

South Africa Representation and Multi-Country Office

January-March 2021

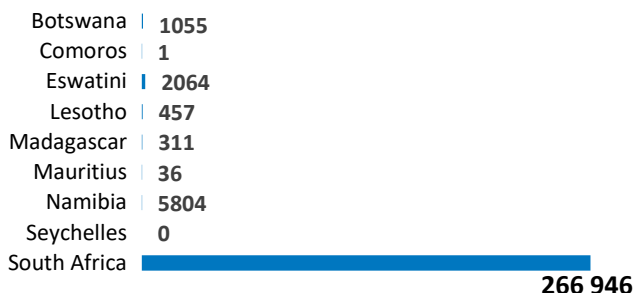
The Multi-Country Office reaches **276,329** people of concern in Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, and South Africa.

Asylum-Seekers are caught-up in a complex mixed flow environment. In South Africa, a joint project to clear a challenging asylum backlog by **UNHCR and the authorities will hear 153,000 cases by 2024.**

Regular priorities include strengthening **national asylum systems**; ending **statelessness**; enhancing the **protection environment**; strengthening **partnerships**.

POPULATION OF CONCERN BY HOST COUNTRY (AS OF 26 APRIL)

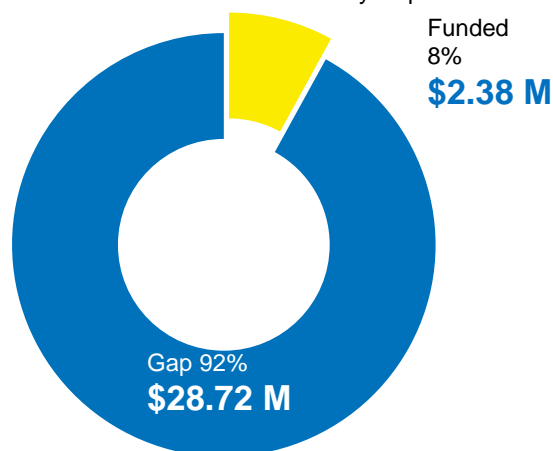
276,329



FUNDING (AS OF 11 APRIL)

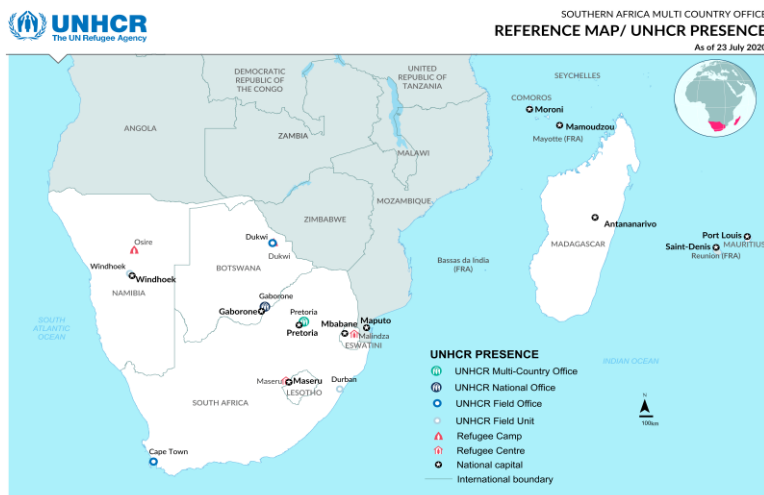
USD 31.1 M

requested for the South Africa Multi-Country Representation



UNHCR PRESENCE

- Multi-Country Office in Pretoria, South Africa covering 9 countries.
- 3 Field Offices in Cape Town (South Africa), Dukwi (Botswana) and Windhoek (Namibia).



Highlights

- **Since 1 January 2021** UNHCR and South Africa's Department of Home Affairs launched a project to clear the asylum backlog in four years. Under the project, some **153,000** people will have their cases heard by 2024 and the asylum system will be strengthened. Verification exercises were carried out for the **5,669** refugees and asylum-seekers in Namibia and **1055** in Botswana in coordination with government counterparts. The exercises support both the streamlining of population figures across stakeholders and ensuring refugees and asylum-seekers have the correct documentation. Interest in voluntary repatriation is growing, and UNHCR has supported **394** people to return to their countries of origin from Botswana and South Africa safely and in dignity since the start of the year. 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 in South Africa, especially their nimble service delivery through the pandemic when material needs overtook the need for legal support in urgency.



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

Main Activities

- Refugees and host community members continue to be reached with essential information about COVID-19 prevention and response.
- 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 refugees and asylum-seekers, including legal assistance, promotion of social cohesion, psychosocial counselling, basic assistance, access to tertiary education and livelihoods.
- Under COVID-19 emergency planning, UNHCR and partners are providing multipurpose cash-based assistance and food parcels to members of the refugee and host communities who are struggling to make ends meet, and supporting health care and sanitation services in refugee camps and settlements.



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

protection tool for a small proportion of highly vulnerable refugees.

Working with Partners

- UNHCR works with 21 implementing partners in the seven countries currently sheltering people of concern: Botswana (2), Eswatini (1), Lesotho (1), Madagascar (2), Mauritius (1), Namibia (3), South Africa (11).

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation, including (as of 20 April 2021) the United States of America, the European Union, and the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

Special thanks to the major donors of softly earmarked contributions to UNHCR that can potentially be used for this operation due to their earmarking to a related situation or theme, or to the region or sub-region.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS I USD

United States of America 35.6 million | Canada 8.5 million | Germany 4.4 million | Private donors Australia 3.7 million

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions to UNHCR's global programme. Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility on how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS I USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Spain 21.5 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 10.8 million

Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Liechtenstein | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Turkey | Uruguay | Private donors

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