

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The number of refugees and internally displaced people in Africa continues to rise. Between January 2015 and January 2016, some 2.5 million people were newly displaced, fleeing to safety within their country or across borders. There are currently around 20 million people of concern to UNHCR in sub-Saharan Africa, including an estimated 4.4 million refugees and 11 million internally displaced. These numbers are expected to rise in 2017 and beyond if the root causes of the conflicts driving this displacement are not addressed.

Conflicts in countries such as Burundi, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and South Sudan continue to produce outflows of people, despite peace talks and agreements. In 2017, UNHCR will continue providing protection and assistance to these populations in the surrounding countries, as well as addressing protracted situations such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia and Sudan. While providing life-saving assistance, the Office's operations across the continent will also focus on finding innovative and lasting solutions, building on positive examples such as those in the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

UNHCR is concerned by funding shortages for humanitarian programmes and the impact in 2017 of this year's El Niño on harvests, and their cumulative effect on increasing food insecurity across Africa. In 2016, some 76 per cent of refugees faced ration cuts, or did not receive a full daily ration.

Emmanuel, 13, a refugee from South Sudan, builds a shelter with palm trees in Bitima, a small village near the border in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Africa



MAJOR OPERATIONS

Burundi situation

Since April 2015, 300,000 Burundians have fled to neighbouring countries following election-related violence. Anticipating continued unrest, UNHCR has enacted contingency plans with partners for a 2017 planning figure of some 120,000 newly displaced Burundians. The Office will continue to prioritize activities focused on preserving the civilian character of refugee camps and responding to and addressing incidents of sexual and gender-based violence which have been reported by arriving refugees.

Central African Republic situation

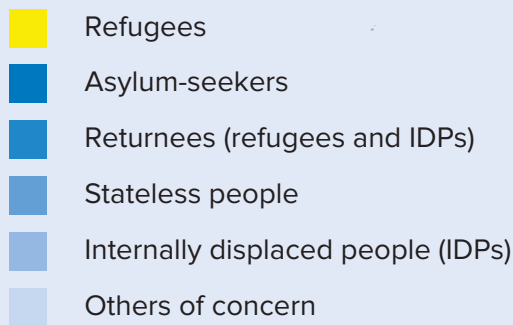
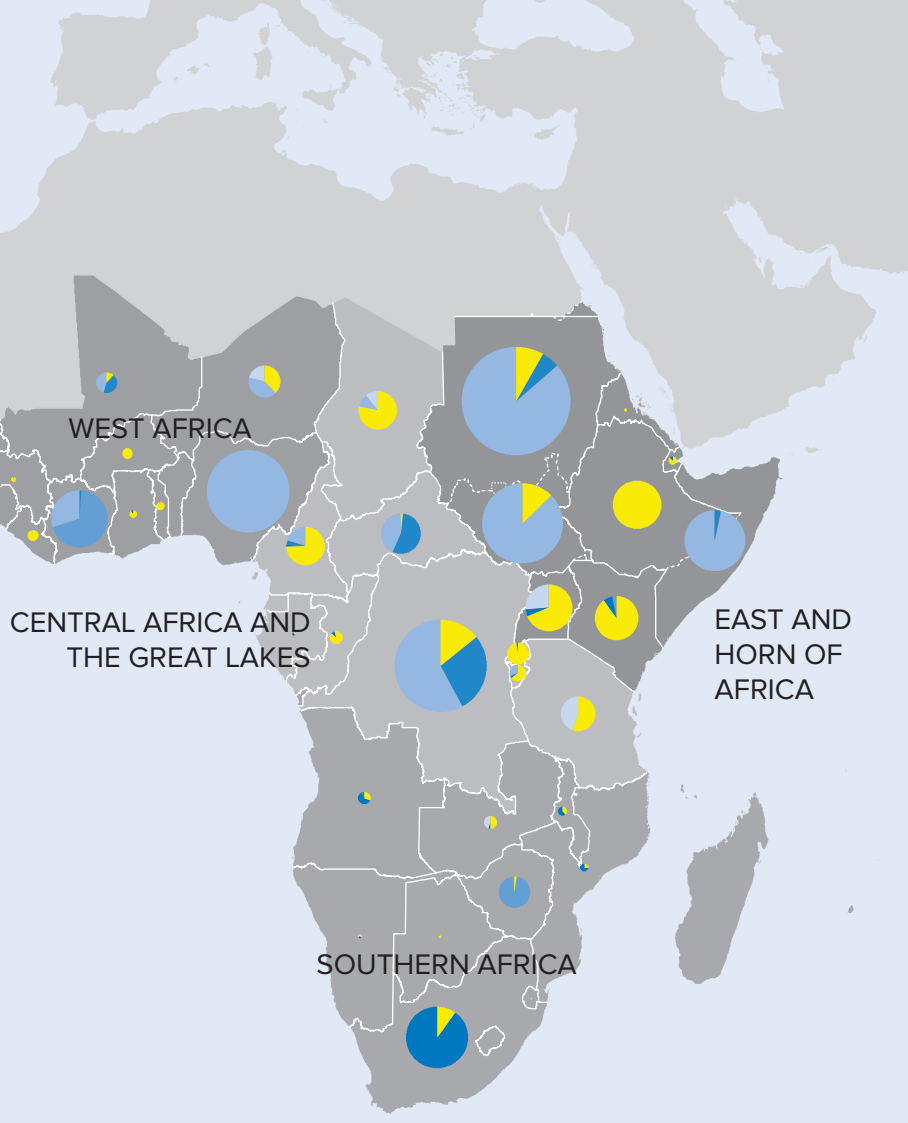
Lingering conflict at the grassroots level and the pressures of inter-ethnic violence in the Central African Republic have created an atmosphere of insecurity across the country. A new influx of South Sudanese into the north-east of the Central African Republic has added a further layer of complexity to this crisis. UNHCR will continue to assist refugees from the Central African Republic in neighbouring **Cameroon**, **Chad**, the **Republic of the Congo**, and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. Support will be provided to spontaneous returnees, in particular with regard to access to former land and property.

