

Republic of Congo

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Up to 7,800
Percentage of total population	Up to 0.2%
Start of current displacement situation	1992
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	800,000 (1998)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	0
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflict
Human development index	130

Up to 800,000 people were displaced during the 1990s by conflict in the Pool region around Brazzaville, between government forces and rebels originating from among the Lari people. Fighting flared up again in 2002 but transformation of the rebel group into a political party gave hope by 2007 of an end to the violence. By 2006, according to a government estimate, only 7,800 people remained displaced in Pool. Since then no new assessments of the number of IDPs have been conducted, but the UN estimated in 2008 that the number had decreased considerably, and reported that there were no more IDPs in its last Displaced Populations Report of December 2008.

However, IDPs have long been hard to identify as most sought refuge with families and host communities, often in the

Angola

Quick facts

Number of IDPs	Undetermined
Start of current displacement situation	1975 (Angola proper); 1975, 2002 (Cabinda)
Peak number of IDPs (and year)	4,100,000 (2001)
New displacement in 2008	0
Returns in 2008	0
Causes of displacement	Internal armed conflicts, human rights violations
Human development index	157

According to the government and most international observers, internal displacement in Angola proper (excluding the exclave of Cabinda) has come to an end. At the height of the civil wars which raged from 1975 and 2002 between the governing Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), over four million people were displaced, but since 2005 displacement and return have no longer been monitored.

However, not all IDPs found truly durable solutions to their situation. Many settled in the towns and cities they had originally fled to, hoping to build livelihoods there, and so many

Bacongo and Makelekélé neighbourhoods of the capital Brazzaville. Sites in which IDPs received assistance from humanitarian organisations, in Brazzaville or elsewhere, were closed by the government following a small-scale return exercise.

In 2008 any remaining IDPs and returnees continued to share considerable hardship with other residents of Pool. For example, due to extreme poverty and the government's incapacity to deliver basic services, less than half of the population had access to clean water. According to Médecins Sans Frontières in 2007, the medical needs of the region were still indicative of a chronic crisis. While the situation is no longer considered as a humanitarian emergency, two million dollars were nonetheless disbursed to UN agencies in 2008 by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), to assist returnees and local communities, as well as 50,000 refugees from DRC. The funds were used to provide health care services including emergency obstetrics, agriculture and food security support, and nutrition, water and sanitation projects.



of the urban poor are former IDPs living on land that is not theirs. Over the past six years they have frequently experienced forced evictions.

Angola's reconstruction has progressed slowly, but in the rural areas most affected by the war and resulting displacement, the enduring inadequacy of infrastructure and social services have made it very difficult for returnees and others to access health care, livelihoods and education. In an often forced and hasty return and reintegration process, many IDPs returned to villages with conditions well below the standards outlined in the government's "Norms for the Resettlement of the Internally Displaced".

The latest information on IDPs in Cabinda, the small, oil-rich exclave to Angola's north, dates from the end of 2005, when 19,500 people were unable or unwilling to return home because of a low-intensity separatist conflict between government forces and the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave in Cabinda (FLEC). Despite a 2006 peace agreement, serious human rights violations have since been carried out by both sides.