

Zambia

March 2022

A total of **1,275** refugee families comprising of **5,470** individuals who wish to voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo were registered during the month of March.

At the end of March, **228** (140 from Lusaka and **88** from the field) applications had been received for the UNHCR-Cavendish Scholarship Programme.

All health facilities in settlements attended to a total of **7,292** (**M:3,532, F:4,425**) patients with various medical conditions. The host community members contributed **13% (948)** to the total attendance

425

new asylum-seekers arrived in Zambia in March mainly from the DRC.

150

Individual beneficiaries of the Honey Production Program in Meheba refugee settlement were supported with three beehives each.

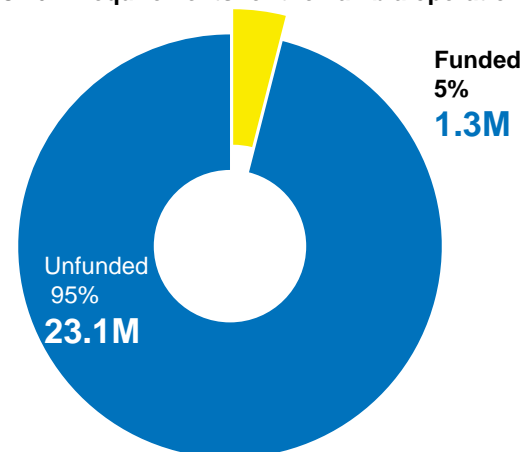
9,701

Individuals received out-patient department (OPD) consultation services in February in the three refugee settlements and urban areas.

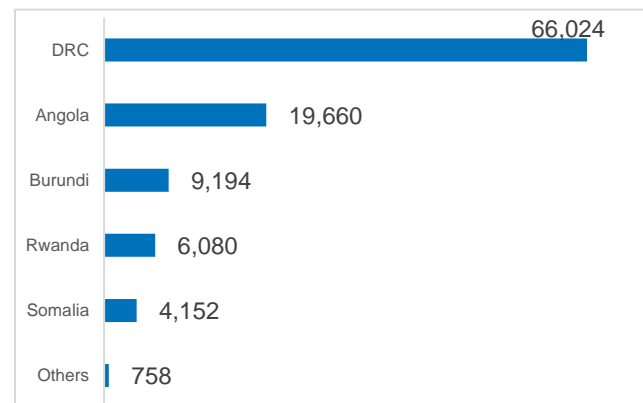
FUNDING (AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2022)

USD 24.4 million

UNHCR's 2022 requirements for the Zambia operation:



PEOPLE OF CONCERN: **105,868** INDIVIDUALS/ **35,289** HOUSEHOLDS AS OF 28 FEBRUARY 2022



An Urban beneficiary of UNHCR'S Women and Girls at Risk Empowerment Programme in Lusaka administered by UNHCR's livelihoods partner Caritas Czech Republic (CCR) ©UNHCR Zambia

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 March, Zambia was hosting **106,683** PoCs (**76,512** refugees, **5,228** asylum-seekers and **24,943** others of concern) comprising **34,543** families/households.
 - Meheba refugee settlement: **35,382** individuals.
 - Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement: **21,771** individuals.
 - Self-Settled (Government estimate): **12,404** individuals.
 - Urban Lusaka and Ndola: **18,667** individuals.
 - Mantapala refugee settlement: **18,459** individuals.
- During the reporting period, there was an increase of **916** individuals (425 new arrivals, 169 new births and 322 In-Situ registrations).

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

- The Swedish Ambassador to Zambia, Ms. Anna Maj Hultgård, accompanied by UNHCR Representative Ms. Pierrine Aylara, visited the Mantapala settlement on 30 March 2022 to familiarise herself with ongoing humanitarian and development activities there.
- From 23-25 March, the UNCT in Zambia held a retreat to take stock of the implementation of the UN Reforms in Zambia in terms of programming, to strengthen its strategic direction to advance the development co-operation and implementation of the new Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2023-2027). Further, the retreat addressed the eventual UNCT change in how it does its work to much the new UN global agenda and had discussions on the support to the Government process on finalization and implementation of 8th National Development Plan (8NDP). Building on previous retreats and similar exercises, the UNCT also took the opportunity to enhance its cohesion as a team, as per the mandate and repositioning of the new generation of UNCTs, and collectively strategize on practical measures to achieving a truly re-positioned UN Development System. The meeting tackled several themes, including the Humanitarian Development Nexus, to ensure that no groups, including refugees and other persons of concern, are left behind. Among other things, the meeting agreed to strengthen delivering as one.
- The Government of Zambia and DRC, UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders continued with consultations regarding commencing the Congolese voluntary repatriation, which is planned to start after the rainy season. The registration of refugee families who wish to voluntarily repatriate continued with a cumulative total of 5,470 refugees (1,275 households) confirming their intentions to return as now and in the coming months. Government, UNHCR and partner staff continued registering interested refugee families who wish to return. As a result, UNHCR has prepared the provisional manifest for the first convoy of 500 refugees which was shared with the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) for review.

