces where UNHCR will reinforce its activities in view of a massive repatriation following peace restoration in the country.
- 3) In order to support UNHCR's protection and monitoring role, it is essential that budget for reintegration assistance to returnees including the maintenance of field offices in Uige, M'Banza Congo and Luena be allocated. These activities have therefore been included in the local settlement project.

Beneficiary Population and Themes

Beneficiary Population # 1: Refugees

As at 31 December 2001, the refugee population in Angola amounts to 13,152 of which 902 asylum seekers. 95.5% of this population (12,569) originate from DRC. The remaining 4.5% (583) come from various countries such as Algeria (1), Burundi (21), Chad (39), Cameroon (1), Congo Brazzaville (278), Ivory Coast (3), Cuba (2), Guinea Bissau (3), Guinea (2), Iraq (1), Liberia (6), Mauritania (2), Rwanda (180), Sierra Leone (19), Somalia (4), Sudan (6), Tanzania (5), Uganda (2) and Zambia (8).

Women represent 55.7 of this population, and 69.3% are children. The majority of the Congolese refugees are living side by side with the IDP population in camps and in the provinces while 567 reside in Luanda as urban refugees; 6,559 are accommodated in Viana. The Congolese refugees who were living in Boa Esperança, in Bengo province have been displaced after the Caxito attack in May 2001 and they are relocated to a temporary site in Kifangondo, Luanda Province. The rest of the refugees are scattered in five provinces namely, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul, and Malange.

Theme 1: Asylum seekers

There are currently 902 asylum seekers in Angola mainly coming from DRC, the majority of whom have been waiting to have their RSD decided by COREDA. While measures are being taken to upgrade the capacity of COREDA and SME (Immigration services Department), UNHCR is compelled to provide assistance to some of this group. Considering the pending backlog, significant efforts have been made by the SME, COREDA and UNHCR to increase the number of interviews (radio and newspapers announcements, posters at UNHCR, with implementing partners, post office, etc) with disappointing results as fewer than 50 cases actually turned up to complete the interviews.

BO also announce that no food assistance was to be given to asylum seekers without valid SME documentation, in a reporting period of 5 months. Only 6 cases presented themselves to HCR to regularise their situation leading to believe that the majority of these asylum seekers are no longer in the city, and they are also not present during the food distribution periods.

A last attempt is being made to regularise the situation of asylum seekers and enable SME to conclude interviews and forward cases to COREDA for RSD. In 2003 some 350 asylum seekers will be assisted until their asylum applications are processed.

Beneficiary Population # 2: Internally displaced

The internally displaced population in Angola is estimated to be over 4 million. In 2001 alone 507,000 persons have been displaced. The displacement of population during the first quarter of 2002 is reported to be over 25,000. UNHCR has been assisting 202,000 internally displaced in Luanda (Viana), Zaire and Uige provinces. 62% of this group are women, 59% are girls under 18 years of age. The UNHCR assistance programme for IDP is phasing out in 2002.

It is widely believed that UNHCR assistance programme for IDP has made a positive impact in the lives of the IDP in the three provinces. The activities undertaken included the establishment of water supply, refugee sites, health services, primary education, and community services. A particular emphasis was put on women's empowerment and income generation schemes.

Protection has been the main sector of intervention. UNHCR has taken the lead role in establishing protection network focusing on awareness raising of the community on human rights. Hence, human rights committees have been established in the provinces. UNHCR has played a major role in setting up a strategy for the protection of IDP in Angola during the recent years. Although it seems early to determine the trend of the current political development in the country, one of the main tasks will be the resettlement of the IDP as well as their settlement. This issue is being discussed by the protection working group.

Although the IDP assistance programme will be phased out, the protection expertise of UNHCR will continue in 2003. The focus will be on capacity building of Government and civil society through workshops and related activities. UNHCR is collaborating with UN agencies and Government counterparts in the registration of IDP and returnees.

Theme 2: Spontaneous and Organised Returnees

Throughout 2001, there have been spontaneous returns to M'Banza Congo, Maquela Do Zombo and Moxico provinces. Angolan refugees from DRC are spontaneously returning to the northern provinces of Uige and Zaire. This trend has been going on since UNHCR assisted repatriation programme was suspended in 1998. In October 2001 some 7,000 spontaneous returnees have been registered in Maquela Do Zombo. These are part of the population who were displaced due to war in the area in early to mid 2001. Such spontaneous returns to the northern provinces of Zaire and Uige took place mainly because of UNHCR IDP assistance programme provided in mid 2000. Similar spontaneous returns have also been reported in Moxico province.

These returnees have been assisted under the IDP assistance programme in the sectors of health, water and other community based project. UNHCR should maintain its presence in the northern provinces to monitor spontaneous returns of Angolan refugees and provide required assistance. The arrival of spontaneous returnees to Moxico has been on the increase, even before the death of Savimbi. This could be attributed to the fact that UNITA was getting weaker as the war in the eastern part of the country was intensified and the control at the crossing points was less strict. Other possible factor could be the interruption of food assistance in Zambia and DRC as reported by returnees. Since the death of Savimbi more returnees are coming. According to the Government, some 50,000 may arrive anytime knowing that the war has stopped.

WFP has registered and provided food assistance to some 4,000 spontaneous returnees in Luena, Moxico province in 2001. In Cazombo municipality in Moxico, there are unconfirmed reports that an average of 100 persons arrived daily. In 2003 more than 20,000 spontaneous returnees are expected and assistance will be provided to them under the local settlement project.

The repatriation of Angolans from the neighbouring countries will depend on the peace process and peace agreement. This should, of course, include the UN and international community. Taking into consideration the current situation which is changing fast, assessing and verifying the arrival of spontaneous returnees will be carried out during the coming months. Depending of the situation, emergency assistance can be provided. This intervention is expected to lead eventually to organised repatriation which should be handled in a separate project to be designed.

Policy issues

Refugees Caseload

The issue of settling the refugees has been under continuous discussion with the Government. On several occasions, the Government has stated that it is its wish to see that these refugees are locally integrated and reach self sufficiency through local settlement. UNHCR wants to see that refugees are settled in a safe area with land for farming. The possibility of settling the refugees in Bengo province which is some 50 kms from Luanda was under consideration and the site identified by the Government was jointly assessed by UNHCR and MINARS.

As preparation for the settlement was underway, UNITA attacked the area and the planned settlement was suspended. In fact the refugees in Boa Esperança were displaced. The other site under consideration was within Viana municipality but some 15 kilometres from the current site. As consultations were going on the Central Government and the Provincial Government of Luanda decided to settle some 10,000 Angolan families who are living in poor conditions in Luanda city. UNHCR. The Government has expanded the Luanda city plan to include the whole area of Viana municipality. According to the Government plan, UNHCR has to build urban houses in line with the established criteria. Constructing the houses is one thing and enabling the refugees to be self sufficient in an urban setting is another one which is not easy. UNHCR plans to settle the refugees in the outskirts of the city where land for farming is available.

UNHCR is consulting with the Government regarding the identification of another site. The issue may be resolved in the coming months and some 400 families will be settled in 2002 and 500 families will be settled in 2003.

The assistance programme will continue in 2003 in addition to the anticipated settlement of the refugees. This will include the various sectors mentioned as well as micro credit schemes with the intention of empowering women to have better capacity to run and support their families.

Spontaneous Returnees

As stated above, there are reports of the arrival of spontaneous returnees during the first quarter of 2002. Since the death of Savimbi and the declaration of cessation of hostilities by the Government, the arrival of spontaneous returnees is on the rise. BO is assessing the situation and it is anticipated that a clear picture will come out soon. Based on the findings, basic assistance as emergency intervention can be provided and the need for UNHCR to establish its presence in Moxico will be determined. This will be a basis for the eventual organised repatriation which of course will also depend on the peace process and peace agreement to be reached.

Linkages to other countries within a defined "situation"

The death of Savimbi, who was leader of UNITA for over 25 years, in February 22, 2002 has changed the course of the protracted civil war in Angola. With the declaration of the cessation of hostilities by the Government and negotiations between FAA and UNITA in view of a cease fire agreement, the population feels that the war is over.

BO is monitoring the situation with other UN agencies, Government institutions and NGOs. Similar contacts are being made with UNHCR offices in DRC, Zambia and Namibia. Such a collaboration will be a basis for an effective response and minimise the emergency impact of a possible massive return. Relevant information

on the conditions in areas of origin of refugees in Angola and surveys in country of asylum for Angolan refugees will be undertaken within a regional approach.

Presence and roles of other UN agencies:

UNHCR has been working in close co-operation with the UN agencies and other international organisations in Angola. Since the launching of the IDP assistance programme in mid 2000 in the three defined provinces, UNHCR has been working within the framework of the UN collaborative approach. Consultations were undertaken with relevant UN agencies, ICRC and NGOs to identify areas of complementarity and co-operation in order to ensure that there is no overlapping or duplications of activities. The UN country team and other technical teams established will work closely to assess the current political developments in order to design a common strategy. UNHCR will continue to play its active role to ensure that the eventual repatriation and reintegration of the Angola refugees in the neighbouring countries is part of the over all reintegration programme of the displaced population in Angola.

There are currently 95 international NGOs and more than 280 national NGOs and Church organisations in the country. They have established co-ordination bodies to ensure a complementary approach of their interventions, namely CONGA for the national NGOs and FONGA for the international NGOs.

