

Zambia

July 2021

A total of **38** beneficiaries (**8** Zambians, **23** refugees and **7** former refugees) in Meheba refugee settlement received training in Systems of Rice Intensification.

A total of **13,332** refugees received non-medical face masks in the three refugee settlements during the month of July.

107 urban residency permits (white cards) were issued on the following grounds: family unity **66**, medical **16**, investor's permit **4**, employment permit **13** and security permit **8**.

KEY INDICATORS

767

448 newly arrived asylum-seekers, 136 in-situ and 183 births were registered in July 2021.

16,011

Total of refugees and asylum-seekers reached with COVID-19 related messaging since March 2020?

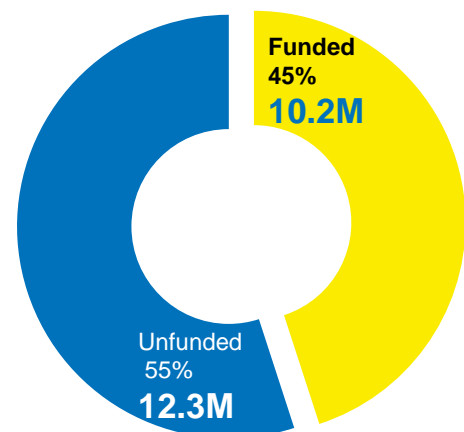
49,852

Refugees and others of concern country-wide have so far received non-medical face masks since the COVID-19 pandemic was first recorded in March 2020

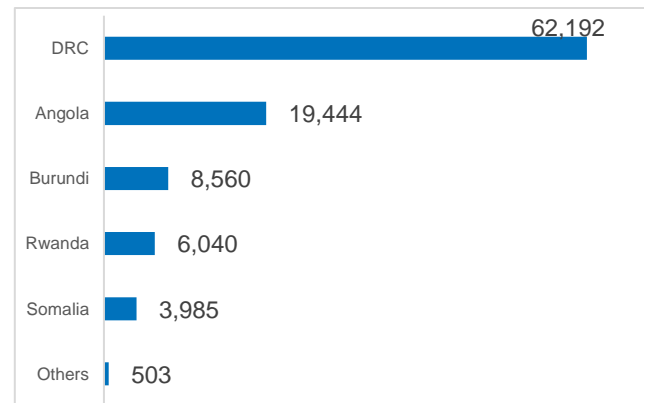
FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY 2021)

USD 22.5 million

UNHCR's 2021 requirements for the Zambia operation:



PEOPLE OF CONCERN: 100,724 INDIVIDUALS/ 33,370 HOUSEHOLDS AS OF 31 JULY 2021



A Congolese refugee with her child at Mantapala settlement
©WFP/Andy Higgins.

Other Nationalities include the Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, State of Palestine, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Zimbabwe.

Operational Context

The Government of Zambia is leading and coordinating the refugee response in order to achieve its commitments towards the Global Compact on Refugees (CCR) and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). Under the 2017 Refugee Act, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), within the Ministry of Home Affairs, is mandated to deal with refugee matters. Thus, in 2018 Zambia adopted the mainstreaming approach, which requires that all line ministries including the Ministries of Agriculture (MoA), Health, Education and Community Services contribute to key sectors under the COR. The coordination of different sectors and partners is managed through interagency meetings at district and national level. This is further strengthened through sectoral and bilateral interactions with various stakeholders. UNHCR is the primary interlocutor and lead agency for refugee issues among UN agencies. To respond to the ongoing Congolese refugee crisis in a holistic and coordinated manner, the Government of Zambia constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) composed of key line ministries. The IMC is comprised of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Chair), Office of the President, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of General Education, Minister of Luapula Province and the UN (UN Resident Coordinator's Office and UNHCR).

As of 31 July 2021, Zambia hosted **100,724** people of concern (PoCs) including **71,418** refugees, **4,657** asylum-seekers and **24,649** others of concern – Angolan and Rwandan former refugees. A total of 767 PoCs including 448 newly arrived asylum-seekers, 136 In-Situ (what does this category include?) and 183 births were registered in July 2021.

