



UNHCR OPERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND

FACTSHEET

September 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

899 Resettlement submissions and 379 departures in 2015	6,197 Refugees provided with legal assistance	539 Refugees assisted through self-reliance and livelihood projects	3,872 Vulnerable refugees received social assistance
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Population of concern

A total of **586,000** people of concern. **112,192** refugees and an estimate of **463,940** asylum seekers both pending at first-instance and pending appeal. The majority originate from Zimbabwe, Somalia, Ethiopia, DRC, Rwanda and Burundi.

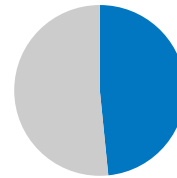
By country of origin

Country	Refugees
Zimbabwe	6,217
Cote D'Ivoire	6,035
Rwanda	1,814
Burundi	3,653
Somalia	40,133
Ethiopia	18,830
DRC	30,125
Others	5,385
Total	112,192

Funding

USD 27,270,748 requested

Gap
52%



Funded
48%

**Includes budgets for regional activities: including Refugee Status Determination, Registration, Voluntary Repatriation, Public Information and Resettlement.*

UNHCR Presence (includes regional staff)

Staff:

- 32 national staff
- 31 international staff
- 19 affiliated staff

Offices:

- 3 offices located in: RO Pretoria, FO Cape Town, FO Musina
- Temporary presence in Durban



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR coordinates humanitarian, repatriation and reintegration assistance with: [Jesuit Refugee Service \(JRS\)](#) | [Cape Town Refugee Center](#) | [Refugee Social Services](#) | [Lawyers for Human Rights](#) | [Agency for Refugee Education, Skills Training & Advocacy](#) | [Future Families](#) | [Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University Refugee Rights Centre](#) | [Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation](#) | [Study Trust](#) | [UNDP Madagascar](#) | [Caritas Swaziland](#) | [Department of Home Affairs](#)

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- UNHCR continues to pursue international protection for refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure that the Governments respect their obligations to protect refugees and people seeking asylum in South Africa, Lesotho and Swaziland.
- UNHCR chairs the Protection Working Group which is working closely with the South African Police Services to try to provide timely intervention to prevent and respond to xenophobic attacks.
- UNHCR continues to advocate for the establishment of conducive reception conditions to ensure that every refugee has access to seeking asylum.

Education

- Some government or public schools are still reluctant in admitting or accepting refugee and asylum seeker students. Through UNHCR, implementing partners run education programmes that offer education assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. Depending on the needs, refugees and asylum-seekers are assisted with school fees contributions or through school grants given to schools to cater for those who cannot afford to pay fees. Partners such as JRS and RSS also advocate for refugee families to ensure that they are granted exemption in government no-fee schools. Refugee children are sometimes assisted with stationery, books and uniforms when the needs have been identified. 1,417 individuals have been assisted so far in 2015.
- In 2015, 60 refugee students benefitted from the DAFI scholarship programme funded by the German government through UNHCR.

Social Assistance

- Social assistance is granted to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers through implementing partners and in the form of food vouchers, non-food items, sanitary materials, social grants, funeral assistance and accommodation depending on the individual cases. 475 individuals have been assisted with sanitary materials, 3,944 with food, 2,560 with shelter and 494 with social grants since January 2015. In addition, 2,328 individuals in Durban and 247 individuals in Johannesburg received reintegration packages after being displaced by xenophobic violence which took place earlier in the year.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR promotes income generation activities to contribute to the wellbeing of refugees and asylum-seekers. Through income generating activities and vocational skills training refugees are empowered to become self-reliant and partner organizations assist them with opening small businesses or finding suitable employment.

Social Cohesion

- There have been two major xenophobic outbreaks this year. In January, this year, Soweto township near Johannesburg experienced a number of attacks on shopkeepers. In April, violence against foreigners spread in near Durban in KwaZulu –Natal Province and in Johannesburg in Gauteng Province resulting in nearly 9,000 people being displaced. UNHCR was designated to chair the UN task team to assist the government in the response. Separate situational updates are available.
- To promote social cohesion and the integration of refugees, UNHCR collaborates with DHA and relevant departments to raise awareness on refugee rights and promote social discourse between refugees, migrants and local communities. UNHCR has public information campaigns using community radio and education materials to promote co-existence.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year

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