



**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 2022



## Overview

As of the end of July 2022, Southern Africa hosts around **8.6 million persons of concern (PoCs) to UNHCR**. This includes 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, 6.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), 526,000 IDP returnees, as well as others of concern and refugee returnees. **The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) represents 77 per cent of the total number of PoCs in the region.**

## Refugees, Asylum-Seekers and Others of Concern

The region hosts **786,000 refugees, 281,000 asylum-seekers and 36,000 others of concern**, 1.1 million in total. Compared to the end of 2021, total of 1.1 million refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern, the number has been stable showing the decrease of 0.5 per cent only. The number of refugees has increased for 0.3 per cent, while the number of asylum-seekers and others of concern have decreased for 2.8 and 0.4 per cent, respectively.

## Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

In Southern Africa, there are **6.9 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)**, presenting a rise for 0.9 per cent from 31 December 2021, and **526,000 IDP returnees**. Most IDPs are conflict-induced, 6.4 million, but there are also natural disaster-induced IDPs, 0.5 million. In addition, the number of conflict-induced IDPs in Mozambique has grown continuously; currently the number of IDPs by conflict is 947,000 compared to 745,000 as of the end of last year, which is an increase of 27.1 per cent (see Figure 1).

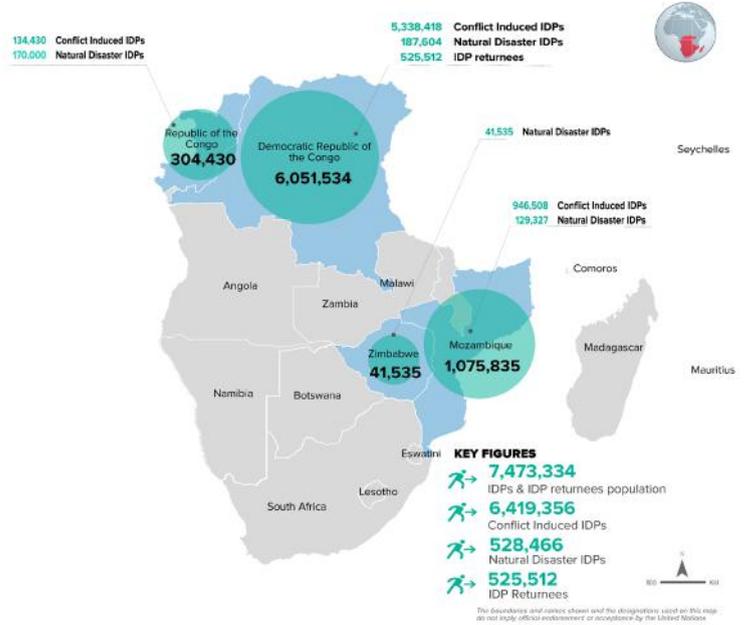


Figure 1. Number of IDPs and IDP returnees in RBSA by Cause as of 31 July 2022

## Mixed Movements

In June 2022, IOM reported some 84,900 individuals involved in mixed movements, while only 1 per cent, approximately 1,200, of the mixed movements were related to conflict or disaster as declared, which could be interpreted as forced movements related to UNHCR’s PoCs. The proportion of the identified forced movements vary each month from January 2021 to June 2022 (see Figure 2).

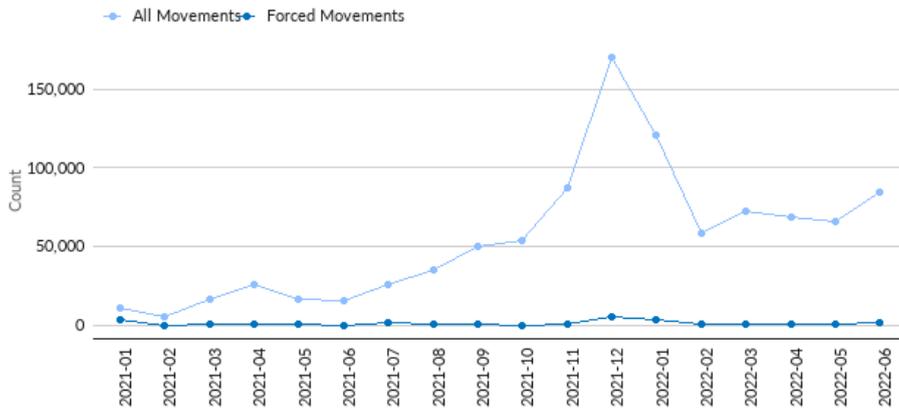


Figure 2. Trends of Mixed Movements by Type

However, in the same month of June 2022, UNHCR’s internal biometric system only identified 186 cross-border movements, that is, moving from one country of asylum to another one. In the end, IOM and UNHCR data collection mechanisms do not cover the same kinds of movements exactly, but there are overlaps in movements of forcibly displaced persons. The efforts should continue through the interagency coordination to have a comprehensive identification mechanism of mixed movements in the region to leave no one behind.

