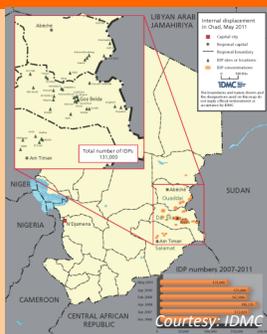




South Africa



Reasons for Displacement:

South Africa attracts asylum seekers and refugees not only from other African countries, but from developing nations around the world due to

its relatively stable political and economic situation. However, most refugees and asylum seekers in South Africa come from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, where famine, ethnic violence and political and economic stability are widespread.

Refugee Camps:

Refugees have become scapegoats for many of South Africa's social ills, including the high level of unemployment. As a consequence, xenophobia has become a problem in

Assistance:

- RIJ is funding the Bienvenu shelter, a project providing refugee women with skills and business knowledge
- UNHCR supports the governmental department responsible for asylum procedures through technical support, strengthens local integration and provides emergency assistance in the form of shelter and food
- NGOs supporting refugees include the Cape Town Refugee Centre, RefugePoint, and Save the Children

some areas of the country, resulting in anti-foreigner attacks on refugees.

Unlike all other African countries, South Africa does not have refugee camps. Asylum seekers and refugees live in urban regions and survive largely without assistance. For instance, the refugees in Mbekweni, who originate from Burundi, Rwanda, Angola, Somalia the Republic of Congo and the Democratic Republic of Congo, live amongst the local community.

Delays in refugee status determination remain a challenge to asylum seekers in South Africa.



Number of refugees:
112,192 residing in South Africa
424 persons originating from South Africa;

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
0

463,940 asylum seekers

[source: UNHCR]

History:

- 1961**—Declared a Republic
- 1964**— Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment
- 1966**—Prime Minister H. Verwoerd assassinated
- 1990**—African National Congress (ANC) unbanned; Mandela released from prison; Namibia becomes independent
- 1993**—Recognition of refugees
- 1994**—ANC wins first non-racial election; South Africa takes seat in UN General Assembly after 20 years of absence
- 1996**—Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) begins hearing
- 1998**—Refugee Act is passed
- 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014**—ANC wins elections
- 2010**—South Africa hosts World Cup football tournament
- 2013**—Mandela dies
- 2015**—UNHCR expresses concern over xenophobic violence in KwaZulu-Natal province; closure of last camp hosting foreigners displaced by xenophobic attacks is announced