

Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

8 May 2020

8,873,757 persons of concern in the region, including 768,694 refugees, 311,032 asylum-seekers, 5,600,782 IDPs, and 2,134,349 IDP returnees (as of 3 May).

Across the **16 countries in the Southern Africa region**, national efforts to contain the virus range from the suspension of all passenger commercial flights from affected countries, through the closure of borders to national lockdowns.

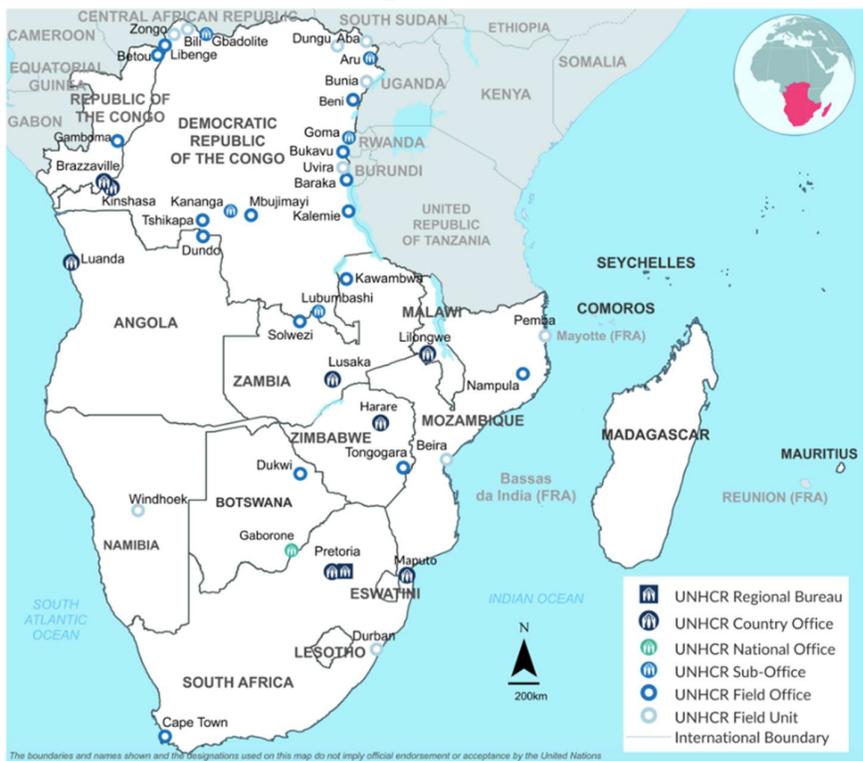
Some countries have instituted **lockdowns** with exceptions for goods and cargo, returning citizens and legal residents are still allowed to move across borders. There are also restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather and prohibition on events.

UNHCR is working with governments, WHO and other UN agencies and NGOs to secure the **inclusion** of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless people and other marginalized communities in preparedness and response measures.



IDPs respecting social distancing while queuing for a multi-purpose cash assistance in Bembei IDP site in North Kivu, DRC. © UNHCR/Lena Ellen Becker

Countries under the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa



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Operational Context

UNHCR has been expanding its outreach efforts in the region with the support of partners and community volunteers to better engage persons of concern within the scope of COVID-19 prevention measures. In order to continue monitoring affected communities' perception of COVID-19, UNHCR and partners are carrying out remote surveys to understand the needs, fears and threats expressed by the population. To encourage social distancing, UNHCR has been promoting the use of the hotline to report SGBV and child protection incidents in South Africa. UNHCR has also been conducting awareness-raising sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in a number of countries in the region, focused on domestic violence and reinforcing the referral pathways for SGBV cases during COVID-19 measures.

UNHCR Response



Health and WASH:

Management in Osire refugee settlement in **Namibia** has established an isolation centre with two refugee housing units provided by UNHCR to complement facilities in the government's clinic. In **Zambia**, UNHCR supported the Kalumbila District Health Office in training 44 community volunteers on COVID-19 prevention as well as SGBV and child protection case management in Meheba refugee settlement. UNHCR and partners also conducted training on COVID-19 prevention and treatment in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)** for 27 health providers in the Biringi area and 23 health and medical practitioners in Nord Ubangi Province, all of whom assist both refugee and host communities. UNHCR's health partners has been conducting training for health and hygiene promoters in Tongogara refugee camp in **Zimbabwe**. Camp management have introduced expanded disinfection requirements in the primary health centre, including foot baths, temperature taken and washing of hands with disinfectant for persons entering the facility. Health workers in the clinic have been providing daily awareness sessions on personal hygiene and social distancing. UNHCR and partners in the camp also provided training to 14 community volunteers on child nutrition in the context of the COVID-19 response.



