



**Angola**  
**Botswana**  
**Comoros**  
**Lesotho**  
**Madagascar**  
**Malawi**  
**Mauritius**  
**Mozambique**  
**Namibia**  
**Seychelles**  
**South Africa**  
**Swaziland**  
**Zambia**  
**Zimbabwe**

World Refugee Day celebrations in Mayukwayukwa, Zambia.



# Southern Africa



## OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR assisted the voluntary repatriation of some 17,000 Congolese and 2,200 Angolan refugees from Zambia. The departures, and a re-registration and data-validation exercise conducted in late 2009, led to a reduction in the refugee population in Zambia from approximately 83,400 in 2008 to 56,800 at the end of 2009.
- In October and November 2009, some 54,000 Angolans in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a significant number of whom had refugee status, were expelled or otherwise forced across the border into Angola. To address the emergency needs,

UNHCR airlifted relief items from South Africa, including tents, sleeping mats, blankets and a pre-fabricated warehouse.

- UNHCR launched a new programme in Zimbabwe that extended assistance to some 80,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the form of non-food relief items, livelihoods assistance, counselling and community reconciliation.
- The number of resettlement submissions from the subregion rose from some 1,300 in 2008 to 2,300 in 2009, representing an increase of 68 per cent.

## Working environment

Though a Government of national unity was formed in Zimbabwe in February 2009, the outflow of Zimbabweans to South Africa continued at an average rate of 300 – 400 persons per day. The Government of South Africa stopped all deportations of Zimbabweans in May – a move that followed intensive advocacy efforts by UNHCR, other UN agencies and NGOs.

The mixed flows of migrants and asylum-seekers from the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and Zimbabwe continued throughout 2009. By the end of the year, South Africa had received more than 222,000 new asylum applications.

The economic slowdown and high unemployment rates combined with the perception that foreigners were to blame for the lack of job opportunities resulted in sporadic xenophobic attacks in South Africa and, in other countries, stricter enforcement of encampment policies for refugees

and asylum-seekers. This was often accompanied by tighter controls on entry at border points. Consequently, gaining access to asylum and achieving self-reliance became more difficult for refugees and asylum-seekers in the sub-region.

## Achievements and impact

The regional office in Pretoria, South Africa, continued to strengthen its coordination and management capacity. As of January 2009, the office in Zambia became the final office in the subregion to be placed under the structure of the regional office.

With UNHCR support, more than 19,000 refugees repatriated voluntarily from Zambia to the DRC and Angola. The re-registration of refugees and a data validation exercise led to a reduction in the number of those classified as refugees in Zambia. In Angola, some 54,000 Angolans expelled from the DRC received emergency assistance to

meet their immediate needs, while the Government of Angola facilitated their return to local communities.

In South Africa, the Government announced a special dispensation for Zimbabweans comprised of three main protection measures: suspension of deportation; 90 days visa-free entry with the authorization to work for those with a valid travel document; and special stay permits for Zimbabweans in South Africa. In Zimbabwe, the launch of a new programme aimed at enhancing the protection of IDPs, assisting them to achieve self-reliance and find solutions, while also supporting the reconciliation process in the country.

## | Constraints |

The mixed flow of a large number of migrants and asylum-seekers led to a rise in xenophobic sentiments among host populations and lessened the chances of local integration for refugees and asylum-seekers. Under these circumstances, many refugees looked to resettlement in third countries as their only option for a durable solution.

## | Operations |

UNHCR's operations in **Angola, South Africa and Zambia** are described in separate chapters.

**Botswana** hosted some 3,200 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority in the Dukwi refugee settlement. Most were from Zimbabwe (28 per cent), Namibia (27 per cent), Somalia (17 per cent), and Angola (16 per cent). UNHCR assisted almost 150 Angolan families (or 500 persons) with their naturalization applications. Five Namibian families (12 individuals) were resettled. Furthermore, some 30 Namibians repatriated, most with assistance from UNHCR. Another 30 also registered their interest in repatriating. The protection space was restricted by the enforcement of the encampment policy and application of the principle of first country of asylum applied to new arrivals.

