UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

# GLOBAL APPEAL
2024

# GLOBAL APPEAL 2024

The High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

UNHCR's Executive Committee and the UN General Assembly have authorized involvement with other groups. These include former refugees who have returned to their homeland, internally displaced people, and persons who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed. The Office seeks to reduce situations of forced displacement by encouraging States and other institutions to create conditions which are conducive to the protection of human rights and the peaceful resolution of disputes. In all of its activities, it pays particular attention to the needs of children and seeks to promote the equal rights of women and girls.

The Office carries out its work in collaboration with many partners, including governments, regional organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the Office's activities should be consulted over decisions which affect their lives.

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This Global Appeal presents UNHCR's expectations, priorities and budgeted activities for 2024. It is intended to be read by current and future donors and anyone else with an interest or a stake in UNHCR's work. This Appeal and more – including summaries of 17 displacement situations, detailed plans for more than 50 of UNHCR's country operations, and detailed breakdowns of funding and expenditure – can be found on UNHCR's Global Focus website.

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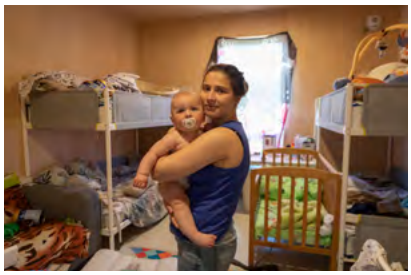

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High Commissioner Filippo Grandi meets a group of young Sudanese refugees at the Wedwil refugee settlement in Aweil, South Sudan. Mostly university students, their studies were interrupted after they fled the conflict in Sudan.

© UNHCR/Charlotte Hallqvist

# High Commissioner's foreword

This Global Appeal aims to tell you what we foresee in 2024 and what we plan to do, and how you can help us to help millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people.

When people are forced to flee from their homes through no fault of their own, they should be able to continue living in dignity and safety in a new place, and to go home as soon as it is safe to do so.

However, the system is under pressure like never before. 2023 has brought a devastating new conflict in Sudan, continued misery in Ukraine, a string of coups in the Sahel region, more violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, displacement in Myanmar, and a renewed conflict in Gaza that has raised risks across the region.

Regrettably, more emergencies cannot be ruled out in 2024, and UNHCR will respond rapidly with life-saving assistance and protection for those who are displaced. It means more than giving them help, but also working to empower them to make their own decisions and enable them to contribute to their societies. To this end, we will also work to further the trend towards inclusion of refugees, along with greater international support for host countries. It also means working to ensure refugees have access to education and avenues to employment, and we will continue to step up efforts to find solutions to their plight. This takes cooperation and we are encouraged by the launch of a new solutions platform for the displacement caused by violence in the Central African Republic, and a new Global Alliance to End Statelessness, amongst other critical initiatives.

We are also encouraged by the increasing involvement of development actors, who have brought a vast amount of new funding to support

States hosting refugees. The growing interest in connections between forced displacement and the climate crisis has also been critical to strengthen resilience and to find solutions for both the host communities and those displaced and living in climate-vulnerable locations.

We are keen to keep forging links between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work, and are working closely with many partners, especially the International Organization for Migration, to foster a "panoramic" mindset when it comes to mixed flows of refugees and migrants through the Darién jungle or the Sahara, and across the Bay of Bengal, the Mediterranean or elsewhere.

In an ideal world, many things could take a rapid turn for the better. States could stop wars and efforts could go into maximizing the dividends of peace rather than simply mitigating people's suffering. But the reality is that forced displacement will continue and there remains a need for UNHCR and our partners.

This vital work would be impossible without the generosity of our donors, and without the solidarity of those States doing so much to host and include forcibly displaced and stateless populations. Funding is indeed generous, but not growing fast enough to keep pace with the needs, and money is increasingly being earmarked for specific causes.

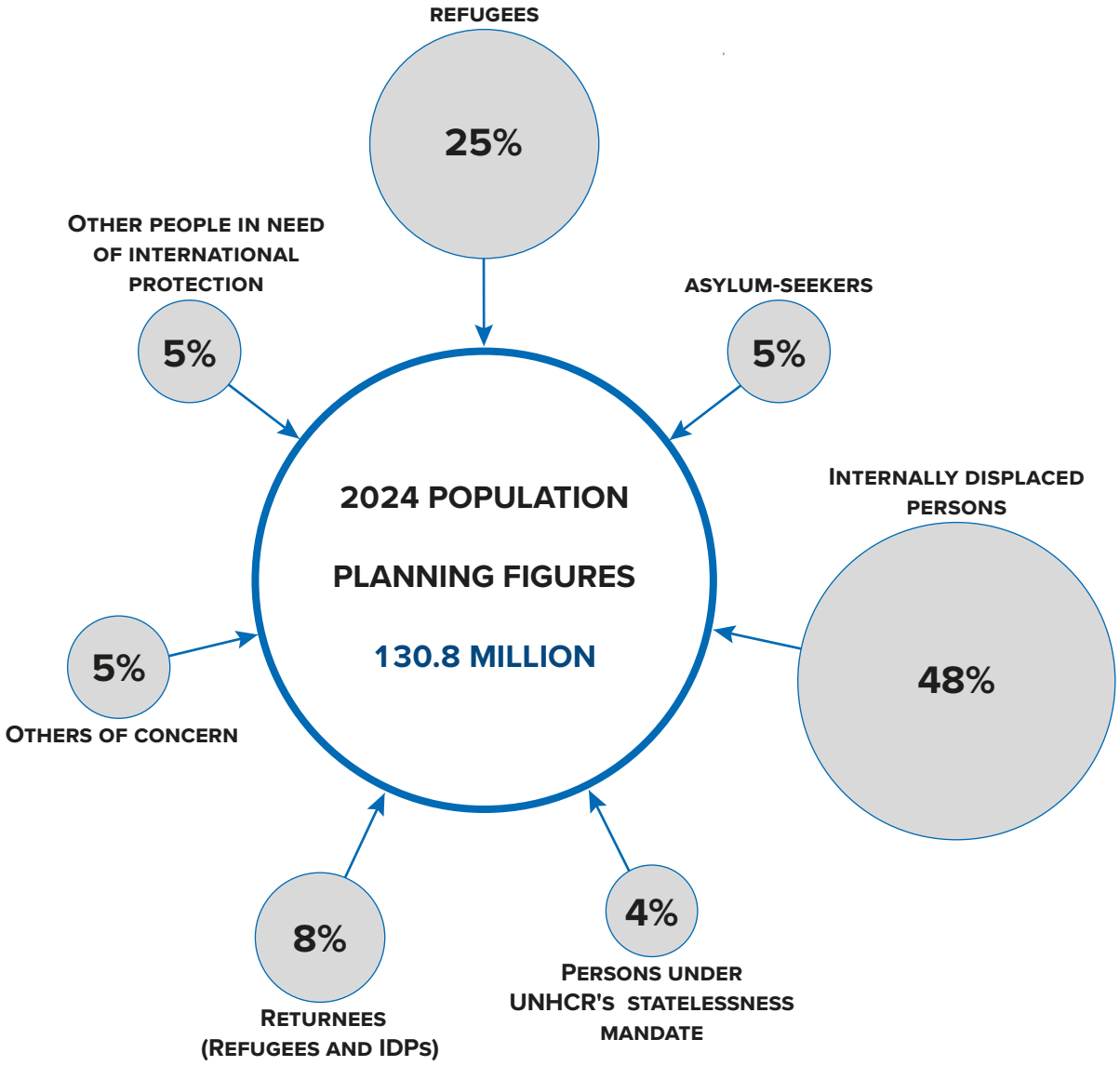
The result is a widening funding gap, especially in terms of support for many of the most desperate and vulnerable people worldwide. UNHCR is prioritizing every day to make the most of the available funding, rationalizing its expenditure where possible and realigning staffing structures globally, reducing the number of posts to maintain focus on delivery.

But when UNHCR operations are underfunded, there is often nobody else to fill the gap. People fleeing from violence are exposed to a panoply of risks and dangers, as well as uncertainty about their futures. We want to help 24,000 Burundian refugees who want to go home, for example, but a lack of funds has so far made this impossible. Must they really wait, and how long does the world expect them to do so?

To fulfil our mandate, and to make the system work, we need more help. We need your help. Please read our Appeal to find out more.

