SAMCO South Africa Representation & Multi-Country Office

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Monthly Statistical Report - UNHCR

as of 31 Aug 2025

Total Population*

197,257 individuals

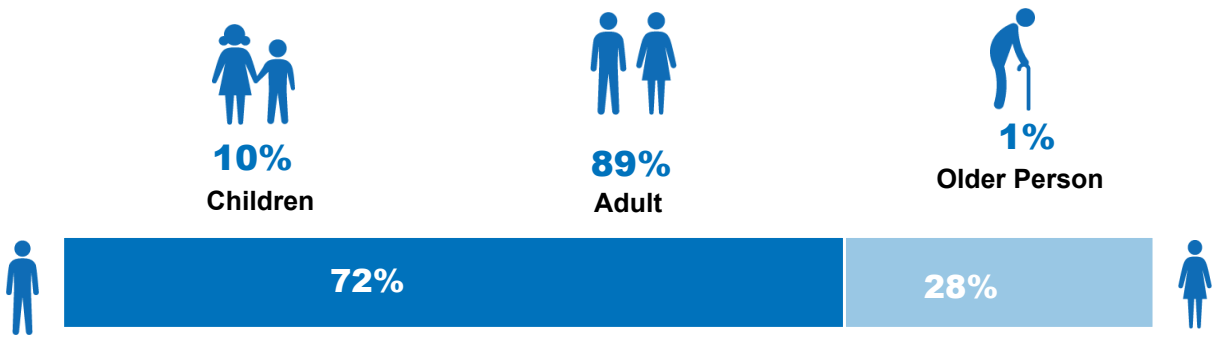
Registered in 2025 *
4,848 individuals

Arrived in 2025
1,107 individuals

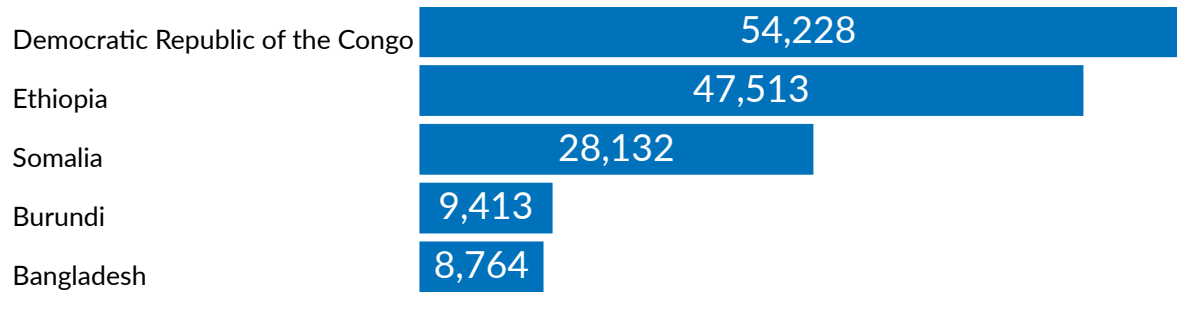
Total Departures in 2025

288 individuals

Demographic Profile



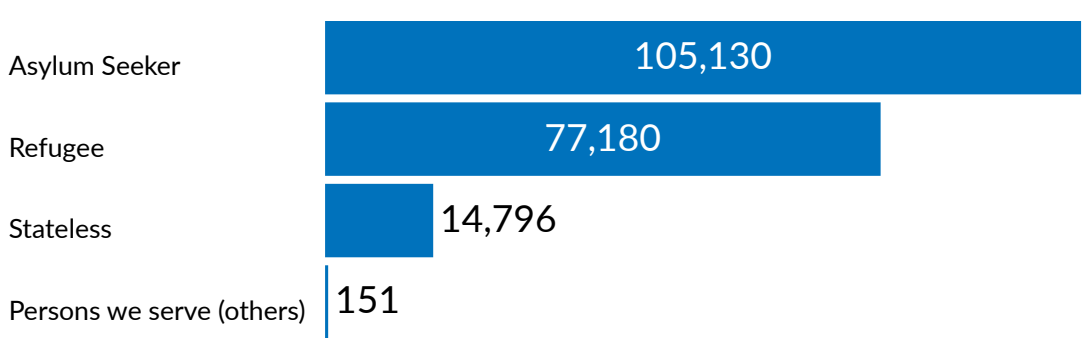
Country of origin



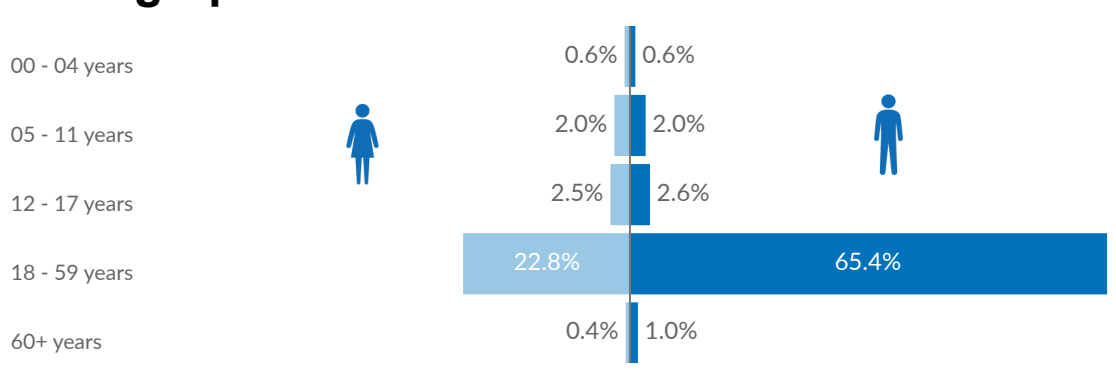
Country of Asylum

Country of Asylum	Asylum Seeker	Refugee	Persons we serve (Others)	Stateless	Total
*South Africa	98,688	68,927	0	0	167,615
**Namibia	1,367	5,379	58	14,796	21,600
Eswatini	3,372	1,412	15	0	4,799
***Madagascar	1,259	89	22	0	1,370
****Botswana	24	857	49	0	930
Lesotho	207	486	7	0	700
Mauritius	196	23	0	0	219
Comoros	17	7	0	0	24
*****Seychelles	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**105,130**	**77,180**	**151**	**14,796**	**197,257**

Legal Status



Demographic Profile



Highlights

Registration: Mid-year statistics for all nine countries were successfully submitted, noting an overall decrease in the total SAMCO population, primarily driven by withdrawals and permit expirations in South Africa. In Mauritius, there is a noticeable rise in the number of asylum seeker new arrivals. 25 individuals were registered, with the majority being from DRC. In Eswatini, one staff member from NDMA will continue working with the Ministry of Home Affairs until the end of December 2025. RBSA handed over essential equipment and supplies to SAMCO. These included laptops, iris scanners, security papers, tables, and other key materials.

