

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Population profile

Waves of displacement in Angola have resulted in categorization of "old" and "new" IDPs (2001)

- Angolan IDPs label themselves as *deslocados*, a term that implies they have been forced to leave their homes
- "Old" displaced are those who fled before 1998; "new" are those who fled from this year on
- Displaced persons indicate that, with a loss of home and land, they feel a loss of cultural identity

"In Angola, displaced persons label themselves as *deslocado* (singular). Directly translated into English, *deslocado* means 'dislocated' or 'out of place'. However, such a pure linguistic translation of the term does not necessarily capture the implicit understanding of forced relocation as is implicit in the Angolan context. In a society where movement and relocation of villages, tribes, families and individuals are normal, the term *deslocado* is used to describe an abnormal situation: a relocation that is forced, not voluntary or part of normal practice. It is therefore necessary to highlight the element of force that is implied in the term *deslocado*.

The *deslocado* identity is a social identity. Those whom we label as *deslocados* or displaced in this chapter have multiple facets of identity, such as 'woman', 'old', 'Ovimbundu' (ethnic group), 'Sambo' (tribe), 'peasant', 'head-of-family', 'Catholic', 'MPLA-supporter', etc. These facets assume different levels of importance at different times (Bordo 1990:136-145). '*Deslocado*' is only one facet of the identity of the people we interviewed.

In Angola, the displaced population is often divided into two categories: 'new' and 'old' *deslocados*. This is a classification that is commonly used by the displaced themselves, by NGOs and by government representatives. New *deslocados* are all those who have been displaced after July/August 1998, regardless of the cause of their displacement, although the war is the predominant cause. Among the new *deslocados*, some have fled from government-controlled areas, others from UNITA-controlled areas.

This division between new and old *deslocados* can be related to Susan Bordo's multiple 'axes' of identity, whereby the various axes are given varying degrees of importance by the *deslocados*, the established population, and others (1990, p. 139). Based upon the information culled from our interviews, the *deslocado* axis is more important to the new *deslocados* than to the old. This is not to suggest, however, that the old *deslocados* have stopped using that word to describe themselves. Rather, other identifying axes are more important in their daily lives.

Sørensen argues that for rural populations identity is embedded in their land and their agricultural practices (1998:82-83). Even though the displaced in Huambo province have not fled far from their homes, they often find it impossible to cultivate the land where they settle after flight. Displaced persons have described a loss of cultural identity after they leave their home villages. Our interpretation is that, with the loss of their land and normal life, an important facet of their identity is lost, too.

[...]

In all locations around Huambo that had welcomed displaced persons, both established groups and new *deslocados* struggled to survive. However, where the established groups had housing and land they could tend, the new *deslocados* often did not have access to fields. If they did, it was land that was far away and

of low fertility. The new *deslocados* pointed out that even if they could rent land from someone, they lacked other essentials, such as seeds, fertilisers and tools. Elderly *deslocados* and female-headed-households had great difficulty in constructing houses or repairing abandoned houses for shelter against rain and cold nights." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, pp. 23-25)

General comments on counting

Accurate estimates of the number of displaced difficult to reach due to magnitude of problem and continued insecurity (2001)

- Vast areas of country are inaccessible
- Sheer scope of displacement makes precise counting impossible

"Accurate assessments of new population displacement were impossible. Conflicting estimates about the total number of uprooted Angolans continued to reflect the difficulty of assessing both the needs and the size of the displaced population after three decades of war." (USCR 2001, p. 58)

"The number of internally displaced persons in Angola varies from month to month and year to year. As some displaced return home, new people become displaced. As a result, there is continual disagreement between the Angolan government, particularly the Ministry of Social Affairs (MINARS), and many international NGOs and agencies, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), even over estimates of the number of displaced persons in the country." (Birkeland and Gomes 2001, pp. 26-27)

Save the Children food security assessment reveals problems with counting IDPs (July 2001)

- Assessment notes that different agencies use different methodologies when counting IDPs
- In case of Kuito, some methods do not take into account the exit of IDPs from camps
- Furthermore, different agencies use different names for the same IDP camps

"There are different ways of recording numbers of IDPs. The official method used by the Coordination Group (comprising MINARS, WFP, OCHA and CARE International) shows only new arrivals; it does not document when IDPs leave a camp. MSF collects figures from so-called home monitors within the camps on a weekly basis. The difference between the data collected using the two different methodologies is considerable. According to the first method, the number of IDPs in Kuito has increased by about 50% since the beginning of this year; according to the second method, the numbers have stayed more or less the same over the same time period. This clearly has considerable implications for how responses are planned.

