

Southern Africa

August 2022

8.1 million people of concern to UNHCR are hosted in 16 Southern African countries, including 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan.

UNHCR contributes to protection and solutions for 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the region due to both conflict and natural disasters – 5.6 million in DRC, 1 million in Mozambique, 304,000 in Republic of the Congo (ROC) and 42,000 in Zimbabwe.

By the end of August, 11,954 refugees and asylum-seekers voluntarily repatriated to their countries of origin from asylum countries in Southern Africa. UNHCR has also assisted 1,336 people to depart on resettlement since the beginning of the year.

KEY FIGURES (as of 31 July)

785,892

Refugees

281,015

Asylum-seekers

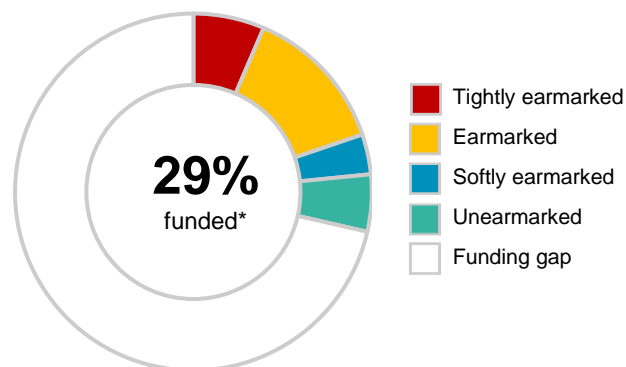
7,030,397

Internally displaced persons

FUNDING (as of 30 August)

USD 436.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements in Southern Africa 2022

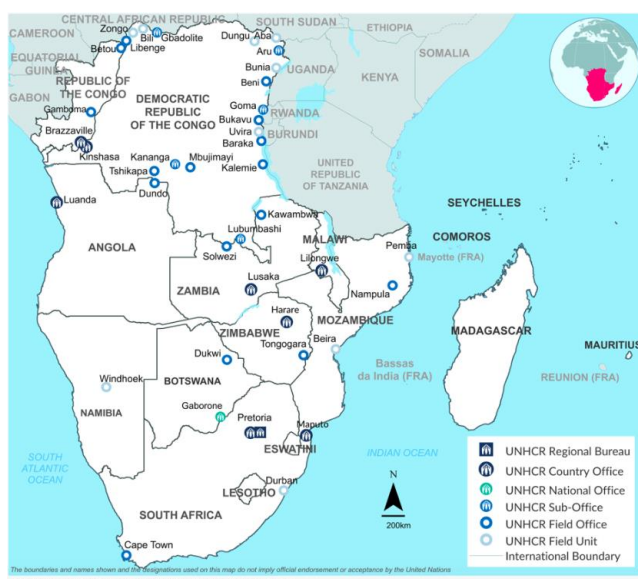


* Including indicative allocation of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

PRESENCE AND STAFF (as of 31 August)*

Regional Bureau and HQ	87
Angola	46
Democratic Republic of the Congo	452
Malawi	58
Mozambique	117
Republic of the Congo	90
South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa)	101
Zambia	103
Zimbabwe	36
TOTAL	1,090

*Figures reflect regular UNHCR staff and affiliate workforce.



Regional Overview

Context: Southern Africa is home to **8.1 million people of concern to UNHCR** as of August 2022. **Complex crises** cause millions to flee their homes and prevent their safe return. The region comprises the largest IDP situation in sub-Saharan Africa, while refugee camps and settlements, along with some urban areas, host long-term refugee populations – some displaced for many decades. The situation is complicated by the **growing impact of climate change and natural disasters**.

Emergency Situations: About two-thirds of forcibly displaced people in the region have fled conflict in the **DRC**, mainly in the east of the country, where violence, compounded by natural disasters, have internally displaced 5.6 million people and caused about 1 million to seek asylum. **In northern Mozambique**, more than 1 million people are internally displaced, including 200,000, among them IDPs and refugees, affected by tropical storms and cyclones.

Solutions: **Local integration and voluntary repatriation** are the focus for solutions in the region, as opportunities for **resettlement** remain limited to a small percentage of the overall population. Options to expand complementary pathways are also being explored. **Steps towards ending statelessness** in the region include reforming nationality law, policy and procedure, and supporting access to documentation.



Kigonze camp in Bunia, the DRC, hosts more than 14,000 IDPs. © UNHCR/G. Ndebo

Strategic Directions

The High Commissioner's Strategic Directions, renewed for a further five years for 2022-2026, continue to guide UNHCR's efforts in Southern Africa to achieve sustainable impact for forcibly displaced and stateless people, and the States and communities that host them. Priorities within the scope of the Strategic Directions include:

- Protect** **Strengthen** the protection environment; **improve** the quality of registration and information management; **reinforce** asylum systems and legal protection frameworks.
- Respond** **Strengthen** emergency preparedness; **innovate** to improve operational responses.
- Include** **Enhance** partnerships; **invigorate** the humanitarian-development nexus.
- Empower** **Empower** refugee communities; **improve** two-way communication; **support** decision-making.
- Solve** **Promote** and **facilitate** comprehensive solutions; **alleviate** poverty; **foster** self-reliance.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the Southern Africa region with unearmarked and earmarked funds:

African Development Bank | Angola | Belgium | Canada | CERF | Country-Based Pooled Funds | Denmark | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | France | Germany | Giuliana Lagetto | Ireland | Italy | Japan | Migration MPTF | Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives | Netherlands | Norway | Profuturo | Qatar | Republic of the Congo | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | UN Office for South-South Cooperation | UN Peacebuilding Fund | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS | UN Trust Fund for Human Security | United Kingdom | United States of America | UNIQLO | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | Vodafone Foundation | Other private donors

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