Asylum Law and Policy: UNHCR's engagement with University Law clinics to strengthen access to justice for asylum-seekers and refugees entered the final preparatory stage. The development of a practitioners' handbook is in progress, dates for the one-week academic course on refugee law (October 2025) and one-week practitioners' course (November 2025) scheduled. Target audience is a maximum of 40 legal scholars from 12 universities to participate and to subsequently be operationalized in the respective law clinics. UNHCR held a two-days capacity-building workshop for members of the Refugee Appeals Authority of South Africa (RAASA) and the Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs (SCRA), focussed on assessing asylum claims related to diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, and expressions, as well as a refresher on researching country-of-origin information from Ethiopia.

Operational Protection (OPU): The South Africa WhatsApp channel has reached 13,251 followers, while the Botswana and Namibia channels have 1,329 and 2,209 followers respectively. A meeting was held with the Innovation Norway Advisory Group to provide updates on Phase 2 of the funding. In Madagascar, mid-year partner monitoring activities were conducted in collaboration with CDA. In Mauritius, 15 individuals and families were referred to Caritas for food assistance. In Eswatini, a meeting was held in Ndzevane to finalize the project workplan. A meeting was held with the Springbok player and former refugee, Mr. Vincent Tshituka, as part of the Sports for Protection project. An ad hoc Protection Working Group was convened to address the ongoing health access crisis.

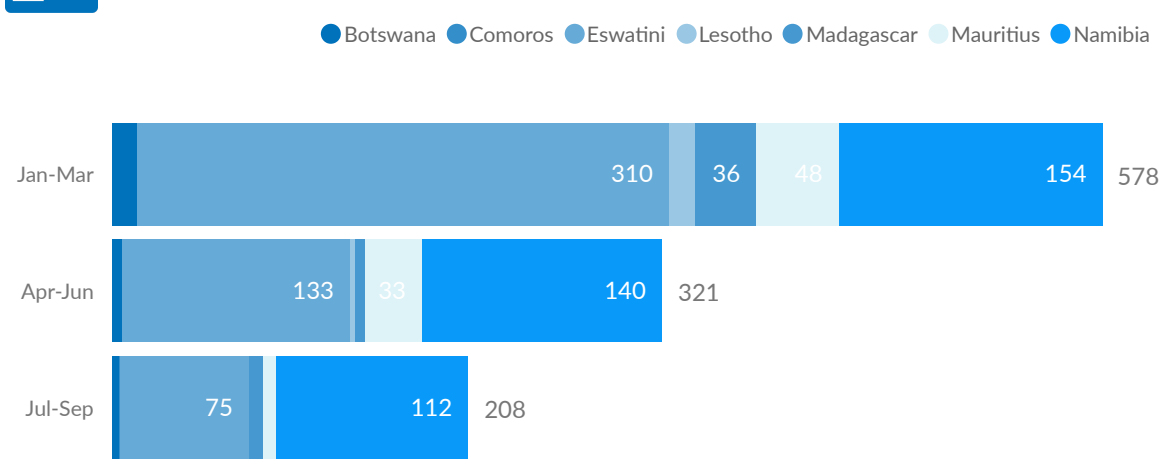
CwC: the main reasons for calling the UNHCR Helpline included Health (386), followed by Personal Security (238) and Social Assistance (143). The provinces are KwaZulu Natal (435), Gauteng (385), and Western Cape (141), with the top callers from COD (830), followed by BDI (125) and then SOM (110). 583 calls were from people requiring services that UNHCR does not provide.

