UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GLOBAL REPORT
2023

Executive Summary

Visit : reporting.unhcr.org/global-report-2023 to see the full report

This chapter is clickable. Underlined titles & blue text can take you to the respective Global Focus web page.

A guide to UNHCR's Global Report in 2023

The Global Report is our annual review of our activities and results. It shows how we were funded and tells the story of how forced displacement and statelessness developed during the year, how UNHCR acted in response and what challenges we faced. The elements of the Global Report 2023 are as follows:

What you will find in this Executive Summary:

High Commissioner's foreword

A foreword by the High Commissioner.

2023 in review

A summary of challenges and achievements.

Snapshot of the year

A calendar of some key moments of 2023.

UNHCR in 2023

A dashboard of key indicators in 2023.

Global Refugee Forum

A dashboard of pledges at the GRF 2023.

What you will find online:

Funding UNHCR's programmes

- Budget
- Expenditure
- Income
- Underfunding
- Private sector
- National Partners

UNHCR's report on its use of flexible funding.

Enabling Areas

This section covers the support and management functions needed to run UNHCR's programmes and help the organization work more efficiently and effectively. This includes a section on UNHCR's strategic partnerships in 2023.

Impact Areas

The global situation of forcibly displaced and stateless people, under five headings:

- Protect: Attaining favourable protection environments
- Respond: Realizing rights in safe environments
- Empower: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality
- Solve: Securing solutions
- Include: Including forcibly displaced and stateless people in economic growth and public services and systems

Focus Areas

UNHCR's work in five strategic areas:

- Accountability to affected people
- Climate action
- Development partnerships
- Internal displacement
- Statelessness

Outcome Areas

The activities that UNHCR undertakes around the world are described under 16 "Outcome Areas".

1. Access to territory, registration and documentation
2. Status determination
3. Protection policy and law
4. Gender-based violence
5. Child protection
6. Safety and access to justice
7. Community engagement and women's empowerment
8. Well-being and basic needs
9. Sustainable housing and settlements
10. Healthy lives
11. Education
12. Clean water, sanitation and hygiene
13. Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods
14. Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration
15. Resettlement and complementary pathways
16. Local integration and other local solutions

UNHCR's work in seven regions

- East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes
- Southern Africa
- West and Central Africa
- The Americas
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe
- Middle East and North Africa

Annual Results Reports

For country and multi-country operations (available for 51 operations).

The Global Refugee Forum in 2023

Results of the quadrennial event supporting the objectives of the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees.

Major displacement situations in 2023

- Afghanistan situation
- Central African Republic situation
- Colombia situation
- Democratic Republic of the Congo situation
- El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras situation
- Ethiopia situation (Northern Ethiopia emergency)
- Iraq situation
- Myanmar situation
- Sahel situation
- South Sudan situation
- Sudan situation
- Syria situation
- Ukraine situation
- Venezuela situation
- Western and Central Mediterranean situation

High Commissioner's foreword

In north-western Burundi, HIgh Commissioner Filippo Grandi visits a former refugee family who had returned home to Rugombo commune, in Cibitoke Province, and received materials from UNHCR to rebuild their house | © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

In 2023, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people rose to record highs, an unfortunate symptom of a world in turmoil marked by war, displacement, human rights violations, coups and natural disasters.

With increasing political polarization and paralysis, innocents are paying the highest price. Some crises, such as Ukraine and Gaza, gained – understandably – international attention. Others – regrettably – continued to fail to make it to the headlines: Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti... Last year alone, UNHCR declared 43 emergencies in 29 countries, and continued to respond to protracted situations all around the world.

In all these situations, and despite the significant challenges and increased humanitarian needs, we acted to protect, assist and empower forcibly displaced people through our own efforts and in partnership with others.

We worked tirelessly to overcome the numerous challenges – complex operational environments, misinformation and disinformation, xenophobia, funding incommensurate with humanitarian needs or increasingly conditional, and many others. We stood firm against situations threatening the core of international refugee protection, but also engaged, in pragmatic yet principled terms, with proposals that recognize challenges faced by States and communities. We intensified advocacy and efforts so that population movements, particularly those where refugees travel alongside migrants, are considered through a route-based approach that looks holistically at actions in countries of origin, transit, destination and return instead of focusing only on borders. Internally, we advanced our transformation and worked to ensure resources were prioritized for displaced and stateless people.

We are grateful to the States that keep their doors open to people forced to flee, often generously

hosting refugees while struggling to address the needs of their own communities.

In 2023, we also welcomed the fact that resettlement figures have picked up again, which helped save lives and build brighter futures for 158,700 refugees in countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia, Germany, France, Norway, New Zealand and Finland.

At the same time, the root causes of displacement continued to remain unaddressed, and those fleeing for the first, second or sometimes third time overwhelmingly outnumbered the one million refugees and 5.1 million internally displaced people who went back to rebuild their lives in their places of origin. More people would follow the same path if support were available. As such, we remained steadfast in our commitment to advocate for the possibility of safe and dignified voluntary returns whenever feasible, including through political solutions to end prolonged and new conflicts.

Despite increasing commitments to address statelessness, including at the Global Refugee Forum, and the commendable efforts by many countries, some of the larger statelessness situations remain unaddressed or progress is slow. Millions of stateless persons continue to be deprived of access to basic rights and services, and only 32,150 people received a nationality in 2023.

We did, however, see remarkable efforts to foster the human development of displaced communities, with various initiatives around the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees into national systems and services. Countries such as Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mauritania, Mexico and Uganda have shown the value of bringing refugees into the job market – a subject explored in the World Bank's "World Development Report" in 2023. Another exciting new effort for inclusion is Kenya's "Shirika Plan," which was initiated in 2023 and aims to transform refugee camps into integrated municipalities over the next decade. Such initiatives need to be supported as well as celebrated. They can be a win-win for refugees and host communities alike, by strengthening inclusive national systems, expanding local labour markets for all, and by making refugees more self-reliant and contributors to the local economy while helping reduce aid dependency and enabling more sustainable programming. This inclusive approach equally contributes to all durable solutions: educated and better-skilled refugees are much better placed to contribute to the development of their countries of origin, or to better integrate in a country of resettlement.

UNHCR's catalytic role was critical in bringing in other and new actors to respond to displacement situations, and in underscoring that countries hosting refugees provide a global public good and need to be supported. This was clearly felt in the Global Refugee Forum in December. Over 4,000 people, including more than 320 refugees, attended the event, representing States, civil society, faith-based actors, sport bodies, the private sector, development institutions, academics, local and regional governments and others. Through their engagement and more than 1,700 pledges of support, including 42 multi-stakeholder pledges bringing together all parts of society, and financial commitments of $2.2 billion, they demonstrated their continued solidarity with refugees and stateless people.

The Global Refugee Forum showed us the power of multilateralism, and gave us hope. However, it also showed us that there is still much work to do. I am grateful to all the donors, hosts, and supporters, and I hope this report will testify to the extraordinary work my colleagues at UNHCR do every day in the service of refugees, displaced and stateless people. We recognize that there are, and there will still be, challenges ahead of us, but we remain undaunted. UNHCR will continue working to protect, respond, include, empower and solve. As we look forward, we trust we will also be able to count on you.

– Filippo Grandi
UNHCR High Commissioner

2023 in review

In 2023, UNHCR faced several major challenges.

The population it was mandated to protect and assist grew to yet another record: 122.6 million people in total, including refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people, returnees and stateless people.

The funds available to it fell back from a peak reached in 2022, opening up a record funding gap, with an average of $47 in funding for each of those 122.6 million people.

The number of emergencies forcing people to flee from their homes grew to a new high, with the outbreak of war in Sudan driving the largest displacement crisis of the year, one which needed far more support than it received.

Old crises did not get resolved, and the number of protracted refugee situations grew to 59, in 37 countries.

Against this challenging backdrop, UNHCR and its partners helped to bring about significant achievements and advances that feature in this Global Report.

To protect forcibly displaced and stateless people, UNHCR spoke up for their rights and advocated for States to align their laws and policies with the 1951 Refugee Convention, its 1967 Protocol, the stateless conventions and other relevant international instruments. UNHCR saw progress on this, and in its efforts to ensure people had the documentation needed to exercise their rights. UNHCR registered more than 2.5 million people, including in extreme and adverse circumstances, such as Sudanese fleeing into Chad. Although asylum numbers grew globally, UNHCR worked to help States process applications and conducted refugee status determination under its own mandate in around 50 countries, reducing the average wait time overall. UNHCR also intervened in legal cases and worked with its partners to provide legal advice to people who have been forced to flee, and to improve the data on their access to justice. It pressed States to improve detention conditions, end child immigration detention, and detain asylum-seekers and refugees only as a measure of last resort.