PoC's by location in Zambia:

- Mantapala settlement: 17,768 individuals (17,315 are refugees and 453 asylum-seekers).
- Meheba settlement: 32,845 individuals (22,477 are refugees, 399 asylum-seekers and 9,969 others of concern).
- Mayukwayukwa settlement: 20,019 individuals (13,000 are refugees, 18 asylum-seekers and 7,001 others of concern).
- Urban areas in Lusaka and Ndola: 17,688 individuals (13,026 are refugees, 3,787 asylum-seekers and 875 others of concern).
- Self-settled refugees (Government estimate): 12,404 individuals (5,600 refugees and 6,804 others of concern).

UNHCR has four offices in Zambia: Representation Office in Lusaka, Field Offices (FO) in Solwezi and Kawambwa, and a Field Unit in Kaoma. In July 2021, UNHCR Zambia had **101** staff throughout the country including **53** national, **23** international and **25** affiliate staff.

Achievements



Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR Sub-Office (SO) Kalemie in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as well as field offices Solwezi and Kawambwa in Zambia held a virtual meeting on 12 July to discuss the trends of new arrivals in Zambia and spontaneous returns to DRC. SO Kalemie has recorded approximately 3,000 spontaneous returns from Zambia to DRC between 2019 and 2021.
- COR, UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and World Vision International (WVI) conducted a five-day joint border monitoring mission to Chiengi, Kaputa, Nsama/Nsumbu and Mpulungu districts to inspect the assembly points and reception centres. The team found no asylum-seekers at the reception centres due to the suspension of refugee status determination (RSD) screening by District Joint Operations Committees (DJOCs) since mid-December 2020 even though international borders between Zambia, DRC and Burundi have remained open. The team confirmed the improvement of

WASH facilities at Nsumbu and Mpulungu reception centres with the completion of new toilet blocks. However, water boreholes still require the installation of powered pumps to improve access to water.

- The Department of National Registration, Passport and Citizenship (DNRPC) in the Ministry of Home Affairs based in Mansa, Luapula Province issued 1,200 out of 2,000 alien registration cards and birth certificates to refugees in Mantapala settlement. A total of 504 refugees (251M/ 253F) were issued with Birth Notices as preliminary to Birth Certificate Issuance.
- 107 urban residency permits (white cards) were issued on the following grounds: family unity 66, medical 16, investor's permit 4, employment permit 13 and security permit 8. In Meheba refugee settlement, a total of 855 out of 870 Alien cards were issued during the month of July and updated in the registration database (ProGres).
- Protection unit in Lusaka organized a country wide virtual training session on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The session focused on handling cases of sexual abuse of children and ensure that staff provides appropriate services for GBV survivors in the settlements and urban areas. A total of 53 (37F/16M) UNHCR and partner staff attended the training.
- GBV monitors under the supervision of MCDSS staff conducted outreach community sensitizations on COVID-19 and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) prevention and response in the Local Integration Area of Mayukwayukwa Refugee Settlement.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Due to the escalating COVID-19 cases and associated government-imposed restrictions, no mass physical gatherings related to WRD were held in Lusaka and the field.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of General Education (MOGE) visited Mantapala settlement in the company of COR and UNHCR on 22 July 2021 to monitor progress of the Production Unit at Mantapala-A and B schools. He commended the efforts to construct a fishpond, poultry and encouraged management to ensure that the project was completed. The projects in two schools are for school-feeding to boost class attendance as well as raise some funds to support general admin costs.
- A total of 202 tablets for primary students were transported to Meheba refugee settlement and have been distributed in schools. The tablets will facilitate distant learning during the closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic. A training for teachers is planned for August to provide guidance on the use of the tablets.
- Grade 12 General Certificate of Education (GCE) learners sat for examination in the three refugee settlements during the month under review.
- UNHCR Representative met with the leadership of Cavendish University to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding which will facilitate refugee access to tertiary education. Cavendish University will admit 200 refugee students at half price starting in January 2022. This will improve the access of refugees to tertiary education and improve their ability to integrate and become self-reliant.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Limited funding continues to hamper many refugees' access to tertiary education. For youths, dropping out of school renders them vulnerable to vices and at risk of abuse.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- Risk communication and community engagement continued in the three settlements as the number of COVID-19 cases increased with 12 new cases recorded, giving a cumulative total of 97 (M:44/F:53), including 83 recoveries, 12 active cases and two deaths since March 2020.

