

Zambia

January 2022

97 Congolese refugees (32 households) were repatriated from Mantapala settlement to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the first week of January,

In January, WFP distributed cash for food assistance, under the Cash-based Transfer (CBT) programme, to **16,965 refugees** (8,309 men and 8,656 women) in Mantapala settlement.

UNHCR's livelihoods partner, Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) commenced the distribution of agricultural tools to **526 families** out of the targeted 672 families in **Meheba refugee settlement**. received the tools.

869

Birth Notices were issued in January in Mantapala settlement.

200

Households of refugee rice farmers were supported with rice seeds and entrants in Meheba refugee settlement.

1,436

UNHCR's people of concern (PoCs) and **397 persons** from the host community were vaccinated against COVID-19 in January.

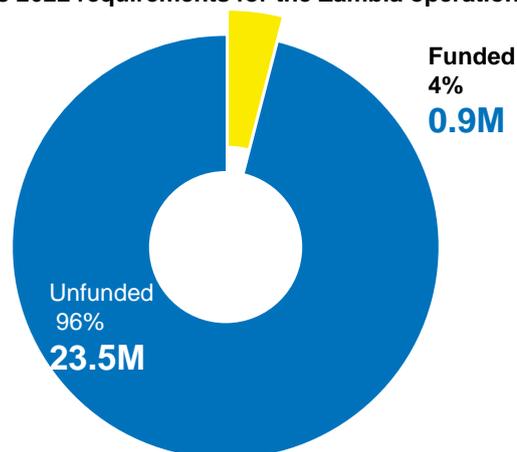


UNHCR supports provision of health services in all three refugee settlements ©UNHCR/Sam Chisanga.

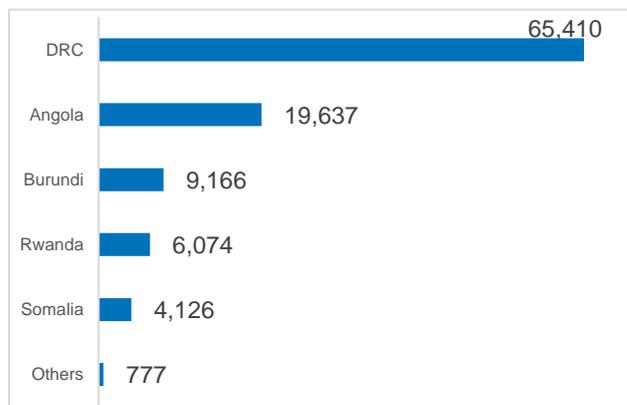
FUNDING (AS OF 31 JANUARY 2022)

USD 24.4 million

UNHCR's 2022 requirements for the Zambia operation:



PEOPLE OF CONCERN: **105,190 INDIVIDUALS/ 30,835 HOUSEHOLDS AS OF 31 JANUARY 2022**



Operational Context

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) leads and coordinates the refugee response in line with its commitments under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Under the 2017 Refugee Act, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), within the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security (MHA-IS), is mandated to deal with refugee matters. UNHCR supports the Government in the protection, assistance and finding durable solutions for refugees. The response to the arrival of refugees from DRC is coordinated by a committee composed of key line ministries, the UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNHCR. The Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security chairs the Committee.

- As of 31 January, Zambia was hosting **105,190** PoCs (**75,867** refugees, **4,448** asylum-seekers and **24,875** former Angolan and Rwandan refugees) comprising **30,835** households.
 - Meheba refugee settlement: **34,732** individuals.
 - Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement: **21,402** individuals.
 - Self-Settled (Government estimate): **12,404** individuals.
 - Urban Lusaka and Ndola: **18,442** individuals.
 - Mantapala settlement: **18,210** individuals.
- Out of the **105,190** PoCs, **46%** are women, **47%** children (aged between 0-17 years old) and **4%** elderly (age above 59 years old).
- During the reporting period, there was an increase of **830 individuals** (369 new arrivals, 150 new births and 311 In-Situ registrations).
- Of the new arrivals, **75%** were from the DRC, **15%** from Burundi, **5%** from Somalia and the rest other nationalities.