UNHCR led the gender-based violence response in 45 displacement settings, providing safe spaces, training, and case management for survivors. It also provided protection services to 7 million children, including helping unaccompanied and separated children and supporting child-friendly procedures, and it finalized its first "Policy on child protection". UNHCR also provided targeted support to nearly 41,000 older persons and 480,000 persons with disabilities.

Overall, 19.3 million people received protection services in 163 countries.

UNHCR responded to the needs of people who had been forced to flee, providing assistance directly to millions and striving to improve the conditions affecting them, including their access to housing, clean water, health care, education, clean cooking fuel, and employment. Amidst a high prevalence of poverty, often far exceeding poverty rates in the host population, UNHCR delivered more than $760 million in cash assistance to 7.3 million people in over 110 countries, and 8.1 million people received

non-food items. 14.6 million people benefited from UNHCR-supported health services, and 2.9 million people received shelter and housing assistance. An estimated 72% of refugee and asylum-seeking children were enrolled in primary education, but only 45% in secondary. At tertiary level, refugees' 7% enrolment rate remained far below global averages but far higher than the 1% where it stood as recently as 2019.

With many people displaced or stateless for years or even decades, UNHCR made the case with governments to include refugees and asylum-seekers in State systems and services, rather than letting them subsist for years on humanitarian aid. More and more, it seems that case is being heard, with forced displacement seen increasingly as a development issue. 5.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from government social protection programmes, and 67% of refugees had a legal right to work, up from 52% in 2021. UNHCR's efforts to encourage financial inclusion of refugees also bore fruit, with more people able to open a bank account and participate in the local economy.

UNHCR worked to empower forcibly displaced and stateless people. It supported refugee-led organizations, refugee innovation, refugee youth, and women's involvement in leadership and decision-making. It sought to involve forcibly displaced and stateless people in decisions affecting them. Almost 48,000 people took part in participatory assessments run by 76 of UNHCR's country operations. 20 operations facilitated engagement with displaced LGBTIQ+ people, and 63 operations aimed to meet their needs, via targeted or mainstreamed support. UNHCR's hotlines, Help websites and social media channels provided two-way communication, with information to help people stay safe, know their legal rights, and make the best decisions for themselves and their families. Help sites in 136 countries recorded 10 million visitors and facilitated at least 30,000 referrals to services. UNHCR also launched a "Digital Gateway", the beginning of a shift from in-person services towards more digital services.

UNHCR sought solutions to situations of forced displacement and statelessness and facilitated almost 100,000 resettlements of refugees, a third year of growth. Although relatively few people globally were able to return to their place of origin in safety and dignity, UNHCR supported hundreds of thousands who found themselves making the journey in adverse circumstances. UNHCR also laid the foundations for future returns by supporting regional coalitions that seek to bring about solutions, and helping to create a solutions support platform for the Central African Republic. UNHCR also sought to promote the local integration of refugees, and there were notable improvements in 2023, including in refugees' access to land for agriculture, property rights and opportunities for self-reliance. In Kenya, it supported the launch of the Shirika plan, an important strategic shift to integrate refugee settlements into the local community over the coming decade.

UNHCR invested strategically to bolster the evidence base available to policymakers and development actors, paving the way for major advances in statistics on subjects such as statelessness, internal displacement and the links between climate and displacement.

The Global Refugee Forum showed the strength of global solidarity, turning determination to tackle forced displacement and statelessness into real action that will deliver results in the next four years.

UNHCR achieved this despite real difficulties in resourcing its budget of $10.929 billion. By year's end, this budget was just over 52% funded, compared to 58% in 2022, with the very significant decrease in contributions from 2022 driven mostly by a drop in donors who had come forward to support the Ukraine crisis and characterized as well by a drop in softly earmarked funding. The decrease meant UNHCR faced heightened difficulties in meeting the many and pressing needs of forcibly displaced people worldwide, left gaps in its assistance, and meant it had to accelerate measures to realign and reorganize its staffing and operational footprint.

In 2016 UNHCR launched its internal reform process. Many structural and procedural decisions and reforms have been taken, including regionalisation and decentralisation, as well as systems and process reforms, to make it as efficient and effective as possible in the delivery of protection and assistance. As part of this, it had always been intended to undertake a further review of posts and realign functions to avoid duplication or gaps.

As 2022 came to an end, and in light of forecasting and planning for 2023, UNHCR assessed that in addition to facing an increasingly uncertain and shifting financial landscape, additional efforts were required to bring more efficiency and cost reductions. These efforts factored into the ongoing transformation process. Given donor forecasts, amongst other elements, UNHCR accelerated its realignment and rationalization process through a transformation lens in 2023, allowing operations and Bureaux to further readjust decentralization and regionalization based on the previous three year implementation. Bureaux and Headquarters worked together with operations to implement realignment and rationalization of staffing for 2023, which resulted in a 10% reduction of positions at Headquarters and operations. The review of positions was also accompanied by an in-depth review of UNHCR's operational footprint, which led to consolidating or closing 40 field presences in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

In the village of Fatih Abad, nestled within the Surkhrod district of Nangarhar province of Afghanistan, a transformative initiative is taking shape, courtesy of UNHCR in partnership with WAW (Women for Afghan Women). This collaborative effort is aimed at providing sustainable, permanent shelters for vulnerable families in the region, extending a lifeline to those in need of safe and stable housing | © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

Snapshot of the year

JAN

UNHCR, UNFPA and UNICEF join up to improve the protection of refugee and host communities, affected by vast **floods in Pakistan**, especially children and women. UNHCR provides life-saving assistance to thousands fleeing the latest violence in the eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, including emergency shelter for over 1,000 families of persons with disabilities, pregnant women and those with other vulnerabilities. After an alarming rise in deaths of **Rohingya** refugees at sea, UNHCR calls for a regional response to address **deadly sea journeys**. Humanitarian access in **Ethiopia's** Tigray region starts to improve after a peace agreement. UNHCR joins other UN agencies in calling for urgent action on **malnutrition**. A Regional PSEA and Safeguarding Network for the **Ukraine** refugee situation is launched, co-chaired by UNHCR and Save the Children.

MAR

Tropical Cyclone Freddy lashes **Malawi** and **Mozambique**, destroying homes and crops and displacing over 840,000 people. In Brussels, the **African Union**, **European Union** and UN push for urgent action to address the pressing needs of migrants and refugees in Libya. The security situation in the eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC) continues to deteriorate rapidly, overwhelming internal displacement sites and pushing people to flee to **Rwanda**. UNHCR declares an L1 emergency for Rwanda and an L2 for the DRC. On 3 March UNHCR also declares an internal L1 for **Benin**, **Côte d'Ivoire**, **Ghana** and **Togo** as the deteriorating security situation in **Burkina Faso** exacerbates the existing food crisis.

© UNHCR/Kenyi Emmanuel Lukajo

MAY

A ground-breaking new law comes into force in Kyrgyzstan, reducing statelessness by ensuring every child will have the right to a birth certificate. Somalia sees 1 million people displaced in the space of just 130 days, a record rate of displacement for the country. Cyclone Mocha makes landfall in **Myanmar**, affecting an estimated 7.9 million people, 3.4 million of whom need humanitarian assistance. The cyclone affects an area of **Bangladesh** where 2.3 million people reside, including 930,000 Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar. UNHCR declares an internal L2 emergency for both countries. **Costa Rica**, **Guatemala**, **Honduras**, **Mexico** and **Panama** experience a significant escalation in mixed and onward movements, with a conservative estimate of over 870,000 people on the move, prompting UNHCR to declare an L1 emergency for those countries. UNHCR issues a new position on returns to **Sudan**.

FEB

UNHCR releases the new Policy on Emergency Preparedness and Response which sets the framework for UNHCR's preparedness and response activities. UNHCR launches an emergency response and declares a Level 2 (L2) emergency after 1.7 million refugees and 5.3 million IDPs are among those affected by earthquakes in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic. As the Horn of Africa enters a sixth failed rainy season, High Commissioner Grandi visits Alemwach, a site hosting 22,000 **Eritrean** refugees in **Ethiopia**, which the Government plans to integrate into public services. Fighting from a political dispute in Laascaanood, **Somalia**, forces hundreds of thousands of people to flee, and almost 100,000 refugees cross the border into **Ethiopia**. UNHCR declares an L2 emergency for Ethiopia on 21 February.