– High Commissioner Filippo Grandi

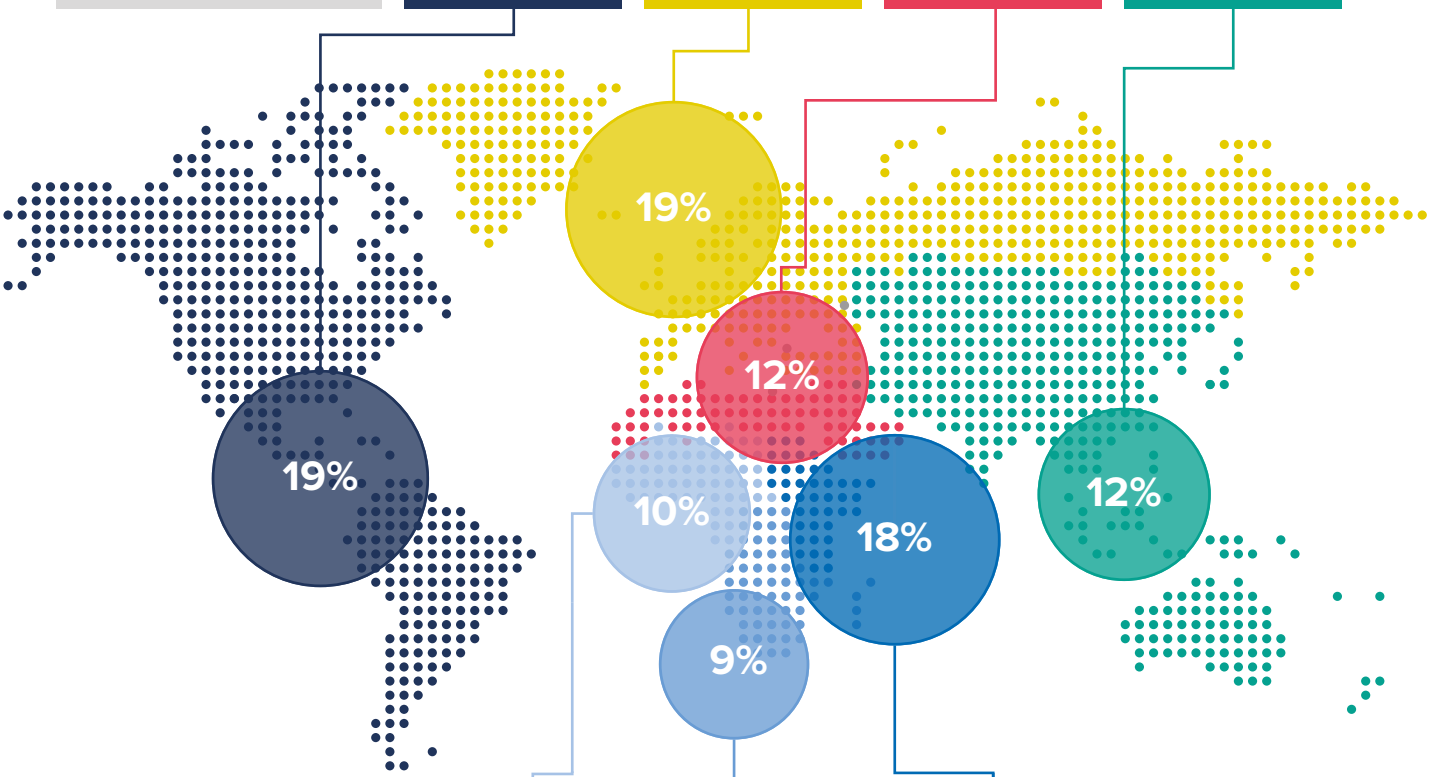
# 2024 GLOBAL POPULATION PLANNING FIGURES[1]




| | Global total |
|---|---|
| Refugees | 32,574,812 |
| Asylum-seekers (pending cases) | 6,978,314 |
| Internally displaced persons (IDPs) | 62,960,690 |
| Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate | 4,698,765 |
| Returnees (Refugees and IDPs) | 10,851,337 |
| Others of concern | 6,259,928 |
| Other people in need of international protection | 6,464,736 |
| **Total** | **130,788,582** |

[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website, at https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/methodology/definition/

| | The Americas | Europe | Middle East and North Africa | Asia and the Pacific |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Refugees | 826,201 | 13,234,332 | 2,301,820 | 8,060,422 |
| Asylum-seekers (pending cases) | 4,121,864 | 1,461,555 | 451,032 | 274,202 |
| Internally displaced persons (IDPs) | 7,620,124 | 5,934,018 | 11,740,000 | 4,399,396 |
| Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate | 92,517 | 501,817 | 401,318 | 1,262,617 |
| Returnees (Refugees and IDPs) | 75,004 | 3,700,210 | 898,400 | 1,352,993 |
| Others of concern | 5,837,160 | 43,672 | 35,510 | 245,885 |
| Other people in need of international protection | 6,464,736 | - | - | - |
| **Total** | **25,037,606** | **24,875,604** | **15,828,080** | **15,595,515** |




| | West and Central Africa | Southern Africa | East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes | Total Africa Regions |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Refugees | 2,341,318 | 764,359 | 5,046,360 | 8,152,037 |
| Asylum-seekers (pending cases) | 89,806 | 200,273 | 379,582 | 669,661 |
| Internally displaced persons (IDPs) | 8,415,991 | 8,787,118 | 16,064,043 | 33,267,152 |
| Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate | 2,155,988 | 127,093 | 157,415 | 2,440,496 |
| Returnees (Refugees and IDPs) | 582,956 | 2,335,786 | 1,905,988 | 4,824,730 |
| Others of concern | 42,100 | 30,784 | 24,817 | 97,701 |
| **Total** | **13,628,159** | **12,245,413** | **23,578,205** | **49,451,777** |

# UNHCR's 2024 financial requirements

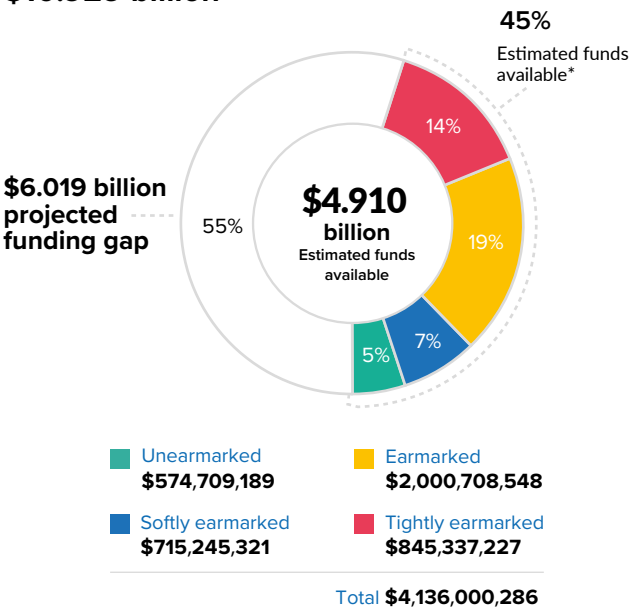
As we step into 2024, the need to invest in UNHCR's work has never been more urgent, with budgeted needs of $10.622 billion for the year. In a world marked by unprecedented challenges and complexities, the plight of refugees stands as a stark reminder of our collective responsibility towards our fellow human beings. This Global Appeal is a call to act with the essence of humanity – to protect, respond, empower, include, and seek solutions for forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Beyond this chapter, in the pages of this Global Appeal, you will find more about how we plan to assist people in 2024. The activities described underscore the transformative power of collective action. But collective action requires support and resourcing. By investing in UNHCR's work, you are not merely addressing the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people and showing solidarity with the States and communities that host them; you are shaping a world where compassion, solidarity and empathy supplant desperation and iniquity. Together, let us pave the way for a future where no one is left behind, and every refugee has the opportunity to rebuild their life with dignity and purpose.

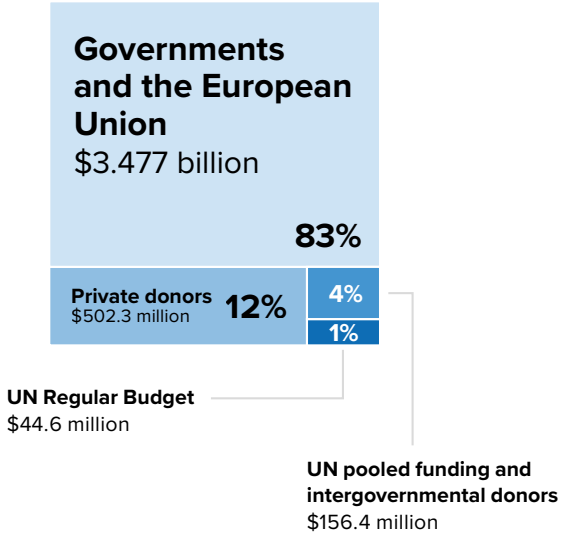
– High Commissioner Filippo Grandi

CHART 1 | **OVERVIEW OF 2023 BUDGET AND FUNDING** | (as of 31 October 2023)

## CURRENT BUDGET
**$10.929 billion**




## VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS
**in 2023 | USD**




* Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

# Overview of 2023 budget and funding

As of 31 October, UNHCR's 2023 global budget stood at $10.929 billion[1]. This represented the budget that was approved by UNHCR's Executive Committee in October 2022, as well as supplementary increases due to additional unforeseen needs in Ukraine, from the Pakistan floods, the earthquake in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic, the influx of Somalis into Ethiopia, and the situation in Sudan which also affected six neighbouring countries. Against this budget, estimated funds available to UNHCR stood at $4.910 billion, or 45%. Compared to the same period in 2022, the level of available funds is lower by $510 million. This time last year, UNHCR was 51% funded, with $5.42 billion estimated funds available.

In a similar trend, the level of fresh voluntary contributions, excluding carryover and secondary income, decreased by $1.151 billion compared to the same period last year: $548 million from public sources and $603 million from the private sector.

