

Refugees from Zimbabwe, hoping to receive temporary asylum, wait to have their fingerprints and photographs taken at a reception center in South Africa.

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

| Working environment |

At the end of 2009, there were some 470,000 persons of concern to UNHCR in Southern Africa, including some 142,500 refugees, 325,000 asylum-seekers and 2,500 returnees.

Mixed migration, especially from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions, poses a significant challenge in Southern Africa. The use of established refugee camps as way stations by those seeking to move on to other countries, has increased pressure on the limited humanitarian resources available, and adversely affected the reception of refugees by host communities.

South Africa receives the largest number of asylum requests in the world, with well over 400,000 individual asylum claims submitted since 2008, including many lodged by migrants seeking to regularize their stay and access the employment market. Most of these applicants settle in urban areas, posing complex protection and assistance challenges, and fuelling xenophobia as they compete with host communities for scarce jobs.

With the formation of a unity government in Zimbabwe in 2009, leading to a more stable economic situation, the number of Zimbabweans seeking protection abroad has declined. However, many still continue to enter South Africa. In September 2010,

Southern Africa

the South African Government announced a new policy that will allow Zimbabweans studying, working or doing business in South Africa to obtain immigration permits, while maintaining the right to seek asylum for those needing international protection.

Refugee protection in the region has remained strong. However, restrictive practices, including *refoulement*, limitations on freedom of movement and the use of camps to manage asylum-seeking populations have impeded refugees' efforts to become self-reliant.

| Strategy in 2011 |

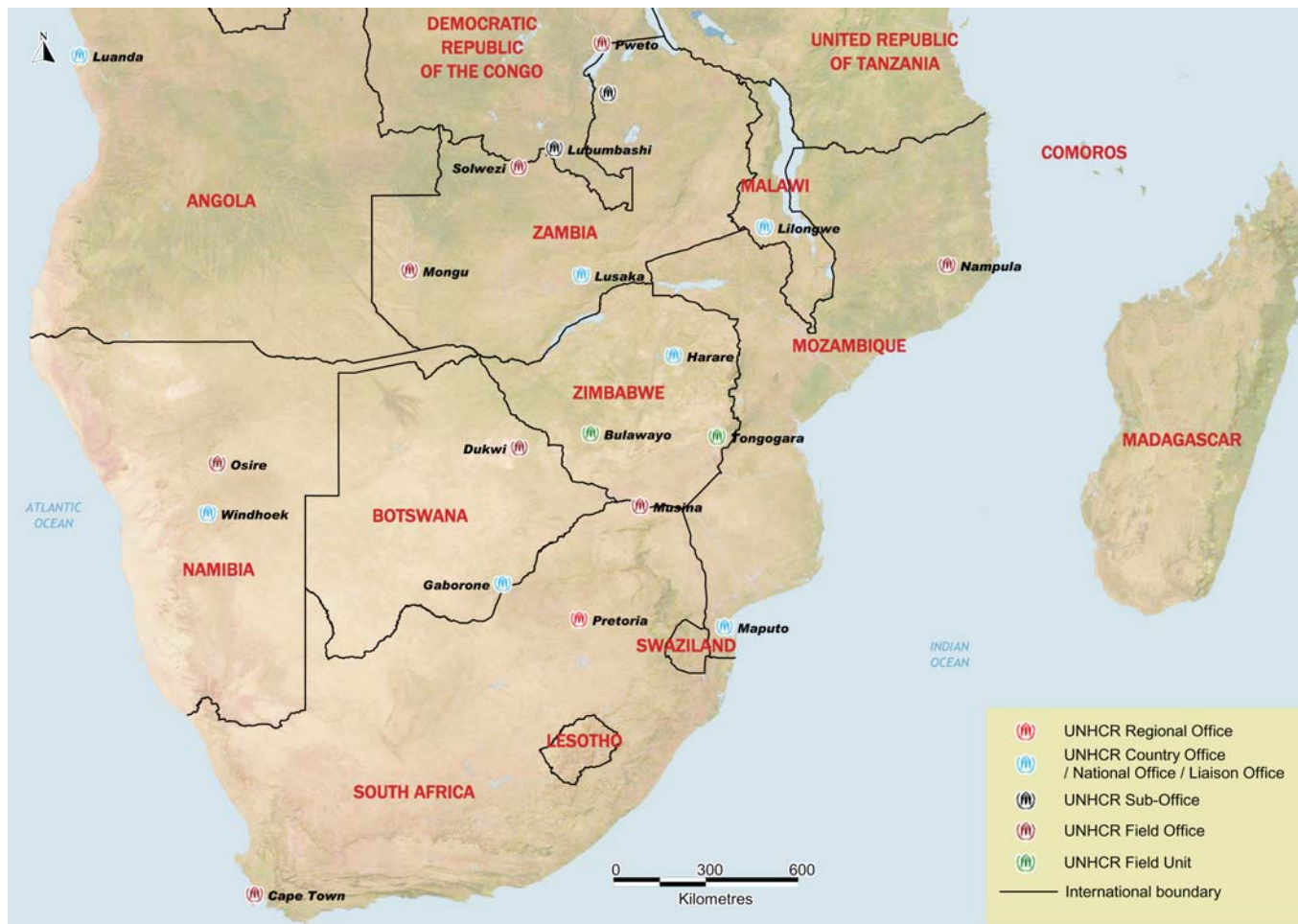
UNHCR's strategic priorities for 2011 include maintaining standards in the provision of basic needs and services in Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