UNHCR has four offices in Zambia: Representation office in Lusaka, field offices in Solwezi and Kawambwa, and a field unit in Kaoma. UNHCR Zambia has **108** staff throughout the country including **55** national, **24** international and **29** affiliate staff.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Achievements and Impact

- 97 Congolese refugees (32 households) were repatriated voluntarily from Mantapala settlement to Pweto in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the first week of January bringing the total number of repatriated refugees to 302 between October 2021 and the first week of January 2022.
- COR and the Department of National Registration and Passport and Citizenship (NRPC) in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security issued alien registration cards and birth notices to refugees in Mantapala settlement. The final report indicates **510** Alien Cards and **869** Birth Notices were processed during the exercise.
- UNHCR, Ministry of Education (MoE) and COR completed a two-week GBV awareness campaign in Mantapala settlement schools. The campaign aimed to combat the negative consequences of child and early marriages within the community. The campaign's key messages were conveyed through debates, door-to-door visits, and soccer matches.
- The Ministry of Health (MoH) held a one-day stakeholders orientation workshop on the case management of gender-based violence (GBV) to improve coordination among key actors, such as the Police, Victim Support Unit (VSU), and Ministry of Justice.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, vulnerability assessment for 40 new arrivals (12 households), which included relocated refugees and re-entering refugees (those who had left the settlement for a prolonged period of time but have now returned for various reasons), was conducted by a multifunctional team. The assessment aimed to identify vulnerable individuals who might have individual protection needs or require specialized assistance.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- There is need for GRZ to deploy additional policemen and female across the three refugee settlements.
- Accommodation to host the police staff in the three refugee settlements is cruelly missing.
- Transportation for patrolling and for VSU is missing
- Additional human and financial resources to strengthen GBV awareness raising remains key.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- In January, UNHCR put in place guidelines and modalities to commence the implementation of the 200 higher education scholarships secured through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Cavendish University Zambia. The UNHCR-Cavendish University MoU will allow refugee students to enroll at the cost of 50% directly covered by Cavendish University as their contribution to education fees and tuition for refugees and remaining 50% will be covered by UNHCR.
- CCR started the process of vulnerability assessments to identify eligible refugees for education support provided through school and examination fees to refugee children in primary school.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, a total of 221 desks (190 desks from UNHCR and 31 desks received from World Vision International - WVI) were distributed to schools. The 190 single-seater desks provided by UNHCR are to address the shortage of desks and allow for social distancing in secondary schools during the COVID-19 pandemic. Desks donated by WVI were allocated to the newly opened Meheba C Primary Special Education Unit.
- An assessment of children for special education needs was conducted by the MoE in preparation of enrolling children in the newly established Special Needs Unit in Meheba. Special needs education teachers are being deployed by the MoE in Meheba refugee settlement.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- The Cavendish scholarship only covers 50% of tuition. Support is needed from the Government to lift the costs for study permits for refugees, and from other partners for living expenses.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR and health partners conducted a five-day male circumcision exercise in Mantapala settlement reaching 70 children between the age of four and ten years-old, out of which three were from the host community.
- UNHCR and partners also conducted a five-day cervical cancer screening exercise reaching 200 women out of which 22 tested positive to treatable sexually transmitted diseases and 18 to precancerous cells and are undergoing treatment at St Pauls Mission Hospital in Nchelenge with the aim of preventing cervical cancer among women between 25-64 years old, the MoH, with support from.
- During the third convoy of the voluntary repatriation to the DRC from Mantapala settlement in January 2022, UNHCR, in partnership with the COR and MoH, screened and certified 97 individuals fit for travel and 57 adults were tested for COVID-19 using the RDT. Two tested positive upon arrival in Pweto and were quarantined, while chronically ill/malnourished individuals were supplied with required medication and supplements to support them during the returning period before they will get settled and have access to health facilities.
- With support from UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNHCR, MoH, through peer educators in Mantapala settlement, an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign was conducted reaching 10,022 refugees (4,239 women and 5,783 men) and 2,060 host community residents (1,101 women and 959 men). The campaign was aimed at reducing stigma among PoCs living with HIV/AIDS, reduction of sexually transmitted diseases, enhance family planning and reduce the rate of unintended pregnancies, including among teens.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- COVID-19 vaccine uptake hesitancy among the PoCs and host community continued as a challenge.
- Lack of adherence to the public health guidelines including social distancing and wearing masks also continues to be a challenge.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, the procurement of medicines and medical supplies for people of concern was delayed due to administrative issues. A meeting was held between UNHCR and Field Health Focal Point in the Ministry of Health in the settlement to prepare an action plan while the medicines are being procured.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- Using the CBT network, WFP distributed cash for food assistance to 16,965 refugees (8,309 men and 8,656 women) in Mantapala settlement in collaboration with partners. In addition, in-kind food was distributed to 113 refugees who had not yet been enrolled in the CBT system (52 women and 61 men).
- In Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS) and COR provided dry food rations to 60 PoCs (37 women and 23 men) during January. This includes 29 relocated from Lusaka's Makeni Transit centre and 31 vulnerable refugees. These were all Congolese nationals.
- The Ministry of Health has provided 1,800 sachets of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUFT) nutrition supplements to health facilities for malnourished people in Meheba refugee settlement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- COVID-19 has exacerbated the livelihoods of several refugees and former refugees living in settlements and in Lusaka.
- UNHCR appeals to international communities to fund GRZ with a view to including vulnerable refugees and former refugees in national social cash transfer schemes.



