



Southern Africa

Working environment

With the return of more than 370,000 Angolan refugees since 2002, as well as smaller repatriations to Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the number of people of concern to UNHCR in Southern Africa is steadily decreasing. At the same time, the region is faced with a sharp rise in mixed flows of refugees and economic migrants. Governments in the region and UNHCR thus face the considerable challenge of ensuring that those in need of protection can avail themselves of asylum procedures and basic humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR is working closely with governments in the region to ensure that they have fully functioning, government-administered refugee status determination (RSD) and registration systems in line with international standards. Notable successes include the launching of joint government-UNHCR projects in Malawi and Mozambique to establish a fully operational RSD capacity, including the clearance of large backlogs of pending asylum claims; a South African Government initiative which has already resolved 18,000 of 110,000 outstanding refugee applications; and the introduction of the new *proGres* registration software in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Mozambique and Namibia.

The organized repatriation of Angolan refugees will draw to a close by the end of 2006, with final movements currently under way from Zambia and the DRC. However, the Angola operation has already shifted focus from repatriation to reintegration: in March 2006 the Angolan Government launched the Sustainable

Angola

Botswana

Comoros

Lesotho

Madagascar

Malawi

Mauritius

Mozambique

Namibia

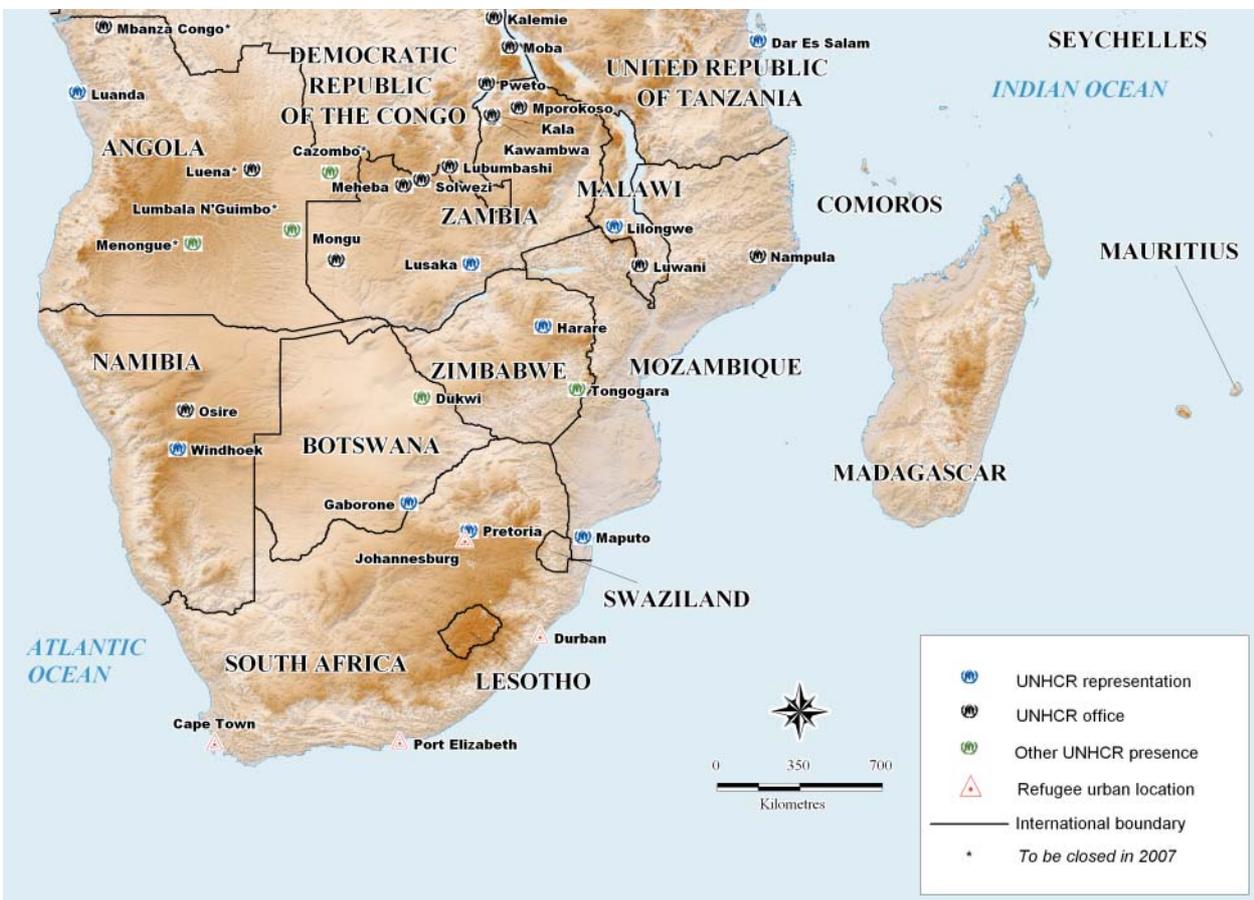
Seychelles

South Africa

Swaziland

Zambia

Zimbabwe



Reintegration Initiative (SRI) in key districts of refugee return. At the same time, UNHCR is working in countries of asylum to develop local integration opportunities for the approximately 30,000 Angolan refugees who are expected to remain in camps by the end of 2006, as well as those who live outside organized settlements.

