UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

A THREAT TO LIVES, DIGNITY AND HOPE

THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023

JUNE 2023

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Cover photo: Haweya fled Sudan with her three children after her family was attacked in the middle of the night. The family crossed the border into Chad and took refuge at the Koufroun site in Chad's Ouaddaï region | © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

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INTRODUCTION

UNHCR plays a crucial role in providing protection, assistance, and solutions to millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people worldwide. However, in 2023, the Agency faces a significant challenge due to the underfunding of its activities. The implications of this financial shortfall have reverberated throughout the global response to forced displacement, exacerbating the already dire circumstances faced by forcibly displaced and stateless people and amplifying the burden on host countries and communities.

In 2022, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people surpassed 112.6 million – a dramatic rise from 35.8 million just a decade ago. UNHCR declared 35 emergencies in 2022 alone – responding to a new crisis every 8-10 days. 2022 saw more of the most complex "Level 3" emergency declarations than 2021. The Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine, which provoked the greatest European displacement crisis since World War II, as well as new and reemerging conflicts and crises in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Horn of Africa, and the Sahel region – many of which are being heavily impacted by climate change – all contributed to this staggering escalation in global displacement and needs.

In the face of these challenges, UNHCR is innovating, making better use of data, seeking efficiencies and building partnerships which reduce the impact of forced displacement and statelessness, doing more with less - all of which are set out in detail in the Global Report 2022. Thankfully, in the face of unprecedented conflict, complexity, fragmentation and need, donor governments and the private sector stepped up and demonstrated striking leadership – enabling UNHCR to help meet basic needs and promote stability in nearly every region of the world, providing $5.851 billion in financial support (more than 20%, or $1.2 billion, coming from the private sector). The role of host governments and communities is vital.

Despite this generosity, in 2023, UNHCR faces a dire situation with severe implications for its ability to fulfill its mandate effectively. Mounting global threats and diminishing humanitarian budgets are widening the gap between available resources and needs. Political unrest and violent conflicts have unleashed refugee and displacement crises of unparalleled magnitude around the world, endangering lives, increasing humanitarian need, and driving instability. In 2023 already, millions more have been forced to flee, from Ukraine, the Sudan emergency, in Afghanistan, or using dangerous journeys such as across the Mediterranean, across the Bay of Bengal, or through the Darién.

In the first five months of 2023, more than 166,000 people crossed through the Darién jungle seeking protection and better life opportunities, five times the number who arrived during the same months of 2022. As many as 400,000 people are expected to attempt the journey by the end of the year. In the Bay of Bengal, UNHCR recorded more than 3,500 Rohingya who attempted dangerous sea crossings in 2022, mainly from Myanmar and Bangladesh, a 360% increase on 2021. In the Mediterranean, as of mid-April Italy had recorded some 31,300 arrivals, up from around 7,900 during the same period in 2022.

Because of situations like these, UNHCR's budget has risen to almost $10.8 billion, and may rise further if new crises emerge. If the planning projections in the 2023 Global Appeal hold, more than 117 million people will have been displaced from their homes by the end of this year. In the absence of effective diplomatic and political solutions, the international community is counting on UNHCR to protect and assist millions more than it did in 2022. And yet in spite of the generosity of many, UNHCR has only received funding to cover 32% of its global budget, compared with 58% through 2022. Moreover, based on current trends and advance indications from donors, it projects it will receive $1 billion less in 2023 compared to 2022, whether due to donor fatigue, or reductions in foreign assistance, or the reallocation of finite humanitarian resources elsewhere. As the largest and most significant agency working with and for the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless people, such a reduction in resources has grave consequences.

Even with constant review of operations to ensure that lifesaving activities are prioritized, the impact of $1 billion less in funding will be catastrophic – endangering lives, ultimately leading to more onward displacement and destabilizing key regions of the world already under tremendous pressure, thrusting millions into poverty and despair, weakening host government support for refugees, and eroding fragile gains made in refugee self-reliance and education. Ultimately, these cuts will cost far more than they could possibly save. Concentrating available funds on the most vital life-saving activities means longer-term investment in solutions such as returns and in resilience is likely to be given less priority, storing up problems for the future.

Poorer and lower-middle income countries, which host some 90% of forcibly displaced and stateless people around the globe, will be most impacted. In some areas of the world, UNHCR is the only agency operating in contexts where other actors cannot, producing political and humanitarian dividends that states cannot achieve on their own. As we have witnessed with the cascading global impacts of the war in Ukraine, the ripple effects of such drastic cuts will be devastating around the globe. The stakes could not be higher for our collective ability to protect, aid, and support those fleeing war, terrorism, and persecution, and amid the perils of a warming and worsening climate.

This underfunding of UNHCR's activities is reaching alarming levels and, after successive years of additional needs caused by COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, is posing a significant threat to the organization's capacity to provide vital protection and humanitarian assistance to the world's most vulnerable populations. This report looks into the multifaceted implications of underfunding UNHCR's activities in 2023, focusing on 13 operations in particular, selected for one or more of a set of variables: because they are perennially underfunded; cover a significant percentage of forcibly displaced and stateless people; or are affected by the Sudan emergency.

Top 13 operations with significant funding gap as of May 2023 | USD millions

Operation	Needs	Funds*	% Funded	Funding Gap	Historical Contributions				
					2019	2020	2021	2022	2019-22 Trend
Operations within Sudan Situation									
1. Egypt	151	27	18%	124	47	52	52	44	
2. Central African Republic	102	19	18%	84	22	17	19	19	
3. Sudan	414	85	21%	329	90	151	171	123	
4. Ethiopia	432	99	23%	333	129	145	147	151	
5. Chad	237	50	21%	187	52	60	54	64	
6. South Sudan	247	60	24%	187	57	70	70	91	
Selected underfunded operations									
7. Yemen	320	78	24%	242	141	140	178	127	
8. Uganda	343	88	26%	255	149	152	151	160	
9. Lebanon	560	156	28%	404	313	353	290	310	
10. Democratic Rep of the Congo	233	66	29%	166	58	78	70	96	
11. Jordan	390	120	31%	270	212	224	226	216	
12. Colombia	122	40	33%	82	33	52	59	53	
13. Bangladesh	275	110	40%	165	192	167	139	134	

A global problem

The implications of underfunding are affecting every part of UNHCR's work to respond, protect, empower, and solve.

With a projected $1 billion less funding mobilized, UNHCR will be forced to immediately slash critical programming, or simply not be able to even provide it. Examples of what this will look like for forcibly displaced and stateless people cut across all UNHCR's impact areas:

- **2,505,700** people will not receive core relief items (blankets, sleeping mats, cooking sets, etc). This includes 212,200 refugees and returnees
- **1,431,600** people will be cut off from cash assistance from UNHCR, even though refugees receiving cash fall well below the poverty line
- **931,800** people will not receive critical shelter/housing support
- **485,400** people will be impacted by reductions in health consultations
- **240,600** people will not receive legal assistance
- **209,400** people impacted by reduced gender-based violence prevention and response will lose access to critical services
- **94,800** children will not be able to enrol in schools and education programs
- **9,400** people will lose opportunities for employment, livelihoods or income generation

This assessment is based on the overall funding situation as of May, so the full picture of the potential cuts is not yet available, since there is still time for contributions – ideally as flexible as possible – and scope for reallocations of the funding UNHCR already has. However, the current budgeted amounts based on current funding levels are very worrying. In 2023, UNHCR has prudently budgeted significantly less for several outcome areas compared to 2022, but prudence should not hide the very real pain and impact these cuts are and will have. Higher levels of earmarking are also a concern, reducing flexibility in how operational priorities and realities can be addressed.

Furthermore, the importance of long-term, predictable funding to enable UNHCR to plan and implement sustainable interventions effectively cannot be overstated. Multi-year funding commitments from donors, combined with strengthened partnerships and innovative financing mechanisms, can help alleviate the chronic underfunding challenges faced by UNHCR and enable it to better meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations.

Respond

One of the immediate implications of underfunding UNHCR's activities is the deterioration in the Office's ability to respond to unanticipated crises and to provide support for well-being and basic needs. Inadequate funding severely limits the organization's ability to provide basic necessities such as shelter, food, clean water, and sanitation facilities. This leads to increased vulnerability to diseases, malnutrition, and psychological trauma among the already vulnerable refugee populations.

UNHCR spends a significant proportion of its resources on emergency response and, critically, in follow-up to emergencies. In the regions, one third of prioritized funding has been allocated

to countries that had a declared emergency in 2022; in three of those regions more than half of prioritized funding has been allocated to countries that had a declared emergency last year. What this shows is that an emergency demands resources long after the initial phase is over. Three examples prove this point: the Afghanistan situation, the drought situation in the East and Horn of Africa, and the continuing response to the Ukraine situation. An exception is the Sudan emergency, which is currently only 5% funded and where a complex humanitarian crisis persists. The lack of financial support here is amplifying the suffering of forcibly displaced and stateless people and host communities.

Procurement is a key part of this emergency response. In 2022, with the exception of Europe and Asia and the Pacific, all UNHCR's regions spent $116 million less for goods and services under direct implementation, which translates into fewer core relief items, shelters, medical supplies and fuel. Regular and vital supplies for medicine and fuel may break in the second quarter of 2023.

By comparison, at the end of 2021, these same five regions had open purchase orders worth $448 million, meaning they started 2022 with a cushion of open purchase orders – goods and services for delivery in the first months of the year. However, at the end of 2022, these regions had open purchase orders worth $285 million, meaning they began 2023 with a much smaller cushion ($163 million less).