Durable Solutions, Resettlement:37 submissions towards the allocated quota, 9 individuals submitted under the GUQ and 6 add-ons.288 with the following country breakdown: Canada (204), Australia (6), New Zealand (66), and the United States (12).

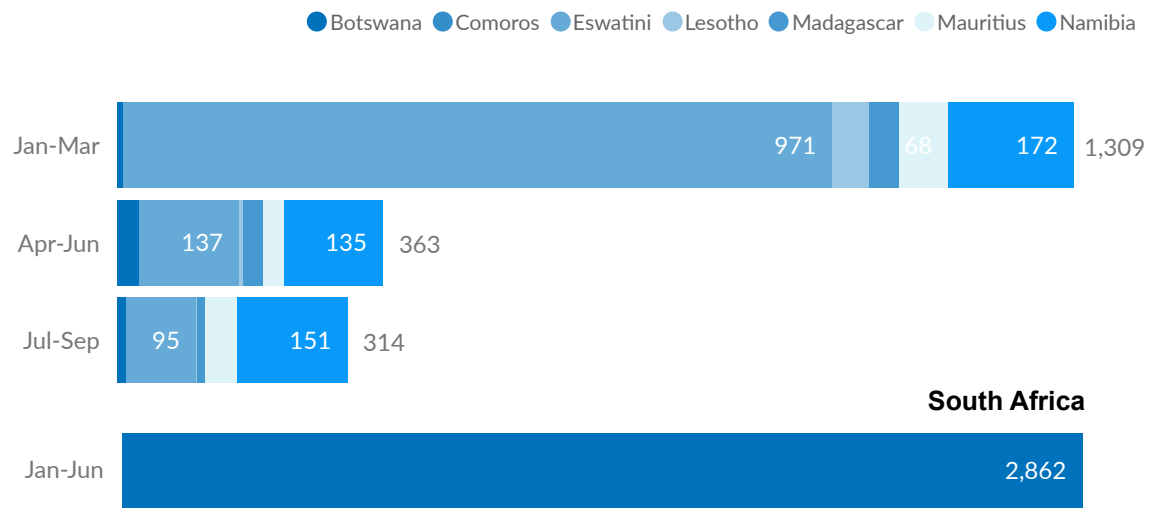
Voluntary repatriation: 49 individuals were successfully assisted in returning to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi, bringing the total number of departures to 111. Preparation for three convoys are underway: 29 individuals to depart from South Africa to Burundi, 116 individuals to depart from South Africa to DRC, 02 individuals to depart from Eswatini to the DRC and 01 individuals to depart from Lesotho to the DRC. A total of 200 individuals came forward to express their wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin. Engagement took place through various channels: 56 persons were reached during an in-person sensitisation mission held in Cape Town. At the same time, others reached out through the refugee helpline and others were referred by partner organisations. Efforts are underway to integrate all of them into the voluntary repatriation process

Complementary pathways: Three individuals have successfully departed on complementary pathways in 2025. UNICORE: 70 applications for UNICORE 7.0 were received 67 from South Africa and 3 from Namibia. Duolingo University Access Program: 05 selected scholars for 2025 are receiving support from UNHCR; all five are currently awaiting the issuance of Convention Travel Documents (CTDs). Moreover, UNHCR facilitated family reunification for one unaccompanied minor in Comoros to France, issuing an ICRC emergency travel document for their departure whereas two refugees have departed on education pathways to the USA and Italy. Lastly, in the EMPP project, 1029 individuals are registered in the Talent Beyond Boundaries catalogue, with 15 matched for recruitment opportunities.

Arrival Trend



Registration Trend



** Figures on Active population in South Africa is provided by DHA for the Annual Statistical Report as of 30 Jun 2025. There is 2% decrease in the total population in South Africa during the period of between Dec 2024 to Jun 2025. A total of 2,862 individuals were officially registered during the reporting period.*

*** The number of stateless persons in Namibia was confirmed by the Director of the National Population Register.*

**** In Madagascar, the figure of 100,000 stateless persons was reported by a partner organization but has not yet been confirmed by the government.*

***** Botswana government reported 13 asylum seekers need to go through Government RSD process.*

******There are no active refugees or asylum seekers in Seychelles. However, four individuals registered by UNHCR were deported by Immigration authorities in 2024.*

