

Alert

Angola

DRC Refugee Influx crisis in Lunda Norte Response

Nairobi, 4th of May 2017

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Ongoing armed conflicts between the DRC government forces and the Kamuena Nsapu militia faction in Lunda Norte Province have triggered large displacements. As of the 13th of April, it was reported that a total of 11,051 refugees had arrived from the DRC and were settling in two camps. These numbers continue to rise as it is estimated that there is an additional 300-400 refugees arriving each day.

Tensions on both sides of the border are high. Still, the Angolan authorities assure that the border is not closed, but that the commercial movements are being closely monitored and the usual local market closed. The government sent a multi-sector team to assess the situation. The government of Angola has to date not declared an emergency, as the governments of Angola and DRC are analysing the situation and hope voluntary repatriation to DRC will be possible within one month or so.

In the meantime, the situation in the camps is dire as the access to basic services is very limited. The situation is further compounded by the fact that the camps are over-crowded causing a lack of shelter, food & NFIs, and poor sanitation. Furthermore, protection issues are frequent as there are cases of unaccompanied minors and violation of human rights, particularly with regards to the risk of repatriation. An immediate humanitarian response is needed to cover basic needs such as shelter, WASH, food and NFIs, child rights protection, human rights and health care assistance for life-saving. UN Agencies are advocating for an official emergency declaration, in order to facilitate a more comprehensive response.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

Local authorities have limited capacity and are not prepared for the number of people who have already arrived and those still expected to arrive in the country.

The refugees will not be able to meet all their shelter, food and NFIs, WASH, child rights protection, human rights and health assistance for life-saving needs. They require basic needs covered for settling and starting a new life, should they remain in the camp for long time. While the national and international response through government, UN and non-governmental channels will in some way help to meet the needs, there are significant gaps that will still not be covered, consequently the need for ACT members to respond to complement national and international response measures.

3. National and international response

Unfortunately, the government has yet not declared an emergency. Although the government has not launched a declaration, there are provincial government calls for support. An immediate humanitarian response is needed to cover basic needs such as shelter, food and NFIs, WASH, child rights protection, human rights and life-saving health assistance.

4. ACT Alliance response

An immediate humanitarian response is needed to cover basic needs. ACT is planning to respond to the refugee influx crisis in the affected areas, leveraging their technical expertise in humanitarian response and long-term community livelihoods development programming. The Council of Christian Churches in Angola, CICA and their church members will be integral part as implementing partners. Christian Aid and Bread for the World – ACT Angola forum non-resident members – will play a support and advocacy role at global level.

The response will be implemented in the two officially identified locations in Mussungue and Cacanda in Lunda Norte province, though it may shift to other areas should the situation escalate.

5. Planned activities

ACT Angola forum wants to respond on shelter, food and NFIs, WASH, child rights protection, human rights and health assistance for life-saving.

6. Constraints

In addition to the lack of an emergency declaration, the main challenge is funding for implementation of the humanitarian response programme. Local authorities have limited capacity and are not prepared for the number of people received and to support the influx crisis. In addition, the areas are logistically challenging: the closest airport is 5 hours away; all goods come from Luanda, hence, prices are very high; overland from Luanda it takes 1.5-3 days depending on weather conditions.

ACT Forum Angola Contact Information

Forum Convener – LWF Angola, Abrao Mushivi, e-mail: natco.ago@lwfdds.org, Skype ID: abraham.mushivi & mobile tel: +244 933 101 410.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org) and Senior Finance Officer, Lorenzo Correa (Lorenzo.Correa@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

Regional Representative for Africa, Gezahegn Kebede Gebrehana
(Gezahegn.Gebrehana@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>