

Southern Africa

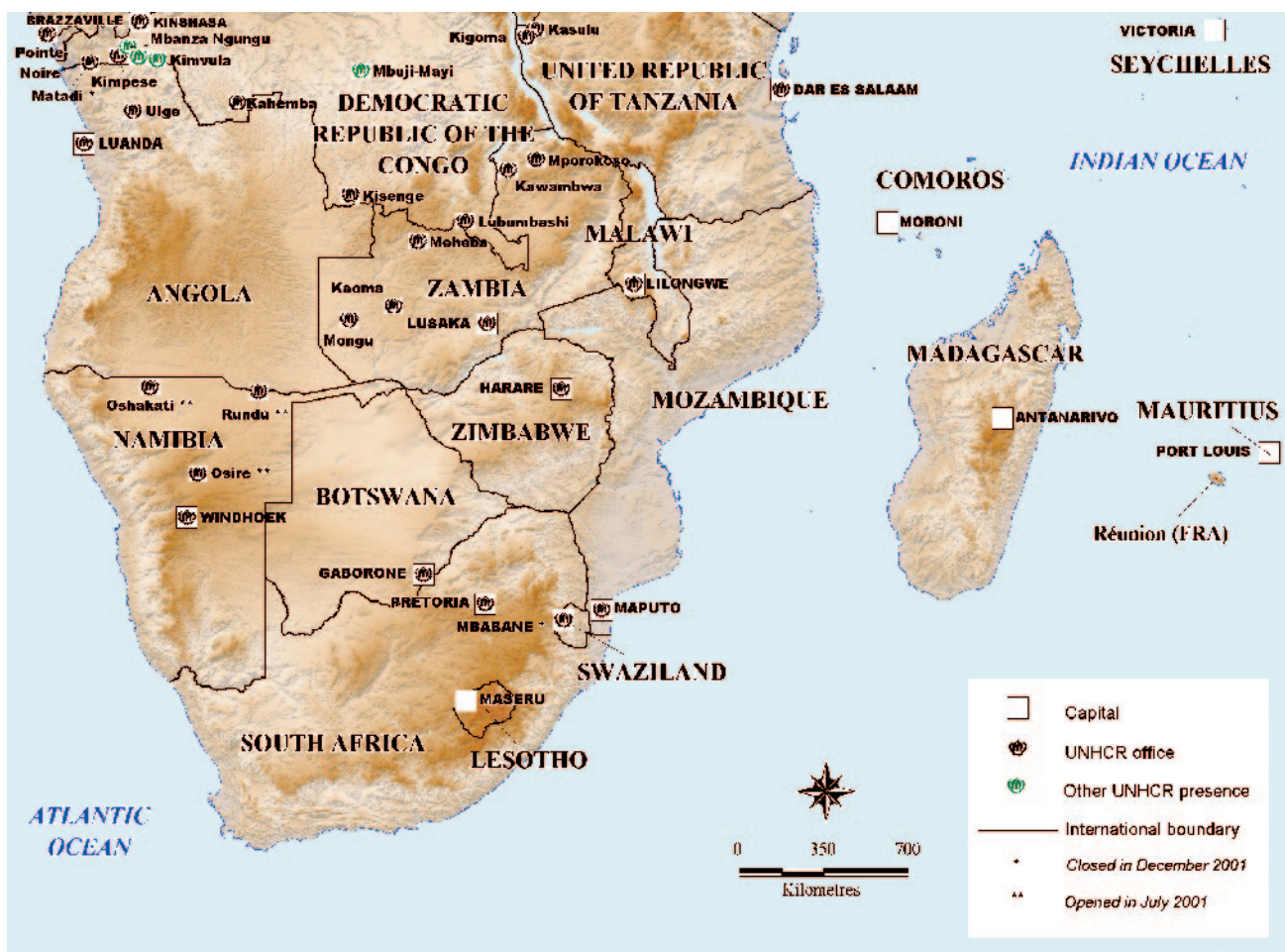
Major Developments

During 2001, the 27 year civil war in Angola and the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued to profoundly affect the entire Southern African region, especially Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

In Angola, the fighting between the Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA (Union for the Total Independence of Angola) intensified, and at the beginning of the year the government forces regained control of some of the eastern part of the country, which at one time had been under the control of UNITA. As a result, thousands of Angolans sought asylum in neighbouring countries, mostly in Namibia and Zambia; approximately 4,300 Angolans fled to Namibia and some 21,500 to Zambia.

