

- **64 000 Congolese nationals have been expelled from Angola since 25 May 2008 to the Congolese border provinces. 150 000 more may be concerned.**
- **The expellees arrive stripped of all their belongings, reporting exactions by the Angolan military during the expulsions. They need water, food, NFIs, medication and transport.**
- **Women and girls are in an extremely vulnerable situation, undergoing intimate body searches. Reports indicate many cases of sexual violence and harassment.**
- **An evaluation mission by Congolese and Angolan authorities and humanitarian actors is under preparation.**

Context

In 2003, in the perspective of the organisation of general elections in the country, the government of Angola announced the expulsion of all foreigners without legal status. Between December 2003 and July 2007, around 140,000 Congolese were expelled in successive waves. At the end of 2007, the election date was fixed for September 2008. Since 25 May 2008, the Angolan authorities have resumed the expulsion of Congolese illegally living on Angolan territory. The operations continue and intensify, raising concerns about a further acceleration as the date of the elections approach.

Current expulsions

- As of 14 July, an estimated 64,520 Congolese nationals have been expelled since the start of the current wave on 25 May 2008, without prior consultations between the Angolan and Congolese governments. 22,430 additional cases in Bandundu have not been confirmed yet.
- The expulsions, as of now, have mainly targeted the population around the mines. However, the Angolan Deputy Minister of Interior has confirmed that the expulsions will be extended to towns, harbouring around 150,000 more Congolese.
- According to the available statistics, 75% of the expellees so far have been men, 12.5% women, and another 12.5% children. Should the expulsions reach the towns, the proportion of children and women will significantly increase.
- The expellees arrive in DRC through several entry points in all border provinces. Stripped of all their belongings and in a very vulnerable condition, they are in need of assistance with water, food, NFIs, medication and transport.
- Despite the recurrent waves of expulsion, no adequate reception infrastructure on the Congolese side is in place. Consequently, the response was marked by a low degree of preparedness, the absence of a common intervention strategy and the slow implication of local and national authorities. Consultations between the governments of Angola and DRC are initiated and will be pursued.

Expulsions by province

Province	Territories	Localities	Number
Bandundu	Kasongo-Lunda	Tembo, Kahungula, Kahemba, Popokabaka, Kitenda	31 297 (+22 430)*
Kasai Occidental	Luiza, Luebo et Tshikapa	Luiza, Luambo, Nsumbula, Kamako, Diboko, Mwenyangulu	19 021
Kasai Oriental	Mwene-Ditu	Wikong, Mulundu, Luilu	1 522
Bas-Congo		Yatch Banana, Yema, Mayili, Kayindingi, Lufu, Kimpangu	3 206
Katanga	Kapanga	Musumba, Katamayi et Musegumayi	9 474
Total			64 520 (+22 430)*

* unconfirmed numbers

Sexual violence

- Expelled women report all kinds of harassment and sexual violence during the expulsions. According to UNFPA, expellees in Bandundu undergo systematic intimate body searches in search of possibly hidden diamonds, carried out by Angolan military in unacceptable hygienic conditions and without dignity.

- The inter-agency and governmental mission to Tembo in Bandundu, on 10-11 June, estimates that more than 80% of all expelled women have been victims of violence. In Kasai Occidental, Caritas denounces the arrival of 500 victims of rapes committed by Angolan military and police. In Bas-Congo, the Health Zone of Bas-Fleuve reports 25 rape cases on a total of 66 expelled women.
- The majority of sexual violence cases are not documented and counselling is not efficient. Thus, the proportion of cases of harassment during the body searches and cases of rape subsequent to the searches or in other circumstances has not yet been established.

Response

Advocacy

- Principally, the expulsion of illegal foreigners from Angolan territory has to be considered a political concern between the two governments. The very limited assistance by the authorities for several weeks, however, has made a response by humanitarian actors necessary.
- A number of political and diplomatic advocacy initiatives at different levels are underway, to stop human rights abuses on the Angolan side, improve the coordination between the two governments, and support the Congolese authorities to provide a minimum of assistance.
- In DRC, a working group with the Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Health was established. On 16 July, the Humanitarian Coordinator met with the Congolese Minister of Interior, agreeing on the organisation of a joint evaluation mission (Congolese and Angolan governments plus humanitarian actors) to the entry points and reception zones.
- In Angola, the Resident Coordinator met with the Minister of Interior. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Angola has formed a working group, including UNHCR, IOM and UNICEF, with support from the RC's office.
- In reaction to advocacy for better protection of the expellees, the Angolan authorities have decided to replace the military accompanying the expellees by police forces.

Assistance

- First basic assistance for the expellees was mainly provided by local NGOs and churches.
- Inter-agency missions were organised to Tembo in Bandundu province, to Kamako and Luiza, in Kasai Occidental, and to Wikong and Mulundu, in Kasai Oriental.
- The humanitarian community has defined a strategy based on three main axes:
 - **Protection:** strengthen the registration mechanisms at the borders, as to ensure proper registration of expellees and obtain more information on the circumstances of the expulsions.
 - **Shelter/NFIs:** distribute reception kits by Caritas in Bandundu and Bas-Congo, by UNICEF in Kasai Oriental and Occidental, and by CRS in Katanga, in order to facilitate the return to their home areas and avoid the looting of fields on the way and resulting tensions with local communities.
 - **Health:** strengthen health infrastructures in border zones, overstretched by the arrival of the expellees, and ensure their inclusion in regular humanitarian and development programs.

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This situation report, as well as other information on DRC, is available at: www.rdc-humanitaire.net and www.reliefweb.int

