Angola

Botswana

Comoros

Lesotho

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritius

Mozambique

Namibia

Seychelles

South Africa

Swaziland

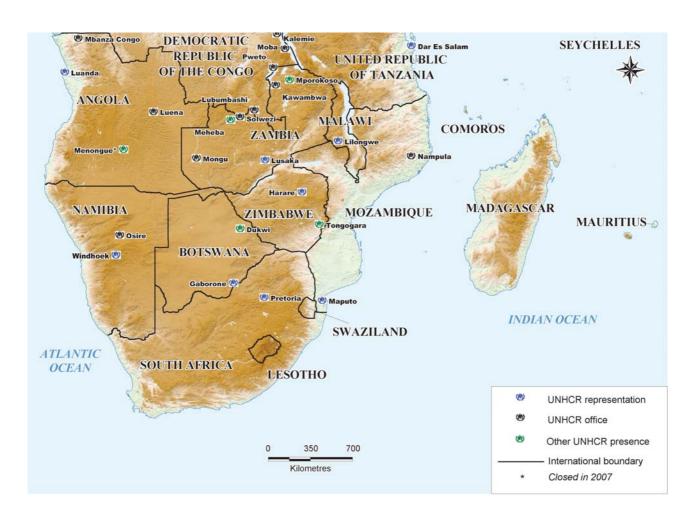
Zambia

Zimbabwe

Southern Africa

Operational highlights

- In 2007, UNHCR helped nearly 18,500 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Angola return home, mainly from Zambia and the DRC.
- The Office registered most Angolans upon return and issued them with identity cards. Birth certificates were issued to more than 143,270 children in Moxico, Kuando Kubango and Zaire provinces.
- UNHCR used resettlement as a protection tool for a number of refugees, referring a total of 1,545 refugees to third countries.
- The Office strengthened the protection capacities of governments in Southern Africa, particularly to manage registration and refugee status determination (RSD) systems.
- The establishment of a regional platform in Pretoria to coordinate strategy and operations in Southern Africa brought decision-making closer to the point of delivery.



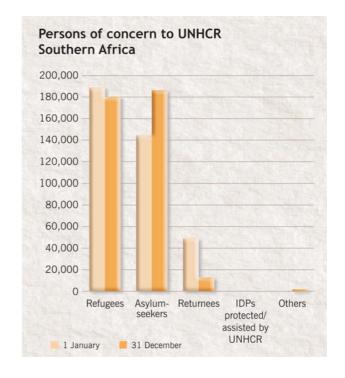
 Following the conclusion of reintegration activities for returning refugees, UNHCR closed all its field offices in Angola. solutions for refugees, particularly through local integration and self-reliance. With this aim, UNHCR supported government efforts to review and update relevant legislation.

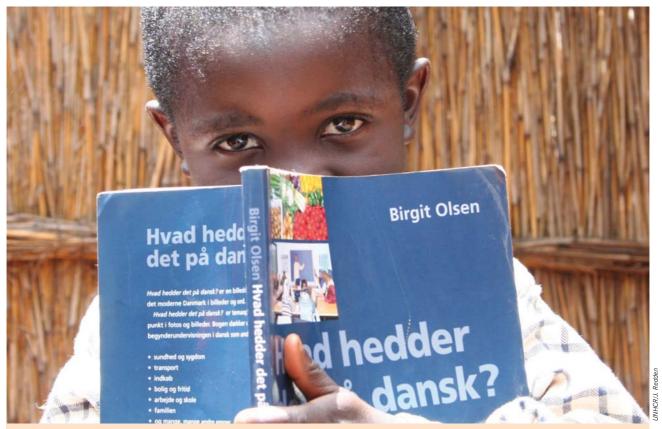
Working environment

With the conclusion of the repatriation of Angolans and the start of the repatriation of DRC refugees from Zambia, the number of refugees and others of concern in the Southern Africa region declined. Now, UNHCR and governments in the region focus on the challenge of providing protection to those of concern arriving in mixed flows.

In this regard, UNHCR focused on ensuring that governments had the knowledge and capacities to identify people in need of international protection. The Office helped governments strengthen and develop RSD and registration systems in line with international standards. Malawi and Mozambique showed notable improvements in their capacity to process asylum claims, while the quality and comprehensiveness of registration rose in all countries.

UNHCR noted the growing recognition by governments in Southern Africa of the need to work toward lasting





This young Congolese refugee and his family left Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi for a new life in Denmark where they will be resettled.

Achievements and impact

In 2007, UNHCR in Southern Africa continued implementation of the registration software, *proGres*, and undertook large-scale registration and documentation projects in both camp and urban settings. The data collected provided UNHCR with an important tool in the search for durable solutions for refugees. Registration also enabled UNHCR to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with individual documents. The Office built upon the registration initiative to ensure that identity cards are issued to all refugees and asylum-seekers by early 2008.

Governments participated fully in registration efforts in Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Staff from government offices were systematically included in the planning process and in some cases led the registration activities. National authorities provided critical information regarding the legal status of individuals as refugees, asylum-seekers or rejected asylum-seekers. The information will facilitate the production of more accurate statistics on populations of concern in Southern Africa.

HIV and AIDS remained a priority area for UNHCR, in view of the high prevalance rates in Southern Africa. In 2007 UNHCR trained refugee religious leaders on HIV and AIDS prevention and control in Botswana and South Africa. The Office cooperated with the University of

Pretoria's Centre for the Study of AIDS to train refugee communities in Namibia and South Africa to reduce the stigma associated with HIV and AIDS. The South Africa session utilized a train-the-trainers approach that will be replicated throughout the region. UNHCR and the regional groups released guidelines on the use of anti-retroviral medication among displaced populations in an effort to establish and maintain standards of treatment for people of concern.

UNHCR also integrated HIV- and AIDS-related activities into voluntary repatriation programmes in the region, most notably in the operation launched to facilitate the return of Congolese refugees from Zambia to the DRC. UNHCR offices in countries of asylum and countries of origin worked in concert to ensure the continuity of anti-retroviral therapy for repatriating refugees. UNHCR facilitated the rollout of post-exposure prophylaxis in all countries in the region except Angola and Zimbabwe, both of which present specific challenges for the introduction of the programme.

In 2007, UNHCR also focused on strengthening the capacity of its staff and those of its partners to establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Another priority was to promote women's self-reliance and ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, in part by documenting good practices and lessons learned.

Constraints

With the improvement of RSD systems, addressing the issue of rejected asylum-seekers is a challenge faced by all countries in the region. While these individuals are not of formal concern to UNHCR, they frequently remain in the camps and in need of assistance, without the option of returning home or staying legally in the country.

Mixed migratory flows continued to put a strain on the institution of asylum in Southern Africa. South Africa, in particular, has faced high numbers of people claiming international protection – the largest number of individual applications received by any country globally. The phenomenon of large-scale migration in Southern Africa has also contributed to confusion among the public about the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers, giving rise to xenophobia in a region that has traditionally been hospitable to the displaced.

The repatriation of Congolese refugees from Zambia to the DRC began in 2007, but the operation was suspended for several months in mid-year following unrest in the main areas of return in the Katanga Province. The logistical challenges of the operation had also been underestimated. As a result, only some 7,300 repatriated – compared to the planned 20,000.

Operations

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

Botswana hosts some 2,900 refugees and asylum-seekers. During the year, 44 Angolans were granted citizenship and issued with Botswana identity documents. The new citizens have integrated fully into Dukwi village near the refugee camp and no longer receive assistance from UNHCR. The Office will encourage local integration as a durable solution for the remaining Angolan refugees.

In **Malawi**, UNHCR protected and assisted approximately 9,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from the Great Lakes region, living in Dzaleka camp. In April 2007, the Government of Malawi closed Luwani camp in the southern region, as well as the Karonga transit centre in the north. UNHCR worked with the Malawian authorities to move some 3,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Luwani camp to Dzaleka camp. Improvements to the Dzaleka facility included the construction of additional shelters, water points and classrooms. In 2007, UNHCR and the Malawian Government collaborated to build an effective and sustainable national RSD system and substantially reduce the backlog of pending applications.

In **Mozambique**, some 7,000 refugees and asylum-seekers live in Maratane camp near the town of Nampula. In 2007, UNHCR and the Government of Mozambique developed a strategy to ensure that all refugees and asylum-seekers achieve self-reliance and create opportunities for permanent local integration. As the refugees achieve self-sufficiency, they no longer require food assistance. At the end of 2008, basic food rations will no longer be distributed in Maratane camp.

UNHCR helped the Government of Mozambique to strengthen and accelerate the national RSD process. The Government is also fully responsible for managing the registration database, using the *proGres* software. In 2007 UNHCR and the Government jointly decentralized their operations, moving staff from Maputo to Nampula and Maratane camp, where most of the people of concern live.

At the end of 2007, **Namibia** hosted some 7,730 refugees, most from Angola and the Great Lakes region. As in the other Southern African countries, UNHCR collaborated closely with the Government to reduce the backlog of pending applications and inform asylum-seekers of their status and rights. A registration and verification exercise, socio-economic survey and mapping of the camp were undertaken to provide accurate data on the refugee community. This is a critical step in developing a durable solutions strategy for these refugees.

UNHCR and the Namibian authorities are working to identify durable solutions for all refugees in the country. Local integration may be an option for Angolan refugees. Many have achieved a high level of self-sufficiency and *de facto* integration, although their legal status remained in limbo due to the legal requirements in Angola for the renunciation of citizenship.

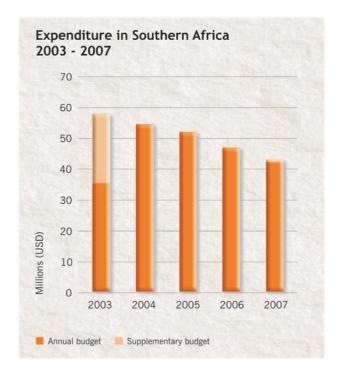
UNHCR's strategy for regionalization and the rationalization of its presence in Southern Africa has important implications for the Namibian Government and operations in that country. Namibia has been calling for increased ownership of the refugee programme and a greater national role in meeting the basic humanitarian needs for refugees and asylum-seekers.

In **Zimbabwe**, UNHCR helps the Government to protect and care for some 3,000 camp-based refugees and more than 1,600 urban refugees and asylum-seekers. Most of these refugees are from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. The ongoing deterioration of the economic situation in Zimbabwe caused major hardships for the refugees and asylum-seekers as well as operational challenges for UNHCR. Inflation reached 66,000 per cent by December 2007, and unemployment was extremely high. It is extraordinarily difficult for refugees to attain

any level of self-reliance, and nationals often view them as competitors for scarce economic resources.

Financial information

Donors provided generous funding for UNHCR's operations in Southern Africa in 2007. The development and successful implementation of comprehensive solutions strategies required new partnerships and programmes and additional resources for a limited time. From 2002-2003, the repatriation operation for Angolans led to a higher expenditure in the entire region. Thereafter, with the decline of populations of concern in Southern Africa, expenditure in the region gradually decreased.



Budget and expenditure (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget ¹	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Angola	12,515,880	0	12,515,880	12,072,706	0	12,072,706
Botswana	2,781,522	0	2,781,522	2,574,943	0	2,574,943
Malawi	3,228,172	0	3,228,172	3,120,017	0	3,120,017
Mozambique	2,819,220	0	2,819,220	2,748,910	0	2,748,910
Namibia	2,974,529	0	2,974,529	2,966,530	0	2,966,530
South Africa	5,698,203	0	5,698,203	5,481,483	0	5,481,483
Zambia	10,684,622	1,139,097	11,823,719	9,825,275	905,430	10,730,705
Zimbabwe	2,126,276	0	2,126,276	1,851,463	0	1,851,463
Regional activities ²	1,676,015	0	1,676,015	1,330,732	0	1,330,732
Total	44,504,439	1,139,097	45,643,536	41,972,058	905,430	42,877,489

¹ Excludes a seven per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Includes repatriation and resettlement of refugees, strengthening registration, documentation and RSD systems, and external relations activities.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)					
Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget			
Southern Africa	European Commission	648,916			
	Sweden	4,366,812			
	Sub-total	5,015,728			
Angola	Angola	317,175			
	CERF	711,406			
	Denmark	1,739,130			
	Japan	500,000			
	Private donors in Angola	50,050			
	Private donors in Switzerland	20,508			
	United States	62,519			
	Sub-total	3,400,789			
Botswana	United States	284,056			
	Sub-total	284,056			
Malawi	United States	12,796			
	USA for UNHCR	51,188			
	Sub-total	63,984			
Namibia	CERF	616,815			
	Sub-total	616,815			
South Africa	European Commission	274,589			
	UNAIDS	181,108			
	United States	150,915			
	Sub-total	606,612			
Zambia	Denmark	688,760			
	Japan	400,000			
	United States	1,902,575			
	Sub-total	2,991,335			
Total		12,979,319			

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.