UNHCR is not the only humanitarian agency facing such concerns. As of the end of September, the plans in the Global Humanitarian Overview were only 32% funded, and funding reported until the end of September was 37% lower than the same period last year. This very much signals that the whole humanitarian financing system is under stress and requires international humanitarian agencies to optimize the use of funds, prioritizing rigorously and seeking efficiencies where possible.

Amidst the notable decrease of $1.151 billion in fresh contributions between 2022 and 2023 during the same reporting period, a contraction in funding is evident across all levels of earmarking. Proportionately, there has been a shift in the allocation of funds: flexible funding (comprising softly earmarked and unearmarked funds) has decreased from 39% to 31%, while earmarked and tightly earmarked funding has increased from 61% to 69%. The overall reduction in funds, along with a diminished proportion of flexible funding, has necessitated continuous adjustments and reprioritization of operations to manage the constrained and more rigid financial environment.

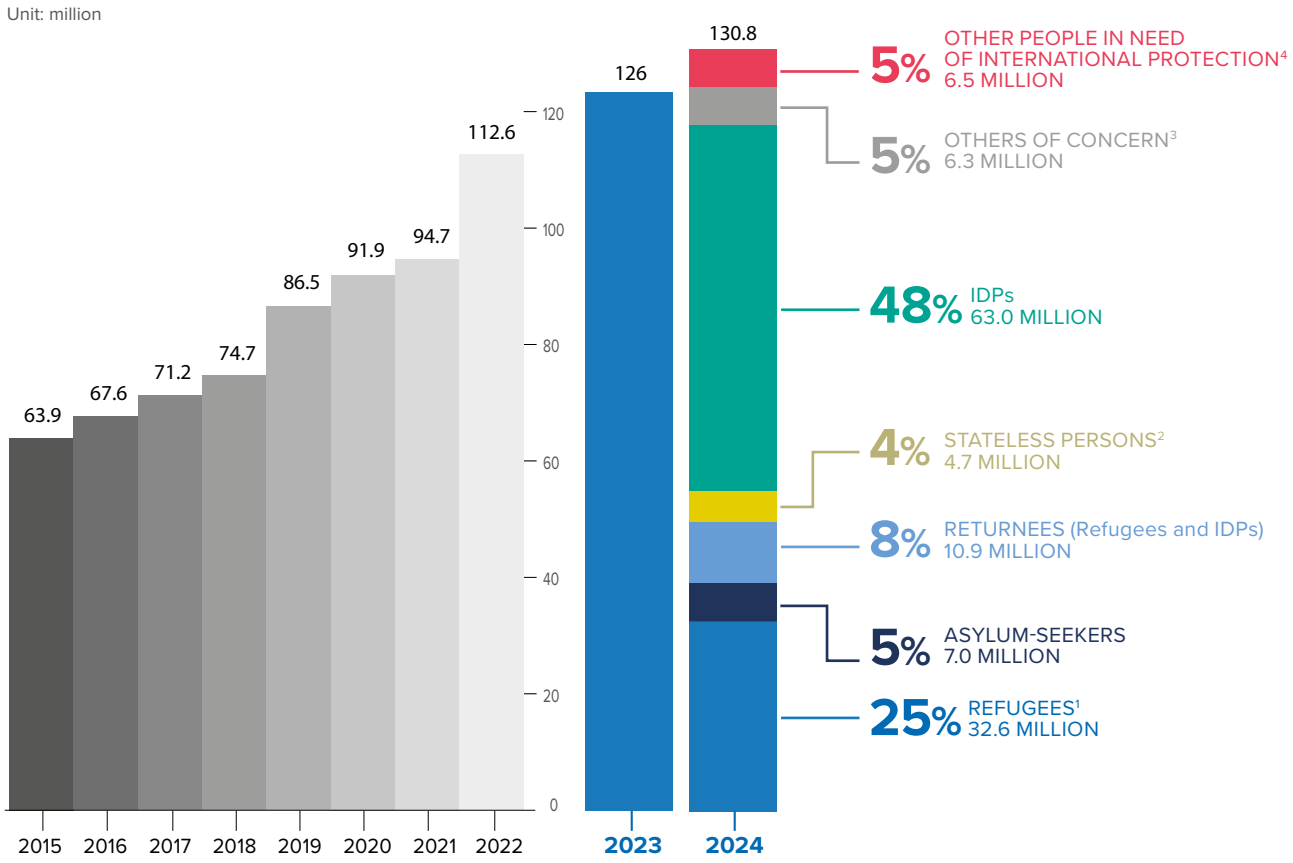
UNHCR had, however, given evident trends in humanitarian financing and based upon communications with key partners, already planned in late 2022 for decreased expenditures in 2023 and reprioritized accordingly. Moreover, given indications from donors that 2023's challenging funding environment is likely to extend into 2024, and in order to try to preserve as much operational delivery as possible, UNHCR has taken steps to make an even more robust effort towards realignment and rationalization, key parts of the transformation agenda launched in 2017. In addition to launching the latest phase of the transformation process in 2023, UNHCR is critically examining its own structures and workforce to ensure the most efficient use of the resources available.

[1] Unless otherwise stated, 2023 current budget figures are from the approved "Programme budget for 2024 of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", document A/AC.96/74/5.

# Designed for impact: UNHCR's budgeted needs in 2024

The 2024 budget of $10.622 billion is designed to enable UNHCR and its partners to provide life-saving protection, assistance and solutions in new and existing displacement situations to a projected planning figure of 130.8 million forcibly displaced and stateless people.

CHART 2 | **PLANNING FIGURES:**
**130.8 million forcibly displaced and stateless people in 2024**




[1] Includes persons in refugee-like situations.
[2] Includes people at risk of statelessness.
[3] The figure for Others of Concern does not include host communities.
[4] People who are outside their country or territory of origin, typically because they have been forcibly displaced across international borders, who have not been reported under other categories (asylum-seekers, refugees, people in refugee-like situations) but who likely need international protection, including protection against forced return, as well as access to basic services on a temporary or longer-term basis.

## CHART 3 | 2024 BUDGET BY REGION AND IMPACT AREAS | USD million

### Total 2024 budget: $10.622 billion

**THE AMERICAS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $302.3 | 36% |
| Respond | $197.7 | 24% |
| Empower | $102.3 | 12% |
| Solve | $232.3 | 28% |
| Total | $834.6 million | |

**EUROPE**

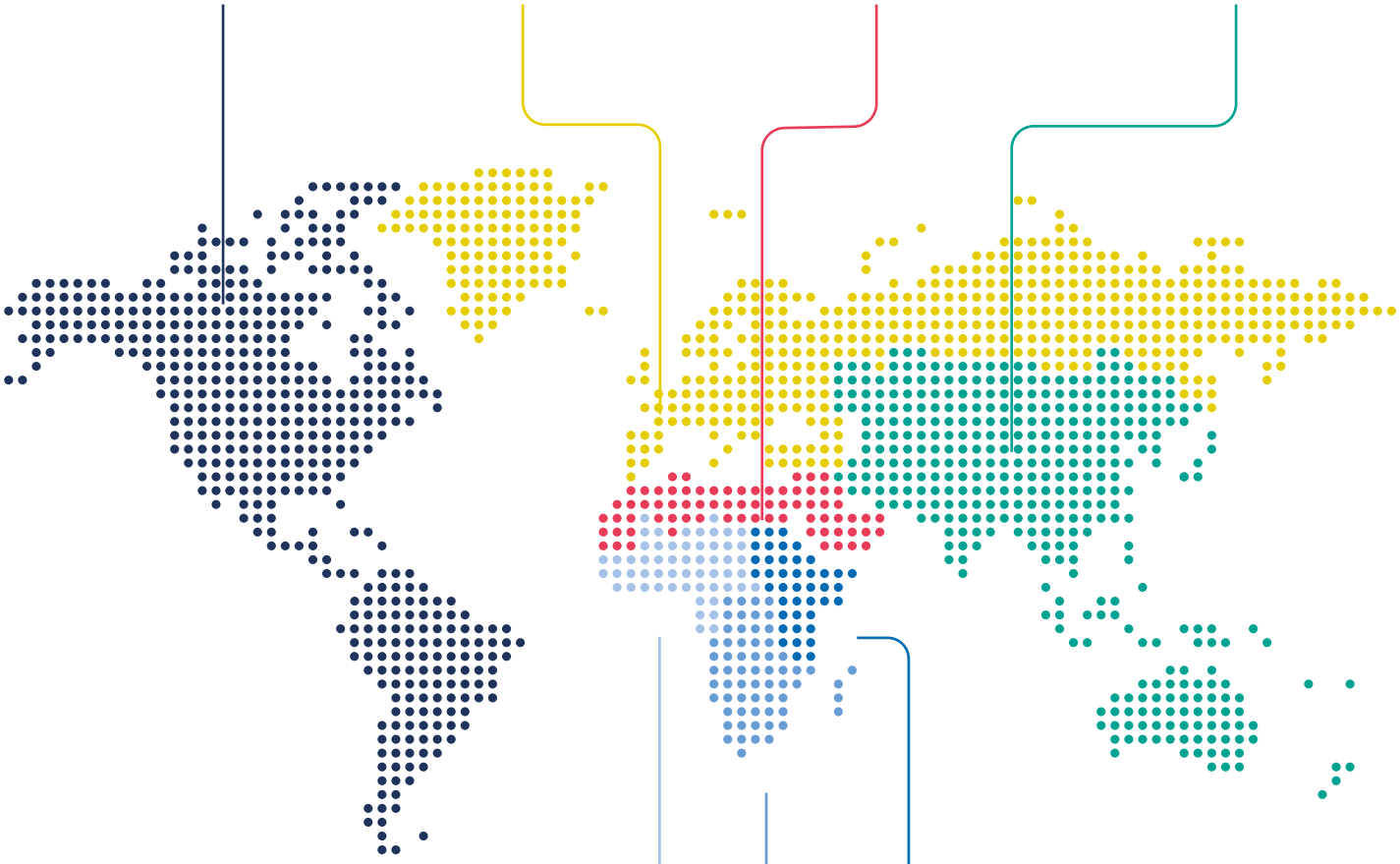
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $527.2 | 36% |
| Respond | $607.7 | 41% |
| Empower | $116.0 | 8% |
| Solve | $215.2 | 15% |
| Total | $1.466 billion | |

**THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $323.3 | 14% |
| Respond | $1,638.0 | 70% |
| Empower | $271.2 | 12% |
| Solve | $109.3 | 5% |
| Total | $2.342 billion | |

**ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $263.5 | 27% |
| Respond | $398.8 | 40% |
| Empower | $192.4 | 19% |
| Solve | $138.4 | 14% |
| Total | $993.2 million | |



**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $283.7 | 28% |
| Respond | $386.0 | 38% |
| Empower | $210.8 | 21% |
| Solve | $130.8 | 13% |
| Total | $1.011 billion | |

**SOUTHERN AFRICA**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $174.1 | 35% |
| Respond | $127.7 | 26% |
| Empower | $90.2 | 18% |
| Solve | $100.1 | 20% |
| Total | $492.2 million | |

**EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $524.1 | 24% |
| Respond | $1,091.6 | 51% |
| Empower | $315.5 | 15% |
| Solve | $217.9 | 10% |
| Total | $2.149 billion | |

**COUNTRY OPERATIONAL TECHNICAL SUPPORT***

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Protect | $24.6 | 15% |
| Respond | $110.3 | 69% |
| Empower | $13.3 | 8% |
| Solve | $11.7 | 7% |
| Total | $159.9 million | |

*See more on p.19

## TABLE 1 | 2024 BUDGET BY IMPACT AREAS | USD

| IMPACT AREAS | AMOUNT | % of programmed | % of total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Attaining favourable protection environments<br>**IA 1: Protect** | 2,589,415,007 | 26% | 24% |
| Realizing basic rights in safe environments<br>**IA 2: Respond** | 4,877,920,503 | 48% | 46% |
| Empowering communities and achieving gender equality<br>**IA 3: Empower** | 1,401,826,645 | 14% | 13% |
| Securing solutions<br>**IA 4: Solve** | 1,235,283,875 | 12% | 12% |
| **SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES** | 10,104,446,030 | 100% | 95% |
| Operational reserve (OR) | 505,222,302 | | 5% |
| Junior Professional Officers | 12,000,000 | | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | 10,621,668,332 | | 100% |

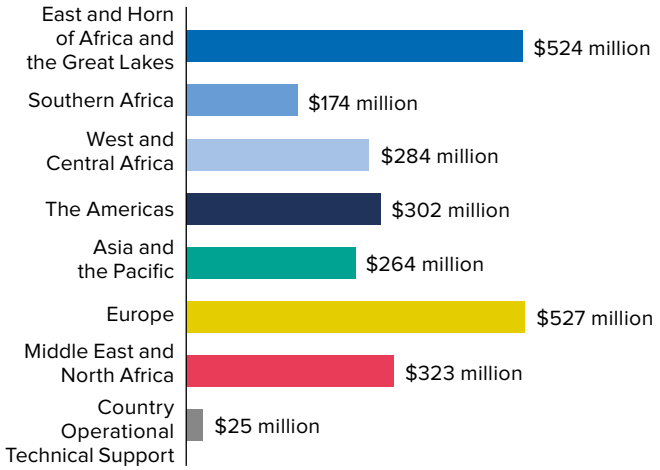
## Investing in protection: upholding human dignity

### Impact Area 1 | Attaining favourable protection environments

Forcibly displaced people who flee their homes due to conflict, persecution or violence often find themselves in vulnerable situations, stripped of their rights and dignity. The cornerstone of UNHCR's mission is the protection of these individuals, ensuring their safety and well-being. Investing in UNHCR's protection efforts helps to uphold their fundamental rights.

The budget for Impact Area 1 amounts to $2.589 billion, or 24% of the total 2024 budget, a decrease of $65.1 million, or 2% compared to the 2023 current budget. The largest regional decrease ($117.7 million) is in Europe, driven by projected adjustments in the response to the situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries. Core to UNHCR's mandate are its efforts to galvanize others to build favourable protection environments for forcibly displaced and stateless people. UNHCR will continue to advocate for people's rights, strengthen protection by improving legal frameworks and access to documentation, territory and asylum, and address protection risks. In addition, UNHCR will further promote legal safeguards to help prevent and resolve cases of statelessness. It will establish communication channels with and for displaced communities, support civil society and assist governments in strengthening their national protection systems.

### Regional needs for IA1: Protect




**For more information, see in particular the following sections in this Global Appeal**

Focus Areas on Accountability to affected people; Internal displacement; Statelessness

Outcome Areas 1-3; 5; 7

See Mid-year multisector monitoring results for key achievements to date in 2023 for Protection; and Accountability to affected people

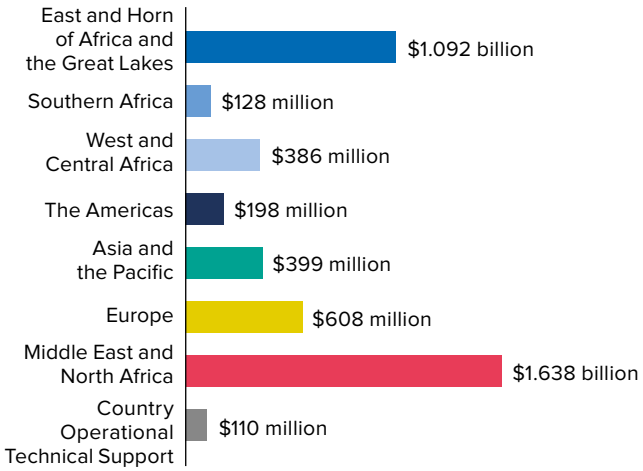
## Providing humanitarian response: a lifeline in crisis

### Impact Area 2 | Realizing rights in safe environments

Humanitarian crises, whether natural disasters or conflict-induced, demand swift and effective responses. UNHCR stands at the forefront, delivering life-saving protection and assistance to millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people in situations that make them vulnerable when they need to be resilient and self-reliant. This requires – at a minimum – a sustainable physical and social environment with food, housing, water, sanitation, education, energy, health care and the potential to earn a livelihood. UNHCR prepares, plans and delivers life-saving protection and assistance to millions of people. Support in this endeavour is not just about meeting immediate needs; it is about sowing the seeds of resilience, enabling people to reclaim control over their lives and destinies when decades of unresolved conflicts have only increased the need for assistance, and the needs have grown further due to new crises such as those in Sudan or Ukraine, as well as climate-related emergencies.

The budget for Impact Area 2 totals $4.878 billion, or 46% of the 2024 budget, and is its largest single component, covering life-saving activities, responding to gender-based violence, and providing core relief items and cash assistance. Notwithstanding the increases in the East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes ($49.4 million) and Asia and the Pacific ($32.1 million), a net decrease of $198.4 million, or 4%, is planned compared to the 2023 current budget. A strategic shift in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa will support the transition from life-saving assistance to longer-term social protection and solutions offered by governments, local authorities and partners.

### Regional needs for IA2: Respond




**For more information, see in particular the following sections in this Global Appeal**

Focus Areas on Climate action; Internal displacement

Outcome Areas: 8-10; 12; 13

See Mid-year multisector monitoring results for key achievements to date in 2023 in Basic needs; and Health

# Empowering refugees: building self-reliance and opportunities

### Impact Area 3 | Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Empowerment is the key to breaking the cycle of dependency. Through education, vocational training, and livelihood progammes, UNHCR empowers refugees to become self-reliant contributors to their communities and economies. By investing in education, skills, and entrepreneurship, UNHCR aims to not only transform individual lives but also foster stability and progress on a broader scale.

The budget for Impact Area 3 totals $1.402 billion, or 13% of the 2024 budget, with an increase of $14.8 million, or 1% compared to the 2023 current budget. The largest increases are expected in West and Central Africa ($69.6 million) and the Americas ($6.6 million). UNHCR will facilitate equal access of women and girls to livelihood opportunities, education and health care, and ensure access to legal services and psychosocial counselling for gender-based violence survivors. Efforts will be made for their inclusion on an equal basis in national systems. UNHCR will continue to place communities at the centre of its responses and work on meaningful engagement with affected people. Notably, generating opportunities for the socioeconomic inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people will require continued international support.

