



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

DIMA - RBSA

Data, Identity Management and Analysis - Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

Population Data Analysis

Regional Bureau
for Southern Africa

September 2023



Overview

At the end of September 2023, Southern Africa hosts around **9.3 million people that UNHCR has the mandate to protect**. They include 776,000 refugees, 204,000 asylum-seekers, 32,800 others of concern, 7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) induced by conflicts. To that figures, it should be noted that 700 refugees and 1.4 million IDPs have returned during the reporting period. In addition, 1 million people displaced as a result of climate change and disaster. The most significant change is the increase in the number of conflict induced IDPs by 339,000 since August 2023. **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hosts 85 per cent of the population in the region.**

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Others of Concern

There are **1 million refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern** hosted in the region and 75 per cent originate from countries outside Southern Africa region.¹ The top five countries of origin are: Central African Republic (246,500), Rwanda (238,400), Democratic Republic of the Congo (221,900), Burundi (88,300) and South Sudan (53,500).

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

In the Southern Africa region, **87 per cent of the internally displacements is caused by conflicts**. Around 1.4 million individuals returned from internal displacement in DRC and Mozambique due to durable solutions. IDPs induced by conflicts are reported in DRC and Mozambique, and IDPs induced by disaster are reported in DRC, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

Durable solutions

Since January this year 8,400 persons have been voluntarily repatriated. This number includes 690 repatriated within Southern Africa and 7,700 to countries outside the region. The largest group of returns was from DRC to Burundi with 4,520 individuals and within the region 440 from Zambia to DRC. By the end of September, 1,800 cases involving 7,900 persons have been submitted for resettlement. The United States leads with 6,800 submitted cases members, other countries include Canada (340), Australia (310), Finland (230), New Zealand (130) and France (70). Total submitted cases represents 91% of the quota.

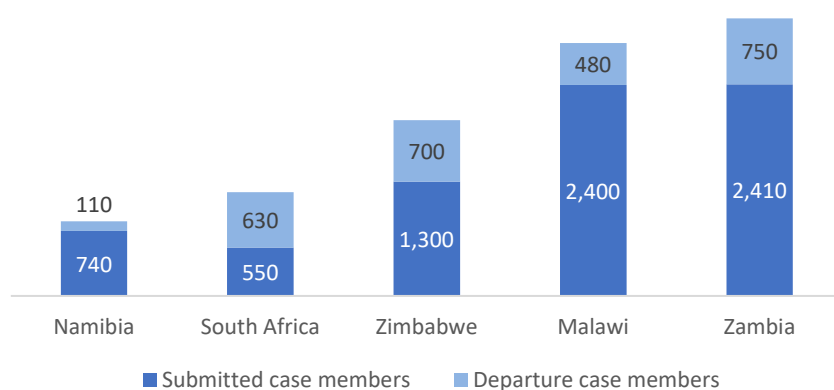


Figure 1: Top 5 submitted and departed case members by country of asylum.

The highest number of resettlement case members originate from DRC with 6,500 individuals. A total of 2,900 persons departed from the region and 79 per cent were women and children. A high number (2,270) left for the United States accounting for 79 per cent of total resettlement departures. DRC remains the country of origin with the highest number of resettlement cases for both submissions (82%) and departures (62%) of

all cases. With respect to country of asylum, Zambia leads with 2,410 resettlement case submissions and 750 departures followed closely by Malawi, Zimbabwe, Namibia and others for submissions.

¹ Southern Africa region refers to the 16 countries covered by the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa of UNHCR including Angola (AGO), Botswana (BWA), Comoros (COM), Congo (COG), DRC (COD), Eswatini (SWZ), Lesotho (LSO), Madagascar (MDG), Malawi (MWI), Mauritius (MUS), Mozambique (MOZ), Namibia (NAM), Seychelles (SYC), South Africa (ZAF), Zambia (ZMB) and Zimbabwe (ZWE).

KEY FIGURES



9,336,930

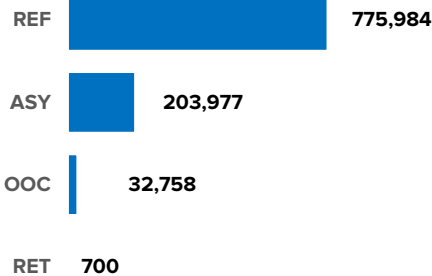
FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE & RETURNEES¹

As a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events seriously disturbing public order.



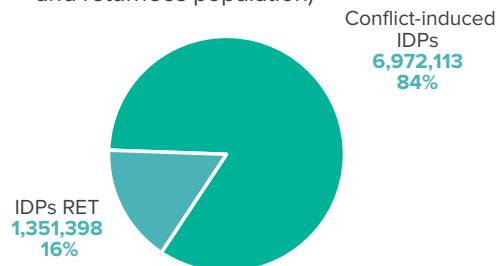
1,013,419

Refugees, asylum-seekers, other of concern & returnees (11% of the overall forcibly displaced people and returnees population)**

