

# ZAMBIA

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## INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Maintain emergency preparedness for protecting any new refugees who arrive from neighbouring countries and give them life-sustaining assistance.
- Find long-term solutions for refugees in the form of voluntary repatriation (should the security situation in home countries improve) or local integration and naturalisation (subject to agreement by the Zambian authorities).
- Work towards the local integration of rural and urban refugees, helping them to achieve self-reliance; support the sustainable development of areas hosting refugee settlements.
- Encourage a positive climate for asylum and help create a legal framework conducive to the protection and integration of refugees.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENT AND CONSTRAINTS

Given the situation in neighbouring countries (the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Angola), Zambia has continued to receive refugees in camps, settlements and urban areas. This year, 39 refugees have been resettled. The tripartite agreement for the repatriation of 400 refugees to Luanda is about to be signed, and UNHCR is preparing for the operation. UNHCR has continued to encourage the Government, in particular the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees, to adopt the revised Refugee Act and ensure proper adherence to principles of international protection. For this purpose, three workshops on international refugee law and related issues have been conducted for government officials and NGOs.

### *Angolan Refugees*

The arrival of Angolan refugees started slowing down in May. Most of the refugees are still located in the Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements. As of 30 June, an estimated 53,070 refugees were hosted in Meheba and 19,215 in Mayukwayukwa. These settlements have a mixed population, and most of the refugees have been in the country for 20 years, whereas others arrived in the course of the last three years.

UNHCR distinguishes between the type of assistance provided to new arrivals and to refugees who have been in the area for a long time. Upon arrival, new refugees are given a one-time installation kit including a kitchen set and other non-food items such as plastic sheets and handtools to enable them to settle on the 2,5 hectares of land provided to refugees. The long-term refugees have been receiving mainly FAO assistance, and the majority does not benefit from food assistance. UNHCR has been extending some education and health and nutrition services to this group.

Difficulties have been experienced in distinguishing new arrivals from the long-term refugees, as there is no reliable database for refugees. Recycling continued to be a reality, especially in Meheba. Furthermore, due to water supply problems as well as ethnic differences, many new arrivals have declined the plots originally allocated to them. In order to determine the level of self-sufficiency in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, especially among the long-staying refugees, UNHCR has invited the University of Zambia to undertake a survey, the results of which will be factored into the 2002 programme.

Heavy rains have, at times, made access roads impassable. This has contributed to the delays in the planned drilling of boreholes and the distribution of food. The above constraints have been compounding already

existing health problems, resulting in a number of deaths through diseases and malnutrition. Malnutrition in both camps has since been addressed through supplementary feeding by UNHCR. In Mayukwayukwa, UNHCR has opened a satellite clinic, bringing the total number of clinics to three and has been providing drugs and ambulance services to those clinics run by the Government. A clinic for new arrivals has been opened in Meheba.

UNHCR has funded two water missions, one by Oxfam, the other by a UNHCR water expert, in both Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. The reports have been produced and plans are under way to drill more boreholes in the most deprived areas. UNHCR has also provided funds to an implementing partner to start constructing access roads and to grade the main roads inside Meheba. In Mayukwayukwa, UNHCR has asked the Zambia National Service to carry out feasibility studies on maintenance of roads.

In the more recently established Nangweshi refugee camp, the population stood at an estimated 14,000 refugees as of 30 June. Since January, the camp has experienced a population increase of some 812 persons. Because of the geographical location of the camp, achieving self-sufficiency in food production is very difficult. However, refugees have embarked on backyard gardening to supplement their food basket. Some 37 women have been engaged in poultry production, while 120 women have been pursuing other income-generating activities, such as sewing, knitting and making baskets. Similar activities targeting

women have been taking place in all camps through co-operative organisations. Relief items such as plastic sheets, blankets, jerricans and kitchen sets have been distributed. Due to floods that cut access by road to Nangweshi camp from January to April each year, the delivery of assistance has been slowed down and is facing serious logistical problems. A boat is being purchased to facilitate access. Six community schools have been providing primary education to 3,090 school children, and 254 children are attending pre-school, among them 100 girls.

Following an agreement between the Government of Zambia and UNHCR to relocate Angolan refugees with a military background, the Ukwimi camp was reopened. By January, there were some 900 refugees in the camp. It is envisaged that more refugees with a similar profile will be relocated either from border entry points or existing camps. Having relocated the refugees from Meheba and Nangweshi, the IOM also initially supported the programme until the necessary UNHCR funds were made available. Despite the short timeframe for the reopening, and thanks to the co-operation of the population in the camp, the operation has been making good progress. An encouraging level of integration has been achieved in the past months, and 2,5 hectares of farming land have been allocated to each family. Refugees have already started cultivating their land and working in their vegetable gardens. UNHCR has provided the refugees with one hammer mill, and a second one will be delivered in August.

**Progress as measured against selected indicators**

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Capacity of water system expanded to take into consideration the increased number of refugees.	20 additional boreholes were drilled in both Meheba and Mayukwayukwa.
Access to strengthened health services provided to all refugees.	New health posts were opened in both Meheba and Mayukwayukwa closer to refugees' residence.
Infrastructure support provided to the local Government.	Police posts were built in Mayukwayukwa.
Access roads, transit centres maintained in good order.	Meheba are roads under construction/maintenance; Transit centres in Mayukwayukwa and Meheba were rehabilitated.

