


# Southern Africa

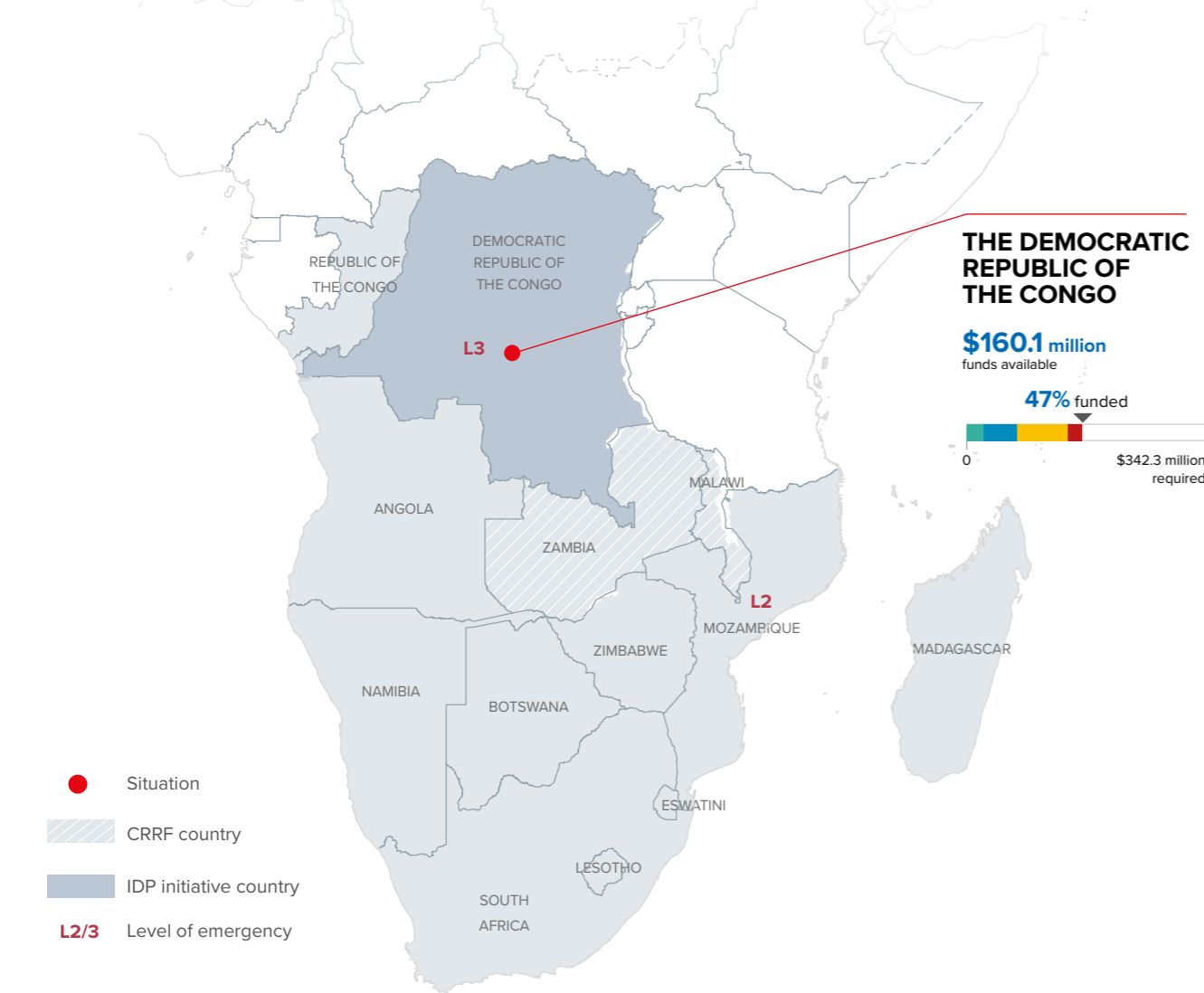


“ We have lots of refugees here, they should not die. They have been here for more than a month with no humanitarian help. We want all the people here to have a little something. ”

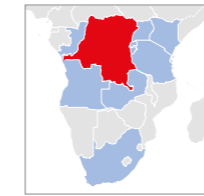
—Alpha Vonzia, chief of Congo Rive village