© UNHCR/Emrah Gürel

APR

Conflict erupts in **Sudan**, in what will become the biggest displacement emergency of 2023, forcing nearly 7.2 million people from their homes by the end of the year, exacerbating an already grave humanitarian crisis. In consequence, UNHCR declares emergencies for **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, **Egypt**, **Chad**, **Ethiopia** and the **Central African Republic** in April and May. Brazil notches up five years of its relocation strategy, having moved more than 100,000 **Venezuelan** refugees and migrants to cities with **better prospects for jobs**, housing and education.

© UNHCR/Ying Hu

JUN

A summit co-convened by UNHCR seeks action to tackle gender-discriminatory nationality laws. UNHCR and IOM call for decisive action to prevent **deaths at sea** after as many as 750 people are feared drowned in the latest Mediterranean tragedy. In Morocco, the Rabat Declaration is a groundbreaking political step to improve the **health of refugees and migrants**. UNHCR and the **World Bank** sign a data-sharing agreement. **The United States**, **Guatemala**, **Colombia** and **Costa Rica** announce the initial phase of the Safe Mobility Offices, to facilitate access to protection and other lawful pathways to the United States and other countries. A conference in Spain pushes for action on **statelessness in Europe**.

JUL

Kenya grants citizenship to 7,000 members of the Pemba community, ending their **statelessness** and giving them access to education, health care, social protection, financial services and the formal labour market. UNHCR and FIFA sign a landmark Memorandum of Understanding to deepen their relationship and use soccer to strengthen support for forcibly displaced and stateless people, part of UNHCR's sport strategy. UNHCR and OHCHR issue a joint press release on the **United Kingdom's** Illegal Migration Bill. As the humanitarian situation in **Sudan** continues to deteriorate, UNHCR upgrades emergency declarations for **Sudan**, **South Sudan**, **Egypt** and **Chad** to an L3. **IKEA Foundation** commits to help UNHCR offices transition to **solar energy**. UNHCR issues a new position on returns to **Burkina Faso**.

© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

AUG

UNHCR joins UNICEF and IOM in deploring yet another **Mediterranean** shipwreck, in which dozens are thought to have died. **Angola** resumes refugee registration activities after an eight-year suspension. IASC activates its System-Wide Scale-Up for **Sudan**. Following a coup in **Niger**, UNHCR declares an L1 emergency for **Benin**, **Burkina Faso**, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, **Mali** and **Chad** due to the risk that the deteriorating security situation might lead to further displacement within Niger and refugee flows to neighbouring countries.

© UNHCR/Alessio Mamo

SEP

With 2 million refugees needing resettlement globally, UNHCR urges States to emulate a U.S. plan to **resettle 125,000 refugees** over 12 months. UNHCR and WHO warn of deteriorating health conditions in Sudan after 1,200 children die of suspected measles and malnutrition. As the number of refugees in **Chad** doubles, High Commissioner Grandi praises the country's reception of Sudanese refugees, but says more aid is desperately needed. UNHCR races to help people in Libya after **Storm Daniel** displaces 42,000 and kills at least 4,000, although the community comes together to cope with the shock and harrowing losses from the floods. Following a flare-up of decades-long conflict in **Karabakh**, over 100,000 people flee to **Armenia** within a week and UNHCR declares an L1 emergency for Armenia. UNHCR's Education Report reveals that 7 million refugee children are **out of school**.

OCT

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development's Policy Framework on Refugee Protection ushers in a harmonized approach to refugee management and asylum. **The Republic of the Congo**, where 200,000 people are at risk of statelessness, accedes to the Statelessness conventions. UNHCR and UNICEF sound the alarm about violent clashes in eastern **DRC**, after 450,000 people are forcibly displaced in six weeks, many of them cut off from UN aid efforts. UNHCR announces that enrolment of refugees in **tertiary education** has hit 7%, almost halfway to the 15by30 goal. Conflict breaks out in **Gaza** and UNHCR declares an L1 emergency for **Egypt** and **Lebanon**. Two powerful earthquakes strike Herat Province, **Afghanistan**, killing more than 1,400 people, destroying 10,000 homes and placing 114,000 people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. The Government of **Pakistan** announces it will deport all undocumented people residing in the country by 1 November. More than 478,800 Afghans return to Afghanistan before the end of the year, including over 29,000 deported by Pakistani authorities. The High Commissioner briefs the UN Security Council.

NOV

UNHCR distributes emergency items and cash after **floods** displace over 1 million people in **Somalia** and **Ethiopia**, many of whom had already fled from conflict and drought in Somalia. UNHCR welcomes a Supreme Court judgment in the **United Kingdom** on the transfer of asylum-seekers to **Rwanda**. The Global Compact on Refugees "**Indicator report**" shows sustained progress on four objectives: easing pressure on host countries; enhancing refugee self-reliance; expanding access to third-country solutions; and supporting conditions in countries of origin. UNHCR declares an L2 emergency for **Afghanistan** and **Pakistan**. A new Solutions Support Platform is launched for the **Central African Republic** situation.

© UNHCR/Kisut Gebre Egziabher

DEC

$2.2 billion in pledges to improve lives of refugees and hosts communities are announced at the **Global Refugee Forum**. UNHCR's "Global survey on livelihoods and economic inclusion" shows that 45% of refugees live in countries with unrestricted **access to formal employment**, up from 18% in 2019, and more than half of refugees have the legal right to open a bank account, a crucial step towards financial inclusion. Refugee activists speak up at **COP28**. The "15by30 roadmap" outlines paths to boost refugee enrolment in **higher education**. Clashes in Wad Madani, capital of **Sudan's** Al Jazirah State, cause the swift displacement of 300,000 people in an area previously considered safe. The number of refugees and migrants crossing the **Darien jungle** between South and Central America reaches 500,000. UNHCR and IOM call for a comprehensive regional approach based on cooperation and solidarity. Human rights experts launch the PIERR platform to coordinate advocacy for the **protection** of refugees.

UNHCR in 2023

To protect and assist a growing population of forcibly displaced and stateless people of 122.6 million (+5.5% compared to 2022) in 136 countries and territories

UNHCR's needs-based budget was $10.929 billion (+2.0%)

We received $4.880 billion of voluntary contributions (-16.6%)

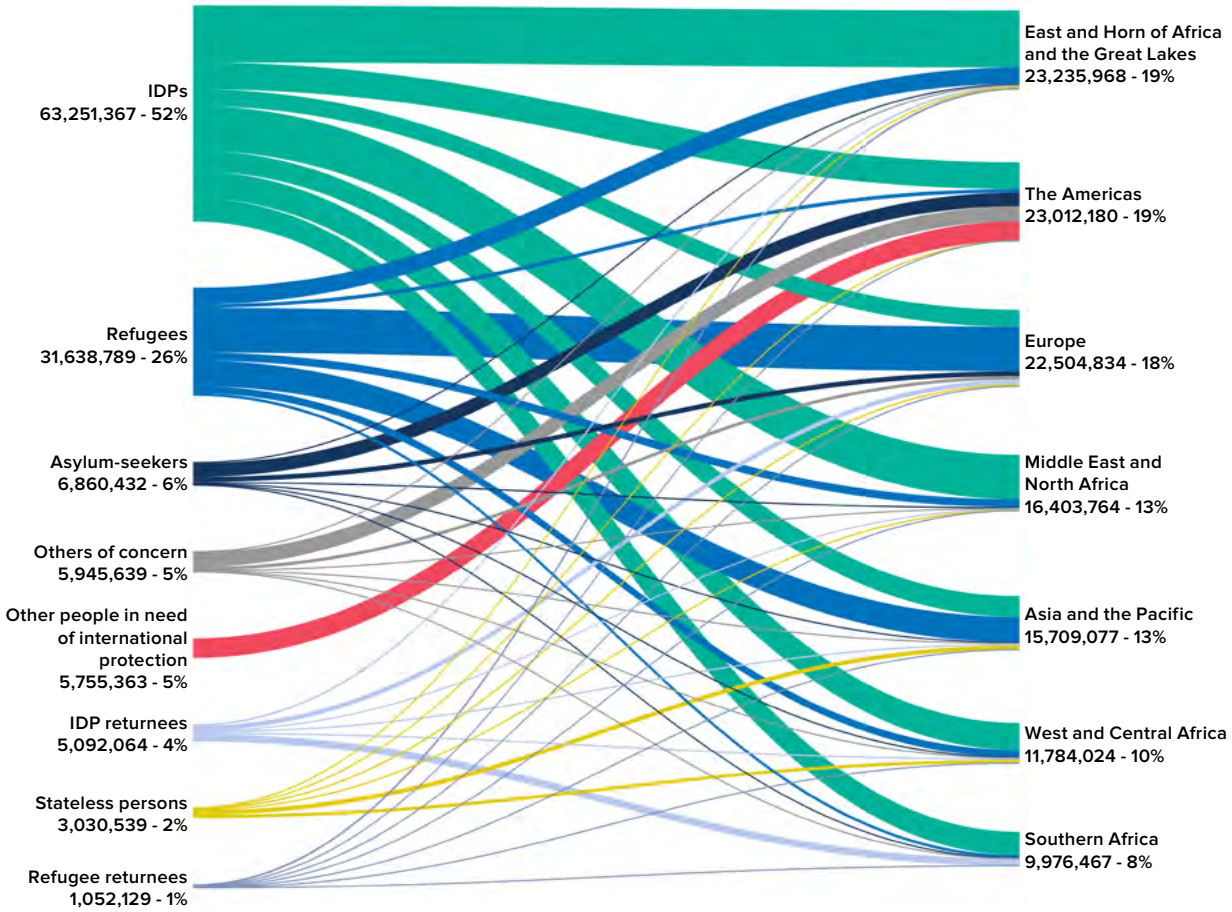
And we spent $5.167 billion (-7.9%)

