UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

DIMA - RBSA
Data, Identity Management and Analysis - Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

Population Data Analysis

Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

July 2023

Overview

At the end of July 2023, Southern Africa hosts around **8.3 million people that UNHCR has the mandate and responsibility to protect and assist**. This includes 800,000 refugees, 201,000 asylum-seekers, 32,300 others of concern, [1] 6.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) induced by conflicts, as well as returned refugees of around 600 and 482,100 returned IDPs. In addition, 1 million IDPs are induced by climate change and disaster. There are no siginificant changes in total numbers since June 2023. **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) hosts 83 per cent of the population in the region**.

Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Others of Concern

There are **1 million refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern** hosted in the region and 75 per cent originate from countries outside Southern Africa region.[2] The top five countries of origin are: Central African Republic (242,000), Rwanda (238,000), Democratic Republic of the Congo (217,600), Burundi (85,800) and South Sudan (57,000).

DRC new arrivals

In preparation for the review of the refugee response plan for the DRC situation the region's largest caseload, approximately 41,300 individuals from DRC have been registered in the neighboring countries by July 2023. A majority (93.2%) moved to East and Horn of Africa region while only 6.8% remained in the Southern Africa region. Uganda has the highest proportion with 39.3% of the new arrivals, followed by Tanzania with 28.3% and Rwanda 16.8%.

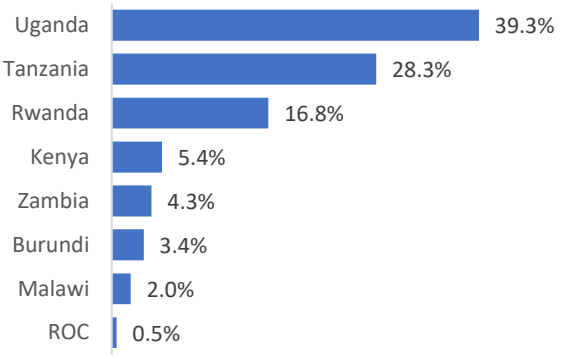


Figure 1 Proportion of DRC new arrivals in neighboring countries as of 31 July 2023

Kenya and Burundi host 8.8% of DRC's new arrivals in 2023, while Zambia and Malawi host 6.3%. South Africa and Angola have no data available. Most arrivals are from North and South Kivu (80%), with historical trends fluctuating: 12.6% in 2019, dropping to 3.2% in 2020, and likely to increase in 2023. The DRC refugee and asylum seeker population in neighboring countries has risen from 848,800 in 2019 to 987,300 in 2023, expected to surpass 1 million by year-end.

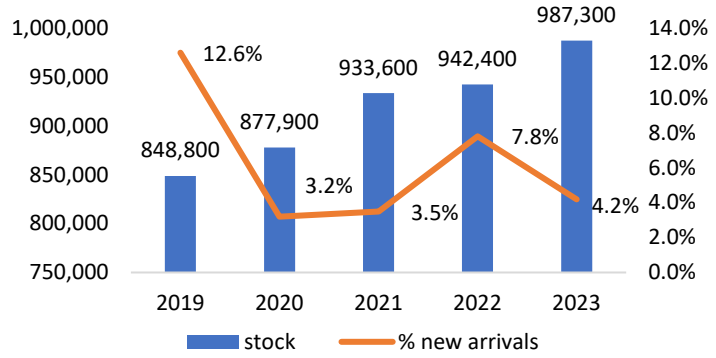


Figure 2 DRC refugees and asylum seekers stock figures and proportion of new arrivals (Source: proGres and Annual Statistical Reports)

[1] Others of concern refer to those who are linked to (but not classified as) refugees and asylum-seekers, and who need assistance by UNHCR. In most cases in Southern Africa, they are family members, i.e., spouse or children, of refugees or asylum-seekers.
[2] Southern Africa region refers to the 16 countries covered by the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa of UNHCR including Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Congo, DRC, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

POPULATIONS THAT UNHCR IS MANDATED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST

As of 31 July 2023

KEY FIGURES

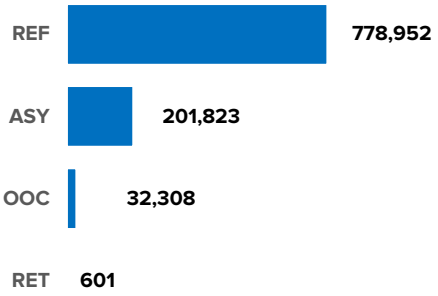
8,326,211

FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE & RETURNEES[1]

As a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations, or events seriously disturbing public order.

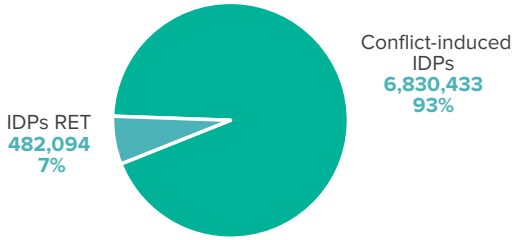
1,013,684

Refugees, asylum-seekers, other of concern & returnees (12% of the overall forcibly displaced people and returnees population)**