Critically, underfunding has seen UNHCR's cash assistance scaled back. In the Middle East and North Africa region, UNHCR reduced its 2022 cash assistance budget by $125 million. Three other regions – the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, Southern Africa, and the Americas – also decreased their cash assistance budgets by a total of $40 million. In the East and Horn of Africa, this has resulted in urban refugees moving to camps – reducing their scope for integration and inclusion in the wider community.

This is what underfunding can look like at the operational level, when it comes to delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance:

In Lebanon, underfunding of Well-being and basic needs, which includes vital assistance such as cash or core relief items, is approximately 80%: as a result, the number of households receiving cash grants will decrease from 245,000 to 122,000; and the number of households receiving winter cash support will decrease from 279,000 to zero.

In Yemen, underfunding of Sustainable housing and settlements is approximately 65%: as a result, there will be a drop in the provision of all kinds of shelter and winterization support, including a reduction in the number of households receiving rental subsidies from 50,000 to 300.

Protect

Many of the world's forcibly displaced and stateless people faced an existence resting on fragile foundations. With support from development partners and other actors, many governments are providing forcibly displaced populations with increased access to rights and services. But some governments are criminalizing irregular entry and stay, linking mixed movements of people to security concerns, or reallocating funding to serve a domestic political agenda rather than protect those forced to flee.

Increasing numbers are becoming desperate, with a rise in dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean Sea, through Panama's Darién, the

Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea. In 2022, UNHCR recorded a 156% rise in incidents of civil unrest, mainly non-violent public gatherings where asylum-seekers and refugees demanded action to resolve the difficulties they faced, often expressing anger at local authorities, national policies, anti-foreign sentiment, a lack of documentation or resettlement, and limited access to health and education. Many of the survivors faced pushbacks, refoulement, detention, or a long wait in an asylum backlog, unable to live a normal life.

Insufficient funding has limited UNHCR's capacity to ensure the protection and safety of forcibly displaced and stateless people. Critical protection measures, such as preventing gender-based violence, child protection, and ensuring access to legal aid, have been compromised. As a result, vulnerable groups face heightened risks and are more susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and discrimination. For example, operations have had to undertake painful prioritization in terms of gender-based violence and child protection support. With the current funding level, the number of people assisted can only reach 80% of the number assisted last year.

This is what underfunding can look like at the operational level, when it comes to protecting women and girls from gender-based violence:

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, underfunding of UNHCR's work to respond to Gender-based violence is approximately 70%: as a result, the number of women and girls who participate in targeted empowerment activities as part of gender-based violence prevention programmes will decrease from 195,000 to 120,000.

Empower

A shortfall in funding in this critical impact area undercuts UNHCR's work with governments, local authorities, development actors and the private sector to enhance economic inclusion and access to land, rights and services, and to develop infrastructure and market linkages in displacement-affected communities. In 2022, UNHCR was able to spend only $210 million on self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods, barely one third of budgeted needs for these activities and this year, due to likely funding shortfalls, it is highly likely the Office will need to cut millions from self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihood programmes. Global economic and food crises hit developing countries the hardest and amplified the poverty levels of the most vulnerable within these countries. In several countries, restrictive policies and practices towards refugees and other forcibly displaced people hindered economic and financial inclusion.

This is what underfunding can look like at the operational level, when it comes to UNHCR's work to provide refugees with even the basics of a livelihood:

In Jordan, 2023 activities across different sectors are 31% funded. As a result of this level of underfunding UNHCR has already reduced the number of beneficiaries. For example in 2022, UNHCR assisted 7,700 refugees with community based and innovative education services. In 2023, UNHCR targets 2,700 refugees instead, a 64% reduction relative to 2022. Similarly in 2022, UNHCR assisted 1,660 refugees to enter wage and self-employment. In 2023, 620 refugees will be supported instead, a 62% decrease in beneficiaries. Reduced services are making a dent on pre-existing vulnerabilities of refugees in Jordan, as documented in the quarterly analysis of the Vulnerability Assessment Framework.

Solve

Underfunding is impeding UNHCR's efforts to create conditions conducive to voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement. Adequate funding is crucial to support initiatives aimed at sustainable reintegration, livelihood opportunities, and community stabilization, ultimately fostering durable solutions. As a foundation for long-lasting protection, UNHCR seeks to create the conditions for solutions by building coalitions that can support governments and socioeconomic stability, or for returns or local integration in situ.

Returns are a good example of where underfunding is forcing difficult trade-offs and is hampering the pursuit of this most essential of solutions. The number of returns in 2022 was barely one tenth of the figure 30 years ago as humanitarian funding was spread thin, with support for solutions less prioritized than more urgent, life-saving assistance. In 2022 overall, there were just over 339,300 refugee returns. 22,000 of them were assisted to return to Burundi (as compared to 65,000 in 2021); and 5,000 were assisted to return to CAR (out of the 40,000 who wanted to return last year). That means thousands of people were not only unable to return, they remained largely in camp-based situations, situations which were themselves underfunded.

This is what underfunding can look like at the operational level, when it comes to assisting refugees to return home:

In Kenya, underfunding of Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration is approximately 90%: as a result, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers provided with information on conditions of return and on return plans will decrease from 17,800 to 1,100.

Partnerships

Underfunding has reduced the availability of resources for partnerships, with budgets under project partnership agreements decreasing as compared to 2022 as UNHCR operations are forced to prioritize fixed costs for core priorities. Four regions – the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, and the Middle East and North Africa – have decreased their partnership budgets in the range of 30-40%. Two other regions – Southern Africa and West and Central Africa – have decreased their partnership budgets by more than 40%. These six regions would need funding increases in the order of $500 million to maintain the 2022 level of partnerships which are vital to the delivery of life-saving protection and assistance.

Conclusion

The implications of UNHCR being unable to protect or assist vulnerable people are obvious: they will be more susceptible to physical and legal risks, economic exclusion and poverty. But several of the longer-term consequences bear spelling out.

First, underfunding leads to increased pressures on frontline refugee-hosting States bearing the heaviest burden of financial, political and human costs. Mounting pressures could stoke sectarian tensions, fuel resentment of refugees, and erode the legitimacy of governments in already fragile states. The underfunding of UNHCR's activities has put additional strain on host communities, many of which are already facing their own socioeconomic challenges. The resulting tensions may further exacerbate social instability and negatively impact both host communities and refugees.

Second, severe deterioration of protection and socio-economic conditions in countries of asylum may compel more people to return to countries where they may face persecution or torture; or will compel more people who have nothing left to lose to risk dangerous journeys at the hands of traffickers and smugglers, whose profits can finance transnational criminal and terrorist networks, endangering innocent people's lives and posing security risks across borders and continents.

Third, increased poverty and desperation in host countries in the global south sometimes mean refugees are forced to resort to extreme coping mechanisms, like exchanging sex for food and forcing children into early marriages. Competition with host communities for resources can cause a backlash and fuel radical propaganda.

Fourth, the underfunding of people in need may erode their resilience and severely hinder the prospects for lasting solutions to their situations of forced displacement and statelessness. It may roll back gains made to secure inclusive government policies and programmes that enable refugee self-sufficiency. Gaps in refugee education and a lack of work opportunities will breed disenfranchisement and create "lost generations".

Khatema, a displaced Yemeni mother, and her family spend Ramadan in harsh conditions and lack food for Iftar | © UNHCR

UNHCR and health partners support Rohingya refugees living with disabilities in Kutupalong | © UNHCR/Saikat Mojumder

BANGLADESH

One million mostly stateless Rohingya refugees from Myanmar are hosted in the largest refugee settlement in the world in Cox's Bazar. More than 52% are children, while women and girls comprise 51% of the total. To decongest the 33 camps in Cox's Bazar, some 30,000 refugees have been relocated to Bhasan Char island by the Government of Bangladesh.

The refugees' lack of legal status and livelihood opportunities, along with restrictions on movement outside the camps, leaves them entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance and at heightened risk of exploitation and abuse. UNHCR's activities include registering refugees, providing protection and legal assistance, preventing gender-based violence, ensuring provision of adequate shelter, health care and sanitation, supporting education and skills development, as well as livelihood opportunities, and distributing life-saving relief items where needed.

Given the camps and their inhabitants are highly exposed to weather-related hazards such as May 2023's Cyclone Mocha, or to fires, flooding and landslides, UNHCR also works to protect them from and mitigate against such dangers. Underfunding directly affects the successful implementation of climate actions, in particular the provision of liquefied petroleum gas to refugees as a clean and reliable source of energy for cooking, and one which protects women and children who would otherwise make long and dangerous daily treks to collect firewood.

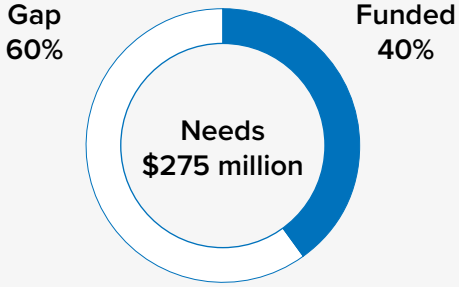
Following the February 2021 military take-over and subsequent outbreak of violence in Myanmar, little progress has been possible on Rohingya refugees' return, but UNHCR has continued to engage in political dialogue on their voluntary repatriation. Until returns in safety and dignity are possible, Bangladesh and the Rohingya refugees will require sustained and adequate financial support to ensure they can live safely and decently, and that they are prepared for a successful return when the situation is conducive. Sectors such as protection, health, shelter, water, hygiene and sanitation need funding to ensure bare minimum access to basic needs.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: 952,414

Largest population group: Rohingya - **952,370** / **99.9%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Child protection: decrease by more than 30% of the number of case workers for child protection, supporting vulnerable children in need (from 15,000 in 2022 to 10,000 children in 2023).

Health: closing of seven health facilities in the camps impacting the service delivery of primary and secondary healthcare, psychosocial and mental health support for 150,000 refugees.

