

ZAMBIA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Provide international protection and material assistance to some 150,000 refugees, mainly from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic of the Congo (DRC), and Rwanda.
- Seek durable solutions for refugees, including naturalisation and repatriation, whenever feasible, and resettlement, where appropriate.
- Maintain a high level of emergency preparedness to readily assist new refugees.
- Enhance programme implementation, service delivery and monitoring through training in all sectors. Particular emphasis will be made on operational security, administration and management, as well as emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.
- Continue providing systematic support to the Zambian authorities to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps.
- Provide limited assistance to refugee-hosting communities, resources permitting and in consultation with development agencies, in order to promote local integration, while playing a catalytic role to sensitise donors to assist refugee-hosting communities.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

During the first half of the year, refugees mainly from Angola and the DRC continued to seek refuge in Zambia, however, in lower numbers than initially foreseen. Following the signature of a cease-fire between UNITA and the Government of Angola on 4 April 2002, Angolan refugees started to repatriate spontaneously. At 30 June, an estimated 13,000 refugees (4,000 from refugee camps and 9,000 who had spontaneously settled

outside the camps) returned to Angola. The majority of the refugees who chose to return, arrived in Zambia between November 2001 and March 2002, at a time of food shortages in the camps. UNHCR drew up a voluntary repatriation plan, and is presently registering refugees who express their wish to return spontaneously. The organised voluntary repatriation will, however, begin when UNHCR can guarantee the return of the refugees in safety and dignity. At present, UNHCR does not foresee such a possibility before 2003.

In co-operation with the Commissioner for Refugees (Ministry of Home Affairs), UNHCR undertook the registration of all refugees living in camps and settlements. The exercise will be completed in August with the registration of the refugee population in Ukwimi camp. The interim statistics indicate a slight reduction in the total number of refugees in Zambia. Details are provided below.

To encourage the peaceful co-existence between the refugees and the host communities, as well as to provide them with economic assistance, UNHCR promoted the Government's development project, the "Zambia Initiative." This project, developed with the support of UNOPS, aims at meeting the needs of both the local communities and the refugees.

Angolan Refugees

Meheba and Mayukwayukwa Settlements

On the one hand, Angolan refugees continued to arrive in Zambia during the first half of 2002, though the average number of new arrivals decreased dramatically. On the other hand, more than 4,000 refugees left Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements and returned to Angola during the same period.

Although the overall number of refugees arriving from Angola decreased, Meheba continued to receive refugees from other

countries, mainly from the DRC and the Great Lakes region. The majority of the refugees in the settlement resided in the camp since the mid-1970s. Therefore, unlike the newly arrived refugees, they do not receive food assistance. All refugees in this settlement benefit from education, medical treatment, nutritional support, seeds and various community services. An implementing partner provides emergency health care for the newly arrived, while the Government manages the overall health care in all settlements. Out of the 14,685 eligible school children, 5,954 are enrolled in basic and secondary schools in Meheba.

The majority of the 24,000 refugees settled in Mayukwayukwa benefit from education, health and nutritional support, seeds and tools, and various community services. With the exception of the refugees who resided for a long time in the camp (some 4,500 people), all new arrivals also receive food from the WFP. Out of the 8,930 school-aged children, 4,222 are enrolled in schools.

Nangweshi Refugee Camp

Nangweshi camp was established in January 2000 for a population of 15,000 people. At the end of June 2002, the number of refugees living in Nangweshi increased to 23,114. 70 per cent of the refugees are women and children coming mainly from the Angolan Province of Cuando Cubango. Due to continued influxes, UNHCR negotiated with the Government and the traditional chiefs, and allocated an additional 1,509 ha near the camp to accommodate all the refugees. Poor road conditions and, in particular, the floods during the rainy season make access to Nangweshi almost impossible, causing delays in the delivery of assistance and serious logistical problems. The Office in Lusaka purchased a small boat to circumvent these constraints.

Women acquired various community-based skills and they participated in the decision-making process. UNHCR supported education workshops and sensitisation programmes where women received training

in different vocational areas. As a result, they now successfully manage grinding mills and poultry farms and are engaged in weaving and sewing activities. The Office also raised awareness on HIV/AIDs and other aspects of reproductive health. 9,166 out of some 9,400 school-age children (over 97 per cent) also attend school. This is the highest rate of attendance in all the camps and settlements in Zambia.

Ukwimi Refugee Camp

The Government of Zambia and UNHCR continued to relocate Angolan refugees with military background to the Ukwimi refugee camp, as agreed in 2001. The population in this camp rose from 2,345 in December 2001 to 2,412 in June 2002.