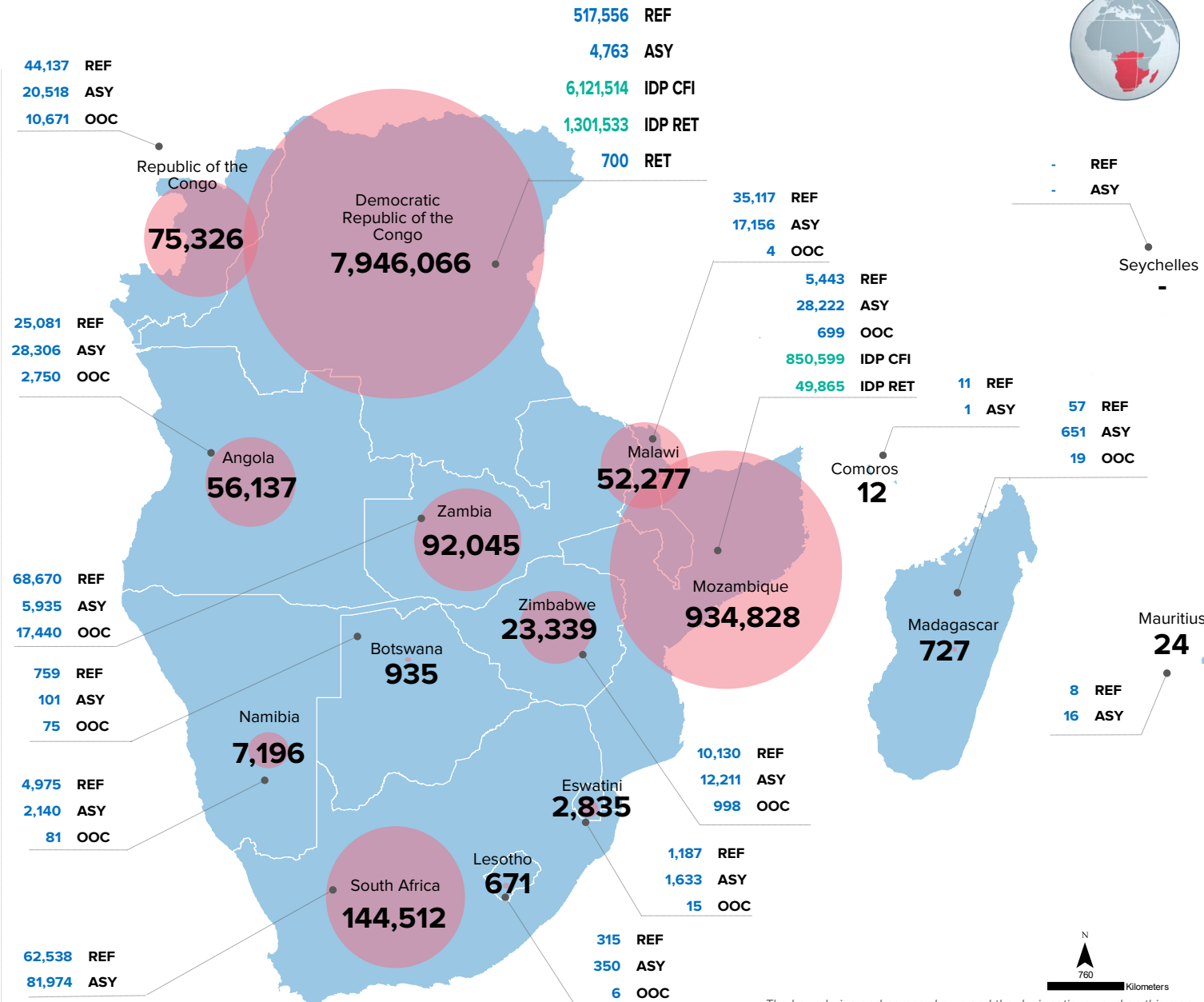


8,323,511

Conflict-induced IDPs and returned IDPs (89% of the overall forcibly displaced people and returnees population)**



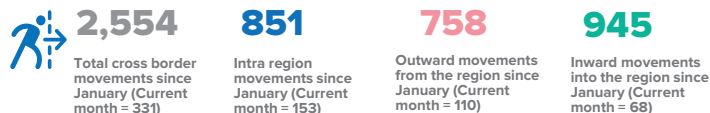
MAP OF POPULATIONS THAT UNHCR IS MANDATED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST



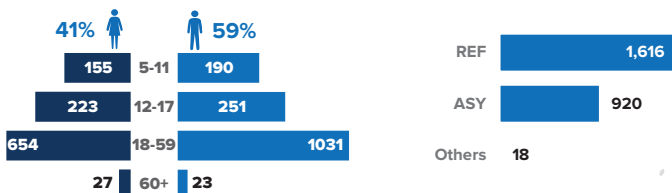
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

¹ In addition, there are 998,669 people displaced internally in the context of disasters and climate change. The displacement occurred in the following countries: Malawi (659,278), The Democratic Republic of the Congo (256,188), Mozambique (41,668) and Zimbabwe (41,535).

