

South Africa Representation and Multi-Country Office

September 2021

The Multi-Country Office reaches **259,552 people of concern** in Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, and South Africa.

In the Republic of South Africa, a joint project between UNHCR and the Government will **help clear a challenging asylum backlog by 2024** and build asylum capacity.

Key priorities include strengthening **national asylum systems**; promoting **inclusion and social cohesion**; ending **statelessness**; **enhancing partnerships** and the **protection environment**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN BY HOST COUNTRY (AS OF 31 JULY)

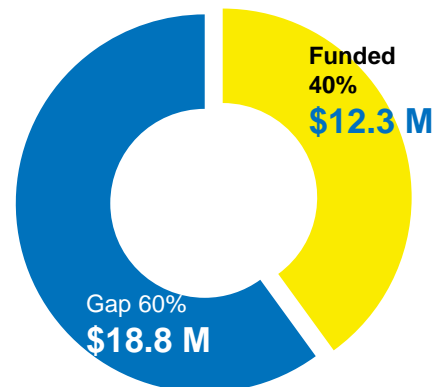
259,552

Botswana	698
Comoros	1
Eswatini	2 081
Lesotho	482
Madagascar	266
Mauritius	17
Namibia	5 757
Seychelles	0
South Africa	250 250

FUNDING (AS OF 13 SEPTEMBER)

USD 31.1 million

Requested for the South Africa Representation and Multi-Country Office



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff: 100

Offices:

1 Representation and Multi-Country Office in Pretoria, South Africa, covering 9 countries.

3 Field Offices in Cape Town (South Africa), Dukwi (Botswana) and Windhoek (Namibia).



WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with 19 partners in the seven countries currently sheltering people of concern: Botswana (1), Eswatini (2), Lesotho (1), Madagascar (2), Namibia (2), South Africa (11).

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR and South Africa's Department of Home Affairs launched a four-year project to clear the asylum appeal backlog in March, which will benefit some **153,000** persons of concern.
- Verification exercises were carried out for the **5,669** refugees and asylum-seekers in Namibia and **1,055** in Botswana in coordination with government counterparts. These exercises support the streamlining of population figures across stakeholders, and ensure refugees have appropriate documentation.
- Interest in voluntary repatriation is growing. UNHCR supported 450 persons of concern in Botswana and South Africa to return home in safety and in dignity in the first half of 2021.
- UNHCR promotes social cohesion and inclusion of refugees through a network of NGOs, refugee-led networks and institutional partners. The Fruit Basket, a refugee-led organization in South Africa, won UNHCR's **RLO Innovation Award** for their tireless work to support LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum-seekers during the pandemic.



UNHCR's Representative, Mr Leonard Zulu, participates in an exchange with refugees in Osire Camp, Namibia. ©UNHCR/B. Muteshi

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Persons of concern continue to be reached with essential information about COVID-19 prevention and response, including access to vaccinations and addressing vaccine hesitancy.
- UNHCR provides technical support to the authorities in the nine countries to strengthen national asylum systems, and to work towards eradicating statelessness.
- Under its regular programming, UNHCR provides protection services to persons of concern, including legal assistance, promotion of social cohesion and reintegration support, psychosocial counselling, basic assistance, access to tertiary education and livelihoods.



The Fruit Basket staff distributing food and essential household and hygiene items to LGBTQI+ refugees in Johannesburg, South Africa. ©UNHCR/K. Pond

- More than 5,500 vulnerable refugee and host community members in South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini and Madagascar received cash-based assistance and food parcels since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. UNHCR continues to support health care and sanitation services Dukwi refugee camp in Botswana and Osire refugee settlement in Namibia.

Durable Solutions

- UNHCR advocates for the local integration of refugees and asylum-seekers and, where feasible, facilitates voluntary repatriation for refugees who wish to return home in safety and dignity. Resettlement remains a vital protection tool for a small proportion of highly vulnerable refugees.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is grateful for donor contributions to the South Africa Representation and Multi-Country Office.

Canada | France | European Union | Germany | Japan | Luxembourg | Migration MPTF | Norway | Private donors | Spain | United States of America | UN Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNHCR is also grateful for unearmarked contributions, which allow UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach persons of in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

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