Angola was the scene of the region's worst internal displacement. In 2001, 202,000 people had been uprooted from their homes in the country. UNHCR, in co-ordination with other UN agencies and NGOs, helped the Government meet its obligations and responsibilities towards IDPs and

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



supported civil society in upholding the rights of IDPs.

After coming to power in DRC in January 2001, President Joseph Kabila re-activated the 1998 Lusaka Peace Agreement and resumed the inter-Congolese dialogue in October 2001. However, effective and lasting solutions for the Congolese refugees in the region remained elusive, despite the positive developments in DRC.

UNHCR worked with the Government of South Africa to clear the backlog of asylum applications. Of 23,000 applications reviewed, 8,530 were approved. The relatively large number of long-staying refugees and asylum-seekers in South Africa has led to increasing intolerance towards refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR addressed this problem through nationwide public awareness activities.

In anticipation of an outflow of refugees that could have resulted from the tense atmosphere that char-

acterised the presidential campaign in Zimbabwe, UNHCR regularly met with the governments of potential countries of asylum, namely Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia to prepare a regional contingency plan.

At the year's end, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe were hosting a relatively small number of refugees (4,240 refugees in Botswana; 6,200 in Malawi; and 8,770 in Zimbabwe) but there had been a steady increase in the number of newly arrived refugees mainly from the Great Lakes region, notably from Burundi, DRC and Rwanda.

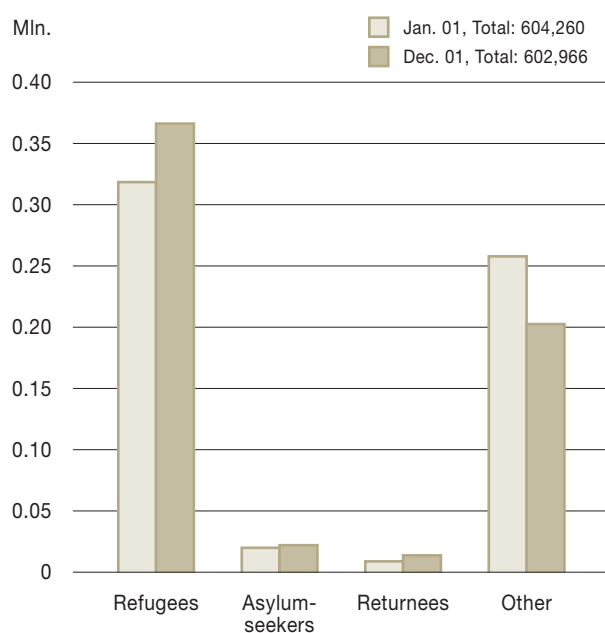
Challenges and Concerns

UNHCR's mandate remained far from easy to fulfil in this region. Angola's protracted war and conflicts in the DRC continued to threaten the fragile stability of the region as a whole. One of the biggest challenges faced by governments and UNHCR was how to sustain the institution of asylum in the face of the

international community's continuing lack of solutions for dealing with the causes and conflicts which create refugees and impede their return home.

At the same time, it became impossible to ignore the widespread tendency for certain individuals to abuse asylum procedures in their quest for better economic and social opportunities. Asylum-seekers, refugees and immigrants competed for limited services and resources, leading to tensions, and at times, generating a mounting expression of xenophobia in the host communities. Furthermore, the number of urban refugees increased, as refugees gravitated towards the cities in search of employment. As a result, States resorted to stricter policies and legal and administrative control measures which had a negative impact on genuine refugees and asylum-seekers seeking international protection.

Persons of Concern to UNHCR



Progress Toward Solutions

In 2001, UNHCR endeavoured to find lasting solutions for refugees in Southern Africa, mainly through voluntary repatriation and resettlement. Although there were no mass repatriation movements of refugees to their home countries, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 76 refugees, mostly from Burundi and Rwanda. In Southern Africa, UNHCR resettled 163 individuals, the majority of whom were women-at-risk.

Concerted efforts were made to enable refugees to become self-sufficient in crop production and other small-scale enterprises. In Malawi, the Office provided 350 families with one acre of land per family and 60 individuals received loans to initiate income-generating activities in agriculture. In Swaziland, 22 refugees began poultry-raising, pig-rearing and crop production under micro-credit schemes.

Operations

UNHCR operations in **Angola**, **South Africa** and **Zambia** are described in separate country chapters.

During 2001, in **Botswana**, there was a total of 4,200 refugees, of 19 different nationalities, the majority Namibians, Angolans, and Somalis. In 2001, resettlement continued to be an important option for individuals who were not granted asylum. 13 individuals from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Namibia and Zimbabwe were resettled in a third country of asylum.