- UNHCR and COR has begun preparations ahead of the commencement of verification exercise. Preparations included information campaign and training of data entry clerks and other Government, UNHCR and partner staff.
- The 2022 International Women's Day (IWD) was observed in all the locations (Lusaka, Mantapala, Meheba and Mayukwayukwa). At Lusaka level, some of the activities were organized through the UN system together with the Government. At the same time, UNHCR, working with partners, organized sensitization sessions for refugees and the host community in the outreach centres in Lusaka. Several people were reached in the process. In the settlements, activities were conducted in conjunction with partners and district authorities. For example, in Mantapala settlement, Women's Group's participated in Nchelenge district celebration on 8 March, and the following day, a roundtable discussion on gender equality was held with refugee leaders in the settlement. Meheba joined activities in Kalumbila, while also hosting some activities in the refugee settlement. The same for Mayukwayukwa.
- UNHCR and MCDSS held bilateral sessions in Mantapala settlement to improve the management of gender-based violence cases. One of the important outcomes of the consultations was the establishment of police patrols at the safe house to secure the safety of GBV survivors who seek refuge there and are continuously threatened by accused perpetrators.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- The withdrawal of cases from prosecution by GBV survivors is one of the challenges in gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response in Mantapala settlement. UNHCR and its partners continue to educate community members about the importance of reporting crimes and allowing law enforcement to handle them.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- At the end of March, 228 (140 from Lusaka and 88 from the field) applications had been received for the UNHCR-Cavendish Scholarship Programme and the selection process is underway. The education partner, Caritas, working with UNHCR field offices carried out sensitization campaigns to ensure all refugees were aware of the tertiary education opportunities available.
- In Mantapala settlement, World Vision Zambia held a two-day workshop to train 20 headteachers from schools in Nchelenge district including those in Mantapala on how to effectively use study kits donated to the schools in 2021. The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Education's Directorate of Open and Distance Education to encourage the full use of materials and appropriate interventions in schools during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
- As part of the ongoing support to vulnerable refugee students, UNHCR supported the education partner, Caritas to verify through proGres, the selected students to receive vulnerable support including payment of school fees and other school materials.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- In Mantapala settlement, some of the UNHCR-Cavendish applicants faced few challenges including failure to deposit application fees in the University's account due to travel restrictions. UNHCR will engage to better coordinate especially with Government authorities to ensure students receive better support in the future. UNHCR in Lusaka also continues engaging the University to find modalities of facilitating payment for prospective students in refugee settings considering the refugee movement restrictions.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- All health facilities in settlements attended to a total of 7,292 (M:3,532, F:4,425) patients with various medical conditions. The host community members contributed 13% (948) to the total attendance. Children under Five years comprised 32% (2,354) and received integrated management of child illnesses being promoted in the healthcare service delivery. There was a reduction in OPD attendance from 9,207 (all ages) and 3,456 (Under 5) respectively compared to the previous reporting period.

- Due to continued recording of low figures of Covid-19 cases, Zambia has been considered as a low-level country in terms of Covid-19 pandemic. Most of the Covid-19 restrictions have been uplifted though the nation continues being vigilant in surveillance and in observing the “Five Golden Rules” coupled with the emphasis on vaccination.
- UNHCR and partners have continued rendering support to government through MOH in the provision of healthcare to refugees and host community by providing essential medicines and medical supplies including COVID-19 hygiene material. This is to cushion the stockouts experienced in most health facilities. Mantapala and Meheba have their Covid-19 Isolation centres completed and operational while Mayukwayukwa it is still under construction.
- During the month under review, UNHCR in collaboration with MoH reached 7,957 (M:3,532; F:4,425) individuals with preventive messages on COVID-19. A total of **1,603** PoCs received COVID-19 vaccination, bringing the cumulative figure to 7,676 as of 30 April 2022. A total of 4,672 were fully vaccinated while 3,004 received the 1st dose.
- UNHCR and Ministry of Health have continued collaboration on ensuring raised awareness and availability of testing facilities and vaccines for personal safety and environment of persons of concern and their host community. Covid-19 Rapid Diagnostic testing was conducted reaching 819 individuals out of which 48 POCs tested positive cases were reported. There has been an increase in the number of Covid-19 cases by 16% among POC from the 244 cumulative figure recorded in the previous month to 292. However, all cases were treated on community-based management and no severe cases or fatalities were recorded.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- COVID-19 vaccine uptake hesitancy among the PoCs and host community continued as a challenge. However, UNHCR continued supporting community health workers (CHWs) to promote uptake of the tests and vaccines among PoCs and host community members.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- In coordination with partners, WFP distributed cash for food assistance to 17,325 refugees (8,833 females and 8,492 males) in Mantapala settlement through the WFP Cash-based Transfer (CBT) network. WFP cut the amount of money distributed to each person by 25 percent, to ZMW145, compared to the previous month's distribution. 100 refugees who had not yet been enrolled in the CBT system were given food rations.
- In Mantapala, SUN TA (Scale Up Nutrition Technical Assistance) continued supporting Lactating women in backyard gardening to promote nutrition status while UNHCR and partners endeavor to scale up nutrition program in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) includes malnourished under-five children and chronically ill individuals including People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The



