

Situation Report # 2

Country:	Angola
Crisis:	Kasai Emergency Response, influx of refugees from Kasai in DR Congo to Lunda Norte in Angola.
Covering period:	01 January to 31 January 2018
Crisis Location:	Lunda Norte
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Situation overview

Thousands of families fled from the conflict in Kasai in DR Congo to Lunda Norte province northeast in Angola at the beginning of 2017, and 35,085 people have been registered as refugees. More than one out of four families are female headed households and 75% of the refugees are women and children.

Refugees are currently being relocated from Cacanda reception center in Dundo to Lovua settlement, about 85 kilometers west of Dundo. Currently 9,595 people are living in Lovua settlement and 1,541 in Cacanda. Most of the remaining refugees have found shelter in Dundo town.

In Lovua settlement, there is one clinic supporting women giving birth, while complicated cases are being transferred to Dundo. All hospitals in Dundo offer their services to Angolan citizens and refugees free of charge, yet shortage of supplies, and absence of medical staff is repeatedly reported. 372 births were registered during 2017 among the refugee population, and 173 women in Cacanda and Lovua were registered as pregnant at the beginning of 2018.

Several of the refugees had been subject to sexual and gender based violence before arriving Angola, with both physical and psychological impact. Many have also lost family members, and they report about mass killings, rape, mutilations and burning of property. Incidents of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) is also taking place in Angola. 162 incidents involving refugees were reported during the second half of 2017, including 11 incidents of rape, 15 of sexual assaults, 90 of physical assault, 23 of forced marriage and 23 of psychological violence. Less cases were reported in November (14) and December (20), compared to the previous months (average of 32 a month). 88% of the reported cases involved women and girls, and 37% of the reported cases involved children.

New arrivals to Angola have significantly decreased since July 2017. However, the situation in Kasai remains volatile, and humanitarian agencies are putting in place contingency plans for a potential increase in the number of refugees to a total of 50,000 in 2018.



Sylvain (1) lost his mother in the conflict in Kasai. Now aunt Felikanko helps taking care of the young boy. Photo: UNFPA/Tiril Skarstein



Great atmosphere in Lovua as the girls football team from zone A beats the team from zone B 1-0.. Photo: UNFPA/Tiril Skarstein

UNFPA Response

- UNFPA, in partnership with Médicos del Mundo (MdM), is distributing dignity kits, including hygiene supplies, sanitary pads, a bucket and a self-powered torch, to female refugees arriving to Lovua settlement. 401 kits were distributed in January, bringing the total to 2101.
- Reproductive health kits have been donated to the Provincial Directorate of Health to support safe deliveries, treat sexually transmitted infections, and follow proper procedure for the management of rape survivors. The kits continue to be used by the four medical facilities in Dundo and the clinic in Lovua.

- UNFPA has taken over the running of two women friendly spaces set up in Lovua settlement from our partner Médicos del Mundo (MdM), to ensure that the activities continue. The tents provide an arena where women can meet for information about gender based violence, family planning, reproductive health, pre- and post-natal care. The social mobilizers working in the tents are also involved in outreach activities. Based on focus group discussions it has been identified a need for separate information sessions and activities for youth. Saturdays are now dedicated for adolescents. Read more about the women friendly spaces here: <http://www.unfpa.org/news/women-friendly-spaces-offer-safe-haven-congolese-refugees-angola>

Key messages

- The Kasai crisis has a devastating impact on women and young girls. Many of the refugees arriving Angola have been subject to sexual and gender based violence, and are in need of both medical and psychological support. The number of cases reported in the refugee settlement is also concerning, and we fear this is only the tip of the iceberg, as many cases are never reported. This violence jeopardizes women's reproductive health and rights, and there is a need to strengthen both the preventative work and the capacity to meet the needs of survivors.
- The local health system needs support to be able to respond to the needs of the large number of Congolese refugees who have arrived Lunda Norte province. The medical services in Lovua, where most of the refugees are being relocated, should be strengthened to be able to secure safe delivery and other medical assistance to the increasing number of people in the municipality. In addition, there is a need to continue the work to strengthen the capacity and the availability of medical supplies at the hospitals in Dundo.
- There is a need to scale up the funding to the crisis, to ensure that the refugees are provided with the necessary support. The crisis in DR Congo, and in Kasai in particular, was named the most neglected crisis in 2017, by humanitarian actors in a poll by Reuters. The lack of world attention, is matched by an equal lack of funding. Less than half of the money needed for the response to refugees from DR Congo in Angola was donated last year. As a result, many people, both within Kasai and in neighboring Angola, are not receiving the necessary assistance. Shortage of funding has forced some humanitarian agencies to pull out from the response in Angola, leaving critical gaps.

Funding Needs

By the end of December 2017, only around 40% of the inter-agency appeal for a total of US\$ 65,507,610 for support to Congolese refugees in Angola was funded. UNFPA has budgeted with the need for US\$ 1,101,790 to be able to meet the specific needs of women and adolescence and secure their sexual and reproductive health and rights in 2018.