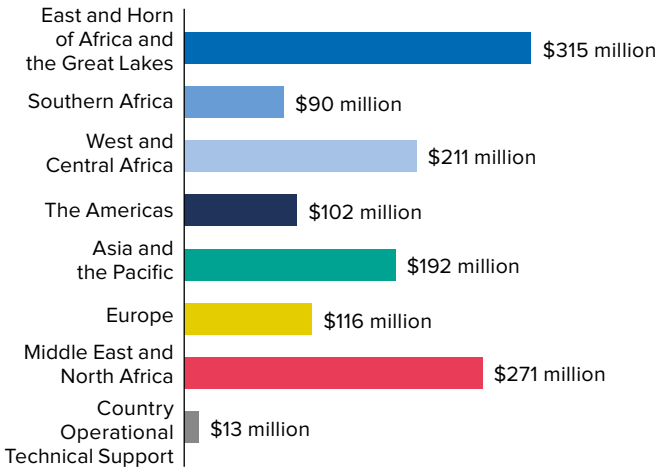
**For more information, see in particular the following sections in this Global Appeal**

Focus Areas on Accountability to affected populations; Statelessness; Working with development actors

Outcome Areas: 1; 4; 5; 7; 11; 13

See Mid-year multisector monitoring results for key achievements to date in 2023 in Protection; Social protection; and Health

## Regional needs for IA3: Empower



# Providing sustainable solutions: nurturing hope for tomorrow

### Impact Area 4 | Securing solutions

The refugee journey should not be an endless one, but in 2022 new refugees outnumbered those who went home by 37 to 1. Just over 339,000 returned – barely one tenth of the figure 30 years ago. In 2022, UNHCR was able to facilitate the departure of only 58,457 refugees for resettlement, and 32,426 stateless persons gained a nationality or had it confirmed, a significant decrease from the 81,200 in 2021. Despite these daunting figures and an environment in which, with humanitarian funding spread thin, support for solutions is often less prioritized than more urgent, life-saving assistance, UNHCR remains dedicated to finding durable solutions, whether through voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement in third countries. These solutions offer not just a path home but a chance at a new beginning, free from the shadows of displacement. Investment in these solutions creates ripples of hope, inspiring communities and nations to embrace inclusivity and diversity. It also leads to reduced demands on host States and on UNHCR's donors in the future.

The budget for Impact Area 4 totals $1.235 billion, or 12% of the 2024 budget, reflecting an increase of $34 million, or 3% compared to the 2023 current budget. The main increases are in Europe ($63.5 million) and the Americas ($17.3 million). UNHCR will pursue the goal of bringing solutions through voluntary return, local integration, resettlement and complementary pathways. Voluntary return is projected to increase, and with an estimated 2.4 million of the most vulnerable refugees needing resettlement in 2024, UNHCR will strengthen its efforts towards advancing third-country solutions. The promotion of burden- and responsibility-sharing arrangements will also continue, including through engagement with development and financial actors, civil society, and national and local authorities.

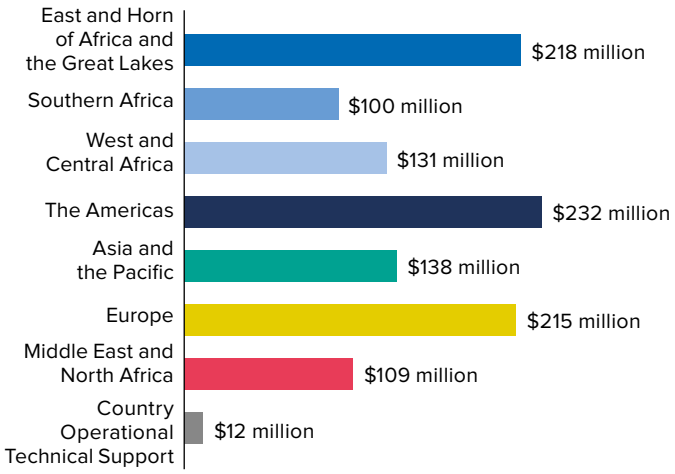
**For more information, see in particular the following sections in this Global Appeal**

Focus Areas on Statelessness; Working with development actors

Outcome Areas: 14-16

See Mid-year multisector monitoring results for key achievements to date in 2023 in Social protection

## Regional needs for IA4: Solve



# MULTISECTORAL MONITORING 2023 Mid-year figures

## Reporting period 1 January-30 June 2023

### Protection

**8.1 million**

people received protection services

Several countries experiencing emergencies (including Sudan) were unable to provide data on protection by the reporting deadline.
"Protection services" encompasses a vast range of community-based, individual and household interventions in various domains of UNHCR protection work, including counselling and information on rights, sensitization on protection issues, community outreach and mobilization, specialized services for children or other persons with specific needs, GBV programming, legal assistance, registration and documentation, RSD and RST case-work, protection monitoring.

Countries reporting: **151**

**68%**

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

Countries reporting: **117**

**78%**

of countries had child protection services available to forcibly displaced and stateless people

Countries reporting: **116**

### Basic needs

**4.4 million**

people received non-food items, including core relief items

This indicator reflects the total number of people who benefited from the direct distribution of in-kind non-food items, including domestic CRIs and excluding shelter CRIs.

Countries reporting: **68**

**1.5 million**

people received shelter and housing assistance

This figure includes all types of shelter response including emergency, transitional and durable shelter provision, collective shelter, shelter repair and maintenance, and rental programming.

Countries reporting: **61**

**4.7 million**

people received cash assistance

Countries reporting: **101**

### Health

**5.5 million**

people received essential health care services

Countries reporting: **72**

**784,000**

women and girls received sexual and reproductive health services

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

Countries reporting: **48**

**595,000**

people received mental health and psychosocial support services

Countries reporting: **89**

**121,000**

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

**39,000**

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

Countries reporting: **30**

### Social protection

**4.7 million**

refugees and asylum-seekers benefited from government social protection programmes

The social protection indicator depends on governments providing disaggregated data to UNHCR. The figure reported is known to be an underestimate of the actual figure but reflects the current reach of UNHCR's monitoring system.

Countries reporting: **69**

### Accountability to affected people

**66%**

of targeted countries had a multi-channel feedback and response system designed on the basis of consultations with displaced and stateless people

Countries reporting: **116**

**162** countries participated in this reporting cycle.
These mid-year 2023 figures may be underreported because some countries reported data only to 31 May instead of 30 June for technical reasons.

**Sources:** UNHCR Multisectoral Monitoring
**Feedback:** hqfr00@unhcr.org

## UNHCR's budget by Outcome and Enabling Areas

The 16 Outcome Areas describe UNHCR's principal activities. The five Enabling Areas cover the support and management functions needed to run UNHCR programmes.

The 2024 budget for Outcome Areas foresees an overall decrease of 2% compared to the 2023 current budget, reflecting a shift of resources planned to strengthen solutions and empower communities. In education (Outcome Area 11), improved data will strengthen evidence-based programming and advocacy for access to quality education for all refugee children and youth. UNHCR will continue to engage with international and national finance institutions to mobilize support for the education systems of host countries. Through self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods (Outcome Area 13), UNHCR aims to boost economic participation and advocate for access to land, decent work, business opportunities and financial services. UNHCR will also seek investments in refugee-hosting areas, including from the private sector. Local integration and other local solutions (Outcome Area 16) will contribute to identifying durable solutions, including in the context of regional solutions initiatives. UNHCR will advocate for legal, regulatory and policy changes, while offering technical support on legal residency arrangements.

The budget increase for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration (Outcome Area 14) will help support voluntary return and advocate for greater recognition of the achievements that returnees have made while in displacement. UNHCR will support conditions for sustainable return in priority areas of return and reintegration, coupled with individual assistance to returnees.

UNHCR will also promote the early engagement of governments and development actors in reintegration efforts. Healthy lives (Outcome Area 10), prevention and response to gender-based violence (Outcome Area 4) and water, sanitation and hygiene (Outcome Area 12) are also crucial for the enjoyment of rights and longer-term access to services.

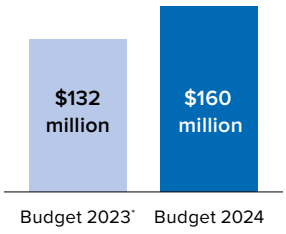
Downwards adjustments reflect the planned reduction in emergency interventions and enhanced national capacity in operational contexts. For example, access to justice (Outcome Area 6) sees the highest single proposed reduction in Türkiye, which is attributable to the fact that the supplementary budget for the earthquake response will come to an end. Status determination (Outcome Area 2) also shows a proposed decrease. This is due to the prioritization of activities related to border monitoring and registration in Argentina and the expected increase in internal displacement in Burkina Faso. In the outcome area on access to territory, registration and documentation (Outcome Area 1), advocacy will aim to ensure greater access to documentation.