In a region that continues to be devastated by AIDS, UNHCR and its implementing partners in Southern Africa have intensified advocacy to ensure refugee access to national HIV/AIDS programmes, including antiretroviral therapy. Despite some notable successes at the policy level, in most countries in the region HIV/AIDS services for refugees, including programmes for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and activities to reduce the vulnerability of youth, are inadequate.

Strategy

In line with the decreasing population of concern in the region and the shift in priorities from repatriation to reintegration, local integration and addressing mixed migration flows, UNHCR has developed a comprehensive plan of action for the 2006-2008 period with specific annual targets on a country-by-country basis.

In 2007, UNHCR will target those States in the region with smaller refugee populations, notably Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. In these countries the Office will identify a durable solution for the remaining refugees and make sure that the respective governments have the capacity to administer RSD

and registration and documentation systems in accordance with international standards. This will pave the way for a substantial reconfiguration of UNHCR's presence in the region by 2008.

UNHCR will continue to focus on local integration opportunities in asylum countries, particularly for the remaining Angolan refugees. The development of a legal framework to facilitate local integration will be a priority in 2007. In Angola, UNHCR will focus on co-opting key government ministries and development agencies to participate in the SRI, paving the way to phase out its involvement in reintegration by the close of 2007. At the same time, UNHCR is optimistic that a successful election and transition to new government in the DRC by the end of the year will provide the necessary conditions for a large-scale repatriation of Congolese refugees, who represent the largest group of camp-based refugees in Southern Africa.

Promoting the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy and empowering communities through targeted action will continue to be at the centre of UNHCR's work in the region in 2007. The Office will focus on effective monitoring and evaluation and strategies to promote women's empowerment. It will seek to implement Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security; complete participatory research, with refugee children, on violence; and finalize a review of regional programmes to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.

In the area of HIV/AIDS, UNHCR will continue to support activities such as HIV/AIDS awareness, school-based programmes, improved clinical services



UNHCR provides instruction in French to Congolese refugees to ease their return to French-speaking Democratic Republic of the Congo. *UNHCR / J. Redden*

and home-based care in refugee and host communities. Vital new partnerships with UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as with non-governmental organizations, will be pursued in an effort to facilitate the extension of local HIV/AIDS programmes to refugees.

Constraints

Mixed migration flows increasingly threaten the institution of asylum in Southern Africa, with some governments taking steps to tighten borders and impose restrictions on asylum-seekers. It is evident that the vast majority of the remaining populations of Angolan and Rwandan refugees are no longer willing to consider the prospect of voluntary repatriation. At the same time, local integration is an extremely sensitive issue in some countries in the region, while prospects for resettlement remain limited.

Operations

Operations in the region cover 14 countries. The country programmes in **Angola**, **South Africa** and **Zambia** are presented in separate chapters. UNHCR also has operations in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. As a first stage of the restructuring of UNHCR's operations in Southern Africa in 2007, the office in Pretoria will assume responsibility for four regional initiatives: registration, refugee status determination, repatriation, resettlement and public information. To support these activities, UNHCR will strengthen programme and protection functions in the Pretoria office. Moreover, the regional support posts currently situated in three different countries in the region will be consolidated in Pretoria as of January 2007.

The refugee population of some 3,000 in **Botswana** — mainly Namibians, Angolans and Somalis — has remained relatively stable for the past year. UNHCR will target local integration as the most viable durable solution for those Angolan refugees still remaining in the

country. For the Namibian refugee population originating from the Caprivi region, UNHCR will continue to promote voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR will work closely with the Government of Botswana to strengthen the existing registration system and its capacity to assess asylum claims. UNHCR anticipates that a substantial reduction in its presence in the country will be possible by 2008, based on progress on finding durable solutions for the main groups of refugees by the end of 2007.

In 2007, UNHCR operations in **Malawi** will support approximately 7,000 refugees and asylum-seekers originating mainly from the Great Lakes region. Refugees and asylum-seekers will be provided with basic assistance in Dzaleka and Luwani camps. The repatriation of DRC, Rwandan and other refugees will be encouraged in the search for long-term solutions.

