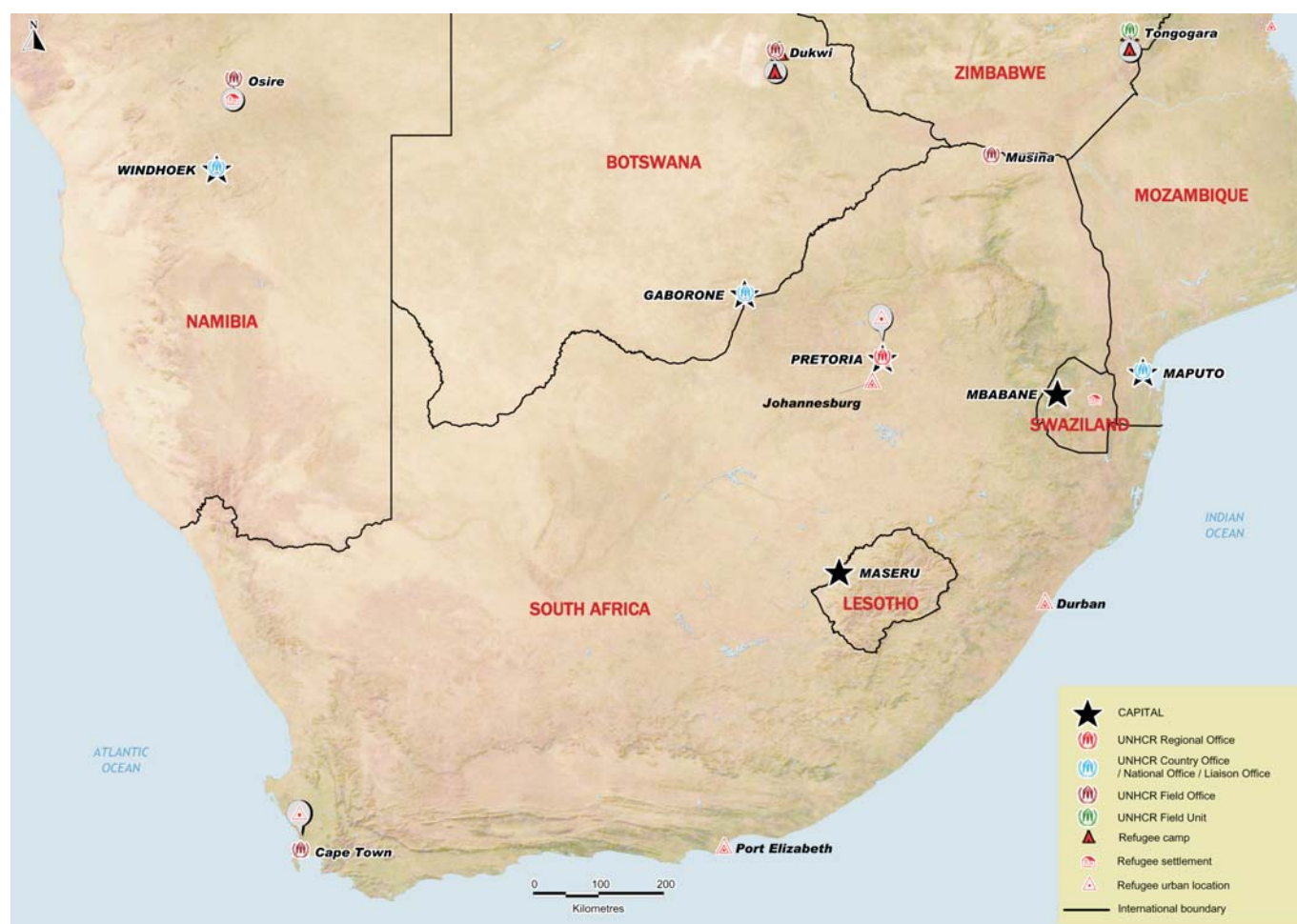


SOUTH AFRICA



Working environment

The context

In 2010, more asylum applications were lodged in South Africa than in any other country in the world. The trend continued in 2011, and the heavy demands on the asylum system have resulted in a backlog of more than 300,000 applications awaiting a decision. Most asylum applications in South Africa are from nationals of Burundi, Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC),

Rwanda, Somalia and Zimbabwe, but there are also some from citizens of China, India and other Asian countries. No let-up in the pressure on the asylum system is expected soon.