The overall decrease of 2% in Enabling Areas when compared to the previous year reflects the completion of certain transformation processes, particularly with respect to systems, operational support, and the supply chain. The increases under leadership and governance stem from the planned strengthening of the evaluation function at the regional level, consistent with UNHCR's "Evaluation policy 2022-2027". Investments in people and culture will continue to focus on fostering shared values, accountability, and measurable results to improve the lives of forcibly displaced and stateless people.

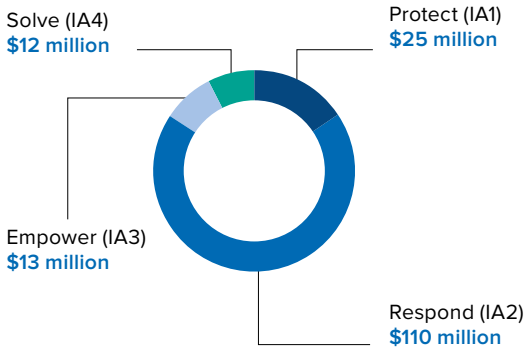
## TABLE 2 | 2024 BUDGET BY OUTCOME AND ENABLING AREAS | USD

| OUTCOME AND ENABLING AREAS | AMOUNT | % of programmed activities | % of total |
|---|---|---|---|
| **OUTCOME AREAS** | | | |
| Access to territory, registration and documentation (OA 1) | 716,512,825 | 7% | 7% |
| Status determination (OA 2) | 196,663,508 | 2% | 2% |
| Protection policy and law (OA 3) | 308,076,977 | 3% | 3% |
| Gender-based violence (OA 4) | 368,259,388 | 4% | 3% |
| Child protection (OA 5) | 251,985,369 | 2% | 2% |
| Safety and access to justice (OA 6) | 300,022,531 | 3% | 3% |
| Community engagement and women's empowerment (OA 7) | 635,465,066 | 6% | 6% |
| Well-being and basic needs (OA 8) | 2,338,894,355 | 23% | 22% |
| Sustainable housing and settlements (OA 9) | 993,038,812 | 10% | 9% |
| Healthy lives (OA 10) | 590,043,256 | 6% | 6% |
| Education (OA 11) | 513,885,215 | 5% | 5% |
| Clean water, sanitation and hygiene (OA 12) | 252,328,020 | 2% | 2% |
| Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods (OA 13) | 586,196,346 | 6% | 6% |
| Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration (OA 14) | 291,569,633 | 3% | 3% |
| Resettlement and complementary pathways (OA 15) | 204,547,660 | 2% | 2% |
| Local integration and other local solutions (OA 16) | 436,857,863 | 4% | 4% |
| **SUBTOTAL OUTCOME AREAS** | 8,984,346,822 | 89% | 85% |
| **ENABLING AREAS** | | | |
| Systems and processes (EA 17) | 192,693,968 | 2% | 2% |
| Operational support and supply chain (EA 18) | 373,149,692 | 4% | 4% |
| People and culture (EA 19) | 110,980,451 | 1% | 1% |
| External engagement and resource mobilization (EA 20) | 420,987,024 | 4% | 4% |
| Leadership and governance (EA 21) | 22,288,073 | 0% | 0% |
| **SUBTOTAL ENABLING AREAS** | 1,120,099,208 | 11% | 11% |
| **SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES** | 10,104,446,030 | 100% | 95% |
| Operational reserve (OR) | 505,222,302 | | 5% |
| Junior Professional Officers | 12,000,000 | | 0% |
| **TOTAL** | 10,621,668,332 | | 100% |

## Country operational technical support 2023/2024




## Country operational technical support by Impact Area in 2024




* Country operational technical support is presented as of 2024. 2023 current budget was restated to ensure comparability with the 2024 budget.

## Country operational technical support

As of 2024, country and regional programmes include a budget line for country operational technical support. This refers to a set of activities that directly benefit operations in the achievement of their intended results and that were previous reported under global programmes or Headquarters. Regarding the country operational technical support, the proposed increase of $27.6 million, or 21%, from $132.3 million in 2023 (restated) to $159.9 million in 2024 reflects innovative partnerships and investments planned in three projects, which are expected to improve procurement and reduce the environmental impact of UNHCR operations.

## Headquarters and global programmes

The 2024 budget of $249.6 million for Headquarters reflects a net decrease of $7.8 million, or 3%, compared to the 2023 current budget of $257.4 million. The main variances between the 2023 current budget and 2024 proposed budget are a combined budget decrease of nearly $12 million for the completion of business transformation programme activities in 2023 in the Division of External relations, the Division of Emergency, Security and Supply, the Division of Strategic Planning and Results and the Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications; and in the Global Service Centre in Budapest, approximately $2 million will cover the increased rental and maintenance costs of the building premises.

Global programmes include activities of global leadership and strategic engagement. The 2024 budget of $406.5 million for global programmes reflects a net increase of $7.7 million, or 2%, compared to the current 2023 budget of $398.8 million. See page 32 of the 2024 budget for more details.

# UNHCR's budget and the Sustainable Development Goals

UNHCR's budget relates closely to the Sustainable Development Goals. As in previous years, 77% of the budget will contribute to 10 of the Goals, with notable increases compared to the current 2023 budget for SDG 3: Good health and well-being; SDG 4: Quality education; SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth; and SDG 10: Reduced inequalities.

### TABLE 3 | MAPPING OF 2024 RESULTS TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS | USD

| OUTCOME (OA) /ENABLING AREAS (EA) | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL | AMOUNT | % of total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Well-being and basic needs (OA 8) | SDG 1: No poverty | 2,338,894,355 | 22% |
| Healthy lives (OA 10) | SDG 3: Good health and well-being | 590,043,256 | 6% |
| Education (OA 11) | SDG 4: Quality education | 513,885,215 | 5% |
| Gender-based violence (OA 4) | SDG 5: Gender equality | 368,259,388 | 3% |
| Community engagement and women's empowerment (OA 7) | | 635,465,066 | 6% |
| Clean water, sanitation and hygiene (OA 12) | SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation | 252,328,020 | 2% |
| Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods (OA 13) | SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth | 586,196,346 | 6% |
| Protection policy and law (OA 3) | SDG 10: Reduced inequalities | 308,076,977 | 3% |
| Local integration and other local solutions (OA 16) | | 436,857,863 | 4% |
| Sustainable housing and settlements (OA 9) | SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities | 993,038,812 | 9% |
| Access to territory, registration and documentation (OA 1) | SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions | 716,512,825 | 7% |
| External engagement and resource mobilization (EA 20) | SDG 17: Partnerships for the goals | 420,987,024 | 4% |
| SUBTOTAL FOR BUDGETS MAPPED TO SDGs | | 8,160,545,146 | 77% |
| SUBTOTAL FOR BUDGETS UNMAPPED TO SDGs | | 1,943,900,884 | 18% |
| SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES | | 10,104,446,030 | 95% |
| Operational reserve (OR) | | 505,222,302 | 5% |
| Junior Professional Officers | | 12,000,000 | 0% |
| TOTAL | | 10,621,668,332 | 100% |

## The implications of underfunding to UNHCR

For an organization like UNHCR, which is mandated to support forcibly displaced and stateless people by providing protection services, life-saving assistance, and durable solutions wherever required around the world, any reduction has real consequences. This is especially the case in a world of so many new and protracted conflicts, and also increases the pressure on host countries to shoulder more responsibilities.

Being fully funded means UNHCR operations have sufficient means to provide much needed assistance, protection, and solutions to vulnerable forcibly displaced and stateless people the world over. In practice, what would the impact of UNHCR receiving the level of funding required to address the needs it has budgeted for in 2024 versus receiving funding for only 60% of those needs?

If fully funded, the number of people receiving critical shelter/housing support from UNHCR and its partners would nearly double from 5.4 million in 2022 to 10.5 million in 2024. More than twice as many people – 3.8 million instead of the previous 1.7 million – would be able to benefit from gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response services. And 3 million forcibly displaced and stateless people would be able to have legal consultations, up from 1.4 million in 2022.

There would also be a huge improvement in access to education, with around 8.6 million refugee children enrolled in schools and education programmes, up from 4.8 million.

The number of people receiving cash assistance would increase by more than one third, from 11.4 million to 15.7 million. Time and time again, cash assistance has proven to be an effective means of delivering protection, assistance, and services, which provides vulnerable displaced and stateless people with the choice to prioritize and meet their own needs. The number receiving core relief items would similarly increase, reaching around 8.8 million, up from 6.4 million. Access to health care would be available for another 6.7 million people, taking the total from 15.5 million to 22.2 million.

Furthermore, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people who have access to income-generating and livelihood activities would increase from 66,000 to 200,000 people, enabling them to build self-reliance and meet their needs in a more sustainable manner.

Funding shortfalls would mean difficult tradeoffs, more stringent prioritization, and reduced targets.

Funding shortfalls also reduce UNHCR's capacity to facilitate durable solutions and reduce the number of refugees under its care. For example in late September 2023, UNHCR sought support for the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees. While this programme had been in place since 2017, the unexpected increase in returns and in expressions of intention to return since May 2023, especially from the United Republic of Tanzania and from Kenya, meant that UNHCR needed an additional $13.9 million to provide cash grants and core relief items, to enhance reception capacity inside Burundi, as well to support the issuance of identity documentation that will facilitate reintegration. Sufficient support for this voluntary repatriation programme would have been a welcome development in a global context where durable solutions are otherwise few and far between and would have allowed refugees to start new lives back home.

