

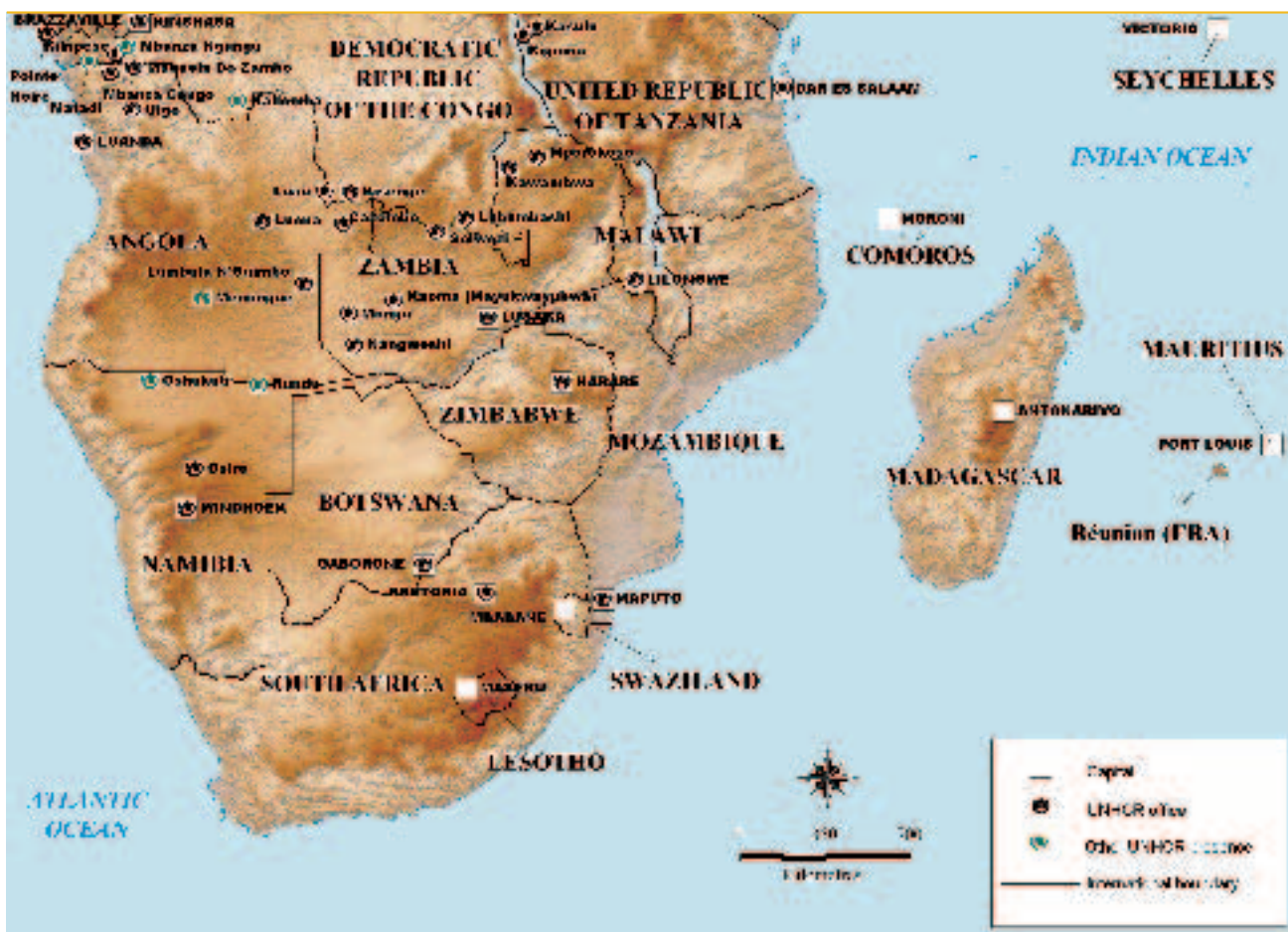
# Southern Africa

## Major developments

The first half of 2002 was marked by continued inflows of refugees from the Great Lakes region and Angola to the southern Africa region. The countries most affected by incoming refugees, particularly from the Great Lakes, were Malawi and South Africa, where the number of asylum-seekers almost doubled as compared to 2001. There were also sharp increases in Mozambique and Zimbabwe. UNHCR reviewed its programmes in the region and, where necessary, sought additional funds to cater for this unexpected increase in the refugee/asylum-seeker population.