Kenya

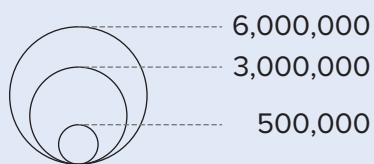
As a result of the impending closure of the Dadaab refugee camps following an announcement made by the Kenyan Government in May 2016, UNHCR and partners will continue their efforts to identify solutions for Somali refugees in Kenya, including through voluntary return to **Somalia**. UNHCR will work closely with the authorities to ensure that all returns will be voluntary and dignified.

Mali situation

While the “Agreement for peace and reconciliation” signed in June 2015 was a positive development in the peace process, ongoing insecurity in Mali means more than 134,000 Malians displaced in **Burkina Faso**, **Mauritania** and **Niger** are unable or unwilling to return. The implementation of the peace agreement, and the re-establishment of security and basic services in Mali may still take some time, delaying the anticipated voluntary repatriation until well into 2018. UNHCR’s response will therefore focus on increasing livelihoods and resilience-based interventions for long-staying refugees while providing re-integration support to voluntary returnees.



Population of concern as of January 2016



Nigeria situation

Responding to continuing violence in Nigeria in 2016, UNHCR declared an internal level three emergency, to facilitate an increase in deployment of staff and resources, particularly to northern Nigeria. Together with others, UNHCR will assist in the return of 2.1 million IDPs and nearly 167,000 refugees in neighbouring countries. UNHCR will prioritize its response to enhance protection, including addressing psycho-social needs, providing emergency and transitional shelter, and supporting camp coordination and camp management.

South Sudan situation

In South Sudan, with the peace process faltering and conflict breaking out in previously peaceful regions such as Western Equatoria, South Sudanese refugees have sought asylum in previously unaffected areas of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (40,000) and the **Central African Republic** (5,000). South Sudanese refugees continue to be hosted throughout the region, including in **Uganda** (374,000), **Ethiopia** (300,000), **Sudan** (247,000) and **Kenya** (90,000). Some 1.6 million people are currently displaced within South Sudan, while the country is also host to 261,000 refugees from Sudan.

The Horn of Africa

Africa, particularly the Horn, will continue to be affected by the continuing war in Yemen as a second year of violence saw significant numbers of refugees fleeing to **Somalia** (21,000), **Djibouti** (3,600), **Ethiopia** (2,200), and **Sudan** (1,400). New arrivals into Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia include returning nationals as well as refugees from Yemen and third countries fleeing violence in Yemen.