Shelter: shelter repairs and maintenance will be scaled down by 30% during the monsoon and cyclone seasons and the number of Safety Unit Volunteers who are UNHCR's first responders to recurring seasonal hazards and emergencies such as fires and flooding is also expected to decrease.

There will be a reduction in the repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure, including a 40% decrease to the number of planned roads and 20% reduction in the number of drainage systems, resulting in refugees being forced to live in an unsafe environment.

WASH: The constructions of new latrines will be cut by more than one third, and the number of bathing facilities by more than half, resulting in 140,000 refugees being unable to meet their basic WASH needs.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Access to territory, registration and documentation - $8.5 million: the registration of a projected 33,000 births per year and of newly-arrived and other unregistered refugees, as well as the timely updates of changes in the population due to marriage, divorce, death and departures, will be severely hampered.

The issuance of family and individual documents - including those lost, damaged or destroyed by fires and other hazards - and for children turning twelve years old, will also be affected, delaying the delivery of critical services.

The verification of some 39,000 people from the 1992 influx caseload last conducted in 2014 will also be affected, hampering the US resettlement programme approved in 2023 for this population.

Child protection - $9.3 million: some camps will be left without adequate case management, psychosocial support, and community-based protection measures, resulting in 4,427 vulnerable refugee children facing increased protection risks, which have been worsened by recent food ration cuts.

$102 can provide a refugee child with critical case management services.

Shelter - $54 million: UNHCR's ability to "build back safer" by constructing refugee shelters using weather- and fire-resistant materials will be severely impacted. As a result, some 350,000 refugees will continue to live in shelters constructed with non-durable materials which will need to be regularly replaced thereby heightening their risk of being affected by natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, as well as fires.

$2,000 can provide one refugee family with a climate-resilient shelter minimizing the constant repair and maintenance, hence saving costs.

WASH - $34 million: refugees' access to water, sanitation and hygiene in the camps is likely to deteriorate. 100% of refugees will not receive essential WASH hygiene items such as menstrual hygiene kits and soap, as per the recommended standards.

The operation and maintenance of almost 30% of water supply networks and sanitation facilities will also be affected. As a result, UNHCR will be unable to rapidly respond to emergencies, including outbreaks of WASH-related diseases such as cholera, dengue fever and scabies, putting some 400,000 refugees at risk.

$20 can provide one refugee with essential WASH services for a year.

Health - $44.8 million: a reduction in community health workers (CHWs), who occupy critical functions particularly for pregnant women, for children and infants, and for promotion campaigns would lead to an increase in home deliveries in the camps and a 30% decrease in child vaccination rates. This is likely to increase the risk of maternal, neonatal and infant deaths. Due to delays in the detection of outbreak prone diseases and refugees seeking health care, the disease burden resulting from uncontrolled spread will put some 150,000 refugees in the camps at increased risk.

$550,000 can support 300 CHWs to provide critical health services to 150,000 refugees in the camps for a year.

In 2022 the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the camps was recorded at 12%. At the present rate and following recent cuts by 33% of the monthly food rations, UNHCR will not have sufficient funds available to respond to potential increased malnutrition rates amongst the refugee population, which risk to rise above the emergency threshold, putting some 72,000 refugees at risk.

$4.30 can provide vital nutrition support to a refugee child for a year. $250,000 is needed to assist 58,000 refugee children.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

A funding shortfall has forced WFP to reduce its general food assistance for 930,000 refugees in Cox's Bazar by 33% (from $12 to $8) as of 1 June 2023. This falls well below the minimum recommended 2,100 Kcal consumption level and will have a significant impact on the household food security and result in an increase in malnutrition rates in the camps. Moreover, these ration cuts are likely to result in increased protection risks for refugees, including intimate partner violence, trafficking and other forms of exploitation and abuse; as well as cause harmful coping mechanisms, including child marriage, school dropouts and dangerous onward movements to other countries, with the most vulnerable (women, children and persons with disabilities) impacted the most.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $154.64 million, if not more.

UNHCR provided more than 12,000 items to respond to the emergency in the Mojana region, including: shelter kits, water filters, plastic sheeting and mosquito nets | © UNHCR/Catalina Betancur Sánchez

COLOMBIA

Although Colombia's new President is determined to set a path to peace after 60 years of armed conflict and to normalize relations with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the country is struggling to overcome multiple forced displacement crises. On the one hand, it is working to include millions of Venezuelans fleeing and unable to return to their country, having issued 1.6 million temporary protection permits by the end of 2022. On the other, conflict and armed violence continue to uproot Colombians; over 900,000 people have been displaced since the 2016 Peace Agreement. Forced displacement and confinement persist in areas controlled or disputed by irregular armed groups, affecting indigenous, rural and Afro-Colombian communities especially. Targeted killings of human rights defenders, massacres, recruitment of children by illegal actors, gender-based violence, and the use of mines and unexploded ordnance continue to challenge the authorities. The Government's Victims' Unit registered over 247,000 victims of forced displacement in 2022, the highest number since the 2016 Peace Agreement. By December 2022, over 6.8 million IDPs still required assistance and reparation.

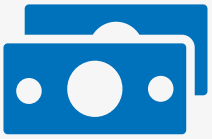
Colombia has a strong legal and protection framework, but challenges remain in its implementation, including lengthy processes and limited measures for the reintegration of Colombian returnees. The refugee status determination process is complex, with cases often taking years, and asylum-seekers face difficulties accessing work and basic rights. Despite significant progress, some Venezuelans with temporary protection still encounter problems finding employment and accessing financial, educational, and health services, and many experience discrimination and xenophobia.

Sustaining UNHCR's presence in field locations will remain crucial in 2023 to bolster coordinated efforts to monitor and quickly respond to displacement and confinement. UNHCR works with the Government to improve the response to internal displacement and will continue its efforts to ensure access to asylum, documentation, civil registries, essential services, and inclusion in national social protection systems. However, more funding is urgently needed if UNHCR is to empower communities to identify and pre-empt risks and take action with the authorities to help IDPs and host communities in the search for long-term solutions for the displaced population.

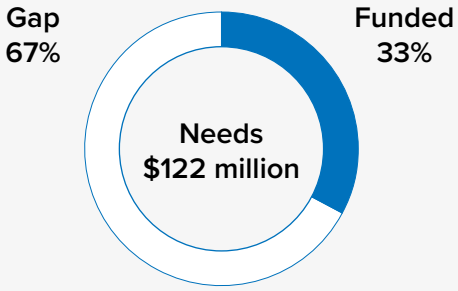
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **9,835,191**

Largest population group: IDPs - **6,834,492** / **69%**



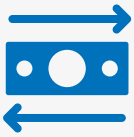
FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Protection: limited projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict (only a third of the planned community Ombudspersons could be hired).

Gender-based violence and child protection: reduced casework capacity to manage situations of gender-based-violence and child protection (only 30% of the case workers could be hired).

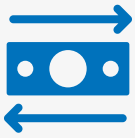


Cash assistance: significantly reduced the number of families assisted with monthly cash payments.

Shelter: Reduced the number of informal settlement where IDPs live that are selected for legalization processes (only 20% of identified legalization processes can be supported).

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Protection - $20 million: UNHCR was obliged to substantially curtail activities related to strengthening the Ombudsperson function in Colombia. UNHCR also limited its projects that mitigate the impact of the internal conflict, particularly prevention of recruitment by armed actors.



Cash assistance - $17 million: UNHCR had to reduce its cash program in 2023, and only prioritize specific protection cases. The Operation will only reach 12% of eligible families.

Solutions - $10 million: UNHCR will be severely limited in providing solutions for IDPs such as legalization of informal settlements, or return and relocation processes (currently 6.8 million IDPs are eligible for assistance and reparation).

Only 20% of legalization processes and 25% of return and relocation processes will be supported.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Maintaining a favorable protection environment in conflict-affected areas, and particularly prevention and response to IDPs.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $70.53 million, if not more.

Riziki, 31, mother of 2 children, escaped from the shooting during the attack on her village. She was able to receive emergency psychological assistance when she arrived at the Lac Vert site due to her state of shock. | © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The forced displacement crisis in the DRC is colossal, complex and escalating in scope and impact. The country has the largest internally displaced population in Africa, at 6.3 million in 2023. More than 520,000 refugees, mainly from Central African Republic, Rwanda and Burundi, have sought asylum in the DRC, while over 1 million Congolese are refugees elsewhere in Africa.

After decades of war, the country faces a plethora of socioeconomic problems, and violent clashes continue to force people to flee, including 2.4 million in North Kivu province alone since March 2022. An estimated 72% of the Congolese population live on less than $1.90 a day and an estimated 27.3 million are food insecure, with high rates of infant mortality, maternal mortality and malnutrition. There is a lack of basic education and health services, and weak security, justice, and social services.

The cyclic and protracted nature of the various crises in the DRC heavily impact UNHCR's operations, which need to reach some of the most remote, poverty-stricken, and underserved areas of the DRC to ensure adequate protection and assistance.

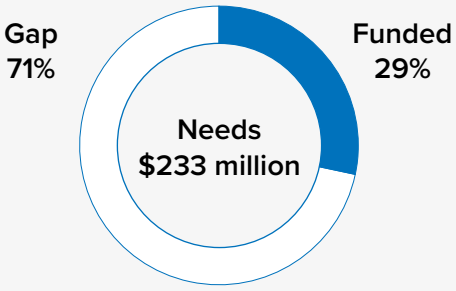
UNHCR's plan ensures that IDPs have the basics to live in safety and dignity, and that humanitarians, development actors and peacemakers work together to ensure IDPs' rights are respected and protected, and that wherever possible a durable solution to their displacement is achievable within 12 months. However, the DRC operation remains heavily underfinanced. More positively, in the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees the Government has supplemented UNHCR and stakeholder efforts by providing land and other resources. Host communities have also been hospitable, which helped UNHCR to implement the alternative-to-camps policy and to work with the Government on including refugees and IDPs in community programming and public services.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **7,290,878**

Largest population group: IDPs - **5,541,021** / **76%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Education: due to funding constraints, UNHCR's capacity to support refugee education at primary level remains well below the national average (42% against 68%). Secondary level education is also well below the national average at 15.8 percent compared to a national average of 43%.

