

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## ANGOLA, REPUBLIC OF CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, NAMIBIA AND ZAMBIA: POPULATION MOVEMENT

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**Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: CHF 200,000**

*The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries. For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)*

### ***In Brief***

**This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. A DREF allocation of CHF 200,000 has been released. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate further, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.**

### **The Situation**

The Federation Southern Africa Regional Delegation convened a meeting in Johannesburg on 31 October 2003 for a Red Cross initiative in cross-border population movement, following the end of civil war in Angola more than one year ago. The meeting constituted of a special task force with the participation from the Federation Delegations in Angola, the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville), the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), and Zambia, the Namibia Red Cross, and the respective officers from the secretariat.

The objectives of the meeting were to discuss the possibilities of developing a national and regional response plan for Red Cross involvement in activities in central and southern Africa relating to Angola refugees and returnees, and consequently agree on a plan of action.

A cease-fire agreement was signed between the government of the Republic of Angola and its main opposition party, UNITA<sup>1</sup>, in April 2002, thus ending a civil war that had lasted 27 out of 28 years of independence. With national reconciliation and consequent consolidation of peace, the country is now moving towards stability and development.

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<sup>1</sup> UNITA - União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola

The repatriation scheme is based on tripartite agreements signed between the governments of Angola, UNHCR and the governments of Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Republic of Congo and Zambia. The tripartite commissions, meeting in Windhoek (Namibia), Lusaka (Zambia) and Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) in March 2003, discussed and agreed on operation plans for the organised repatriation operations concerning entry points, customs procedures and other relevant issues (Ref. “UNHCR – Country Operations Plans – Planning Year: 2004”).

According to UNHCR sources, approximately 186,500 Angolans have returned spontaneously and voluntarily, but some 142,000 refugees remain in the neighbouring countries.

**Table 1: Current refugee figures**

Country	Angola Refugees
Democratic Republic of Congo	28,500
Republic of Congo	3,900
Namibia	18,000
Zambia	91,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>141,750</b>

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Contacts are being established with the relevant authorities, agencies and stakeholders to explore, discuss and conclude joint operational partnerships with the National Societies in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia. An appeal will be launched shortly following an in-depth assessment for Red Cross interventions in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, Namibia and Zambia. In addition, the assessment will address the needs of the vulnerable populations of the host communities.

## Proposed Plan of Action

Among other areas of intervention with regard to approximately 330,000 refugees and returnees, the following will be considered:

### Immediate interventions:

- Comprehensive integrated community health and care
  - Malaria prevention
  - HIV/AIDS interventions
  - Rehabilitation of water points, rehabilitation and constructions of latrines, and promotion of hygiene
- Food security
- Mine awareness campaigns
- Psychological support and counselling

### Long-term interventions:

- Integrated rural development activities and environment protection (afforestation)
- Strengthening of capacities:
  - Development of branches and strengthening of existing operational capacities of the National Societies

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.