



RIJ
国際難民支援会

Building a
Future for
Refugees

Zimbabwe



Reasons for Displacement

Since the 1980's President Mugabe has remained as Zimbabwe's President. In an attempt to create racial equality in Zimbabwe, Mugabe confiscated farm land from white farmers, however this also led to many black farm workers homeless and unemployed. Also the government of Zimbabwe launched "Operation Murambatsvina" which destroyed thousands of homes and stores located in shanty towns and other urban areas. More than half a million people were displaced by the operation. The status of the Zimbabwean economy is another contributing factor for displacement. The country was suffering from high levels of inflation and unemployment leading people to find work in neighboring

Assistance:

- RIJ funded the provision of emergency assistance to Zimbabwean refugees fleeing to South Africa. More than 1200 arrivals from Zimbabwe were supported
- The Jesuit Refugee Service Southern Africa supports refugees and IDPs in Zimbabwe through the provision of skills training (e.g. in computing, hair-dressing, cosmetology, sewing) in Tongogara refugee. Other initiatives bring scholarship programmes and accredited education into the camp

countries until US currency was adopted over the Zimbabwean dollar in 2009.

Among the refugees in Zimbabwe many of them come from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda. The majority of the refugees settle in the camp of Tongogara with the remainder settling in Harare.

Refugee and IDP Communities:

Most of the refugees are restricted to the Tongogara camp, which needs improvement in facilities and services. This makes it difficult for refugees to move away from humanitarian assistance. The Zimbabwean government provided land for agriculture, however, a lack of irrigation prevents full utilization. To improve the living conditions, increase access to livelihood and skill-training opportunities for the refugees, the UNHCR plans to implement camp-based income-generation projects, improve access to health and education, and help refugees to obtain civil status documentation.

Number of refugees:
6,079 residing in Zimbabwe;
22,494 originating from Zimbabwe
[source:UNHCR]

Number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):
36,000
[source:IDMC]

History:

1980—Zimbabwe gains independence

1987—Mugabe becomes first president

1998—Intervention in civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo leads to suspension of international economic aid for Zimbabwe

2002—Law passed allowing President Mugabe to confiscate farms, leaving tens of thousands of farm workers homeless and unemployed

2005—Government launches "Operation Murambatsvina" which destroys thousands of homes and stores in urban areas; over half a million people are displaced

2008—Inflation surpasses 10 million percent and unemployment is estimated at four-fifths of the population; government recognizes phenomenon of internal displacement

2009—Creation of a unity government, changing the structure of the executive branch; US and South African currency are adopted over the Zimbabwean dollar

2011—Disagreements within the unity government delays the drafting of a new constitution

2015—Zimbabwe's central bank announces plan to phase out Zimbabwean Dollar