Health: health services has been reduced with 58% of the needs for Central African Refugees not being covered in 2023. Healthcare support for Rwandan and Burundian refugees has had to be limited to children, women of child-bearing age and the chronically ill, with men of all ages have been left out of support.

Solutions: out of 68,000 refugees in the DRC who indicated an intention to return to their countries of origin, only 26,392 refugees (or 39%) were assisted to return to their countries of origin by the end of 2022. In 2023 only 3,286 returned in the first half of the year due to limited budgets.

Of the 22,000 Congolese refugees residing in other countries, such as Zambia and Angola, 11,712 out of a planned 22,000 Congolese could be supported to return to the DRC by the end of 2022. In 2023 only 553 refugees have been supported to return to date.

Livelihoods: DRC's strategy focuses on ensuring self-reliance for all 522,000 refugees, however, by the end of 2022, only 4% (20,000) were receiving livelihoods support.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Protection for IDPs - $3.5 million: Funding levels will necessitate a reduction in the number of protection monitors to document deaths, kidnappings, sexual assaults and other human rights violations against IDPs. In the Grand Nord of North Kivu, where an average of 100 civilians were killed per month in 2022, there is already a 79% reduction in the number of monitors due to funding.

Shelter for IDPs - $1.5 million: adequate and secure shelter is an important protection tool but less than 10% of shelter needs for IDPs will be met by UNHCR in 2023.

WASH - $664,000: water, sanitation and hygiene is critical for the refugee response, but at the current funding rate UNHCR will only meet 27% of the latrine needs for Central African refugees.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Concerning protection and shelter for IDPs, UNHCR and humanitarian partners are deeply alarmed by the increase in gender-based violence in overcrowded displacement sites in eastern DRC. Of great concern is the trend by IDPs of increased engagement in negative coping mechanisms.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $114.84 million, if not more.

A mobile phone maintenance activity at UNHCR/CARE community center | © UNHCR/Mohammad Alyounese

JORDAN

Jordan hosts the second-highest share of refugees per capita worldwide. UNHCR has registered around 740,000 refugees, predominantly Syrians but also large groups from Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, and Somalia. More than 83% of refugees live in Jordanian communities instead of camps. The Government has made remarkable efforts to ensure refugee inclusion in national systems, including health care, education and the labour market.

The series of economic shocks impacting refugee households in the last years as a result of COVID-19, loss of work, increase in commodity prices following the war in Ukraine, increase in utility costs following national reforms and inflation, are now contributing to severe challenges in maintaining socio-economic stability.

Two thirds of refugees have reported that their financial situation has worsened the last 12 months. The growing poverty has prompted a majority of refugees to resort to harmful coping strategies.

Refugee children face growing risks including child abuse, violence, neglect, child marriage and child labour, while refugee women and girls also face a heightened risk of gender-based violence. Refugees take out extremely high debts. Recent analysis conducted by UNHCR suggests that debts can be as high as 1,250 JOD for refugees in Jordan.

The excessive use of coping strategies underscores the deteriorating conditions of refugee households. Many refugees may soon have depleted all abilities to address future shocks. The growing threat of evictions from privately rented accommodation is concerning, as this often constitute the tipping point after other attempts to deal with the situation have been exhausted.

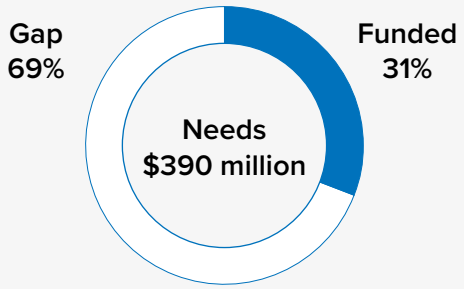
After more than 12 years of the Syria situation, there is a risk that the situation slides back into a humanitarian emergency without adequately sustained funding support.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **748,799**

Largest population group: Refugees - **697,767** / **93%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Well-being and basic needs: in 2023, UNHCR reduced the number of households receiving basic needs cash from 33,000 to 30,000. Following this, the known number of families at risk of eviction increased by 66% from December 2022 to February 2023. One in three households had to change their places of residence after being phased out of cash assistance. As a direct result of these reductions, emergency coping strategies such as child labour are on the rise and are being tracked by UNHCR's Vulnerability Radar.

Health: in 2023, UNHCR has already reduced the number of supported health clinics in Amman from five to two while capacity issues in the health system remain.

Shelter: UNHCR is reducing shelter maintenance on account of reduced budget. For example, while in 2022 UNHCR was able to repair 1,920 shelters, in 2023 UNHCR has resources to repair only 1,150 shelters.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Safety and access to justice - $5.4 million: the looming funding crisis risks compromising UNHCR's efforts to advocate freedom of movement and the principle of non-refoulement. In its planning activities UNHCR might be compelled to reprioritise interventions and reduce critical interventions preserving the asylum space and access to justice with up to 71,200 people at risk.

$75 can provide a refugee with legal assistance.

Child protection - $6.5 million: insufficient funding leads to an increase in the number of child protection incidents, as families resort to negative coping strategies to make ends meet (children out of school, child labour, early marriages etc.). At the same time, funding constraints will mean fewer child protection services available.

Community based protection - $12.5 million: UNHCR and partners could be unable to strengthen community-led structures and thus enhance protection and solutions through refugee empowerment with some 101,100 people at risk.

$123 can help UNHCR support refugees with community and women's empowerment activities.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Another growing concern is maintaining the favourable protection space. While Jordan has been very hospitable towards refugees and asylum seekers, the Government needs support in the refugee response, which will help ensure a continuous access to protection and services as the displacement situation becomes increasingly protracted.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $240.46 million, if not more.

Chadi, 5 years old receiving UNIQLO thermal clothes from UNHCR staff in Bekaa, Lebanon | © UNHCR/Houssam Hariri

LEBANON

Lebanon, with the highest number of refugees per capita worldwide, is facing its worst socioeconomic crisis in decades, and reeling from the COVID-19 pandemic and the Beirut blast in 2020. Half of the Lebanese population is estimated to be below the poverty line, and 90% of the government-estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees in the country, most of them children, live in extreme poverty.

There are gaps in critical supply chains and limitations on access to food, healthcare, education and other basic services. Faced with hyperinflation, subsidy removals and socioeconomic deterioration, refugees are taking on increasing levels of debt to meet their basic needs, while spiraling costs force refugee families to make difficult choices to survive every single day, including skipping meals, not seeking urgent medical treatment, and sending children to work instead of school. The strain on refugees' mental health has generated an increasing number of suicide-related calls and reports of attempts at self-harm. Refugees are increasingly turning to irregular onward movements, including dangerous boat journeys across the Mediterranean.

Shelter conditions are substandard, with overcrowding, lack of privacy, safety, and access to basic needs including water, sanitation, electricity, and heating. Public services have declined significantly with many at risk of collapse. Municipalities are also affected and are under increasing pressure but unable to provide basic services due to a lack of funding. Competition between Lebanese and refugee communities over resources is likely to increase, which risks escalating tensions and fueling anti-refugee rhetoric.

UNHCR works closely with the Government in providing protection and assistance to refugees, host communities and stateless persons. UNHCR's strategy focuses on preserving the protection space, ensuring dignified stay, enhancing social cohesion and enabling protection-driven solutions, including improving access to resettlement and/or complementary pathways to third countries and upholding the right to voluntary return in safety and dignity.

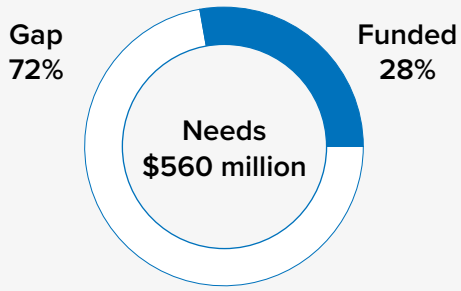
Funding gaps encompass all areas of intervention for UNHCR in Lebanon, with dire consequences for the most vulnerable refugee families. If the funding situation does not improve soon, UNHCR Lebanon is concerned that it will not be able to sufficiently support refugees in accessing their rights and meeting their most basic needs.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **817,126**

Largest population group: Syrian Refugees - **805,326 / 98%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Cash assistance: the number of families assisted with multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) had to be reduced by 11 % to 127,800 families from 2022 to 2023.

Health: underfunding has limited the coverage for payment of refugee patients eligible to receive life- and limb-saving services, including a reduction of obstetric care cost coverage from 75% to 50%.

Shelter: UNHCR Lebanon had to decrease work on improvements in informal settlements by 7.5%. As a result, more refugees will be threatened by risks and other hazards related to winter and floods and their physical safety, protection and health will be compromised.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Cash assistance - $228.6 million: some 16,200 families discontinued from MPCA will be at risk of being left without any other source of income for survival and forced to rely on debt or resort to even more harmful coping mechanisms.

Health - $57.1 million: underfunding will increase the burden on refugee families in a rapidly deteriorating socio-economic environment where 41% of refugees already cannot afford any access to healthcare, as per VASyR and HAUS 2022 results.