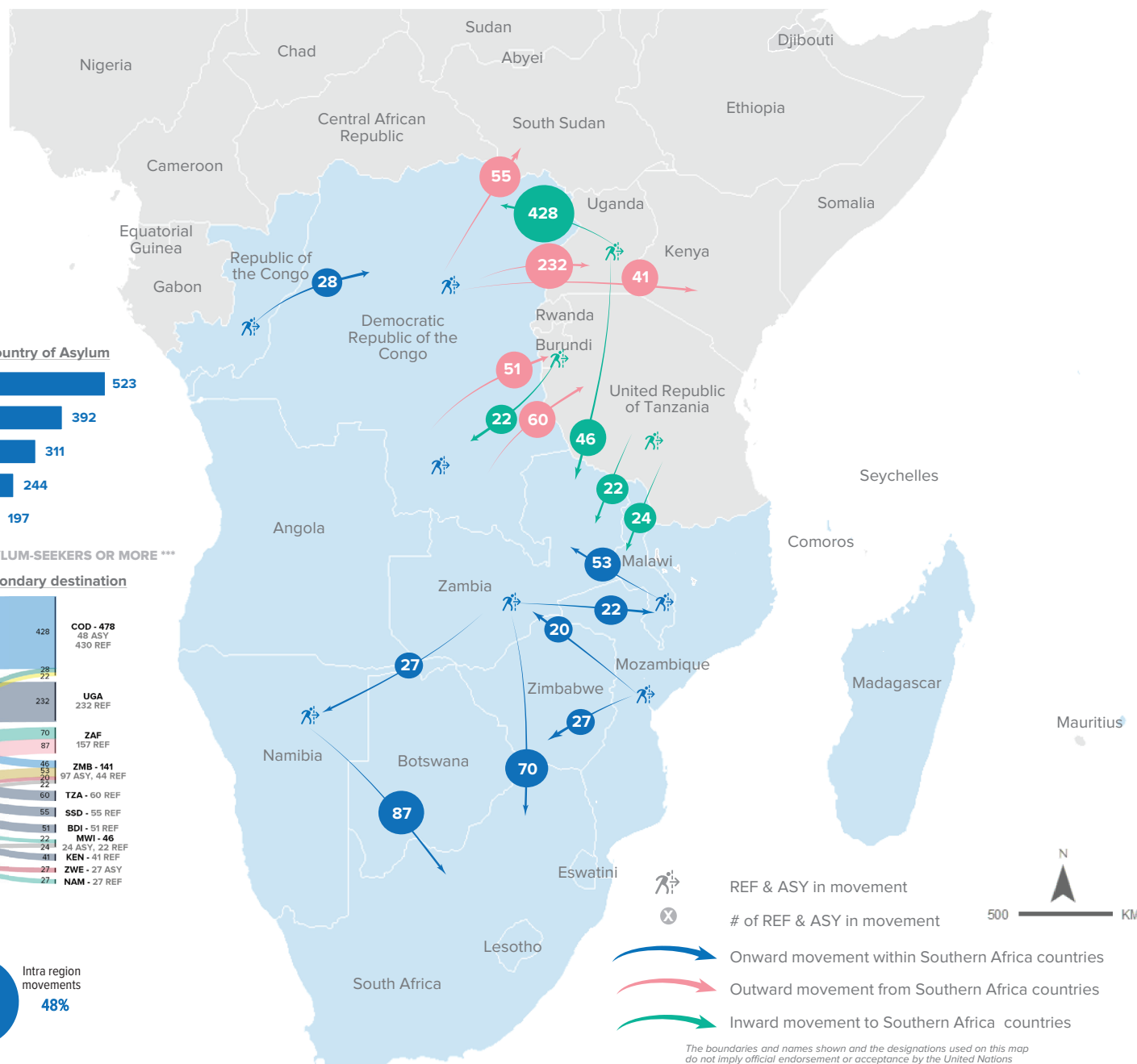
CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS KEY FIGURES*



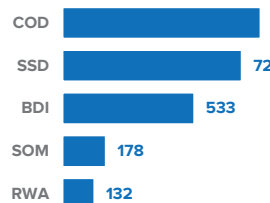
AGES, GENDER AND LEGAL STATUS OF MOVERS**



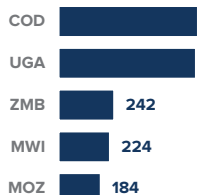
MAP OF CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 20 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OR MORE



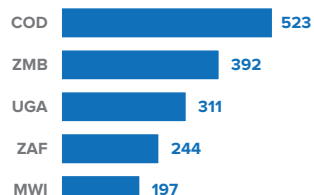
Top 5: Nationality



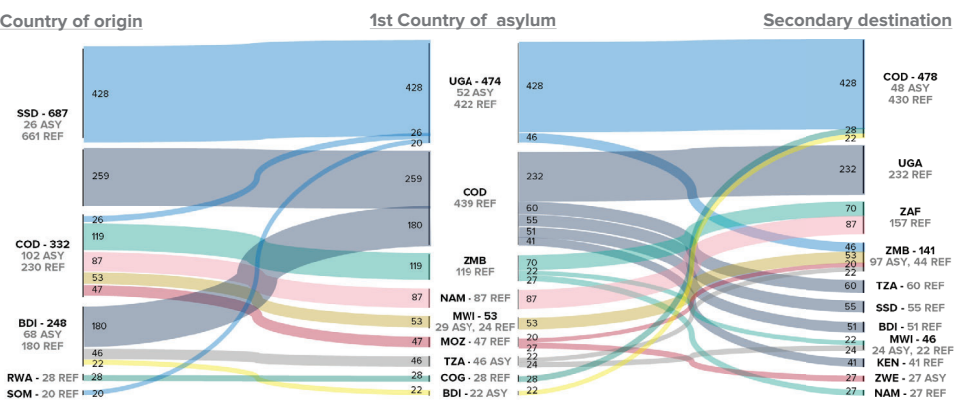
Top 5: 1st Country of Asylum



Top 5: 2nd Country of Asylum



CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 20 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OR MORE***



CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS TREND PER YEAR AND PROPORTIONS SINCE 2019



* Figures have been revised in June by removing individuals found in VolRep and Data Transfer Request.
** REF = Refugee, ASY = Asylum-Seeker, OOC = Other person of concern

*** The flows shown are restricted only to movements of a minimum group people, therefore the totals is different from the overall movements of the month due to the exclusion. In case of the same country of origin and first country of asylum, due to the change of nationality of some PoCs, country of origin are replaced with the previous nationality. All countries were named according to the ISO 3 Codes, BDI = Burundi, COD = Democratic Republic of the Congo, COG = Republic of the Congo, SSD = South Sudan, KEN = Kenya, UGA = Uganda, MWI = Malawi, MOZ = Mozambique, NAM = Namibia, TZA = Tanzania, ZMB = Zambia, ZWE = Zimbabwe

Data sources: UNHCR PRIMES.
For more information or to contribute, please contact UNHCR RB SA DIMA (rsarbdima@unhcr.org)

KEY FIGURES



8,398

Total Individuals repatriated since January 2023

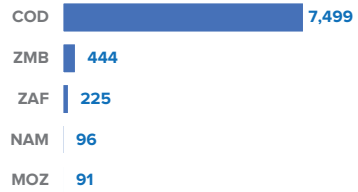
692

Individuals repatriated **within Southern Africa Region** since January 2023

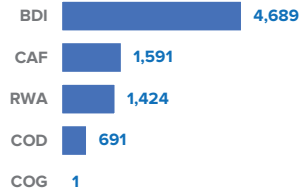
7,706

Individuals repatriated **from Southern Africa Region** to other countries outside of the region since January 2023

Top 5: Country of Asylum

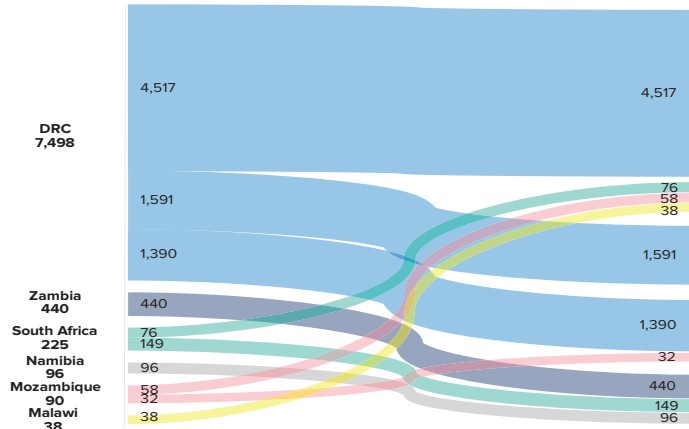


Top 5: Country of Repatriation



VOLREP* WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 10 REFUGEES OR MORE

