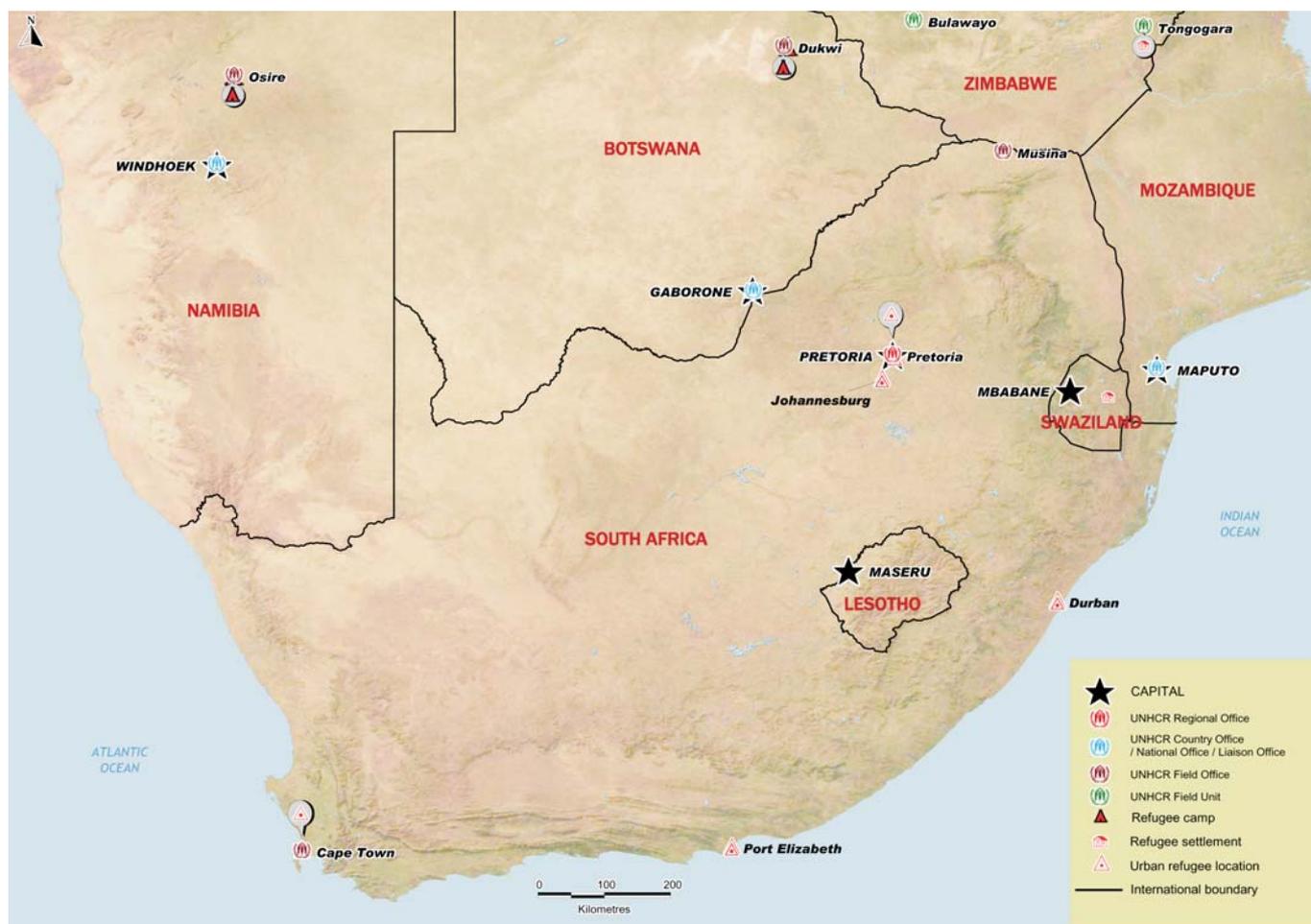


SOUTH AFRICA



Working environment

The context

South Africa received more than 207,000 individual asylum applications in 2008 and a further 222,300 in 2009, representing nearly a four-fold rise in both years over the levels seen in 2007. These dramatic increases have resulted from the flow of Zimbabweans into South Africa and mixed movements from the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions that include many asylum-seekers, but also other individuals seeking to regularize their stay in South Africa for reasons not related to protection.