Shelter $21.8 million: in urban areas, UNHCR risks having to reduce the rehabilitation and repair of substandard buildings, while an increasing number of refugees are living in the most vulnerable neighbourhoods and substandard and overcrowded shelters, risking further deterioration of peaceful coexistence in these areas.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Harmful anti-refugee rhetoric may lead to further social tensions and instability, impacting the protection space. Efforts should focus on ensuring appropriate assistance and services to the most vulnerable.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $301.15 million, if not more.

Rachel Nikuze (left) and her neighbours Marcelina Tumusifu and Charlotte Shimiyimana collect water at a water point in her neighbourhood in Rubondo, Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda | © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

UGANDA

Uganda is Africa's largest refugee-hosting country, with arrivals continuing in 2023. Most refugees have fled violence in South Sudan or the DRC, and more than 90% are highly economically vulnerable. Although Uganda is a global leader in its approach to peaceful coexistence and refugees have the right to work and to access basic services, more than nine out of every 10 refugees live in the most underdeveloped areas among a local population that already faces great economic and environmental challenges, with pressure on public health, sanitation and education. The refugee population includes over 860,000 children, including over 71,000 who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, 112,000 persons with a disability, and 122,000 women at risk. There are growing concerns around gender-based violence, child marriage, child pregnancy and suicide rates, and the gross enrolment rate for refugee children of secondary school age is only 10%.

Inflation has kept prices high and 90% of refugees need food or cash assistance, although underfunding is eroding the available resources. Anaemia levels have risen alongside a sudden reduction in general food assistance. Provision of hygiene kits and soap rations has also been reduced.

The Government of Uganda, a co-convenor of the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, is prioritizing increasing the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, taking action against climate change, sharing responsibility rather than shifting duty, localizing the refugee response by strengthening the role of national responders, and building lasting achievable and impactful solutions for refugees.

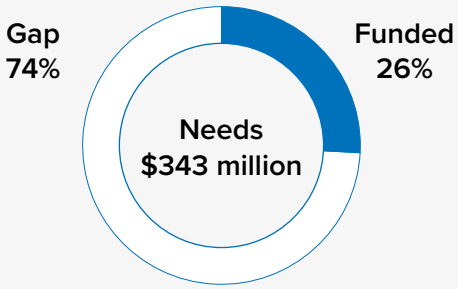
Underfunding threatens to undermine or reverse modest gains already made in nutrition, health and financial inclusion, and leaves minimal resources to respond to acute and growing protection needs. Humanitarian partners will remain overstretched, unable to create economic opportunities for refugees to graduate out of poverty or even ensure delivery of life-saving assistance. More funding will help to meet household basic needs, improve refugees' self-reliance and livelihoods, and support activities to mitigate the refugee population's environmental impact.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **1,648,353**

Largest population group: Refugees - **1,463,523** / **89%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Health: due to limited funding, Uganda can only provide health and education services to refugees until September 2023. Without additional resources the operation will be forced to halt the provision of essential education and health services and 2,600 health staff, currently supported by UNHCR.

Available stocks of essential drugs can only meet the needs of refugees until September 2023, and the operation is unable to initiate procurement for the fourth quarter of 2023 and the beginning of 2024. This funding gap poses a significant challenge in ensuring the continued supply of essential drugs impacting the provision of critical healthcare services.

The operation has not been able to provide hygiene kits to women since 2022, due to funding constraints. This has impacted the protection, health and well-being of women and girls.

Education: the operation cannot provide sufficient scholastic material for 384,276 children enrolled in primary education and will be forced to discontinue salaries for 3,700 teachers.

Transport and logistics: the supply of fuel to support UNHCR operations will be severely curtailed as the operation suffers funding constraints. This will affect humanitarian operations including transportation of new arrival refugees from transit centers and collection points to settlements, as well as the organization of repatriation convoys for refugees opting for voluntary repatriation to Burundi.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Health - $11 million: $7 million for medicines and medical supplies will support 1.5 million refugees in 2023. $4 million will provide health services and maintain 2,600 health staff and some 2,800 VHT workers providing vital access to primary health for 1.5 million refugees, and their host communities.

Well-being and basic needs - $4 million: 55,000 new arrivals would be supported with basic assistance.

Education - $2.5 million: $1.5 million will maintain 3,700 teachers and allow around 270,100 learners to complete their school year (PTR 1:73). $1 million will allow for the procurement of scholastic supplies for 384,276 children in primary education.

Logistics and operational capacity - $3.7 million: $2 million will provide fuel to partners in the fourth quarter of 2023. $1 million will support vehicle maintenance, vital to the provision of relief supplies and for transportation. $700,000 will provide for the transport of refugees, including new arrivals, returnees and voluntary repatriation.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $181.46 million, if not more.

A young displaced child, his father Abdullah and his family received cash for shelter maintenance in their site | © UNHCR/Ahmed Al-Mayadeen

YEMEN

Yemen's conflict has wrecked the economy and reversed previous development gains, leaving an estimated 21.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. 4.5 million people are internally displaced in the country, and 90,700 people, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, are registered as refugees and asylum-seekers. There are breakthroughs in the refugee programme, such as de facto authorities showing willingness to consider resuming refugee registration in the north after many years. Humanitarian access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, shrinking humanitarian space and underfunding are all hampering UNHCR's capacity to deliver a comprehensive package of services to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and IDP returnees.

The one-year anniversary of the truce, signed in April 2022 and expired in October 2022 has left Yemen in a transitional phase with ongoing talks to renew the ceasefire. With the prospects for peace, there is increasing focus on durable solutions for the internally displaced – voluntary return, local integration and settlement elsewhere – for which UNHCR is playing a leading role.

The protection risks for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and IDP returnees are acute, exacerbated by insecurity, economic collapse, and the limited availability of basic services. According to the Protection Cluster's analysis, the protection environment did not improve for displaced persons during the truce. Yemenis have long exhausted their savings and are struggling to find livelihood opportunities and ways to cope with soaring food and fuel prices. The protection space continues to shrink, with violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and access to basic services, particularly affecting vulnerable groups among the displaced and marginalised groups. Women and children, who represent an estimated 74% of the displaced population, often have limited access to services and face specific risks linked to prevailing traditional social norms and customs.

UNHCR is the sole provider of support and services to refugees and asylum-seekers, who have little prospect for inclusion/local integration, amidst increasing pressure from the authorities for return to their country of origin.

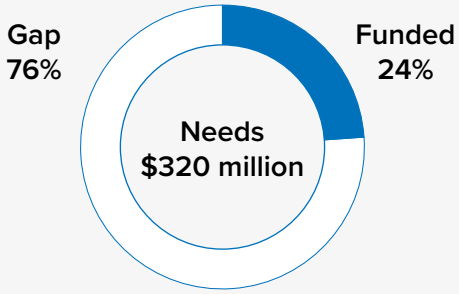
UNHCR's cash assistance has proved critical for mitigating socioeconomic vulnerabilities, deterring people from harmful coping mechanisms that trigger protection risks, and generating positive outcomes. Cash assistance accounts for 35% of UNHCR Yemen's protection and assistance to vulnerable populations. In 2022, around $40 million in cash was distributed, assisting some 600,000 IDPs and 10,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. But chronic underfunding of the response for refugees, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, continued to leave huge protection and assistance needs unattended.

POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **4,616,274**

Largest population group: IDP - **4,523,022** / **98%**

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Cash assistance - $6.76 million: the funding gap facing the multi-purpose cash and emergency cash assistance is at risk of leaving 1,344,000 refugees and IDPs unassisted. Without additional funds, people in need of this life-saving assistance will be unable to cover their basic needs such as food, shelter or WASH, or mitigate protection risks. They may resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as child labour and reduced food consumption to cover for their basic needs.

Shelter - $48.4 million: the funding gap for the shelter programme is at risk of leaving 300,000 people unassisted. The continued shortage of shelter assistance exposes the most vulnerable to Yemen's harsh weather, particularly in the winter and summer. In addition, sub-standard living conditions multiples risks such as the spread of communicable diseases, and exposes women and girls in particular to protection risks and girls.

CCCM - $2.5 million: the funding gap facing UNHCR's camp coordination and camp management is putting at risk 250,000 people. At the beginning of the year UNHCR had to shift from site management to site monitoring and reduce the number of IDP sites being monitored to 158 (out of a total of 2,431 in Yemen). Without additional funds, the lack of adequate management of IDP hosting sites will undermine the presence and quality of on-site WASH, shelter, and protection services, severely affecting the living conditions of Yemenis already living in extremely dire conditions, in makeshift shelters, and exposed to the harsh climate.

Protection - $21.7 million: the funding gap for protection is putting at risk 480,445 forcibly displaced people. The life-saving protection services in danger of being cut or reduced include psychosocial support; prevention and response to gender-based violence; social and empowerment activities for women and girls; wellbeing activities for children; legal counseling and assistance.

Health - $3.6 million: the funding gap for health services is leaving 10,000 refugees at risk. Rampant inflation has led to increased prices of medicines, and diagnostic and hospital fees. Coupled with underfunding and increased requests for assistance, UNHCR has had to prioritize its primary health assistance to life saving cases. UNHCR may have to further reduce its support to persons living with disabilities in terms of provision of assistive devices such as hearing aids, electronic wheelchairs, and artificial limbs.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Shelter: $5.4 million will help improve the housing conditions of 33,500 forcibly displaced people.

CCCM: $2.5 million will provide increased maintenance, infrastructure, and flood mitigation support to those living in IDP sites monitored by UNHCR.

Well-being and basic needs: $5.3 million will provide critical assistance to 112,800 of the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced.

Protection: $4.1 million will provide critical lifesaving protection assistance to 277,000 vulnerable forcibly displaced people.

Health: $3.6 million will support 10,000 of the most vulnerable refugees with primary health care assistance.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $176.38 million, if not more.