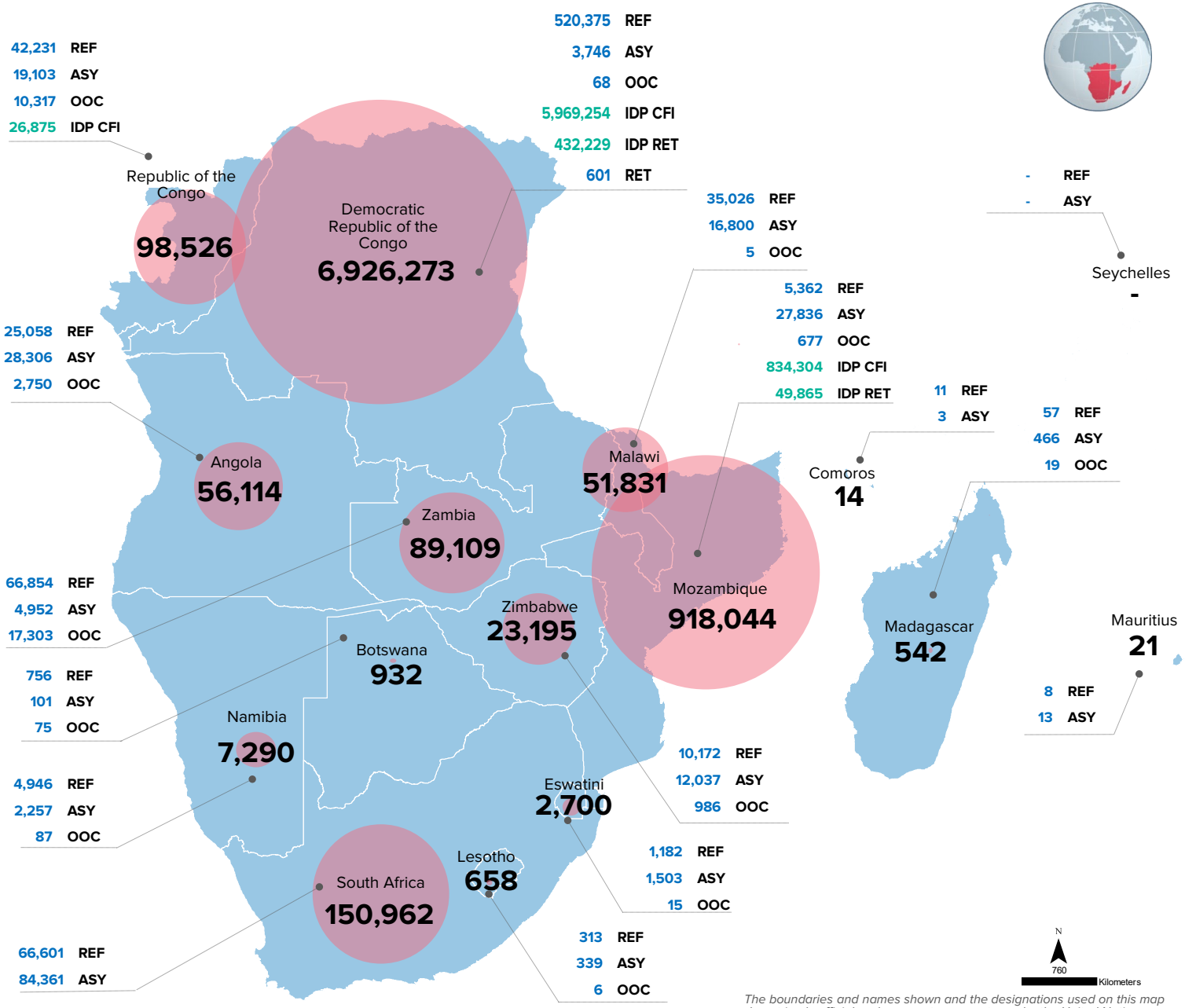
7,312,527

Conflict-induced IDPs and returned IDPs (88% of the overall forcibly displaced people and returnees population)**



1 In addition, there are 1,012,486 people displaced internally in the context of disasters and climate change. The displacement occurred in the following countries:
Malawi (659,278), The Democratic Republic of the Congo (270,005), Mozambique (41,668) and Zimbabwe (41,535).

MAP OF POPULATIONS THAT UNHCR IS MANDATED TO PROTECT AND ASSIST



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

Author: UNHCR DIMA - RSA Contact: rsarbdima@unhcr.org

** REF = Refugee; ASY = Asylum-seeker; OOC = Other person of concern; RET = Returnee

Source: REF, ASY, OOC, RET (UNHCR PRIMES, Government); IDP DRC (OCHA); IDP Zimbabwe & Mozambique (IOM); IDP ROC (Government, Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action (MASAH).

DRC = Democratic Republic of the Congo ROC = Republic of the Congo IDP = Internal Displaced Person IDP CFI = Conflic-induced IDPs IDP RET = Returned IDPs

Date of creation: As of 31 July 2023

For more information visit: UNHCR Data Portal

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS INVOLVED IN 2023 CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

As of 31 July 2023

CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS KEY FIGURES*

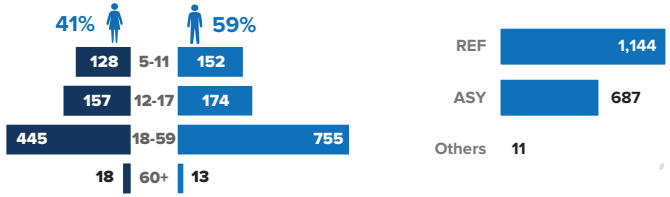
1,842 Total cross border movements since January (Current month = 186)

461 Intra region movements since January (Current month = 49)

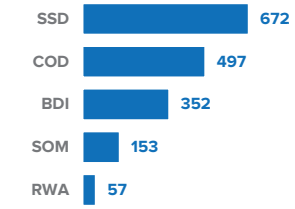
571 Outward movements from the region since January (Current month = 77)