WATER, SANITATION AND ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- A delegation from the European Union (EU) and WVI visited Mantapala settlement, accompanied by UNHCR Representative, to observe the WASH infrastructure, which includes latrines and water mechanization systems, as well as the ultra-poor graduation model project.
- During the month under review, borehole rehabilitation snags, which involved fishing of dropped objects and materials in two water points in sector 12 and 27 of Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement, were conducted by UNHCR's partner WVI. This improved access to safe drinking water in these two sectors.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, water samples were collected from selected water points and taken to Lusaka for testing by WVI. This will ensure that the water being supplied to the settlement is safe and of acceptable standards.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Emptying of overflowing septic tanks remains URGENT to prevent environment and underground water contamination in Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement. This is being looked into.
- The Department of Water Resources Development is facing logistic challenges to conduct field monitoring visits in Meheba refugee settlement. The issue has been brought to the attention of the partners managing fleet and steps are being undertaken to enhance coordination and planning.



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFI

Achievements and Impact

- Community members in Mantapala settlement actively engaged in community service projects to build new roads for vehicle access within Blocks 3 and 4, including the removal of tree stumps and

incorporating drainage. The community within each block decided to implement these service projects to reduce the effects of flooding on households close to the roads and ease access to key services such as the market and schools, as well as to provide easy vehicle access within the block in the event of emergencies.

- Refugee carpenters volunteered their time and skills in January to build new classroom furniture for the Language Learning and Alphabetization Centre. The refugee-led initiative aimed at improving literacy levels in the Mantapala settlement. Refugees led, coordinated, and implemented the community service project with material support from UNHCR.
- UNHCR, through Plan international under the LEGO Foundation funding, completed the construction of the 1x2 classroom block in Block-17 of Mantapala settlement to open the third school. The project was successfully handed over to the MoE by UNHCR.
- UNHCR distributed medical supplies, furniture, stationery, and cleaning materials to Mantapala Rural Health Centre to support activities for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS prevention and response in the settlement and the host community. Total of 18 blankets were distributed by COR for use by refugees during funerals, as well as tools such as digging bars and shovels.
- Two contractors in Meheba refugee settlement have moved on site to commence construction of WASH facilities at two schools and reception/transit centre.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Refugees and former refugees continue living in dilapidated accommodation which requires a comprehensive shelter strategy that aims at using local material to construct solid accommodation for several refugees across settlements.
- UNHCR appeals to international community to support the development of a joint shelter program that address the serious shelter deficit of refugees, former refugees and their immediate Zambian hosts.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- In 2018, Zambia adopted the mainstreaming approach to address refugee-related matters. The approach requires that all the line ministries (Agriculture, Health, Education and Community Development and Social Services) operating in the three refugee settlements and urban areas providing services to refugees collaborate with COR, the main interlocutor for UNHCR. This measure is in line with and reinforces the Government's shift from sectoral to multi-sectoral and outcome-based programming as embedded in the 7th National Development Plan. The approach is also in line with the Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework, which governs how the United Nations in Zambia aligns with and supports the Zambian Government in delivering development, and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as embedded in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR).