*Alpha Vonzia, 43, fishes in the Oubangui river that marks the border between the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He leads a simple life as chief of Congo Rive village, but now in addition to the 300 residents of his village, he is taking care of thousands of newly-arrived Central African refugees, following the violence in Bangui in January 2021.*

# OVERVIEW AND KEY DATA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2020



# MAJOR SITUATIONS IN 2020



## THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

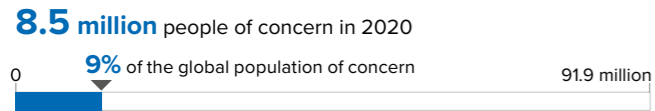
**44,429** IDP households received cash grants for basic and domestic items. **530,333** people of concern reached with core relief items. **119,467** people of concern received emergency shelter.

The humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remained complex in 2020, particularly in eastern provinces. 5.2 million people remained internally displaced, while more than 861,000 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted in neighbouring countries. UNHCR strengthened its emergency support in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri provinces, in line with UNHCR's IDP policy. 44,429 IDP households received cash grants for basic and domestic items. The situation was characterized by the large number of IDPs, a complex security situation that caused repeated internal displacement, and limited resources for humanitarian actors to provide protection and assistance to IDPs. These factors contributed to onward displacement to neighbouring countries.

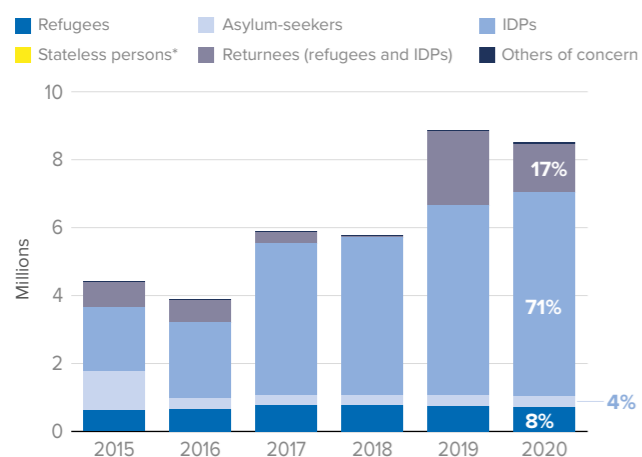
Under the 2020 [Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#), UNHCR led 66 partners in seven neighbouring countries of asylum to provide multisectoral assistance, protection and solutions.

While humanitarian assistance was an essential component of UNHCR's response, promotion of sustainable livelihoods and inclusion of refugees into national development plans were also prioritized, reflecting the whole-of-society approach of the Global Compact on Refugees.

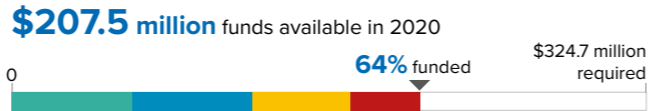
## PEOPLE OF CONCERN



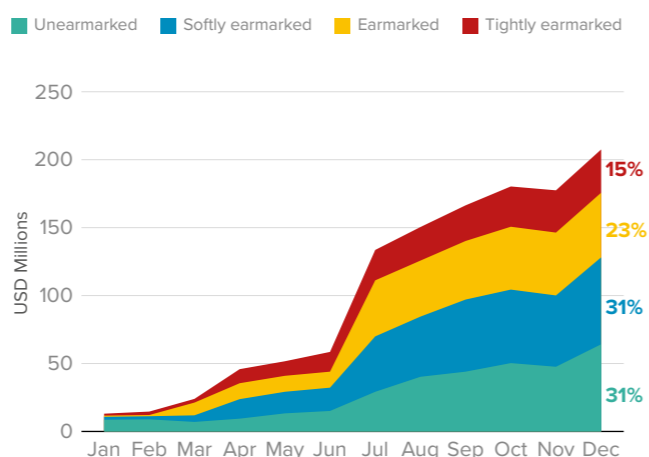
### People of concern | 2015-2020



## REGIONAL FUNDING OVERVIEW AND EARMARKING



### Monthly evolution of funding | 2020



# KEY RESULTS AND TRENDS IN 2020

## UNHCR'S PROGRAMMATIC RESPONSE

### CHILD PROTECTION

**1,651** unaccompanied or separated children had a best interests assessment initiated or completed.

Evolution compared to 2019



### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**3,390** gender-based violence incidents reported for which survivors received psychosocial counselling.