Creation Date : 31 Aug 2025

Source: - UNHCR Joint Registration Exercise

SAMCO South Africa Representation & Multi-Country Office

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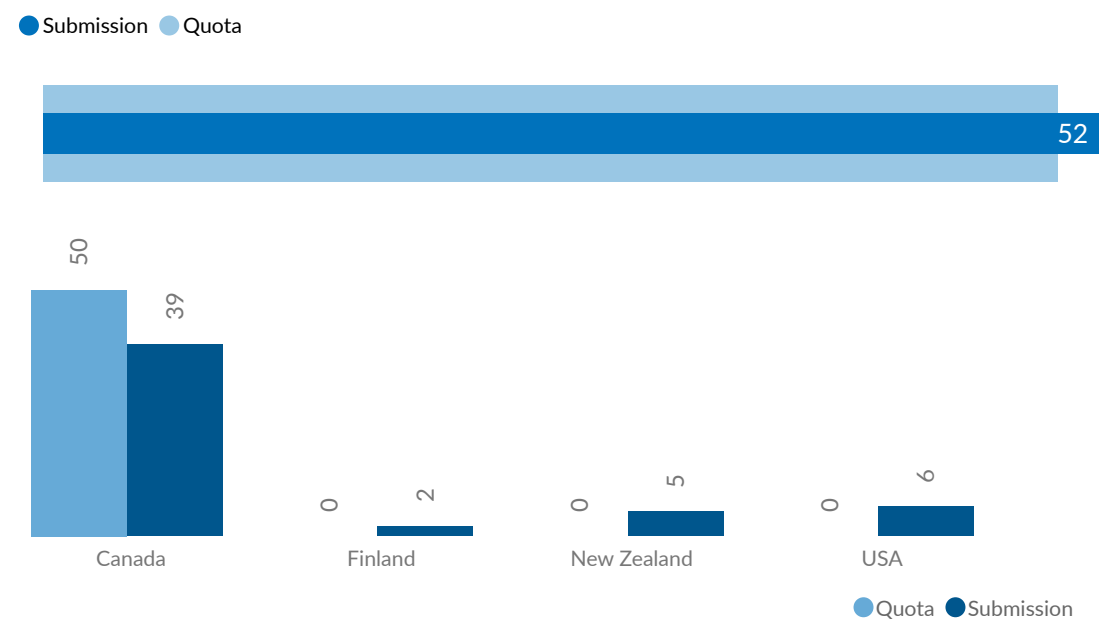
as of 31 Aug 2025

Resettlement

Total Submissions in 2025	Submissions in Aug 2025
52	7

Total Departure in 2025	Departure in Aug 2025
288	7

Quota vs Submissions



Voluntary Repatriation

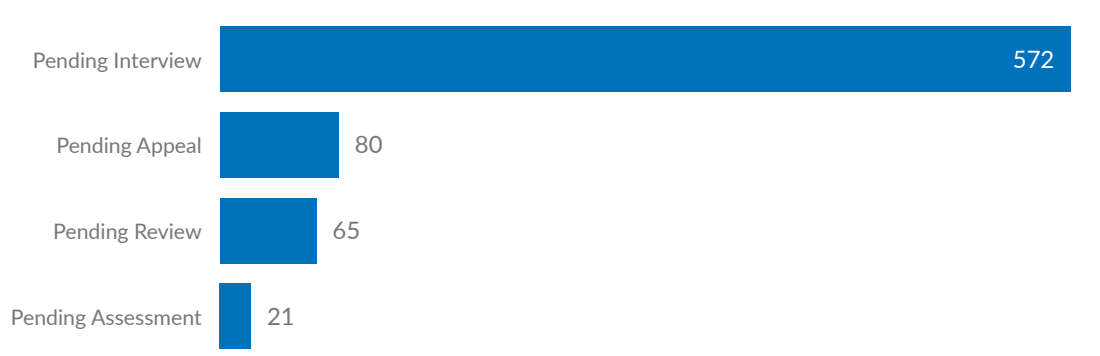
Total Departure in 2025	Total Departure in Aug 2025
111	49

