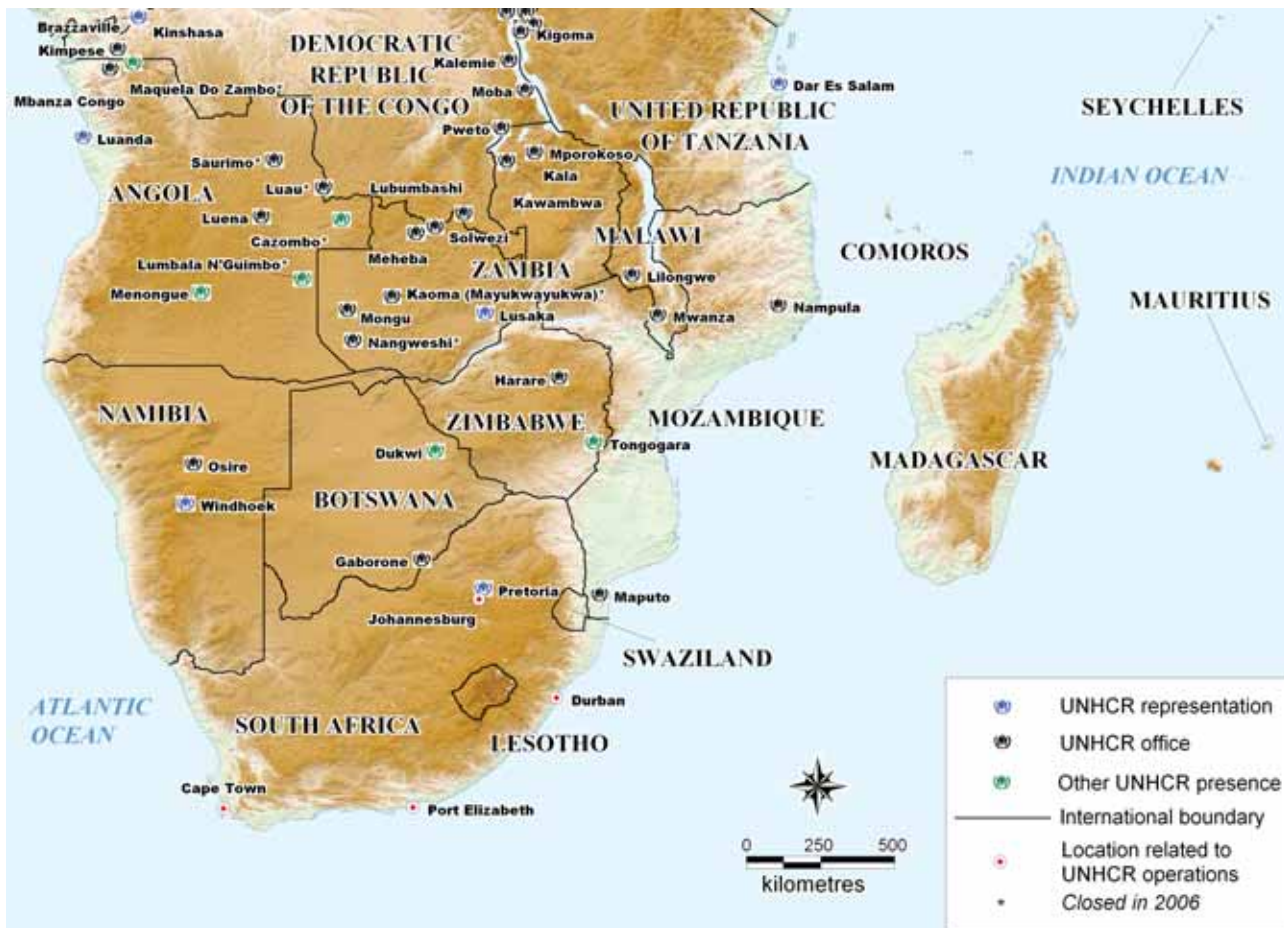
A young boy with a serious expression is looking through a white lattice window. The background is a warm, orange-toned photograph of the boy's face, partially obscured by the window's pattern.

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

Southern Africa

Operational highlights

- More than 47,000 Angolan refugees returned home in the last phase of the repatriation operation from neighbouring countries.
- Significant refugee status determination (RSD) capacity was added in Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, while registration was improved in Zimbabwe.
- In a major development, Governments in the region appeared to be increasingly willing to view local integration as a durable solution.
- All but one of the 69 refugees in Madagascar at the beginning of 2006 were resettled in Canada with UNHCR's assistance.
- The Government of Botswana stopped keeping asylum-seekers with special needs in detention pending RSD.