A young displaced girl's family received cash assistance from UNHCR in the Saudi Displaced site of Aden governorate | © UNHCR/Ahmed Al-Mayadeen

In the Central African Republic, Sudanese civilians and Central African returnees seek refuge from fighting in Sudan | © UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

SUDAN EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

In just two months since the conflict in Sudan broke out, the fighting displaced 1.4 million people from their homes within Sudan and a further 460,000 people have moved to neighbouring Egypt, Chad, the Central African Republic, South Sudan and Ethiopia including over 100,000 refugee returnees into South Sudan.

Unfortunately, the speed and scale of the displacement has not yet been matched by allocations of fresh donor funds for UNHCR to respond. In the same two months that over one million people were displaced, as of the beginning of June UNHCR has funds available of just over $13.7 million – about 5% of the estimated $227.3 million, much of it allocations of flexible funding – needed to respond to the new emergency.

Exacerbating this is that the rapidly escalating new displacement is layered on top of a large and complex existing situation in those countries, which already hosted around 15 million refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs – or around 14% of the total population UNHCR cares for globally – even before the current crisis. UNHCR's regular programmes in each of these countries were all among the most underfunded prior to this emergency, which is only further stretching their limited resources and hindering their ability to adequately respond to the needs of both existing and newly displaced populations.

Donors have generously pledged support to the inter-agency appeals for Sudan and the region at a high level pledging conference for the Sudan situation on 20 June 2023. These pledges need to be swiftly allocated and disbursed so that support can flow to those in need.

Inside Sudan, UNHCR needs urgent support if it is to continue to stay and deliver critical assistance - including shelters, household items, clean water and sanitation services, healthcare and education support - to refugees and other displaced people. The country continues to host over 1 million refugees of which 175,000 have left areas of active fighting but stayed in Sudan. The dire humanitarian situation is compounded by multiple factors including acute shortages of food, water, and fuel, restricted access to communication and electricity, and exorbitant prices of essential commodities. The rising costs of fuel, transportation, and logistics are significantly impeding our capacity to deliver essential humanitarian assistance within Sudan but also to remote border locations in the neighboring countries.

UNHCR's teams on the ground in those locations need urgent support if they are to continue to help receive new arrivals and provide immediate support such as emergency shelter, household items, and appropriate protection responses for women, children, and survivors of gender-based violence and other trauma. UNHCR is also racing against time before the rainy season to ensure that refugees and refugee returnees in the neighbouring countries are able to move safely and with dignity to less remote locations with greater access to services and less risk of being flooded or cut off for the season.

As the coordinator of the Regional Refugee Plan in neighbouring countries, and the lead of the Protection, Shelter and NFI clusters within Sudan, UNHCR has worked with its partners on detailed response and contingency plans to assist displaced people and the communities hosting them. However, without adequate funding support, these plans will not be fully implemented and there is a concern that already fragile communities with be further destabilized, with potentially wider impacts on regional peace and security.

Rinj Bak sits with his two children Aput, 1, and Mayen, 5, after arriving at the transit centre in Renk. The family spent 3 days on the road from Khartoum | © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

SUDAN

Prior to the outbreak of conflict on 15 April, Sudan hosted one of the largest refugee populations in Africa, primarily from South Sudan but also people fleeing conflict and persecution in Eritrea, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Chad, and even civil wars in Syria and Yemen. There were also nearly 3.6 million IDPs in Sudan, mostly in the Darfur and Kordofan regions where conflict and climate change impacts like flooding have been endemic.

Now, two months into the deadly conflict, nearly 360,000 people have fled to neighboring countries; 107,000 refugees living in Sudan have returned home prematurely, primarily to South Sudan; and 1.4 million people have been internally displaced. In Khartoum, looting, gunfire, and destruction of property, including UNHCR offices, continue. In the Darfur region, long-standing intercommunal tensions have flared up as a result of the crisis, placing IDPs and refugees in increasingly precarious situations without sufficient water, food and medical supplies; heightened risk of gender-based violence; and threatened physical safety as armed groups clash in close proximity to settlements. Reports that displaced people have already died as a result of shelling and unexploded ordnance and others are facing human rights abuses, including physical and sexual violence, as well as outbreaks of malnutrition and diseases, are devastating and appalling.

Without a durable cease-fire, humanitarian access will continue to be constrained where the fighting is most intense, placing lives in even greater risk and forcing those remaining in Sudan to resort to negative coping mechanisms simply to survive. Urgent diplomatic and financial support from the international community and ongoing solidarity of host countries to welcome those fleeing the violence are critical to avoid catastrophic outcomes for those caught in this brutal conflict.

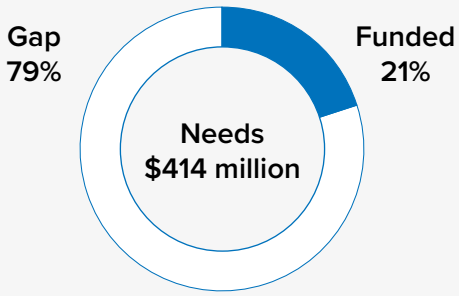
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **4,734,436**

Largest population group: IDP - **3,552,717** / **75%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict - **175,751** refugees and asylum-seekers have been secondarily displaced across Sudan.
1,428,551 IDPs[2] displaced by the ongoing conflict.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Rainy season preparedness: is critical to prevent damages wrought by heavy rainfall across Sudan. In advance of the rainy season, UNHCR needs to provide emergency shelter kits, desilting of drainage systems, elevation of plots in flood-prone areas, and rehabilitation of access and internal roads.

Education: underfunding is affecting support to the Ministry of Education in integration of refugee education into national systems. In the interim, UNHCR provides support for refugee students to continue their education, at diminished levels due to underfunding.

Livelihoods and self-reliance: planned livelihood activities and provision of multi-purpose cash assistance to vulnerable refugees has not been possible in 2023, which are critical gaps given the increasing difficulties in meeting daily needs in Sudan.

Emergency response: with 1.4 million new IDPs and 175,000 secondary movements of refugees, additional funding is needed urgently to provide emergency assistance and protection to refugees in White Nile State and other areas.

[2] The source of IDP data in Sudan is IOM, collected country-wide through IOM DTM key informants using a mixed methodology of Mobility Tracking (MT) and Emergency Event Tracking Tool (ETT). The figure was published on 6 June. This data should not be combined with the DTM IDP baseline data collected in March 2023 that showed 3.8 million IDPs across the country. More information here.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Shelter/NFI - $52.3 million: lack of funding will impact UNHCR's protection and assistance to over 140,000 refugees who have moved to White Nile State fleeing conflict in Khartoum, amid overcrowding of existing camps and stretched capacities of service delivery.

WASH - $25.2 million: insufficient WASH facilities and services have left displaced populations vulnerable to risks from lack of water, shortage of latrines, and lack of rehabilitation and maintenance of WASH facilities.

Gender-based violence - $21.7 million: women are at heightened risks of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence, owing to the indiscriminate and violent nature of conflict in Sudan and the breakdown of rule of law. UNHCR's ability to monitor the protection environment of newly displaced populations in Sudan and provide critical emergency assistance is seriously curtailed.

Health - $20 million: UNHCR is unable to provide medicines, medical supplies and personal hygiene kits to women and girls of reproductive age, and soap to the general refugee population.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

Within a generalized breakdown in the rule of law, growing concerns are numerous, and include access constraints to people in need especially in Khartoum and Darfur; the protection of civilians across the country and safety and security for humanitarian staff, materials, and facilities; the breakdown of basic services such as health and shortage of basic commodities as a result of the disruption of supply lines; and increasing reports of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $169.93 million, if not more.

In White Nile State, Sudan, refugees struggle with an extended rainy season that is being aggravated year after year | © UNHCR/Isadora Zoni

Acel Akech, 5, pictured at her family's shelter in bushland outside the transit centre in Renk, South Sudan | © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan's refugee crisis remains the largest in Africa, with 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees having fled the country. In addition, there are 2.3 million IDPs while the country hosts over 300,000 refugees.

South Sudan is still reeling from the devastation of its brutal civil war and is suffering from a deep humanitarian crisis, fueled by climate change, conflict, and food insecurity. Over three quarters of the population is deemed to be in need of humanitarian aid. South Sudan has now seen four years of historic flooding with water overwhelming homes, farmlands, and the transhumance routes cattle herders have followed for thousands of years, impacting crop yields and killing livestock, fueling the country's economic and food crises. Many communities in South Sudan are already permanently displaced by climate change.

The crisis in Sudan is worsening South Sudan's dire humanitarian situation. Prior to the conflict in Sudan, there were over 800,000 South Sudanese refugees in Sudan, over 100,000 of whom have now returned alongside several thousand Sudanese refugees. In the absence of a ceasefire in Sudan, arrivals are expected to continue. Many new arrivals are reaching border areas where the delivery of humanitarian aid is costly and complex due to inaccessibility, poor and non-existent infrastructure, limited connectivity, a lack of power supply, and supply lines dependent of cross-border trade with Sudan.

In northern South Sudan, prices for basic items have sky-rocketed as many goods are scarce, further complicating the situation for the tens of thousands who have arrived in the country. New arrivals who are able to travel onward into the country to their areas of origin or destinations of choice are likely to go to communities that are already extremely fragile. Providing life-saving assistance to new arrivals from Sudan is putting an additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate services to existing affected communities in South Sudan.

