

Southern Africa Operational Update

July-September 2024

Highlights

UNHCR responded to the **mpox emergency** in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** with prevention and response activities.

Cash assistance was provided to vulnerable people facing food insecurity in **Zambia** due to the El Niño drought impacting the region.

A **parametric insurance payout** was provided in **Malawi** to protect the livelihoods of 4,000 refugee and host community households in Dowa District.



Liziki Gorette, a refugee from Burundi in Angola, celebrates receiving her refugee ID card by the Angolan authorities. Issuance of refugee ID cards is continuing following the resumption of refugee registration in the country last year. © UNHCR/Camila Geraldo

During July-September, across Southern Africa:



11,705 people were registered and **27,755** people received documentation.



5,8775 people received cash assistance to support their basic needs



91 people were supported to voluntarily return to their home countries



2,687 people benefited from trainings on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response and child protection



5,124 people received livelihoods training and support



48,799 people were reached with core relief items (CRIs) and shelter initiatives

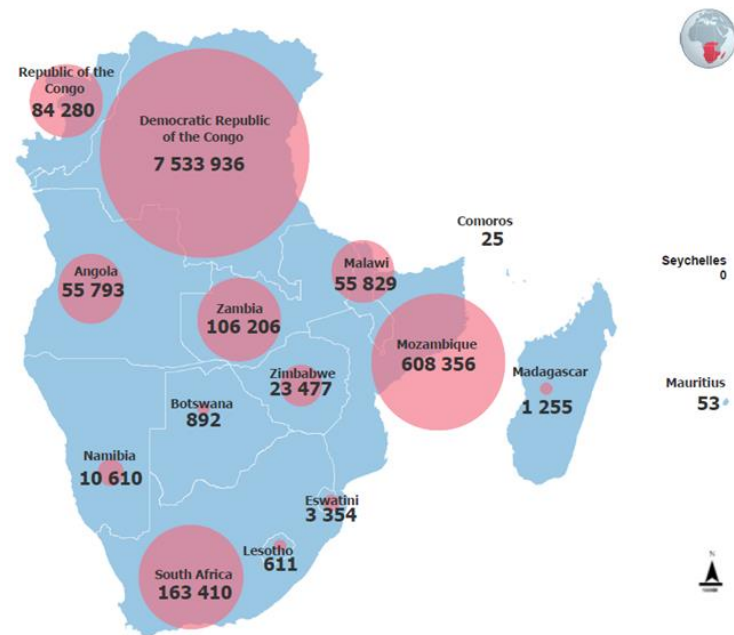
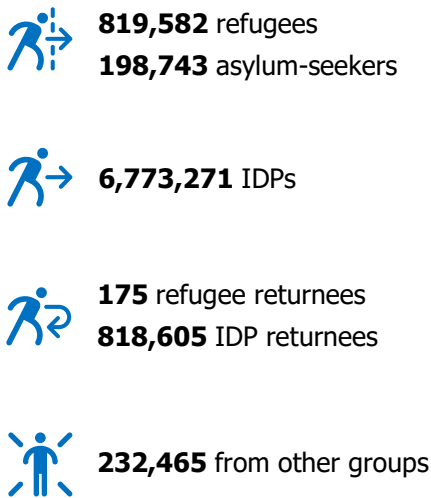


1,977 refugees were submitted for resettlement and **970** people departed on resettlement and complementary pathways



466,450 people benefitted from health and WASH initiatives

Population Figures in Southern Africa



(as of 30 September 2024)

*The figures and the map only include conflict-related IDPs and IDP returnees. In addition to this number, as

of 30 September 2024, there were some 1,088,182 **people displaced internally by natural disasters and climate change** in the region. The displacement occurred in the following countries: DRC (248,036), Malawi (659,278), Mozambique (139,333), and Zimbabwe (41,535).

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

Regional Context: Key Developments

- **Insecurity in the DRC:** On 30 July the DRC and Rwanda signed a ceasefire agreement which took effect on 4 August and will be monitored by the Angola-led Ad-Hoc Verification Mechanism established as part of the Luanda process. While the ceasefire between the Rwandan and Congolese military forces has largely held, clashes between the M23 and other armed groups persist, with people continuing to face violence, human rights abuses and forced displacement.
- **El Niño:** Humanitarian needs in Southern Africa have increased substantially due to drought induced by the El Niño phenomenon, particularly in the Central and Southern Regions of Mozambique, where some 1.8 million people are expected to experience food insecurity during October 2024-March 2025. Namibia is facing its worst drought in a century which has depleted 84% of its food reserves. In Zambia, an assessment conducted by the Zambia Vulnerability Committee (ZVAC) in July 2024 revealed that 4.95 million people in the country were facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above).
- **Mpox:** On 14 August, WHO declared a surge in mpox cases in the DRC and its spread to neighbouring countries as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. As of 10 September, DRC had reported 68 cases among refugees, all of whom have now recovered. Cases were also reported elsewhere in Southern Africa, including in the Republic of the Congo.