West Africa

Across Western Africa, the political and security situation has remained generally stable, some exceptions being election-related violence. In 2017, the Office will build upon previous efforts to resolve long-standing refugee situations, for example for Ivorian refugees. A multi-year protection and solutions strategy is being pursued for Senegalese refugees in **Gambia** and **Guinea Bissau**, as well as Mauritanian refugees in **Senegal**, Ghanaian refugees in **Togo**, and Togolese refugees in **Ghana**. A regional strategy for the protection of and solutions for stateless people will be pursued in the coming years for the nearly one million stateless in West Africa.

South Africa

Southern Africa has remained somewhat stable, despite recent tensions in Tete Province in Mozambique, which has caused some 2,000 people to flee into **Malawi** since mid-2015. UNHCR will work with the South African government in addressing increasing incidents of xenophobia, as well as providing advice and assistance in light of the growing trend of economically-motivated migrants who travel with refugees throughout the region.

REGIONAL STRATEGY

The outlook for 2017 in sub-Saharan Africa is daunting. Simultaneous complex emergencies, many with two or more crises affecting the same country, have made the development of multi-year, predictable, and interlinked strategic planning difficult. While refugee emergencies triggered by conflicts in Burundi, the Central African Republic, northern Nigeria and South Sudan are set to dominate UNHCR's operations in the region, protracted situations, such as those affecting 2 million refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and Somalia, will need continued support. Despite this harrowing background, progress continues to be made, with durable solution interventions for Angolan and Rwandan refugees expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

In addition to developing contingency plans for regions affected by conflict, including basic life-sustaining assistance, UNHCR will prioritize the following three key areas over the coming years, in order to equip displaced people with the tools to build a dignified and sustainable future, whether in exile or upon return.

Adequate and accessible education

Through its global “2012 – 2016 Education Strategy” and country-level education strategies, UNHCR supports the provision of refugee education as a core element of its mandate to ensure protection and durable solutions for people of concern. In 2017, country operations will continue to focus on activities which will enable refugee children to enrol in school by reducing classroom overcrowding, capacitating teachers, improving the quality of teaching, and ensuring that students from both refugee and host communities can study together in a mutually-encouraging and rewarding environment.

Training and assistance towards building livelihoods

In the coming years, UNHCR will endeavour to make significant investments in the livelihoods sector, drawing together the expertise of international financial institutions such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank, as well as UNDP and the private sector to increase knowledge and opportunities for refugees to gain greater self-reliance. In Uganda, for example, refugees and host communities receive training together in a range of skills allowing them to respond to local market needs for new or particular goods, products and services.

Addressing food insecurity

UNHCR is also driven to respond to increasing food insecurity for refugees throughout the region. Funding shortages, conflict, and the damage from El Niño to crop production resulted in cuts to food rations for around 75 per cent of the refugees in Africa from September 2015 to February 2016. Nutrition monitoring from 71 sites showed that malnutrition levels in a quarter of them were above emergency levels. UNHCR will work closely with the World Food Programme to explore more flexible forms of assistance, such as cash-based interventions. UNHCR is also studying the effects of the cuts in food rations to

understand better how to address such protection-related deficits as reduced food consumption, school drop-outs, early and forced marriages, and survival sex.

UNHCR will also work to ensure that host communities are not left behind, committing to promote the development of whole regions with a view to reducing tensions and enhancing cohesion. UNHCR has been working with an increasing range of government, financial and private sector partners keen to expand on multi-year projects in refugee-hosting regions that benefit both the displaced and hosting communities. Operations hosting large numbers of refugees in Chad, Ethiopia, Niger and Uganda have achieved positive outcomes with regard to UNHCR's out of camp policy and supporting refugees' right to work. Together with partners, the organization is planning in Kenya, Chad and Cameroon to have refugees integrated into national services, including health and education.

In line with the global commitment to eradicate statelessness by 2024, UNHCR will dedicate resources in 15 countries in Africa — Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe — to reduce the current figure of over 1 million stateless people.