### CORE RELIEF ITEMS

**124,164** households provided with core relief items.



**68,020** women received sanitary materials.



### HEALTH

**1.05** under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 under-5s per month) in refugee camps.



**92%** of births in refugees camps were attended by skilled personnel.\*

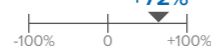


### SHELTER

**76,547** people of concern received emergency shelter.



**62%** of households lived in adequate dwellings.



### WASH

**19** litres of potable water available on average per person per day in refugee camps.

Evolution compared to 2019



**62%** of households had a drop-hole latrine or drop-hole toilet.



### EDUCATION\*\*

**63,374** children enrolled in primary education.



**9,494** students enrolled in secondary education.



**1,162** people of concern received tertiary education scholarships.



### SELF-RELIANCE

**236** people of concern enrolled in vocational training.



### VOLUNTARY RETURNS

**6,275** refugees assisted to return voluntarily.



### RESETTLEMENT

**1,371** resettlement submissions.

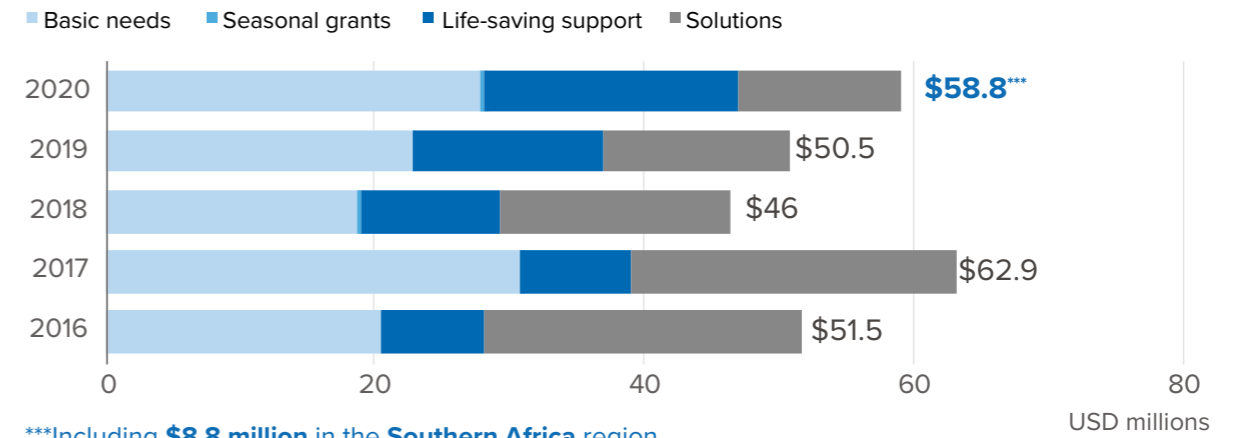


\*Four countries reporting in 2020 compared to three countries reporting in 2019.

\*\*While enrolment rates for the school year were high, a majority of those enrolled did not attend school due to COVID-19 restrictions.