UNHCR will pursue comprehensive strategies aimed at preparing the ground for the cessation of refugee status for Angolan, Burundian, Liberian and Rwandan refugees. These will include efforts to find durable solutions for some 135,000 Angolan refugees, mainly through voluntary repatriation or

local integration. Burundian and Rwandan refugees remaining in the region, though smaller in numbers, will also require durable solutions.

The strategy for Southern Africa also foresees the progressive implementation of UNHCR's urban refugee policy. The Office plans to significantly expand its programmes for urban refugees and asylum-seekers, including direct support to meet shelter and other basic needs, and increased activities to promote self-reliance, most notably in South Africa. In 2011, UNHCR also plans to expand programmes to prevent and reduce statelessness in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

The outcomes of the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration that took place in the United Republic of Tanzania in September 2010, will help UNHCR to strengthen its response to mixed movements. In cooperation with governments in the region and key partners such as IOM, the Office will develop comprehensive approaches based on its 10-Point Plan of Action to deal with these mixed migration flows. Efforts to strengthen national protection capacities, including in refugee status determination (RSD) and registration, will continue.



Resettlement from Southern Africa has increased in recent years and features prominently in the strategy for 2011, with more departures expected from Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe due to the unavailability of other durable solutions in these countries at present.

Constraints

Governments in this region have been affected by the global economic crisis, which has limited resources available for refugee protection. The economic pressure has contributed to tensions with host communities, who view refugees and asylum-seekers as competitors for employment opportunities and services. Mixed movements have blurred the distinction between refugees and migrants in the public mind, contributing to xenophobia and making it difficult to expand opportunities for self-reliance and promote local integration as a durable solution.

Operations

UNHCR's programmes in **South Africa**, **Zambia** and **Zimbabwe** are presented in separate country chapters.

In **Angola**, a key challenge involves the repatriation and reintegration of Angolan refugees from neighbouring countries. UNHCR will monitor return and reintegration, providing technical support, particularly in the area of documentation, to facilitate their reintegration.

Another challenge in 2011 will be finding a durable solution for some 13,000 Congolese refugees from Katanga Province (DRC). Since fleeing to Angola more than three decades ago, they have achieved a significant level of socio-economic

integration. UNHCR is advocating for their naturalization as a durable solution.

Along with local and international partners, UNHCR will also assist some 4,000 other refugees and asylum-seekers from various countries in Angola. Priorities for these individuals include legal assistance, income generation projects, HIV and AIDS awareness campaigns and the distribution of non-food items.

Efforts to strengthen the national asylum system, which is burdened by a backlog of some 4,000 applications, will continue through support for capacity building and legislative reform. UNHCR will also work with the Government and IOM to improve the management of mixed movements, with a view to improving access for asylum-seekers at Angola's borders and other entry points.

Botswana hosts some 3,200 refugees and asylum-seekers. The majority live in Dukwi refugee camp, some 600 kilometres north-west of the capital, Gaborone. The refugees originate from Angola, Namibia, Somalia, Zimbabwe and the Great Lakes region. The Government withdrew the residence permits of refugees in urban areas in mid-2009, and began stricter enforcement of a policy requiring refugees to live in camps. UNHCR is aiming to strengthen basic services in Dukwi camp. It will also offer support in reviewing and updating the national asylum law.

A small number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the Indian Ocean island States of **Comoros**, **Madagascar**, **Mauritius** and the **Seychelles** will receive assistance from UNDP, under a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR. Persons of concern will also receive legal support through UNHCR's monitoring visits. Durable solutions will be pursued in tandem.

UNHCR has not had a presence in **Lesotho** since 1997, but continues to provide protection and assistance to some 60 refugees by undertaking missions from South Africa when needed.

The 11,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in **Malawi** originate mainly from the Great Lakes region, in particular, Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. UNHCR's comprehensive plan for 2011 involves strengthening facilities and services in Dzaleka Camp, including shelter, water and sanitation, and the provision of domestic fuel.

UNHCR will provide technical support to the Government as it reviews its asylum law and practices, to ensure greater conformity with international standards. Furthermore, UNHCR will promote local integration as a solution in Malawi.