Population overview

Forcibly displaced and stateless people by region[1] | 2023

Global total = 122.6 million

For a breakdown of population types by country and region, download the spreadsheet here (sheet T1).

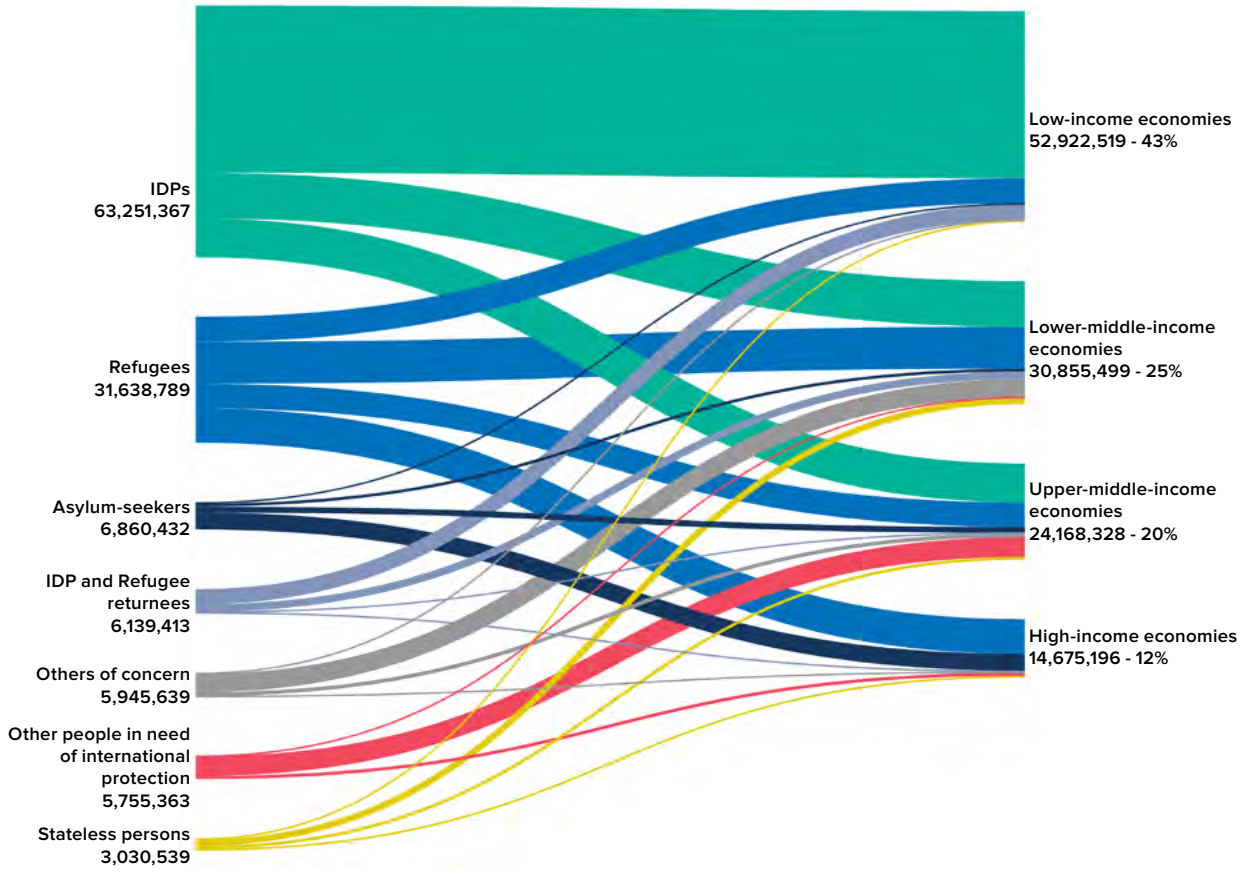


[1] 8 refugee returnees returned to unknown countries and are not shown in this chart.

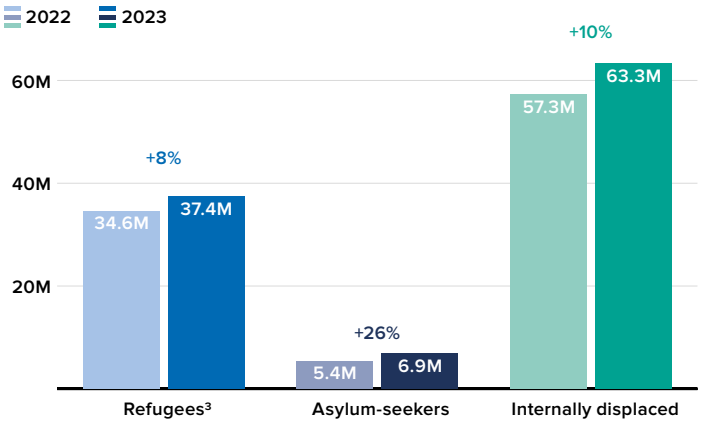
Forcibly displaced and stateless populations by gross national income per capita of host nations[2] | 2023

(Host nations of forcibly displaced and stateless people at the end of 2023, with host nations grouped according to gross national income per capita)
Low-income economies = $1,135 or less
Low-middle-income economies = $1,136 to $4,465
Upper-middle-income economies = $4,466 to $13,845
High-income economies = $13,846 or more

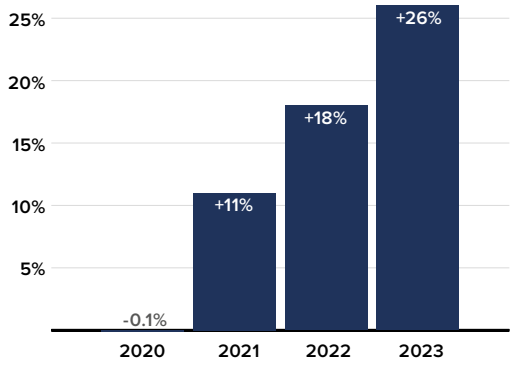
[2] 4,780 refugee returnees not counted in this chart due to unknown countries.