810 Inward movements into the region since January (Current month = 60)

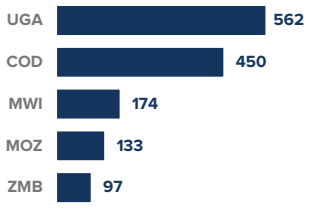
AGES, GENDER AND LEGAL STATUS OF MOVERS **



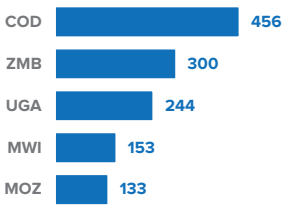
Top 5: Nationality



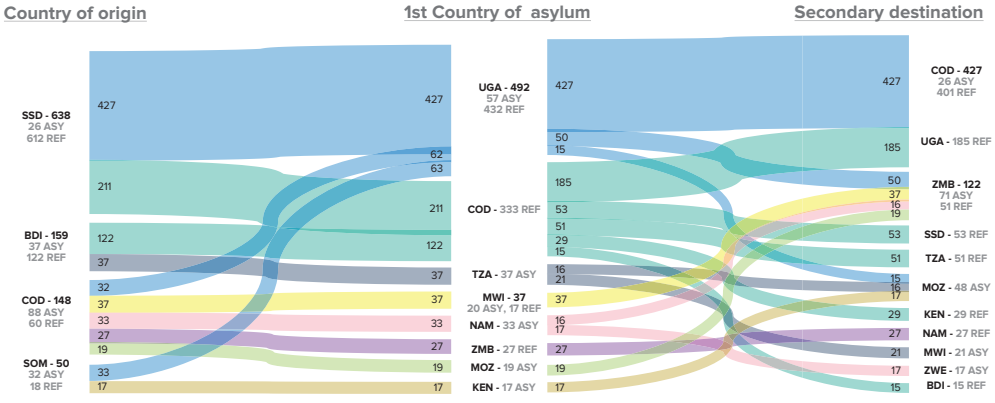
Top 5: 1st Country of Asylum



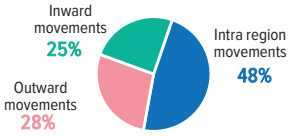
Top 5: 2nd Country of Asylum



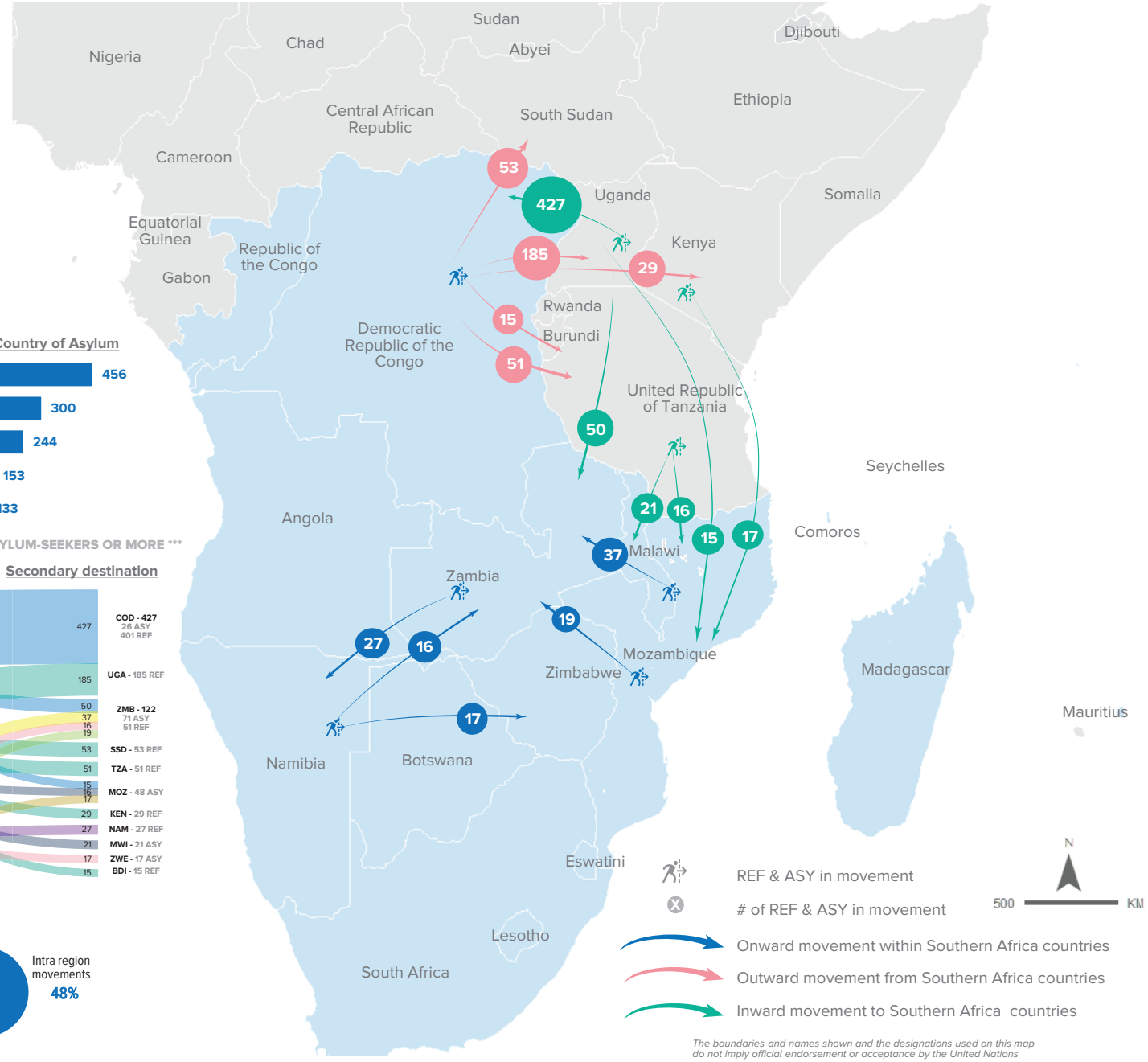
CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 15 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OR MORE ***



CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS TREND PER YEAR AND PROPORTIONS SINCE 2019



MAP OF CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 15 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS OR MORE



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

* Figures have been revised in June by removing individuals found in VolRep and Data Transfer Request.
** REF = Refugee, ASY = Asylum-Seeker, OOC = Other person of concern

*** The flows shown are restricted only to movements of a minimum group people , therefore the totals is different from the overal movements of the month due to the exclusion. In case of the same country of origin and first country of asylum, due to the change of nationality of some PoCs, country of origin are replaced with the previous nationality. All countries were named according to the ISO 3 Codes. BDI = Burundi, COD = Democratic Republic of the Congo , COG = Republic of the Congo, SSD- South Sudan, KEN = Kenya, UGA = Uganda, MWI = Malawi, MOZ = Mozambique, NAM = Namibia, TZA=Tanzania , ZMB = Zambia, ZWE =Zimbabwe

Data sources: UNHCR PRIMES.
For more information or to contribute, please contact UNHCR RBSA DIMA (rsarbdima@unhcr.org)

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

2023 VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

As of 31 July 2023

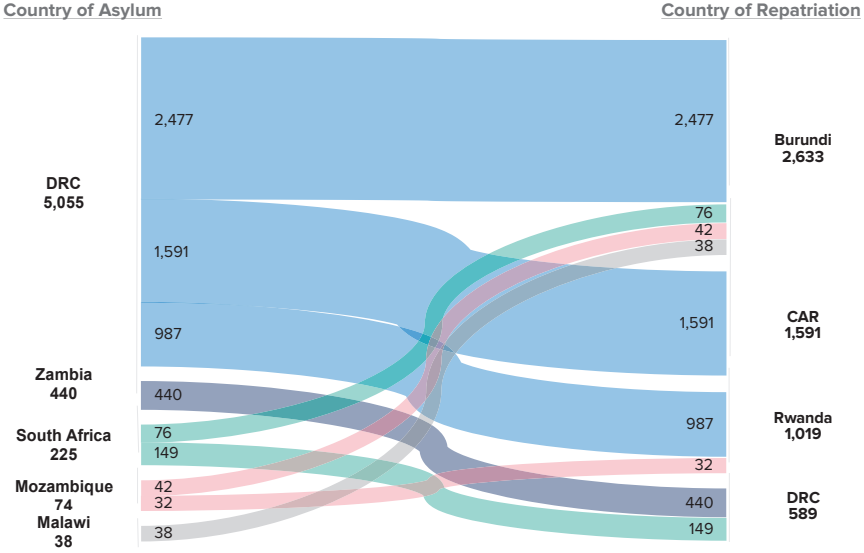
KEY FIGURES

5,838
Total Individuals repatriated since January 2023

593
Individuals repatriated **within Southern Africa Region** since January 2023

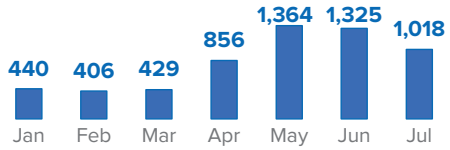
5,245
Individuals repatriated **from Southern Africa Region** to other countries outside of the region since January 2023

VOLREP* WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 10 REFUGEES OR MORE