**Note:** The number of IDPs in DRC is updated with the updated figure by OCHA for July 2022, while the IDP figures up to June 2022 have been used OCHA’s November 2021 figure as the government endorsed.

**Data Sources:** proGres v4 (PRIMES) hosts the data of refugees and asylum-seekers in 11 countries. In South Africa, the data are managed by the government. In Angola, DRC, Zambia and Zimbabwe, some portions of the data are external. For IDP data, the source of DRC’s IDP figure is the OCHA; the sources in Mozambique and Zimbabwe are the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the IOM; and the source in Republic of the Congo is the government, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Humanitarian Action (MASAH). The data source of mixed movement is IOM Flow Monitoring Registry, and the data as of July 2022 is not available yet at the moment of writing.

**KEY FIGURES**

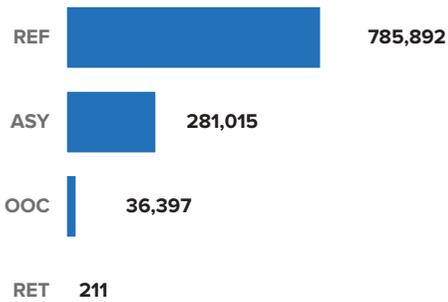


**8,576,849**  
Total Population of concern



**1,103,515**

Refugees, asylum-seekers, other of concern & returnees\*\*



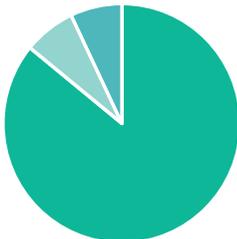
**7,473,334**

IDPs & IDP returnees population

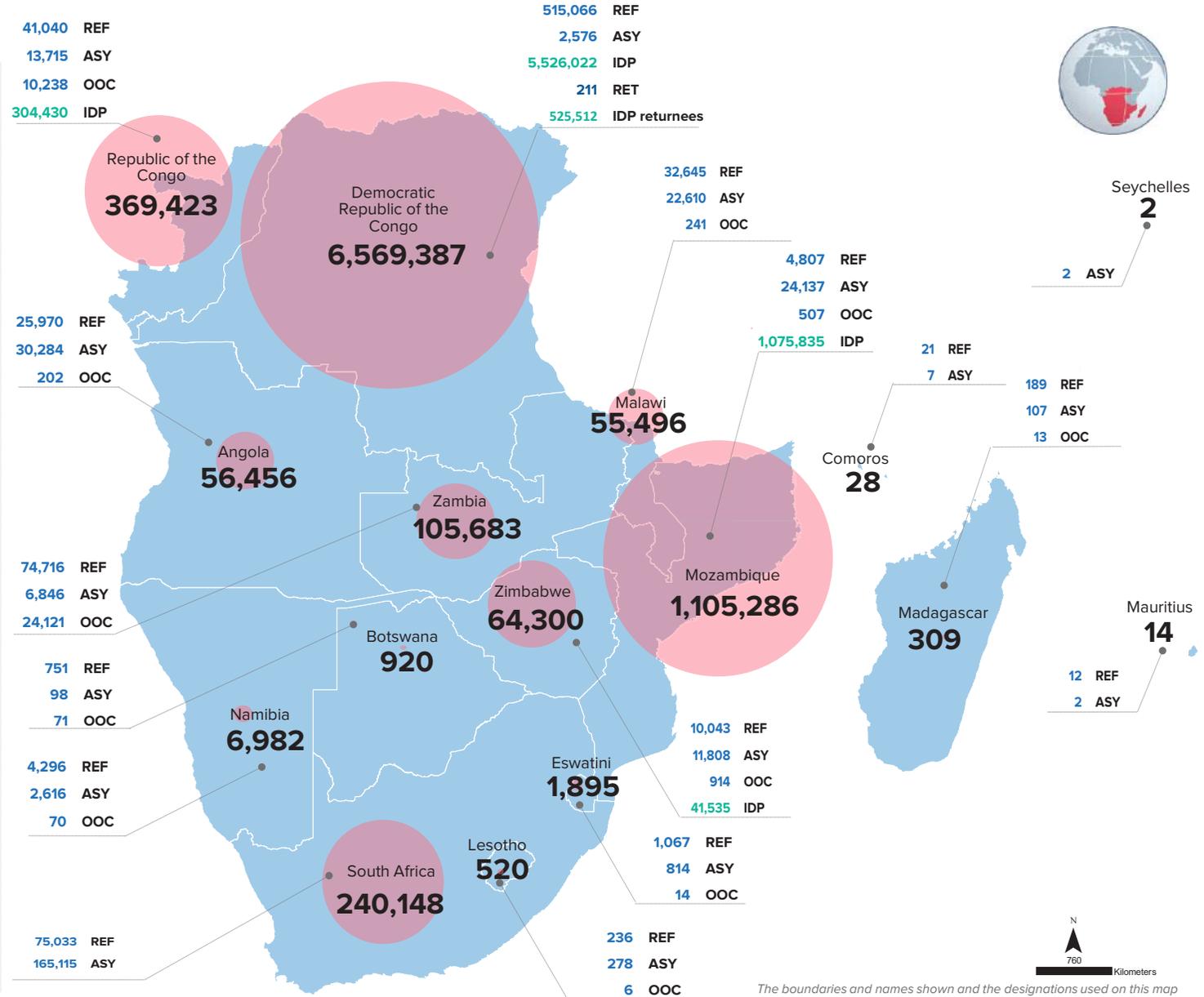
Natural Disaster IDPs  
**528,466**  
7%