Different agencies use different names for different camps. This causes confusion when trying to compare data.

With respect to WFP pipeline food, beneficiaries are categorised differently by WFP and their implementing partner. This makes tracking food distributions difficult." (SCF 13 August 2001, Executive summary)

Disparity in global estimates is in part a result of different methods of counting by government and UN partners (April 2000)

- UN mission to Angola estimates total number of displaced persons at 2,299,314, of which 456,278 are said to have been displaced before 1998
- GoA estimates the total number of displaced persons at 3,697,322, of which 1,339,248 are said to be displaced before 1998
- GoA figures include dispersed populations that have been settled in and around Luanda for some time
- GoA figures include populations that moved at the very beginning of the conflict

Following a UN inter-agency assessment mission to Angola in April 2000, UNHCR concluded the following regarding figures of displaced persons:

	Government (1)	UCAH (2)
		Reported/Confirmed
Persons displaced from 1998 or newly displaced persons	2,358,074	1,843,036/1,024,664
IDPs from the period preceding 1998 or longer-term displaced persons	1,339,248	456,278/456,278
Totals	3,697,322	2,299,314/1,480,942

¹ according to UCAH / report as of January 00

² according to UCAH Data base updated on 12 March 00

"Newly-displaced persons:

The figures of the Government include about 500,000 IDPs who are living dispersed in the different neighbourhoods of Luanda.

The figures of the UN **do not** include the displaced population living dispersed in Luanda.

Longer-term displaced persons:

The figures of the Government take into consideration the population that has moved since the very beginning of the conflict.

The figures of the UN takes into consideration the IDPs of the post-electoral war that were about to resettle until the country went back again to war and are therefore susceptible to be found in a vulnerable situation."

(UNHCR April 2000, pp. 5-6)

Global figures

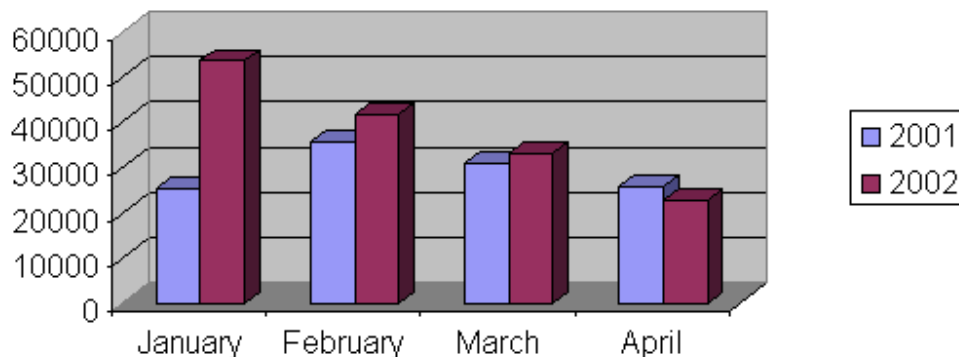
More than 150,000 newly registered IDPs between January and April 2002

- Government cites more than 4 million displaced, of which more than 1.4 million have been confirmed by humanitarian partners for assistance as of April 2002
- Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Bié, Huíla, Huambo and Malanje
- While some IDPs are returning to their areas of origin, many are moving towards areas where humanitarian operations are underway

"During April 2002, approximately 22,766 new internally displaced persons (IDPs) were registered in nine provinces, bringing the total number of persons displaced since the beginning of the year to 150,714. According to the Government, more than four million people are currently displaced in Angola. Of this number, more than 1.4 million IDPs have been confirmed by humanitarian partners for assistance. Provinces with the largest concentrations of IDPs include Bié, Huíla, Huambo and Malanje.

Following the cessation of hostilities and the beginning of the quartering process, the level of internal displacement has remained high. Although some IDPs are returning to their areas of origin, many persons continue to move towards areas where humanitarian operations are underway in search of assistance. Most new IDPs and persons en route to quartering areas are in serious condition and initial reports regarding food availability and health conditions in quartering and family areas are serious. During April, the most significant movements continued to occur in Bié, Moxico and Huambo Provinces, where humanitarian operations are overstretched and capacity to assist existing and new caseloads remain limited.
[...]