South Africa's Department of Home Affairs has now established seven Refugee Reception Offices in the major cities around the country to increase its asylum processing capacity. But the backlog of pending applications has increased nonetheless, due to the sheer numbers. In April 2009, the Minister for Home Affairs suspended deportations to Zimbabwe and announced a special dispensation for Zimbabweans to regularize their stay, while keeping the asylum door open for those seeking international protection. While this scheme was not implemented, a new one has been announced in September 2010.

Planning figures for South Africa

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Somalia	21,300	4,300	22,700	4,500
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	11,200	2,200	12,000	2,400
	Ethiopia	5,000	1,000	6,500	1,300
	Various	15,600	3,100	16,900	3,400
Asylum-seekers	Zimbabwe	261,500	45,300	266,500	46,200
	Malawi	33,100	4,900	40,100	5,000
	Ethiopia	22,600	4,300	27,600	4,400
	Various	100,500	18,600	102,500	18,600
Total		470,800	83,700	494,800	85,800

Other refugees and asylum-seekers in South Africa originate from the Great Lakes region (particularly Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda), and the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia). All refugees and asylum-seekers in South Africa enjoy free movement within the country, and most settle in large cities already crowded by unprecedented migration from rural areas. Although they have the right to seek employment and avail themselves of basic social services, high level of unemployment and limitations on services remain major constraints.

Competition over jobs, business opportunities, public services and housing give rise to tension among refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and host communities. Xenophobic violence continues to occur, though fears of widespread clashes in the wake of the 2010 World Cup proved unfounded.

● *The needs*

UNHCR undertook protection needs assessments in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, Port Elizabeth and Pretoria in mid-2009, in order to define the challenges facing urban refugees and asylum-seekers. These assessments then informed a comprehensive protection and solutions strategy for 2010 and 2011, which includes an expansion of time-limited and direct assistance to meet shelter, food, health and educational needs, as well as self-reliance initiatives.

The Department of Home Affairs is expected to review South Africa's migration policies and undertake reform of the national asylum system in order to tackle the challenge of mixed migration. UNHCR will provide technical advice on how to reduce the backlog of pending status applications and appeals, and to improve registration, reception, data collection, case management and refugee status determination (RSD) procedures.

Voluntary repatriation is available as an option for refugees from Angola and the Great Lakes countries, although interest in return remains low. Resettlement from South Africa is required for the most vulnerable refugees with serious protection needs, and who are unable to integrate locally, including because of xenophobia.

South African law allows for the granting of permanent residence and, eventually, citizenship to refugees who have lived in the country for more than five years. To achieve this durable solution, refugees need assistance in navigating the administrative procedures and support to achieve self-reliance.

Main objectives and targets

Fair protection processes

- The level of individual documentation is increased.
 - ☞ *All adult people of concern are provided with individual protection documentation.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- Arbitrary detention is reduced or eliminated.
 - ☞ *UNHCR has access to the persons of concern in detention at all times.*

Basic needs and services

- New arrivals and most vulnerable individuals are provided with emergency shelter and food assistance.
 - ☞ *About 15,000 individuals will be provided with emergency shelter and food assistance, pending measures to become self-supporting.*
- Sufficient access to basic domestic and hygiene items is ensured.
 - ☞ *All members of the target population of concern receive sanitary materials every month.*

Durable solutions

- The potential for resettlement is realized.
 - ☞ *About 1,500 individuals with specific needs are submitted for resettlement.*

