

Southern Africa

May 2024

UNHCR serves 9.1 million people* across 16 southern African countries, including around **1 million refugees and asylum-seekers**, mainly from Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Burundi, and South Sudan.

*This figure does not include disaster-induced IDPs.

UNHCR contributes to protection and solutions for **7.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs)** in the region who have been forced to flee due to conflict and some **1.1 million displaced by disasters** – 7.3 million in the DRC and some 700,000 in Mozambique.

Efforts to build resilience and empower forcibly displaced people are ongoing. In May, UNHCR provided livelihood trainings and support to 1,347 people in Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, and Zambia.

KEY FIGURES (as of 31 May)

806,576

Refugees

194,558

Asylum-seekers

7,591,054

Internally displaced persons*

*This figure includes only conflict-related IDPs. In addition, as of 31 May 2024, there were some **1,121,965 people displaced internally by natural disasters and climate change** in the DRC (294,847), Malawi (659,278), Mozambique (126,305), and Zimbabwe (41,535).

PRESENCE AND STAFF (as of 31 May)*

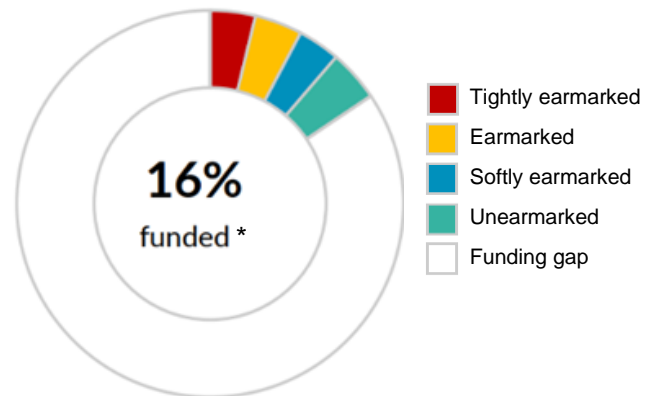
Regional Bureau	75
Angola	35
Democratic Republic of the Congo	424
Malawi	71
Mozambique	130
Republic of the Congo	60
South Africa Multi-Country Office (Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa)	65
Zambia	74
Zimbabwe	36
TOTAL	970

*Figures reflect regular UNHCR staff and affiliate workforce.

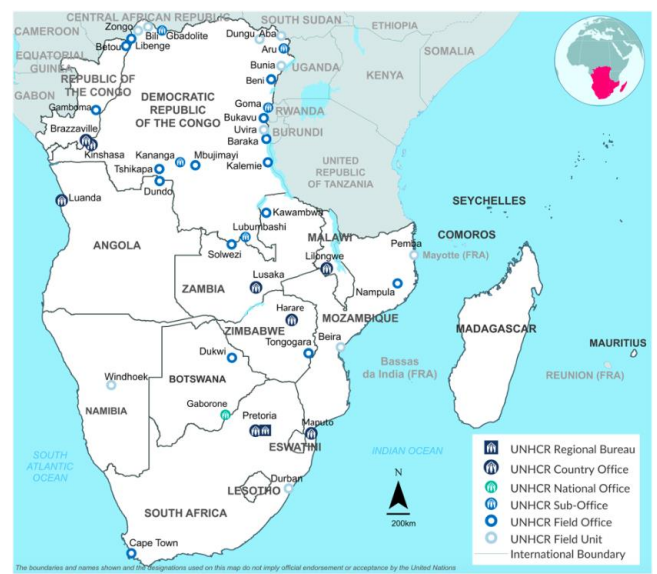
FUNDING (as of 31 May)

US\$ 492.2 million

UNHCR's financial requirements in southern Africa for 2024



* Including indicative allocation of softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.



Regional Overview

Context: As of May 2024, southern Africa was home to **9.1 million forcibly displaced people and returnees**. The region comprises one of the largest IDP situations in sub-Saharan Africa, while refugee camps and settlements in multiple countries, along with some urban areas, host long-term refugee populations – some displaced for many decades. **Complex crises** cause millions to flee their homes and prevent their safe return every year. The situation is further complicated by the **growing impact of climate change and natural disasters**, which have **displaced 1.1 million people** in southern Africa.



UNHCR teams conduct protection activities with the community in Chiure, Mozambique. ©UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Emergency Situations: Over 85% of the people UNHCR serves in southern Africa are in the **DRC**, a country that is home to one of the world’s most severe and underfunded humanitarian crises. Violence in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu and natural disasters across the territory have internally displaced some 7.3 million people and caused around 1 million to seek asylum. Southern Africa’s second largest emergency is in **northern Mozambique**, where some 700,000 people have been internally displaced by conflict and tropical storms and cyclones.

Solutions: **Local integration and voluntary repatriation** are the focus of solutions efforts in the region, as opportunities for **resettlement** remain limited to a small percentage of the population. Options to expand complementary pathways are being explored. **Steps towards ending statelessness** in southern Africa include reforming nationality laws, policies, and procedures and supporting access to documentation.

Strategic Directions

The High Commissioner’s Strategic Directions, renewed for 2022-2026, continue to guide UNHCR’s efforts in southern Africa to enact sustainable achievements for forcibly displaced and stateless people and the States and communities that host them. Priorities within the scope of the Strategic Directions include:

- Protect** **Strengthen** the protection environment; **improve** the quality of registration and information management; **reinforce** asylum systems and legal protection frameworks.
- Respond** **Strengthen** emergency preparedness; **innovate** to improve operational responses.
- Include** **Enhance** partnerships; **invigorate** the humanitarian-development nexus.
- Empower** **Empower** refugee communities; **improve** two-way communication; **support** decision-making.
- Solve** **Promote** and **facilitate** comprehensive solutions; **alleviate** poverty; **foster** self-reliance.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support of donors who contributed to its operations in the Southern Africa region with unearmarked and earmarked funds in 2024:

African Development Fund | Algeria | Angola | Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa | Armenia | Australia | Australia for UNHCR | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Central Emergency Response Fund | China | Costa Rica | Denmark | Estonia | España con ACNUR | European Union | Finland | Germany | Leaving No One Behind | Luxembourg | Ireland | Japan | Japan for UNHCR | Joint United Nations Programme On HIV/AIDS | Malta | Mexico | Monaco | Montenegro | Netherlands | New Zealand | Norway | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sweden | Switzerland | Thailand | Türkiye | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security | United States of America | Private donors

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