

A photograph of a man and a woman shaking hands over a large cardboard box. The man, on the left, is older with grey hair and a goatee, wearing glasses, a blue shirt, and a light blue vest. The woman, on the right, has dark curly hair and is wearing a blue short-sleeved shirt and a patterned skirt. They are standing in front of a building with an orange wall and a window. The box they are holding has a UNHCR logo and some text on it.

Government & UNHCR cooperation on health to affected populations

Case of Lunda Norte, Angola

Promoting good collaboration with local government is important

Present in more than 134 countries, the UN Refugee Agency works closely with host governments to protect and assist refugees and to find long-term solutions to their problems. Even before UNHCR and other relief organizations are on the scene, host communities are the first provider of support to refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR DONATING
MEDICINE TO LÓVUA
MUNICIPALITY ©UNHCR/
OMOTOLA AKINDIPE

A good collaboration is important and in the Angolan municipality of Lóvua, humanitarian workers have implemented this to maximum effect.

The local government carries out many activities in the settlement while humanitarian workers continue to support the government with services to the host community.

Lunda Norte as part of the response to more than 20,000 Congolese refugees who live in Lóvua settlement.

Collaborating health activities and services with the local government is important and UNHCR has been coordinating this with a high degree of success. To this end, UNHCR has also aided the local government in its health service to the host communities.

In the area of health, Lóvua municipality has just one health center to serve 12,000 inhabitants. There is no doctor in the health system in Lóvua and this means that the 13 nurses in the community have to take on and cure medical cases.

Since 2018, Medicos del Mundo has been UNHCR's official health partner in

Biweekly Campaigns

Since September 2018, Lóvua municipality has been providing routine immunization twice a week in the settlement. Health workers from Lóvua municipality also deliver and update official vaccination cards.

3 Health posts

In 2019, UNHCR set up 3 health posts in the host communities around the settlement. Doctors of Medicos del Mundo will provide medical consultations to the host communities on weekly basis.

1 Ambulance

In June 2019, UNHCR donated an ambulance to Lóvua municipality. Before this donation, it was difficult for the municipality to provide safe transportation in case of emergencies due to a lack of transportation.



Interview with Lóvua's Municipal Director of Health

Dr. Antonio Muzala

Who	Dr. Antonio Muzala
When	Interview was on 7 August 2019
What	The interview was on the collaboration between UNHCR and the local government as well as wishes for the future



Dr Antonio Muzala © UNHCR/Omotola Akindipe

1) How has the local government supported the refugees in Lóvua settlement?

We have supported refugees with regular immunization campaigns as well as the vaccinations of refugees during relocation. We work quite well with UNHCR and its health partner, Medicos del Mundo on many aspects.

2) How has UNHCR improved health services in the municipality of Lóvua?

UNHCR has done a lot for us. They donated medicines as well as an ambulance. UNHCR also constructed health posts in some of our rural villages that will enable us to provide care. Finally, they installed solar lamps in front of the health center, which is very important as we do not always have electricity.

3) What are the challenges that you face in the deliver of health services in the municipality of Lóvua.

We have a challenge with human resources as we are understaffed, for instance we do not have a proper doctor on site. We also have a lack of basic infrastructure such as health posts throughout the municipality, which is large. Finally, there is a lack of a sanitation network and this is one of the reasons why there is poor sanitation in the municipality.

4) What are your wishes for the future in terms of a collaboration with UNHCR?

I think that it would be important for UNHCR to focus on capacity building. For instance in terms of staff, UNHCR could fund scholarships for health staff to build their capacity in specialist areas. Moreover, UNHCR can provide more equipments such as an ECG and transportation.