WATER, SANITATION AND ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- UNICEF, in conjunction with World Vision and UNHCR, completed the construction of eight drop holes (four males and four females) of the permanent ventilated pit-latrines at Chiengi Transit Centre. The next stage is for UNICEF to handover the latrines to government. The German government funded the construction of these latrines.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The repair



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFI

Achievements and Impact

- With UNHCR support, Community Service Projects aimed at upgrading footpaths to vehicle roads commenced in Block-1, Block-2, and Block-6 in Mantapala settlement following community consultations. Community members contributed labour and some of their own community tools, with UNHCR providing the rest of the tools. The upgraded roads are expected to be completed by the end of April.
- COR completed data analysis for the shelter assessment which was conducted in January 2022 with technical support from UNHCR. According to the survey, 51.9 percent of the refugees in the settlement lived in shelters made of structurally resilient bricks with grass or plastic roofs. The percentage represents an improvement above the previous year's figure of 24.4 percent in the same category. The survey further shows that the proportion of people living in temporary/emergency shelters has reduced from 27.9 percent to 7.9 percent.
- UNHCR distributed soap to 4,469 refugee households (about 17,469 individuals) representing 90 percent of the total households in Mantapala settlement.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- The poor condition of the road between Mantapala settlement and Nchelenge, caused by seasonal rains, remains one of the major challenges to convoy movements making Nchelenge-Kawambwa-Mantapala-Kawambwa-Nchelenge, the Plan B route to Chiengwe-Pweto, a plan which will not be cost effective in the long-term. Government authorities have been encouraged to make spot improvements to guarantee that large buses and trucks move safely and reliably. Convoy movements cannot take place without posing significant hazards until the rainy season has passed and the most dangerous sections of the road have been fixed.



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 engaged the Bank of Zambia (BoZ), through the payment systems department, on the various challenges the refugee population in Zambia is facing in accessing formal financial services. UNHCR, jointly with UNCDF, previously collaborated with and received support from the Payment System Department of the Bank, granting specific approvals to certain institutions to rely on Government issued alien cards issued to refugees as '**know your customer**' identification documents, thus enhancing access to financial services by some of the refugees. BoZ has once again affirmed to support UNHCR in organising and facilitating a multi-stakeholder forum to review the current situation, draw and validate a financial inclusion roadmap, with tangible steps towards gradually improving unrestricted access to financial services by the refugee population in Zambia.
- A group of 30 women and girls at risk, in Lusaka, selected through a referral process by COR, UNHCR and CCR were taken through basic entrepreneurship mentorship in readiness to receive cash grants.

These grants are given to enable them to engage in small scale businesses as part of empowerment. The 30 included 15 Refugees and 15 Zambians.

- UNHCR has partnered with the International Food Policy Research Institute IFPRI/Harvest Plus to support food security and nutrition amongst refugee and host households through strengthening production and consumption of nutrient dense orange sweet potato. For the period November 2021 – January 2022 Harvest Plus provided 8,700 orange sweet potato vines to lead and follower farmers in the three settlements. Good progress of the intervention is being recorded in the fields. Additionally, during the reporting period project partner Caritas Czech Republic, while piggy backing on the initiative, secured additional funding from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs to build and complement on the food security and nutrition intervention. CCR's project will be implemented from April to December 2022 in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements targeting approximately 500 refugee households. The overall objective is to improve nutrition and food security through production of nutrition-dense crops for consumption and potentially for sale.
- The Scaling Up Nutrition Technical Assistance (SUNTA), a nutrition NGO, provided 3,115 bags of orange maize to farmers in Nchelenge district. A total of 163 of these bags were assigned to refugees in Mantapala settlement. In addition, the district received 5,000 orange sweet potato vines, of which 200 vines were allocated to refugees and hosts in Mantapala settlement.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Insufficient funding to 2022 livelihoods programme poses a challenge as various unmet needs and demands for support continue to emerge.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Achievements and Impact

- The Resettlement team completed the Zambia Country Report for the Projected Global Resettlement Needs (PGRN), and it was submitted to UNHCR's Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA).
- The Resettlement Unit contributed to the establishment of the new Anti-Fraud Panel., which will scrutinise all resettlement cases to ensure integrity.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need for additional interpreters. This is being addressed by considering approving the salary increase and recruiting previously contracted interpreters as well as new interpreters.

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 March 2022 amount to **US\$2,233,002** (91% 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 95.2 million | Norway 72.5 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Germany 27.6 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Spain 12.3 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Algeria | Armenia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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