Country of Asylum



TRENDS

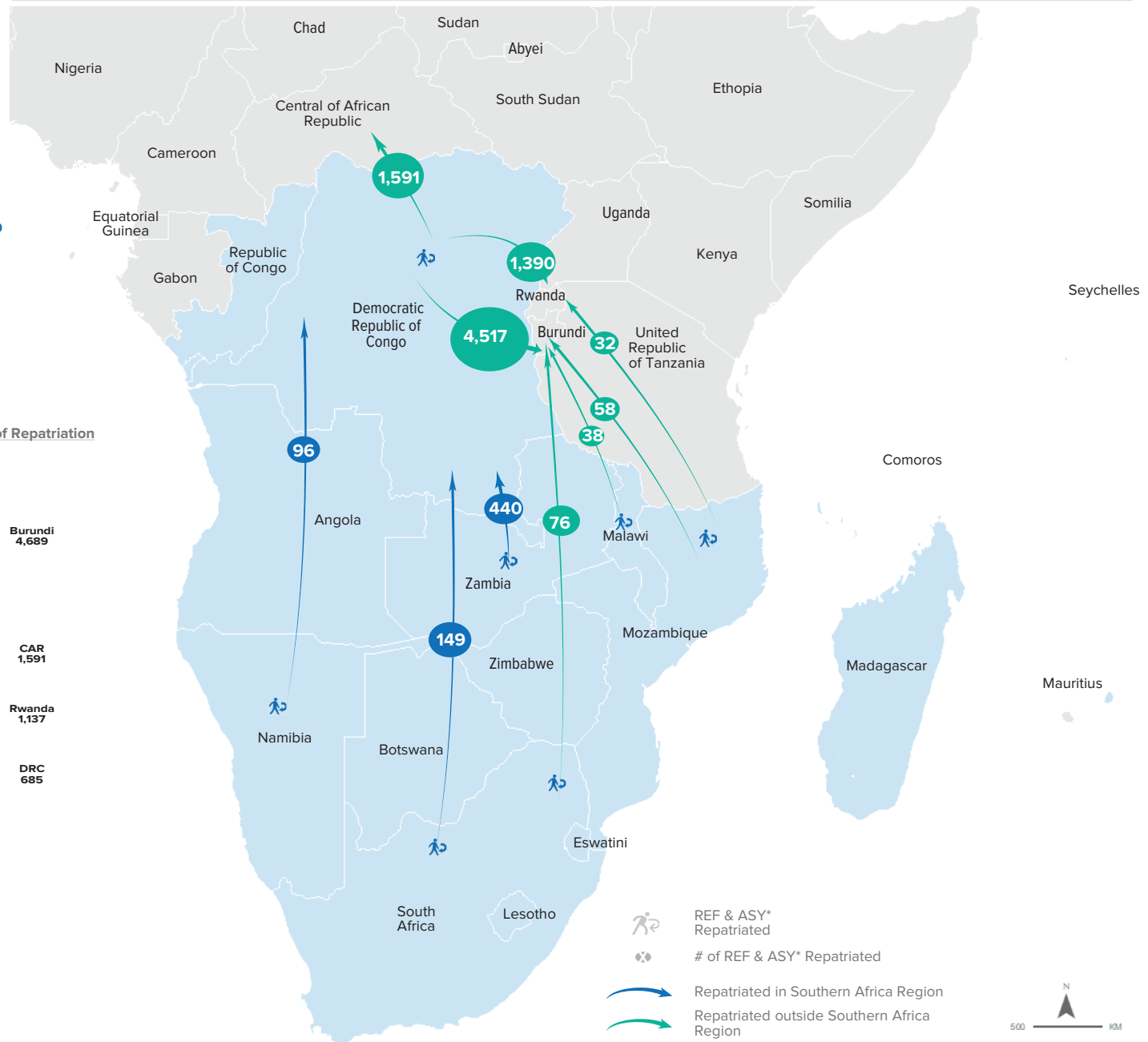
MONTHLY REPATRIATION SINCE JANUARY**



ANNUAL REPATRIATION SINCE 2019



MAP OF VOLREP* WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 10 REFUGEES OR MORE



REF & ASY* Repatriated



of REF & ASY* Repatriated



Repatriated in Southern Africa Region

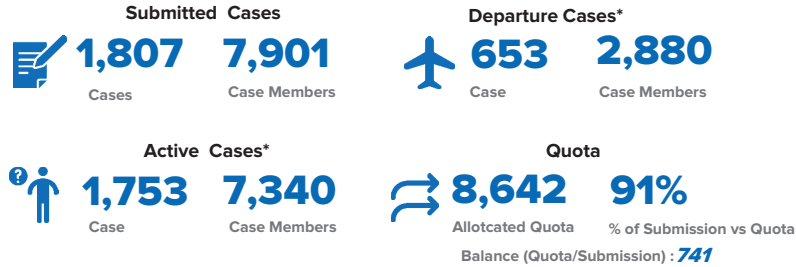


Repatriated outside Southern Africa Region

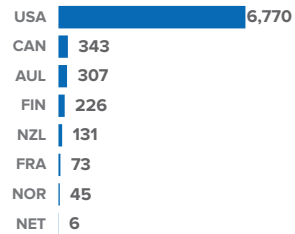


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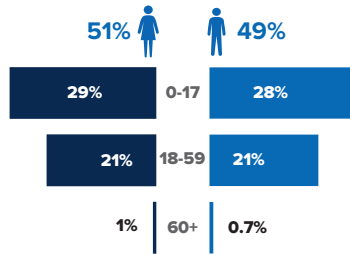
RESETTLEMENT KEY FIGURES



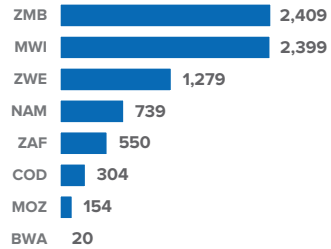
Submitted Cases Member by Country of Submission



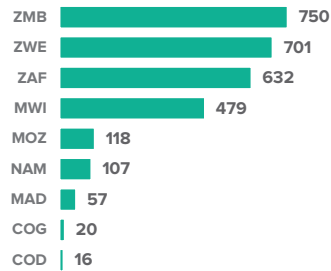
Departure Cases by Age and Gender



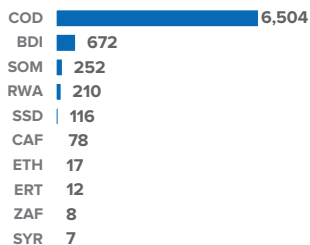
Submitted Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Asylum



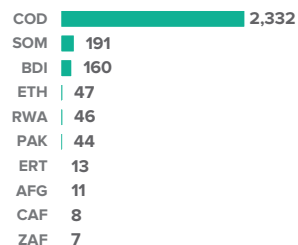
Departure Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Asylum