The ongoing conflict in Angola prevented many Angolans from going back home. UNHCR initiated with the Government of Botswana the naturalisation process of 250 Angolan refugees. It is expected that this group will be naturalised in 2002.

In 2001, discussions took place between UNHCR, the Government of Botswana and the Government of Namibia concerning the repatriation of 600 Namibian refugees from Dukwi camp. Pending repatriation, these refugees continued to receive basic humanitarian assistance from UNHCR throughout the year.

The Office provided refugees in Botswana with academic and career opportunities to improve their living conditions and increase their economic independence. Some 300 infants attended nursery school, 400 pupils were enrolled in primary school, 130 in secondary school, and 30 students went to university through the DAFI programme. The Office also supported income-generating activities for 30 refugees in tailoring, 80 in the tie-dyeing of textiles, 70 in brick moulding and 77 in raising poultry.

In 2001, **Malawi** hosted a total of 6,200 refugees, mainly from the DRC and Rwanda, an increase of

2,300 since 2000. The increase in the refugee population put added pressure on already limited resources. To meet their needs, rice/maize flour, pulses, sugar, salt, kerosene, bars of soap, and construction material (for 300 new houses) were purchased. UNHCR's implementing partner also supported the construction of a multi-purpose hall which was completed in June 2001.

To further complement the dietary requirements of the refugees and to allow them to become economically independent, UNHCR implemented micro-credit schemes in crop production for 350 families. Each family was provided with one acre of land, ten kilograms of seeds and 100 kilograms of fertiliser. A Malawian organisation also supported another 60 refugees in income-generating activities in the areas of agriculture and poultry.

UNHCR funded schooling for 750 children at the primary school level (including 300 Malawians from the host community); 30 at secondary level; and the enrolment of four students in polytechnic institutes.

In **Mozambique**, UNHCR provided material assistance to some 140 refugees and 5,320 asylum-seekers. In 2001, the Office was limited in its capacity to ensure protection for refugees and asylum-seekers due to the circumscribed material and human resources available to monitor activities in the country. Throughout the year, efforts were mostly focused on the re-location of persons of concern in the border area between Malawi and Mozambique, to the Marratane camp, in the province of Nampula. Working with an international NGO, UNHCR provided emergency assistance in the form of food, basic non-food items and accommodation for some 1,400 persons prior to their transfer from the border point of Lichinga to Nampula.

To further speed up the refugee status determination (RSD) process and reduced the delay in the backlog of pending cases, UNHCR continued to reinforce the National Eligibility Commission through material resources, administrative support and training. Despite the support provided, the Committee was only able to meet four times during the year. This did not provide sufficient time to review all pending cases.

In 2001, UNHCR made efforts to find durable solutions for long-staying refugees. A total of eight refugees, including those with security problems and women-at-risk, were resettled.

To promote the self-reliance of refugees who will not be able to return to their home country in the foreseeable future, the Office supported micro-credit schemes in crop production and poultry in the Marratane, a new refugee camp still under development. Upon relocation to Marratane, the refugees from the transit centre in Bobole benefited from these income-generating activities. Meanwhile, an international NGO supported micro-credit schemes in crop production and poultry in Bobole. 27 refugees benefited from the poultry initiative, but during the year the number of loans provided to refugees for this project were scaled back, since refugees were clearly not making enough profit to repay the loans. The same NGO organised small gardening projects for 350 refugees, including seminars on horticulture and farm management.

Pending the identification of a durable solution, some 2,800 refugees and asylum-seekers in the transit centre in Bobole, the Massaca camp in Maputo, and the Marratane camp in Nampula, were provided with care and maintenance assistance (food and non-food items, health care and shelter). 220 pupils in Bobole and Massaca also benefited from primary and secondary education.

UNHCR purchased tents for the new refugee camp in Nampula, to meet the refugees' immediate needs of shelter. 200 family latrines were constructed and a bore hole was drilled for water. Refugees remained in the tents longer than anticipated, since the construction of shelters did not take place, pending further discussions between UNHCR and the Government of Mozambique on the standard of housing for the refugees and their participation in the building process. UNHCR also funded the rehabilitation of an eight kilometre road, which provided access to the Marratane camp, and renovated the office of the Migration Police. UNHCR began the implementation of these activities in September 2001 but due to financial constraints, they will not be completed until 2002. In view of the increase in new arrivals in Mozambique, this may result in a critical situation, especially as water supplies in



Angola: IDPs actively participated in food-for-work projects. Here, through a joint effort with an implementing partner, a road was constructed near Uige.
 UNHCR / W. Schellenberg

2001 were sometimes inadequate (volume per person per day and quality).

