

Zambia

January 2023

A total of **441** individuals comprising **114** families were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to the DRC in January. This brings the total number of refugees repatriated to **10,553** individuals in **2,836** families since the second phase of the voluntary repatriation programme started on 18 July 2022.

157 individuals departed under resettlement during the month of January USA: (35) and Finland (122). Eight cases comprising 26 individuals were submitted for resettlement consideration to the USA (19), Finland (7).

A total of **513** people we serve (PWS) accessed Covid-19 testing services in the three refugee settlements, bringing the cumulative figure to **13,552**. The number of positive cases recorded during the reporting month was **10** people we serve (PWS).

873

New individuals registered in the refugee operation in January.

19,303

Individuals in the three refugee settlements were reached with sensitization messages on Covid-19 and other health issues.

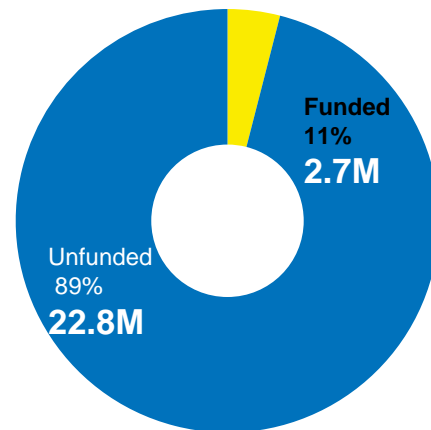
10,306

PWS accessed treatment across the three refugee settlements and urban areas in January.

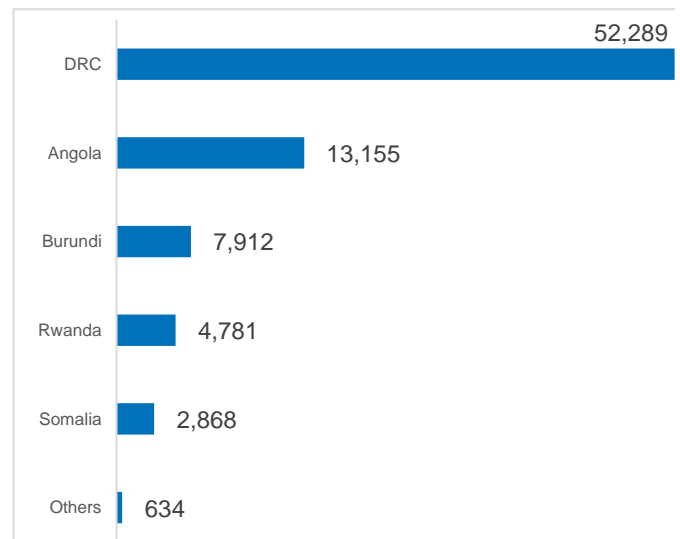
FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023)

USD 25.5 million

UNHCR's 2023 requirements for the Zambia operation:



PEOPLE OF CONCERN: 81,639 INDIVIDUALS/ 27,213 HOUSEHOLDS AS OF 31 JANUARY 2023



A Congolese refugee family in Mantapala settlement taking a mattress to loaded on the luggage truck before her return to the DRC under the voluntary repatriation programme. UNHCR/Bruce Mulenga.

Operational Context

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ), through the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), works collaboratively with UNHCR to lead and coordinate the refugee response in line with its commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). UNHCR supports the Government in ensuring that international protection standards are met and provides basic assistance to persons we serve pending finding durable solutions for them.

- As of 31 January 2023, Zambia hosted **81, 639** people we serve (PWS) (**61,849** Refugees; **2,604** Asylum seekers and **17,186** Former refugees - Others of Concern) this comprises a total of 31,164 Families (Averaging family size = 3 per Household).
- A total of 873 individuals were registered in the refugee operation during the month of January, (birth registrations: 115, New arrivals: 390 and In-stu: 368).
- The Congolese population remains the largest with 52,289 individuals (64%), followed by 13,155 Angolans (16%), Burundians 7,912 (10%), Rwandese 4,781 (6%), Somalis 2,868 (4%), and other nationalities 634 (1%).
 - Meheba: **36,483** individuals
 - Mayukwayukwa: **21,756** individuals
 - Urban Lusaka and Ndola: **16,445** individuals
 - Mantapala: **6,955** individuals

