Asylum Statistics

Year 2013

home affairs

Department:
Home Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Chief Directorate: Asylum Seekers Management

Immigration Services

March 2014

230 Ramokhoase Street, Hallmark Building, Pretoria, RSA

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

The following acronyms are used in the statistical texts, tables and graphics in this report:

- RSA: Republic of South Africa
- DHA: Department of Home Affairs
- IMS: Immigration Services
- ASM: Asylum Seeker Management
- NIIS: National Immigration Information System
- RRO : Refugee Reception Office
- RRO : Refugee Reception Officer
- RSDO : Refugee Status Determination Officer
- TIRRO: Tshwane Interim Refugee Reception Office
- RAB : Refugees Appeals Board
- SCRA : Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs
- UNHCR : United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- MU: Manifestly Unfounded, Abusive and Fraudulent asylum claims
- Unf.: Unfounded asylum claims
- SADC : Southern African Development Community

The following sections refer to permits issued to Asylum Seekers and Refugees in terms of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998:

- **S22 (1):** Section 22 Temporary Permit issued to an Asylum Seeker; pending finalization of his/her asylum claim in terms of section 3 of the Refugees Act.
- **S24 (3)(a):** Section 24 permit (*Formal Recognition of Refugee Status*) with a validity of four years.
- **S27 (C):** Certification issued by SCRA which enables an indefinite refugee to apply for an immigration permit in terms of the 2002 Immigration Act.
- **S30 (1):** ID documents issued to recognised refugees who have applied in the prescribed manner.
- **S31:** Refugee Travel documents issued to recognised refugees who have applied in the prescribed manner.

The following sections refer to permits issued to Asylum Seekers and Refugees in terms of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998:

Section 23: The Asylum Transit Permit issued at a Port of Entry in terms of Section 23 of the Immigration Act for the purpose of applying for asylum in South Africa.

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I. 2013 NEW ARRIVALS OVERVIEW

A total of **70,010** new arrivals were registered as asylum seekers between January and December 2013. An equal number of Temporary Permits was issued to them in terms of section 22 of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998.

Table 1 below shows that nationals from 82 countries applied for asylum in South Africa during the reporting period.

Table No 1: 2013 Registered New Arrivals by Country of Origin

Continent	Region		Country of Origin	Cape Town	Durban	Musina	Pretoria	TIRRO	Total per Country	
Africa	SADC	1	Zimbabwe	118	763	8,786	6,718	35	16,420	34,024
		2	Democratic Republic of Congo	432	1,921	1,895	2,755	172	7,175	
		3	Mozambique	6	13	44	3,688	0	3,751	
		4	Lesotho	1	3	0	3,419	1	3,424	
		5	Malawi	15	34	442	1,998	4	2,493	
		6	Tanzania	5	121	28	312	0	466	
		7	Botswana	0	0	0	12	0	12	
		8	Zambia	3	3	35	143	0	184	
		9	Swaziland	0	1	0	54	0	55	
		10	Angola	36	1	0	0	5	42	
		11	Madagascar	0	0	0	1	0	1	
		12	Namibia	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**616**	**2,860**	**11,230**	**19,101**	**217**		
	Western Africa	1	Nigeria	5	147	503	6,704	4	7,363	10,409
		2	Ghana	0	111	266	2,089	0	2,466	
		3	Senegal	0	29	109	210	0	348	
		4	Benin	0	3	3	40	0	46	
		5	Mali	0	0	2	44	0	46	
		6	Burkina Faso	0	0	6	15	0	21	
		7	Côte d'Ivoire	0	2	4	36	0	42	
		8	Togo	0	0	0	15	0	15	
		9	Liberia	0	6	3	5	0	14	
		10	Niger	0	0	3	10	0	13	
		11	Sierra Leone	0	1	0	12	0	13	
		12	Guinea	0	0	2	9	0	11	
		13	Gambia	0	0	1	6	0	7	
		14	Guinea Bissau	0	0	0	4	0	4	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**5**	**299**	**902**	**9,199**	**4**		
	Eastern Africa	1	Ethiopia	11	1,112	369	5,643	30	7,165	11,936
		2	Somalia	198	135	73	1,625	20	2,051	
		3	Uganda	7	197	66	1,097	4	1,371	
		4	Burundi	46	380	62	131	22	641	
		5	Kenya	1	16	7	293	3	320	
		6	Eritrea	7	32	5	210	14	268	
		7	Rwanda	21	26	9	48	7	111	
		8	Comoros	0	4	0	5	0	9	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**291**	**1,902**	**591**	**9,052**	**100**		
	Northern Africa	1	Egypt	3	41	215	125	0	384	564
		2	Algeria	0	0	2	140	0	142	
		3	Sudan	0	1	3	20	0	24	
		4	Morocco	0	0	0	11	0	11	
		5	Libya Arab Jamahiriya	0	0	0	2	0	2	
		6	Tunisia	0	1	0	0	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**3**	**43**	**220**	**298**	**0**		
	Central Africa	1	Congo Republic	40	8	64	819	20	951	1,532
		2	Cameroon	9	11	58	494	2	574	
		3	Central African Republic	0	0	3	2	0	5	
		4	Gabon	0	1	0	1	0	2	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**49**	**20**	**125**	**1,316**	**22**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (AFRICA)	**58,465**	