In addition to the challenges already faced by the Office in Nampula, there was ongoing uncertainty concerning the potential closure of the UNHCR office in Maputo, which would affect the implementation of the programme in the country.

Namibia hosted and provided assistance to some 20,900 refugees (shelter, water, sanitation, health care, education and environment). Special attention was paid to women and children. Despite the decrease in food rations in the early months of 2001, refugees received a steady and adequate flow of food throughout the year. In November 2001, UNHCR (in co-ordination with WFP and a local agency) re-issued laminated ration cards to some 5,000 families.

During the year, 454 temporary houses were constructed at the camp in Osire, and 145 were renovated in order to reduce the dependency of the refugees on tents which were both expensive and only provided temporary shelter. UNHCR also conducted a survey and discovered that the ground water was contaminated at Osire. Filled latrines were sealed off, the water supply was chlorinated and an awareness campaign was launched advising refugees to boil water and construct latrines a safe distance away from water sources. Of the 400 latrines constructed during the year, 120 were maintained. As a result of UNHCR's efforts to

provide clean water to the refugees, an excess of 20 litres of water per day was available to each refugee.

A local NGO also addressed health issues in Osire camp. These included malnutrition, pneumonia and gastro-enteritis (the main causes of death in the camp). Their awareness-raising efforts led to a reduction in the child mortality rate and an increase in the number of patients at the clinic. A successful vaccination campaign was also undertaken, aimed mainly at children under the age of five.

Despite the relative success of these efforts, it was not possible to meet all the medical needs of the refugees for lack of staff and technical equipment in the clinic.

UNHCR built a new primary school at the camp, which accommodated some 4,500 children. The construction of a secondary school will be completed in 2002. UNHCR established a primary school at the Kasava transit centre.

To promote the self-sufficiency of refugees, UNHCR supported a tree-planting initiative in the camp. The project included creating a vegetable garden; an important source of food for the refugees. UNHCR also provided classes on horticulture in order to help maintain the gardens.

In **Swaziland**, UNHCR's activities focused on ensuring international protection and material assistance for up to 680 refugees and 360 asylum-seekers. Despite the socio-political and economic challenges facing the country, the Government remained committed to refugee protection. One of the main effects of UNHCR's advocacy role, was the endorsement by the Executive Cabinet of the Draft Refugee Bill (drafted with UNHCR's assistance) to be submitted to Parliament in 2002.

UNHCR endeavoured to find durable solutions for refugees in Swaziland through education, micro-credit schemes and workshops aimed at developing the academic and social skills of refugee children.

As a result of the partnership established between UNHCR and a local school during 2001, two refugee students benefited from full academic sponsorships to continue their secondary school studies. It is expected that the success of the partnership will lead to increased academic opportunities for refugee children in the future.

In the Malindza camp, 22 refugees benefited from income-generating activities (poultry and pig-rearing and other agricultural activity). A two-day workshop in business management was attended by 24 refugees, mainly from urban areas.

To empower refugee adolescents, UNHCR held workshops to discuss their needs and teach them leadership skills. 16 adolescents were trained in permaculture i.e. environmentally friendly, productive and sustainable approaches to farming which make efficient use of soil, water, energy and other natural resources and are adaptable to both rural and urban situations. A local association also met at least once a month, to discuss HIV/AIDS prevention, and to promote activities, such as sports, to improve the lives of the adolescents in the camp. The refugee children's choir in the camp also participated in national events, including the high-profile "Healing Melodies Concert" (an HIV/AIDS fund raising event organised by the Queen Mother of Swaziland).

UNHCR facilitated several seminars on human rights and refugee policy for army officers, mid-level police officers and church leaders. A paper on the role of the Church and NGOs in the protection of refugee women and children was also presented and used for discussion during a national conference. In addition, two roundtable discussions were organised for local media on the challenges confronting the institution of asylum and the need for the media to play a more active role in peace-building initiatives.

Zimbabwe hosted some 8,700 refugees and 770 asylum-seekers. To further speed up the refugee status determination (RSD) process and reduce the backlog of pending cases, UNHCR continued to reinforce the National Eligibility Commission through material resources, administrative support and training. In 2001, UNHCR encouraged the local integration and self-reliance of refugees in the country.

The economic situation in Zimbabwe had a negative impact on refugees' interest in the establishment of small businesses (poultry-raising, tie-dyeing of textiles, sewing and permaculture). During the year, UNHCR financed eight income-generating projects for refugees. However, in only two cases were the recipients subsequently able to pay back their loans in full. The participants in the other six had to reschedule their payments.