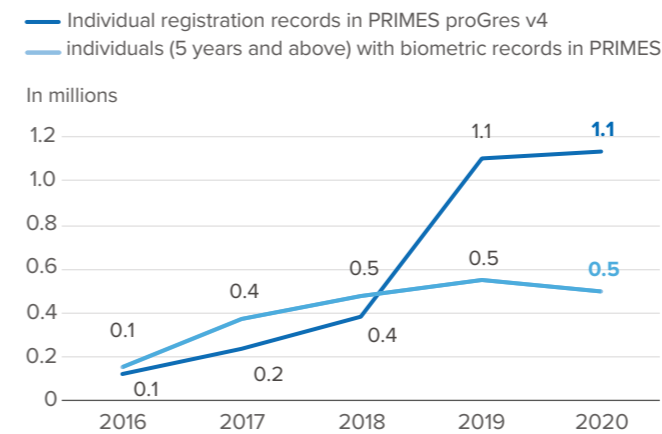
## TRENDS IN RESPONSE

### Cash assistance by sector in Africa | 2016-2020

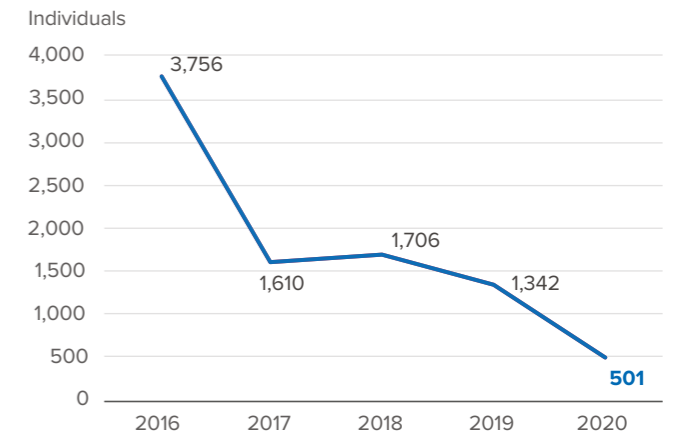


\*\*\*Including \$8.8 million in the Southern Africa region.

### Individual registration records | 2016-2020



### Resettlement departures | 2016-2020



## UNHCR'S COVID-19 RESPONSE



**1,369,515** refugees, IDPs and other people of concern accessed protection services.



**560,399** refugees and other people of concern received essential health care services.



**18,129** refugees and other people of concern provided with mental health and psychosocial support services.



**3,572** children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition.



**2,405** children and youth supported with distance/home-based learning.



**261,359** refugees, IDPs and other people of concern received cash assistance related to the impact of COVID-19.



**48,324** women and girls accessed sexual and reproductive health services.



**11** country operations reported all geographic areas inhabited by people of concern were reached by COVID-19 information campaigns.



**1,835** children 6-59 months admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition.



**83,380** refugee children and youth out of school due to mandatory school closures.



## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

### Safeguarding access to protection and asylum

UNHCR's multi-year, multi-partner protection and solutions strategy for Southern Africa provided a strategic framework in the region to ensure access to protection and asylum. National migration and asylum systems remained overwhelmed and in need of strengthening to manage mixed movements of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants originating from over 90 countries. To address this, UNHCR strengthened the quality and integrity of registration and refugee status determination processes by providing technical and financial support. As the pandemic restricted access to territory, UNHCR successfully advocated for keeping asylum open. The number of people biometrically registered in the region fell 10% due to the verification exercise of South Sudanese refugees, voluntary repatriation, spontaneous returns, resettlement departures to third countries and movements outside the region. The pandemic also slowed biometric registration.

UNHCR and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) established a five-year joint action plan to support ratification of key instruments by SADC member States, strengthen research, harmonize processes and help develop appropriate policies.

In the Republic of the Congo, a national asylum law was under consideration by the Government, while the Seychelles requested technical support in drafting a national legal asylum framework that could serve as a model for other Indian Ocean island States. Mauritius and UNHCR agreed on standard operating procedures to prevent refoulement,

facilitate refugee status determination and identify solutions, while the Comoros expressed its intention to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. In line with its strategy to address mixed movements in Africa, UNHCR implemented the first year of a four-year joint project with the ILO, IOM and UNODC to support SADC member States in strengthening institutional mechanisms for asylum and migration management.

### Responding with life-saving assistance

UNHCR provided protection and multisectoral assistance to people of concern and host communities affected by new emergencies and protracted displacement. Some 1.4 million refugees, IDPs and other people of concern received protection services.

UNHCR's response was anchored in national systems and development plans, with cash assistance an integral element. Cash assistance was introduced for urban refugees in South Africa who could no longer access socioeconomic opportunities and for camp-based refugees in Zambia whose livelihood opportunities were severely affected by COVID-19. Increased cash assistance helped offset WFP food ration cuts, which were seriously affecting people of concern in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. 261,400 people of concern received cash assistance to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, which caused over 1.2 million confirmed cases in Southern Africa in 2020. UNHCR

programmes were adapted to observe physical distancing, with health protocols at registration and food distribution points, and hotlines and community protection structures to report protection issues and assistance needs. UNHCR's response focused on communicating about prevention measures, strengthening health systems, reinforcing water, sanitation and hygiene services, and supporting isolation and quarantine units, particularly in refugee camps and settlements.