Protection, communication and community engagement:

Throughout the region, UNHCR has been continuing to raise awareness among refugees, IDPs and host communities about COVID-19 prevention and response measures. In the **DRC**, In North Kivu Province, UNHCR and partners have reached 1,131 persons through awareness-raising sessions in four IDP-hosting neighbourhoods. In South Kivu Province, community volunteers reached 1,266 IDPs and host community members through awareness-raising campaigns carried out in small groups or door-to-door. UNHCR and partners reached of 300 elderly Burundian refugees through awareness-raising focused on those with specific needs in Lusenda camp, Mulongwe settlement, and host communities, and have provided community volunteers with materials to carry out trainings in small groups as well as with phone credit to reinforce their ability to refer cases. UNHCR and partners have also been addressing a heightened risk of SGBV and child protection incidents due to COVID-19 restrictions, by carrying out door to door awareness raising in four camps hosting refugees from the Central African Republic in Nord and Sud Ubangi provinces. UNHCR and partners conducted an awareness-raising session on COVID-19 at the "15 avril" refugee site in the **Republic of the Congo** for over 50 participants, including primary and secondary school students. Since the beginning of the pandemic, UNHCR has reached 122 Central African and Congolese refugees through awareness-raising sessions in the site.



Assistance:

On 30 April, UNHCR referred 55 people to the Western Cape provincial authorities **South Africa** in for inclusion in the food assistance programme, bringing the total number of people referred to 682 since the process began on 20 April. From 27 April to 1 May, UNHCR partners distributed soap and mosquito nets to South Sudanese refugees in Meri settlement in the **DRC**, using a door-to-door technique and respecting COVID-19 prevention measures. 6,437 households (21,863 individuals) received 5,466 kg of soap and 10,600 mosquito nets. UNHCR has extended the daily supply of potable water supply by three hours in Bili refugee camp in Nord Ubangi Province to discourage the estimated 9,500 refugees in the camp from forming large groups around the 58 water points.

In South Kivu Province in the **DRC**, UNHCR completed a shelter project for 1,000 IDP and host community households. Each household received a handwashing station, and all beneficiaries were sensitized on COVID-19 prevention. 700 households in Kazimia also received cash-for-shelter via mobile money. From 21 April to 1 May, UNHCR and partners relocated 161 South Sudanese refugees from Meri to Bele settlement in an effort to decongest the former, while respecting COVID-19 prevention measures. As of 1 May, 1,715 individuals have been relocated to Bele settlement. UNHCR facilitated a WFP door-to-door food distribution in Bele settlement for 1,480 relocated refugees. On 29 April, in **Zimbabwe** UNHCR and partners distributed corn soya blend food supplement to 307 chronically ill persons, with hand hygiene and social distancing guidelines at the distribution point.



Education and Livelihood

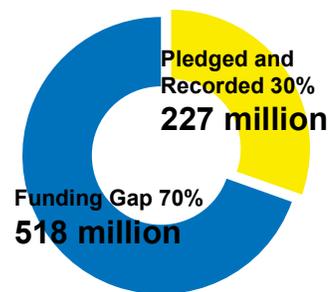
In response to the critical need for face masks, UNHCR's LuQuLuQu campaign has begun raising funds to provide materials and equipment for refugee youth groups to sew masks for their communities (**#Masks4Refugees**). In Dzaleka refugee camp in **Malawi**, the LuQuLuQu campaign has provided the local youth group with five sewing machines and fabric to produce masks for 6,500 people. The LuQuLuQu campaign is built on the African philosophy of sharing resources and caring for one another. The initiatives invest in the lives of those that are forcibly displaced by supporting their access to education, vocational and livelihoods opportunities to help restart lives and rebuild self-reliance.

Financial Requirements

On 7 May, the UN launched a revised inter-agency [Global Humanitarian Response Plan](#) seeking US\$6.69 billion, which includes US\$745 million for UNHCR's operations in affected countries through December 2020 and as reflected in UNHCR's [revised Coronavirus emergency appeal](#).

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PLEDGES TO THE COVID-19 APPEAL | US\$

USA 64M (400,000 earmarked for the DRC operation) | Germany 38M | EU 28.7M | UK 24.8M | Japan 23.9M | Denmark 14.6M | CERF 6.9M | Canada 6.4M | Ireland 3.3M | Sweden 3M | Finland 2.4M | Sony Corporation 3M | Private Donors 1.9m | Education Cannot Wait 1.8M | Qatar Charity 1.5M | Norway 1.4M | Australia 0.8m | Monaco 0.2M | Iceland 0.1M | Portugal 0.1M | Liechtenstein 0.1M



UNHCR is also grateful to the following donors that have provided unearmarked support that contributes towards addressing needs in the region

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Sweden 76.4m | Norway 41.4m | Netherlands 36.1m | Denmark 34.6m | United Kingdom 31.7m | Germany 25.9m | Private donors Spain 20m | Switzerland 16.4m | Private donors in Republic of Korea 10.5m

CONTACTS

- Joan Allison, Chief, External Engagement Section, Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, allison@unhcr.org
- Miranda Gaanderse, Reporting Officer, Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, gaanders@unhcr.org