



UNHCR OPERATION IN SOUTH AFRICA/REGIONAL OFFICE FACTSHEET

April 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

293 Resettlement submissions and 384 departures	3652 Refugees provided with legal assistance	795 Refugees assisted through self-reliance and livelihood projects	3,101 Vulnerable refugees received social assistance
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Population of concern

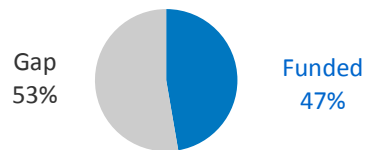
A total of **912,592** people of concern. **114,512** refugees and an estimate of **798,080** asylum seekers both pending at first-instance and pending appeal. The number of new asylum applications registered by the Government in South Africa has remained stable since 2012. The higher number of asylum-seekers reported in 2015 is the result of updated statistical information on the number of cases pending appeal review.

By country of origin

Country	Refugees
Zimbabwe	6,215
Republic of Congo	6,224
Rwanda	1,819
Burundi	3,661
Somalia	40,633
Ethiopia	19,825
DRC	30,705
Others	5,430
Total	114,512

Funding

USD 25,830,446 requested



*Includes budgets for regional programmes including Refugee Status Determination, Registration, Statelessness, Voluntary Repatriation, Public Information and Resettlement and for operational activities in Madagascar, Namibia, and Swaziland.

UNHCR Presence (includes regional staff)

Staff:

55 national staff
32 international staff
55 affiliated staff

Offices:

3 offices located in:
RO Pretoria, FO Cape Town, FO Musina



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](#) | [FOCUS Madagascar](#) | [Caritas Swaziland](#) | [Department of Home Affairs](#) | [Zoe Life](#)

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection

- UNHCR continues to pursue international protection for refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure that the government respect their obligations to protect refugees and people seeking asylum.
- 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 and transport when the needs have been identified. 792 individuals have been assisted so far in 2016.
- In 2016, 52 refugee students will benefit 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. 138 individuals have been assisted with sanitary materials, 1,674 with food, 983 with shelter, 306 with core relief items and 298 with social grants since January 2016.

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. Partner organizations assist them with opening small businesses or finding suitable employment. UNHCR is developing a multiyear livelihoods strategy to be completed by mid year. Research to inform the strategy has been conducted in Gauteng province and will be expanded to other urban areas.

Social Cohesion

- 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.

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