UNHCR has three offices in Zambia: Representation office in Lusaka, field offices in Solwezi and Kawambwa. UNHCR Zambia has **99** staff throughout the country including **50** national, **21** international and **22** affiliate staff.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- After consultations and stakeholder validation held across the country during the last quarter of 2022, the Refugee Policy is this year under-going final government processes before submission to Cabinet for final approval. The Refugee Policy, when implemented, is expected to trigger legislative reforms and other measures to improve the refugee protection environment.
- As of 31 January 2023, a total of 10,650 individuals (2,868 families) had cumulatively been repatriated since the second phase of the voluntary repatriation movements started in July 2022, and 10,851 individuals comprising 2,922 families since the first phase of the voluntary repatriation programme from Mantapala settlement started in December 2021.
- Sensitization was conducted under the Local Integration area in Meheba refugee settlement with messaging on early marriages, child abuse and sexual harassment. A total of 51 individuals were reached, males 30 and females 21 of which 20 were boys and 12 were girls. The sensitization also targeted teachers of which two were recorded in attendance
- On 12 January 2023, UNHCR Zambia conducted a visit to the new detention facility in Mwembeshi where the people we serve (PWS) who have been arrested by Officers from the Immigration Department for Immigration related offences are kept. A total of nine PWS were identified at the detention facility. three of the PWS were asylum seekers while six were registered refugees. The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) has been informed about the PWS through correspondence so they could intervene on their behalf and have them released from the facility. UNHCR Zambia is closely monitoring the progress of these cases.
- Following a meeting held between the President of Zambia and the UNHCR Assistant High Commissioner – Protection in November 2022, the Government of Zambia had written to the World Bank (WB) expressing interest to access the IDA 20 Window on Host Communities and Refugees. In January 2023, the WB responded to Zambia's request signalling readiness to engage further on this matter. To this end, the WB and UNHCR are considering undertaking an eligibility mission to Zambia within the first quarter of 2023.

- UNHCR met with members of the Refugee Central Committee in Mantapala settlement to discuss ways to improve coordination and community participation.
- A women's dialogue was conducted at Chipata and George outreach centers in Lusaka with 58 Refugee and Zambian women on promotion of gender equality and sharing experiences on drivers of GBV. Participants were also reminded and informed on the GBV national referral pathway in place and response services for survivors.
- To promote peaceful co-existence and uniting communities through sport, Super shine University joined local refugee football/netball teams in Lusaka to compete in friendly games. Messages of uniting to eliminate violence against women and girls were disseminated before the sports activities. 254 (66 F: 188 M) individuals were reached with GBV messages during the sports activities.
- A Community Based Protection Working Group meeting was held in Meheba refugee settlement. The need to mobilise the community on issues of environment and possible development of messaging that could be mainstreamed in the daily work of the community workers/structures were discussed. The invitation of the Technical Expert Forestry from Kalumbila District into Meheba refugee settlement for purposes of understanding/assessing the environmental concerns in Meheba was adopted.
- A radio program on GBV and safety networks was conducted with radio Cheke in Kaoma district. The Live program was broadcasted on 29th November 2022 and later ran as a recorded program until 9th December 2022. Representatives from COR, MCDSS and a refugee leader featured in the program.
- UNHCR Protection staff from Lusaka conducted a protection support mission to Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement to assess the protection needs of refugees. A protection desk was set up at the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) office in the settlement to attend to individual protection concerns. During the mission, the Protection unit met with partner staff from MCDSS, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and other line ministries to discuss protection coordination, referral of protection cases and concerns.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Generally, one of the major challenges in development interventions in Zambia is that refugees are part of the development plans but are not prioritised during their implementation. Through advocacy, UNHCR will make sure that refugees are included in the programme and service delivery at all levels



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, in collaboration with UNESCO Qualifications Passport Steering Committee, conducted a tour of the Meheba Refugee Settlement with the Permanent Secretaries from the ministries of Education, Labour and the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (MHA-IS) represented by COR. The tour provided opportunities to advocate for inclusion of refugees in education and employment with government decision makers. The main challenges under education are limited funding which has resulted in the reduction of incentive teachers in the refugee settlements by 70%. Furthermore, there is little information/data from refugee schools due to limited capacity on the ground.
- In Nchelenge District, The Ministry of Education issued 78 school transfer letters (43 girls and 35 boys) to children on voluntary repatriation so that they could enrol in school in their home country. This brings the total number of school transfer letters issued to refugee school-aged children to 1,336 (girls 636 and boys 700) since the voluntary repatriation programme's second phase began in July 2022.
- In Mantapala settlement, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) conducted a Go-Back-to-School campaign through the Child and Youth Community Workers (CYCWs) in Mantapala settlement, reaching 21 children (14 girls and 7 boys) with messages on the advantages of formal education.
- Primary and secondary schools across the country, including those in the refugee settlements, re-opened on 9 January to start the 2023 academic year. For the settlements, the classrooms were fumigated and sanitized before re-opening.
- Results of the literacy survey conducted by the Ministry of Education District Education Board Secretary for Kalumbila with support from Lets Read Zambia, a USAID funded project, revealed literacy levels for Meheba refugee settlement stands at **43%** and the district at **45%** - with a need to improve on these percentages noted. To address the low literacy levels, literacy training for teachers in grades one – three were conducted in Meheba by the District