As of December 2010 some 58,000 people, mainly from Angola, the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda and Somalia, had been recognized as refugees in South Africa. They are allowed to work and to avail themselves of basic social services, but in practice it is difficult for them to do so because of problems in obtaining documentation. Competition between refugees and South African nationals for jobs, housing, business opportunities

Planning figures for South Africa

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2012		DEC 2012 - JAN 2013		DEC 2013	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Angola	5,810	1,300	5,810	1,300	5,810	1,300
	DRC	12,970	2,390	16,970	2,630	18,970	2,760
	Somalia	23,190	4,550	26,190	5,000	29,190	5,250
	Various	29,550	3,390	35,550	3,720	40,550	3,910
Asylum-seekers ¹	Ethiopia	27,000	4,420	25,000	4,860	20,000	5,350
	Malawi	35,000	5,010	20,000	5,510	10,000	6,060
	Various	104,530	18,640	90,000	20,500	80,000	22,550
	Zimbabwe	175,000	46,210	261,000	50,830	361,000	55,910
Total		413,040	85,910	480,520	94,360	565,520	103,100

¹ Asylum-seekers (pending cases) refers to an estimated 171,700 undecided cases at first instance at the end of 2009 (no update available).

and social services has raised tensions, and aggravated xenophobic attitudes among some in the local community.

UNHCR and its implementing partners provide vulnerable refugees with some support, and advocate for their inclusion in national assistance programmes. For its part, the Government has tried to ease the pressure on the asylum system and make it more efficient. In 2010 it launched a regularization scheme for Zimbabwean nationals who possessed passports. This saw some 275,000 Zimbabweans apply for work, study or business permits. The scheme ended in July 2011, with the issuance of some permits still outstanding. During the process, it was clear that some of the Zimbabweans among the undocumented were at risk of statelessness, although the actual numbers could not be ascertained.

South Africa has ratified the international refugee instruments, and its national legislation embraces international standards of refugee protection. However, the relevant laws are in the process of being amended, and it is feared that some restrictive measures will be introduced.

● *The needs*

The South African asylum system is mostly hampered by the sheer number of asylum applicants, which makes it difficult to ensure that the refugee status determination (RSD) process is always fair and efficient. Providing access to asylum procedures for unaccompanied and separated children remains a challenge, as does family reunification. UNHCR recognizes that overcoming these hurdles requires strong advocacy and technical support.

Refugees are vulnerable to the high levels of random crime that afflict South Africa, as well as sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation in the workplace and detention due to lack of proper documentation. Poor socio-economic conditions among host communities provide a breeding ground for xenophobia. Documents of limited validity compromise refugees' efforts to become self-reliant by making it hard for



Migrants and asylum-seekers from various countries living rough in Johannesburg.

UNHCR PHOTO

them to hold long-term jobs, while at the same time a law allowing refugees and asylum-seekers to have bank accounts is not being fully implemented.

Xenophobia in South Africa undermines refugees' local integration and the stability of their livelihoods. Due to fear of attacks in the townships, refugees prefer to live in more expensive inner-city areas. Accommodation in shelters is temporary and available only for the most vulnerable, often resulting in the separation of family members. Refugees have even been made homeless by urban renewal programmes as they have been forced to leave old buildings they were squatting, when these were deemed unsafe and demolished.

UNHCR continues to advocate for the strengthening of the legal, administrative and operational frameworks that benefit refugees and asylum-seekers in South Africa. With recurrent xenophobic attacks on refugees hampering their ability to make a living or integrate into local communities, UNHCR is increasing the number of resettlement submissions particularly for refugees with vulnerabilities that cannot be addressed in the country.