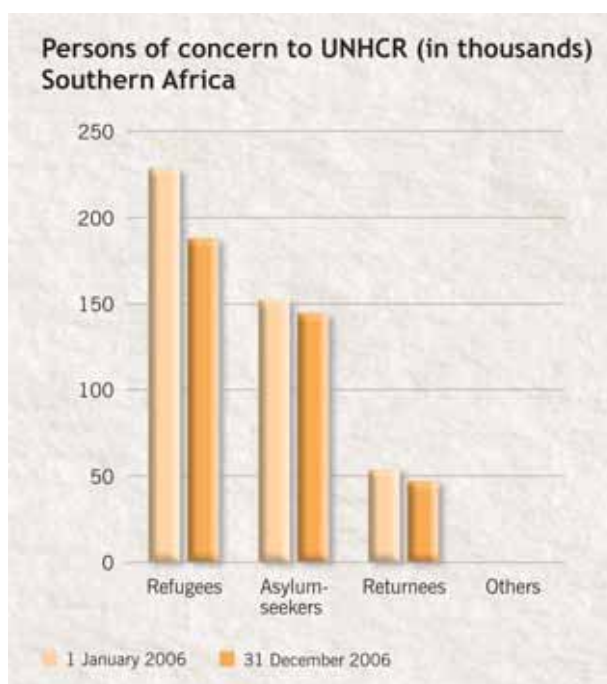
Working environment

With the return of nearly 400,000 Angolans since 2002, the number of refugees and others of concern to UNHCR in Southern Africa continued to decline. At the same time, the increase of mixed flows of refugees and economic migrants put a strain on the institution of asylum and led to tighter border restrictions in some countries.

UNHCR kept a strong focus on ensuring that Governments had the tools to identify people in need of international protection. In particular, UNHCR worked with Governments to ensure that they had functioning RSD and registration systems in line with international standards. Significant progress was made in 2006, with notable improvements in the capacity to process asylum claims in Malawi, Mozambique and South Africa, while registration was improved in Zimbabwe.

Despite insecurity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), thousands of refugees made their own way back to the country, particularly from Zambia. Meanwhile, in the final phase of organized repatriation to Angola, only a relatively small number of spontaneously settled refugees were left to return in early 2007.

A major positive development in 2006 was the increasing willingness of Governments in the region to enter into concrete discussions on local integration for long-term refugee populations. Examples of this include Congolese from the DRC in Angola, Angolans in Botswana, Namibia and Zambia, and Somalis and Congolese in South Africa.



Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Southern Africa in 2006 were to complete organized repatriation to Angola; start facilitated repatriation to the DRC; build the capacity of Governments to handle asylum applications more effectively; help Governments manage improved registration systems; and establish the legal framework to facilitate local integration.

Protection and solutions

In line with the decreasing number of refugees in the region and a shift in priorities from repatriation to reintegration, local integration and addressing mixed migration flows, UNHCR developed a comprehensive plan of action for the period covering 2006-2008. The plan, which has specific country targets, is expected to pave the way for a substantial reconfiguration of UNHCR's activities in the region over the next few years.

As for the asylum framework, key achievements in 2006 included the launching of an RSD initiative in Mozambique to address more than 4,000 pending asylum claims, the establishment of a unit in Malawi to clear a similarly high number of outstanding applications and the consideration of some 30,000 long-standing asylum claims in South Africa. With respect to registration, the major accomplishment was a comprehensive registration exercise in Zimbabwe. As a result, the number of refugees proved to be less than 4,000 rather than 12,000, as had been previously assumed.

Governments in the region showed a growing willingness to consider local integration as a durable solution for long-term refugee populations. Efforts were underway in Mozambique, Namibia and Angola to develop a local integration strategy jointly with the respective Governments. Positive initial discussions also took place in Zambia, under the framework of the upcoming Strengthening Protection Capacity Project. And for the first time, the South African Government provided certificates permitting some refugees from the DRC to apply for permanent residency.

UNHCR continued to boost its HIV and AIDS programmes in the region, with a focus on prevention, improved monitoring and surveillance. A regional workshop was held to standardize HIV counselling and testing in refugee operations, but many country operations lacked the financial resources to implement workshop recommendations. A regional workshop was also held on sexual and gender-based violence, to update standard operating procedures both for

prevention and response. Participatory assessments with children in several countries identified the concerns of refugee and returnee children and potential solutions.

The age, gender and diversity mainstreaming initiative was launched in South Africa, Namibia, Angola and Mozambique. The main protection risks and solutions were identified in participatory assessments with UNHCR, governments, NGOs and refugees.

Constraints

Uncertainty over the political and security situation in the DRC made it impossible to start organized movements to the country in 2006. At the same time, logistical constraints prevented the completion of the organized return to Angola by the end of 2006, pushing it back to March 2007. Continued efforts to promote repatriation to Rwanda yielded only meagre results.

Mixed flows continued to put a strain on the institution of asylum, and some governments were overwhelmed by the numbers of asylum-seekers. For the same reason, UNHCR faced challenges in ensuring that only those with genuine needs received assistance. Local integration was also affected by mixed flows, foreigners being perceived as potentially reducing nationals' access to job opportunities and services.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Angola**, the **Republic of South Africa** and **Zambia** are described in separate chapters.

The number of refugees in **Botswana** remained stable at approximately 3,000, with the largest groups being composed of Angolans, Namibians and Somalis. The decision of the Government to agree to naturalize a group of Angolans who had been refugees for more than 20 years was a positive sign for the eventual local integration of other refugees. UNHCR welcomed the Government's decision to send asylum-seeker families with children and individuals with special needs directly to Dukwi camp, rather than keeping them in detention during the asylum review process, as was previously the case.

The Office brought on board a new partner to launch activities for a self-reliance initiative in Dukwi camp focused on vocational training, which proved to be extremely popular among refugees. Linked to this programme are plans for a job placement scheme, to be implemented in cooperation with the Government. Although refugees are ineligible for the Government's antiretroviral treatment programme, UNHCR was able to secure access for a small number of HIV-positive refugees in Dukwi to a parallel programme run by the Bishop of Francistown.



UNHCR/J. Redden

For refugee children, being educated in their mother tongue is crucial preparation for repatriation.

In **Madagascar**, UNHCR opted to try and resettle all 69 refugees in the country, considering the lack of local integration possibilities and the high per capita cost of delivering care and maintenance assistance. All but one of these refugees were resettled in Canada.

In **Malawi**, UNHCR continued to provide assistance to the approximately 9,000 refugees in the country, mainly living in Dzeleka and Luwani camps and primarily originating from the Great Lakes region. Substantial progress was made by UNHCR's newly-established RSD unit as it cleared 830 pending asylum claims (involving more than 2,600 people) and passed them on to the Refugee Committee, which issued decisions on 20 per cent of these cases by the end of 2006.

Important strides were made in addressing sexual and gender-based violence inside the camps in Malawi, including – in the field of prevention and response – the training of police and the creation of committees composed of an equal number of men and women. Increased awareness of the issue led to a 40 per cent rise in the reporting of cases in 2006 and the forwarding of some incidents to the courts. Following a revamping of self-reliance programming, 350 refugees received microcredits to start up small enterprises, while another 500 were assisted in the farming sector. With the construction of two new classrooms in Dzeleka, primary-education attendance increased to 90 per cent in 2006, with an almost equal number of girls and boys.

In **Mozambique**, building on the Government's willingness to allow refugees to move freely within the country, UNHCR launched a self-reliance strategy for

refugees focused on income generation. The Office also began discussions with the Government on integrating activities in Marratane, the location of the majority of refugees in the country, into the 2007-2009 Nampula District Regional Development Plan.

The Government, supported by UNHCR, launched a major initiative to clear the backlog of more than 4,000 pending asylum claims and maintain its capacity to process new applications. Resettlement from Mozambique was temporarily suspended, with the exception of emergency cases, while the clearance of the rest of the asylum claims was finalized. WFP took over the provision of food for the approximately 6,000 refugees living in Marratane, and UNICEF and UNFPA both agreed to integrate refugees into their programming in 2007.

Following the Government of **Namibia's** agreement to consider local integration as a durable solution for at least some refugees in the country, UNHCR and the Government started planning a local integration initiative for 500 refugees in 2007, with another 1,000 more in 2008 and 2009, respectively. At the same time, the Government and UNHCR agreed to conduct a comprehensive registration exercise in Osire camp, on the basis of which identity cards would be issued to all refugees. The Government indicated that this documentation would give refugees much greater freedom of movement and thereby help them move towards self-reliance.

UNHCR had planned to hand over Osire, the only refugee camp in the country, to the Government, in 2006 given an anticipated fall in numbers to 2,000.

However, because of the very low rate of return among the Angolan refugees, the population remained at 6,000. A progressive handover in the education and health sectors was started in 2006.

In **Swaziland**, UNHCR continued to reduce its activities in line with the increasing self-reliance of the small number of refugees in the country.

In **Zimbabwe**, UNHCR and the Government carried out a major registration exercise using the *proGres* software in 2006. Refugee numbers dropped from more than 12,000 to fewer than 4,000, as many of those on the asylum lists had left the country. UNHCR continued to assist refugees and others of concern, particularly in Tongongara camp. Major gaps in assistance arising from funding constraints were bridged with the help of other UN agencies and NGOs.

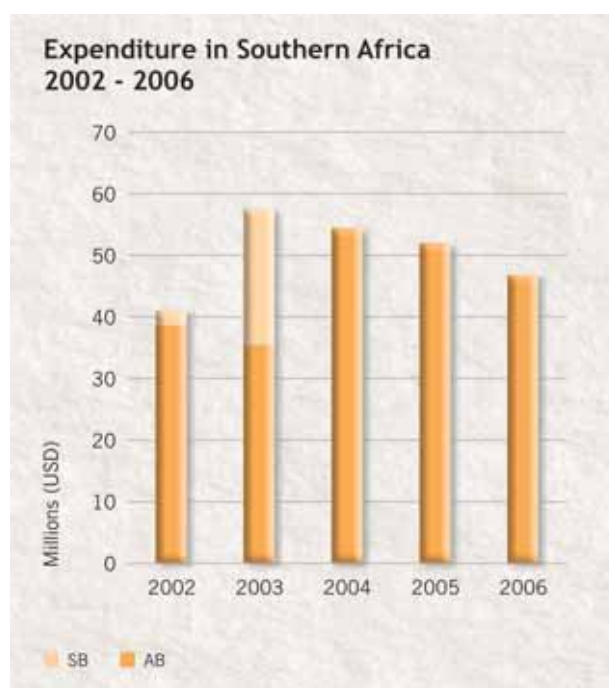
The continued deterioration of the economic situation in Zimbabwe caused major hardship for refugees. The conditions made it difficult for them to attain self-reliance and prompted locals to view them as competitors for the scarce economic opportunities available.

Financial information

While donors provided generous funding for UNHCR's operations in Southern Africa, the needs of refugees and others of concern once again exceeded available resources. Limited funds forced UNHCR to postpone long-awaited repairs to infrastructure; to reduce or cancel the distribution of non-food items; and limit the

provision of education and health services. However, the impact was reduced by a thorough review of priorities on a regional basis, leading to shifts in resource allocations within and between operations in Southern Africa.

The substantial increase in funding for the Southern Africa region from 2002 to 2003 was mainly due to the start of the repatriation of the Angolan refugees. The gradual decrease in operations thereafter resulted from the decline in the number of refugees and others of concern to UNHCR in Southern Africa.



Budget and expenditure (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	AB	SB ¹	Total	AB	SB	Total
Angola	21,186,532	497,500	21,684,032	17,798,069	0	17,798,069
Botswana	2,169,714	0	2,169,714	1,743,192	0	1,743,192
Malawi	2,397,456	0	2,397,456	2,148,309	0	2,148,309
Mozambique	3,238,126	0	3,238,126	2,832,787	0	2,832,787
Namibia	3,305,817	0	3,305,817	2,791,189	0	2,791,189
South Africa	4,179,708	0	4,179,708	3,047,637	0	3,047,637
Zambia	15,436,212	2,825,365	18,261,577	12,237,505	206,585	12,444,091
Zimbabwe	2,122,539	0	2,122,539	1,820,742	0	1,820,742
Regional activities ²	2,544,000	2,630,000	5,174,000	2,162,270	0	2,162,270
Total	56,580,103	5,952,865	62,532,968	46,581,701	206,585	46,788,286

¹ Does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes local integration, resettlement, and care and maintenance of refugees; scholarships for refugee students; external relations activities; strengthening of registration, documentation and refugee status determination systems; and emergency response capacity in the region.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)		
Earmarking	Donor	AB
Southern Africa		
	Denmark	1,683,502
	Finland	1,296,517
	Ford Foundation (South Africa)	23,999
	Japan	700,000
	Sweden	3,768,844
Sub-total		7,472,861
Angola		
	Denmark	1,060,071
	Germany	1,275,510
	Japan	1,000,000
	Merck and Co., Inc. (USA)	30,000
	Norway	638,978
	United States	3,681,672
	USA for UNHCR	30,000
Sub-total		7,716,231
Botswana		
	United States	329,573
Sub-total		329,573
Malawi		
	USA for UNHCR	35,500
Sub-total		35,500
Mozambique		
	United States	38,458
Sub-total		38,458
South Africa		
	Merck and Co., Inc. (USA)	10,000
	United States	38,609
Sub-total		48,609
Zambia		
	CERF	500,000
	Japan	1,000,000
	UN Trust Fund for Human Security	88,484
	United States	2,110,862
Sub-total		3,699,346
Total		19,340,578