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Table No 1: 2013 Registered New Arrivals by Country of Origin

Continent	Region		Country of Origin	Cape Town	Durban	Musina	Pretoria	TIRRO	Total per Country	
Asia	South-Central Asia	1	Bangladesh	5	231	125	3,497	0	3,858	9,913
		2	Pakistan	4	611	63	2,859	3	3,540	
		3	India	0	282	356	1,824	8	2,470	
		4	Nepal	0	17	0	3	0	20	
		5	Sri Lanka	0	0	1	13	0	14	
		6	Iran	0	1	0	8	0	9	
		7	Afghanistan	0	0	0	2	0	2	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**9**	**1,142**	**545**	**8,206**	**11**		
	Eastern Asia	1	China	1	136	4	1,422	0	1,563	1,565
		2	Macau	1	0	0	0	0	1	
		3	North Korea	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**2**	**136**	**4**	**1,423**	**0**		
	South-Eastern Asia	1	Thailand	0	0	0	11	0	11	18
		2	Philippines	0	0	2	3	0	5	
		3	Indonesia	0	1	0	0	0	1	
		4	Vietnam	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**1**	**2**	**15**	**0**		
	Middle East	1	Syria	0	2	0	9	0	11	26
		2	Iraq	0	1	0	5	0	6	
		3	Jordan	0	1	0	1	0	2	
		4	Lebanon	0	0	0	2	0	2	
		5	Palestine	0	0	0	2	0	2	
		6	Yemen	0	0	1	1	0	2	
		7	Israel	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**4**	**1**	**21**	**0**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (ASIA)	**11,522**	
Europe	Eastern Europe	1	Ukraine	0	3	0	0	0	3	4
		2	Czech Republic	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**3**	**0**	**1**	**0**		
	Northern Europe	1	Iceland	0	0	1	2	0	3	4
		2	Estonia	0	0	0	0	1	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**1**	**2**	**1**		
	Southern Europe	1	Serbia	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
									0	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**3**	**2**	**6**	**2**		
	Western Europe	1	France (Monaco)	0	0	0	1	0	1 0	1
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**3**	**2**	**8**	**2**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (EUROPE)	**10**	
Oceania	Melanesia (Oceania)	1	Fiji	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**		
	Polynesia (Oceania)	1	American (Samoa)	0	1	0	1	0	2	3
		2	Tuvalu	0	1	0	0	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (OCEANIA)	**4**	
America	Caribbean	1	Bahamas	0	0	0	2	0	2	5
		2	Guadeloupe	0	0	0	1	0	1	
		3	Haiti	0	0	1	0	0	1	
		4	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**1**	**4**	**0**		
	South America	1	Chile	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
		2	Colombia	0	0	0	1	0	1	
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2**	**0**		
	Central America	1	El Salvador	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (AMERICA)	**8**	
Antarctica	Antarctica	1	Heard and McDonald Islands	0	0	0	1	0	1	1
			SUBTOTAL PER REGION	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**		
								TOTAL PER CONTINENT (ANTARCTICA)	**1**	
								GRAND TOTAL 2013 NEW ARRIVALS	**70,010**	

Source: NIIS © March 2014

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II. RSD INITIAL DECISIONS

A total of **68,241** registered asylum claims were adjudicated and finalised at the first instance Refugee Status Determination (RSD) between January and December 2013 according to data sourced directly from the National Immigration Information System (NIIS).