IDPs RET  
**525,512**  
7%

Conflict Induced IDPs  
**6,419,356**  
86%



**PoCs IN SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION\***



Seychelles  
2 ASY

189 REF  
107 ASY  
13 OOC

Mauritius  
12 REF  
2 ASY

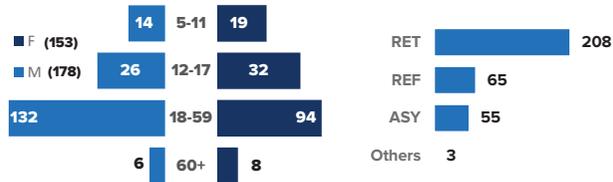


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

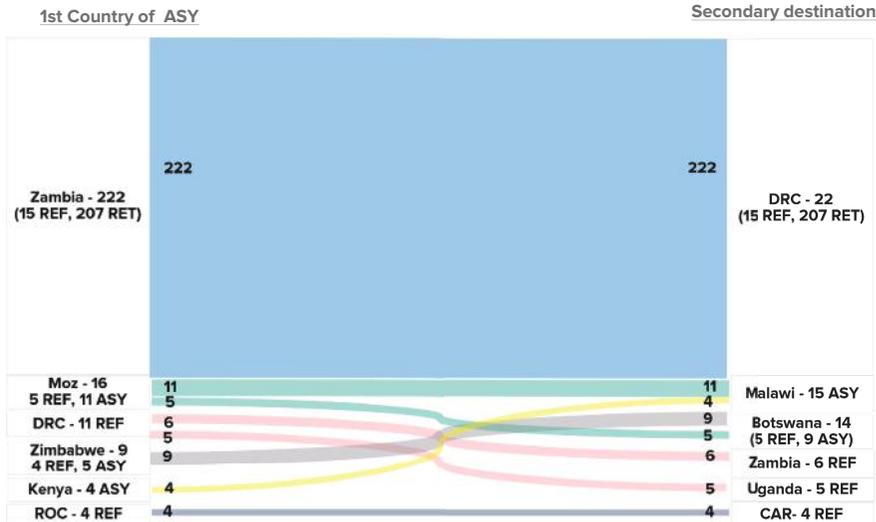
**CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS KEY FIGURES**



