INTER-AGENCY OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Angola

17 October - 30 October 2018

October food distribution was completed in both the Lóvua settlement and Dundo with 22,688 refugees receiving food assistance.

The relocation plan for some 8,500 refugees living in the urban communities to the Lóvua settlement was finalised. A total number of 24 convoys will relocate refugees within 10-weeks.

UNHCR has received information from the DRC's National Refugee Commission (CNR) about 122 individuals who appear to have been *refouled* to DRC in October due to *Operação Transparência*.

KEY FIGURES

75%

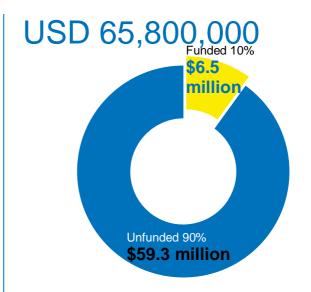
of Congolese refugees from Kasai in Angola are women and children.

36,107

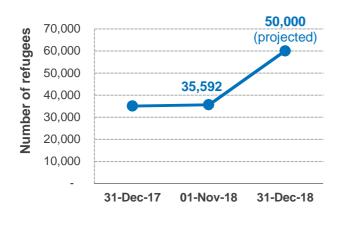
Biometrically registered Congolese refugees in Lunda Norte Province. Total of **22,688 refugees** are currently receiving food assistance.

50,000

Inter-agency planning figure for Congolese refugees by the end of the year.

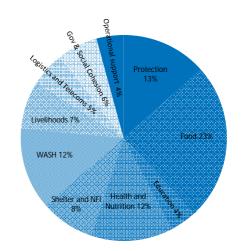


POPULATION TRENDS



→ DRC Refugees in Lunda Norte

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



Update on Achievements

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 of Angola.

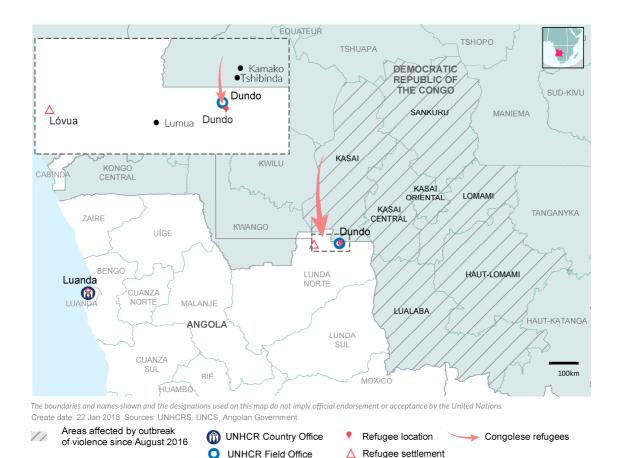
The Government of Angola (GoA) in principle has an open door policy to welcome Congolese nationals fleeing as a result of the conflict. However new arrivals significantly decreased since July 2017.

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 until end of December 2018. UNHCR is not currently promoting voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees from Lunda Norte Province to their country of origin.

The interagency humanitarian response for the Congolese refugees launched an appeal for funding to cover 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. Currently, 14,247 Congolese refugees (3,424 families) are residing in the Lóvua settlement. In October 2018, a large number of Congolese working illegally in the diamond-mining sector returned to DRC under a presidential ultimatum known as *Operação Transparência*. Although refugees were not targeted, partners are concerned that some refugees may get caught up in this operation. Due to fear of being refouled to DRC, more refugees are willing to relocate to the Lóvua settlement.

Media reports about *Operação Transparência* indicate that more than 350,000 foreigners have left the country, and roughly 90 illegal diamond mining cooperatives have been shut down. In DRC, UNHCR has received information from the DRC's National Refugee Commission (CNR) that 122 individuals appear to have been *refouled* in the first half of October. The situation at the DRC's border area with Angola remains complex as a consequence of the Kasai conflict. There is already widespread destruction and inter-ethnic tensions which risk being exacerbated by the presence of large numbers of returnees. Reports of tensions and incidents of violence, including on an ethnic basis, have been received from the Kamako area.