2.1 Applications Rejected as Manifestly Unfounded, Abusive and Fraudulent in terms of Section 24 (3)(b) of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998

Table 2: Statistics on Manifestly Unfounded, Abusive and Fraudulent Asylum Claims during 2013

	Country of origin	Cape Town	Durban	Musina	Pretoria	TIRRO	Grand Total
1	Algeria	0	0	2	9	1	**12**
2	Angola	27	0	0	0	0	**27**
3	Bangladesh	12	24	50	13	9	**108**
4	Benin	1	0	3	29	3	**36**
5	Botswana	1	0	0	7	3	**11**
6	Burkina Faso	0	0	6	2	1	**9**
7	Burundi	35	11	20	15	2	**83**
8	Cameroon	56	4	32	306	39	**437**
9	Chile	1	0	0	1	0	**2**
10	China	44	49	0	1,022	42	**1,157**
11	Comoros	0	1	0	1	0	**2**
12	Congo	64	2	8	18	1	**93**
13	Democratic Republic of Congo	114	43	264	55	13	**489**
14	Côte d'Ivoire	0	0	4	6	3	**13**
15	Egypt	8	6	103	21	7	**145**
16	Eritrea	0	0	3	0	0	**3**
17	Ethiopia	6	1	50	59	6	**122**
18	Fiji	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
19	France (Monaco)	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
20	Gabon	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
21	Gambia	1	0	1	2	0	**4**
22	Ghana	79	25	223	1503	266	**2,096**
23	Guinea	0	0	2	3	0	**5**
24	Haiti	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
25	Heard and McDonald Islands	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
26	Iceland	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
27	India	3	54	234	29	3	**323**
28	Iran	0	1	0	1	0	**2**
29	Jordan	1	0	0	2	0	**3**
30	Kenya	7	4	2	111	0	**124**
31	Lesotho	22	3	0	2,637	359	**3,021**
32	Liberia	0	1	1	1	1	**4**
33	Malawi	624	9	316	1,487	243	**2,679**
34	Mali	1	0	1	2	0	**4**

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Table 2: Statistics on Manifestly Unfounded, Abusive and Fraudulent Asylum Claims during 2013 (Cont.)							
	Country of origin	**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Musina**	**Pretoria**	**TIRRO**	**Grand Total**
35	Mexico	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
36	Morocco	0	0	0	4	0	**4**
37	Mozambique	53	3	30	2,815	274	**3,175**
38	Namibia	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
39	Nepal	0	3	0	0	0	**3**
40	Nigeria	66	57	309	4,553	809	**5,794**
41	Niger	16	1	3	8	5	**33**
42	Pakistan	11	126	33	9	7	**186**
43	Palestine	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
44	Philippine	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
45	Rwanda	1	2	1	13	0	**17**
46	Senegal	4	0	80	32	2	**118**
47	Serbia	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
48	Sierra-Leone	0	0	0	7	0	**7**
49	Somalia	0	0	11	5	1	**17**
50	Sudan	0	0	3	2	0	**5**
51	Swaziland	1	0	0	39	6	**46**
52	Tanzania	37	44	20	165	70	**336**
53	Thailand	0	0	0	8	1	**9**
54	Togo	0	0	0	4	4	**8**
55	Uganda	8	42	38	695	8	**791**
56	Ukraine	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
57	Yemen	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
58	Zambia	22	1	22	85	15	**145**
59	Zimbabwe	1,476	290	6,195	5013	705	**13,679**
Grand Total		**2,803**	**808**	**8,072**	**20,810**	**2,909**	**35,402**

Source: NIIS © 2013

2.2 Applications Rejected as Unfounded in terms of Section 24 (3)(c) of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998

Table 3: Statistics on Unfounded Asylum Claims during 2013							
Country of Origin		**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Musina**	**Pretoria**	**TIRRO**	**Grand Total**
1	Afghanistan	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
2	Algeria	0	0	1	112	4	**117**
3	Angola	15	1	0	0	0	**16**
4	Bahamas	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
5	Bangladesh	259	193	65	2923	225	**3665**
6	Benin	1	1	0	7	0	**9**
7	Bulgaria	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
8	Burkina Faso	1	0	1	11	0	**13**
9	Burundi	123	260	95	109	6	**593**
10	Cameroon	67	8	13	105	20	**213**
11	Central African Republic	0	0	3	2	0	**5**

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Table 3: Statistics on Unfounded Asylum Claims during 2013 (Cont.)