Population growth | 2022-2023



Growth of asylum-seeker numbers (%) | 2020-2023

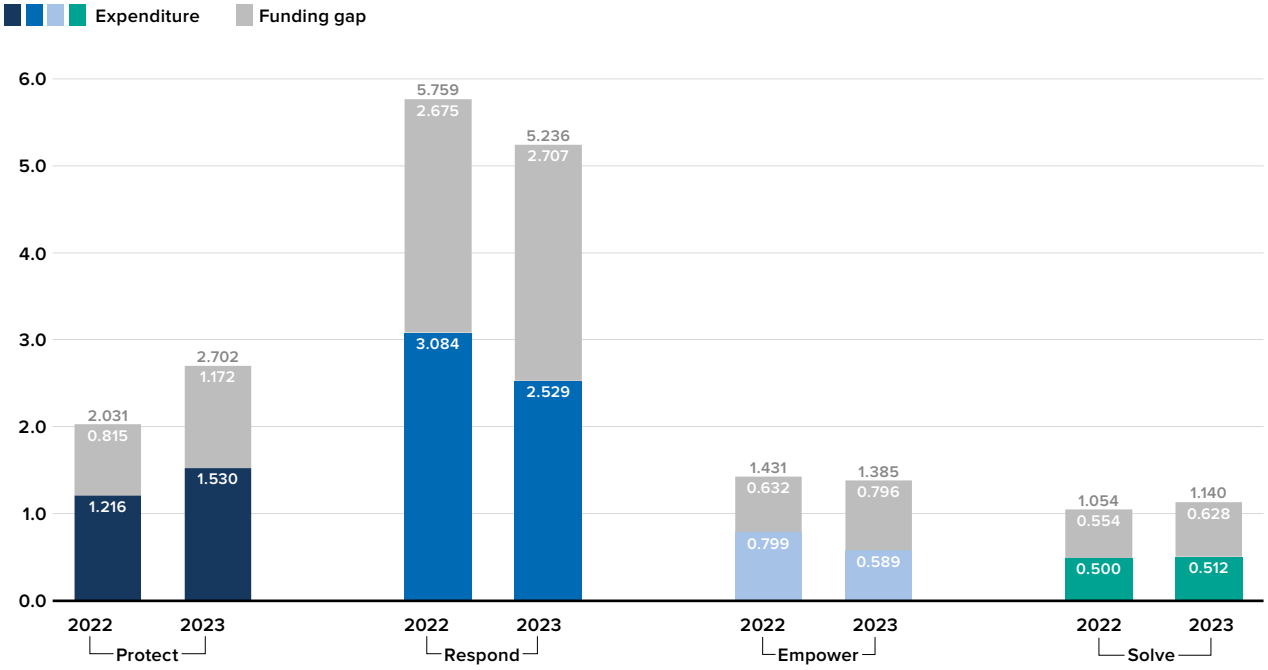


[3] Includes People in a refugee-like situation and Other people in need of international protection.

Financial overview

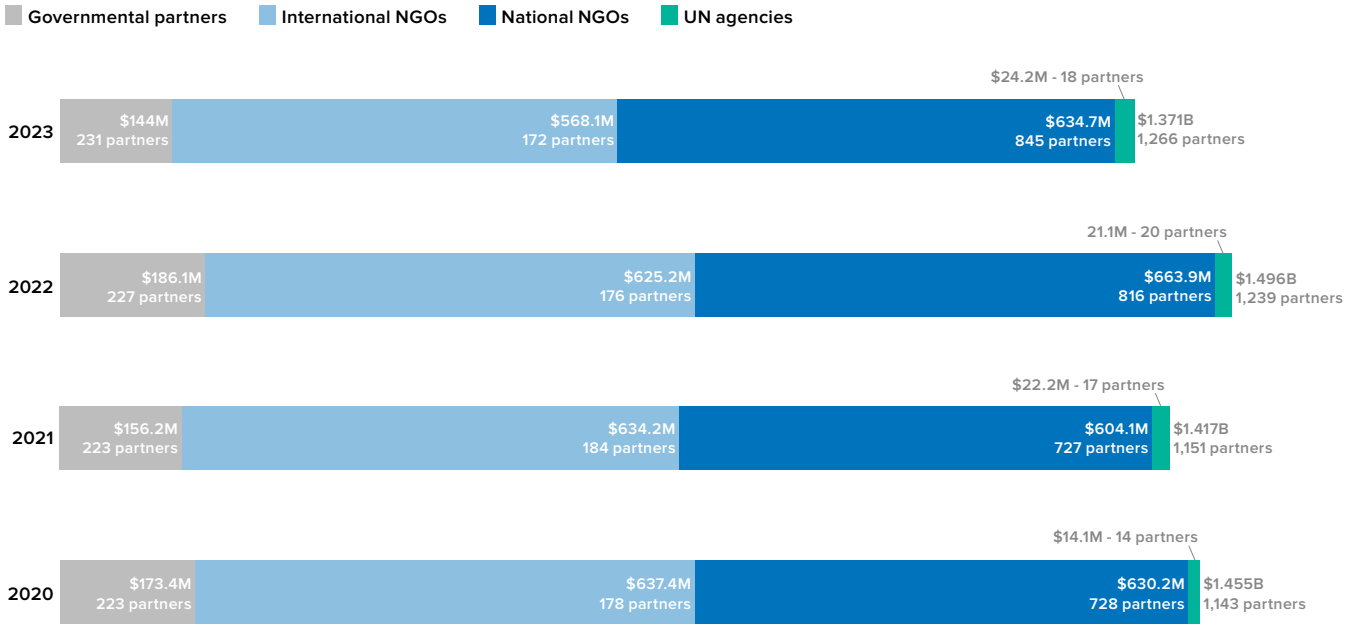
Expenditure and funding gaps, by Impact Area | 2022-2023 | USD billions

Figures above each bar are the budget amounts



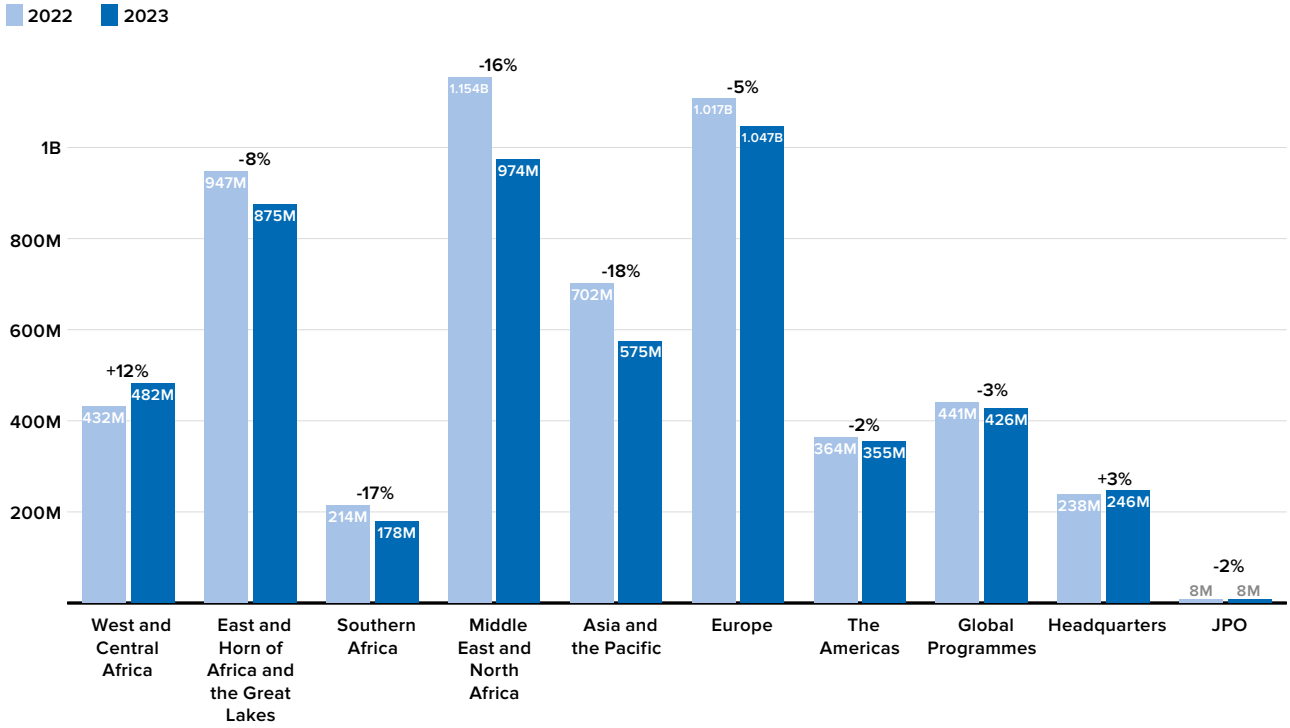
Global expenditure via partners | 2020-2023