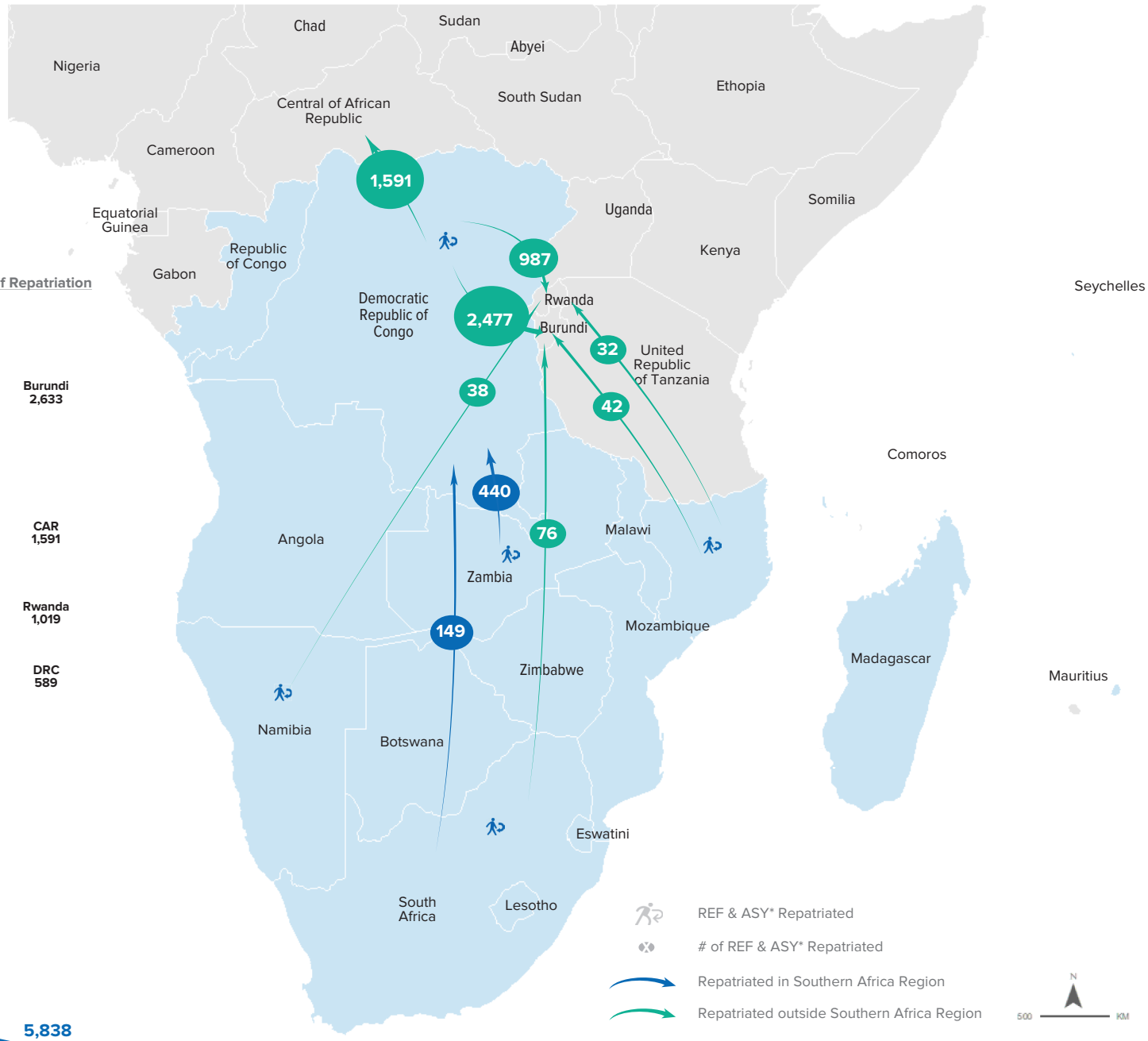
TRENDS

MONTHLY REPATRIATION SINCE JANUARY**



ANNUAL REPATRIATION SINCE 2019

MAP OF VOLREP* WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 10 REFUGEES OR MORE



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

*VolRep = Voluntary Repatriation **Note: The figure of May 2023 was revised and readjusted in June 2023

Source : UNHCR PRIMES Author : DIMA/RBSA Data sources: UNHCR PRIMES. For more information or to contribute, please contact UNHCR RBSA DIMA (rsarbdima@unhcr.org)

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS INVOLVED IN RESETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

As of 31 July 2023

RESETTLEMENT KEY FIGURES

Submitted Cases

1,036 Cases

4,428 Case Members

Departure Cases*

463 Case

2,305 Case Members

Active Cases*

1,236 Case

5,204 Case Members

Quota

8,842 Allotcated Quota

50% % of Submission vs Quota

Balance (Quota/Submission) : *4,414*

Submitted Cases Member by Country of Submission

USA	3,491
AUL	304
CAN	295
NZL	130
FIN	106
FRA	53
NOR	43
NET	6

Departure Cases by Age and Gender

51% 49%

29%	0-17	28%
21%	18-59	21%
1%	60+	0.6%

Submitted Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Asylum

MWI	1,496
ZMB	924
ZWE	865
NAM	655
ZAF	281
MOZ	115
COD	62
BWA	20

Departure Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Asylum

ZMB	664
ZWE	626
ZAF	427
MWI	351
MOZ	114
MAD	57
NAM	40
COG	20
COD	6

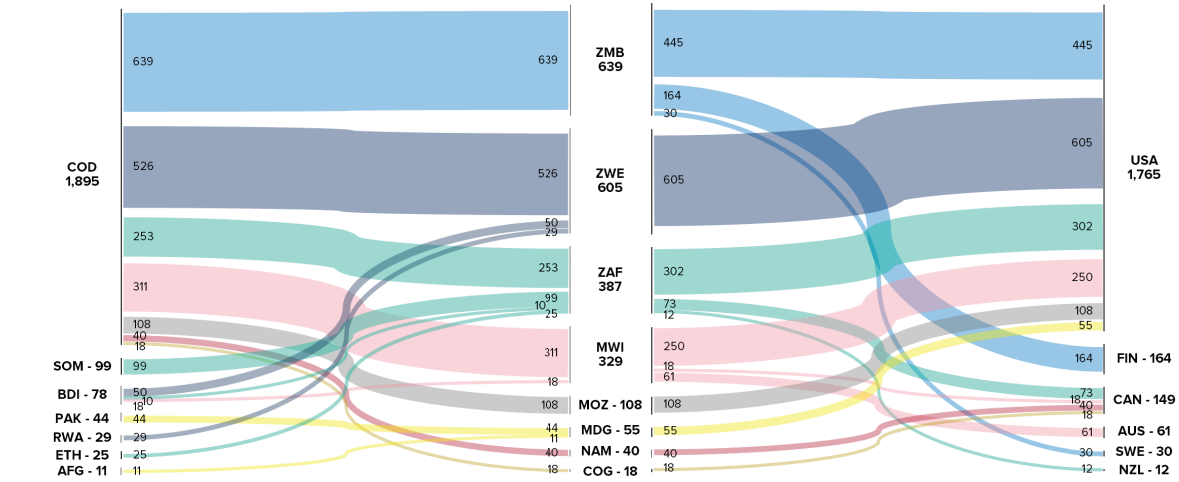
Submitted Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Origin