**AGES, GENDER AND LEGAL STATUS OF MOVERS \*\***

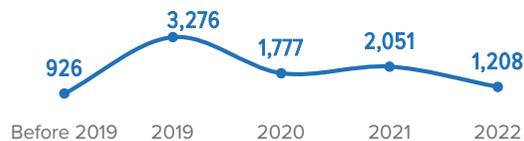


**CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 4 POCs AND MORE \***

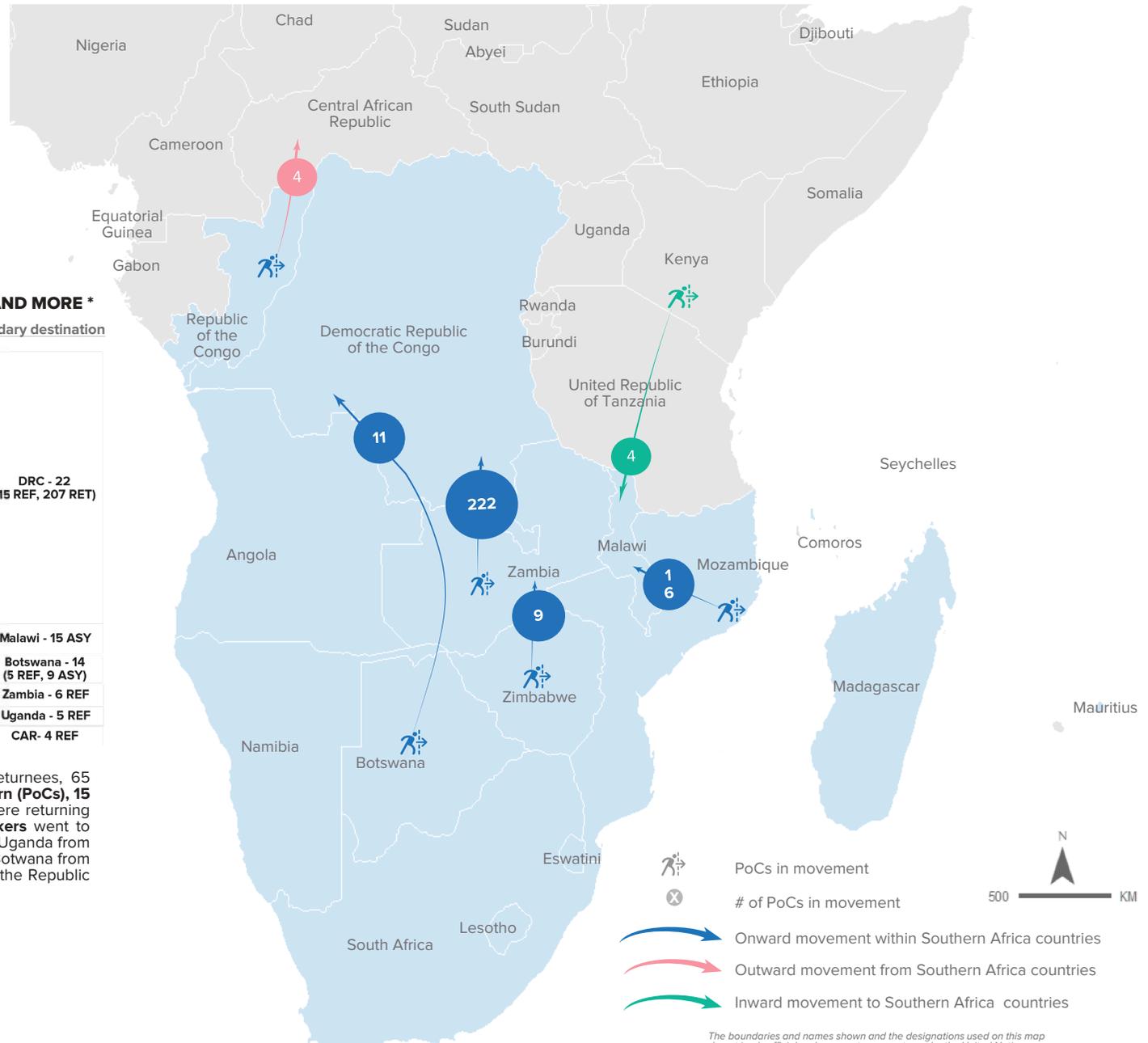


In July 2022, **266 cross-border movements** were recorded involving 208 returnees, 65 refugees, 55 asylum-seekers and 3 others status. From the **222 Persons of Concern (PoCs)**, **15 refugees** left Zambia to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) while **207 PoCs** were returning back to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), **5 refugees and 11 asylum-seekers** went to Malawi from Mozambique, **6 refugees and 5 asylum-seekers** went to Zambia and Uganda from Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), **4 refugees and 5 asylum-seekers** went to Botswana from Zimbabwe and **4 asylum-seekers** crossed to Malawi from Kenya; **4 refugees** left the Republic of Congo (ROC) to Central Republic of Africa (CAR).

