



RIJ

国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Zambia



Courtesy: UNHCR

Reasons for Refugee Population:

Zambia has a long reputation of

hosting refugees even before its independence. People fleeing violent conflict and persecution continue to seek asylum in the country, and others receive benefits in the form of voluntary repatriation. The majority of refugees and asylum seekers come from Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Somalia.

Returnee and Refugee Communities:

Currently there are around 28,000 refugees in the two settlement camps of Meheba and Mayukwayukwa. Besides the camps many refugees settle in urban or rural areas. Among the 34,000 refu-

gees settled in those areas, about 47% were born in Zambia and 12% entered the country more than 15 years ago.

In 2010, the UNHCR and the Government of Zambia collaborated to repatriate around 9,700 refugees to Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda. 2,100 Congolese refugees chose not to repatriate so they have been relocated to the Meheba refugee settlement allowing the camps of Kala and Mawange to close. The UNHCR has also aided in the resettlement of almost 400 individuals to Australia, the United States and other countries. Although many Angolan refugees are willing to return, in 2011 only 300 were assisted to do so due to delays in gaining permission from Angolan authorities and the lack of reintegration support.

Number of refugees:
25,578 residing in Zambia;
316 originating from Zambia
[source: UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
0
[source: UNHCR]

History:

1964—Zambia gains independence

1971—Number of secondary schools is increased from 2,500 in the 1960's to 54,000 through investments in communication and social services by the United National Independence Party (UNIP)

1973—National Assembly approves a one-party constitution

1986— Food riots provoked by the removal of government subsidies

1991—National Assembly abolishes one-party state; multiparty elections are held

1996—National Assembly approves amendment declaring that presidential candidates must be Zambian citizens

1999—President Chiluba is concerned about increase of refugees fleeing from conflicts in Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

2001—Public sector works go on strike affecting the daily functioning of the whole country

2002—Levy Mwanawasa becomes president and launches campaign against corruption

2008—President Mwanawasa passes away

2011—Incidents of violence and rioting occur while the country waits for the presidential election results; Michael Sata wins

2014—President Sata dies

2015—Edgar Lungu becomes president and replaces the Chief of the Central Bank with Denny Kalyalya to promise lower interest rates

Assistance:

- RIJ funded a project that supported the education sector in two Congolese refugee camps, targeting the specific education needs of disabled children. Altogether, over 7000 students received educational materials, 40 teachers were given training workshops, and 12 latrines were built to improve hygiene at school
- UNHCR and various NGOs provide support, such as Grassroot Soccer which educates and inspires communities in stopping the spread of HIV