Refugee Status Determination *

Active RSD Cases	RSD Cases Created in Aug 2025
738	26

First Instance Recognition (YTD)	Cases Referred to RST
56%	0

RSD Status

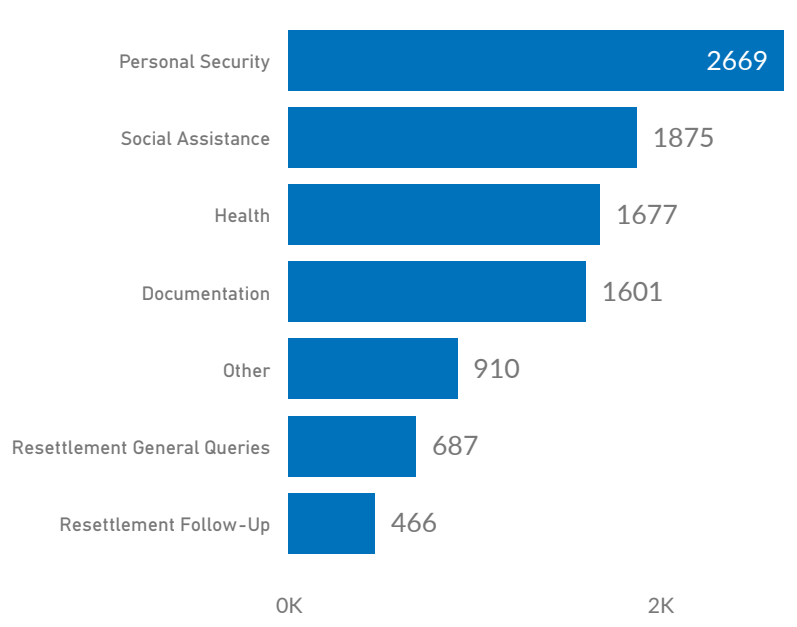


Operational Protection

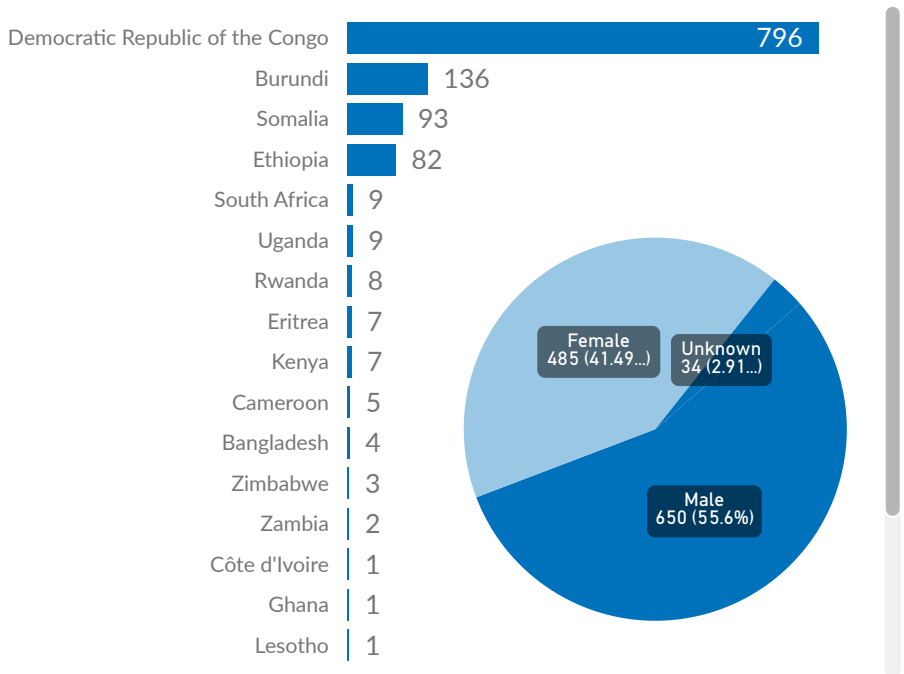
Helpline Calls Received / Handled	Reception (New Calls)	Referrals	Communications (Return Callers)
3,689 / 1,768	114	36	1,185

Child Protection	Protection Case Conference (PCC)	Best Interest Determination (BID)	Medical Cases
0	0	2	0

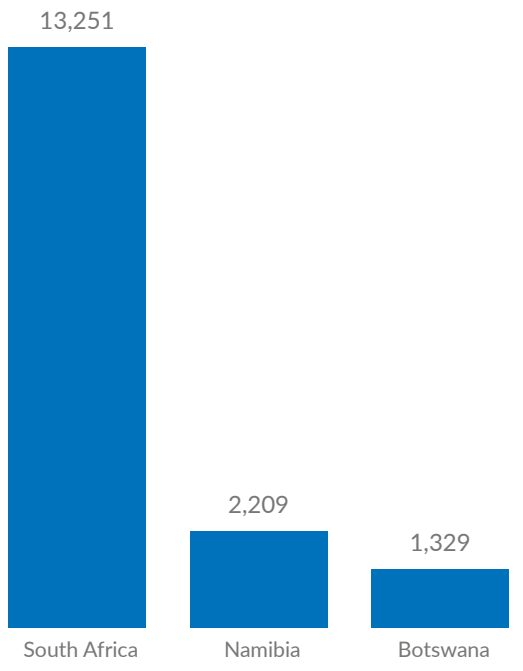
Call received Category (Top 7)



Reception Created by Country of Origin



WhatsApp Channel



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Monthly Statistical Map Report - UNHCR

