

08 February 2018

The relocation process of refugees registered in Cacanda reception centre has ended. 10,749 DRC refugees have been relocated and currently reside in Lóvua settlement.

DRC refugees have expressed concern over planned voluntary repatriation by DRC and Angolan authorities citing security reasons.

Another cleaning campaign took place in Lóvua settlement. Monthly cleaning sessions have been planned.

KEY FIGURES

75%

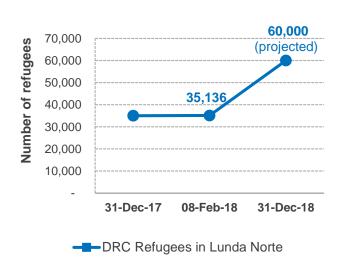
of Congolese refugees from Kasai in Angola are women and children

35,136

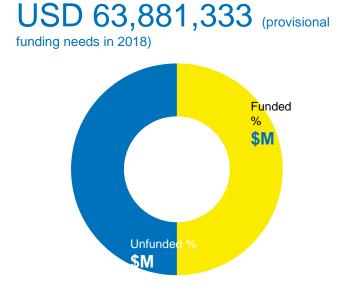
Biometrically registered Congolese refugees in Lunda Norte Province. **25,002 refugees** currently have active status to receive food assistance.

50,000

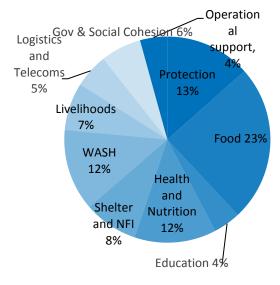
Inter-agency planning figure for Congolese refugees from the Kasai region in northern Angola by the end of the year

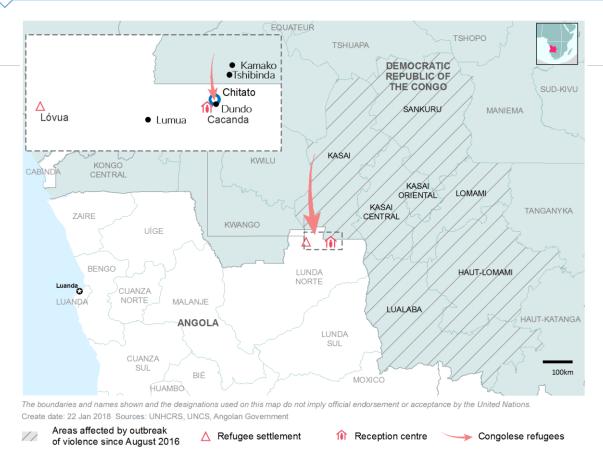


POPULATION TRENDS



FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS





Operational Context

The outbreak of violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in March 2017 triggered the internal displacement of some 1.4 million persons and the flight of over 35,000 refugees into Lunda Norte Province, Angola. The Emergency Relief Coordinator declared an Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) System-Wide L3 Emergency Response for DRC focusing on the Kasai region, Tanganyika and South Kivu provinces on 20 October for a period of six months.

Despite the Government of Angola's (GoA) open door policy to welcome Congolese nationals fleeing as a result of the conflict, new arrivals have significantly decreased since July 2017. The operation continues to register additional arrivals under family reunification.

As the situation remains volatile in the Kasai region with rising numbers of internally displaced people, humanitarian agencies in Angola maintain the 2017 response planning figure of 50,000 refugees by end of December 2018. The interagency humanitarian response for the Congolese refugees covers the areas of protection, emergency shelter, livelihoods, food security and nutrition, non-food items, water, sanitation, hygiene, health including mental health, and education until the end of 2018.

Refugees registered in Mussungue and Cacanda reception centres have been successfully relocated to the new settlement in Lóvua; the relocation of those living with host communities in Dundo, including those who moved to Cacanda, is scheduled to be completed by end of March 2018. Currently, 10,749 Congolese refugees (2,664 families) are residing in the settlement.

Achievements



Achievements and Impact

- Registration: The Angola Government and humanitarian partners carried out a fixing exercise in Cacanda. A total of 4,123 individuals were wrist-banded in the course of the exercise. This figure includes 3,370 registered individuals in Cacanda of which 10 are already residing in Lóvua but temporarily assisting response partners. 273 were found unregistered and potentially eligible for family reunification; 480 also unregistered will undergo further screening processing to determine their asylum request.
- Out of the 35,136 individuals biometrically registered, 25,002 individuals (6,170 families) were present at the food distribution and received monthly food rations.
- 1,183 individuals (295 households) registered in Cacanda reception centre were relocated to Lóvua ending the relocation process of refugees registered in that centre. There are currently 10,749 refugees currently residing in Lóvua settlement.
- Repatriation: Following press coverage of the agreement signed between Angolan and Congolese provincial governors on a possible repatriation campaign, refugee leaders in Lóvua expressed concern over going back to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) citing safety reasons in view of the ongoing violence and military operations in some parts of the country.
- Education: Refugees residing in Lóvua settlement held a meeting to discuss about ways to keep their children engaged until the school year finally starts. So far, and despite its debut on 1 February, refugee children have not been included in the formal schooling system.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