- COVID-19 vaccinations were conducted in Meheba and Mantapala settlements. In Meheba, 33 refugees have received 1st dose and 32 are fully vaccinated. In Mantapala, a total of 45 refugees received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine bringing the cumulative to **126** among the eligible individuals, and **37** individuals received a second dose bringing the cumulative to **52** individuals. Furthermore, community awareness raising is ongoing to increase community involvement with a total of **52** IEC materials distributed.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Low uptake of COVID-19 vaccines and poor compliance to COVID-19 guidelines has been identified among PoCs. To mitigate the spread of the pandemic, sensitization across the settlements is on-going.
- UNHCR is engaging with Kaoma District health authorities to set up vaccination centre in Mayukwayukwa settlement.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Achievements and Impact

- A total of 543 refugees in Mantapala settlement, who were pending enrollment in the cCash-Based Transfer (CBT) program of WFP, received food rations which included maize meals, beans, cereals and salt during the July food distribution.
- In Meheba refugee settlement, supplementary food was distributed by COR to 105 PoCs including the chronically ill (4M/7F), malnourished (3M/4F) and people living with HIV (29M/58F).

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There are limited resources to cater for a large population in need of supplementary feeding in the Meheba refugee settlement.



WATER, SANITATION AND ENERGY

Achievements and Impact

- In Mantapala settlement, UNHCR, in collaboration with WVI, installed seven out of 60 latrine SanPlats (sanitary platforms). These SanPlats, received from UNHCR HQ, are part of the field test to observe the effectiveness SanPlats to reduce emission of odour from latrines.
- Distribution of 10 SanPlats to PoCs, whose houses and toilets had collapsed during the rainy season, was carried out in Meheba refugee settlement. The main purpose of distributing the SanPlats is to promote construction of decent latrines and to deter open defecation.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is need to build permanent toilets and ablution blocks at all transit centres and admin offices. This will be looked into by the WASH partners.



SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- COR, in consultation with the Road Development Agency (RDA), conducted a road assessment and shared with UNHCR the estimates required for graveling of the Nchenge (Kampampi) to Kawambwa road with a proposal of the government contributing machinery. It was further proposed that the bad spots need urgent attention, at least before the next rainy season to prevent the risk of being cut-off.

- UNHCR distributed soap to 14,929 individuals (3,585 households) out of 15,322 individuals in Mantapala settlement.
- Core Relief Items (CRIs) for 9,997 PoCs including blankets, buckets jerrycans, kitchen sets, sanitary pads, sleeping mats and solar lamps were distributed to refugees in Mantapala settlement.

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Lack of quality accommodation in Mantapala settlement is a challenge for government workers who include nurses, teachers, police officers and community and social welfare officers. Several options are being explored to improve the accommodation situation in future.
- Field activities, including construction project monitoring and assessments have been affected by COVID-19 related travel restrictions in Meheba refugee settlement.



CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

In 2018 Zambia adopted the mainstreaming approach to address refugee-related matters. The approach requires that all the line ministries (Agriculture, Health, Education and Community Development and Social Services), operating in the three refugee settlements and urban areas providing services to refugees collaborate with COR, the main interlocutor for UNHCR. This measure is in line with and reinforces the Government's shift from sectoral to multi-sectoral and outcome-based programming as embedded in the 7th National Development Plan. The approach is also in line with the Zambia-United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework, which governs how the United Nations in Zambia aligns with and supports the Zambian Government in delivering development, and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, as embedded in the Global Compact on Refugees.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, through its partner CCR, provided a rice mill to a rice cooperative in Mantapala settlement to support rice processing by farmers. The Market Committee in Block-12, with support from the Refugee Officer, CCR staff and UNHCR assisted the cooperative to identify a site for the construction of a rice mill shelter in the settlement. The cooperative has finished molding bricks for the construction of a shelter. The rice mill will be used as an Income Generating Activity (IGA) for refugees and host community.
- During the month under review, 38 beneficiaries (8 Zambians, 23 refugees and 7 former refugees) in Meheba settlement received training in Systems of Rice Intensification. The trainings were facilitated by CCR in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture. Additionally, 18 (7M/11F) beneficiaries in Meheba took part in a three-day practical training focusing on onion cultivation (onion seeds, shed nets, onion seedlings, trans-planted onion and irrigation equipment).