Education Board Secretary Kalumbila. Some 41 teachers drawn from all the primary and community schools in Meheba (17 Males and 24) were part of the training.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Limited funding resulted in the reduction of incentive teachers by 70%
- Limited information/data from refugee schools due to limited capacity on the ground.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 10,306 (M:4457; F:5704) PWS accessed treatment and care during the month under review. Of this figure 23.4% (2413) were children under five years. Reproductive health services were provided and 219 first antenatal books were recorded with 330 revisits. A total of 88 skilled deliveries were conducted while contraception for women of childbearing age and adolescent girls was provided to 156 new acceptors and 255 continuing users. Prevention of unintended pregnancies and sexual transmitted infections (STIs) was among Health Education messages and a total of 9066 male condoms were distributed. Furthermore, 381 individuals were counselled and tested for HIV out of which 9 (2.4%) were positive and were initiated on ARVs. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support was provided to 29 individuals through counselling.
- Sensitization and awareness campaigns on public health issues, including Covid-19, were conducted reaching 19,303 (M:7,579; F:11,724) individuals with preventive messages in the three refugee settlements. The total number of individuals reached with vaccination during the month was 42 from the refugee settlements, bringing the cumulative figure to **22,140** of those who have received at least one dose from inception. Out of this figure, a total of 8,283 received 1st dose while 13,857 had been fully vaccinated as of 31 January 2023.
- A total of **513** PWS accessed Covid-19 testing services, bringing the cumulative figure to 13,552. The number of positive cases recorded during the reporting month was 10 PWS. The patients were isolated and treated while contact tracing was also done. Therefore, the cumulative number of cases increased from 310 to 320 with 312 recoveries, 6 active cases and two deaths which were recorded last year. It is also important to note that the resurgence of Covid-19 is associated with the Omicron subvariants namely XBB and XBB 1.5 which have high transmissibility from person to person. Therefore, adherence to the Five Golden Health Rules is strongly advised.
- Through the services of peer educators, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNAIDS supported a reproductive health sensitization campaign of the Ministry of Health (MOH) reaching 1,773 PWS (1,067 females and 706 males) in Mantapala settlement and 385 hosts with messages to support the control and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and promotion of family planning. During the campaign, 2,700 pieces of male condoms were distributed to participants.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR in collaboration with MOH in the Refugee hosting districts were alert about Cholera Outbreak in Vubwi and heightened surveillance in settlement and host community.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- In coordination with UNHCR and partners, World Food Programme (WFP) distributed cash for the monthly food assistance to 7,055 PWS (3,610 females and 3,445 males), through the WFP Cash-based Transfer (CBT) network in Mantapala settlement. Refugees received ZMW130 per person using a digital payment service in the settlement.
- WFP, through UNHCR, distributed food rations comprising maize meal, beans, salt, and corn-soya blend (CSB) to 332 refugees (166 females and 166 males) in 165 households who were not yet registered on CBT system in the Mantapala settlement.
- Nutrition program recorded 91 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 128 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The flood situation continued to devastate most parts of Zambia with food security likely to be negatively affected in most provinces including the refugee settlements due to above normal rainfall.



WATER, SANITATION AND ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- The Zambia operation was among 13 countries that qualified to receive the first shipment of Real-Time Monitoring (RTM) equipment for Remote Data Collection for Climate Smart Water Services and Sustainable Energy – a UNHCR Headquarters initiative. The RTM equipment is planned to be installed in Meheba refugee settlement, prioritized by the Government of Republic of Zambia (GRZ) for pilot projects under Modernization of Refugee Settlement Approach (MORSA). Under the RTM, the digital WASH data will be collected by remote devices, installed on individual WASH assets, which transmit these measurements to centralized collection hubs where internet services are unavailable.
- Refugees in Mantapala settlement organised a community service project to clean the surroundings of hand water pumps, such as slashing, removing weeds, and unblocking drainages throughout the settlement.
- The Community Water Pump Minders, with the support of World Vision, chlorinated 60 water boreholes in Mantapala settlement to ensure clean and safe water for refugees and hosts in the settlement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- NTR.