There were no people of concern in **Comoros** at the end of 2009, as one refugee family of five persons left the country for resettlement, while another family of two left the country on its own. In **Madagascar**, some 12 refugees received material support, while requests for asylum by some 10 persons were rejected following individual interviews. Six Iraqi refugees in **Mauritius** were transferred to Romania prior to resettlement in third countries.

**Lesotho** hosted more than 60 refugees from the DRC, Rwanda and other countries. The majority of them were well integrated in the country, although some protection needs were addressed by the regional office in Pretoria.

A verification exercise undertaken in 2009 showed that **Malawi** hosted some 11,000 people of concern, including 6,300 refugees and 4,800 asylum-seekers. The majority came from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda, and about 10,000 lived in Dzaleka refugee camp. An assessment among the refugees over 18 years old indicated that 59 per cent would opt for resettlement, 39 per cent for local integration and 2 per cent for repatriation. Asylum-seekers who stayed in the country for less than three months were not recorded in the statistics.

Refugees in Malawi were confined to a camp, limiting their chances of becoming self-reliant or integrating locally. UNHCR therefore supported the hiring of a consultant by the Government to review the country's refugee law. About 200 refugees and asylum-seekers returned voluntarily to Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and Zimbabwe with UNHCR

assistance. Almost 230 persons departed for resettlement in third countries during the year.

There were some 7,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in **Mozambique**. Of these, almost 4,700 lived in Maratane camp and 3,000 in various urban areas in the country. The majority were from Burundi (22 per cent), the DRC (59 per cent) and Rwanda (15 per cent). There was no significant influx of Zimbabweans, although some 200 received food assistance in the border area.

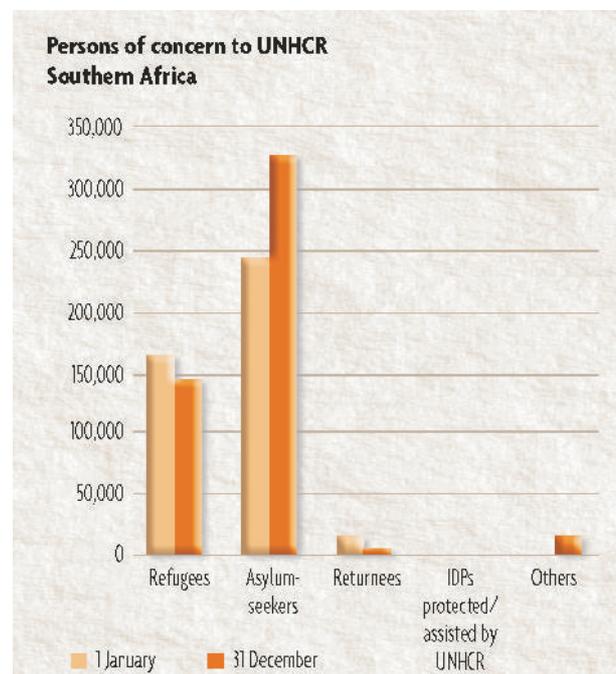
Assistance activities in Maratane camp were geared towards enhancing the self-reliance of refugees and enabled slightly more than half the camp population to support themselves without assistance. As a result, some 260 refugees were given permits to settle outside the camp. About 15 refugees repatriated with UNHCR assistance and 33 departed for resettlement, while some 220 more were identified for possible resettlement.

Of the more than 8,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in **Namibia**, some 7,300 lived in the Osire refugee settlement. Almost 6,000 were from Angola and the rest mainly from the DRC. Some 120 Angolans had returned home by the end of 2009, compared with only two in 2008. Another eight persons voluntarily repatriated to the DRC.

A pilot project to aid the local integration efforts of Angolan refugees and their families was pending at the end of 2009, while its legal framework was being finalized. About 60 refugees departed for resettlement during the year.

The refugee population in **Swaziland** at the end of 2009 stood at almost 1,400, including 165 asylum-seekers registered during the year. The majority were from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. A tripartite agreement with the Government and an implementing partner allowed some 120 refugee children to receive education assistance and another 500 to have access to primary health care. Some 20 refugee families appeared before the Citizenship Board and were awaiting approval of their applications for Swazi citizenship.

**Zimbabwe** hosted some 4,000 refugees and 640 asylum-seekers. About 3,400 persons lived in Tongogara refugee camp near the border with Mozambique. Given the socio-economic environment and operational challenges in the country, the regional office in Pretoria helped procure



food, medical supplies and non-food items in order to respond adequately to the needs of the refugee population. Some 400 individuals (80 families) departed for resettlement during the year.