COD	1,687
BDI	369
RWA	187
SOM	94
CAF	34
SSD	21
ETH	12
ERT	7
UGA	4
SYR	3

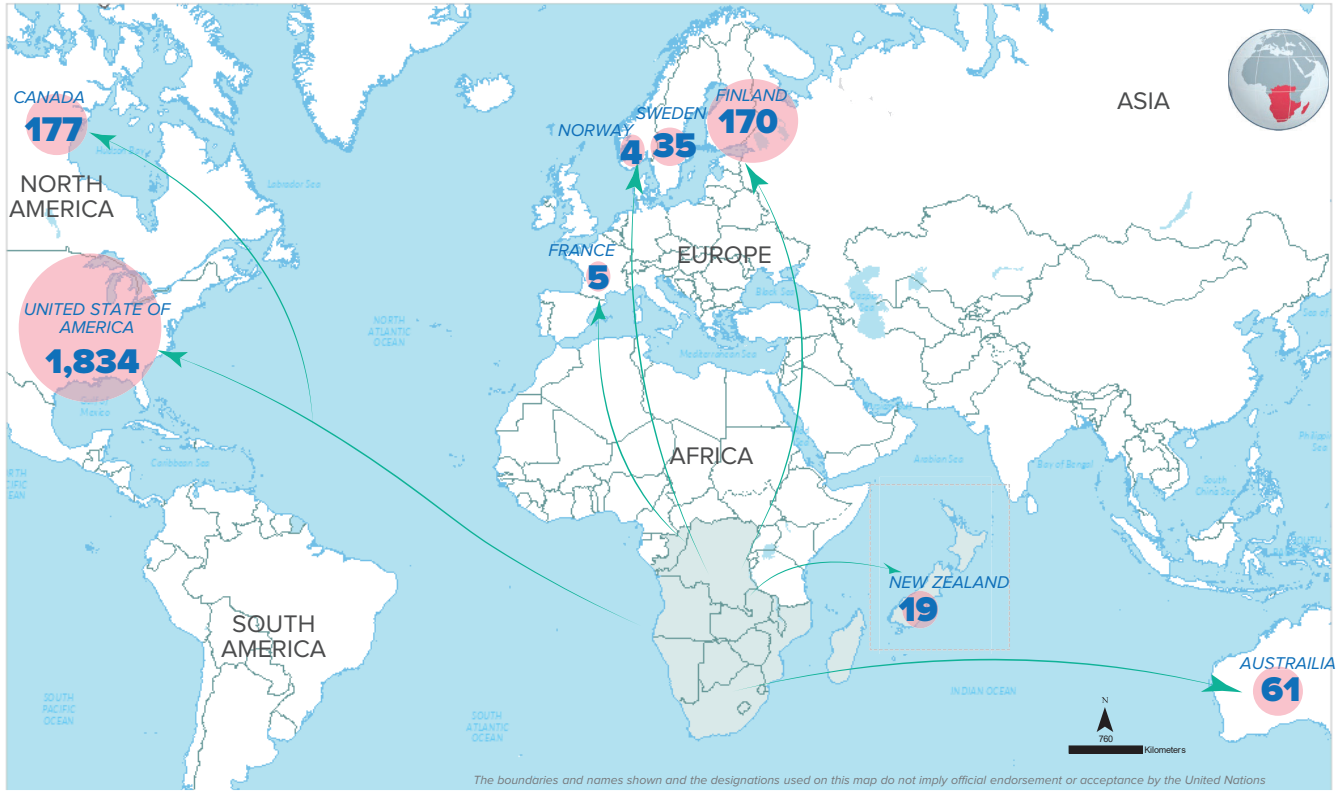
Departure Cases Members by Top 10 Country of Origin

COD	1,916
SOM	116
BDI	104
RWA	45
PAK	44
ETH	29
ERT	13
AFG	11
CAF	8
SUD	7

MOVEMENTS OF GROUPS OF 10 OR MORE RESETTLEMENT CASE MEMBERS



MAP OF THE DEPARTURES BY COUNTRY OF SUBMISSION



* Active Case and Case Member and Departure Case figures have been proportionned from PRIMES dataport as of 26 October / information not available on RSR site.

Data sources: UNHCR PRIMES, UNHCR Resettlement Statistics Report.
For more information or to contribute, please contact UNHCR RBSA DIMA (rsarbdima@unhcr.org)