**Population Displacements
January - April
2001 and 2002**



(UN OCHA, 30 April 2002)

UN cites unprecedented figure of 4.1 million IDPs in 2002 CAP (November 2001)

"During the period of intense fighting between 1992 and 1994, 1.3 to two million people fled their homes, primarily to provincial capitals and Luanda. In late 1997, humanitarian agencies estimated that approximately one million people were still displaced, despite the limited resettlement that had occurred following the Bicesse and Lusaka peace agreements. Since 1998, when hostilities between the parties again erupted, an additional 1.3 million persons have been forced from their homes, bringing the total number of displaced persons in Angola to an estimated 4.1 million."
(UN November 2001, p. 10)

Geographical distribution

Every one of Angola's 18 provinces has an IDP population (February 2002)

- Areas with the highest concentration of IDPs include Bie, Huila, Huambo and Kuanza Sul provinces
- Many of the new arrivals have been forcibly displaced by the army
- Further influxes of IDPs are expected, although there is almost no space to accommodate more people
- Some of the worst living conditions in the country are in the 22 transit centres and warehouses in seven provinces that remain open

"The total number of IDPs in the country is currently 4.1 million. Two years ago, the number was two million. Of the 4.1 million IDPs, 1.36 have been confirmed to receive international assistance.

The areas with the highest concentration of IDPs include Bié with 173,000; Huila with 174,000; Huambo with 150,000; and Kuanza Sul with 118,000. Every single one of the country's 18 provinces has an IDP population.

In Kuito and Camacupa, more than 62,000 displaced persons have poured into the area during the last five months, most, forcibly displaced by the army. An additional 12,000 entered during the first two weeks of January alone. There is almost no space to accommodate these people and resources have run out. At least 22,000 more IDPs are close by and may shortly enter Kuito and Camacupa in a desperate effort to reach life-saving assistance.

In Luena, 6,000 IDPs are arriving per month, most, forcibly displaced by the army. There is almost no space to accommodate these people and resources are about to run out. Higher levels of new arrivals are expected in coming months.

Approximately 320,000 IDPs continue to live in camps and transit centres.

During the past 20 months, 35 transit centres have been closed and 25,000 IDPs resettled to safe areas with agricultural lands. It was expected that all centres would be closed by the end of 2001. Due to the huge level of displacement, more than 12 centres have been either established or reopened in recent months. Some of the worst living conditions in the country are in the 22 transit centres and warehouses in seven provinces that remain open. More than 17,500 IDPs are living in inhumane conditions in these centres." (UN OCHA 8 February 2002)

UN OCHA's Special Report on the Humanitarian Situation in Angola (7 March 2002) contains maps showing, among others, critical areas in the country and areas accessible to international agencies (see list of sources).

See also the map section of this profile containing UN OCHA map of IDP presence by province (as of February 2002), [\[External link\]](#)

Humanitarian crisis in Bié province worsens as influx of IDPs continues (January 2002)

- Between July 2001 and January 2002, approximately 64,645 persons have been displaced in Bié province - bringing the total number of IDPs there to more than 181,000
- On-going military operations are the main cause of displacement
- According to the government of Angola, more than 305,000 IDPs requiring humanitarian assistance may be in inaccessible areas of the province
- Shelter is an urgent issue, with many unregistered IDPs living in inadequate and overcrowded accommodation
- Large numbers of the newly displaced people are in an alarming health and nutritional state

"The Problem: Displacement

Since July 2001, approximately 64,645 persons have been displaced in Bié Province, bringing the total number of IDPs in the province to more than 181,000. The highest number of new arrivals occurred in October, when 16,000 persons arrived in Kuito and Camacupa. In November, 10,500 additional IDPs entered these areas. In December, 5,779 new IDPs arrived in Kuito, 7,229 in Camacupa and 4,479 in Cunhinga. During the first two weeks of January, 11,740 new IDPs were reported in the province, including 9,720 in Camacupa town. The main cause of displacement are on-going military operations in the northern areas of the province and along the borders with Huambo and Moxico Provinces.

