



General Assembly

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/42/496  
28 August 1987

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-second session  
Item 12 of the provisional agenda\*

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to student refugees in southern Africa

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 41/136 of 4 December 1986, in which, inter alia, the Assembly requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in co-operation with the Secretary-General, to keep the situation of student refugees in southern Africa under review, and to report to the Assembly at its forty-second session. The report covers the period from 1 July 1986 to 30 June 1987.
2. During the period under review, there was no substantial increase in the number of South African or Namibian refugees and asylum-seekers, despite the escalation of violence and strife in both South Africa and Namibia.
3. As reported to the General Assembly at its forty-first session, a continuing feature of the southern African refugee situation is the increasing difficulty faced by the great majority of new refugees in seeking secure and long-term asylum in front-line States and countries immediately neighbouring South Africa. In this regard it is encouraging to note that, following a joint initiative by UNHCR and the Organization of African Unity, a number of independent African countries that have not traditionally been countries of asylum for South African refugees have offered to admit them. As a result, a number of refugees have recently been evacuated by UNHCR from their country of first asylum (Lesotho) to Uganda and Kenya.

\* A/42/150.

4. The present report seeks to highlight international educational assistance offered to South African and Namibian refugees within each country of asylum in southern Africa, in particular that given by UNHCR. However, it should be noted that many refugee students may also benefit from other UNHCR assistance programmes in each country. The following non-governmental organizations are also providing educational assistance which is not fully highlighted in the country reports below:

(a) The African-American Institute, under its southern African Training Programme, has sponsored in the United States of America 35 students at the Bachelor's-degree level (26 South Africans and 9 Namibians), and in 11 African countries, excluding South Africa and Namibia, 110 students (93 South Africans and 17 Namibians, of whom 21 at the Bachelor's-degree level, 65 for diplomas and 24 for certificates);

(b) The Africa Educational Trust has sponsored approximately 100 South Africans and Namibians at post-secondary institutions in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Otto Benecke Stiftung has assisted South African and Namibian refugees at the secondary vocational level, 311 Namibians (190 in Africa and 121 in the Federal Republic of Germany) and 95 South Africans (28 in Africa and 67 in the Federal Republic of Germany) at the university level, nine Namibians (three in Africa and six in the Federal Republic of Germany) and 12 South Africans (2 in Africa and 10 in the Federal Republic of Germany) and for higher level technical studies, two Namibians and one South African in the Federal Republic of Germany.

During the reporting period other organizations have also provided educational assistance support to South African and Namibian refugees.

#### Botswana

5. The number of South African refugees in Botswana has not changed substantially during the reporting period (about 1,000 urban refugees and 130 in Dukwe). There has, however, been an appreciable increase in the number of Namibians (from 63 to 106) being assisted by UNHCR in Botswana.

6. As far as educational assistance to South African refugees is concerned, UNHCR was sponsoring five students at the primary level and 22 at the lower secondary level for academic and vocational training, as well as eight Namibian students at the lower secondary level. There were no UNHCR-sponsored students studying outside Botswana.

7. Another 154 refugee students (89 South Africans and 65 Namibians) have benefited from other sources of international assistance, with more than half of them studying outside their country of asylum.

8. The following table shows educational assistance to South African and Namibian refugees, sponsored both inside and outside Botswana by UNHCR, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Number by origin</u>		<u>Study location</u>	
	<u>South Africa</u>	<u>Namibia</u>	<u>Inside</u>	<u>Outside</u>
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	27	8	35	-
United Nations Educational Training Programme for Southern Africans	31	10	29	12
United Nations Council for Namibia	-	13	6	7
African American Institute	10	-	7	3
British Council	-	4	-	4
Lutheran World Federation	8	7	6	9
World University Service International	25	-	25	-
Otto Benecke Stiftung (Foundation)	7	30	-	37
Bishop Tutu Fund	7	1	-	8
All Africa Conference of Churches	1	-	1	-

mbabwe

9. The number of refugees and displaced persons in Zimbabwe has greatly increased during the last three years owing to the continual influx from Mozambique. The Government estimates that there are at present some 60,000 displaced Mozambicans in the country, about three-quarters (45,000) of whom are accommodated in four rural settlements. The rest have spontaneously settled among the local population. The number of urban refugees, mainly South Africans, has declined from nearly 470 to 266 either through local integration or resettlement in other countries.

10. UNHCR's activities for assistance to urban refugees have continued to concentrate on local integration, formal education, vocational and technical training and the establishment of small-scale enterprises leading towards self-reliance.

11. UNHCR's educational programmes for South Africans have continued to focus on formal education and on equipping the refugees with vocational and technical skills.