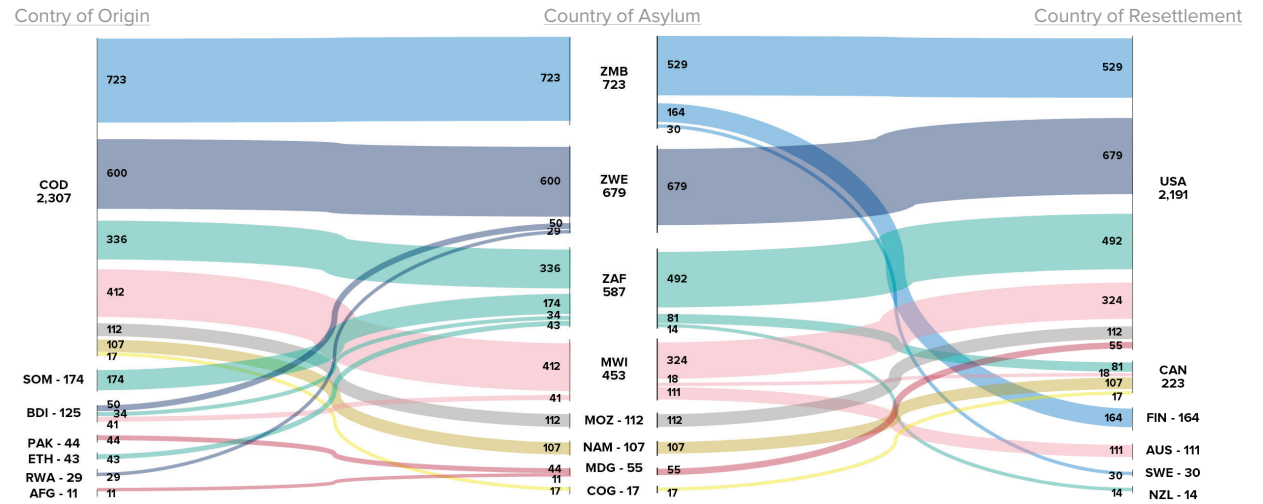
Submitted Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Origin



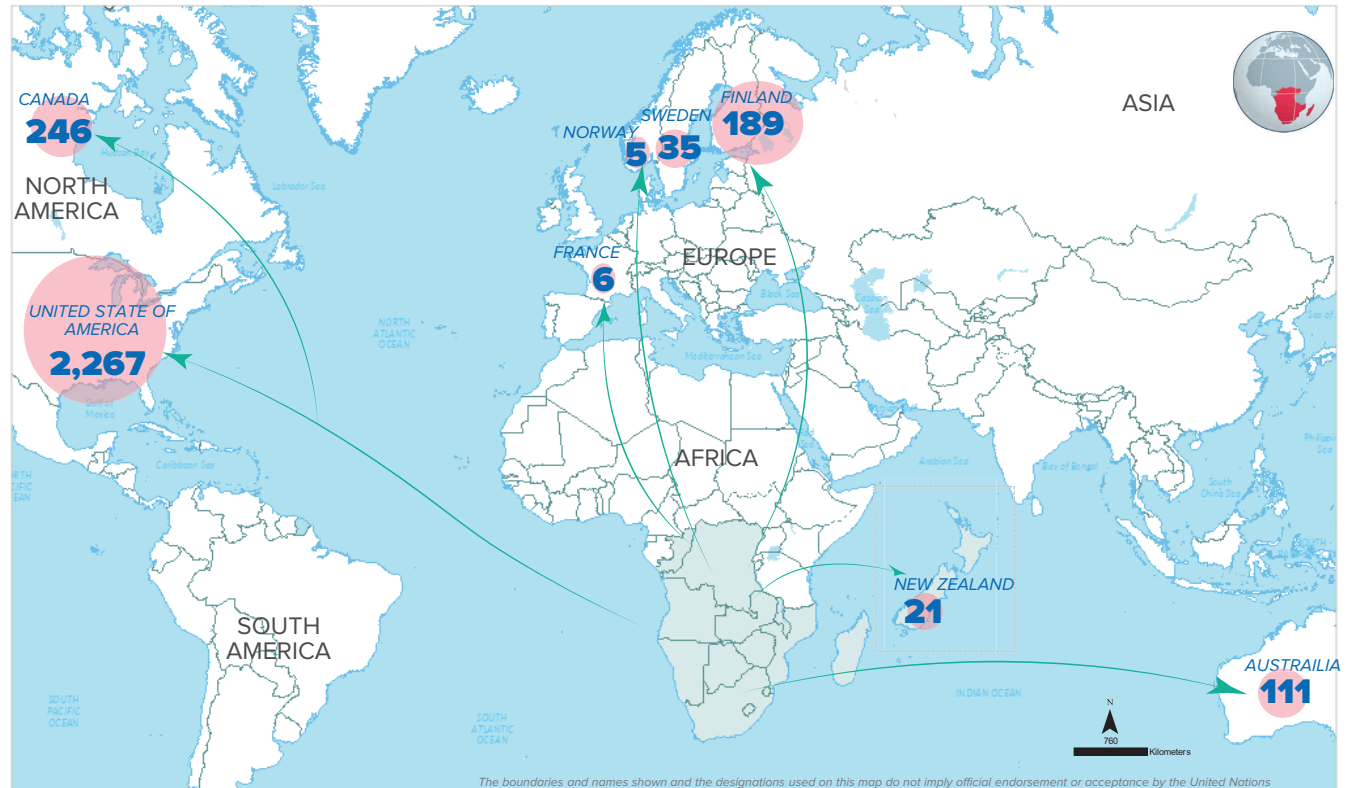
Departure Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Origin



