

Zambia

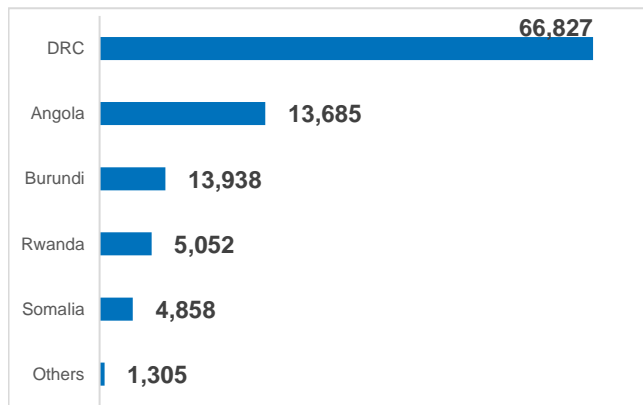
September 2024

On 21 June 2024, Zambia, Japan and UNHCR co-convoked a High-level Dialogue in Lusaka. The multi-stakeholder dialogue aimed to advance inclusive development and solutions in Zambia, aligning with the country's commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and 2023, and the launch of the National Refugee Policy in 2024.

Between 1 January and 31 August 2024, the Government registered a total of **10,194** individuals. These included birth registrations, new arrivals, and in-situ registrations. Of the individuals registered, a total of **6,485** were new arrivals, the majority of whom were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In 2024, UNHCR Zambia submitted **165** individuals to the Canada, Sweden and the United States of America for resettlement consideration. So far this year, a total of **768** individuals have departed on resettlement to Australia, Canada, Finland, France, New Zealand, and the United States of America.

POPULATION OF ASYLUM-SEEKERS, REFUGEES AND FORMER REFUGEES 105,660 (22,013 HOUSEHOLDS) AS OF 31 AUGUST 2024

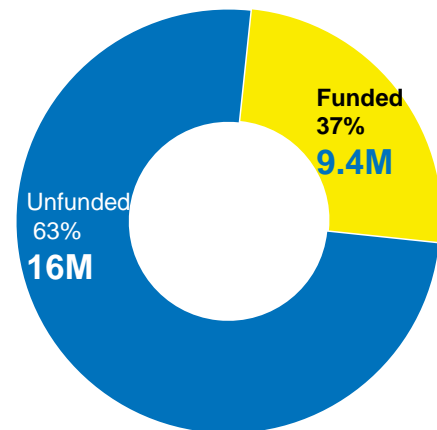


Other Countries of Origin: Afghanistan, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Palestine, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine and Zimbabwe.

FUNDING (AS OF 31 AUGUST 2024)

USD 25.4 million

UNHCR's 2024 requirements for the Zambia operation:



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 78

40 National Staff

25 International Staff

13 Affiliate Staff

Offices: 3

1 Representation Office in Lusaka

2 Field Offices in Solwezi and Kawambwa



A devastating and prolonged drought has ravaged Zambia in 2024. Asylum-seekers, refugees, former refugees, and their host communities are among the affected. Photo credit: ©UNHCR 2024/Shindo-Braaten

Operational Context

The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (MoHAIS) leads and coordinates the refugee response. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and partners support the Government's response to forced displacement in Zambia. The 2017 Refugees Act constitutes the main legal framework governing refugee matters in Zambia.

The National Refugee Policy, approved by Cabinet in August 2023 and launched with an Implementation Plan in January 2024, reflects a central ambition of the Global Compact on Refugees to include refugees in national systems and plans. At the Second Global Refugee Forum in 2023, the Government of the Republic of Zambia made ten multi-sectoral pledges. These pledges focused on local integration, digital civil registration, livelihood opportunities, inclusion in the farmer inputs support program, full-cycle education inclusion, social inclusion, sustainable energy, national statistics, alternatives to immigration detention, and health insurance.

The National Refugee Policy paves the way for advances in the regulatory framework to improve refugee rights and find local solutions for forcibly displaced persons (asylum-seekers, refugees, and former refugees) in Zambia. The Policy is expected to trigger sectoral policy harmonization needed to develop an enabling legal and protection environment for refugees to be able to achieve self-reliance and safely participate in and contribute to the socio-economic life of the Zambian communities that host them.

Zambia is affected by a prolonged drought that was declared a national disaster and emergency by the President on 29 February 2024. The drought has affected 84 districts and impacted nine million people across essential sectors such as agriculture, water supply, energy access, and food security. Among them, over 6.5 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, underscoring the scale of the crisis.

COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS

While COR is UNHCR's main government partner on asylum and refugee matters, Zambia has adopted a whole-of-government approach. The government established an Interministerial Steering Committee, chaired by the Director of the Department of Resettlement in the Office of the Vice President. The purpose of this Committee is to lead a coordinated, whole-of-government approach for the delivery of the Modernization of Refugee Host Community and Settlement Areas (MORHCSA) program in line with implementation of the National Refugee Policy. UNHCR has identified that a secretariat is needed to assist the work of the Inter-ministerial Committee to enhance coordination, follow-up, and communication with partners on implementation of the MORHCSA program and the National Refugee Policy.

UNHCR supports COR's interventions to provide protection and assistance to forcibly displaced persons through partnerships with other government agencies, United Nations agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, private sector partners, academia, and other stakeholders. Following Zambia's request for financing under the World Bank's IDA 20 Window for Host Communities and Refugees, in September the World Bank and Zambia successfully negotiated the Zambia Refugee and Host Communities Project for US \$30 million and awaits approval by the World Bank Board.