Malawi is a significant transit country for mixed movements from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. A number of asylum applications submitted by Somalis and Ethiopians are abandoned soon after being submitted, suggesting that these individuals have continued their onward movement to South Africa and raising concerns with the authorities.

Of the 7,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in **Mozambique**, 4,750 live in Maratane refugee camp in Nampula Province and the remainder in various urban centres. They come mostly from Burundi, the DRC and Rwanda. Many passed through refugee camps in Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia before arriving.

Mozambique continues to support self-reliance and local integration by providing agricultural land to refugees and allowing them freedom of movement and the right to work throughout the country, with the exception of Maputo. UNHCR is now working with the Government to establish a legal framework for local integration. It also aims to enhance the self-reliance of both camp-based and urban refugees, with a focus on crop production, microcredit and vocational training. Education for camp-based refugee students will receive priority assistance in 2011.

Mozambique also experiences significant mixed movements from the Horn of Africa toward South Africa. In the first half of

2010, some 2,200 Somalis arrived at the northern coast of Mozambique by boat and were brought to Maratane camp. By the end of June, only 205 remained.

Namibia is host to some 8,650 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Angola and the DRC. More than 7,400 live in Osire refugee camp, 245 kilometres north of Windhoek. Namibia recognises that local integration will be the most appropriate solution for many Angolan refugees, who have been in the country since 1992. UNHCR has provided technical support to develop a strategy for this purpose and looks forward to the formal adoption of a policy framework on local integration and its implementation in 2011.

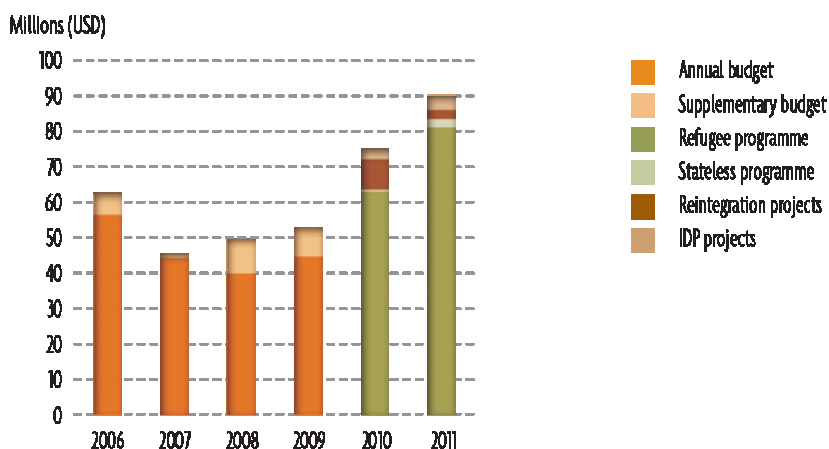
UNHCR has no presence in **Swaziland**, which hosts around 1,400 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda, Somalia and Zimbabwe. Education, health and other services are provided by UNHCR's implementing partner, CARITAS. The Government encourages self-reliance and local integration.

Financial information

As compared to 2006, UNHCR's budget in 2007 declined significantly in line with the diminishing repatriation operation to Angola. In 2008, the requirements increased due to the emergency in Zimbabwe and the consequences of the xenophobic violence in South Africa. The pilot global needs assessment project in Zambia led to another increase in 2009. In 2010, the budget reflected significant increases in most countries as a result of budgeting based on assessment of the needs of populations of concern.

The significant increase in the budget for the region to USD 90.5 million in 2011 reflects careful assessment of the needs of people of concern to the Office. Key elements of the plan include engagement with urban refugees in South Africa and support for comprehensive solutions strategies, as part of the planning for invocation of the cessation of refugee status for several refugee populations by the end of 2011.

UNHCR's budget in Southern Africa 2006 – 2011



UNHCR budget for Southern Africa (USD)

OPERATION	2010 REVISED BUDGET	2011				TOTAL
		REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	STATELESS PROGRAMME PILLAR 2	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	IDP PROJECTS PILLAR 4	
Angola	13,351,122	8,879,989	0	891,460	0	9,771,449
Botswana	3,433,645	3,731,897	0	0	0	3,731,897
Malawi	3,476,590	3,434,655	0	0	0	3,434,655
Mozambique	4,190,102	4,188,485	403,558	0	0	4,592,043
Namibia	3,872,663	4,251,875	0	127,821	0	4,379,696
South Africa Regional Office ¹	26,789,591	39,166,547	1,031,941	0	0	40,198,488
Zambia	11,396,776	14,118,082	0	0	0	14,118,082
Zimbabwe	8,365,300	3,498,819	790,154	1,561,454	4,432,293	10,282,720
Total	74,875,789	81,270,349	2,225,653	2,580,735	4,432,293	90,509,030

¹Includes regional activities in Southern Africa.