Main objectives and targets for 2012

Favourable protection environment

- Access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved
 - ☞ Legal assistance and access to the justice system facilitated for 15,000 refugees in Durban, Port Elizabeth, Gauteng, Cape Town and Musina

Basic needs and services

- The population has optimal access to education
 - ☞ Advocacy conducted for access of 6,000 children to education
 - ☞ Early childhood activities for 10,000 children are supported
 - ☞ 20,000 children benefit from enrolment, uniform and scholastic-materials support
 - ☞ Vocational training is facilitated for 2,000 youths
- Shelter and infrastructure are established, improved and maintained
 - ☞ Three-month shelter grants are provided to 25,000 individuals and families

- ☞ A pilot partnership project with the Government aimed at upgrading low cost accommodation for 25,000 beneficiaries is funded

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted
 - ☞ Activities to foster peaceful coexistence to cover 340,000 people
- Self-reliance and livelihoods improved
 - ☞ Support for the development of national self-reliance and livelihood strategy targeting 60,000 beneficiaries provided
 - ☞ Advocacy and lobbying for access to labour market for 60,000 beneficiaries conducted
 - ☞ English language and local language courses assistance provided to 20,000 beneficiaries
 - ☞ Vocational skills training and technical training support provided to 10,000 beneficiaries

UNHCR's presence in 2012

□ Number of offices	3
□ Total staff	63
International	23
National	32
UNVs	2
Others	6

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will advocate for a favourable protection environment and support fair protection processes in a bid to ensure that refugees have access to basic services. The most vulnerable refugees will be given material support, while others will be helped to become self-reliant through vocational training and business grants. UNHCR's durable solutions strategy will focus on local integration, voluntary repatriation and the strategic use of resettlement.

In addition, UNHCR will assist the Department of Home Affairs with technical advice and training. It will also advocate for the preservation of the established asylum space, including the rights of both refugees and asylum-seekers to work and study in South Africa. English language courses, vocational training and small-business training and assistance will help refugees to become self-reliant and integrate locally in urban areas.

UNHCR's short-term material assistance to vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers will address their basic needs and allow implementing partners to integrate such cases into local charitable and government social-services programmes. The most vulnerable refugees will receive emergency assistance comprising shelter, food and medical referral. Efforts will be made to ensure that refugees have access to education and other assistance programmes.

In order to prevent xenophobic attacks, UNHCR will continue to commission the services of radio production companies to create messages promoting tolerance and coexistence. It will also engage in preventive action and advocacy through awareness campaigns, conflict resolution programmes and other community

interventions to improve refugees' local-integration and self-reliance prospects. UNHCR will emphasize self-reliance as a stepping stone to local integration, and step up vocational training and provide more micro-grants to reduce the number of those who are dependent on emergency assistance.

○ Constraints

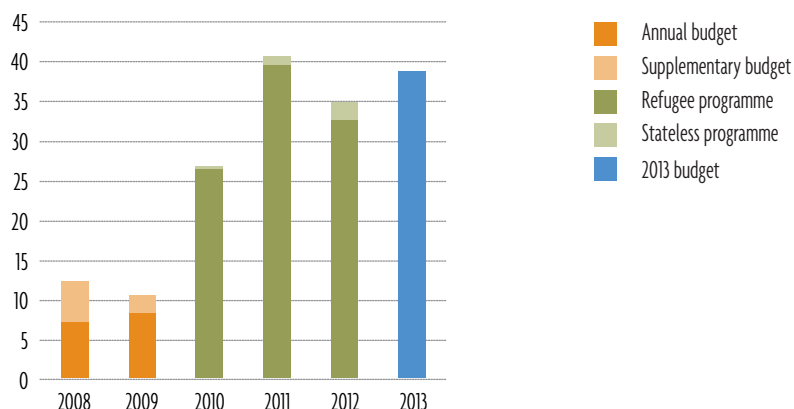
With xenophobia making it difficult for them to integrate locally or become self-reliant, many refugees survive on emergency food and accommodation assistance. For UNHCR, however, providing such assistance in urban areas is very costly, as temporary shelter is only available at commercial rates. Urban areas also present challenges when conducting outreach initiatives or implementing UNHCR's Urban Refugee Policy, mainly because refugees and asylum seekers are spread all over the urban landscape and living among the urban poor, who also may be in need of some kind of assistance.

Organization and implementation

The Regional Representation in South Africa provides strategic coordination, management oversight and technical support for the country operations in Angola, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The Pretoria office is directly responsible for UNHCR's programmes and activities for persons of concern in South Africa, as well as in Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles and Swaziland. In addition to Pretoria, other UNHCR Offices (Field Offices) are located in Cape Town and Musina.

UNHCR's budget in South Africa 2008 – 2013

Millions (USD)



○ Coordination

UNHCR will continue to make it a priority to collaborate and hold regular consultations with government departments, in particular the Department of Home Affairs, as well as the authorities in provinces and cities hosting refugees and asylum-seekers. Cooperation with the Department of Social Development and NGOs will help identify problems and solutions in areas such as xenophobia, child protection, sexual and gender-based violence and local integration.

UNHCR continues to be the lead agency for the Protection Working Group (PWG), which began as an inter-agency response to xenophobic violence in 2008, and now includes Government agencies and civil society. The PWG serves to coordinate protection monitoring and participates in common advocacy and media approaches on key protection issues, outreach and resource mobilization in relation to

refugees and asylum seekers within the context of xenophobic attacks. UNHCR will also work closely with the UN Country Team to promote its mandate to protect refugees within the broader UN context, as well as to benefit from combined resources.

| Financial information |

The level of funding available for the South Africa operation has remained relatively unchanged over the last five years, despite a dramatic increase during the same period in the number of people of concern and growing needs in areas such as prevention and response to xenophobia. The budget for South Africa more than doubled in 2010 in comparison to 2008 and 2009, and further increased by 52 per cent in 2011. Although there is a slight decrease in the needs for 2012 and 2013, the comprehensive budget has remained high, reflecting the increased needs.

2012 UNHCR Budget in South Africa (USD)

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	239,477	0	239,477
National administrative framework	104,094	456,220	560,314
Access to legal assistance	803,704	414,147	1,217,851
Access to territory and <i>non-refoulement</i>	463,048	0	463,048
Public attitude towards people of concern	1,268,479	0	1,268,479
Subtotal	2,878,802	870,367	3,749,169
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Reception conditions	602,772	0	602,772
Identification of statelessness	0	634,147	634,147
Registration and profiling	1,692,001	0	1,692,001
Refugee status determination	2,775,748	0	2,775,748
Individual documentation	104,094	462,073	566,167
Subtotal	5,174,615	1,096,220	6,270,835
Security from violence and exploitation			
Protection from crime	812,281	0	812,281
Prevention of and response to SGBV	412,281	0	412,281
Protection of children	508,187	0	508,187
Subtotal	1,732,750	0	1,732,750
Basic needs and essential services			
Health	1,089,721	0	1,089,721
Reproductive health and HIV services	1,762,663	0	1,762,663
Shelter and infrastructure	2,905,279	0	2,905,279
Basic domestic and hygiene items	4,272,200	0	4,272,200
Services for people with specific needs	826,009	0	826,009
Education	1,686,909	0	1,686,909
Subtotal	12,542,781	0	12,542,781

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

NGOs

Cape Town Refugee Centre
 Caritas
 Swaziland
 El Shaddai Church
 Jesuit Refugee Services
 Lawyers for Human Rights
 Refugee Aid Organization
 Refugee Social Services
 Sediba Hope
 Sonke Gender Justice

Others

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University
 University of Cape Town Legal Aid Clinic
 University of South Africa – Unit for Social Behaviour Studies

Operational partners

Government agencies

City Council of Pretoria
 City Council of Johannesburg
 City Council of Cape Town
 City Council of Durban
 Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs
 Department of Education
 Department of Health
 Department of Home Affairs
 Department of Social Development
 The National Disaster Management Centre

NGOs

ICMC
 IOM
 Refugee Point

BUDGET BREAKDOWN	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	TOTAL
Community empowerment and self-reliance			
Community mobilization	554,094	0	554,094
Co-existence with local communities	554,094	0	554,094
Self-reliance and livelihoods	1,406,678	0	1,406,678
Subtotal	2,514,865	0	2,514,865
Durable solutions			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	178,954	0	178,954
Voluntary return	1,126,391	0	1,126,391
Integration	3,490,646	0	3,490,646
Resettlement	970,189	0	970,189
Subtotal	5,766,179	0	5,766,179
Leadership, coordination and partnerships			
Coordination and partnerships	0	182,009	182,009
Subtotal	0	182,009	182,009
Logistics and operations support			
Logistics and supply	1,234,980	0	1,234,980
Operations management, coordination and support	755,604	0	755,604
Subtotal	1,990,584	0	1,990,584
Headquarters and Regional Support			
Global strategic direction and management	89,477	0	89,477
Subtotal	89,477	0	89,477
Total	32,690,053	2,148,597	34,838,649
2011 Revised budget	39,614,437	1,031,941	40,646,378