

Zimbabwe

September 2021

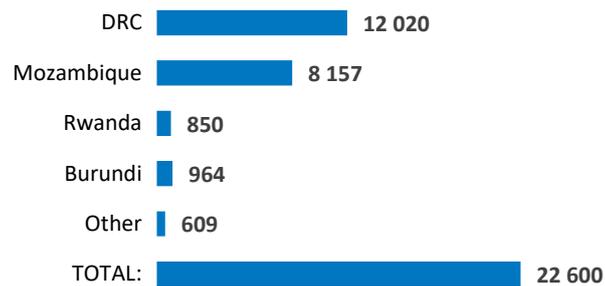
Refugees and asylum-seekers are included in the national COVID-19 response, including vaccination. Vaccines are available at the camp clinic, but hesitancy is hindering uptake.

The 51-hectare irrigation scheme in Tongogara camp supports agricultural productivity. Two crops have been harvested in 2021, maize and sugar beans.

To strengthen men's involvement in gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, UNHCR is implementing a pilot project in line with international policy.

POPULATION OF CONCERN BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN (AS OF 31 AUGUST)

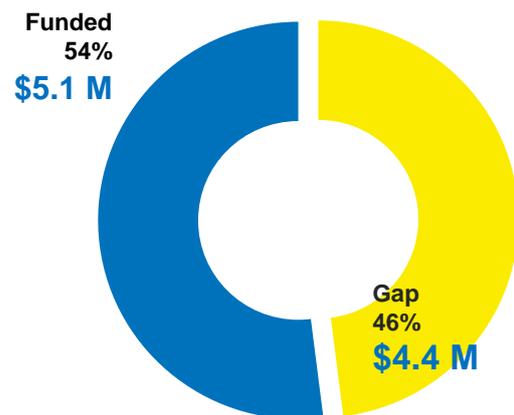
22,600



FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

USD 9.5 million

Requested for the Zimbabwe operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 24

- 19 National Staff
- 4 International Staff
- 1 Affiliate Workforce

Offices:

- 1 Branch Office in Harare
- 1 Field Office in Chipinge



Solar radios support remote learning in Tongogara camp primary school. ©UNHCR

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR participates in the United Nations Country Team, Programme Management Team, Operations Management Team, Human Rights Working Group, Protection Cluster and the Humanitarian Country Team as well as the Security Management Team in Zimbabwe.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- UNHCR supports the Government of Zimbabwe, through the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees, to provide international protection and assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and other people of concern.
- UNHCR provides capacity building and training to the Zimbabwean authorities and civil society on refugee protection in close coordination with relevant partners.
- UNHCR participates in various national United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) thematic groups. The Zimbabwean UNDAF will transition to the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework by 2026, which is aligned with the National Development Strategy for Zimbabwe.
- UNHCR directly implements some child protection and GBV prevention and response activities in accordance with UNHCR's revised GBV policy. To strengthen male involvement in GBV prevention, response and mitigation, UNHCR is implementing a pilot project, 'Engaging Men in Accountable Practices'.
- To improve the nutrition and wellbeing of children living in alternative care arrangements, UNHCR is implementing a gardening project targeting 50 families (365 people). The intervention supports the National Policy on Alternative Care Arrangements introduced by the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

Education

- Tongogara refugee camp has a population of 7,104 children aged 3-18 years as of 30 August 2021 (3,473 boys and 3,631 girls). Some 62 per cent of children in the camp are enrolled in formal education.
- National lockdowns and mandatory school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect the education of refugee and host community children.
- Refugees and asylum seekers are included in the national education system. UNHCR provides support with school fees and learning materials for children at primary and secondary levels.
- UNHCR supports 16 refugees to access tertiary learning opportunities in Zimbabwe's public universities through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme.
- Refugee and asylum-seeker children and youth have limited access to the digital and other remote learning opportunities provided by the authorities during the pandemic, although assistant teachers have reached 415 camp-based learners of all ages to supplement educational opportunities during school closures.

