

# Southern Africa

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

## Recent Developments

Although there has been some progress towards conflict resolution in the Great Lakes region in 2001 (please also see appropriate chapters), Southern Africa still faces serious political and humanitarian challenges, mostly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Angola.

The revival of the peace process in the DRC has given some hope to thousands of Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries, but security on the ground remains fragile. The war is complex, involving six countries in the sub-region and a number of armed groups with different and antagonistic strategic interests. In 2001, this war caused thousands of Congolese nationals to flee to neighbouring countries. Angola has remained embroiled in a far more protracted conflict, and in 2001 widespread insecurity swelled the numbers of IDPs as well as the Angolan refugee populations in Namibia and Zambia.

The conflicts in the DRC and Angola have had an impact on many of the countries in the region and have prevented any significant mass repatriation. However, refugee policies and practices are generally more favourable. All states in the region have adhered to the basic principle of admitting refugees and granting them asylum. In addition, most of the countries have acceded to international refugee conventions and have adopted national refugee legislation that support the principles, rights and obligations laid down in those international instruments.

However, continued movements of mixed populations (refugees and other migrants), throughout the region have affected the favourable disposition of host communities in the region. The rights of refugees and asylum-seekers have on occasion been violated and public opinion is in general becoming less tolerant towards refugees.

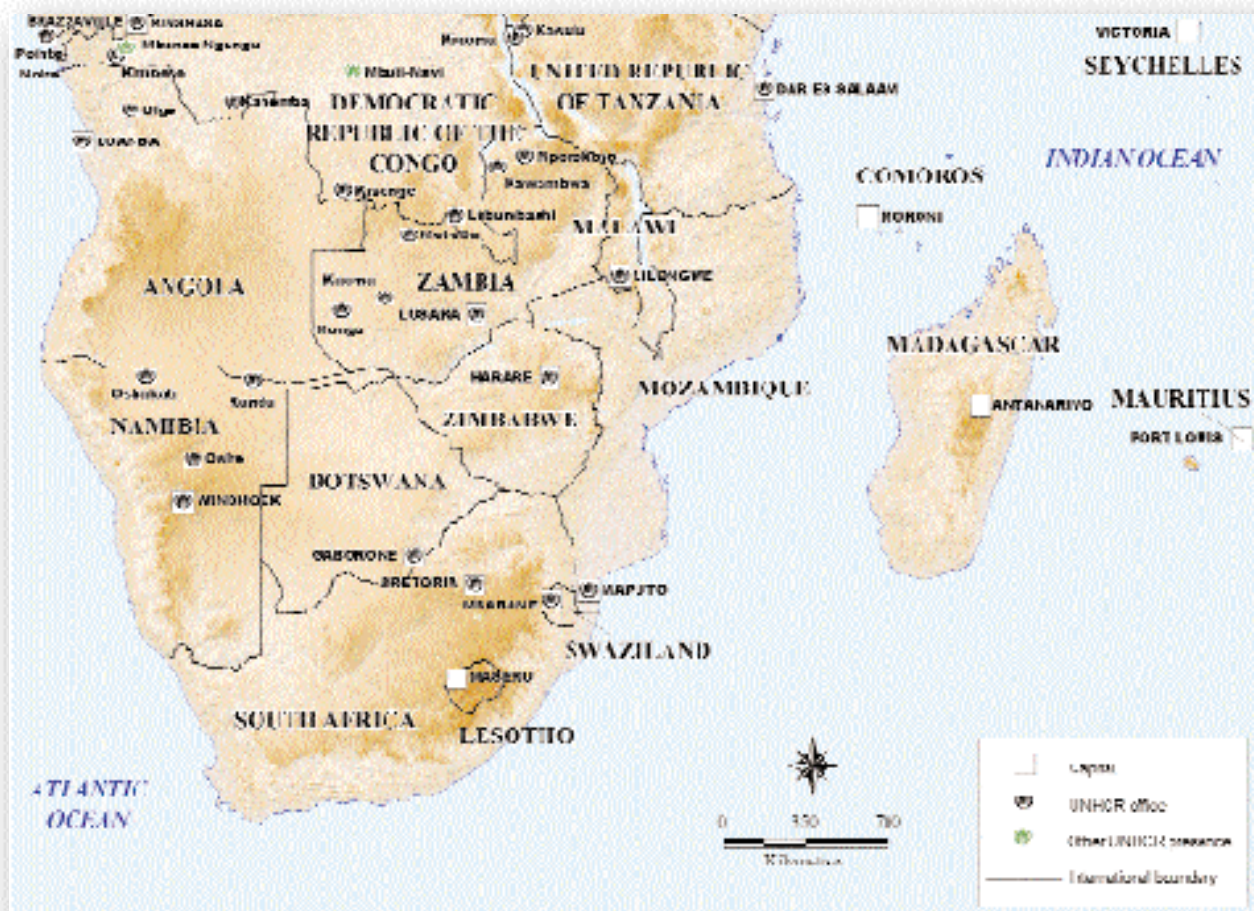
In Southern Africa, refugees are rarely able to find enough work to meet all their needs. Unfortunately, UNHCR's efforts in 2001 to provide adequate protection, including social and community services, were often hampered by lack of funding and other resources. The human cost has been high.