Congolese Refugees

Mwange and Kala Refugee Camps

A comprehensive registration exercise was undertaken from January to June 2002. The estimated number of refugees in both camps was approximately 50,000. Through registration, UNHCR recorded 21,198 refugees residing in Mwange and 16,822 refugees residing in Kala. These figures do not include the spontaneously settled refugees living with and working for local populations along the border areas. Notwithstanding the efforts for peace-making in the region, the camps continued to receive refugees, though in smaller numbers than anticipated.

UNHCR continued to identify vulnerable refugees both in Kala and in Mwange camps. Emphasis was placed on providing shelter material to the community so that the most needy could receive assistance in building their shelter. To empower women to be self-sustaining, most women were trained in weaving, sewing, poultry and bee-keeping. Men were trained in carpentry, agriculture, brick-making and woodwork.

In Kala, there are 10 primary schools with 4,215 pupils (of whom 2,013 are female), one secondary school with 152 students, one pre-school with 337 pupils, and English language classes with 563 students. In

Mwange, the primary schools accommodated 6,680 pupils (3,471 of whom are female, and 3,209 male). 550 students attend the secondary school.

Tangible improvements were achieved in agriculture and in forestry in both camps. Farmers' co-operatives were formed and engaged in marketing farm produce. As a consequence, refugees in Mwange camp sold 35 MT of beans from January to June 2002. An additional 5,400 ha was allocated in Mwange for agricultural activities. Tree nurseries with different types of seedlings/tree species were established and planting encouraged to improve the environment. An environmental education pilot project is also being undertaken in Mwange camp with technical assistance from UNESCO/PEER. Insufficient funding of the programme has affected the implementation of certain sector activities.

Due to funding shortfalls, WFP distributed only 50 per cent of the programmed food rations for the refugees. This problem was further exacerbated by the drought which led to poor harvests. Many refugees depended solely on the food provided by WFP. Lack of sufficient food contributed to malnutrition, especially amongst the newly arrived refugee population.

Urban Refugees

At 30 June 2002, UNHCR provided assistance to an estimated 5,000 urban refugees. One of the main protection problems faced by urban refugees was arbitrary arrest and detention. Joint efforts were made by UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees to reduce such incidences.

The sub-committee on residency, established in 2000, under the national eligibility board, reviews and adjudicates requests for urban

residency status. The sub-committee has now been meeting on a regular basis to make decisions on applications made by refugees wishing to reside in urban areas. The registration of urban refugees also contributed to reducing the number of arbitrary arrests. UNHCR, in co-operation with the Government, continued to register refugees and provide them with identity cards. The registration enables UNHCR to collect additional information on the refugees (e.g. medical cases, students, protection cases, refugees considered for resettlement, etc.).

In co-operation with its implementing partners, UNHCR continued to provide services to the refugees in various sectors including health, education, income generation, vocational skills-training, social counselling, and recreational activities. From January to June 2002, scholarships were offered to 320 pupils (164 boys and 156 girls) in primary schools mainly in Lusaka and to children of newly arrived refugee families. Scholarships were also given to 552 secondary school pupils (178 girls and 374 boys). A total of 27 women and 68 men from Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, as well as from urban areas, benefited from the professional training programme. The Makeni skills training centre in Lusaka offered vocational skills-training in carpentry, tailoring, metal fabrication, traditional crafts, as well as English language courses. Over 100 persons benefited from this training and some 80 persons were enrolled in English language courses. In general the number of female refugees who applied for higher education remains low due to early marriages, and lack of information on training opportunities. Since January 2002, two education officers from the YMCA Refugee Project are working in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa camps to encourage the participation of women in the training courses.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
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Refugee children are able to exercise their right to basic education; opportunities are provided for a limited number of qualified refugees to pursue vocational training courses.	Number of students enrolled for 2002 academic year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary: 26,590 students (48 per cent female) ▪ Secondary: 2,969 students (39 per cent female) ▪ Vocational skills: 109 students (15 per cent female) ▪ English courses: 6,556 students
Effective registration system put into place to avoid cases of arbitrary arrest and to monitor the implementation of programmes more effectively.	Extensive registration exercise in all camps, except Ukwimi.
Refugees able to achieve self-sufficiency	Women have been trained in selected income-generating activities and are engaged in the management of grinding mills; sewing, weaving and poultry related small-scale activities in all camps. Men have been trained and are engaged in carpentry and agriculture.
Refugees return to their place of origin in conditions of safety and dignity.	13,000 refugees have voluntarily returned to their country of origin.
Resettlement facilitated as a durable solution for deserving cases, particularly for those with security risks.	49 persons were resettled in a third country.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY - DECEMBER 2002

The initial objectives as outlined above remain unchanged.

Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
15,500,469	17,972,239	10,992,665	9,083,740