Health

- UNHCR and partners provide primary health care services to all asylum-seekers, refugees and the host community population living in and around Tongogara camp. The clinic provides 24-hour outpatient and referral services. Screening, treatment and referrals to major government hospitals are provided free of charge. Reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services are also provided.
- In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, Tongogara clinic is fully integrated into the national health system. Patients who require further care are referred to district, provincial and national hospitals, where refugees have access to health care services on a par with citizens.
- The district health authorities support health staff in the camp clinic with capacity building programmes. Mental health training and COVID-19 sensitization are supported by government technical staff.
- In response to a surge in COVID-19 cases in June 2021, UNHCR and the Zimbabwean authorities carried out risk awareness to sensitize the community, reaching more than 9,536 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Refugees and asylum-seekers receive monthly food baskets from WFP that include pulses, cereals, cooking oil and salt. Chronically ill patients receive additional corn soya blend for their dietary requirements. Some 13,709 people receive food assistance every month.

- Newly arrived asylum-seekers receive weekly food rations from WFP during the first three months in the camp, after which they receive food through the monthly distribution lists.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- People of concern receive at least 20 litres of water per person per day. This is achieved through a water reticulation system with manual hand pumps and solarised boreholes.
- Water quality tests are also conducted regularly to ensure that people of concern access quality water.
- To improve sanitation coverage in the camp, more latrines are being constructed to reduce the risk of open defecation in the camp.
- In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, additional handwashing facilities and refuse pits have been constructed as a preventative health measure.

Shelter and Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- Refugees and asylum-seekers in Tongogara camp receive essential household items like blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and solar lamps.
- Soap and sanitary material are distributed on a monthly basis to ensure adequate levels of personal hygiene in the camp. Soap quantities have increased to 1,000 grams per person per month since the onset of the pandemic.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- UNHCR and partners implement protection and assistance activities in Tongogara refugee camp.
- The Government of Zimbabwe, through the Department of Social Welfare, provides and manages transit centre reception facilities, warehouses, social services and documentation.
- The Office of the Commissioner for Refugees leads the national refugee programme, in coordination with other key stakeholders.

Access to Energy

- Access to sufficient quantities of fuel is low in Tongogara refugee camp, with a monthly provision of 270 tonnes of firewood for some 3,000 households. Innovative and sustainable energy solutions are being explored to meet energy needs in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- The provision of uninterrupted electricity for lighting, water provision and other services in the camp remains uncertain with the erratic fuel and electricity supply in the country.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR has constructed canals and opened a 25-hectare irrigation scheme for agricultural purposes, and to support refugees' self-reliance through farming.
- Livestock activities are implemented in the camp through piggery and poultry projects.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR facilitates resettlement and voluntary repatriation opportunities, where feasible.
- Some 48 people have departed for resettlement so far in 2021.
- UNHCR supported the return of 675 Zimbabwean refugees from Botswana since voluntary returns began in 2019, and undertakes protection monitoring activities to assess integration progress made by the returnees.

Statelessness

- UNHCR collaborates with the Government of Zimbabwe on the prevention and reduction of statelessness. Currently, UNHCR and the Government are undertaking a study on nationality and statelessness. The qualitative element of the study has been completed and preparations for the quantitative study have begun.
- UNHCR is advocating for the inclusion of questions on access to documentation and citizenship in the 2022 census as a mechanism to identify the risk of statelessness and to advocate for the removal of legal and administrative barriers that may result in statelessness.

- UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government to issue birth certificates to refugee and asylum-seeker children to prevent them from being further exposed to the risk of statelessness.

FUNDING

UNHCR is grateful for donor contributions to the Zimbabwe operation.

African Development Bank | Canada | Denmark | France | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Norway | Private donors | Spain | United States of America | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked contributions, which allow UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach persons of in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

CONTACTS

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LINKS

[Global Focus](#) | [Operational Data Portal](#)