CONSTRAINTS

UNHCR operations in sub-Saharan Africa often face difficulties in implementation of activities that are not directly related to financial requirements (see below). In some cases, the Office is unable to carry out essential life-saving interventions due to ongoing insecurity, for example in some areas of South Sudan and particularly in north-eastern Nigeria. In the past year, three UNHCR staff in Mogadishu, Somalia were tragically killed, although the Office has not reduced its capacity there, and indeed is planning to increase its on-the-ground staff to better monitor voluntary returns. As well, criminality in insecure areas has led to a loss of humanitarian assets and goods. The region is subject to the effects of El Niño and other widespread adverse weather patterns that induce flooding, landslides and drought which have related effects on the Offices' logistical capacity and on regional agricultural production. ■

Financial information

In just six years, UNHCR’s financial requirements to assist refugees and other populations of concern in Africa have increased by nearly 50 per cent (from \$1.78 billion to \$2.66 billion in 2016). Between 2013 and 2014, the budget for Africa increased by 31 per cent due mainly to the repatriation of some 21,000 Malian refugees, and the Central African Republic and South Sudan emergencies.

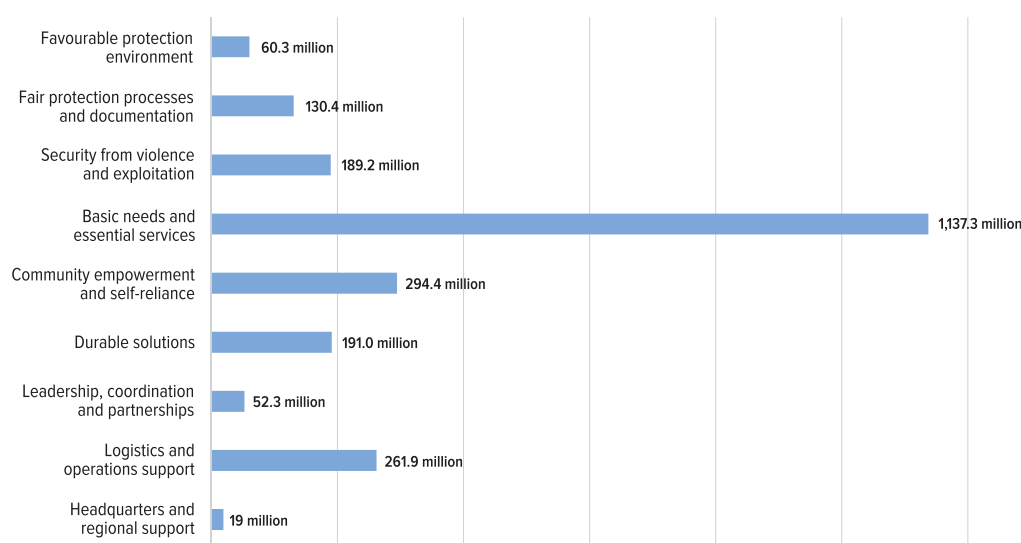
Despite the range of emergencies and protracted situations, the 2017 financial requirements for UNHCR’s

operations in Africa amount to \$2.33 billion. This reflects little change from the initial request to the Executive Committee in 2016, with a decrease of six per cent (\$143.7 million) when compared to the revised 2016 budget, which included revised requirements for the various new emergencies in Burundi, and for the Yemen situation. The 2017 financial requirements include budgets for the current emergencies.

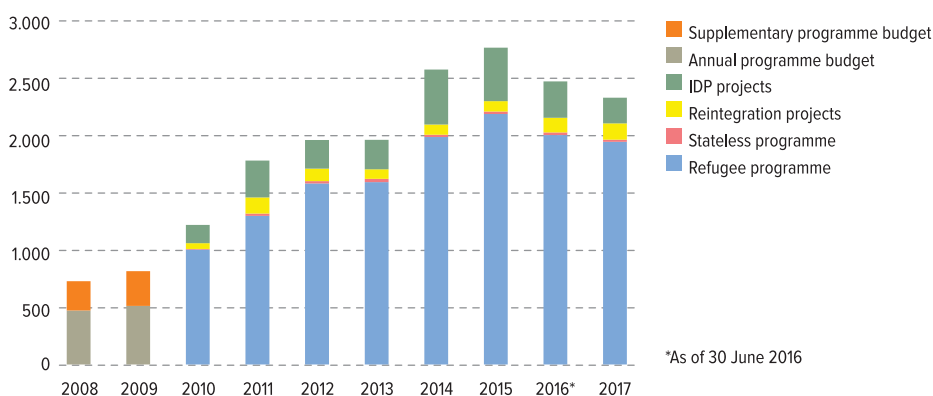
Regional refugee coordination mechanisms and Regional Refugee

Response Plans (RRPs) are in place for the Burundi, the Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen situations. While the RRP’s are issued at the beginning of the year, several plans had to be revised during 2016 to take into account changes in the operational context. At the time of writing, RRP’s in Africa were only 30 per cent funded. This funding gap will have significant consequences on critical programmes, including delays in implementation or non-delivery of expected supplies and services to refugees.

