

Zimbabwe

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Is there a refugee protection program?	Yes. It is governed by the Zimbabwe Refugee Act which adopted the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol except for Articles 17, 23, 24, and 26 thereof. ¹ This means refugees in Zimbabwe are not entitled to wage-earning employment (Article 17), public relief (Article 23), social security (Article 24), or freedom of movement (Article 26). ²
Who runs any available refugee protection program? Who determines which applicants qualify for refugee protection?	The Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. ³
Is the refugee protection program functional? For example, how long does it take for decisions to be issued? What percentage of applications are granted?	The refugee protection program appears functional. The Zimbabwean Refugees Committee reviews refugee applications within thirty days of receipt. ⁴ Exact or recent approval rates of refugee status are not available, but one data sample from 2015 of refugee status determinations found 46% of refugee applications were approved, 37% were deferred for further checks, 11% were immediately denied, and 6% of refugees did not attend their refugee status determination meetings. ⁵

¹ [https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20\(RSD\)](https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20(RSD)), page 1

² [https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20\(RSD\)](https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20(RSD)), page 1

³ <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/101339/122049/F-1046587948/ZWE101339.pdf> pages 2, 4

⁴ <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/101339/122049/F-1046587948/ZWE101339.pdf>, page 5

⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/524d88609.pdf>, page 2

<p>Do refugees have a right to work? A right to education? A right to medical care?</p>	<p>Refugees generally are not given access to the formal labor market, though some refugees find work informally; exceptions may be made for refugees who run a private business or those in certain professions such as health care professionals.⁶ In Tongogara Refugee Camp, where refugees are required to stay, UNHRC has provided some refugees with employment opportunities.⁷ Other refugees in the camp have taken to growing food and selling it.⁸</p> <p>There are a primary and secondary school in the Tongogara Refugee Camp, but the school is short on staff and supplies and not all children are able to obtain an education.⁹ The education is free for children in the Tongogara Refugee Camp.¹⁰ 93% of refugee children attend school.¹¹</p> <p>There is not a right to medical care for refugees.¹² However, there is a health care clinic in the Tongogara Refugee Camp.¹³ While there is no right to medical care, most refugees in the camp are able to obtain access to medical care through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in addition to water, soap, female sanitary materials¹⁴, and food.¹⁵</p>
<p>Are those seeking refugee protection free to live freely or forced to reside in camps?</p>	<p>Refugees must live in the Tongogara Refugee Camp, though a small percentage (about 14%) of</p>

⁶[https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20\(RSD\)](https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20(RSD),), page 7

⁷ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/zimbabwe/>

⁸ <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/news/stories/2021/3/60586b5c4/better-access-water-improves-lives-refugees-hosts-zimbabwe-camp.html>

⁹ http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/05/c_136185071.htm

¹⁰ <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58915981.pdf>, page 68

¹¹ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/zimbabwe>

¹² <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/58915981.pdf>, page 69

¹³ https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp278454.pdf?_ga=2.9996021.1109348963.1626117173-771480880.1626117173, page 8

¹⁴ <https://reporting.unhcr.org/zimbabwe>

¹⁵ <https://www.unhcr.org/5559a9ed9.pdf>, page 6

	refugees and asylum seekers have managed to live outside the camp in cities. ¹⁶
Does a grant of refugee protection result in a pathway to permanent status? In other words, can a refugee eventually become a citizen? Is there another form of legal permanent status available for people with refugee status?	<p>After five years of continuous residence, a person can apply for permanent residence.¹⁷ However, whether refugees qualify for permanent residence is uncertain.</p> <p>After 10 years of continuous and lawful residence, a person can apply for citizenship.¹⁸ However, the country's laws conflict with the constitution and allow it to deny citizenship to foreigners.¹⁹</p>
Does the country offer temporary protections available other than refugee status? If so, what are they?	Zimbabwe appears to only offer refugee status.
What, if any, penalties are there for people without status or people who are denied refugee protection?	If denied refugee status by the Zimbabwean Refugees Committee, the applicant may appeal the decision, and if the decision is denied, then the applicant is allowed a reasonable period, the maximum being three months, to seek admission to a different country. ²⁰ It appears that if a person is denied refugee status by Zimbabwe and does not leave, the person is deported. ²¹ However, deportation can take a long time, as some refugees have been waiting for deportation for years. ²²
What organizations exist in-country that can help displaced people seek available protections? What other organizations in the country may be	Legal Resources Foundation can help provide free legal advice. They are located at their LRF National Office, 16 Oxford Road, Avondale, Harare, and they can be reached at LRF Call

¹⁶ [https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20\(RSD\)](https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=3234&file=EnglishTranslation#:~:text=Refugee%20protection%20in%20Zimbabwe%20is,refugee%20status%20determination%20(RSD)), page 7

¹⁷ <http://www.zimimmigration.gov.zw/index.php/styles/permanent-residence>

¹⁸ https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Zimbabwe_2013.pdf, page 27

¹⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/04/zimbabwe-statelessness-crisis-traps-hundreds-of-thousands-in-limbo/>

²⁰ <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/docs/ELECTRONIC/101339/122049/F-1046587948/ZWE101339.pdf>, page 6

²¹ <https://postonsunday.co.zw/2020/11/25/810-undocumented-refugees-a-security-risk-for-zimbabwe/>

²² <https://masvingomirror.com/tongogara-seeks-funds-to-deport-810-failed-refugees/>

<p>able to help displaced people access services and rights, even if their mission is not to specifically work with refugees and displaced people?</p>	<p>Centre Toll free: 08080402; SMS: 0787 108 721 – 3; their website is https://lrfzim.com/; their email is pa@lrf.co.zw.</p> <p>The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees helps to run the Tongogara Refugee Camp with help from other nonprofits.²³</p>
<p>Is there other information that might be valuable for displaced people arriving in that country to know?</p>	<p>Refugees who do not have identity documents on arrival may be detained.²⁴ In addition, refugees who enter Zimbabwe illegally or who break the law may be detained in lengthy prison sentences before deportation.²⁵</p> <p>Because there is the Delta strain of COVID-19 in Afghanistan, Afghan refugees to Zimbabwe are likely to be quarantined at the refugee’s expense upon arrival in Zimbabwe.²⁶ Travelers must present a negative COVID-19 test performed within 48 hours before arrival; without a test, the refugee may be denied entry or detained to be given a test.²⁷</p> <p>Zimbabwe also has a reputation as a police state, so it would be unwise for refugees to break the law or stray from the Tongogara Refugee Camp and risk compromising their refugee status.²⁸</p>

²³ <https://www.wvi.org/stories/zimbabwe/world-vision-assists-covid-19-preparedness-tongogara-refugee-camp-chippinge>

²⁴ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/zimbabwe/>

²⁵ <https://globalpressjournal.com/africa/zimbabwe/cash-strapped-zimbabwe-struggles-detain-deport-undocumented-migrants-languish-prison/>

²⁶ <https://zw.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-2/>

²⁷ <https://zw.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information-2/>

²⁸ <https://www.tampabay.com/archive/2002/12/23/zimbabwe-a-true-police-state/>