UNHCR provided cloth for 44 women who joined a sewing club in the Tongogara camp. They also received training from local Zimbabwe women on tie-dye skills, through the support of an international agency. UNHCR introduced permaculture in the Tongogara camp, Chibuwe village and the Nyanga settlement. The success of these environmental projects generated interest in further permaculture projects within the country and throughout the Southern Africa region. Both the income-generating and permaculture project strengthened the relationship between refugees and their host communities and further facilitated the local integration of refugees in Zimbabwe.

In education, 280 refugee primary and secondary school children benefited from sponsorships, school supplies and uniforms. Eight out of the 30 students participating in vocational training in English completed their courses. In 2001, four of the 21 university students participating in the DAFI programme completed their final year and graduated, and three of them found employment. Several refugees participated in the DAFI programme in order to continue or complete studies they had previously undertaken in their home country.

Funding

One of the most implacable obstacles to the achievement of UNHCR's objectives in the Southern African region was the financial imperative. Funding cuts affected material assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers and the number of staff available to monitor the refugees. As a result of Action 2, the UNHCR office in Swaziland was closed.

Voluntary Contributions – Restricted (USD)					
Donor	Earmarking ¹	Annual Programme Budget		Supplementary Programme Budget	
		Income	Contribution	Income	Contribution
Action Réfugiés (FRA)	Zambia	27,690	27,690	0	0
Canada	Namibia	64,516	64,516	0	0
	Zambia	580,645	580,645	0	0
European Commission	Angola	0	0	523,742	523,742
France	Southern Africa	335,680	335,680	0	0
	Zambia	268,284	268,284	0	0
Germany	Angola	228,869	228,869	0	0
	Zambia	234,969	234,969	0	0
Italy	Zambia	221,275	221,275	0	0
Japan	Angola	300,000	300,000	1,233,510	1,000,000
	Botswana	750,000	750,000	0	0
	Namibia	750,000	750,000	0	0
	South Africa	500,000	500,000	0	0
	Zambia	2,000,000	2,000,000	0	0
Private Donors Italy	Angola	0	0	10,565	10,565
Private Donors Spain	Mozambique	1,105	1,105	0	0
South Africa	Angola	0	0	300,000	300,000
	Zambia	50,093	50,093	0	0
Sweden	Angola	0	0	558,187	558,187
	Southern Africa	208,334	208,334	0	0
	Zambia	905,380	905,380	0	0
Switzerland	Zambia	290,698	290,698	0	0
United Kingdom	Zambia	1,408,451	1,408,451	0	0
United States of America	Angola	420,000	420,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
	Botswana	200,000	200,000	0	0
	Malawi	100,000	100,000	0	0
	Mozambique	120,000	120,000	0	0
	Namibia	360,000	360,000	0	0
	South Africa	330,000	330,000	0	0
	Zambia	2,423,000	2,423,000	0	0
	Zimbabwe	100,000	100,000	0	0
Zakat House (KUW)	Angola	0	0	16,138	45,000
TOTAL²		13,178,989	13,178,989	5,142,142	4,937,494

¹ For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

² Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unrestricted voluntary contributions, lightly restricted contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

Budget and Expenditure (USD)						
Country	Revised Budget			Expenditure		
	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total
Angola	3,209,787	5,427,220	8,637,007	2,815,277	5,568,989	8,384,266
Botswana	1,898,183	0	1,898,183	1,852,188	0	1,852,188
Malawi	1,216,389	0	1,216,389	1,214,391	0	1,214,391
Mozambique	1,300,241	0	1,300,241	1,197,000	0	1,197,000
Namibia	3,058,450	0	3,058,450	2,873,707	0	2,873,707
South Africa ¹	3,060,696	0	3,060,696	2,875,151	0	2,875,151
Swaziland	335,898	0	335,898	297,424	0	297,424
Zambia	13,733,956	0	13,733,956	13,475,269	0	13,475,269
Zimbabwe	1,302,739	0	1,302,739	1,301,937	0	1,301,937
Regional Office (Pretoria)	1,656,943	0	1,656,943	1,661,027	0	1,661,027
Regional Projects ^{1,2}	496,008	0	496,008	371,780	0	371,780
TOTAL	31,269,290	5,427,220	36,696,510	29,935,151	5,568,989	35,504,140

¹ UNHCR's Accounts included a project corresponding to External Relations Activities in Southern Africa.

This amount is herein reported under Regional Projects (Revised Budget: USD 199,708 and Expenditure: USD 77,780).

² Includes scholarships for refugee students, as well as external relations activities in Southern Africa (Annual Programme Budget).