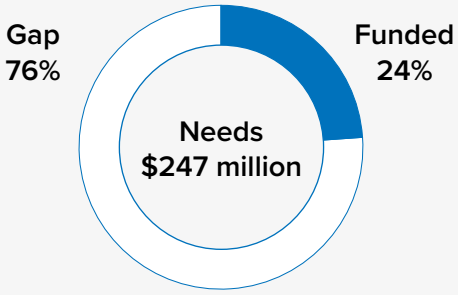
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **1,797,021**

Largest population group: IDP - **1,474,679** / **82%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict - **83,097** newly arrived returnees and **5,346** newly arrived refugees.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Education: underfunding in education is affecting UNHCR's ability to support secondary and tertiary education in many locations, which is negatively affecting the primary school enrolment.

Food and nutrition: with severe WFP food cuts impacting refugee populations, UNHCR has been forced to subsidize food provisions. At current budget levels, the operation will not be able to continue to provide additional food to already vulnerable refugee communities.

WASH: the underfunding has left people vulnerable to diseases and risks associated with lack of potable water, shortages of sanitation facilities etc.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Health - $28.3 million: the operation is not able to fully provide for health needs to the displaced communities, particularly secondary healthcare and emergency medical referrals. The operation needs $5 million to provide adequate primary and secondary healthcare services to around 400,000 refugees and host communities in most remote locations, including essential medicines and medical supplies. The referrals were reduced to 1,800 from July to December.

Well-being and basic needs - $24.6 million: core relief items (CRIs) for 40,000 households of newly displaced and vulnerable IDPs and refugees will not be provided. In any new displacement, CRIs are among the most vital kinds of assistance to provide.

Shelter - $28.9 million: the operation is unable to meet the huge demand for emergency and transitional shelter. The cost of emergency shelters ranges between $700 to $2,200 on average, depending on the location. Emergency shelters are required for 20,000 households.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

The Sudan emergency and a large influx of new arrivals is putting additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate conditions for already existing refugee populations in South Sudan. The newly-displaced population is also at increased risk of gender-based violence.

The climate crisis is growing, with severe flood waters barely receding during dry seasons, permanently displacing individuals and leaving swathes of land uninhabitable.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $117.29 million, if not more.

Among the thousands of refugees at the Goungour site, Zara, a 40-year-old Sudanese refugee, and her three children are ready to be relocated to Gaga camp | © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

CHAD

Chad hosts more than 1.1 million forcibly displaced people, including more than 380,000 IDPs and more than 700,000 refugees mainly from Sudan, Central African Republic, and Cameroon. In the midst of its own economic, political, and security challenges, Chad has continued to allow access to asylum for those fleeing neighboring countries.

As of 5 June, more than 113,000 Sudanese refugees – 90% of whom are women and children – have arrived in Chad since the crisis started on 15 April. These new arrivals come in addition to the 407,000 Sudanese refugees already living across 14 camps in eastern Chad. New arrivals are in urgent need of protection, psychosocial support, food, shelter, water and sanitation services, and core relief items such as mattresses, soap and cooking utensils. Given the high proportion of women and children among new arrivals, gender-based violence and child protection are critical concerns. Due to insecurity in certain areas along the border, the relocation of newly arriving refugees to existing camp sites is a major priority.

For the emergency response in Chad, UNHCR needs $72.4 million to provide urgent assistance at the border, support the relocation of refugees to camps, and provide them with essential humanitarian assistance. As of 8 June, only 8% of the requirements for the Sudan emergency response in Chad have been received. Moreover, as global attention turns to the Sudan emergency, it is important not to overlook the ongoing needs of the Sudanese refugees who were already in the east of Chad, as well as the IDPs and refugees elsewhere in the country.

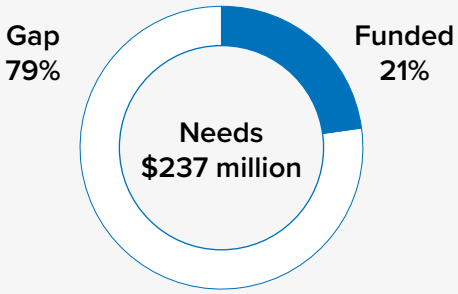
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: 1,114,634

Largest population group: Refugees - **592,769** / **59%**

Current displacement figures as a result of the ongoing conflict as of 31 May 2023:
1,182,393 overall and **700,553** refugees now **59%**. As of 5 June there are more than **113,000** newly-arrived Sudanese refugees in Chad.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Cash assistance: for urban refugees with specific needs in Ndjamena had to be deprioritized to immediately respond to the Sudan emergency.

Protection: a biometric verification exercise to update registration data and re-assess protection needs for the existing 407,000 Sudanese refugees in eastern Chad had to be put on hold to respond to the urgent needs of new Sudanese arrivals.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Protection - $14.8 million: $4.9 million is needed to support the relocation of over 33,000 families still at the border having fled Sudan. Relocation is an important protection intervention given the insecurity in the border areas and significant limitations to access affected populations during the impending rainy season.

$9.9 million is urgently needed to prevent the interruption of vital protection services such as registration and documentation.

Health - $9.7 million: $3.7 million is needed for health services such as running mobile clinics to provide essential care for 50,000 refugees in border areas, scaling up primary health service capacities in existing camps, and establishing health care services in new camps. Care provided includes vaccination, nutrition screening, treatment and prevention of malnutrition, mental health services, reproductive health, and immunization.

$6 million would ensure the provision of essential health care to the broader refugee population in Chad, including the provision of medicine, medical referral services, and the employment of qualified health staff.

WASH - $12.7 million: some $7.3 million would help ensure 150,000 refugees have drinking water and sanitation facilities at the border, in transit sites and in camps, helping avoid the spread of disease and ensure refugees' well-being.

$30,000 would provide water to 4,000 refugees. $560 will help build shower and toilets for 20 refugees.

$5.4 million would help address the most critical WASH needs for refugees in Chad.

Education - $8.8 million: $3.6 million would ensure newly-arrived Sudanese refugees have access to education, and allow UNHCR to construct, equip or staff temporary classrooms for refugee children.

$5.2 million would ensure the continuity of education for over 103,000 refugee children and 17,000 host-community children enrolled in schools supported by UNHCR. This funding is also essential to support more than 150,000 out-of-school refugee children. Without additional funding, 245 schools will not receive support, more than 1,500 teachers and staff may not continue receiving incentives. This funding also covers university tuition for 300 refugee youth.

Shelter and core relief items - $26.5 million: $24.2 million would allow for scaling-up camp capacity, establishing new ones, and assisting 45,000 newly-arrived refugee families with shelter and core relief items. As the number of new Sudanese refugee arrivals has already surpassed the expansion capacity in existing camps, new camps are being established to accommodate new refugee arrivals.

$2.3 million would help meet the most pressing shelter and CRI needs of other populations in Chad. Critically, funding would allow for replenishment of stocks, much of which have been used in responding to the Sudan emergency.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $83.67 million, if not more.

Among the thousands of refugees at the Goungour site, Fatime, a 38-year-old Sudanese refugee, and her baby are ready to be relocated to Gaga camp | © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

A volunteer unloading a core relief item truck in Am Dafock, the Central African Repubclic | © UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Since 2012, insecurity and political instability have displaced more than 1.4 million people within CAR and across its borders, representing nearly one third of the country's total population. A further 1.1 million people are at risk for statelessness. Displaced and stateless people face particularly grave protection concerns, including family separations and forced recruitment.
Gender-based violence, which has been increasing in recent years, represents more than one third of all protection incidents reported to UNHCR, making care for survivors – medical and psychosocial support and legal assistance – key priorities in UNHCR's response.

While the 500,000 IDPs within CAR continue to require significant support, including food, shelter, healthcare and protection assistance, the conflict in Sudan has now forced almost 3,500 Central African refugees to return home and more than 10,000 refugees from Sudan across the border. Sudanese refugees are arriving primarily in Am Dafock, an extremely remote area in northeastern CAR, and are staying with host families or settling in spontaneous camps and schools. The extreme remoteness of the area, the lack of communication services and infrastructure, the fragile security situation at the border, and the approaching rainy season require relocation a safer site further from the border, where UNHCR and partners are constructing new shelters and other critical infrastructure to ensure safety and protection needs are met.

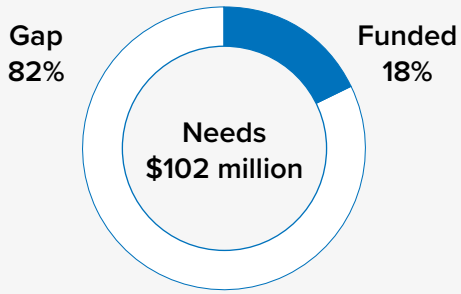
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **933,534**

Largest population group: IDP - **515,665** / **55%**

Current displacement figures: **488,861** IDPs as of April 23 2023, **10,368** newly arrived refugees and **3,456** newly arrived returnees.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Well-being, livelihoods support, and returns: core relief items and livelihoods support planned for urban and rural refugees had to be re-directed to provide immediate assistance to the refugees from Sudan.

Resources for repatriation activities in western CAR had to be re-directed to support the Sudan emergency.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Protection - $13.5 million: $5.7 million is urgently needed to support important protection activities to respond to the Sudan emergency. This includes $1.6 million that is critically needed to provide essential protection support for new refugee arrivals from Sudan, including registration and gender-based violence prevention and response.

$7.8 million is critically needed for protection activities to support existing IDPs and refugees in CAR. $6.3 million represents the most pressing needs to provide protection services for IDPs in CAR, in particular protection monitoring and gender-based violence. This figure also includes $1.1 million to support verification, biometric registration, documentation and child protection for rural refugees.

Shelter and core relief items - $6.8 million: $5.1 million is needed to provide vital shelter and core relief items for refugees who recently fled Sudan, including $2.3 million urgently needed to provide 3,000 CRI kits and 2,000 family shelters. Given the remoteness of the response area and the approaching rainy season, airlifting will be necessary to ensure all the materials reach the refugee families.