MOVEMENTS OF GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE RESETTLEMENT CASE MEMBERS



MAP OF THE DEPARTURES BY COUNTRY OF SUBMISSION



KEY FIGURES



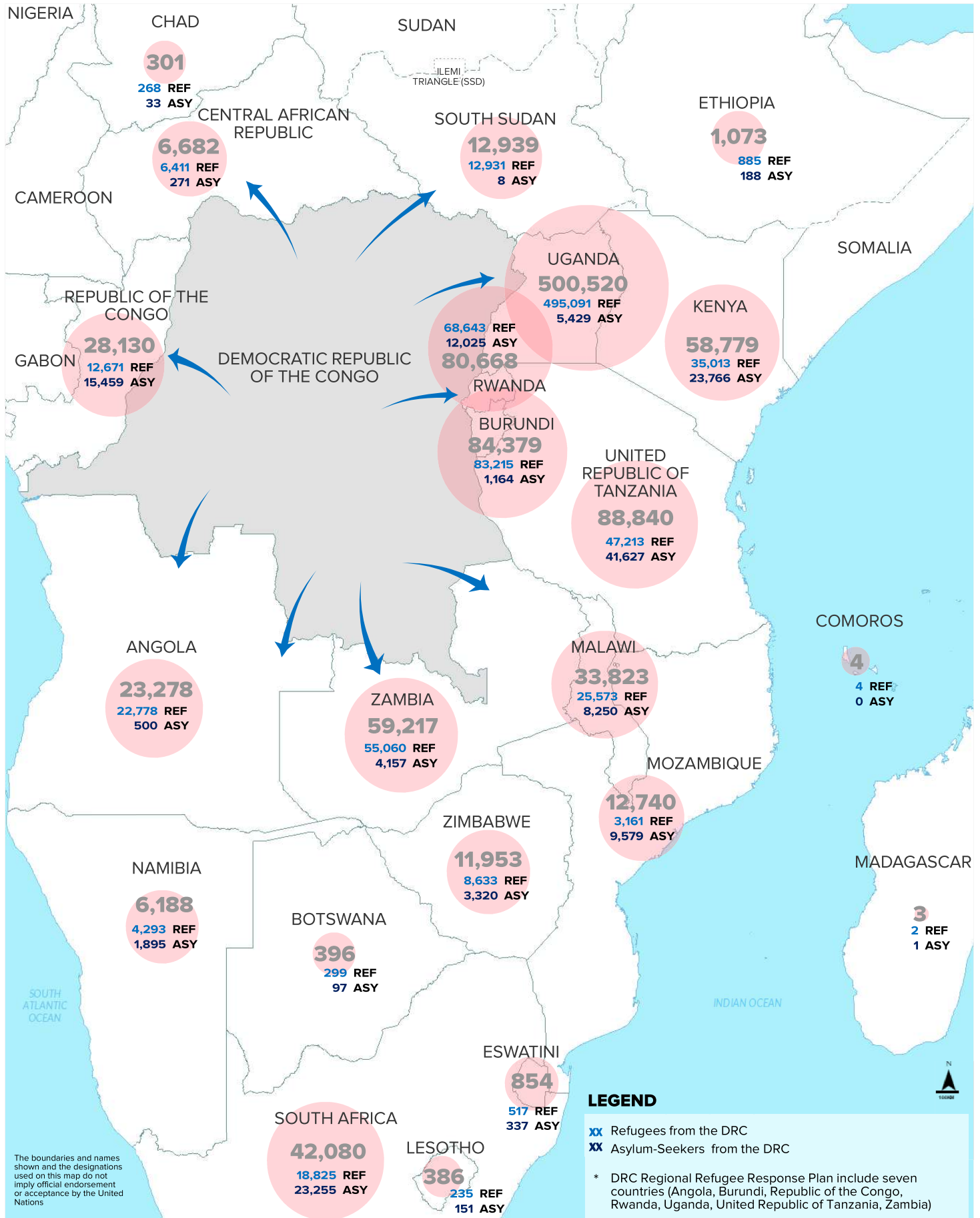
1,053,233
Total Refugees and
Asylum-seekers



901,721
Refugees



151,512
Asylum-seekers



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Forcibly displaced and returned persons in southern Africa, Data as of 30 September 2023*

