

“Keep moving forward and fight”. Joy and colour as female refugees are celebrated on international women’s day in Lóvuá settlement

On 8 March 2019, refugees and humanitarian partners organised activities to celebrate female refugees who live in Lóvuá settlement in north of Angola.

The day, which was first celebrated by the United Nations in 1975, “is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination”.

Throughout the celebrations, women were encouraged to keep moving forward and to recognise their value in society, through speeches and presentations.

A theatre piece was performed in which a group of refugee women representatives spoke to high ranking women members of the local government about issues that affect refugee women and girls. The performance was moderated by journalist Alfonsine, who also led a female karate demonstration.

During the festivities, the winning team of the 2019 girls’ football tournament was awarded a trophy to much jubilation from the crowd.



Figure 1: Congolese women in Lóvuá with traditional native clothing on international women’s day. ©UNHCR/Omotola Akindipe

The day closed with a parade from all the ten zones in Lóvuá settlement and thematic groups such as child protection and WASH.