



## HIGHLIGHTS

# SOUTH AFRICA FACTSHEET

September 2016

<b>293</b> Resettlement submissions and 384 departures	<b>3,652</b> Refugees provided with legal assistance	<b>795</b> Refugees assisted through self-reliance and livelihood projects	<b>3,101</b> Vulnerable refugees received social assistance
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## Population of concern

A total of **1,217,708** people of concern. **121,645** refugees and an estimated **1,096,063** asylum-seekers. The number of new asylum applications registered by the Government of South Africa has remained stable since 2012 with 61,159 new applications in 2015.

### Top five countries of origin

Country	Refugees
Somalia	41,458
DRC	32,582
Ethiopia	20,324
Zimbabwe	6,358
Republic of Congo	6,556
Others	20,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>121,645</b>

## UNHCR Presence

### Staff:

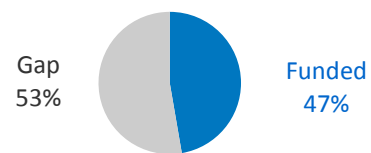
33 international staff  
43 national staff  
33 affiliated staff

### Offices:

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

## Funding

**USD 25,805,446** requested



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



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR.  
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 20 Sep. 2016.

## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR coordinates protection, humanitarian assistance, durable solutions and social assistance with: Department of Home Affairs | [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](#) | [Zoe Life](#)

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Protection

- UNHCR continues to promote international protection for refugees and asylum-seekers to ensure that the government respects its obligations to protect refugees and people seeking asylum.
- UNHCR chairs the Protection Working Group, which is working closely with the South African Government to try to provide timely intervention to prevent and respond to issues related to xenophobia.
- UNHCR continues to advocate for fairness and efficiency of the asylum system to ensure that all refugees have access to asylum.

### Education

- Some schools are still reluctant to admit or accept refugee and asylum-seeker students. Funded by UNHCR, 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 or through grants given to schools to cater for those who cannot afford the school fees. Partners such as Jesuit Refugee Services and Regional Social Services 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. In 2016, 792 persons of concern have been assisted so far.
- In 2016, 90 refugee students will benefit from the DAFI (Deutsche Akademische Flüchtlingsinitiative) scholarship programme funded by the Government of Germany.

### 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. In 2016, 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.

### Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- UNHCR promotes livelihoods and self-reliance activities to contribute to the well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers. Through income generating activities, vocational skills and language training, refugees are empowered. Partner organizations assist them with opening small businesses or finding suitable employment. UNHCR is developing a multi-year livelihoods strategy to be completed by October 2016. Research to inform the strategy has been conducted in four main urban areas.

### Social Cohesion

- To promote social cohesion and the integration of refugees, UNHCR collaborates with Home Affairs and other relevant government departments to raise awareness on refugee rights and promote social cohesion between refugees, migrants and local communities. UNHCR implements public information campaigns using community radio and education materials to promote co-existence.

UNHCR is grateful for the contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked and broadly earmarked contributions to UNHCR this year.

#### Contacts:

Ms. Charlotte Ridung, Snr. Operations Manager/Head South Africa Unit, [ridung@unhcr.org](mailto:ridung@unhcr.org), Tel: +27 716873111, Fax: +27 12 354 3890