In Angola, the sudden death in February 2002 of the leader of UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) brought new political possibilities. Subsequent negotiations between the Government and the UNITA leadership led to the signing of an MOU on 4 April 2002, putting an end to civil unrest dating back to the early 1960s – and 27 years of fighting. Preparations began in earnest for the demobilisation of the ex-combatants and

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



the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). By the end of the year, some 1.3 million IDPs had returned to their places of origin and some 85,000 soldiers were demobilised. The remaining challenge was the reintegration of the demobilised soldiers and their 350,000 dependants. These developments encouraged some 90,000 refugees to return spontaneously to Angola. The majority of the returnees came from the settlements in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Zambia. To respond to this spontaneous return phenomenon, UNHCR established a supplementary programme during the second half of the year. The Office managed to establish its field presence in the major areas of return; provided limited assistance to the returning refugees; and implemented, through its NGO partners, some quick impact projects aimed at increasing the absorption capacity of shattered local communities and at creating conditions conducive to return.

By the end of 2002, the Government of Angola and UNHCR had signed tripartite agreements with the Governments of Namibia, Zambia, and both Congo

Republics (DRC and ROC). These agreements laid the framework for the planned return of some 400,000 refugees from those countries during the years 2003 and 2004.

In the DRC, negotiations continued under the auspices of the inter-Congolese dialogue, with South Africa playing a key role in trying to broker a settlement between the various factions on the future governance of the DRC. This process has been partly successful, but has yet to translate into the political stability that would encourage some 70,000 DRC refugees in Southern Africa to return home.

In South Africa, notwithstanding the gains made in 2001, in clearing the backlog of asylum applications, UNHCR and the Government of South Africa were confronted with major challenges in 2002 as applications for asylum soared to an all-time high of 52,400. UNHCR continued to pursue its objectives of capacity-building within the Government and civil society, and supporting local integration of refugees through economic independence. UNHCR maintained nationwide public awareness activities

to counter xenophobic tendencies in local communities. Unfortunately, in a number of regrettable incidents, some asylum-seekers overtly demonstrated their frustration with the asylum system in South Africa through mass demonstrations against UNHCR and its staff, as well as death threats against individual staff members. For the first time in the history of the programme in the area, an asylum-seeker committed suicide as a form of protest.

In anticipation of a massive outflow of refugees from Zimbabwe, several country programmes likely to be affected by such an eventuality were updated as part of the regional contingency plan prepared in 2001. But in 2002, this did not transpire, despite the tense atmosphere in Zimbabwe, and UNHCR received relatively few Zimbabwean refugees. Border monitoring continued, with the help of government partners, but the only reports were of a normal flow of people into South Africa for the purpose of trade.

During 2002, the movement of refugees, mainly from the Great Lakes region, into Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe continued steadily. Reasons cited for their flight were the continued insecurity in the DRC and the fear of reprisals as a result of the establishment of the "Gacaca" judicial system (traditional courts) in Rwanda.

## Challenges and concerns

UNHCR is acutely conscious of the importance of the current turning point in Angola's history. It was therefore regrettable that the main challenge in the region in 2002, was the struggle to manage the reception of Angolan returnees from neighbouring countries. In Angola, the Office had to contend with a spectacularly difficult array of constraints: the presence of landmines, the lack of access roads, limited infrastructure and social services, a lack of logistical hardware for UNHCR and its partners, overworked staff and inadequate funding.

