



RIJ
国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Angola



Courtesy: IDMC

Reasons for displacement: Angola's war of independence from 1961 until 1975 and the brutal civil war that followed claimed over 350,000 lives and displaced

some four million people. Some 500,000 of those displaced fled to neighboring countries, including Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Zambia, Namibia, South Africa, the Republic of Congo, and Botswana.

Current situation: In 2012, after 10 years of relative peace and stability, those still displaced were no longer recognised as refugees by UNHCR and host countries. Since the termination of refugee status in 2012, UNHCR has been working with

the Angolan government and neighbouring countries on the voluntary repatriation of many former Angolan refugees to Angola.

However, as in many other nations with a history of conflict and violence, reintegration of former refugees comes with huge challenges: including the loss of loved ones, communities and homes. As a result, many opt to stay behind since they have formed new lives in their 'adopted' countries. For those wishing to stay behind, countries like DRC, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia have agreed to locally integrate former Angolan refugees who hold strong ties to the host country.



Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project which taught returnee women how to make clothes in order to generate income for their families
- The European Union-UNICEF Kaplango project has established access to safe water for 2,000 homes in the Matala municipality, considerably decreasing rates of cholera and diarrhea

Number of refugees:
23,783 residing in Angola
10,321 originating from Angola
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
0
[source: UNHCR]

History:

- 1961**— Fighting breaks out as three anti-colonial guerilla movements battle for independence
- 1975**— Angola becomes independent from Portugal
- 1975-1988**— Over 350,000 Angolans die during civil war
- 1992**— Guerrilla war breaks out
- 1998**— Civil war starts again and thousands are killed in fighting
- 2001**— Train carrying hundreds of refugees and soldiers in northwestern Angola hits a mine and derailed; over 250 refugees are killed
- 2002**— End of the Angolan Civil War
- 2006**— UN refugee agency begins the final repatriation of refugees who had fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo during the civil war
- 2013**— Ten people are killed and 120 injured at New Year's Eve vigil at a stadium in Luanda
- 2014**— Tens of thousands of Angolan refugees in DRC are sent home to Angola