**CUMULATIVE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS TREND PER YEAR**



**MAP OF THE CROSS BORDER MOVEMENTS WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVED 4 POCs AND MORE \***



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\* The flows shown are restricted only to 4 or more people of movement, therefore the totals is different from the overall 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

\*\* PoCs = Person of Concerns  
 \*\* REF = Refugee, ASY = Asylum-seeker, OOC = Other person of concern

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

**KEY FIGURES**



**9,124**

Total Individuals repatriated since January 2022

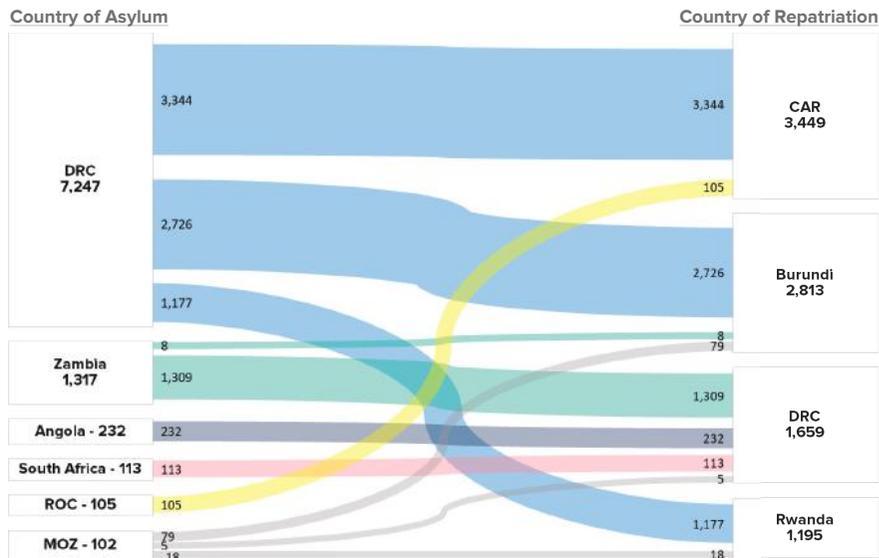
**1,660**

Individuals repatriated within Southern Africa Region since January 2022

**7,464**

Individuals repatriated from Southern Africa Region to other countries outside of the region since January 2022