On 26 October, the provincial government in Lunda Norte met with refugee leaders to discuss *Operação Transparência* and to warn refugees not to hide undocumented Congolese in the settlement.



Achievements



Achievements and Impact

A reactivation exercise with the Angolan immigration authorities (SME) took place in the Lóvua settlement and 121 individuals (67 households) were reactivated on the basis of family reunification.

A Refugee settlement

- Total of 234 individuals (68 families) who earlier spontaneously moved from the urban communities to the Lóvua settlement were officially settled there. They received core relief items, and dignity kits were provided to 66 women and girls.
- Two comedians performed in all villages in the Lóvua settlement, reaching around 500 people per week with messages of principles of WASH, nutrition, and gender-inclusive peace.
- Total of 82 mobilizers engaged the community through door-to-door visits in 41 villages of the Lóvua settlement, reaching more than 2,000 families with messages on the consequences of early marriage.
- Total of 316 dignity kits were distributed to 250 adolescent girls and women of reproductive age relocated in village 4, Zone G as well as those in zones E and F. During the distribution, they also received lessons on female hygiene and the consequences of teenage pregnancy.
- Social mobilizers did a mapping exercise of pregnant women in the Lóvua settlement, identifying 449 pregnant women and 76 pregnant girls.

- Five social mobilizers and community workers of the Lóvua Municipality conducted a registration exercise of refugee families who will benefit from mosquito nets during the distribution campaign.
- Mine risk education was conducted in January and February 2018 in Lunda Norte. Almost all minefields have now been mapped, with still 20 to be finished. Mapping should be finalized by December 2018.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

Partners are working jointly to launch a new Adolescent and Sexual Reproductive Health (ASRH) programme in the Lóvua settlement in November 2018 to contribute to end child and forced marriage; reduce incidences of teen pregnancy; promote reproductive rights and family planning; increase gender awareness; promote girl empowerment among adolescents and all the refugee community; increase young people's awareness on Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) including HIV/AIDS; and increase community participation in all issues related to sexual and reproductive health of adolescents.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- Due to *Operação Transparência*, some of the urban refugees moved voluntarily to the Lóvua settlement where they participated in the food distribution.
- Commodities required for November food distributions were procured and delivered on time to relevant Extended Distribution Points (EDPs) both in Dundo and the Lóvua settlement to ensure that refugees receive the full food ration.
- Nutritional screening was performed with 733 children aged six to 59 months in Dundo during the general food distribution. Total of 414 girls were included in this group, with 21 being identified with Moderate Acute Malnutrion (MAM) and two with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). From the 319 boys screened, there were 13 new cases identified with MAM and one with SAM.
- Total of 1,911 Plumpy Sup packets were distributed to 273 children with MAM.



Achievements and Impact

The Lóvua settlement has been included in the national campaign to distribute mosquito nets, this campaign includes post distribution monitoring. The local government will also proceed with a fumigation of the settlement.



Achievements and Impact:

Education programmes developed by partners have provided support to the Lóvua Municipality (host communities) by donating tents and distributing school items as well as providing teacher-training.



SHELTER & SITE PLANNING

Achievements and Impact

A total of 266 solar lights have been installed to date in the Lóvua settlement and 12 additional lights have been set up in the host communities.



Achievements and Impact

The local government has provided a harvest calendar to aid refugees with cultivation practices.

Working in partnership

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

Partners in the response:

- Angolan Red Cross Society
- Caritas
- 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 (January – December 2018) is available on the Angola Operational Data Portal. Agencies are very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, contributing to their activities with un-earmarked and earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed directly to the operations in Angola.

Special thanks to Germany, Japan, the United States of America and CERF for their contributions to UNHCR's operations in Lunda Norte Province in 2018.

Special thanks to Japan for their contribution to UNICEF's operation in Lunda Norte Province in 2018.

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LINKS

Angola Operational Data Portal