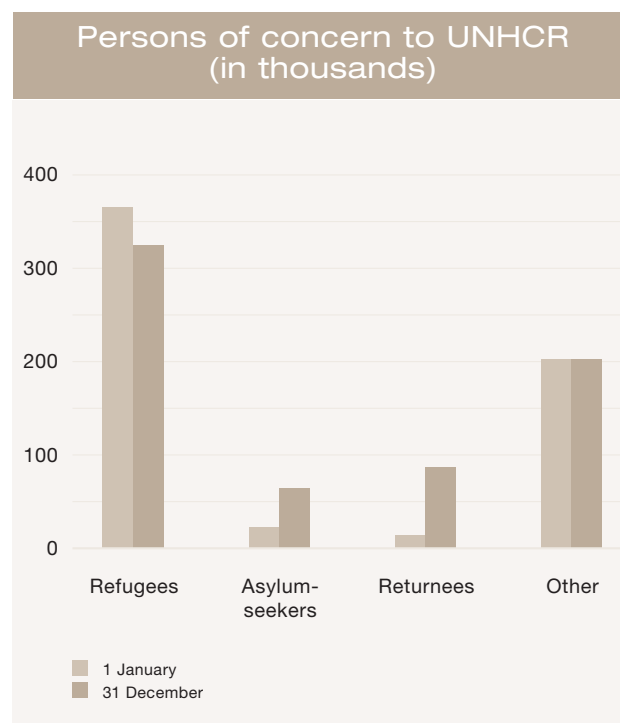
In 2002, an increasing number of refugees gravitated towards cities in search of employment, swelling the number of urban cases. There was a continuing tendency for certain individuals to abuse asylum procedures in their quest for better economic and social opportunities. Asylum-seekers, refugees

and immigrants continued to compete for limited services and resources, leading to tension and, unfortunately, an increase in overt expressions of xenophobia in certain host communities. As a result, States continued to impose strict legal and administrative control measures which adversely affected genuine refugees and asylum-seekers seeking international protection.

It was often difficult for UNHCR and Governments in the region to see how the institution of asylum can possibly be preserved without bringing to an end the conflicts and other factors which create refugees and impede their return home.

## Progress towards solutions

In 2002, UNHCR endeavoured to find lasting solutions for refugees, mainly through voluntary repatriation and resettlement. Some 90,000 Angolan refugees returned home spontaneously from neighbouring countries. Over 1,000 Namibian refugees repatriated from Botswana to the Caprivi region. In addition, there were some individual requests for repatriation to countries within the Great Lakes region. UNHCR continued its efforts to resettle those in special need of protection, particularly vulnerable women: 43 individuals were resettled from South Africa and the Indian Ocean Island States.



UNHCR intensified its efforts in the area of self-reliance and local integration of refugees. In Angola, Mozambique and Malawi, the Governments identified new agricultural sites for refugees where they could, in time, become self-reliant. In Swaziland, Malawi, South Africa and Zambia, refugees continued to benefit from loans under micro-credit schemes. In Zambia, UNHCR continued to assist the Government's "Zambia Initiative" development project, in order to foster peaceful co-existence between local host communities and those refugees who opt for local integration.

## Operations

UNHCR operations in **Angola, South Africa, Namibia** and **Zambia** are described in separate country chapters.

By the end of 2002, **Botswana** was home to some 3,320 refugees, of 19 different nationalities, the majority Namibians, Angolans, and Somalis. Resettlement continued to be an important option for individuals who were not granted asylum. Over 1,000 refugees from Namibia opted to return to their homes in the Caprivi region, where the UNHCR offices in Botswana and Namibia assisted them with transportation and initial re-integration. Although peace returned to Angola during the second half of the year, the Angolan refugees in Botswana did not express an immediate interest in return. There is a group of long-staying Angolan refugees on whose behalf UNHCR has requested citizenship. At the year's end they had still not been naturalised, although the Government of Botswana remained committed to the process.

The Office continued to provide refugees in Botswana with academic and career opportunities to improve their living conditions and increase their economic independence. These opportunities included access to education (pre-school to university level). The Office also supported income-generating activities for refugees in the areas of tailoring, tie and dye, brick moulding and raising poultry.

**Malawi** played host to some 13,200 refugees, mainly from the DRC and Rwanda (compared with 6,200 in 2001). WFP provided food for these refugees while

UNHCR supplemented these with non-food items such as kerosene, bars of soap, and construction materials for 500 additional houses. To further complement the dietary requirements of the refugees and to allow them to become economically independent, UNHCR continued with the implementation of micro-credit schemes in crop production, whereby each family was provided with one acre of land, hybrid seeds and fertiliser.

UNHCR funded schooling for some 1,220 children at primary school (including 229 Malawians from the host community); 35 at secondary school; and the enrolment of five students in polytechnic institutes.

