



UNHCR OPERATION IN BOTSWANA

FACTSHEET

May 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

8 Resettlement departures since January 2016	550 Children enrolled in primary and secondary school	2,137 Received monthly food distributions	312 Received ARV treatment
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Population of concern

A total of **2,914** people of concern*

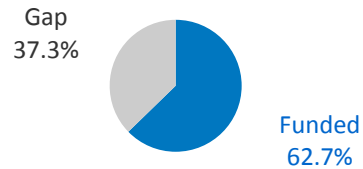
Country	Total PoC
Burundi	116
DRC	676**
Namibia	939
Rwanda	33
Somalia	360
Zimbabwe	731
Others	59
Total	2,914

*As of April 2016

**Recent new arrivals (April 2015) included

Funding

USD 3,099,339 requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:	Offices:
7 National staff	2 offices located in:
4 International staff	OCM Gaborone, FO Dukwi



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR coordinates humanitarian, repatriation and integration assistance with: [Ministry of Defence, Justice and Security](#) | [Botswana Red Cross Society](#). UNHCR also collaborates with UN Agencies, regional bodies, NGOs, local humanitarian institutes and academia.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Phase down

- UNHCR is phasing down its presence in Botswana. As of 1 July 2016, UNHCR intends to maintain a small national presence which will close down its operations by the end of 2017
- In line with its exit strategy, UNHCR has reduced the number of implementing partners to just one, the Botswana Red Cross Society.

Protection

- UNHCR assists the Government of Botswana (GoB) with the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers through the provision of technical and material support.
- The Refugee Advisory Committee (RAC) has sat 5 times in the year 2015 to conduct Refugee Status Determination interviews. The UNHCR has a presence on the RAC.
- Asylum-seekers await the determination of their cases for lengthy periods of time. UNHCR is working closely with the Refugee Advisory Committee for the speedy determination of asylum-seekers in the Centre for Illegal Immigrants (CII) in Francistown. UNHCR continues to advocate for final decisions to be issued timely in order to commence new RAC hearings and not to accumulate backlogs.
- UNHCR continuously engages and advocates for the Government to take active steps to amend the country's refugee legislation, the 1968 Refugees (Recognition and Control) Act in order to enhance adherence to international refugee protection standards. An initial stakeholder workshop was held on 5-6 February 2015 to begin the process to review the Refugee (Recognition and Control) Act, the process is currently underway and an initial draft is expected by June 2016.

Education

- In January 2016, UNHCR through BRCS has enrolled 180 children at pre-school, 416 at primary, 134 at secondary and 98 at vocational school. As of January 2016, there are 10 students in external vocational training placements (Botswana Brigades). There are currently 16 students who are enrolled at the University of Botswana completing various programmes under the DAFI scholarship initiative, however no new students have been accepted into the programme since 2013.

Health

- Through Botswana Red Cross Society (BRCS), refugees and asylum-seekers continued to receive health and psychosocial services. Refugees and asylum-seekers are not included in the national ART programme. 312 persons are on ARV treatment, men, women and children of diverse nationalities, religion and background living with HIV. The ART programme is currently funded by Centre for Disease Control/PEPFAR.
- BRCS provides supplementary food to elderly and home based patient as well as toiletries to unaccompanied children. They are running centre for child recreation as an activity for child welfare and protection.

Shelter, Food Security and NFIs

- Through Skillshare International, 33 houses for elderly, vulnerable and people with medical conditions have been constructed in Dukwi camp, as part of the continued support initiated in 2012 to assist vulnerable people. Food distribution including paraffin is regularly conducted with food commodities (maize meal, beans, oil, sugar, salt, soup, and soap), provided to refugees on a monthly basis.

Durable Solutions

- In 2015, in its efforts to finding durable solutions for refugees in Botswana UNHCR facilitated the return of 21 Namibians and 18 Zimbabweans.
- Since the beginning of 2016, 8 people have departed for resettlement. UNHCR Botswana continues to advocate for more resettlement missions to Botswana as the durable solution options in Botswana are limited to return and resettlement.
- With regards to local integration, in 2015, there was only 1 Angolan case of 6 individuals who have applied for naturalisation and are in the process. UNHCR assisted them with the payment of administrative fee for the application.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year as well as the following donors who have directly contributed to the operation: [Government of Botswana](#).

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