**VOLREP\* WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 5 POCs OR MORE**

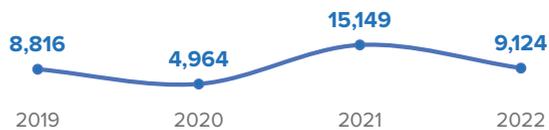


**TRENDS**

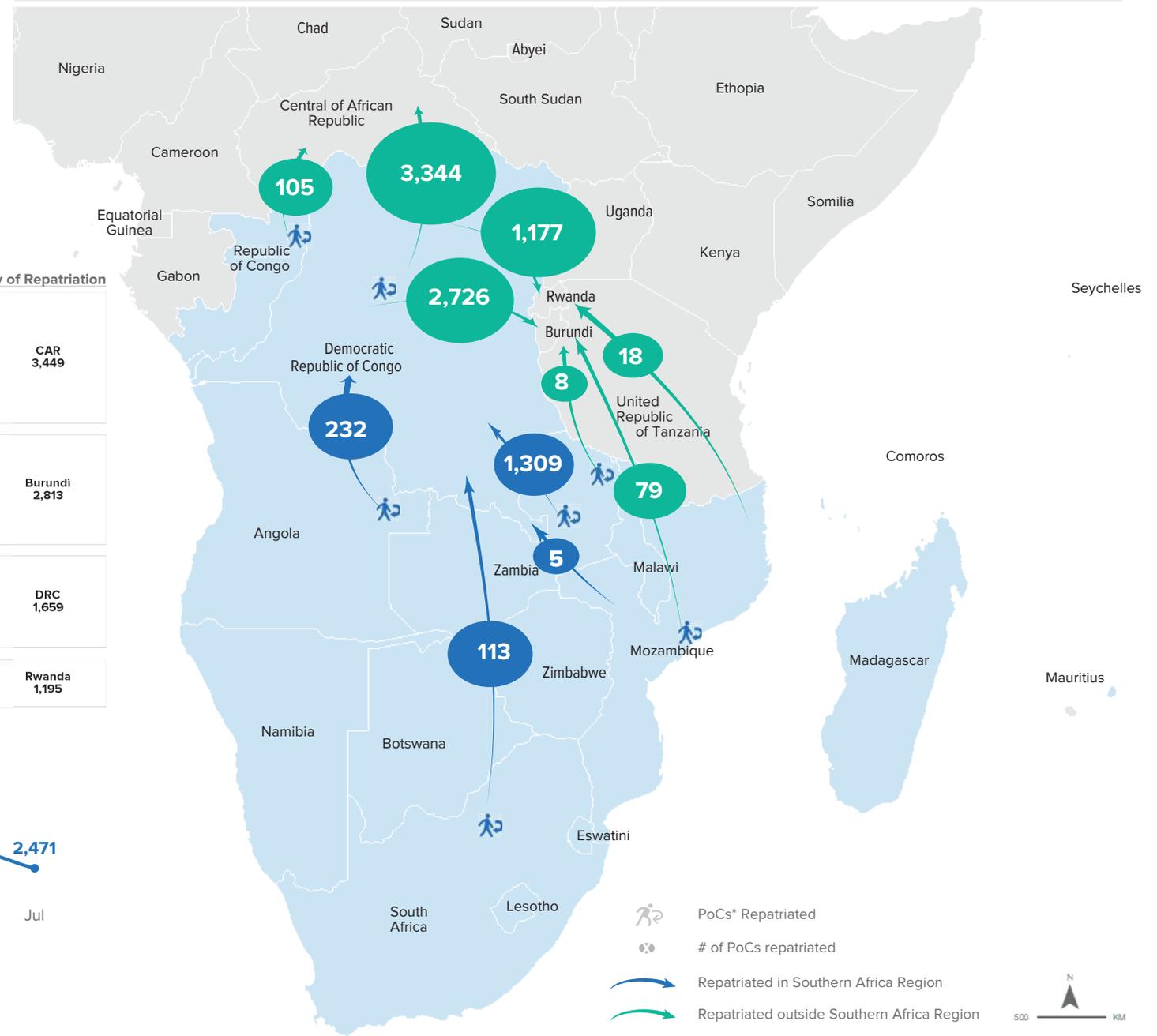
**MONTHLY REPATRIATION SINCE JANUARY**



**ANNUAL REPATRIATION SINCE 2019**



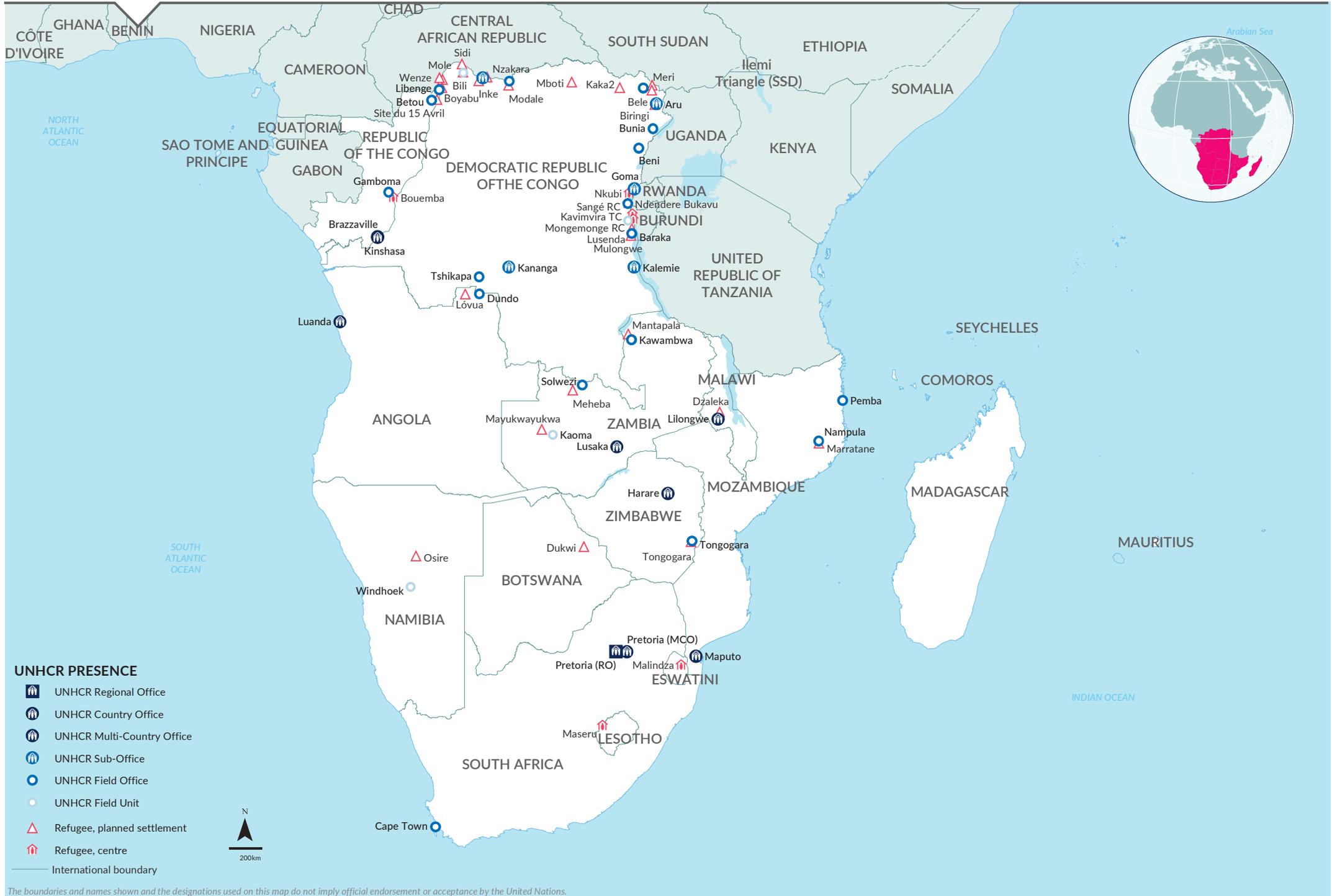
**MAP OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION WHERE THE FLOW INVOLVE 5 POCs OR MORE**



*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 PoCs = Persons of Concern

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



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## Persons of concern in Southern Africa, Data as of 31 July 2022