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REFUGEES*

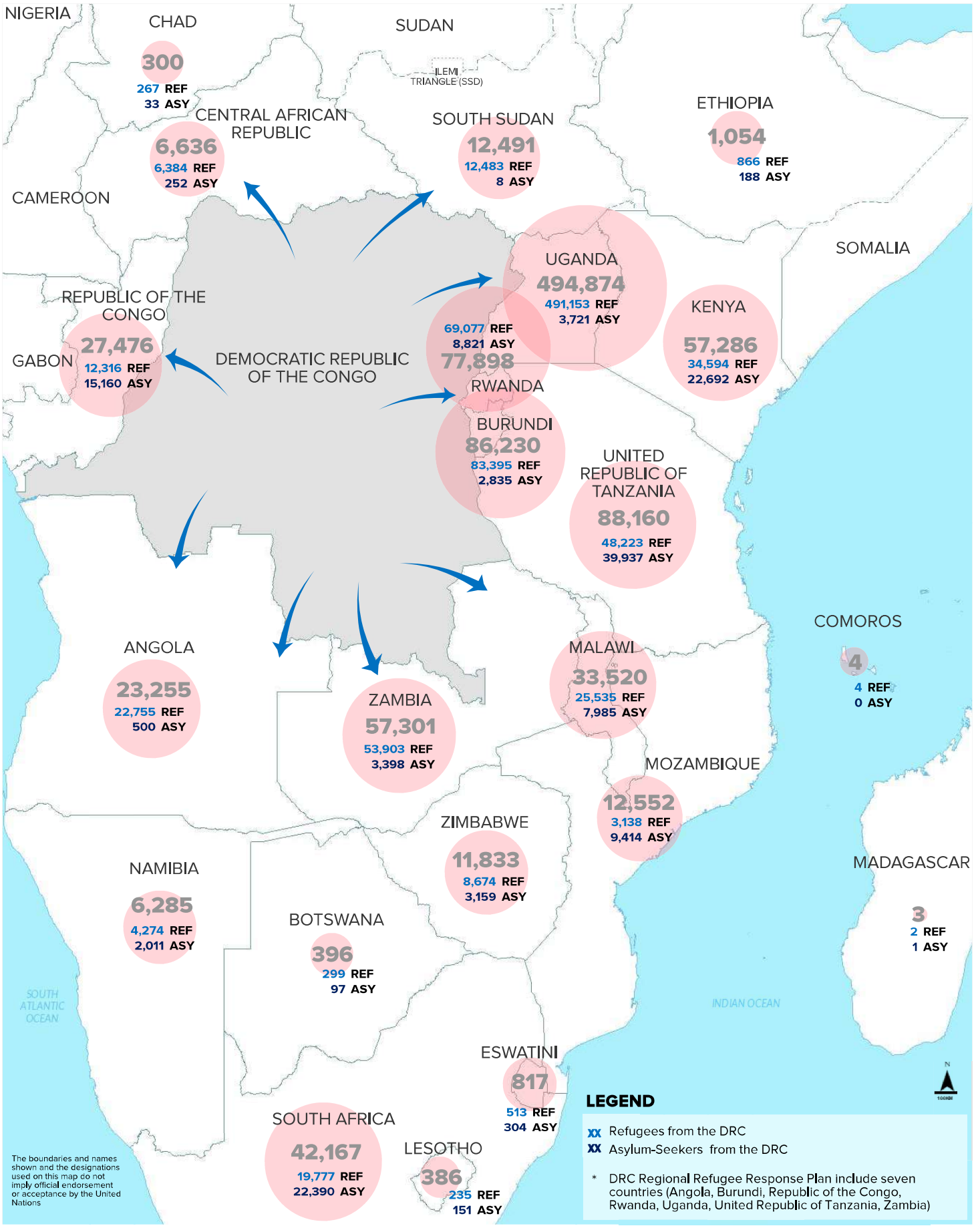
As of 31 July 2023

KEY FIGURES

1,040,924 Total Refugees and Asylum-seekers

897,867 Refugees

143,057 Asylum-seekers



REF = Refugee ASY = Asylum seeker

Author: UNHCR DIMA - RSA Contact : rsarbdima@unhcr.org Source: UNHCR Primes, Government, UNHCR

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The UN Refugee Agency

REGIONAL BUREAU FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA

REFERENCE MAP / UNHCR PRESENCE

As of 31 July 2023

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

Printing date: 02-11-2022 **Sources:** UNCS, UNHCR **Author:** UNHCR - RBSA DIMA Unit **Feedback:** rsarbdima@unhcr.org **Filename:** rbsa_reference_A2L_2022-11-02

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency **DIMA - RBSA** Data, Identity Management and Analysis - Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

Forcibly displaced and returned persons in southern Africa, Data as of 31 July 2023*

