

Southern Africa

September 2021

The 16 countries in Southern Africa host nearly **9.7 million people of concern**, including **1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers**, mainly from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

UNHCR in the Southern Africa region contributes to protection and solutions for almost **6.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** – almost 5.2 million in DRC, 732,000 in Mozambique*, over 304,000 in Republic of the Congo (ROC) and 110,000 in Zimbabwe.

In the first half of 2021, about **5,000 refugees and asylum-seekers voluntarily repatriated to their country of origin** from asylum countries in the region. UNHCR has also assisted **435 resettlement departures** since the start of the year.

KEY FIGURES (AS OF 31 JULY)

768,627

Refugees in Southern Africa

312,508

Asylum-seekers in Southern Africa

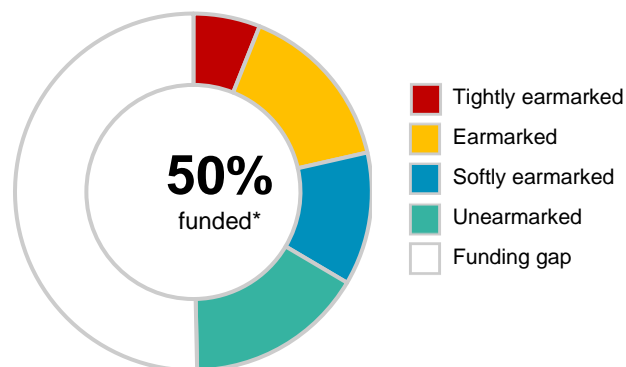
6,357,284

IDPs in the DRC, Mozambique, ROC and Zimbabwe

FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

USD 388.5 million

UNHCR's financial requirements in Southern Africa 2021



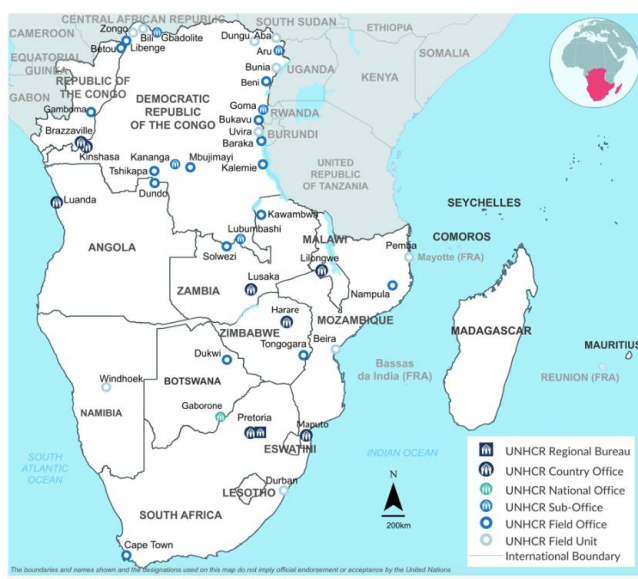
* Including indicative allocation of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

PRESENCE AND STAFF (as of 31 August 2021) **

Regional Bureau for Southern Africa	72
Angola	45
Democratic Republic of the Congo	435
Malawi	47
Mozambique	81
Republic of the Congo	65
South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa)	100
Zambia	108
Zimbabwe	29
TOTAL	982

*Mozambique IDP figures from IOM/DTM (April 2021).

**Figures reflect regular UNHCR staff and staff on affiliate contracts.



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Southern Africa is home to the biggest IDP crisis in sub-Saharan Africa. Complex crises erupt sporadically, causing millions of people to flee their homes in search of safety, while thousands more have spent decades in refugee settlements and host communities. The situation is complicated by the impact of climate change and natural disasters, causing loss of life and livelihoods, and setbacks on the path to development for host countries.

More than 67 per cent of forcibly displaced people in the region have fled conflict in the DRC, where intersecting crises have internally displaced nearly 5.2 million people and caused 1 million people to seek asylum. **Conflict in Mozambique's Cabo Delgado Province has displaced more than 732,000 people** as of June 2021 (according to IOM/DTM). **Violence in the Central African Republic** following the December 2020 elections resulted in a reported 73,600 people fleeing to the DRC and over 5,800 to RoC. In other parts of the region, **refugee camps and settlements in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe host long-term populations**, some of whom have spent decades in displacement.



More than 350,000 people fled the eruption of Nyiragongo in May. Families like this one lost everything. ©UNHCR/ Guerchom Ndebo.

Solutions in the region focus on local integration, and voluntary repatriation as borders reopen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Options to expand complementary pathways are also being explored. **Steps towards ending statelessness** in the region include reforming nationality law, policy and procedure, and supporting access to documentation.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

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|----------------|---|
| Protect | ○ Strengthen the protection environment; improve the quality of registration and information management; reinforce asylum systems and legal protection frameworks. |
| Respond | ○ Strengthen emergency preparedness; innovate to improve operational responses. |
| Include | ○ Enhance partnerships; invigorate the humanitarian-development nexus. |
| Empower | ○ Empower refugee communities; improve two-way communication; support decision-making. |
| Solve | ○ Promote and facilitate comprehensive solutions; alleviate poverty; foster self-reliance. |

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for donor contributions to the Southern Africa region.

Belgium | Canada | CERF | Denmark | Education Cannot Wait | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Netherlands | Norway | Private donors | Sweden | Switzerland | United States of America | UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe | UN Peacebuilding Fund

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked contributions made at the global level, which allow UNHCR critical flexibility to reach people in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

CONTACTS

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