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE, CBI AND NFI

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF, through the contractor Brick World, completed concrete pouring in the 6,000-metre drainage which is under construction to resolve flooding problems in Mantapala settlement. The next stage is to start side finishing.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- The deteriorating road conditions in Meheba Refugee Settlement due to continued heavy rains has led to some areas being unreachable during monitoring and distribution.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- The refugee response is led and coordinated by the Government of the Republic of Zambia in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Eighth National Development Plan (NDP) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Under the Refugee Act ([Government Of Zambia Act No. 1 Of 2017](#)), the COR, within the Ministry of Home Affairs, is mandated to deal with refugee matters. Thus, Zambia has since 2018 adopted the mainstreaming approach, which requires that all line Ministries including Agriculture, Health, Education and Community services, which previously were engaged under separate Project Partnership Agreements (PPAs) contribute to key sectors under COR. Coordination of the different sectors and partners is managed through bi-monthly and monthly interagency meetings at field and country level, respectively. This is further strengthened through sectoral and bilateral stakeholder interactions. UNHCR is the primary interlocutor and lead agency for all refugee matters. To respond to the Congolese refugee emergency in a holistic and co-ordinated manner, the Government of the Republic of Zambia has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) composed of key line ministries. The Committee remains active, post emergency

phase in Zambia. Monthly inter-agency meetings are held in the three refugee settlements and Lusaka, attended by various stakeholders in the refugee programme, to manage and look at sectoral implementation issues.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 402 farmers were supported under government's Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP). Some 200 were in Meheba and 202 in Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements. Under the FISP, the government distributes subsidised agricultural inputs to small-scale producers (Zambians and some refugees) of the staple food crop, maize.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, A total of 40 lead farmers were targeted for the establishment of the community seed bank and vine multiplication project. They were identified by Ministry of Agriculture; 20 of them registered in a cooperative were supported with 200kg of Mbereshi beans seed. The 20 lead farmers were trained in the management and multiplication of orange sweet potato vines.
- Provision of inputs to the 20 lead farmers trained under the multiplication of orange sweet potato vines to facilitate the availability of vitamin A rich sweet potato vines in Meheba project was concluded.
- A total of 20 lead farmers in Meheba refugee settlement belonging to Kalota Cooperative trained in beans seed bank management all received the inputs for beans seed multiplication. Post distribution monitoring was also conducted with findings being two limas field were prepared in readiness for sowing while expansion of the field is on -going.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Reduced UNHCR presence in Mayukwayukwa settlement may hinder the achievement of the government pledge on inclusion of refugee farmers in the FISP. However, UNHCR will ride on the efforts of partners in the settlement to provide agricultural inputs to the refugee farmers who will not be able to access FISP support in 2023 and beyond.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- In January 157 individuals departed on resettlement to the USA: (35) and Finland (122). Eight cases comprising 26 individuals were submitted for resettlement consideration to the United States of America - USA (19) and Finland (7). All the cases submitted are individuals from the DRC.
- A total of 441 individuals in 114 families were assisted to return to Pweto in the DRC as of 20 January 2023. This brings the total number of refugees repatriated to 10,553 individuals in 2,836 families since the second phase of the voluntary repatriation programme started on 18 July 2022.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- With increasing number of resettlement staff, there is pressure on resources such as office space. The Resettlement team is working with Admin staff to resolve this issue.
- In January, The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) and UNHCR suspended voluntary repatriation convoy movements of Congolese refugees from Zambia's Mantapala settlement to the DRC's Pweto. The suspension was based on several impediments including a washed-out section on the Nchelenge-Lunchinda road near the DRC border at Kalembwe Village, a few kilometres before Chiengi district, caused by raging flood waters on 23 January 2023. The district administration reported this matter to the Luapula Province Administration, who have begun road rehabilitation planning. Despite the pause, registration for voluntary repatriation has continued in Mantapala settlement. Refugee leaders were sensitized on the suspension of the Congolese voluntary repatriation.

Partnerships and Refugee Inclusion

- UNHCR works collaboratively the COR in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and other key government line ministries, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the local and international non-governmental organizations (I-NGOs) including Action Africa Help, Plan International, Caritas Czech Republic, CARE International and World Vision Zambia, Cavendish University etc.
- The Government of the Republic of Zambia, UNHCR and partners provide community-based protection and social support to PWS in Lusaka as well as in Meheba (Western Province), Mayukwayukwa (North-western Province) and Mantapala (Luapula Province) refugee settlements.
- In January, football teams in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements continued participating in matches under Football Association of Zambia (FAZ) Division I & III (all male teams).

Financial Information

Contributions for the Zambia refugee operation (in US\$)

Total UNHCR financial requirements for Zambia in 2023 amounts to **US\$ 25.5 million**. Total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation in Zambia as of 31 January 2023 amount to **US\$2,687,613** (89% funding gap). UNHCR is grateful to all donors for continuous support.
Japan | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS |

Other Softly Earmarked Contributions to UNHCR's global budget (in US\$)

Canada 3.9 million
Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked Contributions to the global budget (in US\$)

Sweden 77.6 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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