Selected Programme Goals and Objectives:

Name of Beneficiary Population: Refugees in Angola	
Main Goal(s): To achieve durable solutions for the refugee population in Angola through local settlement, voluntary repatriation, and resettlement to third countries while ensuring a gender sensitive needs assessment to implement adequate solutions.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To facilitate the local settlement of those refugees expressing their desire to stay in the country	- Land allocation of the Government is expected to materialise within the first quarter of 2002. Settling some 1,200 families will be carried out at least up to 2004. Some 400 refugee families will be settled in the site developed in 2002 and 500 families in 2003. The refugees will actively participate in the site development and construction of their houses. The refugee will establish their leadership structures in order to facilitate the construction of the houses for the vulnerable groups. - Access to project benefits through various activities that enhances self sufficiency. The micro credit scheme that has shown encouraging results will be pursued further to benefit more than 300 women. The empowerment of women through community mobilisations and assuming leadership will be important to ensure self sufficiency. - The overall refugee population has been registered in 2002 and received legally recognised IDs. In 2003 re-registration/verification exercise will be conducted to update the data and to ensure protection needs of the population. - Locally integrated refugees will have attained self sufficiency through a) access to remunerated and income generation activities, and b) the support for the consolidation and strengthening of their organisations and community groups. - Acceptance of refugees' integration will be promoted through quick impact projects with a geographical approach in settlement areas to equally benefit neighbouring communities. - Technical skills of refugees will be enhanced through the provision of vocational training thus increasing their local integration and self-sufficiency process.
To support the voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity conditions of those refugees wishing to return to their countries of origin.	Co-ordination mechanisms with BO Kinshasa has been established to facilitate the repatriation of the Congolese refugees who wish to repatriate to DRC. UNHCR Kinshasa will co-ordinate with DRC authorities for the repatriation of the Congolese refugees. BO Angola has established co-ordination

	mechanism with the Government of Angola. Although the list of the Congolese refugees who wanted to repatriate has been sent to DRC on two occasions, the response from the Government has been delayed. It is anticipated that BO Kinshasa will monitor the situation and ensure that the repatriation exercise materialises. • Support to refugee initiatives to consolidate individual or organised group return will be provided. • Voluntary wish of potential returning families/individuals will be verified.
• To provide an alternative durable solution for those refugees that cannot integrate in Angola or return to their countries of origin	• Census results have identified those cases in need of resettlement, especially those women at risk cases. • With the mission from HQ resettlement applications are being processed. • Approved resettlement cases will receive information and counselling regarding recipient country conditions. • Approved cases will be regularly and timely processed • Family reunification has been facilitated for those cases approved.

Theme # 1: Asylum Seekers in Angola	
Main Goal(s): To ensure equitable access to RSD process and efficient and timely processing of asylum claims	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To increase and strengthen COREDA's and SME's administrative and technical capacity to process RSD cases	• RSD cases are processed by SME and transferred to COREDA for determination in a reasonable period of time. • SME and COREDA will be supported to increase their knowledge of RSD procedures, the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, local legislation regarding refugee and asylum, and gender sensitive protection mechanisms through constant training and technical support from UNHCR.

Name of Beneficiary Population # 2: Internally Displaced Population in Angola	
Main Goal(s): To establish IDP protection mechanisms by the governmental, civil society and humanitarian actors, within the framework of the UN Co-ordinated intervention.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To maintain the protection role played by UNHCR during the last two years and ensure that UNHCR technical expertise in protection is readily available for the co-ordinated protection strategy designed by the UN system in Angola.	• IDP Protection Strategy formulated by the UN Protection Working Group provides a nation-wide platform to maximise the institutional and operational protection of IDP and refugees. response of governmental, humanitarian and civil society actors. UNHCR will play its role in the revision of the protection strategy in view of the current developments in the country. • Continue to monitor the protection situation of the IDPs in the three provinces of Uige, Zaire and Luanda. Provide support to the human rights committees established by UNHCR as part of the capacity building. • Provide technical support to the Government in the implementation of the MINOPS.

Theme # 2: Spontaneous Returnees	
Main Goal(s): To facilitate the sustainable reintegration of the Angolan returnee population ensuring a gender sensitive needs assessment to implement adequate protection and assistance response.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
• To provide protection and reintegration support for Angolan refugees spontaneously repatriating to the northern provinces of Zaire, Uige, Cabinda and Moxico provinces.	• Returnees will be registered upon return to ensure that they receive government identity documents and to compile demographic data to determine their needs. Improvement in the government national registration system will be supported by UNHCR • Regular exchange of information will be carried out with BO Kinshasa and BO Lusaka to monitor the trend of spontaneous repatriation. • Basic reinstallation package will be provided to the returnees to ensure their smooth reintegration. • Local integration and the government's Norms for settlement will be monitored to ensure protection of the returnees. • Return of refugees will be monitored to ensure protection and gather data for an eventual organised repatriation.