Country of Asylum	Location**			Self-settled***	Population Group								Total
	Name	Longitude (X)	Latitude (Y)		Refugee	Asylum-Seeker	Other of Concern	IDP by Conflict	Returned IDP	Refugee Returnee	Statelessness	Host Community	
Democratic Republic of the Congo*	Other			No	377,425	2,872	68	5,522,579	432,229	601	-	-	6,335,674
	IDP Camp			No	-	-	-	446,675		-	-	-	446,675
	Lusenda	29.0944	-3.8879	No	26,567		-	-	-	-	-	-	26,567
	Meri	30.2019	3.8486	No	26,456	18	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,474
	Inke	20.7673	4.0905	No	18,028	202	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,230
	Mole	18.8033	4.1351	No	10,988		-	-	-	-	-	-	10,988
	Bili	19.9185	4.5413	No	10,105		-	-	-	-	-	-	10,105
	Mulongwe	29.0395	-4.2374	No	8,757	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,824
	Boyabu	18.7699	3.7291	No	8,781		-	-	-	-	-	-	8,781
	Nzakara	21.2204	4.2746	No	8,647	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,647
	Biringi	30.3385	2.8001	No	8,043	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,068
	Wenze	18.6355	4.2491	No	6,212	267	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,479
	Sidi	19.8615	5.0049	No	6,252	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,252
	Bele	30.1676	3.594	No	3,484	295	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,779
	Mboti	25.821	4.0243	No	630		-	-	-	-	-	-	630
	Subtotal				**520,375**	**3,746**	**68**	**5,969,254**	**432,229**	**601**	**-**	**-**	**6,926,273**
Mozambique	Other			No	2,496	22,173	205	834,304	49,865	-	-	-	908,438
	Maratane Camp	39.25	-15.255	No	2,866	5,663	472	-	-	-	-	-	9,001
	Subtotal				**5,362**	**27,836**	**677**	**834,304**	**49,865**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**918,044**
South Africa	Unknown			Yes	66,601	84,361	-	-	-	-	-	-	150,962
	Subtotal				**66,601**	**84,361**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**150,962**
Congo	Other			No	36,393	13,845	10,178	26,875	-	-	-	-	87,240
	Site du 15 Avril	18.5071	3.0597	No	5,838	441	139	-	-	-	-	-	6,399
	Site de Bouemba	16.1265	-2.1593	No	-	4,817	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,807
	Subtotal				**42,231**	**19,103**	**10,317**	**26,875**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**98,526**
Zambia	Meheba	25.8816	-12.4975	No	29,207	279	9,708	-	-	-	-	-	39,194
	Mayukwayukwa	24.1911	-14.549	No	16,665	39	6,841	-	-	-	-	-	23,545
	Other			No	13,837	3,968	754	-	-	-	-	-	18,559
	Mantapala	28.8876	-9.5082	No	7,145	666	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,811
	Subtotal				**66,854**	**4,952**	**17,303**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**89,109**
Angola	Unknown			Yes	17,088	28,064	2,397	-	-	-	-	-	47,549
	Lovua Settlement	20.0467	-7.4085	No	6,548	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,548
	Other			No	1,422	242	353	-	-	-	-	-	2,017
	Subtotal				**25,058**	**28,306**	**2,750**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**56,114**
Malawi	Other			No	1,217	1,483	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,700
	Dzaleka	33.8721	-13.6608	No	33,809	15,317	5	-	-	-	-	-	49,131
	Subtotal				**35,026**	**16,800**	**5**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**51,831**
Zimbabwe	Other			No	516	6,555	61	-	-	-	-	-	7,132
	Tongogara	32.3082	-20.3469	No	9,359	5,456	893	-	-	-	-	-	15,708
	Unknown			Yes	297	26	32	-	-	-	-	-	355
	Subtotal				**10,172**	**12,037**	**986**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**23,195**
Namibia	Osire	17.365	-21.07	No	4,291	1,862	50	-	-	-	-	-	6,203
	Other			No	655	395	37	-	-	-	-	-	1,088
	Subtotal				**4,946**	**2,257**	**87**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**7,290**
Eswatini	Other			No	1,182	1,503	15	-	-	-	-	-	2,700
	Subtotal				**1,182**	**1,503**	**15**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**2,700**
Botswana	Dukwe	26.4975	-20.5822	No	541	8	27	-	-	-	-	-	576
	Other			No	215	93	48	-	-	-	-	-	356
	Subtotal				**756**	**101**	**75**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**932**
Lesotho	Other			No	313	339	6	-	-	-	-	-	658
	Subtotal				**313**	**339**	**6**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**658**
Madagascar	Other			No	57	466	19	-	-	-	-	-	542
	Subtotal				**57**	**466**	**19**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**542**
Mauritius	Other			No	8	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
	Subtotal				**8**	**13**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**21**
Comoros	Other			No	11	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	Subtotal				**11**	**3**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**14**
					778,952	**201,823**	**32,308**	**6,830,433**	**482,094**	**601**	**-**	**-**	**8,326,211**

Notes: The figures are subject to change; *IDPs by disaster are not included; **'Other' in the location refers to any known location other than camp or settlement sites, covering both urban and rural areas; the numbers in Nzakara, Wenze and Sidi in DRC are as of 31 May 2023; ***self-settled refers to the individuals without available information such as their names and locations, and their locations are categorised to be 'unknown'; those by location in Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe could be different from the numbers operation report due to inconsistency in proGres.

Refugees and asylum seekers documentation

Based on the recently released 2023 second quarter registration data review in June, the documentation of refugees and asylum-seekers in Southern Africa continues to be a concern. Many eligible individuals still lack proper individual identity documents, while the refugee identity document is crucial for secure residence, freedom of movement, and access to essential services.

To address this issue and support government efforts in the region, UNHCR is developing a kiosk model that will be implemented in early 2024. The kiosk model aims to streamline and improve the process of documenting refugees and asylum-seekers by enhancing accessibility, time efficiency, accountability, and fraud prevention.

The kiosk model will be equipped with the following features:

- Biometric identification and self-registration capabilities,
- Ability to update data,
- Appointment scheduling functionality,
- Scanning and storage of documents up to A4 size,
- Issuance of A4 documents, including asylum certificates and attestations,
- Provision of Identity Cards (IDs) in PVC format,
- Feedback and complaint system, and
- Interface and content available in major refugee community languages.

Furthermore, the kiosk model will incorporate various accessibility features to accommodate individuals with disabilities or specific needs, as well as those who may face challenges with reading, writing, or using technology. Prior to implementation, an extensive awareness campaign will be conducted among refugee communities and all stakeholders involved in case management in Southern Africa.

The kiosk model currently under development builds upon the successful implementation of a similar model in Zambia by UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), which can be accessed here: Zambia: Refugee self-service kiosk - ACSG (acsg-portal.org), This model has been recognized as a good practice by the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG).

Population Data Analysis
Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

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UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Contact

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LINKS: UNHCR RBSA data portal – Facebook – Twitter – Instagram