$1.371 billion spent via 1,266 partners in 2023



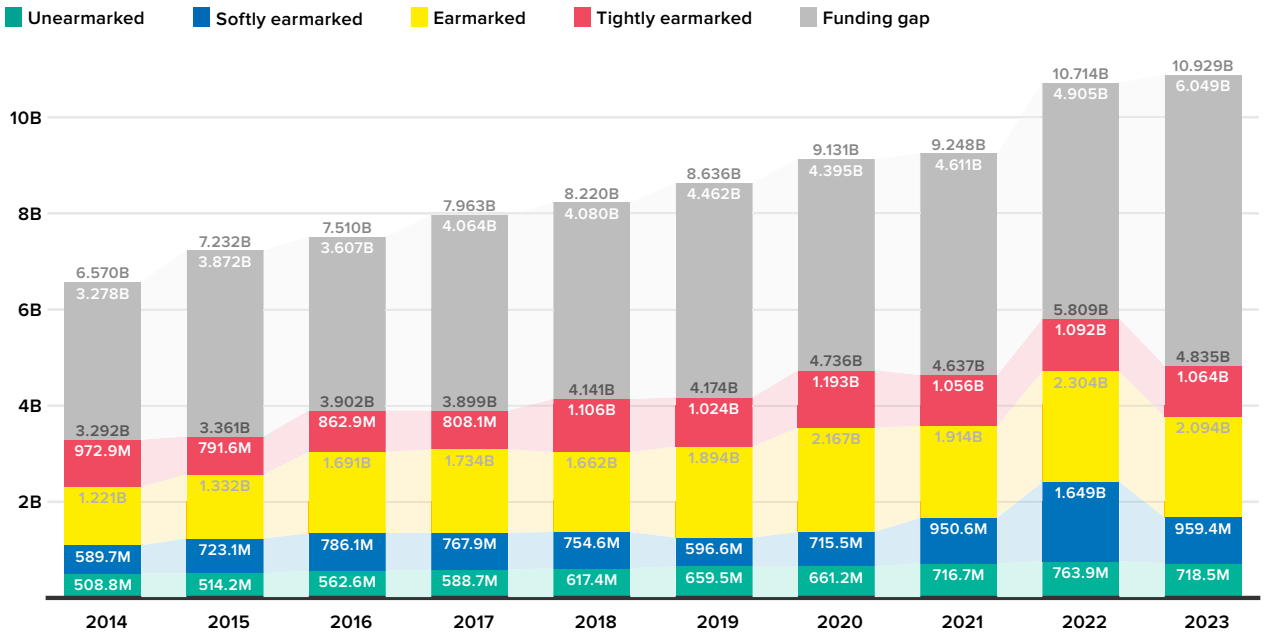
2022 vs 2023 expenditure | USD

Global expenditure decreased by 8% ($440.5M) in 2023 compared to 2022



Voluntary contributions vs budget[4] | 2014-2023 | USD

Figures above each bar are the budget amounts. Figures at the bottom of grey 'funding gap' blocks are the total contributions for all earmarking types.



[4] Contributions from UN Regular Budget excluded. Acknowledgement year basis.

Multisectoral monitoring results | 2023 year-end figures

Reporting period 1 January-31 December 2023

Protection

19.3 million

people received protection services[5]

Refugees / asylum-seekers:	9.9M
Internally displaced persons:	6.5M
Others of concern:	2.9M

Countries reporting: **163**
2022 result: 21.2M in 154 countries

7 million

children received protection services[5]

Refugees / asylum-seekers:	3.8M
Internally displaced persons:	2.1M
Others of concern:	1.1M

Countries reporting: **163**
2022 result: 8.4M in 154 countries

72%

of countries where specialized gender-based violence services are available to displaced and stateless people who are survivors

Countries reporting: **122**
2022 result: 73% of 131 countries

76%

of countries had child protection services[6] available to displaced and stateless children

Countries reporting: **126**
2022 result: 78% of 125 countries

Social protection

5.8 million

refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from government social protection programmes[7]

Countries reporting: **81**
2022 result: 6.2M in 70 countries

Accountability to affected people

67%

of targeted countries had a multi-channel feedback and response system that was designed based on consultations with displaced and stateless people

Countries reporting: **132**
2022 result: 69% in 144 countries

Basic needs

7.3 million

people received cash assistance

Countries reporting: **110**
2022 result: 9.8M in 110 countries

8.1 million

people received non-food items, including core relief items[8]

Countries reporting: **72**
Indicator not available in 2022

Shelter

2.9 million

people received shelter and housing assistance[9]

Countries reporting: **67**
Indicator not available in 2022

Health

14.6 million

people received essential health care services

Countries reporting: **77**
2022 result: 12M in 85 countries

1.5 million

women and girls received sexual and reproductive health services[10]

Countries reporting: **51**
2022 result: 994,000 in 57 countries

1.3 million

people received mental health and psychosocial support services

Countries reporting: **99**
2022 result: 1.1M in 82 countries

Nutrition

191,000

children 6-59 months were admitted for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)

Countries reporting: **33**
2022 result: 140,000 in 37 countries

95,000

children 6-59 months were admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM)

Countries reporting: **34**
2022 result: 72,500 in 37 countries

165 countries participated in the reporting

Source: UNHCR Multisectoral Monitoring
Feedback: hqfr00@unhcr.org

[5] *"Protection services" encompasses a vast range of community-based, individual and household interventions in various domains of UNHCR protection work, including counselling and information on rights, sensitization on protection issues, community outreach and mobilization, specialized services for children or other persons with specific needs, gender-based violence programming, legal assistance, registration and documentation, Refugee status determination and resettlement case-work, protection monitoring.*

[6] *Child protection services include support through Best Interests Procedures for children at risk, targeted support for children with specific needs and children in alternative care, support through family tracing and reunification, and reintegration support for children associated with armed groups and forces.*

[7] *The social protection indicator relies on official national data, which are often unavailable or not disaggregated by legal status. Also, this indicator does not mean full inclusion in the national social protection system, as refugees' access might be restricted to one or more specific programs or subject to a designated period of residence in a particular location. Despite having access to social protection programs, refugees may face additional challenges.*

[8] *This indicator reflects the total number of people who benefited from the direct distribution of in-kind non-food items, including domestic core relief items (CRIs) and excluding shelter CRIs.*

[9] *Shelter and housing assistance includes emergency, transitional and durable shelter provision, collective shelter, shelter repair and maintenance, and rental programming.*

[10] *Sexual and reproductive health services include antenatal care, assisted delivery, postnatal care, family planning services and health services for survivors of gender-based violence.*

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Story from the cover

Hawa | Sudanese refugee in Ethiopia

Hawa, 40, fled the conflict in Sudan in June 2023 and now lives at the Kurmuk transit centre in northwestern Ethiopia with her mother and children.

"We were terrified and it was raining, there was no food along the way. We had nothing, we left everything behind."

When they started hearing the shots in their village, Hawa and her family ran away and had to walk for three hours to seek safety. When they arrived in Ethiopia, they had only two Sudanese pounds to buy biscuits for the children.

"When we got here, we were relieved. We are okay now."

See the video

Core impact indicators

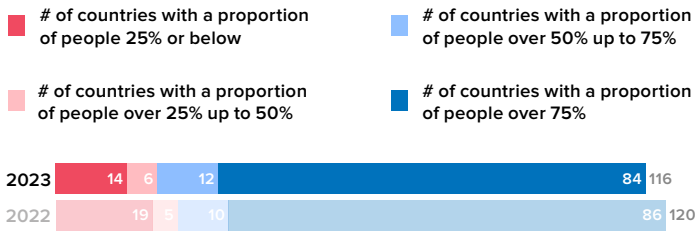
Click blue Impact Area titles to see interactive charts on Global Focus

Attaining favourable protection environments - Impact Area 1 "Protect"

1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures | 2022-2023

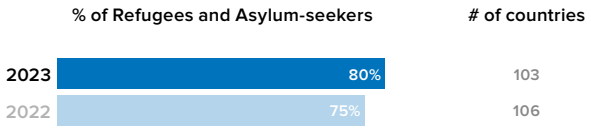
75% of people seeking international protection were able to access asylum procedures in 84 countries out of 116 reporting countries

2022 result: 75% in 86 countries out of 120 countries



1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence

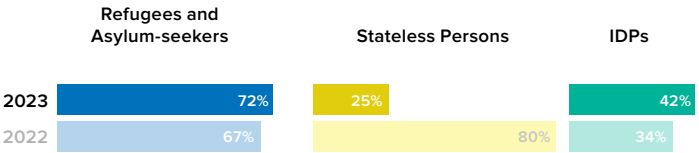
80% of refugees and asylum-seekers in 103 countries were able to move freely within their country of habitual residence



