

SOUTH AFRICA



UNHCR's presence in 2012

Number of offices	3
Total staff	60
International staff	20
National staff	31
JPO staff	1
UNVs	3
Others	5

| Overview |

Operational highlights

- Mandate refugee status determination (RSD) was conducted for 145 cases in need of protection or at risk of *refoulement*, with a recognition rate of 75 per cent.
- Legal counselling or representation was provided to over 16,000 refugees and asylum-seekers through six UNHCR-supported legal clinics, as well as directly.
- Social counselling and referral services were provided for some 16,000 persons of concern.
- As a result of UNHCR advocacy, the Department of Social Development promulgated regulations under the Social Assistance Act extending grants to refugees.
- In order to strengthen self-reliance and livelihoods, UNHCR and partners gave business grants to 250 individuals, ran 29 business skills workshops and trained 770 people in vocational skills. Resettlement submissions were made on behalf of 1,200 persons, an increase of 29 per cent from 2011. A total of 500 individuals departed for resettlement countries, 84 per cent more than in the previous year.
- Some 1,000 individuals were assisted to obtain or retain their nationality.
- Within the context of the urban refugee policy, a multi-functional team conducted five protection needs assessment exercises; over 900 case interviews were held and various forms of assistance recommended.

People of concern

Since 2008, South Africa has received growing numbers of asylum applications, with the majority of applicants originating from Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Partners

Implementing partners

NGOs:

Agency for Refugee Education, Skills Training and Advocacy; Cape Town Refugee Centre; Caritas Swaziland; Child Welfare South Africa; El Shaddai Church; Jesuit Refugee Services; Lawyers for Human Rights; Refugee Aid Organization; Refugee Social Services; Sediba Hope Centre; Sonke Gender Justice Network

Others:

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of Cape Town Legal Aid Clinic, University of South Africa – Unit for Social Behavioural Studies, UNDP Madagascar

Operational partners

Government agencies:

City councils of Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg and Pretoria; Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Education, Health, Home Affairs, and Social Development; The National Disaster Management Centre; South African Police Services; Commissioner for Refugees, Swaziland

NGOs:

Altus Sport, Daveyton Environmental Counsel, ICMC, *Lesedi La Batho*, Militia Trust, Refuge Point, Xaveri Movement

Others:

IOM, UNDP Comoros

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Somalia	17,900	1,900	-	-
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	13,400	1,400	-	-
	Angola	5,800	600	-	-
	Ethiopia	5,500	600	-	-
	Burundi	2,400	250	-	-
	Congo	2,300	250	-	-
	Rwanda	1,400	140	-	-
	Zimbabwe	1,100	120	-	-
	Eritrea	700	70	-	-
	Various	14,800	1,600	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Zimbabwe	37,000	3,900	-	-
	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	8,100	800	-	-
	Somalia	5,000	500	-	-
	Malawi	3,400	360	-	-
	Bangladesh	3,300	340	-	-
	Ethiopia	3,100	320	-	-
	Others/unknown	170,600	16,800	-	-
Total		295,800	29,950		

| Report on 2012 results |

Achievements and impact

Favourable protection environment

- Six legal resource centres assisted more than 16,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with appeals, applications for permanent residence permits, renewal of permits and other key procedures.
- UNHCR and its partners monitored the situation of more than 2,000 asylum detainees, the majority of whom were released, either through legal interventions or as a result of advocacy.
- Government officials were trained in international refugee law, with a particular focus on the “first country of asylum” and “third safe country” concepts. Surveys on public attitudes towards refugees and knowledge about UNHCR provided data for future public information campaigns. Nine radio stations in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province broadcast the radio drama *New Nation* reaching some 90,000 South Africans. UNHCR also produced a series of radio programmes under the theme, *Ubuntu Has No Borders*, covering topics such as jobs, housing, documentation and small business.
- UNHCR gave inputs to the work of the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs in Parliament on changes to asylum and immigration laws.
- Anti-xenophobia campaigns in schools used educational materials produced by UNHCR. In Cape Town, a community education advocacy campaign reached more than 33,000 people. In addition, 196 students in 12 schools and 48 community leaders have been trained as “Peace Ambassadors.”

Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR collaborated with the South African Police Services at the national level on an early warning system aimed at addressing xenophobic incidents in a timely manner. A

hotline manned by UNHCR received nearly 1,700 calls on potential incidents, enabling police to take appropriate action.

- Some 45 UNHCR-supported workshops involving community members, churches, law enforcement agencies and community leaders in Gauteng Province improved awareness of the rights and obligations of refugees and the need to prevent xenophobia. Peer-based education programmes reached some 40,000 individuals with information on the assistance and services provided to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- More than 3,000 women and girls were given basic SGBV counselling and referred to appropriate services.
- Best Interest Determination assessments were conducted for 251 unaccompanied minors, helping to identify the appropriate solution in each case.

Fair protection processes and documentation

- Mandate RSD was conducted for 145 cases manifestly in need of protection or at risk of *refoulement*, with a recognition rate of 75 per cent.
- UNHCR drafted two concept notes on reception conditions and the quality of first-instance RSD decisions and made recommendations to the Government.