12. The number of South African and Namibian students (the majority of whom were not registered as refugees) under educational sponsorship from United Nations agencies, governmental and non-governmental, were as follows:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Number by origin</u>		<u>Type and level of education</u>			
	<u>South Africa</u>	<u>Namibia</u>	<u>Prim.</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Voc.</u>	<u>Univ./Poly.</u>
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	22	2	3	8	13	-
United Nations Educational Training Programme for Southern Africans	17	5	-	7	-	15
Christian Care	134	4	7	-	131	-
World University Service	41	-	-	16	7	18
Lutheran World Federation	9	1	2	5	-	3
African American Institute	19	1	-	-	-	20
Otto Benecke Stiftung (Foundation)	10	8	-	8	9	1

Zambia

13. During the period under review, the number of South African refugees in Zambia increased as a result of young refugees being evacuated from Lesotho and admitted into Zambia. The great majority of these 3,400 refugees are affiliated with the African National Congress (ANC). The Namibian refugees in the country, mainly affiliates of the South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO), remain unchanged at about 7,400. The majority of the urban case-load consists of approximately 430 South Africans and non-affiliated refugees.

14. As far as Namibian refugees are concerned, UNHCR funded the construction of two primary school classroom blocks and one girls' dormitory and provided various textbooks and other school materials at the SWAPO Health and Education Centre at Nyongo.

15. Other refugees from South Africa and Namibia benefited from educational assistance provided by UNHCR and other agencies, both intergovernmental and non-governmental. The relevant statistics, broken down by nationality and educational level, are as follows:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Number by origin</u>		<u>Type and level of education</u>			
	<u>South Africa</u>	<u>Namibia</u>	<u>Prim.</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Post sec./Acad.</u>	<u>Univ.</u>
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	-	2	-	1	1	-
United Nations Educational Training Programme for Southern Africans	3	14	-	-	14	3
United Nations Institute for Namibia	-	500	-	-	500	-
World University Service	47	33	-	-	78	2
Lutheran World Federation	21	18	4	9	22	4
Otto Benecke Stiftung (Foundation)	3	93	-	17	78	1
Christian Council of Zambia	2	6	-	4	4	-

#### Swaziland

16. The number of officially registered refugees in Swaziland stands at about 13,000 with an estimated similar number having spontaneously settled in the border areas. This official case-load represents an increase of some 30 per cent since 1984, and is comprised of 6,500 South Africans, 5,500 Mozambicans, and others of various nationalities. The South African refugees, mainly of Swazi ethnic origin and of rural background, left South Africa in the late 1970s.

17. UNHCR assistance activities on behalf of South African refugees are centred at Ndzovane Rural Settlement, where the majority of the refugees are located.

18. At the request of the Government, UNHCR is also providing assistance aimed at facilitating the transfer of individual South Africans to second countries of asylum. Meanwhile, UNHCR has continued to provide basic care and maintenance.

19. The number of South Africans receiving educational assistance from UNHCR during the period under review has increased from 193 to 274; of these 44 were at the primary school level and 230 at secondary level. There were no Namibian refugee students sponsored in Swaziland during this period.

20. The breakdown of South African student refugees receiving educational assistance from UNHCR, other United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations during 1986-1987 was as follows:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Number by origin</u> <u>South Africa</u>	<u>Type and level of education</u>				
		<u>Prim.</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Acad.</u>	<u>Voc.</u>	<u>Univ.</u>
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	274	44	230	-	-	-
United Nations Educational Training Programme for Southern Africans	65	-	4	-	7	54
Lutheran World Federation	1	-	-	-	-	1
Ephesus House (287 funded by World University Service)	312	-	233	-	33	46

Lesotho

21. The Government estimate of the total number of persons in a refugee-like situation has remained stable at 11,500 at the end of 1986 and through March 1987; of these, 274 were registered as refugees and some 242 received assistance from UNHCR. Nearly all of these refugees originate from South Africa and are predominantly of urban background, with males constituting a large proportion (70 per cent). In 1986, 317 new arrivals were recorded while 375 persons departed for resettlement in third countries.

22. Since 1986, Lesotho has increasingly become a country of temporary asylum for South African refugees, particularly for those affiliated with national liberation movements. This trend is likely to continue in the foreseeable future with possible negative implications for refugees who have been in the country for an extended period and who are already well integrated.

23. UNHCR's assistance activities in Lesotho have continued to focus on individual refugees. Refugees continue to receive various forms of assistance, mainly in education (at the primary and secondary levels) and local integration, through the establishment of small-scale income-generating projects, counselling, supplementary aid and resettlement in another country.

24. During the period under review, 71 South Africans were sponsored in primary schools, 49 of them by UNESCO and 22 by UNHCR. Of the 378 South Africans and five Namibians sponsored, 96 students were at high school level and 130 at university level. Eleven students were sponsored for agricultural and technical/vocational studies, and 65 for business studies. A further 10 students are reported to have been sponsored at the university level in the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

25. Reported educational assistance for South African and Namibian students at various institutions in Lesotho and abroad was as follows:

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Number by origin</u>		<u>Type and level of education</u>					
	<u>South Africa</u>	<u>Namibia</u>	<u>Prim.</u>	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Tec./Voc.</u>	<u>Bus.</u>	<u>Univ.</u>	<u>Univ. abroad</u>
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	34	-	22	12	-	-	-	-
United Nations Educational Training Programme for Southern Africans	109	5	-	-	7	61	46	-
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	53	-	49	4	-	-	-	-
World University Service	160	-	-	80	1	-	78	1
African American Institute	13	-	-	-	3	4	6	-
Otto Benecke Stiftung (Foundation)	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Phelps-Stokes	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4