$1.7 million is needed to provide the most urgently needed core relief items and shelter assistance to the existing population of IDPs and returnees.

Health and nutrition - $1.9 million: $1.2 million would provide critical health care to new refugee arrivals from Sudan, including $512,000 to respond to emergency health care and nutrition needs for the most at-risk Sudanese refugees. Without these healthcare services, about 200 pregnant women are at risk, in addition to people with specific needs, including those who have serious illnesses.

$700,000 is urgently needed to provide access to health care for refugees in CAR.

WASH - $1.8 million: $1.8 million would provide vital WASH infrastructure for new refugee arrivals from Sudan. This includes $1.1 million urgently needed to install five boreholes to improve access to water for new arrivals, and to construct 250 family latrines and showers to improve sanitation and hygiene.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $31.19 million, if not more.

Farid Hassan, a refugee from Sudan, at the border crossing of Qustul, the main entry point in Egypt for Sudanese refugees | © UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

EGYPT

Prior to the outbreak of conflict in Sudan, Egypt hosted more than 350,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, approximately half of whom are Syrian nationals, mostly living in urban Cairo and Alexandria. Since 2019, UNHCR has provided technical expertise and support to the Government with the goal of establishing a national asylum law in Egypt – a critical step towards the protection of forcibly displaced persons. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent economic downturn demonstrated the acute vulnerabilities faced by those displaced in Egypt. Now, with more than 210,000 refugees from Sudan having arrived since mid-April, the needs are skyrocketing.

Those reaching southern Egypt from Sudan have taken arduous, days-long journeys, arriving with few belongings and often exhibiting signs of trauma. UNHCR is working closely with government authorities, the Egyptian Red Crescent, and coordinates with NGOs, community-based organizations and the UN overall to respond to critical needs. As the conflict in Sudan drags on, support for those fleeing and the communities hosting them will be critical to meet basic needs and to identify and address protection risks, particularly for women, children, and older persons who currently make up the majority of arrivals from Sudan.

Emergency and multi-purpose cash grants are among UNHCR's main interventions. The amount currently distributed to new arrivals will not be enough to meet their entire needs, as the purchase value has reduced. Furthermore, registration of new arrivals will continue to be key to UNHCR's protection response.

Protection mechanisms are established to ensure that persons-at-risk, including children-at-risk and survivors of gender-based violence fleeing the situation in Sudan are supported by protection prevention and response activities.

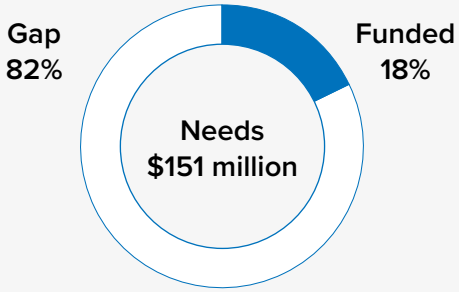
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **359,016**

Largest population group: Refugees - **294,638** / **82%**

Current displacement figures - 299,167 refugees and asylum-seekers and **210,000** newly-arrived refugees from Sudan.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Cash assistance: winter-related cash assistance risks not being paid to some 160,000 people.

Health: UNHCR had to make the criteria for health assistance stricter, which renders fewer refugees and asylum-seekers eligible.

Education: some 22,000 children will not receive their education grants due to the reduction of budget.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Cash assistance - $14.3 million: funding here will allow for assistance to some 16,000 vulnerable families with multi-purpose cash, and to provide 115,000 new arrivals from Sudan with emergency cash.

Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to support some 160,000 people with winter grants, leaving them exposed to harsh winter conditions, and leaving people in precarious housing conditions or at risk of homelessness.

Education - $3.8 million: 22,000 families with school age children will no longer receive their education grants which may result in an increased number of out-of- school children and a lack of perspectives for children.

UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Education with the necessary support to be able to respond to the increased needs related to the increased number of new arrivals fleeing Sudan, in particular children needing schooling.

Health - $2.4 million: UNHCR will not be able to support some 8,000 refugee patients suffering with chronic diseases with their monthly medications, as a result of which their lives may be at risk.

Medical needs as a result of arrivals from Sudan are rising. Underfunding means UNHCR will not be able to provide the Ministry of Health or other partners with the budget needed to support new and increased medical needs.

Registration - $2 million: without added support, new arrivals are not able to be registered, meaning they are not provided – or there are delays in providing – life-saving protection and assistance.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $57.53 million, if not more.

Qasem, a Sudanese student had to flee university when conflict broke out in Karthoum. Now, he hopes to start a new life in Ethiopia or elsewhere, where he can finish his studies | © UNHCR/Lucrezia Vittori

ETHIOPIA

After two years of civil war, the November 2022 peace agreement in Ethiopia ostensibly brought an end to the conflict in Tigray that displaced hundreds of thousands of people within the country and across the border to Sudan. However, six failed rainy seasons in the Horn of Africa – concrete evidence of the impacts of climate change in the region – have taken a devastating toll as people sell off livestock and flee their homes in search of food and water. Simmering intercommunal tensions in Ethiopia and neighboring Somalia have been exacerbated by the drought, resulting in further internal displacement as well as some 100,000 refugee arrivals from Somalia, particularly in remote areas in the south and east of the country.

Now, the conflict in Sudan has further complicated UNHCR's response, with thousands of Sudanese refugees already arriving in Ethiopia in addition to returnees previously residing in Sudan. Despite these challenges, Ethiopia has for years retained an open door for those displaced within the region, currently hosting some 900,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan. Retaining support for these populations, those internally displaced by conflict and drought, and the communities that host them amidst compounding crises is more essential than ever.

By the end of 2023, the number of refugees is expected to increase to 941,000 due to natural population growth as well as new arrivals. Despite the limited resources and many challenges, the Government of Ethiopia maintains an open-door policy for refugees and asylum-seekers and maintains its commitments to the pledges made at the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019.

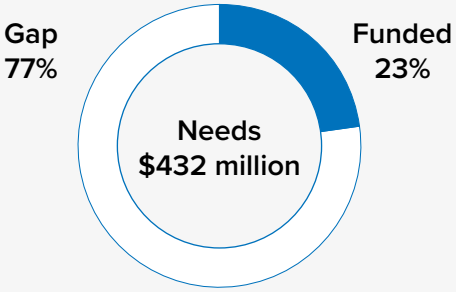
POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

At 31 December 2022: **5,523,636**

Largest population group: IDP - **2,730,000** / **49%**

Current displacement figures - **6,429** newly arrived refugees and **54** newly arrived returnees from Sudan.

FUNDING



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED

Education: education-related activities have been reduced 51% compared to 2022.

Health: the provision of health services has reduced by 53% compared to 2022.

Shelter: shelter-related services have been cut by 50% compared to 2022.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING

Education - $3 million: Support for national teachers' salaries from June to December 2023 ($2 million). Refugee Incentive Workers from April to December 2023 ($540,000). Learning and teaching materials ($428,200). More than 114,000 refugee children in primary education will be out of school from April to December 2023. 15,202 refugee students in secondary education will not be able to continue their education in 2023. 1,700 refugee students enrolled in universities will not be able to continue their education in 2023.

Shelter - $42.2 million: emergency shelters are needed for 100,000 IDPs displaced by drought, conflict and/or flood in 7 regions as well as 170,000 newly arriving refugees in Somalia, Amhara, Benishangul Gumuz, Tigray and Gambella. Transitional shelters are required in 23 locations for refugees, as well as vulnerable returning and relocated IDPs in 9 regions.

Health - $19.6 million: one out of two refugee children between 6-59 months in Ethiopia is undernourished (wasted, stunted, underweight and micronutrient deficient). Provision of nutrition treatment and preventive services at 41 nutrition centres will save lives of 225,840 of the most vulnerable among the refugee population (188,200 children under five and 37,640 pregnant and lactating women) and treat over 72,000 children under five years with acute malnutrition.

$5.6 million is urgently required for close to 1 million refugees to access essential primary healthcare and secondary healthcare services. Without funding, essential medicines and medical services and remuneration for healthcare workers will not be provided for the close to 1 million refugees and host community from June to December 2023 as the available funding will only cater for less than 1,000 medical referrals.

Protection related core relief items - $29.4 million: core relief items for protection to 150,000 households of newly displaced and vulnerable IDPs and refugees risk not being provided. The items are used as a protection tool in displacement settings for the most vulnerable.

Gender-based violence - $15.2 million: key areas of intervention to support over 150,000 refugees and 140,000 IDPs will be impacted, including activities specifically aimed at mitigating the risks of gender-based violence.

GROWING CONCERNS/AREAS TO MONITOR

The Sudan emergency and a large influx of new arrivals is putting additional strain on already limited resources and has the potential to deteriorate conditions for already existing refugee populations in South Sudan. The newly-displaced population is also at increased risk of gender-based violence.

The climate crisis is growing, with severe flood waters barely receding during dry seasons, permanently displacing individuals and leaving swathes of land uninhabitable.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of $83.67 million, if not more.

Fuad, a newly arrived Sudanese asylum-seeker in Ethiopia | © UNHCR/Aristophane Ngargoune

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

The violence in Sudan has prompted thousands of refugees to return to South Sudan. UNHCR and partners are delivering life-saving assistance at border areas in South Sudan to new arrivals | © UNHCR/Charlotte Hallqvist

A THREAT TO LIVES, DIGNITY AND HOPE

THE IMPLICATIONS OF UNDERFUNDING UNHCR'S ACTIVITIES IN 2023

JUNE 2023

For more information

Visit Global Focus, UNHCR's main operational reporting portal for donors and other key partners. The site provides an overview of the protection risks that refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR face across the world, as well as regularly updated information about programmes, operations, financial requirements, funding levels and donor contributions.

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