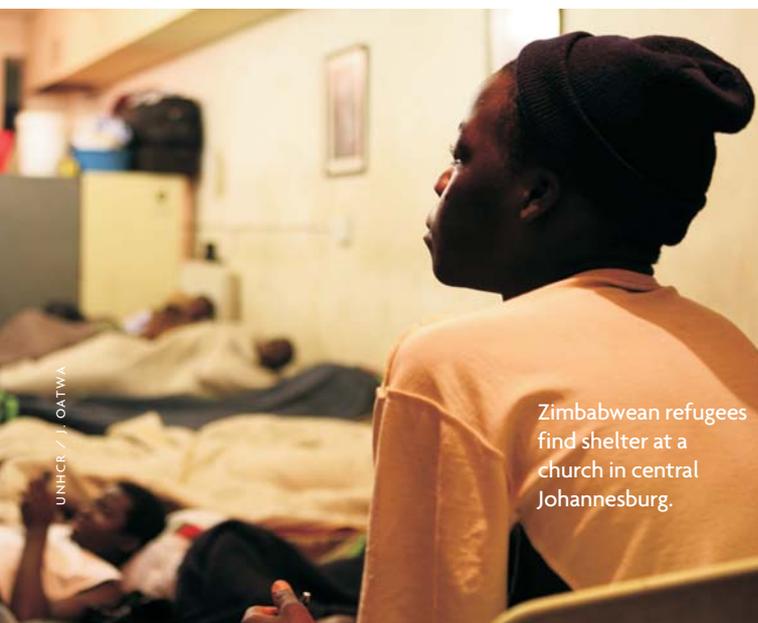
| Strategy and activities in 2011 |

UNHCR's planning for 2011 is based on a projected 470,000 people of concern, including some 53,000 recognized refugees. Within this population, some 15,000 people will receive direct assistance while others will benefit from indirect support.

UNHCR will assist the Department of Home Affairs with technical advice on planned immigration and asylum policy reviews. It will also help the authorities to continue building the capacity of the Refugee Reception Offices and train their personnel. UNHCR will encourage the implementation of fast and fair asylum processes and the setting up of alternative mechanisms to deal with persons not in need of international protection.

Temporary shelter and food assistance will be provided for vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR's implementing partners will deliver shelter assistance on the basis of individual assessments geared to meet immediate needs. UNHCR will also support interventions with a longer-term impact on refugee self-reliance, such as vocational training, job placement and microcredit facilities.

UNHCR will pursue all three durable solutions for refugees, supporting voluntary repatriation, seeking to expand local integration by assisting refugees applying for permanent residence, and using resettlement for individuals for whom no other options are available.



Zimbabwean refugees find shelter at a church in central Johannesburg.

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	14
□ Total staff	64
International	28
National	33
UNVs	3

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Bonne Esperance
Cape Town Refugee Centre
CARITAS, Swaziland
El Shaddai Church
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lawyers for Human Rights
Musina Legal Aid Office
Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
Refugee Aid Organization
Refugee Social Services
Sediba Hope
Sonke Gender Justice
Unit for Social Behaviour Studies
University of Cape Town, Legal Clinic

Others:

IOM

Operational partners

Government agencies:

City Councils of Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban
Department of Education
Department of Health
Department of Home Affairs
Department of Provincial and Local Governments
Department of Social Development
National Disaster Management Centre

NGOs:

Mapendo

The Office will also continue working with the Government and other partners to build tolerance toward refugees and asylum-seekers through public information campaigns against xenophobia and interventions at the community level designed to facilitate dialogue.

○ Constraints

Refugees and asylum-seekers have settled in many major cities across South Africa, making effective outreach a challenge. UNHCR has already broadened its presence by consolidating the Cape Town and Musina offices in 2010, making new partnership arrangements, and planning the establishment of a Durban office in 2011.

UNHCR cannot address the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers living in difficult urban environments without taking account of the needs of less affluent local communities having similar needs. To avoid exacerbating tensions between communities, it is essential for UNHCR to broaden the platform for humanitarian action, engaging other partners in a coordinated response.

While awareness campaigns can help to shape and influence public attitudes, they cannot address the causes underlying the problem of xenophobia in South Africa.

Organization and implementation

○ Coordination

In South Africa, UNHCR works closely with the Department of Home Affairs and the Department of Social Development, as well as the South African Police Service, the South African Human Rights Commission and other national ministries and agencies and provincial and municipal governments. UNHCR collaborates with

other UN agencies within the UN Country Team and leads the Protection Working Group (PWG), which was established based upon lessons learned from the inter-agency response to the May 2008 xenophobic violence. The PWG's membership has expanded progressively to include both Government agencies and civil society.