Government sources estimate that more than 305,000 IDPs requiring humanitarian assistance may be present in inaccessible areas of the province. Approximately 83,000 are concentrated in the inaccessible areas of Muinha, Ringoma, Umpolo, Munhango, Kuanza, Gamba and Sachinemuna, where humanitarian conditions are reportedly serious. Authorities have indicated that as many as 22,000 IDPs may enter Camacupa and Kuito in coming weeks in search of humanitarian assistance.

	Total number of IDPs (as of 15 Jan)	New IDPs reported in December	New IDPs reported 1-15 January
KUITO	125,639	5,779	2,020
CAMACUPA	50,587	7,229	9,720
CUNHINGA	5,107	4,479	628

Registration

An estimated 21,500 newly arrived IDPs have not yet been registered in the three locations where humanitarian operations are underway and are therefore not receiving humanitarian assistance. In Kuito, two reception centres have been transformed into transit centres due to overcrowding at existing camps and limited opportunities for resettlement on the basis of the Norms. More than 1,000 persons in these centres have not been registered. In addition, more than 1,200 families are housed in inadequate shelters in Kuito camps, including overcrowded houses, schools and food distribution points. In Camacupa, approximately 10,000 IDPs are living in the newly established Aifena camp. An additional 7,505 IDPs are living in warehouses and other locations. None of these persons has been registered. In Cunhinga, approximately 4,500 recently arrived IDPs are waiting to be registered.

Alarming Health and Nutritional Situation

According to nutritional surveys conducted during December, the global malnutrition rate in Kuito IDP camps is 13 percent. In Camacupa, severe and moderate malnutrition rates among new arrivals are three

percent and 28 percent, respectively. Camacupa's supplementary and therapeutic feeding centres are operating at full capacity and severely malnourished beneficiaries are now being transferred to Kuito, a 75-kilometre journey. The onset of heavy seasonal rains has aggravated the precarious water and sanitation situation in Kuito and Camacupa IDP camps, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases and malnutrition. Measles and other preventable diseases are also of concern, particularly since many IDPs arriving from inaccessible areas have not received routine vaccinations.

Constraints

The security situation remains volatile in the province, limiting humanitarian access to only three of the province's nine municipalities. The Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) has reconfirmed its commitment to providing assistance to populations in areas where humanitarian partners do not have access. Unless assistance is urgently received in these areas, populations are likely to move towards Camacupa and Kuito in coming weeks, putting additional pressure on already overburdened emergency response mechanisms.

The extremely poor condition of the airstrip has impeded delivery of adequate humanitarian assistance for more than 22 months. WFP is currently able to deliver less than 60 percent of relief requirements into Kuito. The poor condition of the road between Kuito and Camacupa has also prevented assistance, particularly food and non-food items, from being transported to Camacupa. Due to persistent insecurity in most municipalities, international humanitarian partners are unable to provide assistance to vulnerable populations in inaccessible areas." (UN OCHA 24 January 2002)

High numbers of IDPs are on the move in Moxico province (January 2002)

- Moxico province, the birthplace of UNITA, is seen by the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) as the most important remaining UNITA stronghold
- The resulting military activity continues to force thousands of civilians from their homes, and aid agencies fear many more are on their way
- Government forces are reported to be moving 100-150 people daily by helicopter to the provincial capital Luena, which remains calm
- Some IDPs testify that they have been forced to move by the government, in what NGOs are describing as a "scorched earth policy"

"A government military offensive against UNITA rebels in the eastern Moxico province and other parts of the country continues to force thousands of Angolans from their homes into camps for the displaced and aid agencies fear that many more are on their way.

Cristina Muller, spokesperson for the World Food Programme (WFP) in Angola, told IRIN on Wednesday that 2,359 new internally displaced people (IDPs) were registered in Moxico's capital, Luena, last week. This brought the total number of IDPs registered in January to 4,869, she said.

'Intense military activity has been reported throughout the province, affecting the movement of people in the region. At the moment government forces are reportedly moving 100-150 people daily by helicopter into the provincial capital Luena, where the situation remains calm. The area along the border with Zambia is reported to be highly insecure, but humanitarian agencies have no access to the region,' she said.

'Our concern is with the humanitarian situation. What we have here are extremely high numbers of IDPs moving ... WFP has increased the amount of food delivered to Luena from 800 mt to 1,200 mt a month because the number of IDPs has been so high,' she added.