Country of Origin		Cape Town	Durban	Musina	Pretoria	TIRRO	Grand Total
12	Chad	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
13	China	16	0	0	236	0	**252**
14	Comoros	1	2	0	5	0	**8**
15	Congo Republic	170	17	94	410	49	**740**
16	Democratic Republic of Congo	979	973	1907	1231	124	**5214**
17	Côte d'Ivoire	2	2	1	17	5	**27**
18	Czech Republic	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
19	Egypt	9	21	111	77	2	**220**
20	Eritrea	3	10	22	30	0	**65**
21	Ethiopia	272	926	812	3031	107	**5148**
22	Gabon	2	1	0	0	0	**3**
23	Gambia	0	0	0	4	0	**4**
24	Ghana	45	11	41	142	6	**245**
25	Guadeloupe	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
26	Guinea Bissau	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
27	Guinea	1	0	4	4	0	**9**
28	India	17	122	177	1549	84	**1949**
29	Iran	0	0	0	6	0	**6**
30	Iraq	1	0	0	1	0	**2**
31	Israel	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
32	Kenya	30	4	10	126	5	**175**
33	Lebanon	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
34	Lesotho	1	0	0	5	0	**6**
35	Liberia	0	2	1	0	0	**3**
36	Madagascar	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
37	Malawi	111	2	11	29	10	**163**
38	Mali	0	0	1	37	1	**39**
39	Morocco	1	0	0	7	0	**8**
40	Mozambique	4	0	0	9	0	**13**
41	Nepal	0	6	0	3	0	**9**
42	Nigeria	124	33	68	713	84	**1022**
43	Niger	21	0	1	2	3	**27**
44	North Korea	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
45	Pakistan	73	242	40	2467	159	**2981**
46	Palestine	0	1	0	2	0	**3**
47	Rwanda	61	16	12	31	0	**120**
48	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
49	Senegal	6	26	35	163	5	**235**
50	Sierra-Leone	0	0	0	3	1	**4**
51	Somalia	71	51	196	182	3	**503**
52	Sri-Lanka	1	0	0	11	1	**13**
53	Sudan	1	1	2	8	0	**12**
54	Suriname	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
55	Swaziland	0	0	0	1	0	**1**

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Table 3: Statistics on Unfounded Asylum Claims during 2013							(Cont.)
Country of Origin		**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Musina**	**Pretoria**	**TIRRO**	**Grand Total**
56	Syria	0	0	0	3	0	**3**
57	Tanzania	19	4	1	31	8	**63**
58	Thai	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
59	Togo	2	0	0	1	1	**4**
60	Tunisia	0	0	1	0	0	**1**
61	Uganda	72	104	77	312	7	**572**
62	Ukraine	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
63	Vietnam	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
64	Yemen	0	0	2	0	0	**2**
65	Zambia	15	1	5	9	1	**31**
66	Zimbabwe	505	59	167	233	33	**997**
	Grand Total	**3105**	**3101**	**3977**	**14416**	**954**	**25553**

Source: NIIS © 2013

2.3 Applications Approved and Refugee Status Granted in terms of Section 24 (3)(a) of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998

Table 4: Statistics on Approved Asylum Claims during 2013							
Country of Origin		**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Musina**	**Pretoria**	**TIRRO**	**Grand Total**
1	Bangladesh	4	0	0	0	0	**4**
2	Burundi	1	5	0	2	2	**10**
3	Cameroon	3	0	0	0	0	**3**
4	Central African Republic	1	0	0	1	0	**2**
5	Congo Republic	10	3	0	293	11	**317**
6	Democratic Republic of Congo	82	152	0	833	37	**1,104**
7	Eritrea	0	7	1	155	5	**168**
8	Ethiopia	50	6		1,948	51	**2,055**
9	Malawi	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
10	Mali	0	0	0	4	0	**4**
11	Palestine	0	0	0	1	2	**3**
12	Rwanda	1	1		1	0	**3**
13	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
14	Solomon Islands	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
15	Somalia	2,424	44	1	1,095	15	**3,579**
16	Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0	2	**2**
17	Sudan	0	0	0	2	0	**2**
18	Swaziland	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
19	Syria	0	3	0	3	0	**6**
20	Tanzania	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
21	Uganda	4	1	0	1	0	**6**
22	Zambia	0	0	0	1	0	**1**
23	Zimbabwe	11	0	0	1	0	**12**
Grand Total		**2,593**	**223**	**2**	**4,343**	**125**	**7,286**