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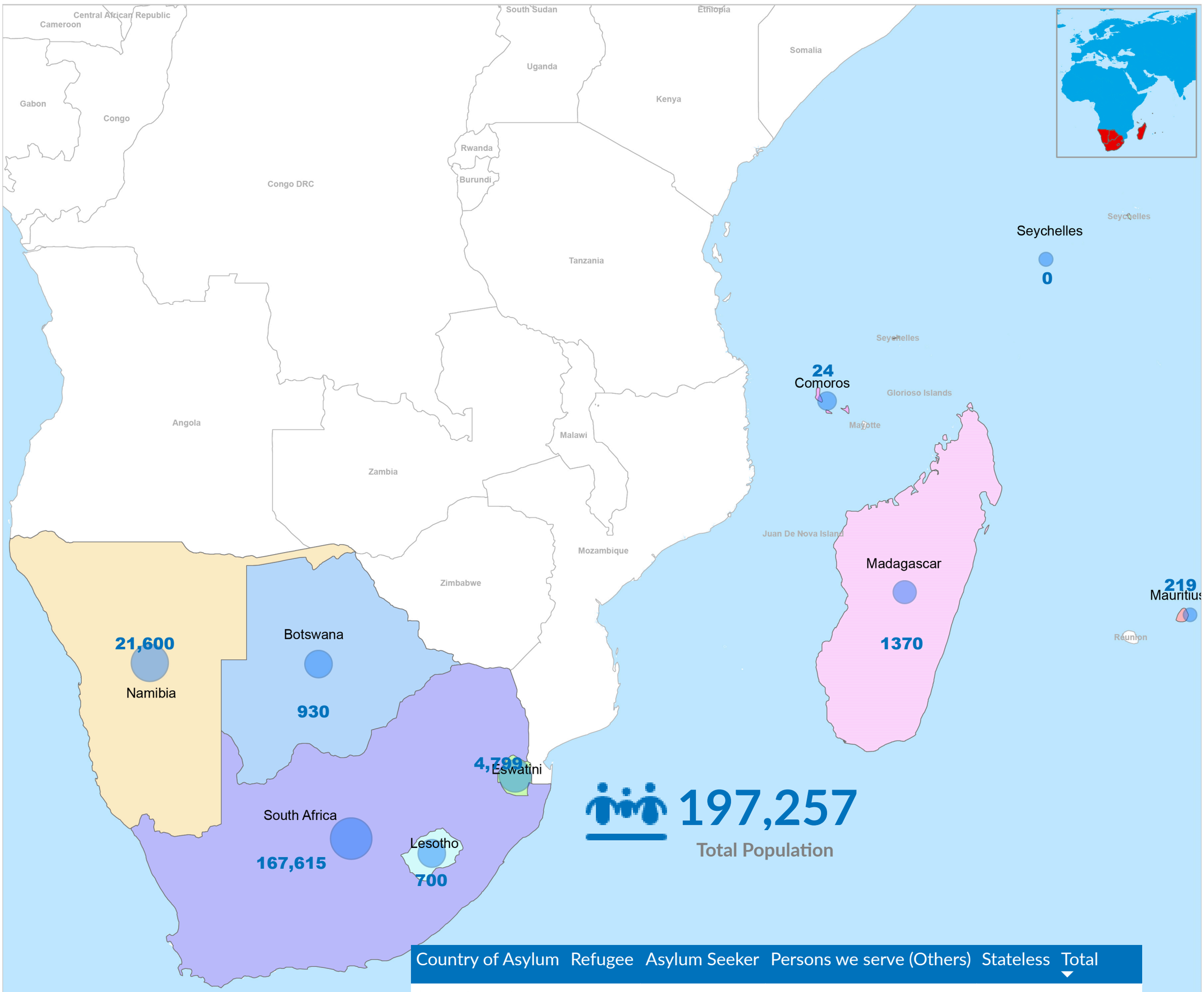

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The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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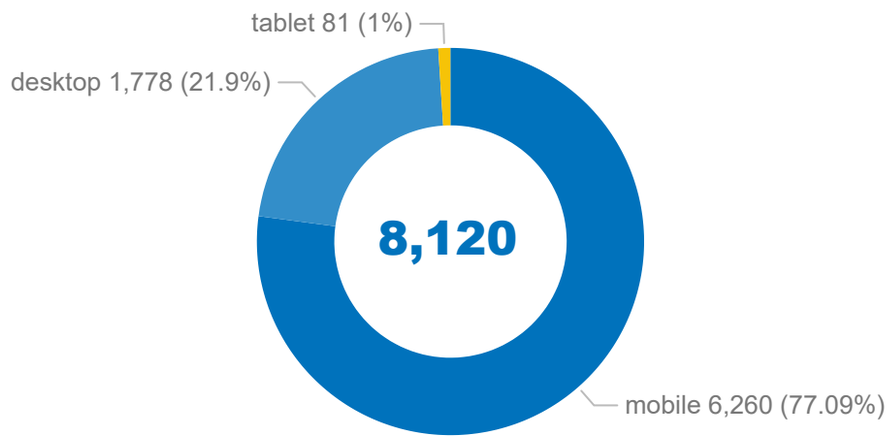
UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