SGBV: Despite the continuous work conducted by the refugee response partners and local law enforcement authorities to develop pathways for the treatment of urban SGBV survivors, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is still lacking on the ground.



Achievements and Impact

Food security: UN partners held a workshop, together with NGOs and the GoA, aimed at defining the course of action and timelines, pursuant to the results of the food security and nutrition baseline survey conducted in November 2017. Discussions focused on envisaged joint actions in food security & livelihoods, protection, food rations, as well as communication and sensitization.



Achievements and Impact

- Primary health care and medical consultations: In Cacanda, the main cause of morbidity was malaria (28 per cent), followed by upper respiratory tract infections (21 per cent) and musculoskeletal pain (11 per cent). In Lóvua, the main morbidity was linked to malaria (25 per cent), followed by musculoskeletal pain (13 per cent), and parasitism (12 per cent).
- Sexual & reproductive health: Antenatal (ANC) and postnatal (PNC) care services continue. In Cacanda, 24 women received ANC consultations; 15 received first consultations and all screened for HIV. Three women attended their first PNC consultation and two received dignity kits. In Lóvua, 21 women received ANC consultations; nine received first consultations and were screened for HIV. A total of 176 women living in both sites are pregnant.
- 287 women and girls received dignity kits during the relocation to Lóvua settlement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Vaccination campaigns: Routine vaccination continues to be irregular due to lack of transport to the sites and occasional lack of vaccines. The GoA and health partners are working together on finding solutions to these gaps.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- Hygiene: Another cleaning campaign took place across Lóvua's settlement. Due to the success of the activity, there are plans to organise monthly cleaning exercises throughout the settlement. Meanwhile 64 garbage pits are fully functional and well-maintained.
- Sanitation: WASH partners implemented a project with and for people with specific needs. The idea is to test sanitation slabs for use by people with specific needs. Six slabs were adapted and installed in six latrines used by physically challenged people in Lóvua. There will be an evaluation in two months.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Water: The drilling of the six boreholes in Lóvua is delayed due to mechanical issues which have impeded the arrival of drilling company trucks to the refugee settlement.



Refugee workers during shelter construction in Lóvua settlement, January, 2018 © UNFPA / Ibrahim Mahamat Alhadi



Achievements and Impact

- Site planning: Currently 32 villages are now complete in Lóvua settlement. There are 21 remaining villages to be occupied as per the current site plan.
- Shelter: Further 216 shelters were built and 72 tents assembled in Lóvua adding up to the 1,872 shelters erected utilizing tents and timber procured by partners.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Road clearance: Road work continues at a very slow pace mainly due to the poor fuel supply in the Province and to Lóvua in particular.

Working in partnership

Humanitarian and development partners, working in the country, are actively supporting the Government of Angola to ensure adequate and effective response to the needs of the Congolese refugees. A weekly inter-agency coordination meeting is held in Luanda. In Dundo, weekly interagency meetings ensure a comprehensive and integrated operational response to the refugee situation. Sectorial working group coordination meetings are also organized weekly in Dundo.

Partners in the response:

- Angolan Red Cross Society
- CARITAS
- CICAJ Centro de Investigação Científica e Assessoria Jurídica
- FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- IOM International Organization for Migration
- JRS Jesuit Refugee Service
- LWF Lutheran World Federation
- MAG Mine Advisory Group
- MdM Médicos del Mundo
- NCA Norwegian Church Aid
- PIN People in Need
- UNAIDS The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
- UNDP United Nations Development Programme
- UNDSS United Nations Department for Safety and Security
- UNFPA United Nations Population Fund
- UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- UNICEF United Nations' Children's Fund
- UNRCO United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
- WFP World Food Programme
- WHO World Health Organization
- WVI World Vision International

The Angola Inter-Agency Refugee Appeal (April – December 2017) is available on the Angola Operational Data Portal. Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, who have contributed to their activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operations in Angola.

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Special thanks to the United States of America for their contribution to WFP's operation in Angola in 2017.

Financial requirements by agency: Inter-Agency Refugee Appeal in process.

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LINKS Angola Operational Data Portal