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III. REFUGEES ENABLING DOCUMENTS

3.1 Refugee Identity Documents

Table No 5: Applications for Refugee Identity Documents Received							
Months	**Pretoria**	**Musina**	**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Port Elizabeth**	**Monthly Grand Total**	**Quarterly Total**
Jan-13	42	48	465	150	0	**705**	
Feb-13	642	0	1,262	488	0	**2,392**	
Mar-13	129	46	948	279	0	**1,402**	**4,499**
Apr-13	828	45	905	400	119	**2,297**	
May-13	1,474	0	594	319	0	**2,387**	
Jun-13	139	0	356	232	38	**765**	**5,449**
Jul-13	1,716	85	1,006	555	1,716	**5,078**	
Aug-13	114	0	636	208	268	**1,226**	
Sep-13	673	87	84	34	87	**965**	**7,269**
Oct-13	809	0	654	490	389	**2,342**	
Nov-13	581	0	941	242	59	**1,823**	
Dec-13	0	0	310	11	59	**380**	**4,545**
Grand Total per Office	**7,147**	**311**	**8,161**	**3,408**	**2,735**	**21,762**	
Source:	ASM Excel MasterList © 2013						

A total of 21,762 applications for Refugee Identity Documents were received from Refugee Reception Offices between January and December 2013. As presented in the table below, a total number of 10,055 Refugee Identity Documents were dispatched during the same period to RROs for issuance to refugees – in terms of Section 30 (1) of the Refugees Act.

Table No 6: Refugee ID Books Dispatched to RRO							
Months	**Pretoria**	**Musina**	**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Port Elizabeth**	**Monthly Grand Total**	**Quarterly Total**
Jan-13	51	0	226	70	0	**347**	
Feb-13	134	0	94	332	0	**560**	
Mar-13	964	0	974	650	0	**2,588**	**3,495**
Apr-13	676	0	0	176	0	**852**	
May-13	0	34	1,245	278	0	**1,557**	
Jun-13	641	0	717	316	0	**1,674**	**4,083**
Jul-13	18	34	374	307	0	**733**	
Aug-13	280	0	161	280	0	**721**	
Sep-13	56	0	50	10	0	**116**	**1,570**
Oct-13	42	1	196	50	0	**289**	
Nov-13	31	183	288	18	0	**520**	
Dec-13	98	0	0	0	0	**98**	**907**
Grand Total per Office	**2,991**	**252**	**4,325**	**2,487**	**0**	**10,055**	
Source:	ASM Excel MasterList © 2013						

Table No 7: Uncollected Refugee Identity Documents per RRO			
Refugee Reception Office	Uncollected Valid ID	Uncollected Expired ID	Grand Total Uncollected ID per RRO
Cape Town RRO	5,580	0	**5,580**
Durban RRO	1,420	703	**2,123**
Port Elizabeth RRO	269	0	**269**
Marabastad RRO	0	0	**0**
Musina RRO	42	1	**43**
Total	**7,311**	**704**	**8,015**
Source:	RRO Records © 2013		

RROs records show that a total of 7 311 valid refugee IDs were not collected by refugees in 2013 whilst 704 IDs expired whilst being uncollected.

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3.2 Refugee Travel Documents

Table No 8: 2013 Applications for Refugee Travel Documents Received					
Month	**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Pretoria**	**Port Elizabeth**	**Total**
Jan-13	38	1	31	0	70
Feb-13	112	227	101	0	440
Mar-13	62	19	0	0	81
Apr-13	207	43	244	5	499
May-13	113	334	405	39	891
Jun-13	125	279	439	71	914
Jul-13	94	105	309	109	617
Aug-13	224	146	336	29	735
Sep-13	154	138	60	11	363
Oct-13	257	165	410	66	898
Nov-13	362	147	209	19	737
Dec-13	175	79	0	15	269
Total	**1,923**	**1,683**	**2,544**	**364**	**6,514**
Source:	ASM Excel MasterList © 2013				

A total of **6,514** applications for Refugee Travel Documents were received from Refugee Reception Offices between January and December 2013. Of these applications, a total of **5,888** Refugee Travel Documents were processed – in terms of Section 31 of the Refugees Act - during the same period and dispatched to Refugee Reception Offices for collection/issuance to Refugees.