Monthly Help.Unhcr.Org Dashboard

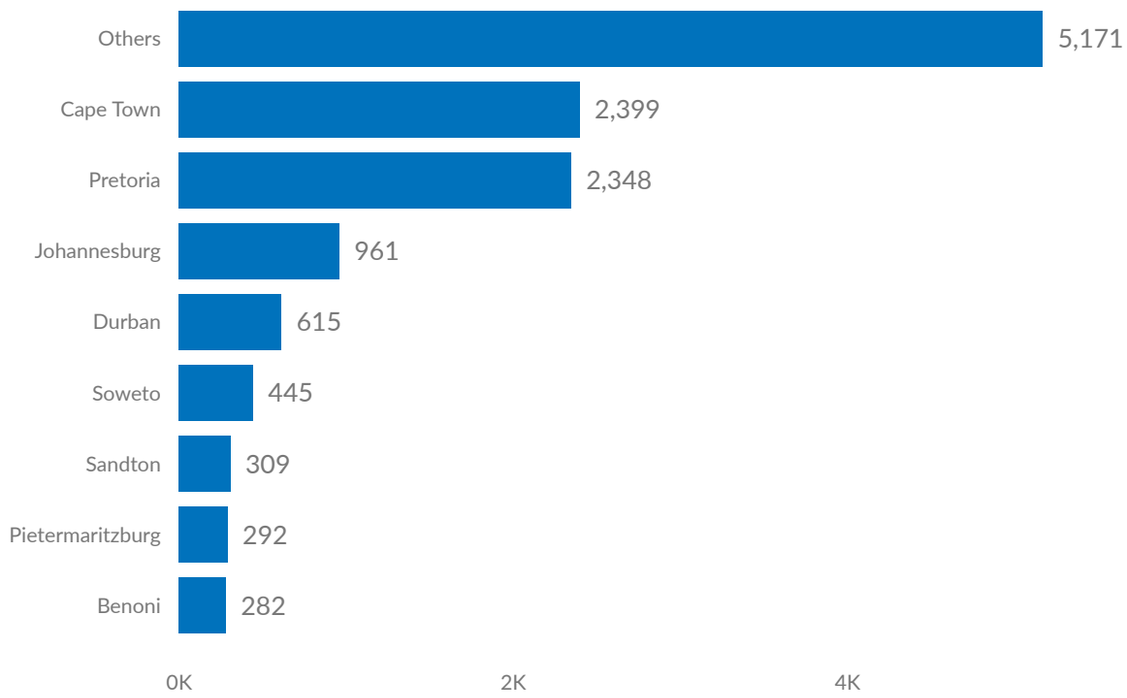
as of 31 Aug 2025

Total Page Views	Total Site Views
13,680	8,120

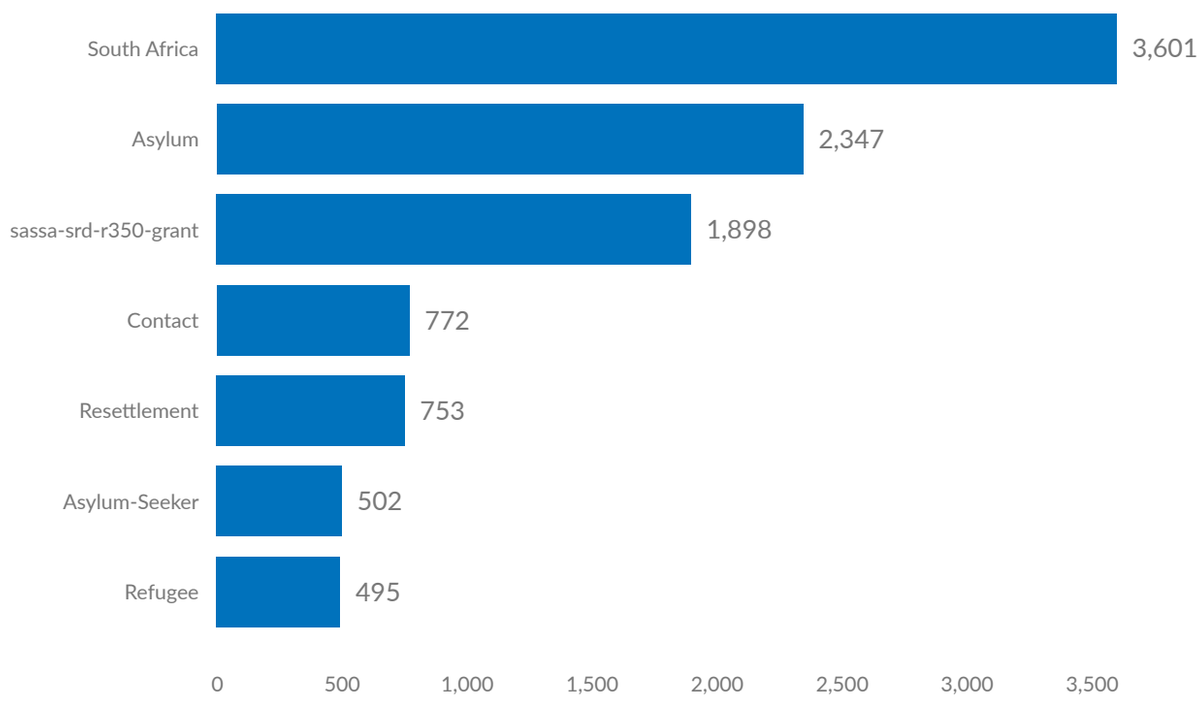
Device Used



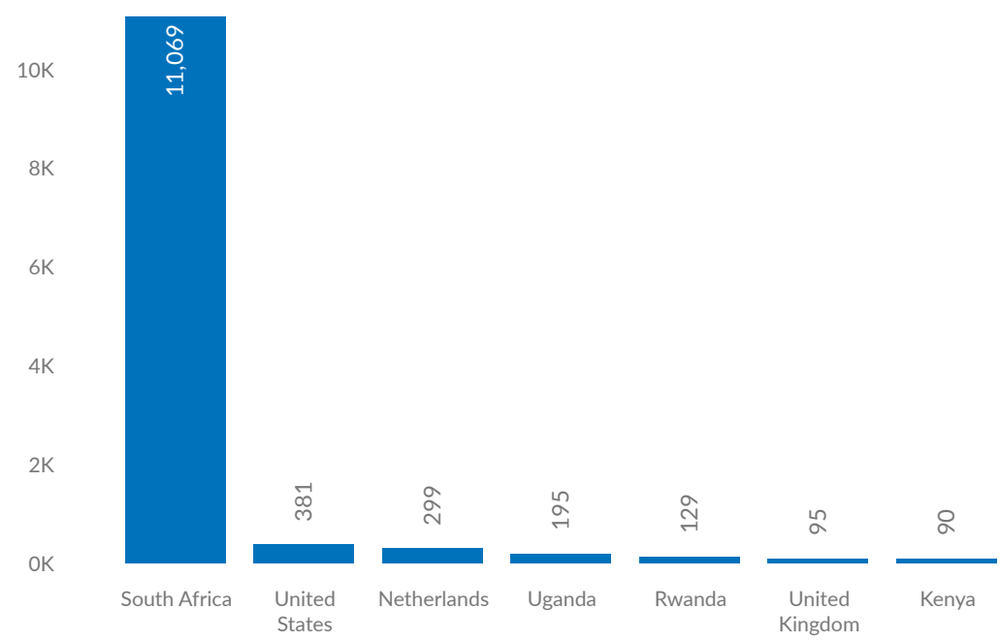
Visited by Cities in South Africa



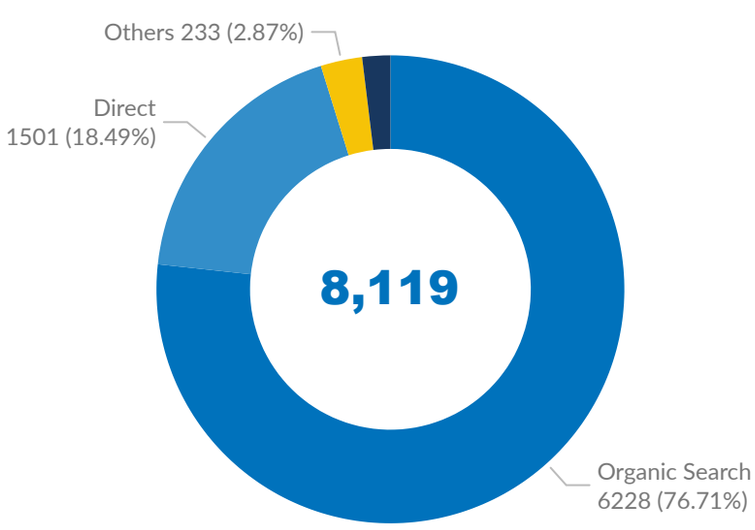
Most Visited Pages (Top 10)