Identified Need and Remaining Gap

- Refugee traders in the three refugee settlements face challenges of increased wholesale prices of goods and transport to neighbouring towns. High costs of goods is experienced countrywide.
- COVID-19 pandemic has continued to negatively impact the implementation rate of livelihoods projects. Due to increase in COVID-19 positive cases at national level, CCR and UNHCR reduced the frequency of monitoring visits to the settlement and host community resulting in the reduced number of beneficiaries in the projects.

**DURABLE SOLUTIONS****Achievements and Impact**

- At the end of July 2021, UNHCR submitted 101 cases comprising 392 refugees for resettlement consideration. Most of the cases were submitted to the Nordic countries. Resettlement quotas for 1,300 individuals have been allocated to UNHCR Zambia by two Nordic Countries and a key resettlement partner state. 80 cases consisting of 259 individuals travelled to resettlement countries by the end of the month.
- As COVID-19 cases continue to flare up, the office has procured video conferencing equipment and laptops to set-up remote workstations for resettlement case processing in field locations – Mayukwayukwa/Kaoma, Meheba/Solwezi and in Lusaka for urban refugees. Additionally, with approval from the Regional Bureau – some resettlement interviews are conducted by phone.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Resettlement case processing amidst COVID -19 remains a challenge. The remote interviews as well as face-to face interviews are conducted in strict adherence to the COVID 19 protocols – thermal screening, handwashing, social distancing, and masking as already in place in all offices. Resettlement staff and the refugees are provided with PPEs (face masks/shields).

Partnerships and Refugee Inclusion

- UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, works closely with the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and other key government line ministries. The coordination and management of refugee settlements is led by the Government as per its mandate under the Refugee Act (Act No. 1 of 2017).
- UNHCR also works in partnership with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the international non-governmental organizations (I-NGOs), such as Action Africa Help, Plan International, Caritas Czech Republic, CARE International and World Vision Zambia.
- The Government of Zambia, UNHCR and partners provide community-based protection and social support to people of concern in Lusaka as well as in Meheba (Western Province), Mayukwayukwa (North Western Province) and Mantapala (Luapula Province) refugee settlements.
- The coordination and management of refugee settlements is led by the Government as per its mandate under the Refugee Act (Act No. 1 of 2017).
- During the period under review, the Government included refugees in the countrywide multisectoral COVID-19 socio-economic survey. The results of the survey are expected to partially inform the COVID-19 socio-economic recovery programming, the 8th National Development Plan and also feed into other critical national data initiatives such as the Living Conditions Monitoring Survey. The inclusion in the survey therefore, provides a strong foundation for sustained inclusion of refugees in national planning processes and programmes.
- To support the actualization of refugee inclusion in sports, the operation procured assorted sports equipment and jerseys to be distributed across the three refugee settlements. The items are expected to support development of various sports and foster refugee participation and inclusion in sports at all levels.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the Zambia operation as of 31 July 2021 amount to **US\$ 10,156,303** (55% funding gap). Total financial requirements for Zambia of **US\$22.5 million** include requirements for the regular programme, Coronavirus Emergency, and the DRC Situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the support provided by donors for the Zambia operation in 2021 including **Japan (USD 1,125,000), Education Cannot Wait (USD 480,000), European Union (USD 188,793), USA (USD**

125,678), the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (USD 107,171), The Lego Foundation (USD 103,535), UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (USD 53,500) as well as all donors providing flexible funding.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

United States of America 33 million | Private donors Australia 6.2 million | Canada 5.6 million | Germany 4.4 million | Private donors Germany 2.4 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTION | USD

Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 42.6 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 21.5 million | France 20 million | Private donors Japan 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million | Private donors Sweden 10.6 million | Private donors Italy 10.4 million

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