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, working in partnership with Harvest Plus, a private sector company, distributed 8,700 orange sweet potato vines to 3,173 lead and follower farmers in Meheba, Mayukwayukwa and Mantapala settlements to support food security and nutrition amongst refugees and the host community.
- A total of 34 basket-weavers were monitored and mentored in Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement during the month under review, resulting in the quality of baskets made by PoCs improving, and the number of baskets made per weaver steadily increasing. UNHCR's partner, Free Zambia, which purchases these weaved products, made payments on time. The weaving initiative contributes to household income.
- COR and UNHCR, with technical assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), began a land audit in Mantapala settlement with the goal of determining the available farming land in the settlement for farmers. The audit will also map out arable land that has not been explored for use by refugees and hosts.

- The MoA, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, COR, and UNHCR organized a learning visit to the SiGold company (a private enterprise) in Nchelenge to identify areas where synergies could be built. The company told the Working Group that it was willing to buy all soybeans in Mantapala settlement and that it was also interested in expanding its grower schemes to include the settlement. SiGold has already built Luapula Province's largest fish hatchery and will open the region's largest feed plant in 2022.
- CCR in Meheba refugee settlement commenced the distribution of agricultural tools, an intervention that was facilitated by UNHCR targeting farmer families that have an interest in farming and require tools that would help them to improve the level of agricultural production. A total of 526 families out of the targeted 672 families have so far received the tools.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement, there is need to support Vitamin A Orange Sweet Potato vines beneficiaries with farming implements/tools (specifically hoes).
- There is need to construct a shelter for basket makers. Currently the group meets outside and are unable to meet in case of rain.
- In Mantapala settlement, access to land remains a challenge for those interested in agriculture. Caritas Mansa only managed to secure one lima for 50 youths who needed land to engage in sustainable organic agriculture. According to field monitoring, many farmers must lease land for cultivation, which raises production costs and reduces refugee benefits. COR is conducting a Land Audit in Mantapala settlement with the help of UNHCR and the MoA.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- From mid-December 2021 to the first week of January 2022, UNHCR and the Government, facilitated the repatriation of a total of 307 Congolese refugees from Mantapala settlement to Pweto in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in three separate convoys.
- Under the individual repatriation, a family of five Burundians refugees voluntarily returned to their country of origin with assistance from UNHCR.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The recent organized voluntary repatriations from Mantapala settlement to Pweto, the DRC were challenged by heavy rains and poor road network.

Partnerships and Refugee Inclusion

- The coordination and management of refugee settlements is led by the Government as per its mandate under the Refugee Act (Act No. 1 of 2017).
- UNHCR works collaboratively the COR in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and other key government line ministries, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the local and international non-governmental organizations (I-NGOs) including Action Africa Help, Plan International, Caritas Czech Republic, CARE International and World Vision Zambia, Cavendish University etc.
- The Government of the Republic of Zambia, UNHCR and partners provide community-based protection and social support to PoCs in Lusaka as well as in Meheba (Western Province), Mayukwayukwa (North-western Province) and Mantapala (Luapula Province) refugee settlements.

Financial Information

Total UNHCR financial requirements for Zambia amounts to **US\$ 24.4 million**. Total recorded contributions for the UNHCR operation in Zambia as of 31 January 2022 amount to **US\$ 890,884** (96% funding gap). UNHCR is grateful to all donors for continuous support.

Other Softly Earmarked Contributions (in US\$)

Norway | Private donors

Unearmarked Contributions (in US\$)

Sweden 77.6 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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