### Seeking durable solutions for protracted refugee situations

6,275 people were assisted to return home in 2020, although border closures prompted by COVID-19 forced UNHCR to suspend voluntary repatriation operations from March onwards. Tripartite consultations continued between UNHCR, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and relevant countries of asylum regarding the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers. The Governments of Namibia and Burundi and UNHCR initiated discussions on repatriation of Burundian refugees from Osire camp, with "go and see" visits and intentional surveys planned for early 2021.

In Zambia, UNHCR continued its efforts to help integrate former Angolan and Rwandan refugees by supporting self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion and moving away from encampment approaches. In Zimbabwe, the African Development Bank funded a UNHCR scheme to expand self-reliance opportunities through agricultural activities. In Namibia, some Angolan refugees received legal assistance to acquire permanent residence.

Resettlement in Southern Africa was severely constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic, with third-country resettlement

decreasing from around 3,800 submissions in 2019 to 1,371 submissions in 2020. In line with [UNHCR's three-year global strategy on resettlement and complementary pathways \(2019-2021\)](#), UNHCR conducted training for resettlement and protection staff, including on family reunification, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, humanitarian pathways and private sponsors.

### Ensuring protection and durable solutions for IDPs

By the end of 2020, the Southern Africa region hosted around 6 million IDPs, mainly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique. Violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo pushed the number of IDPs to 5.2 million by the start of 2021. UNHCR allocated additional funding for shelter in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, improving the lives of over 175,000 people, having identified vulnerable families and durable solutions thanks to close cooperation between Shelter, Protection and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Clusters. UNHCR also sought to reinforce host families by providing support for additional rooms and housing on their land, and by improving living conditions for families who have been residing at overcrowded sites for years by using a villagization approach.

A deteriorating security situation in Cabo Delgado Province in north-eastern Mozambique displaced 530,000 people in Cabo Delgado. Over 90% remained in the province and others fled to the neighbouring Nampula (9%) and Niassa Provinces. UNHCR led the Protection Cluster and actively participated in the Shelter Cluster and Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster. UNHCR scaled up operations in northern

provinces and worked with partners and the Government to increase protection services and promote humanitarian access. UNHCR also prioritized gender-based violence prevention and response activities.

### Reducing and preventing statelessness

Positive steps were taken towards reducing and preventing statelessness in Southern Africa, although the pandemic slowed progress. The Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Zambia made progress towards accession to the Statelessness Conventions with support from UNHCR. Furthermore, UNHCR provided technical support to the Republic of the Congo and Eswatini, following their adoption of national action plans to end statelessness. Areas of focus included reforming nationality laws and enhancing civil registration systems. National plans were awaiting formal endorsement by Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Namibia and Zambia. Data collection efforts on the risk of statelessness, profiles and size of affected populations in a number of countries were initiated and supported by UNHCR. Legal aid was provided to some 2,000 people of concern in Madagascar, Mozambique and

South Africa, with a view to providing access to documentation or to confirming nationality. Approximately 500 people of concern had their nationalities confirmed.

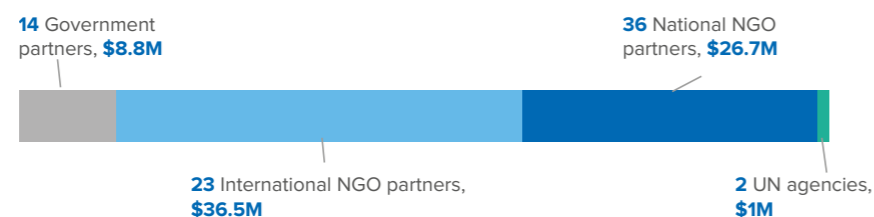
### Implementing pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum

During the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, the region demonstrated extraordinary political will to support the Global Compact on Refugees, with 69 pledges covering refugee integration, registration and access to identity cards, agricultural land and work permits, higher education, asylum procedures and legal frameworks. States submitted additional pledges at the Forum and the High-Level Segment on Statelessness. Twelve States and four organizations in Southern Africa provided 65 pledges, the second highest among UNHCR's seven regions. 70% of pledges reported are at the implementation or planning stage.

In Zambia, 1,054 refugee and host community farmers were included in national agriculture input support programmes. More than 2,300 people of concern have been registered in the Zambia Integrated Agriculture Information Management Systems, pending inclusion in the Farmer Input Support Programme. To further expand agricultural livelihoods, 700 farm plots were allocated to refugee farmers in Mantapala.