Table No 9: Refugee Travel Documents Issued					
Month	**Cape Town**	**Durban**	**Pretoria**	**Port Elizabeth**	**Total**
Jan-13	303	130	269	4	**706**
Feb-13	60	156	234	1	**451**
Mar-13	62	56	108	1	**227**
Apr-13	9	19	31	0	**59**
May-13	155	155	175	3	**488**
Jun-13	9	11	56	0	**76**
Jul-13	169	66	75	0	**310**
Aug-13	369	336	397	31	**1,133**
Sep-13	145	144	407	5	**701**
Oct-13	139	127	413	76	**755**
Nov-13	179	148	249	99	**675**
Dec-13	78	88	138	3	**307**
Total	**1,677**	**1,436**	**2,552**	**223**	**5,888**
Source:	ASM Excel MasterList © 2013				

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IV. ASYLUM SEEKERS MANAGEMENT IN BRIEF

4.1 The Chief Directorate: Asylum Seekers Management

The Chief Directorate has a duty to provide policy direction as well as oversee processes and systems relating to applications for asylum, the determination of refugee status and the issuance of refugee enabling documents in terms of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998.

Other than providing integrated strategic and operational support services to Refugee Reception Offices, the Chief Directorate is responsible for managing asylum data/information for strategic policy and decision-making as well as constant monitoring and evaluation of the management of asylum/refugee practices and services to ensure adherence and compliance to standards and legislation.

Whilst using enabling documents as a tool for local integration, the unit also works with key relevant stakeholders to explore resettlement and voluntary repatriation options for durable solutions. These role-players, which include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), have separate yet converging key obligations of ensuring protection and providing social relief to asylum seekers and refugees.

In support of durable solutions, the unit analyses local integration risks and looks at the option of the *'first country rule*[1]*'* and *'safe third country'*[2] mechanism while promoting regional cooperation on asylum management. In that, the unit researches socio-political and economic situations in refugee sending countries and produces country information reports to enable effective status determination.

4.2 Refugee Reception Offices

[1] The UN Convention on asylum seekers provide for the 1st Country Rule which states that an asylum seeker should seek refuge in the first safe country that he/she reaches.

[2] Within the framework of the procedures at first instance set out in Chapter III of the **Asylum Procedures Directive (APD)**, Article 27 concerns the possibility for Member States to apply the safe third country concept. The safe third country notion, as set out in the APD, is the concept that Member States may send applicants to third countries with which the applicant has a connection, such that it would be reasonable for him/her to go there, and in which the possibility exists to request refugee status and if s/he is found to be a refugee, it must be possible for him/her to receive protection in accordance with the 1951 Convention. In that third country, the applicant must not be at risk of persecution, refoulement or treatment.

Criteria for designating countries as safe third countries - Article 27 (1) of the APD provides that: Member States may apply the safe third country concept only where the competent authorities are satisfied that a person seeking asylum will be treated in accordance with the following principles (four conditions relating to safety and asylum practices) in the third country:

a) *Life and liberty are not threatened on account of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion;*
b) *The principle of non-refoulement in accordance with the Geneva convention is respected;*
c) *The prohibition of removal, in violation of the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment as laid down in international law, is respected; and*
d) *The possibility exists to request refugee status and, if found to be a refugee, to receive protection in accordance with the Geneva Convention.*

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The duties of Refugee Reception Offices (RROs) are to carry out asylum eligibility and status determination functions following prescribed standards aligned with the rule of law: legislation, regulations, directives and executive decisions provided by the Chief Directorate.

4.3 Refugee Appeal Board

The Refugee Appeal Board (RAB) is an independent body established in terms of Section 12 (1) the Refugees Act with own rules and with the sole function of handling appeal cases.

4.4 Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs

The Standing Committee for Refugee Affairs (SCRA) is an independent body established in terms of Section 9 (1) of the Refugee Act No 130 of 1998. The body's mandate is to deal with review of manifestly unfounded/fraudulent/abusive claims and review/withdrawal of refugee status in addition to processing applications for certification in terms of Section 27(C) of the Refugees Act No 130 of 1998.

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