



UNHCR OPERATION IN ZAMBIA

FACTSHEET

September 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

7,000 Students assisted with education.	1,930 asylum-seekers pending status determination applications, the majority originating from the Great Lakes region	332 Zambia has submitted 332 persons for further processing under resettlement	1,749 Vulnerable individuals and new arrivals assisted with cash based interventions
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Population of concern

A total of **51,277** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Burundi	3,114
DRC	20,159
Somalia	2,695
Rwanda	6,187
Angola	18,741
Other	381
Total	51,277

Funding

USD 19,500,007 requested



UNHCR Presence

Staff:

- 40 national staff
- 11 international staff
- 14 affiliated staff

Offices:

- 3 offices located in:
CO Lusaka, FO Solwezi, FO Kaom



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

The Ministry of Home Affairs is UNHCR's main official link with Government. UNHCR also collaborates with other ministries on specific issues. UNHCR coordinates humanitarian, repatriation and integration assistance with: [Aktion Afrika Hilfe International](#) | [Min. of Home Affairs /Commissioner for Refugees Office](#) | [Min. of Health](#) | [Min. of Education](#) | [Min. of Community Development Mother and Child Health](#) | [Min. of Agriculture and Livestock](#) | [Min. of Energy and Water Development](#) | [International Development Enterprise \(IDE\)](#) | [World Vision Zambia \(WVZ\)](#) | [Caritas Czech Republic](#) | [Buildcon](#) | [Concern Worldwide](#) | [Habitat for Humanity Zambia](#)

MAJOR HIGHLIGHT

- ON 22 August 2015, the Angolan Minister of Social Assistance and Re-integration, the Honourable Joao Baptista Kusumua visited Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement in Kaoma, Western Province, accompanied by his Zambian counterpart, Ms Emerine Kabanshi, the Minister of Community Development Mother and Child Health; and other senior Government and UNHCR officials. The Angolan Minister held a meeting with former Angolan refugees at the settlement, during which they exchanged various views.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection and legal issues

- The majority of POCs reside in the settlements of Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. The rest of the people of concern are scattered all over the country. The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) is responsible for conducting refugee status determination. UNHCR is part of the National Eligibility Committee and provides technical advice and country of origin information. UNHCR also provides training for officials on the NEC.
- The Zambian Cabinet, in principle, approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to Repeal and Replace the Refugees Act 1970 so that it provides for effective administration and management of refugees as well as to facilitate the domestication of international and regional conventions on refugees to which Zambia is a signatory.
- Some 607 Burundians have fled to Zambia since May 2015 and have been relocated to Meheba settlement.

Education

- UNHCR assists the most vulnerable students with payment of education materials and other related costs for primary education (which is free of charge) and with limited scholarships for secondary and tertiary education. In the urban areas, UNHCR supports a total of 420 vulnerable students in accessing primary and secondary education in government and community schools. In the two settlements, refugees attend primary and secondary school alongside Zambian students who make up around 30% amongst the total student population of around 7,000. UNHCR has been sponsoring individual students to support direct and indirect costs enabling them to access education in both settlements and urban areas. However, fund constraints have limited the number of students UNHCR could support to tertiary education has been limited owing to reduced funding to this sector.

Health

- UNHCR is working with the Zambian Government through the Ministry of Community Development Mother and Child Health (MCDMCH) to ensuring quality primary health care services delivery to persons of concern in the settlements and in urban areas. UNHCR supports eight clinics in the settlements and one in Lusaka through support on additional health staff, supplementary medicines and supplies, and logistical support. Primary Health Care Services are offered to both persons of concern and local populations in the settlements. Services include immunization, reproductive health and family planning, HIV and ART services, nutrition, medical care, control of communicable and non-communicable disease, laboratory services, and outreach programs.
- Recently, Meheba refugee settlement has hosted the training on Cervical Cancer Screening and Treatment for 16 health workers in Southern African Region which included nine participants from the Mayukwayukwa and Meheba settlements where about 100 women have benefited from the cervical cancer screening. Workshop on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support was conducted for UNHCR and Partners' staff, while training on Psychosocial Counselling by the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI) has been conducted for 25 community workers and volunteers.

- A Balanced Scorecard (BSC) Assessment, a tool to assess the quality of primary health care services was conducted in three biggest health centers in the settlements. Furthermore, training on Anti-Retro Viral Therapy (ART) adherence tool, use to document adherence of HIV patients who are on ART, was conducted to health workers in the settlements.

Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

- UNHCR, working with the Government, continues to promote self-reliance activities targeting refugees and former refugees in the two settlements. Key interventions include income generating activities such as fish farming, bee-keeping, farming and livestock, as well as training in business and entrepreneurship skills.
- Following the replacement of direct monthly food distribution provided to vulnerable refugees with cash assistance in an effort to increase their purchasing potential, six distributions from January to June were conducted to a maximum of 1,749 individuals (836 new arrivals and 913 vulnerable persons).. The core purpose of the cash assistance was to enable them meet their minimum needs and in the process accord them dignity and freedom of choice
- Under the Local Integration program, UNHCR and partners (ILO, IFAD, IOM, INGO) are scaling up livelihoods interventions, addressing issues related to savings and access to finance, training in farming methods and environmental protection, access to markets and promoting community cohesion and formation of networks and cooperatives.

Voluntary Repatriation

- Since January 2015, a total of 179 Angolans and five Congolese have repatriated. In addition five Congolese have returned home this year from Meheba. It is a much lower number when compared to 2014 when some 1,600 Angolans returned home with IOM/UNHCR support.

Resettlement

- Zambia targets to resettle up to 800 persons in 2015 from the two refugee settlements and Lusaka and identification and processing of cases is ongoing. As of 1 August, Zambia has referred 113 cases/353 persons for further processing, 101 cases/332 persons have been submitted to RST countries and 32 cases/88 persons have departed to RST countries. The majority of the refugees that have been processed for resettlement in Zambia are mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). However, to reach the target for the year, UNHCR has also incorporated other nationalities.

Local integration

- In June 2015, the Zambian Government approved the Rwandan local integration. The Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee has since drafted the local integration criteria, which is awaiting approval from the Minister of Home Affairs. The government has pledged to integrate up to 4,000 eligible Rwandans and 10,000 Angolans. To date, 5,450 eligible Angolans have applied and screened for local integration, and some 456 residency permits have been issued. Furthermore, in the resettlement schemes, a total of 1,209 farm plots have been surveyed/demarcated, with 949 families having applied for land. Some 605 households have been allocated plots in the resettlement schemes, of which 370 have been issued with letters of occupancy and 60 families have since moved to their plots. The Ministry of Home Affairs has initiated the hand-over of the two resettlement schemes, to be managed by the Department of Resettlement in the Office of the Vice President.

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