## Examples of underfunding from 2023

**Bangladesh:** in 2022, the prevalence of acute malnutrition in refugee camps was recorded at 12%. Following WFP's 33% cut in monthly food rations in 2023, UNHCR did not have sufficient funds to respond to potential rises in malnutrition rates amongst the refugee population. The rate could exceed emergency thresholds and put the lives of some 72,000 refugees at risk.

**Democratic Republic of the Congo:** underfunding led to a reduction in the number of protection monitors to document human rights violations. In the Grand Nord of North Kivu, where an average of 100 civilians were killed per month in 2022, there was already a 79% reduction in the number of monitors due to funding.

**Colombia:** UNHCR had to reduce its cash programme, prioritizing only specific protection cases and reaching only 12% of eligible families.

**Jordan:** UNHCR maintained basic needs assistance in Azraq and Zaatari camps, but had to reduce from 33,000 to 30,000 the number of households in communities for support. In urban areas, the known number of families at risk of eviction increased by 66% from December 2022 to February 2023. As a direct result of these reductions in assistance, emergency coping strategies such as child labour rose.

**Uganda:** the operation halted provision of essential health services and support for 2,600 health staff. Underfunding has meant the operation has not been able to provide hygiene kits to women since 2022, severely impacting the protection, health and well-being of women and girls.

**South Sudan:** rainy season preparedness is vital given that the country has been hit by historic rains and flooding in the past four years. Flood protection interventions such as emergency shelter kits, and building and upgrading drainage systems and other infrastructure to withstand flooding, are critical in order to maintain operations during rainy seasons. As the end of the year arrives, the operation is unable to meet the huge demand for emergency and transitional shelter for 40,000 households in need.

**Central African Republic and Chad:** scarce resources for existing programmes that were already underfunded prior to the conflict in Sudan had to be reprioritized in both these operations to respond to the rapid influx of refugees from Sudan. In Chad, for example, a biometric verification exercise to update registration data and reassess the protection needs for the existing 407,000 Sudanese refugees had to be put on hold; whilst in the CAR, core relief items and livelihoods support planned for urban and rural refugees were redirected for immediate assistance to refugees from Sudan. Resources for repatriation activities in western CAR also had to be redirected.

# Resource mobilization in 2024

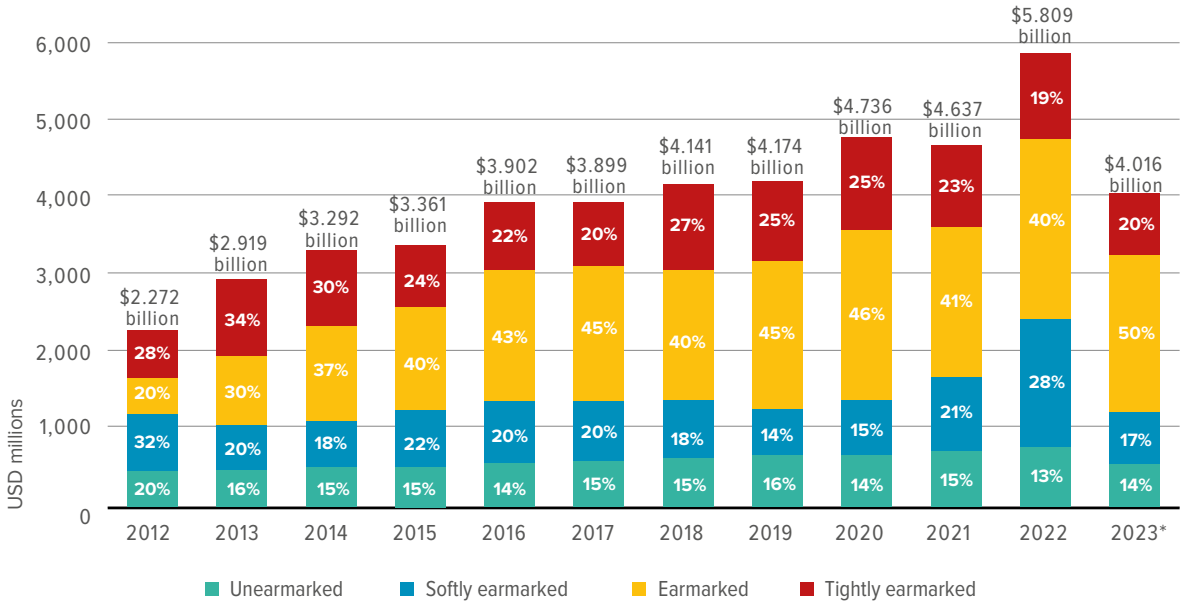
Given the significant negative consequences of underfunding, prioritization and realignment have to be done simultaneously with an enhanced effort to mobilize resources across a growing donor base.

Resource mobilization will need to take place in a context where humanitarian funding is in short supply across the entire system because of growing pressures on Official Development Assistance, and where earmarking and risk aversion are increasing.

Against this context, UNHCR will need to continue to go beyond business as usual and proactively pursue potential opportunities. For example, it will build on the momentum driven by the Grand Bargain to step up advocacy for increased quality funding. At a time when there are not enough humanitarian funds to go around, an increase in the quality of funding will at least help to facilitate a more equitable and needs-based allocation of available funds.

UNHCR will also continue to explore synergies with development partners, recognizing the inter-linkages between humanitarian work and the wider Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, given that 80% of refugees and asylum-seekers originate from climate-vulnerable countries, UNHCR is refining its programming with this in mind and will pursue resource mobilization opportunities accordingly. Finally, UNHCR will continue to keep looking beyond the status quo and continue exploring more innovative ways of financing.

CHART 4 | **LEVELS OF EARMARKING** | 2012-2023




* As of 4 October 2023

## Raising funds from the public sector

In 2022, contributions from UNHCR's top 10 donors constituted 69% of total voluntary contributions for the year, compared to 75% in 2021. There was also a shift in the composition of the top 10, which included four National Partners from the private sector. Of these, only one (España con ACNUR) had

consistently been in the top 10 since at least 2018. So, while 2022 figures point to a potentially positive trend of diversification, they also underscore the continued importance of public sector donors in helping UNHCR deliver on what member States of the United Nations mandated it to do.

To date in 2023, 18 government donors including the European Union have provided $20 million or more to UNHCR (down from 21 at the end of 2022). The United States remained UNHCR's largest donor, providing $1.857 billion, responding not only to emerging crises but also maintaining steadfast support in protracted contexts in Africa and the Americas. Germany is the second largest donor at $267 million, followed by the European Union at $253 million.

Engaging public sector donors thus remains a key element in UNHCR's fundraising strategy. This will entail regular communication at all levels in donor capitals and in the field for UNHCR to demonstrate impact and "value for money", as well as to communicate about the consequences of underfunding and emerging risks. Communication will also focus on other stakeholders in donor countries – including parliaments, civil society and the media – to help build the overall case for supporting forcibly displaced and stateless people.

The second key element of UNHCR's fundraising strategy with the public sector is to push for quality funding; that is, funding that is flexible, predictable, and timely. Flexible funding enables UNHCR to plan strategically across its operations and manage its resources efficiently and effectively, and to respond to the unpredictable. It also allows UNHCR to respond to needs in situations that are no longer under the media spotlight. The top contributors of flexible funding so far in 2023 have been Germany and the United States. Unearmarked funding is a particularly valuable form of flexible funding. Unfortunately, contributions to UNHCR have become more earmarked over the past decade, with unearmarked funding declining as a share of total contributions from 16% in 2013 to 14% so far in 2023. 66% of unearmarked funding this year is from public sources and 34% from the private sector. Overall, Sweden, Norway, and España con ACNUR are the top donors of unearmarked funding in 2023 so far.

The top three operations receiving most unearmarked funds so far in 2023 are Iraq, Jordan, and Yemen. Without unearmarked funds, all three operations would be less than 35% funded 10 months into the year.

## TABLE 4 | TOP TEN DONORS OF MULTI-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

| DONOR | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 onwards | Multi-year total by Donor |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweden | 72,359,147 | 109,332,561 | 87,429,955 | 87,429,955 | 150,923,545 | 507,475,161 |
| Denmark | 74,538,219 | 87,410,896 | 82,844,235 | 80,101,103 | 154,522,042 | 479,416,495 |
| Germany | 132,717,968 | 70,392,116 | 52,741,970 | 27,299,424 | 26,373,337 | 309,524,815 |
| European Union | 58,803,920 | 78,703,195 | 81,549,533 | 60,248,468 | 19,223,971 | 298,529,087 |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | 59,765,445 | 36,117,562 | 54,424,831 | 36,307,188 | 36,307,188 | 222,922,215 |
| Switzerland | 32,853,327 | 36,036,536 | 37,659,376 | 38,260,379 | 2,053,476 | 146,863,094 |
| Canada | 27,700,325 | 66,796,791 | 42,064,868 | 221,501 | 94,930 | 136,878,415 |
| Australia | 9,520,438 | 9,817,841 | 29,141,288 | 23,145,839 | 41,369,582 | 112,994,988 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 11,795,135 | 5,620,169 | 34,230,275 | 1,964,487 | | 53,610,066 |
| Qatar | 22,077,897 | 18,058,419 | 2,234,502 | | | 42,370,817 |
| All other donors | 72,980,352 | 99,998,281 | 137,853,521 | 86,035,694 | 52,143,427 | 449,011,275 |
| TOTAL | 575,112,173 | 618,284,366 | 642,174,354 | 441,014,037 | 483,011,498 | |

Please note: the shaded bars indicate the relative share of the total represented by the amount.