Registration system in-place and re-registration exercise conducted.	Registration clerks were employed to update database and produce statistics.
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### ***Congolese Refugees***

As of June, a total of 40,068 Congolese refugees were hosted in Zambia, most of them in Mwange (23,009) and Kala (16,959) camps. Since the beginning of the year, the number of refugees has increased in both camps. While 756 new arrivals were settled in Mwange, the population in Kala has grown by with some 4,947. The plan to convert Mwange camp into an agricultural settlement has so far not been realised due to delays in the release and demarcation of some 10,800 hectares of land already allocated by the Government.

Refugees in both camps have been benefiting from the WFP food basket of maize, beans, salt and vegetable oil, constituting 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. In Mwange, 18 groups of refugees have received seeds. In addition, 20 horticultural extension workers have been trained as a way of disseminating knowledge to other refugees. Disruptions in the food pipeline have recently led to riots in Kala, resulting in the killing of a Congolese refugee and the detention of 16 others. An improvement of the food situation will be a matter of priority during the rest of the year and beyond. So far this year, an estimated 16 tons of vegetables, 9 tons of beans and 220 tons of sweet potatoes have been produced in Mwange. In Kala, some 1,457 hectares of land have been shared among the refugees

since February. A committee comprising equal numbers of men and women has been formed to spearhead the activities. By the end of June, 1,029 households had registered in the gardening programme. UNHCR has also started working on wells in the vicinity of Mwange and Kala camps.

In Mwange, following a joint UNHCR/UNESCO assessment an environmental education project for schools has been established. Mwange schools have experienced a drop in attendance from 6,696 registered pupils to 5,207 for primary schools and from 381 to 340 for secondary schools, as many parents have withdrawn their children to support family activities during the rainy season, and some of the girls are assumed to have entered into early marriage. However, there has been an increase from 359 to 1,285 in the registration for pre-school education. In Kala, community schools were set up in January with 700 children in nursery, 2,900 in primary and 120 in secondary school. In addition, 350 students have been following courses in English as a foreign language. By 30 June, the number of pupils in primary school had risen to 4,609. In both Mwange and Kala, schools have been teaching the Congolese curriculum, and UNHCR aims at achieving certification of the examinations by the Congolese Ministry of Education.

### **Progress as measured against selected indicators**

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Refugees seeking asylum safely transported by truck or buses to the camps.	6,182 refugees were relocated to the camps.
Constant supply of the minimum quantity of drinking water ensured.	20 litres of water per person per day were supplied on average.
Access roads and transit centres maintained in good order.	About 64 kilometres of roads in Mwange and 21 kilometres in Kala were maintained; transit centre in Kala was upgraded.
All school age children access to primary schools.	80 percent of school going children are registered.
Refugee food self-sufficiency promoted	10,800 hectares of arable land were obtained in Mwange.

### **Urban Refugees**

As of 30 June, the number of urban refugees was estimated at 14,721. Of these, an estimated 6,000 refugees have been assisted by UNHCR. In order to reduce arbitrary arrests and detentions of urban refugees, the Zambian Office of the Commissioner for Refugees has established criteria for residence in urban areas. UNHCR has resumed the registration of urban refugees, with 3,460 people registered so far. As a consequence, there has been a decrease in the number of detentions. Two national officers and five EDP clerks have been recruited to conduct the registration exercise.

In Lusaka, UNHCR has also been providing individual counselling and supporting the education of 268 children (141 girls and 127 boys). Another 95 students (46 girls and 49 boys) have been attending secondary schools, and 143 in vocational training. 61 refugees (14 women and 47 men) are engaged in studies to become teachers, nurses, clinic officers and the like. Under a scholarship programme, support has been given to a total of 25 students studying at the University of Zambia and the Chainama College of Health Sciences. In addition, 257 students have been attending lessons in English as a foreign language. Other skills training courses on offer include carpentry, tailoring, metal fabrication and traditional crafts. The scholarship programme has favoured students who opted to specialise in the fields of education, engineering, medicine and other professions, of which there is a shortage. Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has relocated 864 refugees to the Meheba settlement, in line with the Government policy for refugees to live in designated areas.

### **FINANCIAL DATA (USD)**

	<b>Initial Budget</b>	<b>Revised Budget</b>	<b>Total Funds Available<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total Funds Obligated</b>
<b>APB and TF</b>	12,187,833	13,691,805	8,595,922	6,299,120

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

### **REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR JULY – DECEMBER**

The initial objectives remain unchanged. In addition, there is need to speed up the registration exercise for refugees in settlements and to ensure that they are provided with some form of identification document. As a result of the release of funds that had previously been blocked due to funding constraints, strengthening of infrastructure will be one of the programme priorities. UNHCR will improve the operational capacity of agencies, providing them with communication equipment and vehicles. The Office will further intensify efforts to involve development agencies in projects benefiting refugees and their host community, to the extent possible. Community services activities will also continue to empower refugee women in various sectors.

UNHCR will support local integration for refugees in both urban areas and settlements, through education, the facilitation of acquisition of farmland and the promotion of income generation activities. Along with this objective, support will be provided for the sustainable development of areas hosting refugees. UNHCR will encourage the development of a positive climate for asylum, the adoption of a legal framework for international protection and the integration of refugees in Zambia. The Office will furthermore aim at increasing the collaboration with government departments and local NGOs to strengthen their participation in the refugee programme and at strengthening existing community infrastructure such as schools, roads and bridges.