Operational Highlights

Angola

- **Refugee registration:** One year after the Government of Angola resumed refugee registration, over 5,500 people have been registered to date. During September, 1,110 identity cards were issued, with registration efforts extended to the southern provinces of the country.
- **National Census:** A National Census incorporating questions proposed by UNHCR focusing on the socio-economic profiles and relevant characteristics of refugees, asylum-seekers and stateless people was initiated. The National Institute of Statistics has agreed to develop an analytical framework which will enable the Government to effectively analyze the data of displaced populations. This development will support inclusion efforts.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- **Agriculture initiatives:** In Tanganyika Province, the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) launched the mechanical tilling of 100 hectares of land for returnees and host communities to boost local agricultural production and improve food security. In Kalemie, UNHCR's partner handed over three complete irrigation kits to agricultural cooperatives for refugees and host communities. This modern equipment will enable farmers to improve their yields and strengthen their food self-sufficiency.
- **Mpox response:** 250,000 refugees and asylum-seekers and 30,000 people from the host community were targeted with health, WASH and protection activities, including infection prevention and control, case management, soap distribution and education campaigns. In addition, UNHCR worked with WHO and the Ministry of Health to ensure the inclusion of refugees in the vaccination rollout.
- **Voluntary repatriation:** 138 refugee families (491 individuals) returned to Burundi in two convoys, bringing the total number of people repatriated to Burundi from DRC since the beginning of 2024 to 555. In September, 120 refugees were voluntarily repatriated to Rwanda.

Malawi

- **Parametric insurance payout:** On 02 August, UNHCR received a payout of US\$ 407,668 from the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Group to protect the livelihoods of 2,400 refugee households in Dzaleka camp and 1,600 host community families in Dowa District impacted by the recent El Niño-induced drought. Malawi is the first country in Africa to extend parametric insurance coverage to refugees through the replica programme. The Government of Malawi received a separate payout of US\$ 11.2 million to address the adverse effects of El Niño on a national scale.
- **Demographic Health Survey:** The National Statistical Office of Malawi (NSO) incorporated forcibly displaced people into the 6th Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) for the first time, contributing to the

Government's pledge to include refugees in the National Development Agenda. Data collected from 1,030 refugee households will provide comprehensive and comparable data on fundamental demographic, health and nutrition indicators which will inform the refugee inclusion programmes and initiatives of the Government, UNHCR and development partners.

Mozambique

- **Civil documentation:** In Cabo Delgado Province, some 9,900 IDPs and people from host communities were supported to reclaim lost or destroyed civil documentation including birth certificates and national IDs, which are crucial for accessing services in Mozambique.
- **Digital learning:** Three new Instant Network Schools (INS) centres were inaugurated and handed over in Meconta sede, Namialo and Nacavala districts in Nampula. This programme, an initiative by UNHCR and Vodafone, provides young refugees, host communities and their teachers with access to digital learning content.



The Embassy of Japan visits the civil documentation caravan in Pemba District, Cabo Delgado Province. ©UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Republic of the Congo

- **Verification exercise:** UNHCR and the National Refugee Assistance Committee (CNAR) resumed the joint countrywide verification exercise in Ngabé District, Pool Department, for all refugees and asylum-seekers with a socio-economic survey also being conducted simultaneously. The verification exercise, initially launched in 2023, has already reached some 50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- **Washing machine distribution:** In collaboration with UNHCR, The Washing Machine Project launched the distribution of 100 manual, non-electric and water-efficient machines to vulnerable people in Likouala and Plateaux departments, who also received training on how to operate and maintain the machines. This initiative aims to reduce the burden of washing clothes by hand, allowing people to engage in other activities, including livelihoods.
- **Statelessness prevention:** UNHCR handed over 3,000 birth register booklets provided with the support of the United States of America, to enable the Government to register the births of 150,000 people which will contribute to the protection of rights and prevention of statelessness.