KEY INDICATORS

10,194 individuals were registered by the Government between 1 January and 31 August 2024. These comprised birth registrations, new arrivals, and in-situ.

17,575 children are enrolled in schools across the three refugee settlements in Zambia. Of these **1,679** (891 boys; 788 girls) are in early childhood education; **12,626** (6405 boys; 6,221 girls) are in primary education; and **3,270** (1,711 boys; 1,559 girls) are in secondary education.

232 learners received tertiary education support, of which **69** learners (34 male; 32 female) are enrolled under the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI) Scholarship; **153** learners (85 male; 68 female) are enrolled under the Cavendish University Scholarship; and **10** learners (4 male; 6 female) are enrolled through the UNHCR University Corridors (UNICORE) programme.

49,141 individuals accessed free primary health care services in the first half of 2024. In addition, **845** accessed secondary and tertiary health services; **2,767** were successfully initiated and maintained under care and management of HIV infection, of which over 50% are virally suppressed; **18,083** accessed mental health and psychosocial services at UNHCR-supported health facilities; and **27,250** were reached with health and hygiene awareness sessions at public institutions (e.g., health facilities, schools, and markets).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

UNHCR and its partners support the Government in providing legal and community-based protection and social support. These interventions reached 27,330 persons in Lusaka, 42,683 people in the Meheba refugee settlement and 26,621 persons in the Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement, in the North-Western and Western Provinces, respectively, and 9,026 persons in Mantapala settlement in Luapula Province.

On 21 June 2024, the Government of the Republic of Zambia, Government of Japan and UNHCR co-convened a High-Level Dialogue in Lusaka aiming to advance inclusive development and solutions for asylum-seekers, refugees, and former refugees in Zambia. UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Operations and Regional Director for Southern Africa participated in the Dialogue, which included a wide range of line ministries, humanitarian, development, and private sector partners, as well as refugees and traditional chiefs. Panel discussions were moderated by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany (Creating an enabling policy environment and inclusion in government systems), and by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program (Creating markets and sustainably transforming settlements into economic hubs).

From 14 – 20 June 2024, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), supported a learning exchange workshop and field visit in Uganda on “Sustainable Refugee Response and Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus” between the Zambian and Ugandan governments. This was followed by Zambia’s participation at the Berlin Roundtable on Sustainable Programming convened on 23 July 2024 by the Federal Republic of Germany. In August, the Office of the Vice President’s Department of Resettlement and JICA led a multi-stakeholder consultation process to finalize the Wider Mayukwayukwa Local Area Plan, which was published in the first week of September. These developments align with the Global Compact on Refugees and help advance the country’s commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 and 2023, and the implementation of the National Refugee Policy.

Financial Information

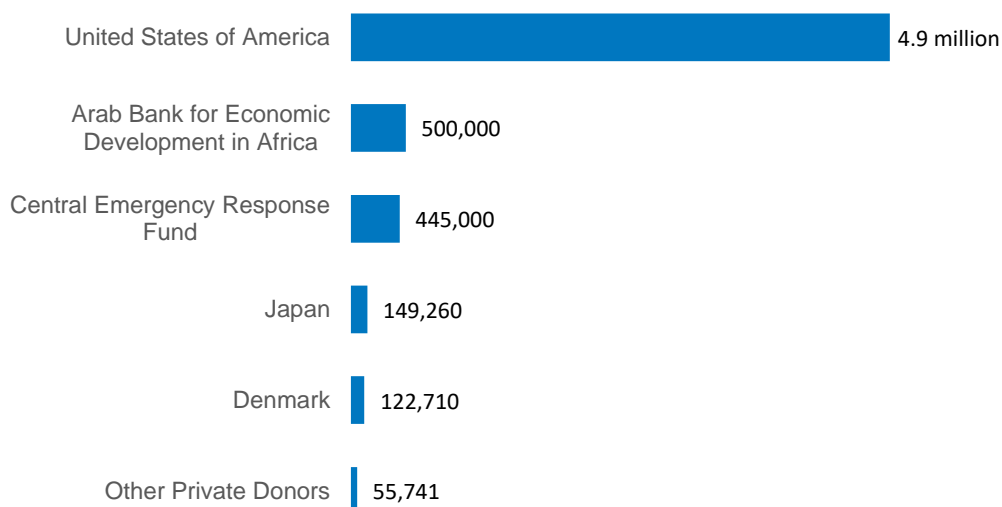
CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE ZAMBIA REFUGEE OPERATION (in US\$)

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

The total UNHCR financial requirements for Zambia in 2024 amount to US \$25.4 million. As of 31 August 2024, the total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation in Zambia amount to US \$9,372,162 (63% funding gap in 2024).

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Earmarked contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 9.4 million**.



OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL BUDGET | USD

Australia for UNHCR 6.5 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 3.9 million | Norway 2.8 million
Italy | Finland | Germany | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL BUDGET | USD

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | España con ACNUR 44 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3 million | France 33.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Japan for UNHCR 26.9 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 20.1 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 18 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in Italy 12.9 million | Australia 10.7 million

Algeria | Angola | Armenia | Austria | Bulgaria | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Qatar | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Private donors

External/Donor Relations

CONTACTS

Stephanie Perham, External Relations Officer, perham@unhcr.org, +260 777 229 957

Kelvin Shimoh, Communications Associate, shimo@unhcr.org, +260 979 585 832

LINKS

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