## Strategic Objectives

In 2002, UNHCR's overall strategic objectives will fall into five main categories: protection, operations, resource management, operational security, and external relations.

With regard to international protection, UNHCR will ensure that asylum-seekers are admitted to the countries of asylum and receive fair treatment in accordance with international standards of protection. UNHCR, in consultation with other UN agencies and relevant entities, will assist government authorities to improve security in refugee camps and settlements and to separate armed elements





from civilian refugees. UNHCR will also make every effort to locate camps at a safe distance from the borders, particularly in Namibia and Zambia.

In 2002, UNHCR will focus particularly on the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees living in urban areas by promoting self-reliance and durable solutions, and by encouraging relevant authorities to improve their treatment of this population. A key policy priority in all cases will be to meet the special protection needs of women and children. UNHCR will also run projects to serve the environment and to combat HIV/AIDS.

In its operations, UNHCR will maintain and enhance its readiness to anticipate and respond to new refugee influxes, working in close co-operation with Governments, NGOs, and other relevant actors. In responding to emergencies, UNHCR will provide relief assistance to refugees. However, UNHCR will move progressively towards restoring their dignity by promoting their ability to attain self-sufficiency. UNHCR's programme implementation and exit strategies will be geared up towards ultimately phasing out these operations. At all stages, UNHCR will seek every opportunity to find durable solutions.

With respect to resource management, the ultimate objective of the Regional Directorate for Southern Africa will be to

ensure the optimisation of the resources allocated to the region. This will be achieved through regular monitoring of programmes, and authoritative guidance on compliance with UNHCR's financial and asset management regulations, and the implementation of auditors' recommendations.

In the area of operational security, the Regional Directorate will maintain a secure operational environment for both refugees and humanitarian personnel. In doing so, UNHCR will request the co-operation of Governments in the region to ensure security in the operational areas, and also to maintain the civilian character of all refugee camps.

In its external relations, UNHCR will continue to interact with regional actors within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1996.

### Operations

The Regional Directorate oversees operations in 14 countries in the Southern Africa region and Indian Ocean Islands. In addition to the country programmes in Namibia and Zambia, which are presented in separate chapters, UNHCR has operations in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.



Angola: Project to address the need to have access to clean drinking water – IDP women in Uige.  
*UNHCR/W. Schellenberg.*

In **Angola**, UNHCR will continue to provide international protection and basic humanitarian assistance to approximately 12,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, the majority of whom have come from the DRC. Most of the refugees have been in the country for more than 20 years. Many rural refugees who had achieved a degree of local integration have once again been displaced by the ongoing conflict. As these refugees are in an emergency-like situation, UNHCR will continue providing basic assistance, which will include food as well as support for primary education and income-generating activities. It is also envisaged that some 3,000 refugees will be assisted with transportation to return to their country of origin.

Although UNHCR's IDP programme in Angola is scheduled for closure at the end of 2001, there will still be some protection and material assistance for Angolan IDPs and returnees arriving in former UNHCR operational areas.

UNHCR will continue to help national and local authorities by organising training on refugee law, refugee status determination and other related issues. In order to build up a sustainable mechanism of protection, UNHCR will provide ongoing protection expertise to other UN agencies and will work to enhance monitoring mechanisms at the field level.

In 2002, UNHCR will provide care and maintenance to some 5,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, in **Botswana**, compared to approximately 4,200 in 2001. The Office's main goal in 2002 will be to provide basic humanitarian assistance for Angolan, Namibian and Somali refugees. At the same time, UNHCR will explore possibilities for durable solutions such as repatriation, local integration and resettlement. For Namibian refugees, who are the majority of the refugee population in this country, UNHCR's assistance activities will include distribution of food and non-food items, and the provision of health care and primary education. Most of UNHCR's activities for Angolan refugees will emphasise protection. UNHCR will concentrate in particular on the issuance of identity cards and the possibility of naturalisation. In order to support local integration, UNHCR will help Somali refugees participate in

income-generating activities, but resettlement possibilities will also be explored when appropriate. In urban areas, grants for secondary education will only be provided on a case-by-case basis, mainly to promote self-sufficiency, by reducing the financial burden on families. However, a gradual reduction of assistance is envisaged for those refugees who have stayed in the country for more than three years.

In **Malawi**, the number of refugees dramatically increased from 1,700 in January 2000 to some 6,000 in October 2001.

The majority of the refugees and asylum-seekers arrived in 2000 and 2001. Most of them are from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda and have settled in Dzakela refugee camp. The planning figure for 2002 is 8,000 refugees, based on an average influx of some 200 per month (almost five times the influx two years earlier).

In 2002, UNHCR will continue to provide emergency assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. It will distribute food and non-food items, and provide health care as well as water and other infrastructural support. At the same time, UNHCR will search for durable solutions for these populations.

In close consultation with the Government, UNHCR will concentrate its efforts on encouraging the Government to remove the reservations it has made to the 1951 Convention in the areas of education, employment and business. These reservations have had a negative effect on the local integration of refugees.

In 2001, UNHCR in **Mozambique** assisted 3,362 out of a total population of 3,409 refugees and asylum-seekers from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and other neighbouring countries. While most of them are settled in camps, such as Massaca II and Bobole, a third of the population resides in Maputo, the capital city. UNHCR's planning figure for Mozambique in 2002 is 4,609 based on an estimated new arrival rate of 100 per month.

Although Mozambique has acceded to the 1951 Convention, it has made serious reservations on property rights, trades union membership, employment, professional qualifications, education and freedom of movement. At the present time, these reservations constitute a major obstacle to the local integration of refugees. UNHCR will continue its dialogue with the Government on this issue.

In 2002, UNHCR will provide basic assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers in Mozambique. Assistance will include food provisions to some 2,000 refugees, local travel allowances for refugees wishing to transfer to Nampula, non-food items, health care, safe water and sanitary facilities, community services, support to primary and secondary education, language training and support for income-generating activities.



As at 31 December 2000, the **South African** Government database showed that since 1994, 62,246 refugees and asylum-seekers had arrived in the country in successive waves. 15,063 of them being granted refugee status. These refugees were from the following countries: Somalia (32 per cent), the DRC (29.6 per cent), Angola (25.9 per cent), Burundi (4.2 per cent), the Republic of the Congo (3.9 per cent) and other countries (4.4 per cent). They are living in major urban centres such as Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, and Port Elizabeth.

UNHCR's planning figure for South Africa in 2002 is 70,000, and the Office's main objective is to facilitate an environment conducive to local integration of refugees and to provide temporary assistance to the most vulnerable asylum-seekers, such as women, children, the disabled and the elderly. UNHCR will continue to support the National Consortium of Refugee Affairs, which is the main body lobbying and speaking out on behalf of refugees. UNHCR will also encourage the Government to continue providing assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Basic assistance provided by UNHCR through its implementing partners or, where there is no UNHCR presence, through UNDP, will include lump sum allowances to vulnerable refugees to cover needs such as transportation, domestic needs, food, and primary and secondary education. UNHCR will also use micro-loan programmes to help skilled refugees get back on their feet in business. At the same time, UNHCR will enhance local capacity to respond to refugee needs by offering training programmes to government officials and NGOs. In 2002, UNHCR will pursue reproductive health activities and search for durable solutions, including resettlement and repatriation where appropriate.

At the regional level, UNHCR's Southern Africa Directorate will establish a regional stockpile of non-food items in order to strengthen UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response capacity in the region.

UNHCR closed its office in the Kingdom of **Swaziland** at the end of September 2001. An implementing partner will take over UNHCR activities in 2002 under the supervision of the office in Pretoria. At the end of 2001, UNHCR will be assisting 1,014 urban refugees and asylum-seekers. This figure is likely to be the same in 2002. The majority of the refugees and asylum-seekers originate from the Great Lakes region (Burundi, the DRC, and Rwanda) and have lived in the country for several years on temporary residence permits.

Angola: Refugee children carrying firewood and clean drinking water. UNHCR/W. Schellenberg.



The main goal for UNHCR in this country will be to address the challenges placed upon the protection regime. At the same time, UNHCR will progressively reduce its material assistance in order to encourage refugees to become self-reliant. However, basic assistance will continue to be provided on a case-by-case basis, especially to vulnerable groups, such as single mothers with children.

In 2002, UNHCR will work harder to reinforce the capacity of the kingdom's Eligibility Commission. It is expected that the Parliament will have adopted the National Refugee Bill by 2002.

Most of the refugees and asylum-seekers in **Zimbabwe** are from the Great Lakes region (Burundi, DRC and Rwanda), Angola, Ethiopia and Sudan. Urban refugees live in large urban areas such as Harare, while Tongogara refugee camp hosts rural refugees.

UNHCR's planning figure for Zimbabwe in 2002 is 8,500. The Office's main goal in Zimbabwe for 2002 will be to ensure that refugees are treated in accordance with international standards of protection and to promote the establishment of a national refugee eligibility law. At the same time, UNHCR will search for durable solutions where appropriate. Assistance will be provided to refugee children in order to enable them to attend pre-school, primary and secondary school. Basic health care, water and sanitation will be provided as a tool to fight communicable disease. Needy refugees will receive financial assistance for vocational and technical training. Support for income-generating opportunities will be provided to skilled refugees. Agricultural activity will also be supported, both among refugees and in host communities, in order to enhance food security, foster enterprise development, and contribute to social stability.

UNHCR will continue to promote the institution of asylum with the governments of the **Indian Ocean islands** (the Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles).

#### BUDGET (USD)

Country	Annual Programme
Regional Office (Pretoria, South Africa)	2,207,423
Angola	4,172,514
Botswana	1,742,672
Malawi	1,131,038
Mozambique	1,422,287
Namibia	6,276,926
South Africa	4,855,348
Swaziland	155,800
Zambia	15,500,469
Zimbabwe	2,041,039
Regional Activities <sup>1</sup>	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,705,516</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes scholarships for refugee students in Southern African countries.