



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

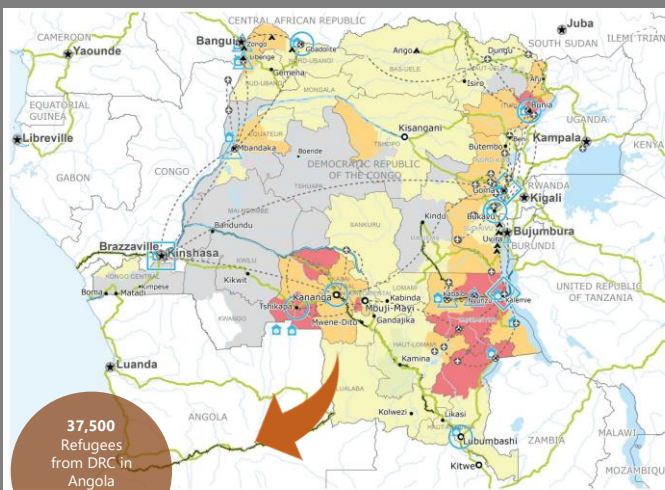
WFP Angola Country Brief September 2019



GFD at Dundo FDP, Photo: Bernardo Florindo WVA

Operational Context

- The escalation of violence in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in March 2017 caused over 35,000 refugees to flee across the border into Lunda Norte province, Angola.
- UNHCR, with the support of humanitarian partners, conducted a 'repatriation intention survey' in Lovua settlement from 9 to 20 May 2019. Nearly 85% of the respondents expressed their willingness to return to their country of origin.
- Spontaneous repatriation began on 17 August, and as of end September, 14,724 people crossed the border - the majority of whom are refugees.
- The voluntary repatriation process facilitated by UNHCR is planned to start from 8 October.
- Since May 2017, WFP, in collaboration with the Government of Angola, UNHCR and its cooperating partner World Vision International (WVI), has been providing life-saving food and nutrition assistance to refugees from DRC, who temporarily reside in Lunda Norte, Angola.



Population: **31.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **147 out of 189**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

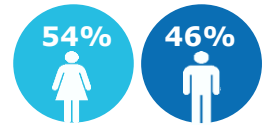
Chronic malnutrition: **38% and wasting malnutrition 4.9%**

In Numbers

131,685 mt of food assistance distributed in September 2019

US\$ 3.3 million for six months (October 2019 to March 2020) net funding requirements, representing 62% of total

8,152 people assisted in September 2019



Operational Updates

- In response to the continuing needs of DRC refugees in Lunda Norte, WFP has developed a Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) for the period covering August 2018 to December 2019, with the objective to meet the basic food security and nutrition needs of refugees. The 2020-2022 Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) is being finalized with the objective of providing support to DRC refugees, as well as technical assistance to the Government of Angola on school feeding, nutrition and vulnerability assessment and mapping.
- The refugee population from DRC has been struggling with restrictions in freedom of movement as they require government-issued IDs to circulate, which has made their lives quite hard. Considering the improved security situation in DRC and need for access to adequate education for refugee children, the Angolan government has supported the spontaneous repatriation process. This includes provision of transportation from Lovua to the three border towns of Chicolondo, Nachiri and Tchissanda.
- On 23 August, UNHCR and representatives of the governments of DRC and Angola signed the Tripartite Agreement, whereby the three parties agreed to support the facilitated voluntary repatriation of the refugees.
- The preliminary plan to start voluntary repatriation from 16 September has been postponed, upon the request of the government of DRC. The revised plan of voluntary repatriation will start on 8 October.
- Despite the changes in the numbers of refugees in the settlement, WFP was able to assist nearly 8,200 people in the month of September. This included 144 extremely vulnerable individuals, 8,008 General Food Distribution (GFD) beneficiaries, and a one-day standard GFD ration, which was released to and facilitated by UNHCR, to serve hot meals for 3,000 refugees choosing voluntary repatriation. WFP in close collaboration with UNHCR, WVI and partners will provide a two-month take-home ration as part of a return package to the refugees returning home.

- Some refugees are expected to opt for living in the settlement, and they will be largely dependent on humanitarian assistance.
- WFP will work closely with UNHCR and the Government of Angola to assess their needs and plan corresponding food and nutrition assistance programmes.
- The nutrition situation remains relatively stable with Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates below 2%.
- Previous market assessment findings in 2017, recommended the introduction of cash-based transfers (CBT) to enhance dietary diversity and address beneficiary preferences for locally available foods. However, WFP has been unable to implement planned CBT activities due to funding constraints.

WFP Country Strategy



Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (2017-2021)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
5.3 m	2.4 m	3.3 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Refugees and other crisis-affected populations in Angola are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during times of crisis.

Focus area: Crisis Response

Activities:

- Provide in-kind and CBT assistance to refugees from DRC.

Monitoring

- WFP continues to closely monitor the nutrition situation, as well as work with UNHCR and partners to ensure provision of nutrition screening services and appropriate referrals and treatment of acute malnutrition.
- WFP field monitors carry out distribution monitoring and process monitoring during food distribution days. The information is used by WFP to ensure that food distributions start on time, meet WFP standards for safety and protection, and support partners to resolve technical issues on the ground.
- Through WFP's Cooperating Partner, WVI, it collects quarterly PDM data on tablets to explore the effects of assistance on beneficiaries and assess their household food security and coping strategies. PDM also identifies how beneficiaries utilize WFP assistance and access to other sources of assistance, household income and expenditures, accountability and protection issues.

- On the Q2 report, the PDM data showed an increase in households with an acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS) for both male- and female-headed households. However, there was a slight increase in the number of households with poor FCS, both in male and female headed. When asked what coping mechanism beneficiaries they adapted when experiencing a shortage of food, more than 90% of the households indicated that they limited the food portions, while 80% of the households reduced the number of meals per day. A significant number of households also borrowed food from relatives.
- WFP is committed to ensuring that gender and protection are factored in during project monitoring. Thus, monitoring activities are designed to track achievements on gender equality, decision-making and empowerment of women, as well as to ensure beneficiary protection and accountability of WFP staff and cooperating partners.
- To mainstream gender and highlight any potential issues, WFP presents indicative data disaggregated by the gender of the head of household. Regular focus group discussions with refugee representatives and members of the Food Management Committee are held to gauge success and seek opportunities to improve the activities and entitlements.

Challenges

- Volatile political and security environment, which makes operational planning difficult.
- Lack of funding to support livelihood activities, including agriculture-based programmes, is particularly concerning as it affects refugees' ability to provide for themselves.

Donors

France, Japan, UN CERF and the United States of America.