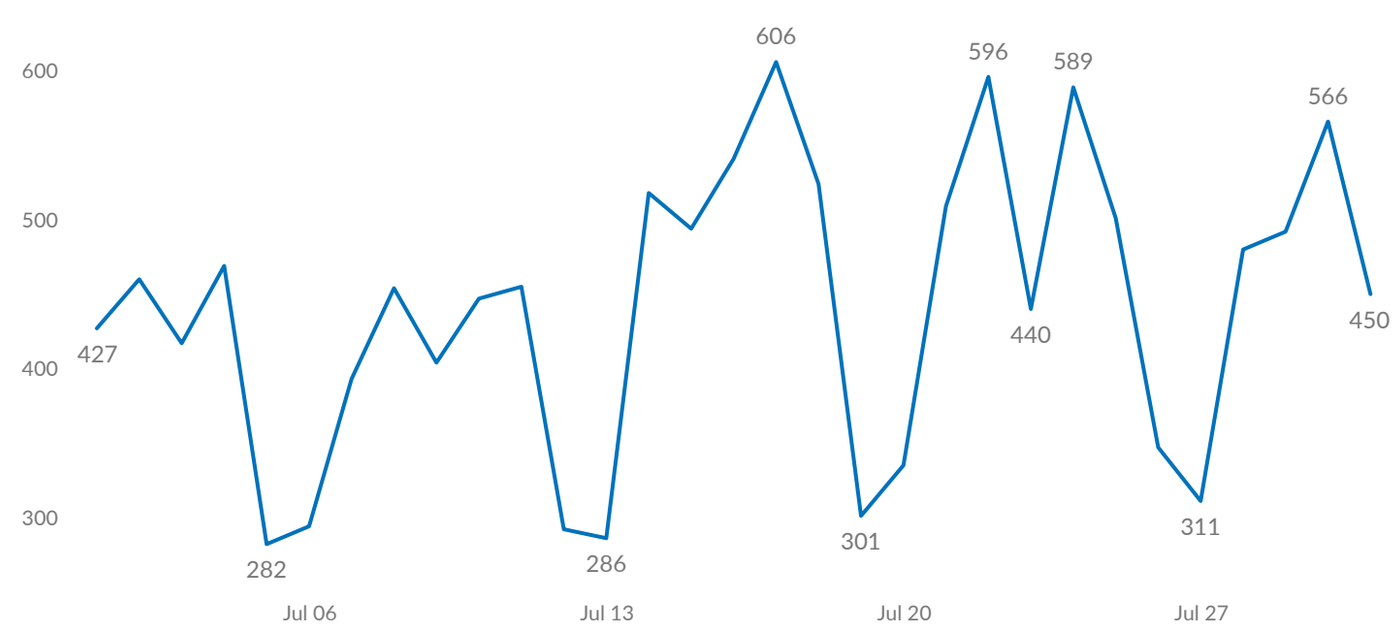
Visited by Countries (Top 7)



Visits to help site by channel



Page Views by date



Month Overview

The Help Site Page for South Africa received 13,680 page views during Aug 2025. The most visited sites being Help Asylum Process, SASSA grant and Online Renewal of Permits.

Mailer

During the reporting month, no mailer was sent .