Realizing basic rights in safe environments - Impact Area 2 "Respond"

2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities

72% of refugees and asylum-seekers in 86 countries,
25% of stateless persons in 18 countries
42% of IDPs in 24 countries
were residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities

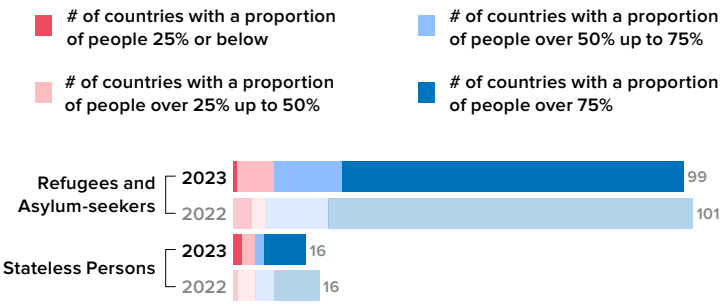


Number of countries reporting : In 2022, 87 countries reported on refugees, 16 countries on stateless persons and 24 on IDPs. In 2023, 86 countries reported on refugees, 18 on stateless persons and 24 on IDPs.

2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services

Over **75%** of refugees and asylum-seekers in 75 countries
Over **75%** of stateless persons in 9 countries had access to health services

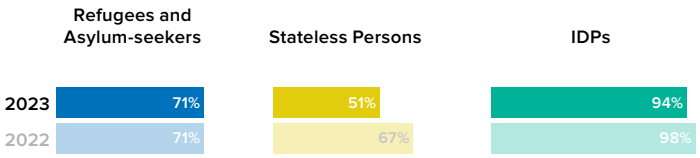
2022 result: 75% of refugees in 80 countries and 75% of stateless persons in 10 countries



Empowering communities and achieving gender equality - Impact Area 3 "Empower"

3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work

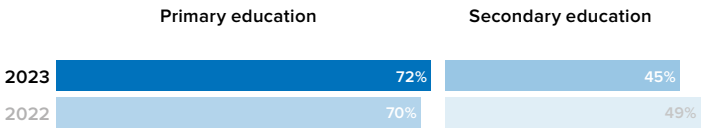
71% of refugees and asylum-seekers in 90 countries
51% of stateless persons in 28 countries
and 94% of IDPs in 8 countries had the legal right to decent work



Number of countries reporting : In 2022, 95 countries reporting on refugees, 28 on stateless persons and 7 on IDPs. In 2023, 90 countries reporting on refugees, 28 on stateless persons and 8 on IDPs.

3.2 Proportion of refugee children and young people enrolled in primary and secondary education

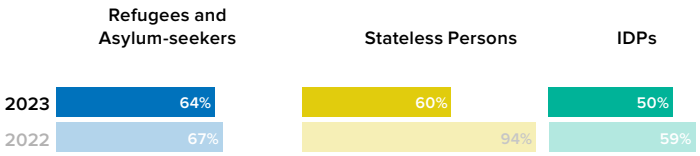
72% of children enrolled in primary education in 90 countries
45% of young people enrolled in secondary education in 87 countries



Number of countries reporting : In 2022, 94 countries reporting on primary education and 93 on secondary education. In 2023, 90 countries reporting on primary education and 87 on secondary education.

3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark

64% of refugees and asylum-seekers in 77 countries,
60% of stateless persons in 17 countries and
50% of IDPs in 18 countries were feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



Number of countries reporting : In 2022, 65 countries reporting on refugees, 8 countries on stateless persons and 18 on IDPs. In 2023, 77 countries reporting on refugees, 17 on stateless persons and 18 on IDPs.

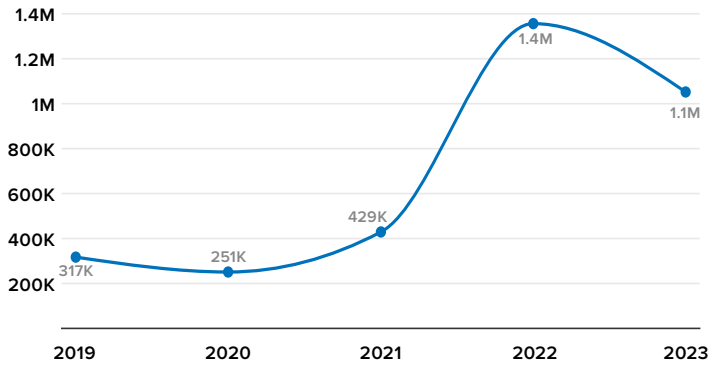
Securing Solutions – Impact Area 4 "Solve"

4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin

1,052,129 refugees voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin

2022 result: 1,356,301 refugees*

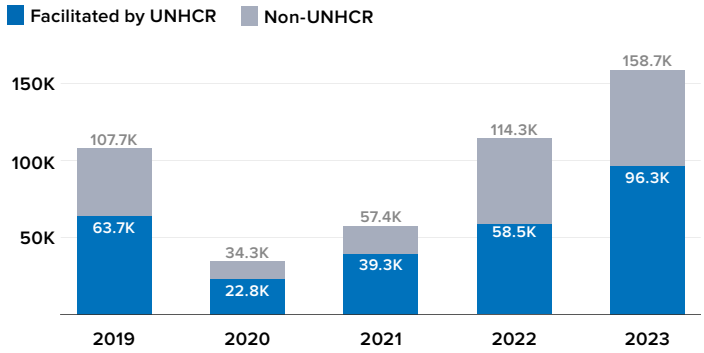
* 2022 figure was updated after the publication of Global Report 2022



4.2 Number of refugees who departed on resettlement

158,665 refugees departed on resettlement including **96,311** departures facilitated by UNHCR

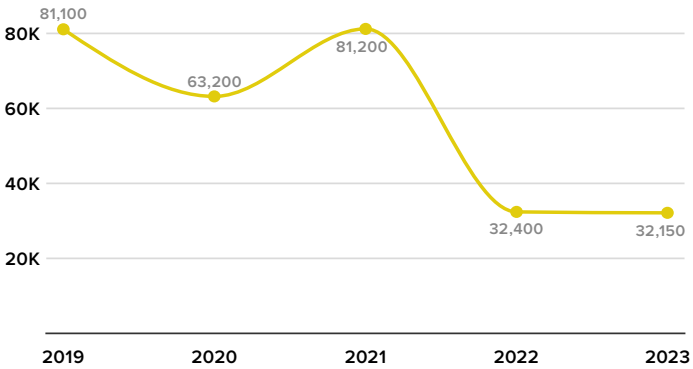
2022 result: 114,280 departures including 58,460 facilitated by UNHCR



4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed

32,150 stateless persons gained a nationality or had it confirmed in 57 countries

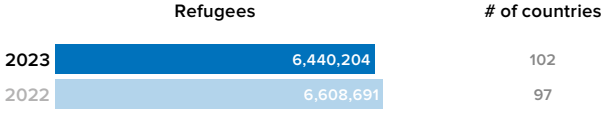
2022 result: 32,400 persons in 56 countries



4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed

6,440,200 refugees gained residency status or had it confirmed in 102 countries

2022 result: 6,608,691 in 97 countries



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Tahira | Trainee in a midwifery programme in Afghanistan

The Midwifery Training Programme in the Central Highlands Region of Bamyan and Daikundi provinces, Afghanistan, is a crucial initiative supported by UNHCR. 80 women are enrolled in a two-year midwifery diploma course. Its primary aim is to address Afghanistan's alarmingly high maternal and child mortality rates, which are among the highest globally.

"My goal is to save the lives of women and their children"

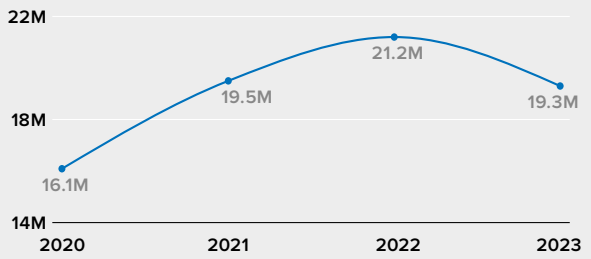
This training gives women a chance to study and work in a country where there are fewer opportunities for them.

