**Situation Update**

Due to ethnic tension and the threat of violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), some 35,000 people have sought safety in Angola’s Lunda Norte Province. Refugees report having fled from indiscriminate mass killing and other grave human rights abuses, as well as shortages of food, basic goods and services.

While the number of new arrivals in Angola has decreased in recent months, the situation in Kasai is uncertain with indications that access to the border areas via main roads is limited. Humanitarian actors in Angola have put preparedness measures in place to provide protection and assistance for up to 50,000 refugees in 2018 as reflected in the Inter-Agency Refugee Appeal for Angola that was launched in March.

All refugees who were previously in the Mussungue and Cacanda reception centres in Dundo have now relocated to a settlement in Lóvua, 94 km west of Dundo, as identified by the Government. Relocation of refugees living in and around Dundo is planned to start in early July and is expected to be completed within two months.

Both the food security situation and the nutritional status of the refugees remain stable. The latest assessment conducted by World Vision International (WVI), Medicos do Mundo and WFP indicates an overall (Lóvua and Dundo combined) global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 2.13 percent, with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) at 1.91 percent and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at 0.22 percent.

**WFP Response**

WFP has established a light operational presence in Luanda and Dundo, and is closely coordinating activities with key partners, including UNHCR and World Vision International (WVI).

Prior to the current emergency response, WFP did not have an operational presence in Angola. Following an official request for support from the Government of Angola on 22 May 2017, WFP took immediate action to respond to the crisis and provide food assistance to the refugee population in coordination with UN and NGO partners.
Based on food security, agriculture and market assessments, WFP launched an emergency operation with the objective of ensuring that vulnerable refugees from the greater Kasai region of DRC can meet their basic food and nutrition requirements and lay the foundation for self-reliance and more durable solutions.

**Food and Nutrition Assistance**

WFP provides in-kind food to all registered and ‘active’ refugees via a monthly food basket consisting of maize meal, pulses, vegetable oil and salt.

Based on the recommendations of a multi-sectorial assessment, WFP has been planning to start cash-based transfers (CBT); however, due to funding constraints, implementation had to be postponed. The voucher programme has the potential to broaden the variety of foods consumed and meet refugees’ preferences to a greater degree, as well as support the local economy through engagement with retailers operating in Lunda Norte.

In April in Lóuva and Cacanda, WFP, through its cooperating partner WVI, distributed Super Cereal Plus to all children aged 6 to 23 months as well as those aged 24 to 59 months with moderate acute malnutrition. All pregnant and lactating women received Super Cereal for the prevention of acute malnutrition. Nutrition messaging and sensitization activities complemented the distribution of these specialized nutritious foods.

In April and May, WFP and UNHCR conducted a Joint Assessment Mission (JAM) to assess the food and non-food needs of refugees, including food security and agriculture, nutrition, protection, and livelihoods.

The JAM determined that there is potential to enhance refugees’ capacity to build strong agriculture-based livelihood systems, but it will not be achievable in the short term. It may take up to 18 months for farming households to reach full agricultural production and harvesting crops to complement the food assistance rations. Promotion of livelihood activities needs to be continued and strengthened so that alternative sources of income can be identified and, ultimately, the refugees can provide for themselves. In addition, the JAM indicated that there is considerable diversity of skills among those residing in the Lóuva settlement.

Based on JAM findings and recommendations, WFP is currently designing a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan comprised of its refugee response until June 2019 with the objective to ensure that refugees can meet their food and nutrition requirements through the provision of unconditional food and voucher transfers where no other options are available.

**Supply Chain**

To meet needs until July, WFP is completing shipping of 523 mt of maize meal from South Africa to Angola and onward transportation to Dundo. An additional 18 mt of vegetable oil is expected for June and July distributions. WFP completed the purchase, and is finalizing shipping to Luanda, of 46 mt of pulses and 13 mt of Super Cereal for distributions from June.

The cost-efficient shipping operation from South Africa via Luanda continues to function well and, with the end of the rainy season, road conditions between Luanda and Dundo have improved thus facilitating food deliveries.

**Resourcing Update**

WFP needs an additional US$ 6.3 million to be able to fully implement its operation over the next six months (May to October 2018).

Unless resources are made available now, the operation will have a shortage of Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus in July and of maize meal and pulses in August. Based on current funding, just 32 percent of required food commodities will be available in August and 7 percent in September. Additional resources are therefore urgently required to meet the refugee population’s basic food and nutrition requirements.

**Contacts**

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