In **Mozambique**, UNHCR provided basic material assistance to some 140 refugees and 5,320 asylum-seekers. In 2002, the Office still had to contend with a shortage of material and human resources for monitoring activities in the country. To further streamline the refugee status determination (RSD) process, UNHCR continued to reinforce the National Eligibility Commission through the provision of material resources, administrative support and training. Despite these efforts, the Committee was not able to process the entire backlog of cases.

Throughout the year, programme activities were mostly focused on the development of the new refugee camp at Marratane in Nampula province in northern Mozambique, and the relocation to this site of persons of concern in the border area with Malawi or Bobole transit centre in Maputo. Some 100 persons were transported from Maputo to Nampula by air (in November, with IOM participation). UNHCR and the Government's partner in refugee assistance (NAR) established a field presence in Nampula.

In 2002, refugees and asylum-seekers in the Bobole transit centre and the Marratane camp were provided with basic humanitarian assistance (food and non-food items, health care and shelter). To promote the self-reliance of refugees who will not be able to repatriate in the foreseeable future, UNHCR supported micro-credit schemes in crop production, poultry raising and small gardening projects. The development of the Marratane camp continued in parallel with the relocation of refugees. To meet the new camp population's immediate need for shelter and water, two technical consultants were recruited to assist in the construction of houses and drilling

of boreholes. Family latrines were constructed with the help of the refugee population.

In **Swaziland**, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to a total of 910 persons (642 refugees and 268 asylum-seekers) out of a total of 1,021 persons of concern in 2001. Some 160 persons in Malindza camp received basic humanitarian assistance. In addition, close to 800 urban-based refugees received counselling, support for education and medical assistance when needed. However, the main objective of the country programme was not achieved, as the activities in the camp were greatly hampered by the obstructive attitude, involving violence and threats, of a group of some 40 refugees who demanded resettlement to a third country, rejecting local settlement and integration. This situation prevailed until July when these refugees were detained and subsequently deported. Despite these difficulties and the socio-political and economic challenges facing the country, the Government remained committed to refugee protection. In an effort to forge a partnership between UNHCR, Swazi civil society and the Government, the Office enlisted the co-operation of a senator as UNHCR's Honorary Liaison for Swaziland. The Refugee Bill endorsed by the Executive Cabinet in 2001 was submitted to Parliament in 2002.

UNHCR endeavoured to find durable solutions for refugees in Swaziland through education, micro-credit schemes and workshops aimed at developing the academic and social skills of refugee children. As a result of the partnership established between UNHCR and a local school during 2002, two refugee students benefited from full academic sponsorships to continue their secondary school studies. A total of 139 refugees benefited from educational assistance (pre-school to secondary/vocational level). Income-generating activities (poultry and pig rearing and other agricultural activities) continued in the Malindza camp. As part of HIV/AIDS awareness activities, football strips were procured for the refugee football team fielded by the Swaziland Refugee Youth association in the "Malindza against AIDS" soccer tournament.

**Zimbabwe** hosted some 9,000 refugees and 800 asylum-seekers in 2002. Despite the tense political situation in the country, no significant outflow of Zimbabwean nationals to neighbouring countries was witnessed. Refugees from the Great Lakes region



continued to pour into Zimbabwe at a steady pace. To speed up the refugee status determination (RSD) process and reduce the backlog of pending cases, UNHCR continued to reinforce the National Eligibility Commission through material resources, administrative support and training. UNHCR continued to encourage the local integration and self-reliance of refugees in the country. The difficult economic situation prevailing in the country affected UNHCR programmes and the ability of refugees to generate income under the self-reliance schemes.

The incident of sexual and gender-based violence reported in the camp in 2002 threatened to derail the entire assistance and protection effort under-



Angola: After many years outside their country, returnees in Moxico Province can start to rebuild their lives. *UNHCR / C. Neveu*

taken by UNHCR and its partners in Zimbabwe. For most of the year, UNHCR's efforts were focused on restoring confidence within the refugee population and ensuring that the perpetrators were brought to justice under national law. The Office's capacity was boosted with the arrival of an additional international member of staff charged with re-establishing the protection mandate. Several missions were also undertaken by the regional community services officer to help control the situation and counsel the victims. The persons affected by this incident were relocated to Harare, where they were given shelter and other basic assistance.