According to Muller, the majority of people being flown in by the Angolan army arrived in Luena in a state of 'moderate malnutrition' - not as bad as they would be if they walked to the capital. After being registered, evaluated and given a month's ration of food, the IDPs were moved to Muachimbo, a camp about 12 km from the capital, she said. (IRIN, 30 January 2002)

Moxico was the birthplace of UNITA, and since the victories by the Angolan Armed Forces (FAA) on the central plateau in 1999, the government has come to regard the eastern province as the most important remaining UNITA stronghold.

Since July, the FAA have been sending more soldiers to the area, saying the intention is to destroy the last rebel bases in the province, and to capture UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. Aid workers say the resultant increase in military activity is the main reason why thousands of people are leaving their homes each month.

While people some come to the camps on foot, others arrive in military helicopters and trucks from more distant reaches of a province which extends 500 km to the Zambian border. Some of these areas are under the effective control of UNITA, whose soldiers rely on the villagers for sustenance - either in the form of willing donations of food, or wholesale looting of crops and supplies.

'Conditions were terrible - we had no food,' said another man who had been flown by helicopter and was now in the resettlement area at Muachimbo. 'We decided to put ourselves in the hands of the government.'

But other testimonies indicate that not everyone was so willing to hand themselves over to the authorities. In the Katepue camp near Luena, women who had been separated from their families have a different story to tell.

'The government forces captured me in the fields and brought me here. I came in a helicopter - I didn't want to leave my home,' she said.

Her family remained behind: 'At first they must have thought I was dead, but when they didn't find my body they must have realised I'd been captured,' she said.

Stories like this indicate that the airlift is taking place for more than simply humanitarian purposes. Since UNITA relies on peasant farmers for its livelihood, the evacuation of the rural population is helping to starve out the rebels.

Non-governmental organisation staff are almost unanimous that a scorched earth strategy is being implemented, though no one will talk openly about such a politically sensitive matter." (IRIN 10 December 2001)

Disaggregated figures

Many of newly displaced in Bie province are single mothers (July 2001)

- Majority of IDPs in Kuito and Camacupa are women and children who have walked long distances to reach aid

"Abandoned by husbands either fighting for government forces or for the armed opposition movement Unitsa and left to fend for themselves, more and more female-headed households are being driven off their land by the recent intensification in fighting.

Faced with starvation, the women have little choice but to gather their belongings and move their children toward the relative safety of provincial capitals like Kuito.

[...]

In Kuito alone, it is estimated that more than 1,000 exhausted mothers, together with their severely malnourished children, are receiving medical help from aid agencies.

[...]

The situation is even worse in Camacupa, a small town some 20 kilometres northeast of Kuito and recently caught in the crossfire of the civil war.

In the past two months, thousands of mothers and children have crossed a damaged bridge on the river Cuanza to take refuge in aid camps set up in and around the town...

Suffering from severe malnutrition and war trauma, the physical and emotional well-being of many of these people is affected irreparably. The majority of the IDPs receiving food aid at Camacupa, for the most part women and children, have walked over 70 kilometres from Cuemba, to the southeast, before crossing the Cuanza." (WFP 12 July 2001)

Majority of internally displaced in Angola said to be women and children (1998-2001)

- UNICEF estimates that one million children are displaced
- Over 75 percent of the displaced population are women and children
- Female-headed households make up 30 percent of persons in camps

"A recent UN inter-agency mission estimated the number of IDPs in Angola to be 2.3, out of a population of 11 million. Among these IDPs, an estimated one million are children. They are the most disadvantaged, and the ones most adversely affected by the conflict. They have little access to the poorly-run social institutions that provide health and education, as well as food, and they are the ones most at risk of disease. They are vulnerable to a number of varying forms of abuse, such as beatings and sexual abuse, and are also under the threat of being enrolled to serve in varying functions as child soldiers." (UNICEF 2001, Country Background)

"[O]ver 75 percent of the displaced population are children and women." (UN 30 November 1999, p. 69)

"Resumption of war in December 1998 resulted in renewed displacements of some one million people as of May 1999; this number is likely to increase in the coming months. Women and children constituted the majority of those who fled, leaving behind assets and food stocks." (WFP 9 September 1999, p. 1)

"[A]mong IDPs living in camps, more than 30 percent are female-headed households." (UN February 1998, p. 99)