A UNHCR-Government of Malawi initiative was launched in February 2006 to reform Malawi's refugee status determination system and clear the large backlog of asylum claims. The Government is due to take full responsibility for this project in 2007. At the same time, UNHCR will support the efforts of the Government to enact refugee legislation that lifts the reservations Malawi currently attaches to the 1951 Convention.

The Government of **Mozambique** continues to maintain its policy of allowing self-sufficient refugees and asylum-seekers, currently numbering some 1,500, to choose their place of residence. Approximately 4,500 refugees and asylum-seekers who require assistance live in Marratane settlement, located in northern Mozambique. In 2007, UNHCR and its partners, including ILO, will continue to implement an initiative to boost the self-reliance of Marratane residents.

The Mozambican Government and UNHCR have recently developed an initiative to reform RSD procedures in the country. This project, which includes the establishment of an RSD unit in the relevant government department, will continue to be implemented in 2007. It is expected that by the end of 2007 the current backlog of some 4,000 pending asylum claims will be eliminated and a system will be in place to ensure the efficient consideration of future asylum applications.

The refugee population of some 6,500 residing in Osire camp in northern **Namibia** remains stable, with a small number of new arrivals balancing out the few refugees opting for voluntary repatriation. Angolans, who make up approximately 75 per cent of the refugee population in Osire camp, have clearly indicated their reluctance to return home given concerns over conditions in Angola. Interest in repatriation among DRC refugees, who are the second largest group, is also low but may increase in 2007 if conditions continue to improve in the country.

The Government of Namibia has indicated its willingness to explore, with UNHCR's support, all durable solutions options for refugees in the country. These include the possibility of local integration for at least some of those refugees for whom voluntary repatriation is not a realistic solution. It will be necessary to identify additional resources for a local integration initiative, with the expectation that this will allow for a substantial decrease in the resources required to maintain Osire camp in the future, and for a reduced UNHCR presence.

In the Indian Ocean island States of **Comoros, Mauritius** and **Madagascar**, UNHCR is aiming to identify durable solutions, including resettlement, for the small number of refugees remaining by the end of 2007. At the same time, UNHCR will continue to advocate that Comoros and Mauritius accede to the main international refugee instruments.

In **Swaziland**, most of the country's small population of refugees lives in urban areas and is largely self-sufficient.

The few refugees remaining in Malindza camp have attained self-sufficiency. UNHCR expects to phase out its assistance to refugees in Swaziland by the end of 2007.

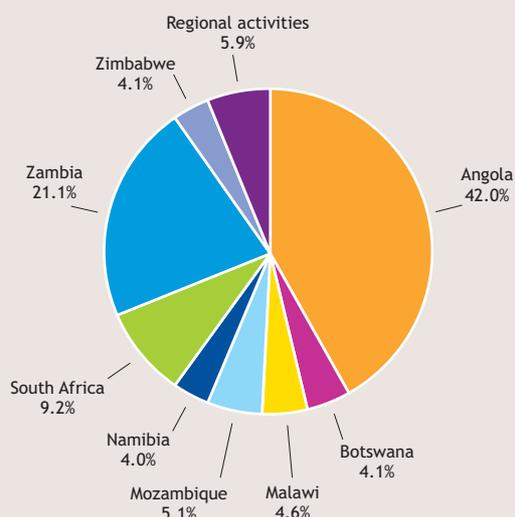
In **Zimbabwe**, a successful joint registration exercise was carried out by UNHCR and the Government of Zimbabwe to register and document refugees and asylum-seekers. The refugee population was established at 3,000, of whom 2,000 live in Tongogara refugee camp and rely on humanitarian assistance; the other 1,000 refugees are scattered in urban areas across Zimbabwe.

In 2007, UNHCR will continue to provide protection to all the refugees in Zimbabwe and deliver material assistance to refugees in Tongogara refugee camp because of the poor economic conditions in the country. Durable solutions will be sought for all refugees, including resettlement for those for whom repatriation and local integration are not an option.

Budget (USD)		
Country	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Angola	23,568,521	14,836,616
Botswana	2,295,356	2,396,276
Malawi	2,581,443	2,557,089
Mozambique	2,847,320	2,589,488
Namibia	2,243,872	2,364,818
South Africa	5,181,084	6,725,028
Zambia	11,836,159	9,794,885
Zimbabwe	2,303,349	2,120,621
Regional activities ¹	3,300,000	2,000,000
Total	56,157,104	45,384,821

¹ Includes repatriation of individual refugees, strengthening of registration, documentation and refugee status determination systems, resettlement of refugees, and external relations activities.

2006 Annual Programme Budget by country



2007 Annual Programme Budget by country

