**In Numbers**

- **27,070** refugees currently registered in Dundo and Lóvua, Lunda Norte Province
- **3,670** refugees relocated from Dundo reception centers to Lóvua settlement as of 25 October
- **51 percent** of the refugees assisted with food are women and girls, and over **50 percent** are children

**Highlights**

- WFP reached 24,622 refugees in October through general food distributions (GFD) as well as 876 pregnant or breastfeeding women and 1,387 children aged 6-23 months.
- Relocation of refugees from Cacanda reception centre in Dundo to Lóvua settlement is ongoing.
- Over the past two months, arrival into the Lunda Norte Province from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has decreased significantly due to improving security conditions in the Kasai region of DRC.

**Situation Update**

As ethnic tension and the threat of violence in the Kasai region of DRC continues, more than 33,000 people have sought safety in Angola’s Lunda Norte Province. Refugees have reported fleeing from indiscriminate mass killing and other grave human rights abuses in addition to a shortage of food, basic goods and services. This situation has prompted the activation of a Level 3 Emergency for the Kasai region by both WFP and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee*, enabling the wider humanitarian community to strengthen and scale up its response.

While the number of new arrivals has stabilized, the situation remains precarious with indications that access to border areas through the 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 by the end of the year.

The relocation of refugees to the Government-appointed site of Lóvua started on 08 August. Thus far, all the refugees previously hosted in the Mussungue reception centre have been relocated. Cacanda-based refugees are currently being transferred at a rate of 360 people per week. However, the lack of heavy machinery to open key roads in Lóvua continues to be a significant challenge, hampering the site development and installation of basic facilities.

The food security situation of the refugees remains stable, while the nutrition status appears to have improved. The latest assessment conducted by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) indicates a Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) rate of 0.85 percent and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) at 0.26 in Cacanda and 0.25 percent and 0 percent respectively in Lóvua.

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*The IASC system-wide L3 activation also includes Tanganyika and South Kivu.*

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*WFP/Rufaro Musvaire*

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*Photo: Preparing a food distribution at Cacanda reception centre.*

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**People assisted**

- **24,622** in Oct 2017
  - **51%** women and girls
  - **49%** children

**Global Humanitarian Funding**

Overall: **USD 65.5 million**

**WFP Net Funding Requirements**

(February 2017 – July 2018)

- **EMOP 201083 USD 10.3 million**

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[Map of the region showing the location of Dundo and Lóvua.]
WFP Response

WFP has established a light operational presence in Luanda and Dundo, and is 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.

In May, WFP and FAO conducted a joint rapid food security and agriculture assessment in Dundo. The findings confirmed a high level of food insecurity as a result of the displacement and high rates of pre-existing poverty. In addition, WFP conducted a rapid market assessment that confirmed the local market can support additional demands for basic food commodities. However, it recommended the use of vouchers instead of cash due to prevailing macroeconomic conditions and associated risks.

On 01 August, WFP launched an emergency operation for one year with the objective of ensuring that vulnerable refugee populations from the greater Kasai region of DRC are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements and lay the foundation for more durable solutions.

Food and Nutrition Assistance

WFP is providing unconditional in-kind food, including specialized nutritious products, such as Super Cereal and Super Cereal Plus.

In October, WFP, through its implementing partner WVI, reached 24,622 refugees through GFD, and distributed Super Cereal Plus to all children aged 6 to 23 months and Super Cereal to all pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Lóvua and Cacanda to prevent acute malnutrition. Currently, WFP reaches on average 1,200 children aged 6-23 months and 800 pregnant and lactating women through the prevention of acute malnutrition intervention which is complemented with nutrition messaging and sensitization activities. WFP plans to improve its prevention programme by ensuring that all children 6-23 months among new arrivals are immediately reached with Super Cereal Plus as opposed to waiting to receive it at the next monthly general food distribution. Furthermore, children aged 24-59 months who are screened and identified as having moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) will be supported with Super Cereal Plus. Households with nutritionally at-risk children will be targeted for additional support including home visits, nutrition counselling and guidance on infant and young child feeding, through community workers.

From February 2018, and following relocation of the refugee population from Dundo to Lóvua settlement, WFP plans to introduce electronic vouchers as transfer modality using a phased approach informed by a multi-sectoral assessment recently conducted. The introduction of a voucher programme will enable beneficiaries to complement their current food basket with additional food commodities, such as cassava and dry fish, thus meeting the refugees’ food preference.

Supply Chain

In the past two months, WFP has transported more than 1,200 mt of food by road to Angola. However, heavy rains and bad road conditions have led to extended transit times for trucks travelling to Lunda Norte Province from Botswana and South Africa.

WFP is now planning to transport commodities from South Africa by sea, with the first shipment expected to depart Durban in November 2017. In total, WFP aims to ship 1,200 mt of Maize Meal, 29 mt of Super Cereal and over 32 mt of Vegetable Oil by December 2017. Indicative cost comparison for overland transport compared to transport by sea shows potential savings of up to 50 percent.

Two mobile storage units were installed in Lóvua to be used as food warehouses. WFP is also maintaining buffer stock capacity of 900 mt in Dundo until the relocation of all refugees to Lóvua settlement is complete.

Resourcing Update

WFP needs additional resources to continue providing support to vulnerable refugees who fled conflict in the Kasai region of DRC.

Without urgent resources for its Angola operation, WFP expects a food pipeline break in January 2018.

Contacts

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