

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

A Somali man keeps warm in a makeshift refugee camp north of Pretoria, South Africa

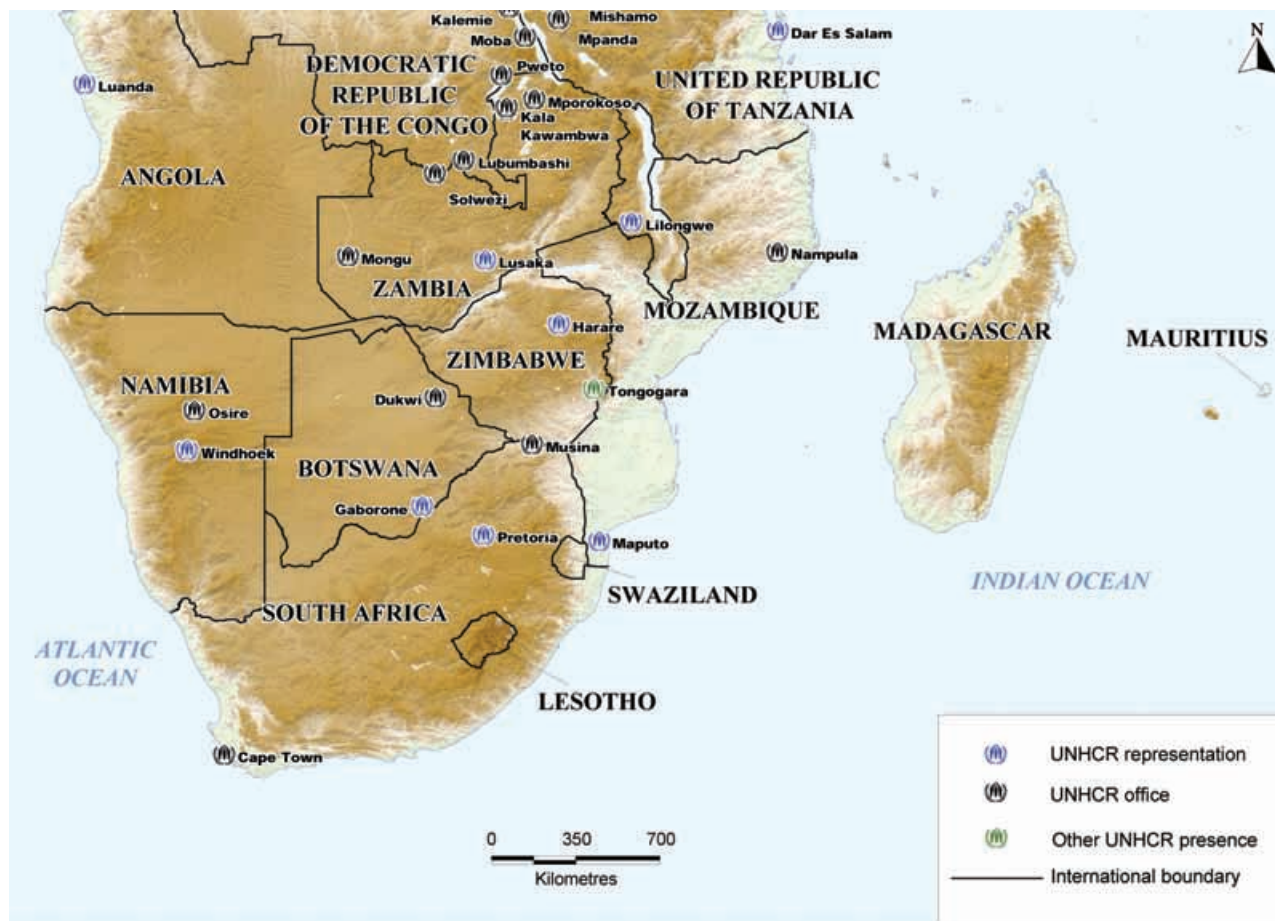
UNHCR / J. OATWAY



Southern Africa

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR facilitated the reintegration of displaced foreigners, including refugees and asylum-seekers, into local communities in South Africa after xenophobic attacks erupted in May 2008. The attacks claimed the lives of 62 people and, according to official statistics, displaced 46,000 others. However, only a few hundred displaced people remained in temporary shelters by the end of the year.
- Though there was no sudden and mass outflow of Zimbabwean refugees to neighbouring countries, the steady mixed movement to South Africa continued due to the dramatic deterioration in social, economic and humanitarian conditions.
- UNHCR assisted 350 Congolese refugees from Mozambique to return home in 2008.
- The UNHCR Offices in the subregion referred more than 1,340 people for resettlement, and some 560 refugees departed for various third countries in 2008.



Working environment

The protracted political stalemate and the socio-economic crisis in Zimbabwe prompted many Zimbabweans to leave for South Africa. Once there, many registered as asylum-seekers, allowing them to legalize their stay and seek employment in South Africa. A far greater number, however, remained undocumented and without legal status.

The presence of a large number of foreigners at a time of economic slowdown in South Africa and the general public's negative perceptions of refugees and asylum-seekers posed a serious challenge. They underscored the need to address the root causes of anti-foreigner sentiment and to review immigration policies.

Progress on the local integration of refugees in the region was slower than anticipated as governments focused on difficult domestic challenges, such as high unemployment rates among their own nationals.

Achievements and impact

In 2008, UNHCR in Southern Africa provided technical support and guidance to governments in the region to enable them to properly conduct refugee status determination and handle registration, documentation and data management for refugees and asylum-seekers. This support aided government authorities in clearing backlogs of pending refugee status applications and gradually assuming responsibility for registration. With a view to increasing the availability of local integration, UNHCR encouraged the Governments of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia and

Zambia to adopt the legal frameworks needed to facilitate access to this durable solution.

Following the outbreak of xenophobic violence against foreigners in South Africa, as well as the mixed outflow of Zimbabweans to the country, UNHCR's Regional Office in Pretoria (RO Pretoria) devoted much of its attention and resources toward meeting the needs of the displaced population. By the end of 2008, the majority had returned to local communities, although many continued to experience problems with reintegration and a few hundred persons remained in temporary sites established for the displaced.

The huge challenges in South Africa taxed the capacity of RO Pretoria, hampered its regional support functions and slowed progress in meeting some objectives. Despite these constraints, UNHCR trained more than 100 employees of governments and implementing partners in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia to conduct registration both in emergencies and continuous asylum environments.

While the organized repatriation of Angolan refugees ended in 2007, new opportunities emerged to bring home some of the remaining Angolan refugees in the region, particularly from Zambia, Namibia and Botswana. The Angolan Government affirmed its readiness to welcome the remaining Angolan refugees home and a series of tripartite meetings with neighbouring countries and UNHCR were scheduled to take place in order to prepare for the return.

UNHCR's care and maintenance programmes for camp-based refugees in Southern Africa sustained their well-being, while the search for durable solutions continued.

Constraints

The developed economy in South Africa and the deteriorating socio-economic situation in neighbouring Zimbabwe propelled mixed migratory movements into South Africa in 2008, creating social tensions that contributed to the xenophobic violence and widespread displacement of foreigners. Similar migratory movements were observed in Angola, whose oil-based economy boomed and achieved one of the world's highest growth rates in 2008.

The absence of a well-defined government policy framework and existing legislative restrictions on local integration hampered efforts to achieve solutions for refugees in the region.

Operations

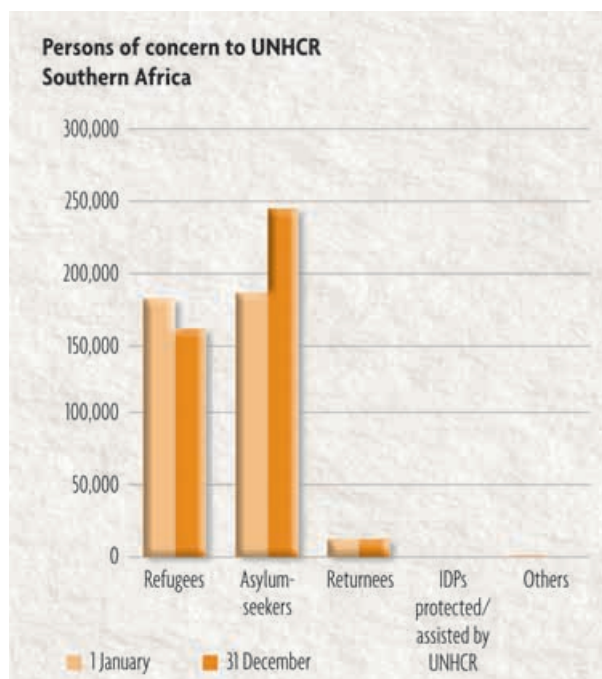
UNHCR's operations in **South Africa** and **Zambia** are reported in separate chapters.

At the end of 2008, **Angola** hosted some 12,700 refugees, of whom 11,900 were from the DRC and had been in the country since the late 1970s. Progress towards the naturalization of these Congolese refugees was minimal during 2008, primarily due to the Government's preoccupation with the parliamentary elections held in September. More than 3,100 asylum-seekers from 24 other countries were also awaiting decisions on their applications for refugee status in Angola. A working visit of government officials to Portugal was organized by UNHCR to help them gain further insight into management practices when dealing with refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also provided technical support to the Government to help it revise the law on refugees and, after the elections, reactivate the tripartite mechanism to discuss the renewed repatriation of Angolans from the neighbouring countries.

Of the 3,120 refugees in **Botswana**, some 930 were from Namibia, 800 from Zimbabwe, 510 from Somalia, 490 from Angola and the rest from other countries. The majority of refugees lived in Dukwi camp. The Botswana Government and UNHCR agreed that local integration would be an appropriate durable solution for many of the Angolan refugees in the country, and UNHCR continued to help the Government advance the process. Most of the Zimbabweans arrived in the country in 2008 and were relatively quickly recognized as refugees by the Government.

Through UNDP, 12 refugees in **Madagascar** were given material and legal assistance and two refugees in **Comoros** received a monthly allowance. Five of these refugees were referred to resettlement countries for consideration. In **Mauritius**, UNHCR intervened on behalf of six Iraqi nationals who were arrested in November 2008 for being in possession of false passports. They were interviewed by UNHCR and were found to be in need of international protection.

Malawi hosted some 4,200 refugees and 6,500 asylum-seekers, primarily from Rwanda, the DRC and Burundi, at the end of 2008. These figures did not include the people from the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia and Somalia) who claimed asylum but did not stay in the country long enough to have their claims adjudicated, presumably transiting onward toward South Africa. Of the refugees and asylum-seekers, some 9,400 lived at Dzaleka refugee camp and the rest in urban areas.



With the Malawi Government's reservations concerning refugees' right to work and to exercise freedom of movement within its borders, prospects for local integration remained minimal. In 2008, UNHCR and its partners increased the number of information campaigns on voluntary repatriation. A total of 100 refugees and asylum-seekers repatriated voluntarily to Rwanda and Burundi. Thirty-two Congolese registered for repatriation. Moreover, 39 refugees departed for resettlement during the year and more than 350 were waiting to do so.

Government statistics showed that there were more than 7,600 refugees and asylum-seekers in **Mozambique** at the end of 2008. Of these, some 4,870 lived in Maratane camp, the only refugee camp in the country. Most originated from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. A number had lived in refugee camps in Malawi, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and elsewhere in the region before reaching Mozambique. Assistance in crop production was given to some 600 refugee families and another 77 families were provided with loans for animal husbandry. As a result, some 1,800 refugees in the camp (or 38 per cent) only require half of the normal food ration and the rest became self-reliant.

Meanwhile, almost 360 refugees and asylum-seekers repatriated voluntarily to their home countries and 83 were referred to third countries for resettlement. In response to the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe, UNHCR established a temporary presence in Tete, Manica and Gaza provinces to monitor developments in the border area and provide humanitarian assistance. While Zimbabweans crossed the border back and forth mostly for economic reasons, some had protection concerns and 141 of them approached UNHCR and the Government in search of asylum.

In December 2008, the population of concern to UNHCR in **Namibia** was about 8,250, including some 6,800 refugees and 450 asylum-seekers. Of them, some 5,920 were from Angola, 1,750 from the DRC, 270 from Burundi and 180 from Rwanda. The majority lived in Osire camp, while some 1,400 resided in urban areas. In 2008, 17 Congolese, two Angolans and one Somali repatriated voluntarily to their respective home countries, while 15 refugees departed for resettlement

in third countries. For the majority of Angolan refugees, voluntary repatriation is seen as the main durable solution, though UNHCR also advocated local integration for some of them.

Some 180 new arrivals were recorded in **Swaziland** in 2008, bringing the refugee population to about 1,200. This increase, the first seen in years, was caused by the xenophobic attacks on foreigners in South Africa, which led some victims to flee to Swaziland. Another significant development in 2008 was that, for the first time in the country's history, five refugees were granted Swaziland citizenship.

Despite the difficult operational environment in **Zimbabwe**, caused by the political, economic and social developments in the country, essential food and health assistance were provided to refugees and asylum-seekers. Of the 4,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Zimbabwe at the end of 2008, some 2,820 from the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and other countries lived in Tongogara camp in the south-eastern part of the country. In 2008, 43 refugees opted for voluntary repatriation, some 190 were referred for

resettlement and 74 left Zimbabwe for resettlement in third countries. UNHCR also played an active role in the Protection Sector Working Group of UN agencies and NGOs operating in the country. In late 2008, UNHCR launched a new programme which focused on strengthening protection and access of solutions for Zimbabwean IDPs and returnees from abroad.

Financial information

UNHCR's programmes in the Southern Africa region were fully funded. However, the budget was not enough to cover all needs and a supplementary programme of USD 10 million was developed to provide assistance to Zimbabweans in Botswana, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia, as well as to prepare for a possible mass outflow of Zimbabwean refugees to those countries. UNHCR deployed technical staff to assess potential camp sites and draw up contingency plans. The total contribution received for the supplementary programme by end of the year was USD 3.4 million.

Budget and expenditure in Southern Africa (USD)

Southern Africa	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Angola	4,814,501	0	4,814,501	4,570,219	0	4,570,219
Botswana	2,684,636	1,411,869	4,096,505	2,252,837	573,813	2,826,650
Malawi	2,431,369	70,000	2,501,369	2,173,102	68,124	2,241,226
Mozambique	3,229,706	1,725,514	4,955,220	2,860,316	550,827	3,411,144
Namibia	2,632,594	0	2,632,594	2,515,693	0	2,515,693
South Africa	7,211,700	5,123,832	12,335,532	6,883,226	3,154,546	10,037,772
Zambia	11,687,721	1,324,579	13,012,300	10,671,170	844,266	11,515,436
Zimbabwe	2,487,871	300,000	2,787,871	2,427,970	276,250	2,704,220
Regional activities ¹	2,538,586	0	2,538,586	2,405,725	0	2,405,725
Total	39,718,684	9,955,794	49,674,478	36,760,259	5,467,827	42,228,086

¹ Includes repatriation and resettlement of refugees, strengthening registration, documentation and RSD systems, and external relations activities.

Note: Excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.

Voluntary contributions to Southern Africa (USD)				
Earmarking	Donor	Annual Budget	Supplementary Budget	Total
Angola	Denmark	1,761,252		1,761,252
	Angola subtotal	1,761,252		1,761,252
Botswana	United States of America	186,000		186,000
	Botswana subtotal	186,000		186,000
Malawi	International Olympic Committee (Switzerland)	50,000		50,000
	United States of America	11,284		11,284
	Malawi subtotal	61,284		61,284
Mozambique	UN Delivering as One	476,865		476,865
	Mozambique subtotal	476,865		476,865
South Africa	European Commission	119,271		119,271
	France		1,462	1,462
	Italy		140,696	140,696
	UN Foundation (UNFIP) (USA)	165,000		165,000
	Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	172,866		172,866
	United States of America	159,996		159,996
	South Africa subtotal	617,133	142,158	759,291
Zambia	Denmark	744,000		744,000
	European Commission	528,771		528,771
	Japan Association for UNHCR	5,991		5,991
	UN Foundation (UNFIP) (USA)	383,800		383,800
	United States of America	1,621,119		1,621,119
	Zambia subtotal	3,283,681		3,283,681
Zimbabwe	CERF	321,352		321,352
	Spain	517,464		517,464
	United States of America		2,325,000	2,325,000
	Zimbabwe subtotal	838,816	2,325,000	3,163,816
Southern Africa Subregion	European Commission	913,433	723,173	1,636,606
	Australia for UNHCR	781,890		781,890
	South Africa	36,496		36,496
	Sweden	5,392,912		5,392,912
	Southern Africa subtotal	7,124,731	723,173	7,847,904
Total		14,349,764	3,190,331	17,540,095

Note: Contribution listed above excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.