Africa 2017 budget by rights group | USD millions



Budgets for Africa 2008-2017 | USD millions



BUDGETS FOR AFRICA | USD

Operation	2016 Current budget (as of 30 June 2016)	2017				
		Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	Total
WEST AFRICA						
Burkina Faso	21,679,174	20,812,391	510,537	0	0	21,322,928
Côte d'Ivoire	30,785,020	3,051,362	4,174,881	13,032,206	0	20,258,448
Ghana	9,444,755	8,878,867	0	0	0	8,878,867
Guinea	7,463,159	4,471,017	0	0	0	4,471,017
Liberia	23,860,907	16,194,818	0	0	0	16,194,818
Mali	49,171,913	11,691,893	1,111,441	25,985,444	1,218,753	40,007,532
Niger	51,188,166	51,291,542	685,411	0	3,296,830	55,273,783
Nigeria	29,489,299	4,997,397	0	15,120,652	26,474,095	46,592,144
Senegal Regional Office ¹	38,729,795	26,438,183	2,107,714	0	0	28,545,896
Subtotal	261,812,187	147,827,470	8,589,984	54,138,302	30,989,678	241,545,433
EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA						
Chad	162,726,009	159,003,568	991,739	0	2,850,000	162,845,307
Djibouti	31,987,830	33,785,056	0	0	0	33,785,056
Eritrea	4,891,037	3,899,094	0	0	0	3,899,094
Ethiopia	279,327,419	260,779,824	0	0	0	260,779,824
Ethiopia (Regional Liaison Office to the AU and ECA)	2,042,045	2,205,453	0	0	0	2,205,453
Kenya	226,880,884	213,520,184	852,845	0	0	214,373,030
Kenya Regional Support Hub	5,712,208	6,092,571	0	0	0	6,092,571
Somalia	100,679,350	29,226,758	0	20,176,076	35,900,072	85,302,906
South Sudan	275,668,213	131,086,974	1,486,448	0	39,099,198	171,672,619
Sudan	156,762,671	114,638,499	2,600,987	6,313,447	26,910,666	150,463,598
Uganda	251,981,403	298,820,832	200,000	0	0	299,020,832
Regional activities	12,689,600	4,000,000	0	0	0	4,000,000
Subtotal	1,511,348,668	1,257,058,813	6,132,019	26,489,523	104,759,936	1,394,440,290
CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES						
Burundi	34,538,842	26,645,801	7,075	0	4,384,051	31,036,927
Cameroon	98,624,603	87,794,566	1,150,000	0	5,300,263	94,244,829
Central African Republic	54,619,846	21,165,254	0	15,514,818	13,277,376	49,957,448
Congo	32,000,000	27,843,957	0	0	0	27,843,957
Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Office ²	200,081,172	110,403,335	1,948,898	29,873,246	65,779,129	208,004,607
Rwanda	101,373,285	95,510,049	0	6,031,085	0	101,541,134
United Republic of Tanzania	108,912,598	101,982,021	0	10,551,051	0	112,533,072
Subtotal	630,150,345	471,344,984	3,105,973	61,970,200	88,740,819	625,161,975

Operation	2016 Current budget (as of 30 June 2016)	2017				Total
		Pillar 1 Refugee programme	Pillar 2 Stateless programme	Pillar 3 Reintegration projects	Pillar 4 IDP projects	
SOUTHERN AFRICA						
Angola	3,731,490	2,538,116	0	0	0	2,538,116
Botswana	3,333,215	3,076,320	0	0	0	3,076,320
Malawi	14,056,021	18,033,929	0	0	0	18,033,929
Mozambique	5,502,882	5,397,322	125,626	0	0	5,522,948
South Africa Regional Office	25,830,446	24,503,549	913,654	0	0	25,417,203
Zambia	17,460,761	13,609,910	0	0	0	13,609,910
Zimbabwe	6,434,122	6,164,241	432,094	0	0	6,596,335
Subtotal	76,348,936	73,323,387	1,471,374	0	0	74,794,760
Total	2,479,660,137	1,949,554,653	19,299,349	142,598,024	224,490,433	2,335,942,459

¹ Includes activities in Benin, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Sierra Leone and Togo

² Includes activities in Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo