



Southern Africa

Internally displaced people at a site in Bule, Ituri Province, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where two men and four children were killed in an attack.

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“We are never as effective as when the “whole-of-society” is working together to bring compassion, resources and expertise in response to humanitarian situations. In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees and UNHCR’s IDP Policy, governments, NGOs, civil society, private sector and people of concern are UNHCR’s most important partners in responding to the displacement of more than 6.2 million people of concern in the Southern Africa region.”

Valentin Tapsoba

Director, Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Ensuring a favourable protection environment

The 16 countries in the Southern Africa region host more than 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia and Somalia. There were in addition some 5 million IDPs and IDP returnees, nearly all of whom were in the DRC. In 2019, there was a more than 8% increase in the population of concern to UNHCR compared to the previous year, with mixed migratory flows also placing a strain on national asylum systems, triggering restrictive migration and refugee policies in the region.

Against this backdrop, UNHCR will continue advocating accession to, and ratification of, international and regional instruments on refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. In the Republic of Congo, UNHCR will advocate the adoption of a national asylum law while the Seychelles has requested technical support in drafting a national legal asylum framework that could prove a model for other Indian Ocean Island States. Mauritius

and UNHCR agreed on standard operating procedures to prevent refoulement, facilitate refugee status determination and solutions identification. UNHCR will also support ratification of the Kampala Convention by States and its incorporation into national laws and policies.

There will be a strong focus on prevention of statelessness in the region in 2020. UNHCR will support Angola and the Kingdom of Eswatini in developing national action plans on the eradication of statelessness and assist the Kingdom of Eswatini and Zimbabwe in undertaking comprehensive studies on statelessness. The Republic of Congo and the Comoros have pledged to accede to both statelessness conventions.

At a regional level, UNHCR will also seek to focus its efforts in operationalizing the Global Compact on Refugees through partnerships with relevant regional economic communities such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with which a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2019.

Providing community-based protection and multi-sectoral assistance

UNHCR will provide multi-sectoral protection and emergency assistance to populations of concern and host communities, anchoring the response in national services and government systems, development plans, multi-year strategies and regional protection frameworks and policies. Particular attention will be paid to the needs of children and women. In the DRC, UNHCR will provide multi-purpose cash grants to 17,500 IDP and host community households as well as 26,500 shelters. In addition, support to primary education will be provided for 68,000 refugee students from Burundi, the Central African Republic and South Sudan, while 6,000 refugee households will receive shelter support. In Malawi, the congestion of Dzaleka refugee camp poses a significant risk to the well-being of the 42,000 refugees there. Due to Malawi's encampment policy, most are unable to provide basic needs for their families and depend largely on aid provided by UNHCR and partners.

Given the scale and magnitude of internal displacement in the DRC, particularly eastern DRC, UNHCR is significantly stepping up its support to IDPs in line with UNHCR's new IDP Policy.

This means ensuring its rapid response is relevant to the context; expanding its protection interventions, including community-based approaches and social cohesion activities; advocating better protection for people of concern; and carrying out emergency shelter and camp coordination and camp management, inter-agency coordination and operational delivery.

Pursuing durable solutions for people of concern

In eastern DRC, armed conflict and inter-communal violence fuel displacement and slow return. Despite the trend towards voluntary returns in the Kasai provinces, peacebuilding continues to be fragile because of intercommunity tension, and weak local governance and security. UNHCR will also contribute to resilience and solutions in its IDP response by coordinating with humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners, while supporting the inclusive application of national and provincial development plans.

In line with the Global Compact, whenever possible, UNHCR is working with governments to support voluntary returns to various parts of the DRC, so such returns can take place when populations are ready. Voluntary returns of refugees from the DRC are ongoing from Angola, and planning is underway for returns from the Republic of Congo and Zambia. Voluntary repatriation tripartite agreements will be important avenues to raise refugee concerns related to creating conducive conditions in return areas, and to highlight any barriers to sustainable return and reintegration, such as security, governance, social cohesion and services.

In most countries in the region, as prospects for voluntary repatriation remain limited, UNHCR is focusing on advancing local integration through advocating for socioeconomic and legal inclusion, as well as enhancing education, self-reliance and livelihood programmes in cooperation with host governments and other relevant stakeholders. Many countries of asylum are also working towards integrating former refugees who wish to remain. In Zambia, UNHCR is advocating the issuance

of residence permits for 10,000 former Angolan refugees and 4,000 former Rwandan refugees as part of the legal integration process. Namibia is also in the process of formalizing the residency and inclusion of former Angolan refugees. The DRC Government is considering offering long-stay visas to up to 80,000 Rwandans who have indicated their wish to remain.

Promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence

South Africa receives a high number of asylum applications, has a large asylum appeal backlog and complex protection problems faced by people of concern. Thus, social cohesion between refugees and host communities can be a challenge. In South Africa, in line with the "whole-of-society" approach, UNHCR will establish new partnerships and further strengthen existing relationships with relevant stakeholders to enhance the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, including government, civil society, faith-based organizations, private sector and host communities. UNHCR will promote social cohesion and peaceful co-existence in refugee-hosting communities through a community-based approach, protection monitoring as well as social and legal assistance.

More than 95% of IDPs in the DRC live in host communities and 62% are children. Community-based protection programmes will seek to involve displaced populations and their hosts in resolving low-level disputes and identifying significant threats to raise with authorities. Such programmes support more inclusive responses while promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

Enhancing emergency preparedness and response capacity

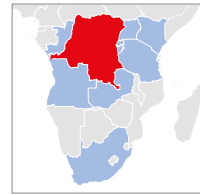
As the region is highly exposed to the effects of climate change, and to natural disasters, UNHCR will enhance its preparedness and response capacity to be quicker and more effective in emergencies, including natural disasters. Following the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai in Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, UNHCR, through its partnership with SADC, will assist Member States in enhancing their emergency preparedness and response capacities to better manage such situations in the future. In Mozambique, as part of responsible disengagement from its role in the inter-agency response to Idai, UNHCR will have a limited operational presence in Beira, Sofala Province, until 30 June 2020 focusing on Protection Cluster coordination, protection monitoring and community-based protection. In eastern DRC, UNHCR will continue building a flexible-response capacity and working with local authorities and organisations to reinforce their emergency preparedness. It will also contribute to stronger inter-agency contingency planning through the Protection, Shelter and CCCM Clusters that it leads or co-leads.

In line with the new IDP Policy, in the DRC, UNHCR will contribute to a predictable emergency response while working closely with local leaders on their preparedness for cyclic violence and displacement. UNHCR will also support local authorities and communities to respond to the needs of affected populations through national and local institutions.

The new Policy on "UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement"



MAJOR SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2020



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The DRC is the region's worst-affected country, and with some of the highest levels of displacement in the world. Following elections in December 2018, the political climate improved, with a peaceful transition of power. Unfortunately, the escalation of military operations against armed groups on the one hand, and the rise of conflicts between communities on the other, has resulted in further forced displacement. Instead of decreasing, displacement is most likely to remain the same in 2020 and 2021.

There are more than 4 million IDPs and 1 million IDP returnees—some 10% of the world's internally displaced. Fighting, regional tensions, and exploitative resource extraction are among the triggers for this massive internal displacement, worsened by the Ebola outbreak in the North Kivu and Ituri Provinces.

Congolese refugees are the largest single refugee population in the region. There are nearly 887,000 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers hosted across 20 African countries in both emergency and protracted situations, and for whom the 2020-2021 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the DRC situation is designed.

UNHCR's response strategy will provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable refugees, support livelihood opportunities and a resilience-based approach. Given host communities' limited capacity to support the impact of massive refugee numbers, the strategy will also address the needs of local populations, strengthening peaceful co-existence and building social cohesion. Effective inter-agency cooperation and coordination will be key to provide strong leverage for appropriate solutions, the delivery of protection, humanitarian assistance, and support to sustainable development.

887,000
REFUGEES & ASYLUM-SEEKERS

4 million
INTERNALLY DISPLACED

1 million
IDP RETURNÉES

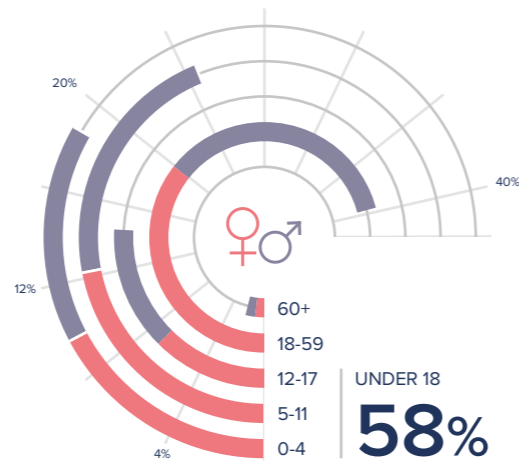
55%
CHILDREN

6.2 million

2020 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

REFUGEES	748,000
ASYLUM-SEEKERS	286,000
RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPs)	1 million
IDPs	4 million
OTHERS OF CONCERN	31,000

AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS | January 2019



The Southern Africa region hosts some 6.2 million people of concern in 16 countries. Although several countries in the region are experiencing economic growth, many are still struggling with inequality, poverty, natural disasters, drought, food shortages, poor social protection, xenophobia, and a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Mixed migratory flows are straining national asylum systems and triggering restrictive migration and refugee policies in the region. Massive internal displacement in eastern DRC has generated overwhelming humanitarian needs.



- Situation
- CRRF country
- IDP initiative
- L 1/2/3 Level of emergency

Strengthening coordination mechanisms and partnerships

Taking advantage of the newly-established Regional Bureau for Southern Africa, UNHCR will engage with regional mechanisms and structures in more predictable, inclusive and collaborative ways. These will include humanitarian and development actors such as the African Union and SADC, relevant government institutions, the UN system, and financial institutions, in line with the Global Compact, including its Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework.

In the DRC, a nexus pilot in North Kivu, co-chaired by UNHCR and UNDP, will support local efforts to respond to, or prevent, displacement and to render

some areas conducive to settlement and sustainable voluntary return. In Zimbabwe, the partnership launched with the African Development Bank in the livelihood and energy sectors for refugees and host communities will be strengthened. In Angola's Lóvua settlement, a comprehensive livelihood strategy is being developed with WFP focusing on building refugee resilience and self-reliance. Also in Angola, UNHCR and UNDP are strengthening local governance, social cohesion and resilience in refugee-hosting communities in Lunda Norte Province. Similarly, in Mozambique UNHCR, FAO, UN-Habitat and WFP are collaborating on enhancing livelihood opportunities for refugees residing in the Maratane settlement in Nampula Province.

IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING

Malawi's encampment policy means 42,000 people of concern in Dzaleka Camp rely on food assistance provided by WFP. Food shortages often result in negative coping mechanisms, such as selling sex theft and begging.

In Angola, UNHCR will continue to implement its 2019-2024 livelihood strategy, which aims to strengthen the self-reliance of refugees and host communities. A lack of comprehensive livelihoods support in the Lóvua settlement, combined with restrictive conditions for mobility, a non-existent formal job market and shortage of educational facilities (including vocational training centres), leaves people of concern particularly vulnerable.

The humanitarian situation for IDPs in the DRC is dire. UNHCR has responded to some of the overwhelming needs but does not have the resources—namely, staff or operational funds—to adequately deliver and coordinate protection, emergency shelter and camp coordination and management assistance in eastern DRC. A key need is shelter for both refugees and IDPs. Without it, many

families and vulnerable individuals are forced to sleep in open areas or in public buildings, exposed to the elements, to protection risks and to violence. For instance, due to a lack of funding, almost 7,700 additional shelters are needed to enable South Sudanese refugee families to live in safety and with dignity.

Furthermore, the WASH situation in refugee-hosting areas in the DRC is often below accepted international standard, with shared latrines and showers for many families, and limited access to water. This can have a critical impact on the hygiene and health situation and lead, under certain circumstances, to major outbreaks—such as cholera or water-related diseases—given that diseases tend to spread out quickly in overcrowded camps and sites.

Limited funds also mean that often only the most urgent needs of people of concern are met. Conversely, it means UNHCR is unable to reduce people of concern's dependence on humanitarian assistance in the region or fully implement its durable solutions agenda.

BUDGETS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA | USD

OPERATION	2019 Current budget (as of 30 June 2019)	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL	2021 Proposed budget
		Refugee programmes	Stateless programmes	Reintegration projects	IDP projects		
Regional Bureau for Southern Africa*	2,835,000	10,713,799				10,713,799	10,437,597
Regional activities for Southern Africa*		4,000,000				4,000,000	4,000,000
Angola	28,998,774	21,897,368	120,000			22,017,368	22,465,891
Congo	26,424,258	24,634,562	1,154,957		2,311,039	28,100,558	27,615,833
Democratic Republic of the Congo	149,477,340	85,606,360	5,787,283	6,233,495	56,147,386	153,774,525	188,141,176
Malawi	15,392,055	20,919,809				20,919,809	17,349,902
Mozambique	9,059,794	6,966,402	226,132			7,192,534	9,162,665
South Africa Multi-Country Office ¹	26,356,728	24,933,287	1,823,602			26,756,889	27,953,810
Zambia	22,094,310	20,680,509				20,680,509	19,800,193
Zimbabwe	11,409,490	6,781,881	297,952			7,079,833	6,905,754
TOTAL	292,047,749	227,133,978	9,409,927	6,233,495	58,458,424	301,235,825	333,832,820

* Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole Southern Africa region.

¹ Coordinates activities in Botswana and South Africa and also covers the Comoros, Kingdom of Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and the Seychelles.