Country of Asylum	Location*	Self-settled**	Refugee	Asylum-Seeker	Other of Concern	IDP by Conflict	IDP by Natural Disaster	Returned IDP	Refugee Returnee	Statelessness	Host Community	Total
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Other	No	396,820	1,582	-	4,956,615	187,604	525,512	211	-	-	6,068,344
	IDP Camp	No	-	-	-	381,803	-	-	-	-	-	381,803
	Lusenda	No	26,427	111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,538
	Meri	No	25,524	43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25,567
	Inke	No	17,828	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,829
	Mole	No	10,578	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,600
	Bili	No	10,232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,232
	Boyabu	No	9,203	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,203
	Biringi	No	7,914	89	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,003
	Mulongwe	No	7,311	94	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,405
	Bele	No	2,557	634	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,191
	Mboti	No	672	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	672
	Subtotal		515,066	2,576	-	5,338,418	187,604	525,512	211	-	-	6,569,387
Mozambique	Other	No	1,954	18,060	73	946,508	129,327	-	-	-	-	1,095,922
	Maratane Camp	No	2,853	6,077	434	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,364
	Subtotal		4,807	24,137	507	946,508	129,327	-	-	-	-	1,105,286
Congo	Other	No	35,550	9,192	10,098	134,430	170,000	-	-	-	-	359,270
	Site du 15 Avril	No	5,490	309	134	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,933
	Site de Bouemba	No	-	4,214	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,220
	Subtotal		41,040	13,715	10,238	134,430	170,000	-	-	-	-	369,423
South Africa	Unknown	Yes	75,033	165,115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240,148
	Subtotal		75,033	165,115	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	240,148
Zambia	Meheba	No	23,791	660	9,456	-	-	-	-	-	-	33,907
	Mayukwayukwa	No	15,482	20	7,011	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,513
	Other	No	13,257	5,255	850	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,362
	Mantapala	No	16,586	911	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,497
	Unknown	Yes	5,600	-	6,804	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,404
	Subtotal		74,716	6,846	24,121	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,683
Zimbabwe	Other	No	775	18	90	-	41,535	-	-	-	-	42,418
	Tongogara	No	9,268	5,244	824	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,336
	Unknown	Yes	-	6,546	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,546
	Subtotal		10,043	11,808	914	-	41,535	-	-	-	-	64,300
Angola	Unknown	Yes	17,393	30,024	141	-	-	-	-	-	-	47,558
	Lovua Settlement	No	6,848	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,848
	Other	No	1,729	260	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,050
	Subtotal		25,970	30,284	202	-	-	-	-	-	-	56,456
Malawi	Dzaleka	No	32,645	22,610	241	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,496
	Subtotal		32,645	22,610	241	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,496
Namibia	Osire	No	3,789	1,423	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,250
	Other	No	507	1,193	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,732
	Subtotal		4,296	2,616	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,982
Eswatini	Other	No	1,067	814	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,895
	Subtotal		1,067	814	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,895
Botswana	Dukwe	No	558	9	27	-	-	-	-	-	-	594
	Other	No	193	89	44	-	-	-	-	-	-	326
	Subtotal		751	98	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	920
Lesotho	Other	No	236	278	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	520
	Subtotal		236	278	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	520
Madagascar	Other	No	189	107	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	309
	Subtotal		189	107	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	309
Comoros	Other	No	21	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
	Subtotal		21	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Mauritius	Other	No	12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
	Subtotal		12	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14
Seychelles	Other	No	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	Subtotal		-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>			<b>785,892</b>	<b>281,015</b>	<b>36,397</b>	<b>6,419,356</b>	<b>528,466</b>	<b>525,512</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,576,849</b>

Notes: \*Other' in the location refers to any known location other than camp or settlement sites, covering both urban and rural areas; \*\*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 v4.

## Updates to Address the Regional Data Gaps

In pursuing the effort to enhance the regional data quality, the Regional Bureau of Southern Africa planned verification exercises in six countries, Zambia, Republic of the Congo, Mozambique, Malawi, DRC and Zimbabwe, in 2022. As of July 2022, only two countries, Zambia and DRC, undertook the verification exercises.

In Zambia, the verification was completed in July 2022, and the scope of the exercise covered the whole country except for self-settled (28 Districts in 5 Provinces) of about 12,404 individual cases out of proGres that were excluded from the verification scope by the Government. In the DRC, only 1,500 refugees and asylum seekers were verified, representing 2 per cent of 91,400 to be verified and documented as a priority this year. The country operation expressed the need for additional financial resources to complete the exercise.

It is worth to mention that the preparation of the verification exercises in Mozambique and Malawi is moving well. In April 2022, a regional registration and identity management mission was carried out in Mozambique to support the country in planning and to agree on the possibility of launching this exercise before the end of this year. Tentatively, UNHCR Mozambique and the government counterpart, the National Institute for Refugee Assistance (Instituto Nacional de Apoio aos Refugiados, INAR) have agreed to start the exercise in September 2022. In Malawi, the budget for the exercise has been secured, and the country operation is committed to kick off the exercise in October 2022.

In Republic of the Congo, the verification planning is completed. Still, the budget of the exercise is not yet secured to kick off the exercise, and efforts are underway to identify the budget to cover this critical exercise to improve the data quality and to ease protection interventions. However, in Zimbabwe, due to budgetary constraints, no further actions have been moved forward for the verification. Given the reduced budget for 2023, the Zimbabwe operation will still face financial challenges with conducting a verification exercise.

The verification exercise in the six countries outlined above aimed to address the data quality of 72 percent of the regional data for refugees, asylum-seekers and others of concern. The verification is an important channel to have accurate data because the exercises re-establish accurate population figures at a given moment, producing the data needed to determine assistance requirements and to design relevant protection programming. In addition, the verification exercise is one of the factors to mitigate the risk related to the “Integrity and quality of information on persons of concern compromised”, which has been identified in the regional risk registry in 2022.

# Population Data Analysis

## Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

July 2022



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR, Regional Bureau of Southern Africa

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### Contact

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