## Funding

The main challenge remained the lack of adequate and timely funding for the programmes in the region. UNHCR received only 50 per cent of the funds required for the Angola repatriation and reintegration supplementary programme in 2002. Those funds were unfortunately not received until towards the end of the year, after the start of the rainy season in October/November. As a result, UNHCR was unable to rapidly establish the field presence needed in the major areas of return in order to increase the absorption capacity of the returnee communities.

## Voluntary Contributions – Restricted / Earmarked (USD)

Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Donor	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
<b>Angola</b>					
	Japan	1,000,000	1,000,000	0	0
	United States of America	790,000	790,000	0	0
	Private Donors South Africa	20,035	20,035	0	0
	Pavarotti and Friends (ITA)	0	0	1,393,914	1,393,914
	Sweden	0	0	375,588	375,588
	Private Donors Lichtenstein	0	0	3,356	3,356
<b>Botswana</b>					
	United States of America	330,000	330,000	0	0
<b>Malawi</b>					
	United States of America	200,000	200,000	0	0
<b>Mozambique</b>					
	United States of America	281,000	281,000	0	0
<b>Namibia</b>					
	United States of America	1,540,000	1,540,000	0	0
	Italy	399,061	399,061	0	0
	USA for UNHCR (USA)	100,100	100,100	0	0
	Finland	87,489	87,489	0	0
	European Commission	4	0	0	0
<b>South Africa</b>					
	United States of America	920,000	920,000	0	0
<b>Swaziland</b>					
	United States of America	30,000	30,000	0	0
<b>Zambia</b>					
	United States of America	3,650,000	3,650,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Japan	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0
	Pavarotti and Friends (ITA)	1,404,378	1,404,378	0	0
	Germany	1,377,953	1,377,953	0	0
	European Commission	902,909	874,891	0	0
	France	513,213	513,213	0	0
	Italy	509,891	250,000	0	0
	Luxembourg	295,567	295,567	0	0
	Switzerland	246,914	246,914	0	0
	South Africa	45,029	45,029	0	0
	<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR (FRA)</i>	600	600	0	0
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Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Donor	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>					
<b>Zimbabwe</b>					
	United States of America	390,000	390,000	0	0
<b>Southern Africa</b>					
	Japan	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0
	Sweden	1,130,217	1,130,217	0	0
	Luxembourg	594,648	594,648	0	0
	Canada	318,471	318,471	0	0
	United States of America	0	0	560,000	560,000
	Monaco	0	0	9,852	9,852
<b>Total</b>		<b>21,077,479</b>	<b>20,789,566</b>	<b>3,342,710</b>	<b>3,342,710</b>

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

### Budget and Expenditure (USD)

Country	Revised Budget			Expenditure		
	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	Supplementary Programme Budget	total
Angola	6,377,524	3,769,676	10,147,200	5,873,159	2,418,823	8,291,982
Botswana	1,674,017	0	1,674,017	1,592,114	0	1,592,114
Malawi	1,555,038	0	1,555,038	1,498,436	0	1,498,436
Mozambique	2,178,102	0	2,178,102	1,923,862	0	1,923,862
Namibia	5,028,137	69,875	5,098,012	4,527,942	10,875	4,538,817
South Africa	3,369,895	73,120	3,443,015	2,851,071	0	2,851,071
Swaziland	155,800	0	155,800	121,070	0	121,070
Zambia	17,076,104	3,171,000	20,247,104	16,470,825	104,166	16,574,991
Zimbabwe	2,321,411	0	2,321,411	1,946,243	0	1,946,243
Regional Office (Pretoria) <sup>1</sup>	2,514,314	0	2,514,314	1,446,742	0	1,446,742
Regional Projects <sup>2</sup>	213,500	0	213,500	210,000	0	210,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,463,842</b>	<b>7,083,671</b>	<b>49,547,513</b>	<b>38,461,464</b>	<b>2,533,864</b>	<b>40,995,328</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes emergency response capacity and external relations activities in Southern Africa.

<sup>2</sup> Includes scholarships for refugee students.