Basic needs and essential services

- UNHCR and its partners referred nearly 16,000 individuals to service providers.
- Some 825 critically ill refugees and asylum-seekers were given specialized treatment.
- As a result of advocacy efforts, the Department of Social Development promulgated regulations under the Social Assistance Act that extended social grants to refugees. Over 3,300 families received either food or material assistance, including sanitary materials.

- In a move away from assistance on an individual basis, UNHCR provided financial support to schools that accepted refugees, resulting in more than 4,000 refugee students being enrolled in primary schools. UNHCR administered DAFI scholarships providing for university education to 71 students.
- Language training was offered to 1,100 students.
- Some 1,160 refugee families received assistance in the form of rental fees and accommodation in shelters.

Community empowerment and self-reliance

- Grants for income-generating activities were given to 250 people, while employment workshops benefited more than 200 individuals. Almost 140 people received assistance to obtain recognition of their foreign diplomas.
- Activities to foster peaceful coexistence benefited more than 200,000 people.

Durable solutions

- Resettlement submissions were made for 1,216 refugees, exceeding the planning figure of 1,000, and reflecting a 29 per cent increase from the previous year.
- UNHCR helped 34 people to repatriate voluntarily, mostly to Burundi and the DRC. Voluntary repatriation was promoted in the context of the invocation of cessation clauses for Angolans and Rwandans, but there was little interest among these groups, most of whose members preferred to remain in South Africa and apply for alternative status.

Logistics and operational support

- The supply unit in South Africa ensured that its records were in line with the IPSAS compliance requirements.
- Outsourced storage facilities in Durban and Johannesburg held core relief items (CRIs) for approximately 1,800 families. This emergency stock of CRIs is available to any country operation in the region, depending on need.

Statelessness

- Assistance with civil registration was provided to 313 children who were at risk of statelessness.
- Direct legal services were provided to 736 stateless persons.
- Social workers of five districts in Limpopo Province were trained to identify unaccompanied minors at risk of statelessness and to help them with immigration formalities and nationality documentation.
- Fifteen legal practitioners were trained to identify and assist stateless persons.
- A presentation on the ratification of the Statelessness Conventions was given to Parliament.
- To highlight the issue of statelessness in South Africa, a photography exhibition was put together which will be shown around the country in 2013.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 13 implementing partners to deliver legal and social assistance to refugees in Gauteng, Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Kwa-Zulu Natal and Limpopo provinces. In Swaziland, UNHCR worked with one partner to complement the support provided by the Government.

Assessment of results

In 2012, approximately 15,000 refugees and asylum-seekers received direct UNHCR-funded social assistance and 16,000 legal assistance. In addition, approximately 16,000 received counselling and 220,000 (including local populations) were targeted by awareness-raising campaigns on subjects such as SGBV, HIV and AIDS and social cohesion.

Constraints

Inundated by the sheer number of asylum applications it receives every year, South Africa is implementing policies leading to a reduction of protection space. The Government's decision to close refugee reception offices has limited access to documentation for people of concern. With xenophobia making it difficult for them to integrate locally or become self-reliant, many refugees depend on food and accommodation assistance to survive. For UNHCR, however, providing such assistance in urban areas is very costly. Urban areas also present challenges when conducting outreach initiatives or implementing UNHCR's urban refugee policy, mainly because refugees and asylum-seekers are dispersed across wide areas, often living amongst the urban poor, who also need assistance. Advocacy is required for urban refugees and asylum-seekers to enable them to gain access to public services.

Unmet needs

- Lack of livelihood opportunities has resulted in people of concern repeatedly requesting financial assistance for accommodation.
- UNHCR was unable to reach refugees and asylum-seekers outside the five major cities.
- UNHCR was unable to help the Department of Home Affairs with financial support to improve its filing and registrations systems.
- Efforts to monitor refugee reception offices were hampered by a lack of resources.
- UNHCR does not fund health care in South Africa as refugees are able to access public health facilities. However, there is a need to allocate resources for advocacy and training of health-care workers on refugee issues. UNHCR estimates that more than 4,000 terminally ill and bedridden persons of concern were not offered home-based care and social support due to lack of funds.
- Only 25 per cent of the targeted 20,000 individuals could be given educational support. Some 100 mandate RSD cases in South Africa could not be adjudicated due to a lack of staff.
- The inadequacy of resources limited the geographical area in which UNHCR and its partners could implement programmes to prevent xenophobia. This is of particular concern in Limpopo, Free State, Mpumalanga and Eastern Cape provinces, where there has been a noticeable increase in violence toward foreigners, including refugees.

The protection working group chaired by UNHCR included representatives of sister agencies, NGOs, government departments and the South African Police Services.