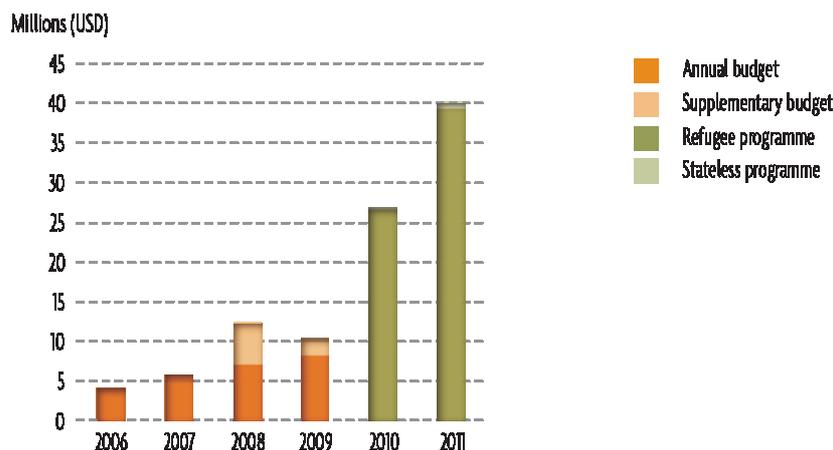
UNHCR's regional office in Pretoria provides strategic coordination, management oversight and technical support for the country operations in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Pretoria office is directly responsible for UNHCR's programmes and activities for persons of concern in South Africa and in Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Swaziland.

Financial information

The budget for UNHCR's operation in South Africa increased gradually in 2006 and 2007, reflecting the steady increase of the population of concern. In 2008, the budget more than doubled to USD 12.3 million, mainly in response to the xenophobic violence that broke out in some major cities of South Africa. Part of the budget was also used to address the urgent needs of the large number of asylum-seekers from Zimbabwe, who arrived following the violence that erupted after the disputed March 2008 elections. In 2009, the budget decreased in line with the improved situation in Zimbabwe and with the conclusion of activities for persons displaced by xenophobic violence the previous year.

The South Africa budget increased significantly in 2010, following the introduction of the comprehensive needs assessment, which resulted in plans to dramatically expand UNHCR's direct assistance programmes for urban refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR's budget in South Africa 2006 – 2011



2011 UNHCR Budget for South Africa (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
National legal framework	334,666	0	334,666
National and regional migration policy	84,666	0	84,666
Prevention of displacement	359,295	0	359,295
Prevention of statelessness	0	1,031,941	1,031,941
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	396,699	0	396,699
Subtotal	1,175,327	1,031,941	2,207,268
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Registration and profiling	1,525,770	0	1,525,770
Access to asylum procedures	102,660	0	102,660
Fair and efficient status determination	322,936	0	322,936
Individual documentation	762,438	0	762,438
Subtotal	2,713,804	0	2,713,804
Security from violence and exploitation			
Impact on host communities	472,954	0	472,954
Law enforcement	169,586	0	169,586
Access to legal remedies	169,590	0	169,590
Non-arbitrary detention	722,221	0	722,221
Subtotal	1,534,351	0	1,534,351
Basic needs and essential services			
Shelter and other infrastructure	6,002,419	0	6,002,419
Basic domestic and hygiene items	6,452,015	0	6,452,015
Primary health care	305,051	0	305,051
HIV and AIDS	344,524	0	344,524
Education	1,910,314	0	1,910,314
Services for groups with specific needs	241,893	0	241,893
Subtotal	15,256,216	0	15,256,216
Durable solutions			
Voluntary return	1,408,703	0	1,408,703
Resettlement	2,129,060	0	2,129,060
Local integration support	5,241,489	0	5,241,489
Subtotal	8,779,251	0	8,779,251
External relations			
Public information	580,866	0	580,866
Subtotal	580,866	0	580,866
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	560,208	0	560,208
Programme management, coordination and support	2,927,644	0	2,927,644
Subtotal	3,487,853	0	3,487,853
Headquarters and regional support			
Global strategic direction and management	127,292	0	127,292
Central emergency preparedness and response capacity	4,517,292	0	4,517,292
Technical advice and support to operations	994,296	0	994,296
Subtotal	5,638,879	0	5,638,879
Total	39,166,547	1,031,941	40,198,488
2010 Revised budget	26,439,591	350,000	26,789,591

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 7,000 people will not receive emergency shelter and food assistance.
- Some 40 per cent of adolescent girls and women of childbearing age will not receive sanitary materials each month.
- Only about 800 resettlement cases will be submitted.
- Some 35 per cent of persons of concern will not receive individual protection documentation.