A refugee in Likouala Department, Republic of the Congo, uses a recently distributed water-efficient washing machine. © UNHCR/Armand Christ Kiyaloulou

South Africa Multi-Country Office (SAMCO)

Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, and South Africa

- **Border monitoring:** An agreement was reached with the Border Management Agency (BMA) to strategically engage in border monitoring activities to strengthen protection sensitive entry mechanisms for asylum-seekers in South Africa. As part of the agreed action plan, UNHCR and BMA will conduct joint border monitoring activities at the Zimbabwean and Mozambican borders.
- **Solar panels installation:** The installation of solar panels at UNHCR's offices in Pretoria was completed under the "Greening the Blue" initiative funded by the Green Financing Facility (GFF). This initiative will reduce UNHCR's carbon footprint by utilizing clean, renewable energy and reinforces UNHCR's commitment to improving access to sustainable energy sources.
- **Cash assistance:** Cash assistance was launched at Dukwi Camp in Botswana for 249 families (855 individuals). This initiative is expected to boost the local market, promote social cohesion with the host community and enhance the financial inclusion of refugees.



UNHCR SAMCO Deputy Representative/OIC engages refugees during the cash assistance rollout in Botswana. © UNHCR

Zambia

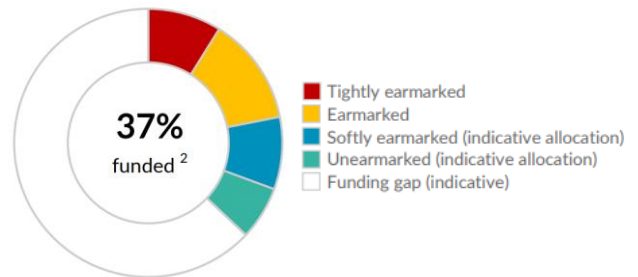
- **Drought response:** An assessment was conducted to evaluate vulnerabilities among more than 3,900 households with people with specific needs across refugee settlements and urban areas which revealed critical challenges in food security, education, healthcare, and coping strategies. In response, cash was provided to 1,390 households in Lusaka, Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, Mantapala, Ndola, and Kabwe identified as having heightened vulnerabilities.
- **Measles vaccination:** With support from the Ministry of Health, a successful measles vaccination campaign was conducted across the three refugee settlements, achieving a 98% coverage rate for children aged 9-59 months.

Zimbabwe

- **Irrigation scheme expansion:** In Tongogara Refugee Settlement, a solar pumping unit was upgraded, and canal construction is nearing completion. Expansion of the irrigation scheme is expected to benefit 585 farmers with an average landholding size of 0.2ha to improve levels of self-reliance in the settlement.
- **GBV prevention and response:** 330 refugees and asylum-seekers in Tongogara Refugee Settlement including religious leaders and new arrivals participated in awareness sessions delivered by refugee facilitators focusing on topics such as harmful cultural practices and safe referrals. Meanwhile, 220 adolescent girls participated in life skills community group sessions delivered by refugee mentors.

Financial Information

UNHCR's financial requirements for the Southern Africa region in 2024 total **US\$ 492.2 million**. As of the end of September, **37 per cent** of needs had been funded. UNHCR is grateful to donors who supported operations in Southern Africa in 2024, including¹:



United States of America 107.2M | Central Emergency Response Fund 11.6M | Germany 10.6M | European Union 5.8M | Sweden 3.8M | Japan 2.3M | Denmark 1.6M | France 1.6M | Italy 1.1M | Japan for UNHCR | Canada | Austria | Spain | Leaving No One Behind | Private donors in Japan | Switzerland | USA for UNHCR | Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa | España con ACNUR | African Development Fund | Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | Private donors in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | China | Sweden for UNHCR | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | United Nations Development Programme | Belgium | Angola | United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security | Estonia | Other private donors

Flexible financial support greatly facilitates UNHCR's ability to kick-start an emergency response, bolster forgotten or under-resourced crises, and enable the fullest possible implementation of programmes. They enable UNHCR to plan and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, contributing to the collective success in every life that is transformed and saved. UNHCR is grateful to the donors that have provided unearmarked and softly earmarked contributions in 2024, including:

Other softly earmarked contributions (US\$)²: Australia for UNHCR 8.3M | Norway 2.8M | Private donors in Italy 2M

Unearmarked contributions (US\$)³: Sweden 90.6M | Norway 58.9M | España con ACNUR 49.8M | Denmark 38.7M | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3M | France 33.6M | Japan for UNHCR 30.4M | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5M | Germany 25.1M | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 22.8M | Switzerland 19.2M | Republic of Korea 18M | Private donors in Italy 14.7M | Belgium 14.2M | Ireland 13.6M | Private donors in the Netherlands 11.2M | Australia 10.7M | Sweden for UNHCR 10.3M | Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Austria | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Private donors

Notes: 1. Where a donor has contributed US\$ 1,000,000 or more, the total amount is shown. 2. Due to their earmarking, other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used in Southern Africa. Where a donor has contributed US\$ 2M or more, the total amount is shown. 3. Donors contributing US\$ 10M or more are listed.

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