Country of Asylum	Location**			Self-settled***	Population Group								Total
	Name	Longitude (X)	Latitude (Y)		Refugee	Asylum-Seeker	Other of Concern	IDP by Conflict	Returned IDP	Refugee Returnee	Statelessness	Host Community	
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	Other			No	377,206	4,220	-	5,502,622	1,301,533	700	-	-	7,186,281
	IDP Camp			No	-	-	-	618,892	-	-	-	-	618,892
	Lusenda	29.0944	-3.8879	No	25,723	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,723
	Meri	30.2019	3.8486	No	24,939	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,951
	Inke	20.7673	4.0905	No	18,396	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,403
	Mole	18.8033	4.1351	No	11,074	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,074
	Bili	19.9185	4.5413	No	10,384	23	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,407
	Mulongwe	29.0395	-4.2374	No	9,503	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,503
	Boyabu	18.7699	3.7291	No	8,805	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,805
	Nzakara	21.2204	4.2746	No	8,653	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,653
	Biringi	30.3385	2.8001	No	6,496	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,496
	Wenze	18.6355	4.2491	No	6,219	275	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,494
	Sidi	19.8615	5.0049	No	6,425	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,425
	Bele	30.1676	3.594	No	3,103	226	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,329
	Mboti	25.821	4.0243	No	630	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	630
	Subtotal				517,556	4,763	-	6,121,514	1,301,533	700	-	-	7,946,066
Mozambique	Other			No	2,570	22,569	228	850,599	49,865	-	-	-	925,831
	Maratane Camp	39.25	-15.255	No	2,873	5,653	471	-	-	-	-	-	8,997
	Subtotal				5,443	28,222	699	850,599	49,865	-	-	-	934,828
South Africa	Unknown			Yes	62,538	81,974	-	-	-	-	-	-	144,512
	Subtotal				62,538	81,974	-	-	-	-	-	-	144,512
Congo	Other			No	38,081	15,381	10,485	-	-	-	-	-	63,947
	Site du 15 Avril	18.5071	3.0597	No	6,056	923	180	-	-	-	-	-	7,159
	Site de Bouemba	16.1265	-2.1593	No	-	4,214	6	-	-	-	-	-	4,220
	Subtotal				44,137	20,518	10,671	-	-	-	-	-	75,326
Zambia	Meheba	25.8816	-12.4975	No	29,724	391	9,724	-	-	-	-	-	39,839
	Mayukwayukwa	24.1911	-14.549	No	17,253	49	6,950	-	-	-	-	-	24,252
	Other			No	14,529	4,521	766	-	-	-	-	-	19,816
	Mantapala	28.8876	-9.5082	No	7,164	974	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,138
	Subtotal				68,670	5,935	17,440	-	-	-	-	-	92,045
Angola	Unknown			Yes	17,087	28,064	2,397	-	-	-	-	-	47,548
	Lovua Settlement	20.0467	-7.4085	No	6,573	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,573
	Other			No	1,421	242	353	-	-	-	-	-	2,016
	Subtotal				25,081	28,306	2,750	-	-	-	-	-	56,137
Malawi	Other			No	1,248	1,491	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,739
	Dzaleka	33.8721	-13.6608	No	33,869	15,665	4	-	-	-	-	-	49,538
	Subtotal				35,117	17,156	4	-	-	-	-	-	52,277
Zimbabwe	Other			No	526	6,555	61	-	-	-	-	-	7,142
	Tongogara	32.3082	-20.3469	No	9,318	5,637	905	-	-	-	-	-	15,860
	Unknown			Yes	286	19	32	-	-	-	-	-	337
	Subtotal				10,130	12,211	998	-	-	-	-	-	23,339
Namibia	Osire	17.365	-21.07	No	4,283	1,741	43	-	-	-	-	-	6,067
	Other			No	692	399	38	-	-	-	-	-	1,129
	Subtotal				4,975	2,140	81	-	-	-	-	-	7,196
Eswatini	Other			No	1,187	1,633	15	-	-	-	-	-	2,835
	Subtotal				1,187	1,633	15	-	-	-	-	-	2,835
Botswana	Dukwe	26.4975	-20.5822	No	539	8	27	-	-	-	-	-	574
	Other			No	220	93	48	-	-	-	-	-	361
	Subtotal				759	101	75	-	-	-	-	-	935
Lesotho	Other			No	315	350	6	-	-	-	-	-	671
	Subtotal				315	350	6	-	-	-	-	-	671
Madagascar	Other			No	57	651	19	-	-	-	-	-	727
	Subtotal				57	651	19	-	-	-	-	-	727
Mauritius	Other			No	8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
	Subtotal				8	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Comoros	Other			No	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
	Subtotal				11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	12
					775,984	203,977	32,758	6,972,113	1,351,398	700	-	-	9,336,930

Notes: The figures are subject to change; *IDPs by disaster are not included; ***Other' in the location refers to any known location other than camp or settlement sites, covering both urban and rural areas; the numbers in Nzakara, Wenze and Sidi in DRC are as of 31 May 2023; ***self-settled refers to the individuals without available information such as their names and locations, and their locations are categorised to be 'unknown'; those by location in Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe could be different from the numbers operation report due to inconsistency in proGres.

Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) Registration in Southern Africa

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) exercise aimed to identify and profile internally displaced populations for: a) an evidence-based strategic and operational discussions and decision-making between the government and humanitarian actors; b) better programme formulations; c) ensuring accountability and effective monitoring and evaluation; d) addressing protection, assistance and solutions for concerned populations and e) ensure the integrity and prevent fraud when providing humanitarian assistance. The pilot phase of the enrolment has reached 42,358 households, comprising 164,121 individuals. The enrolment was conducted jointly with the DRC authorities (the National Commissioner for Refugees) and a local project partner, AIDES. UNHCR is discussing with the DRC authority's capacity development and further expansion of the biometric enrolment in other provinces in the DRC where displacements occur. The exercise contributes to strengthening the coordination efforts of humanitarian agencies in addressing data gaps on internally displaced populations in the country.

In response to Cyclone Fredy's impact on Malawi earlier this year, UNHCR in Malawi conducted a biometric registration exercise for IDPs. The exercise commenced on March 29, 2023, and concluded on June 3, 2023. A total of 12,480 IDPs were registered, out of the 20,000 IDPs initially targeted for the exercise. Additionally, socio-economic, and specific protection needs data were collected. This initiative aimed to enhance the efficiency of cash-based interventions and other forms of assistance for Malawi's IDPs. In summary, this exercise enabled UNHCR Malawi to allocate resources effectively, ensuring assistance reached those most in need. The use of biometric data guaranteed that aid was distributed to the right individuals, preventing duplication or resource diversion.

Both exercises drew the conclusion that the use of PRIMES tools for IDP registration significantly improved the delivery of assistance. Individual registration allowed for a more accurate assessment of family sizes. Without individual registration, only the self-declared family size would be considered, often resulting overestimations. Furthermore, the collection of biometric data greatly facilitated the implementation of cash-based interventions.

Population Data Analysis

Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

September 2023



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHCR, Regional Bureau of Southern Africa

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Contact

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