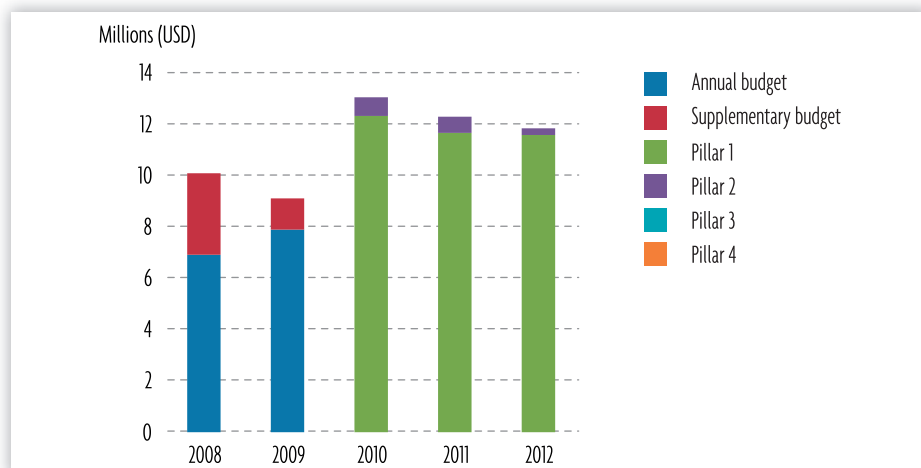
As a participant in the South Africa - UN Strategic Cooperation Framework process, UNHCR collaborated with sister agencies and the Government.

UNHCR worked closely with the Government, particularly its departments of Home Affairs, Social Development, International Relations and Cooperation, as well as with provincial and municipal authorities.

Financial information

Expenditures for South Africa | 2008 to 2012

The financial requirements for UNHCR's South Africa Regional Office amounted to USD 35.2 million in 2012, based on planned projects in the areas of registration, RSD, durable solutions, health and public information. However, the level of funding allowed the operation to expend only some USD 12 million. Even though the overall financial needs for the year were slightly lower than in 2011, requirements remained high with growing numbers of people of concern in the country, as well as the need to undertake anti-xenophobia campaigns.



Budget, income and expenditure in the South Africa Regional Office | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
FINAL BUDGET	33,075,048	2,148,596	35,223,644
Income from contributions ¹	229,209	0	229,209
Other funds available / adjustments / transfers	11,298,895	256,359	11,555,254
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	11,528,104	256,359	11,784,463

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

Favourable Protection Environment

International and regional instruments	0	0	0
Law and policy	0	0	0
Administrative institutions and practice	0	0	0
Access to legal assistance and remedies	503,022	122,072	625,094
Access to territory and refoulement risk reduced	54,489	0	54,489
Public attitude towards persons of concern	873,031	0	873,031
Subtotal	1,430,542	122,072	1,552,614

Fair Protection Processes and Documentation

Reception conditions	0	0	0
Identification of statelessness	480	114,056	114,536
Registration and profiling	764,251	0	764,251
Status determination procedures	736,345	0	736,345
Individual documentation	0	0	0
Civil registration and status documentation	0	0	0
Family reunification	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,501,076	114,056	1,615,133

Security from Violence and Exploitation

Protection from crime	0	0	0
Protection from effects of armed conflict	0	0	0

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	Total
Prevention and response to SGBV	346,033	0	346,033
Freedom of movement and detention risk reduced	0	0	0
Protection of children	349,645	0	349,645
Subtotal	695,678	0	695,678
<i>Basic Needs and Essential Services</i>			
Health	178,950	0	178,950
Reproductive health and HIV services	364,412	0	364,412
Nutrition	0	0	0
Food security	0	0	0
Water	0	0	0
Sanitation and hygiene	0	0	0
Shelter and infrastructure	266,537	0	266,537
Access to energy	0	0	0
Basic and domestic items	207,734	0	207,734
Services for people with specific needs	540,034	0	540,034
Education	538,475	0	538,475
Subtotal	2,096,142	0	2,096,142
<i>Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance</i>			
Community mobilization	80,379	0	80,379
Coexistence with local communities	0	0	0
Natural resources and shared environment	0	0	0
Self-reliance and livelihoods	682,392	0	682,392
Subtotal	762,770	0	762,770
<i>Durable Solutions</i>			
Comprehensive solutions strategy	1,244	0	1,244
Voluntary return	361,874	0	361,874
Reintegration	0	0	0
Integration	0	0	0
Resettlement	1,147,742	0	1,147,742
Reduction of statelessness	0	0	0
Subtotal	1,510,859	0	1,510,859
<i>Leadership, Coordination and Partnerships</i>			
Coordination and partnerships	0	0	0
Camp management and coordination	0	0	0
Emergency management	0	0	0
Donor relations and resource mobilization	0	0	0
Subtotal	0	0	0
<i>Logistics and Operations Support</i>			
Logistics and supply	201,199	0	201,199
Operations management, coordination and support	1,652,596	0	1,652,596
Subtotal	1,853,794	0	1,853,794
<i>Headquarters and Regional Support</i>			
Policy development	9	0	9
Global strategic direction and management	271,910	0	271,910
Technical advice and support to operations	410	0	410
Subtotal	272,329	0	272,329
Balance of instalments with implementing partners	1,404,913	20,231	1,425,144
Total	11,528,103	256,359	11,784,462

*Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the “New or additional activities – mandate-related” (NAM) Reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.