UNHCR and its partners started a new project to address the protection and assistance needs of IDPs in the country. This was seen as a significant development, given the complexities and challenges surrounding the IDP issue. UNHCR also initiated discussions on statelessness with the Government, as many of the IDPs were also considered persons at risk of becoming stateless.

## Financial information

With the completion of the large-scale repatriation to Angola in 2007, expenditures began to decrease in the subregion, but rose again with USD 5.4 million spent in 2008 in response to the supplementary budget for the Zimbabwe situation. The total expenditure stood at USD 42.2 million in 2008. For 2009, the expenditure remained more or less at the same level (USD 42.3 million), including the expenditure of USD 3.5 million under the supplementary budget for activities related to the Zimbabwe Situation.

### Budget and expenditure in Southern Africa (USD)

Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Angola	5,963,997	0	<b>5,963,997</b>	4,687,290	0	<b>4,687,290</b>
Botswana	2,509,913	389,408	<b>2,899,321</b>	2,193,696	164,887	<b>2,358,583</b>
Malawi	2,733,774	0	<b>2,733,774</b>	2,355,827	0	<b>2,355,827</b>
Mozambique	2,931,733	420,561	<b>3,352,294</b>	2,587,343	113,682	<b>2,701,025</b>
Namibia	2,543,933	0	<b>2,543,933</b>	2,463,111	0	<b>2,463,111</b>
South Africa	8,168,086	2,274,192	<b>10,442,278</b>	7,856,216	1,213,666	<b>9,069,883</b>
Zambia	16,250,505	230,530	<b>16,481,035</b>	11,906,495	7,921	<b>11,914,416</b>
Zimbabwe	2,665,129	4,636,502	<b>7,301,631</b>	2,525,577	2,041,999	<b>4,567,576</b>
Regional activities <sup>1</sup>	3,179,671	0	<b>3,179,671</b>	2,269,091	0	<b>2,269,091</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,946,741</b>	<b>7,951,193</b>	<b>54,897,934</b>	<b>38,844,647</b>	<b>3,542,155</b>	<b>42,386,802</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes strengthening registration, documentation and refugee status determination systems in Southern Africa, repatriation of individual refugees, resettlement, and external relations. Note: Excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.

### Voluntary contributions to Southern Africa (USD)

Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Southern Africa subregion	Sweden	4,551,365		4,551,365
	<b>Southern Africa subregion subtotal</b>	<b>4,551,365</b>		<b>4,551,365</b>
Angola	Belgium	182,982		182,982
	<b>Angola subtotal</b>	<b>182,982</b>		<b>182,982</b>
Botswana	United States of America	232,500		232,500
	<b>Botswana subtotal</b>	<b>232,500</b>		<b>232,500</b>
Mozambique	UN Delivering As One	80,000		80,000
	<b>Mozambique subtotal</b>	<b>80,000</b>		<b>80,000</b>
Malawi	Merck and Co., Inc. (USA)	46,500		46,500
	United States of America	3,156		3,156
	<b>Malawi subtotal</b>	<b>49,656</b>		<b>49,656</b>
South Africa	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	180,913		180,913
	United States of America	252,250		252,250
	<b>South Africa subtotal</b>	<b>433,163</b>		<b>433,163</b>
Zambia	Denmark	930,000		930,000
	European Commission	365,169		365,169
	HRH Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein (UAE)	173,012		173,012
	Japan	103,306		103,306
	Japan Association for UNHCR	101,549		101,549
	United States of America	2,789,834		2,789,834
<b>Zambia subtotal</b>	<b>4,462,870</b>		<b>4,462,870</b>	
Zimbabwe	Canada		748,792	748,792
	Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		844,020	844,020
	Emergency Relief Fund	69,984		69,984
	Sweden		1,349,782	1,349,782
	United States of America		1,953,000	1,953,000
<b>Zimbabwe subtotal</b>	<b>69,984</b>	<b>4,895,595</b>	<b>4,965,579</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>10,062,520</b>	<b>4,895,595</b>	<b>14,958,114</b>

Note: Contributions listed above exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.