## EXPENDITURE VIA PARTNERS | 2020

**\$73 million** spent via **75** partners in Southern Africa



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

### Consequences of underfunding

COVID-19 compounded difficulties in the region and obliged UNHCR to reallocate from a chronically underfunded budget, providing pandemic-related cash assistance to 261,359 people of concern.

The unmet needs were often acute: in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, only 25% of survivors of gender-based violence received medical aid, 15% got legal aid, and 1 in 200 got livelihoods support. Across the country, UNHCR's assistance reached fewer than half of those identified as having specific needs. In the north-west, a shortfall in resources undermined standards of health care for Central African refugees.

Underfunding also affected UNHCR's ability to meet basic needs in Dzaleka refugee camp in Malawi, where 46,000 mainly Burundian, Congolese and Rwandan refugees and asylum-seekers occupied a site meant for 10,000. Access to clean water increased from 8.6 litres per day per person in 2019 to 12 litres, still barely above half the minimum standard of 20 litres. The congested camp, relying on a health centre serving 80,000 people, posed a serious COVID-19 risk. Water was also short in Zimbabwe's Tongogara refugee camp, where UNHCR lacked

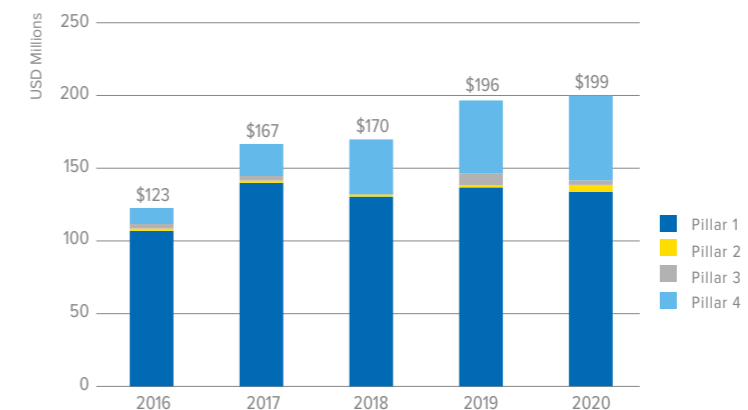
funding to solarize the network and prevent power outages.

Across the region, COVID-19 kept 83,000 children out of school, but UNHCR could only support 2,405 with distance/home-based learning. In the Republic of the Congo, there was too little funding to build classrooms, pay volunteer teachers and buy school supplies for children, leaving overcrowded primary schools at risk of COVID-19 and unable to provide quality education.

In Angola, UNHCR had planned an employment initiative for vulnerable urban refugees whose undocumented status made it hard to find work and access basic services, as well as putting them at risk of detention and exploitation. However, COVID-19 made it impossible for UNHCR to cover the needs of extremely vulnerable families, forcing it to halt the jobs scheme.

Under-investment in agriculture and livelihoods in Eswatini and Namibia derailed refugee self-reliance and UNHCR's planned phase-out of operations. In Zambia, most refugees lived in dilapidated or inadequate shelters, and reception facilities were below minimum standards for humanitarian and psychosocial needs.

## EXPENDITURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA | 2016-2020



## BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA | USD

OPERATION		PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL	% OF REGIONAL TOTAL	% OF EXP VS BUDGET
		Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects			
Regional Bureau for Southern Africa <sup>1</sup>	Budget	11,262,373	-	-	-	11,262,373	3%	
	Expenditure	10,154,554	-	-	-	10,154,554	5%	90%
Regional activities for Southern Africa <sup>1</sup>	Budget	2,436,422	-	-	-	2,436,422	1%	
	Expenditure	144,678	-	-	-	144,678	0%	6%
SUBTOTAL	Budget	13,698,795	-	-	-	13,698,795	4%	
	Expenditure	10,299,232	-	-	-	10,299,232	5%	75%
Angola	Budget	22,479,704	120,000	-	-	22,599,704	7%	
	Expenditure	11,494,548	11,852	-	-	11,506,400	6%	51%
The Republic of the Congo	Budget	25,940,642	1,154,957	-	2,311,039	29,406,638	9%	
	Expenditure	8,654,402	428,836	-	1,666,220	10,749,458	5%	37%
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Budget	100,685,348	5,787,283	6,233,495	55,513,730	168,219,857	52%	
	Expenditure	50,962,210	2,631,932	3,379,144	52,715,676	109,688,963	55%	65%
Malawi	Budget	21,593,588	-	-	-	21,593,588	7%	
	Expenditure	13,575,531	-	-	-	13,575,531	7%	63%
Mozambique	Budget	5,665,109	226,132	-	4,232,363	10,123,604	3%	
	Expenditure	4,242,015	35,765	-	3,712,366	7,990,146	4%	79%
South Africa Multi-Country Office <sup>2</sup>	Budget	25,030,263	1,823,602	-	-	26,853,865	8%	
	Expenditure	14,319,414	714,668	-	-	15,034,082	8%	56%
Zambia	Budget	24,621,490	-	-	-	24,621,490	8%	
	Expenditure	13,611,803	-	-	-	13,611,803	7%	55%
Zimbabwe	Budget	7,296,307	297,952	-	-	7,594,259	2%	
	Expenditure	6,963,333	73,857	-	-	7,037,190	4%	93%
TOTAL	Budget	247,011,245	9,409,927	6,233,495	62,057,132	324,711,800	100%	
	Expenditure	134,122,489	3,896,910	3,379,144	58,094,262	199,492,805	100%	61%

<sup>1</sup> Regional Bureau and activities cover the whole Southern Africa region.

<sup>2</sup> Includes activities in Botswana and South Africa and also covers without a country presence the Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and the Seychelles.

## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA | USD

DONOR	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 4	ALL PILLARS	TOTAL
	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	IDP projects		
United States of America	22,887,250		5,000,000	51,493,146	79,380,396
Germany	7,828,283			5,847,953	13,676,236
Central Emergency Response Fund	900,023		10,807,560		11,707,583
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3,448,004			204,007	3,652,011
Finland				3,300,330	3,300,330
UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (National partner in Germany)	227,365			2,932,678	3,160,044
Sweden				3,112,033	3,112,033
European Union	2,103,271		651,154		2,754,425
Japan	467,927		1,465,527	556,586	2,490,040
Denmark	665,564	172,530		1,472,537	2,310,631
France				1,901,939	1,901,939



## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOUTHERN AFRICA | USD

DONOR	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 4	ALL PILLARS	TOTAL
	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	IDP projects		
Norway			1,131,606		1,131,606
Canada				1,117,700	1,117,700
Spain	870,819				870,819
Czechia				862,441	862,441
UK for UNHCR				850,625	850,625
African Development Bank Group	596,083				596,083
UNAIDS	523,450		35,000		558,450
Qatar	399,277				399,277
Private donors in the United States of America	319,336				319,336
Private donors in Switzerland	234,293			8,542	242,835
Country-based pooled funds	200,002				200,002
WFP	197,500				197,500
USA for UNHCR	170,850				170,850
Private donors in Japan	160,761				160,761
Belgium			158,664		158,664
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund			130,255		130,255
Education Cannot Wait	120,000				120,000
Angola				120,000	120,000
Australia for UNHCR				111,495	111,495
United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security	107,171				107,171
España con ACNUR (National partner in Spain)				103,216	103,216
United Nations Malawi SDG Acceleration Fund	90,000				90,000
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	77,812				77,812
Portugal				59,737	59,737
Start-up Fund for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration				37,500	37,500
Private donors in France				36,472	36,472
Botswana				30,472	30,472
Private donors in South Africa				29,039	29,039
South Africa				19,481	19,481
Liechtenstein				13,879	13,879
Japan for UNHCR				3,485	3,485
Private donors in China				1,802	1,802
Private donors in Singapore				1,573	1,573
Private donors in Italy				333	333
Private donors in Canada				133	133
Private donors in Belgium				119	119
Private donors in Kenya				110	110
TOTAL*	42,595,041	172,530	19,379,766	74,229,365	136,376,701

\* Notes:

<sup>1</sup> Contributions include 6.5% indirect support costs.

<sup>2</sup> Overall contributions to Africa have been apportioned to the three regions of Africa.

<sup>3</sup> Includes a total of \$0.2 million acknowledged in past years for activities with implementation in 2020 and excludes \$2.8 million acknowledged in 2020 for activities with implementation in 2021 and beyond.

<sup>4</sup> Includes contributions earmarked to the Democratic Republic of the Congo situation.