UNHCR has secured funding to continue the midwifery programme for another two years and plans are underway to expand this successful programme to other regions of Afghanistan.

Watch the video

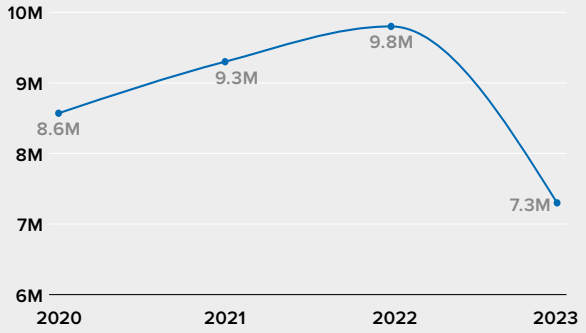
Other high level results and trends

Number of people who received protection services[11] | 2020-2023



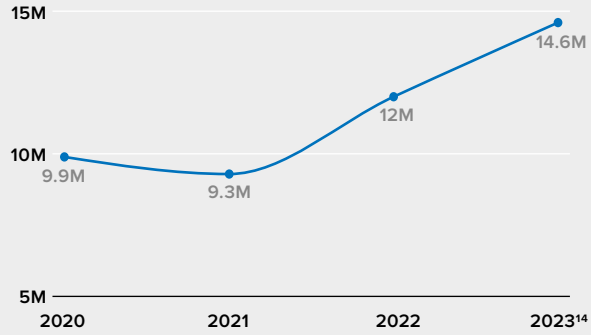
[11] 1) "Protection services" encompasses a vast range of community-based, individual and household interventions in various domains of UNHCR protection work, including counselling and information on rights, sensitization on protection issues, community outreach and mobilization, specialized services for children or other persons with specific needs, GBV programming, legal assistance, registration and documentation, refugee status determination and resettlement case-work, protection monitoring.
2) Number of countries reporting: 151 countries in 2020, 147 in 2021, 154 in 2022 and 163 in 2023.

Number of people receiving cash assistance[12] | 2020-2023



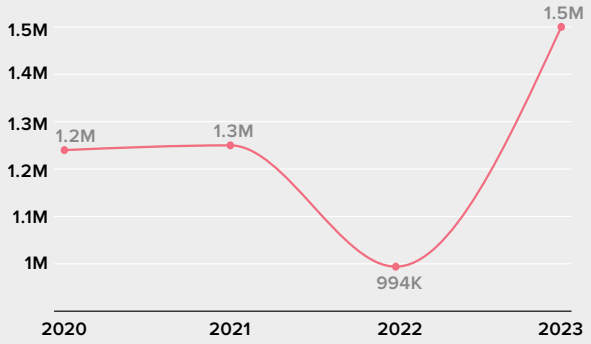
[12] Number of countries reporting: 100 countries in 2020, 96 in 2021, 109 in 2022 and 110 in 2023.

Number of people who received essential health care services[13] | 2020-2023



[13] Number of countries reporting: 68 countries in 2020, 79 in 2021, 85 countries in 2022 and 77 in 2023.
[14] Before 2023, the indicator did not include women and girls accessing reproductive health services.

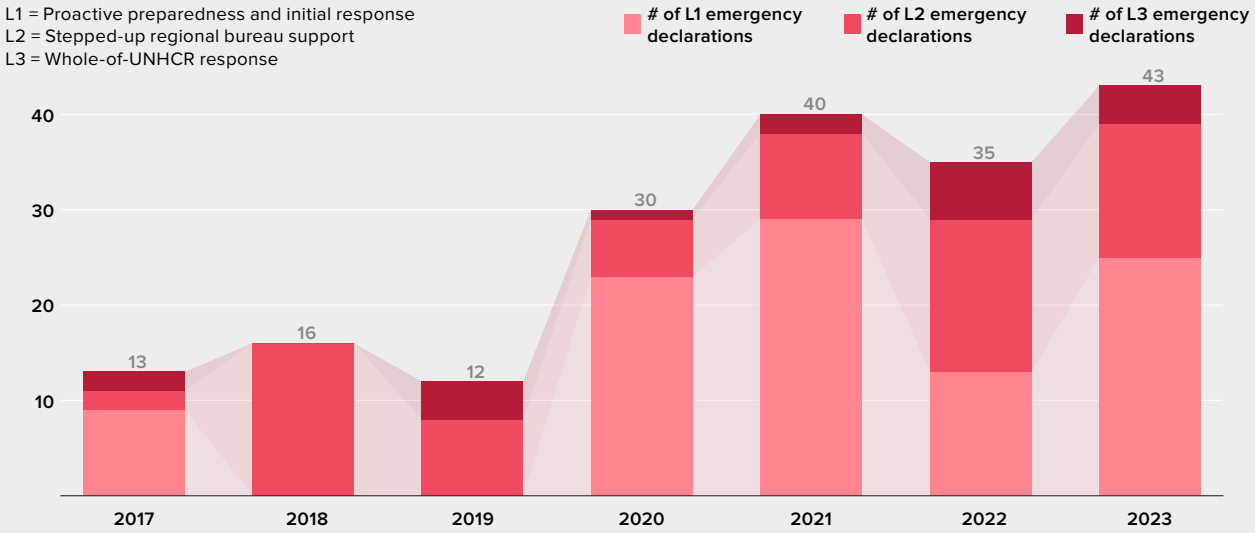
Number of women and girls who received sexual and reproductive health services[15] | 2020-2023



[15] 1) Sexual and reproductive health services include antenatal care, assisted delivery, postnatal care, family planning services and health services for survivors of gender-based violence.
2) Number of countries reporting: 51 countries in 2020, 50 in 2021, 57 in 2022 and 51 in 2023.

Emergency declarations | 2017-2023

L1 = Proactive preparedness and initial response
L2 = Stepped-up regional bureau support
L3 = Whole-of-UNHCR response



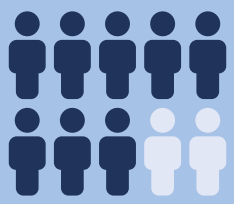
People disembark from boats on a river in Panama, where UNHCR works with the Government, NGOs, the private sector and local communities and municipalities to address the humanitarian needs of people making the dangerous trek through the Darien jungle | © UNHCR/Melissa Pinel

PLEDGES AT THE GLOBAL REFUGEE FORUM 2023

1,750
pledges were made

1/3 by States

2/3 by non-State actors
Number of non-State actors pledging has tripled since 2019



8 in 10 pledges
contribute to at least one of the **multi-stakeholder pledges**

1 in 4 pledges
address economic inclusion and social protection

158 pledges were made in support of **health inclusion and mental health and psychosocial support**

More than **100 cities** and **local governments** pledged to support **refugee integration** in urban areas

Following the successful 2019 pledge, **116 stakeholders** from the global legal community committed to provide

1,000,000
hours of pro bono legal advice

50 UN country teams

19 UN agencies

are engaged in the

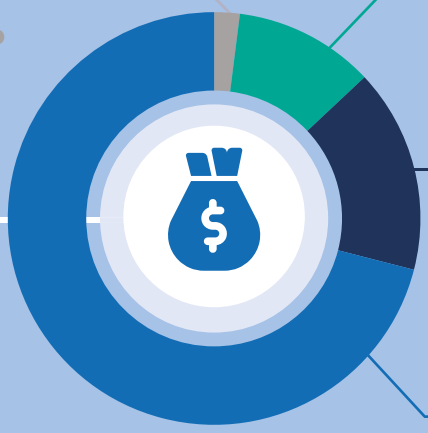
UN Common Pledge 2.0

to advance refugee inclusion, provide support for host communities, and promote meaningful participation of refugees in UN planning and decision-making processes

68 low and middle-income countries made **policy pledges**

9% of all pledges include a **financial component**

$2.2 billion in core financial contributions were made



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

CREDITS

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Concept and layout design: UNHCR

The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

Data in this report are drawn from the most recent statistics available to UNHCR, and from other United Nations agencies. For any corrigenda found subsequent to publication, please visit the Global Report page on the Global Focus website (https://reporting.unhcr.org/global-report-2023).

All amounts are in US dollars unless otherwise specified.

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Cover photo:
Sudanese refugee Hawa, 40, stands at her shelter at the Kurmuk transit centre in the Benishangul-Gumuz region of northwestern Ethiopia. The mother-of-ten fled the violence in Sudan with her children and 80-year-old mother in June last year |
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