UNHCR's strategy for the expansion of flexible funding is based around three key aims: firstly, to maintain/increase support among existing government donors, including through enhanced reporting and appropriate visibility aimed at audiences in donor countries and in the field; secondly, to expand the number of flexible government donors, for example by making strategic approaches with flexible funding "champions" and working through the Grand Bargain focus area on quality funding; and thirdly, to explore approaches to fundraising for flexible contributions (thematic fundraising and innovative financing).

Multi-year funding provides valuable predictability and continuity for UNHCR's operations from one year to the next. 15% of the voluntary contributions for 2023 were multi-year funds ($642.2 million) with 24 government donors and 31 private donors providing multi-year funding, top among which are Sweden, Denmark, and the European Union. 49% of the 2023 portion of multi-year funding is however earmarked or tightly earmarked, limiting UNHCR's ability to allocate resources where they were needed the most.

The third key element of UNHCR's fundraising strategy with the public sector is to continue pushing for diversification of its donor base, in order to mitigate over-reliance on a few key donors. In 2023 so far, UNHCR's top 10 donors provided 74% of the voluntary contributions (up from 69% in 2022). With contributions still expected before the end of the year, these numbers and the level of diversification they represent may still change.

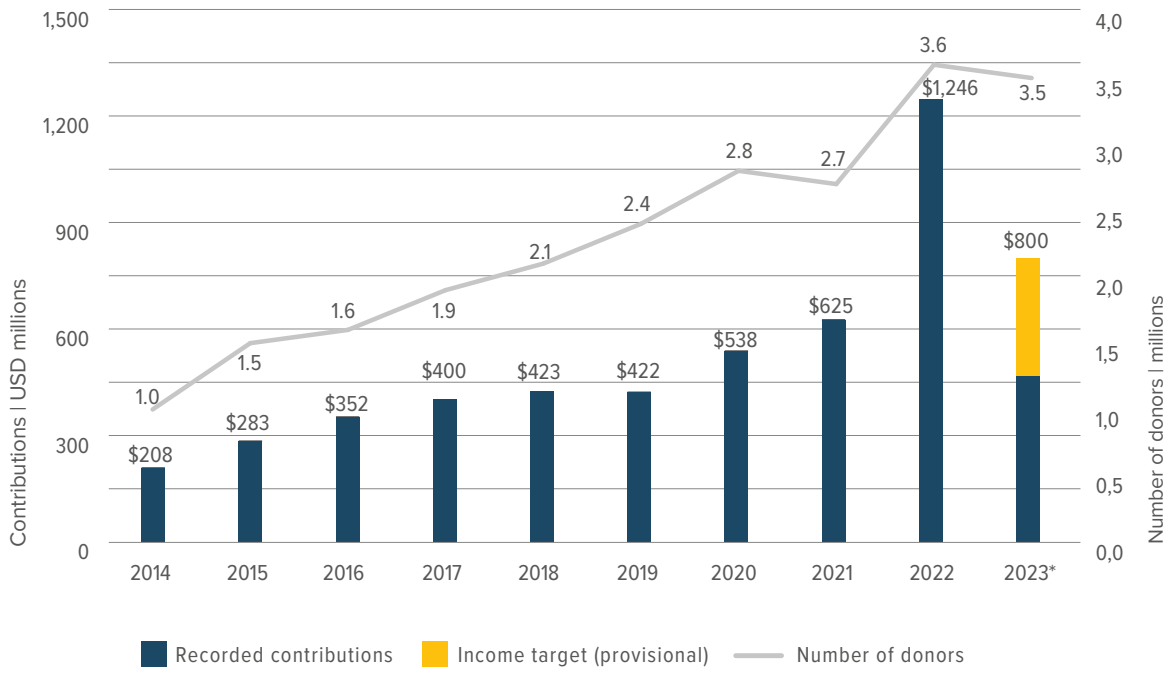
UNHCR's efforts to diversify its donor base with the public sector will focus on three streams, based on the human resources it has available. First, it will step up efforts to reach out to potential new donors as well as to reactivate relationships with donors that have ceased to contribute to UNHCR. Second, it will seek to encourage traditional and non-traditional donors to increase their contributions. In this regard, "middle countries" – those that are not among the biggest host countries or biggest donors – could play a key role of advocating for support for comprehensive refugee responses, including through calling for the continued expansion of the donor base beyond the large and traditional donors.

Third, multilateral sources, and in particular the inter-agency pooled funds, present one opportunity to diversify UNHCR's donor base in a more sustained way. A recent mapping done by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office shows how these funding sources have almost tripled since 2010 from $1.2 billion to $3.25 billion in 2022. This includes funding from humanitarian funds (the vast majority from CERF and country-based pooled funds), along with development funds broadly speaking, including climate, peacebuilding and transition. For 2024, UNHCR will continue to build up its knowledge base of multi-partner trust funds and pursue these more actively. Since these sources tightly earmark their funding and allocation decisions are taken in the field by, for example, UN country teams, efforts will be directed to equip field staff with the tools necessary to engage effectively.

UNHCR's partnerships with development actors have made a significant impact in areas hosting forcibly displaced populations, improving services and opportunities for all. In 2023, UNHCR launched the "Strategy on engaging with development actors" to unlock the full potential of its engagement with development partners – one of eight focus areas identified in the UNHCR Strategic Directions 2022-2026. UNHCR hopes that the common vision of enabling refugees, internally displaced, stateless and host communities to enjoy their rights, and socially and economically empowering them to become self-reliant and agents of sustainable development, will galvanize all stakeholders in the pursuit of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). In cases where UNHCR has a clear comparative advantage and in line with established criteria, UNHCR operations may also establish operational partnerships with development actors, including by implementing or co-implementing projects funded by them.

UNHCR will also make significantly more effort to draw on existing and new sources of funding to implement climate-related activities so that the increasing numbers of forcibly displaced and stateless people fleeing from climate-fuelled crises, and/or living in climate vulnerable countries, are protected where needed, resilient to the impacts of climate change, and living self-sufficient lives.

CHART 5 | **CONTRIBUTIONS AND NUMBER OF DONORS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR** | 2014-2023




* Recorded contributions as of 4 October 2023.

## Raising funds from the private sector

In 2024, UNHCR will continue its push for private sector engagement through the development of a new engagement strategy that will move its private sector fundraising towards $2 billion. As well as seeking an increase in funding, UNHCR will aim to become the partner of choice by diversifying and expanding how it works with private sector organizations and individuals.

In recent years, UNHCR's private sector strategy has seen steady growth in income and in 2022, it surpassed the $1 billion goal. Such an outstanding achievement was a result of the incredible response to the Ukraine emergency. This would not have been possible, however, without the year-on-year growth achieved prior to this, which developed a donor base and relationships that allowed such acceleration.

In 2023, private sector income is expected to reach $800 million. Despite a decrease in income compared to 2022, the figures continue the rising trend seen in previous years. The private sector currently contributes to around 12% of UNHCR's overall funding, including high levels of flexible funding.

UNHCR's recent achievements with private sector fundraising present a unique moment for the Office to reflect on the vital role the private sector can play in addressing forced displacement. This will see it take the previous $1 billion strategy forward and set out an all-of-organization approach to fully engaging with the private sector as a collaborative partner.

For 2024, UNHCR will seek to consolidate the support it received in 2023 and strengthen existing fundraising programmes, while recognizing there are headwinds that may impair private sector donors' ability to maintain such levels of generosity in the near term.

**The core priorities are:**

- Reach more people around the world by tapping into the growing Individual Giving market and maximizing UNHCR's current footprint to increase flexible, sustainable and highly predictable individual giving income.
  - Regular giving will be a special focus in terms of acquisition, conversion and reactivation.
  - Digital fundraising and marketing will be prioritized for expanding the donor base, particularly during emergencies. Through "best-in-class" supporter experience, UNHCR will provide stable income after the emergency media spotlight has faded.
  - Through enhanced analytics, systems and insights, UNHCR will be able to grow supporter net income, long-term value and engagement to further increase capacity for impact through individual giving.
- Foster dynamic partnerships with corporations, philanthropists, and foundations, igniting fresh, innovative collaborations that drive UNHCR's mission forward. The focus remains on positioning UNHCR as a best-in-class innovative financing institution.
- Build a robust portfolio of impact-driven partners that offer shared value solutions to the organization, in the form of efficiencies, expertise, innovation, access to quality jobs and cost savings.
- Continue working to enhance synergies on public-private sector partnerships to enhance income, impact and influence.

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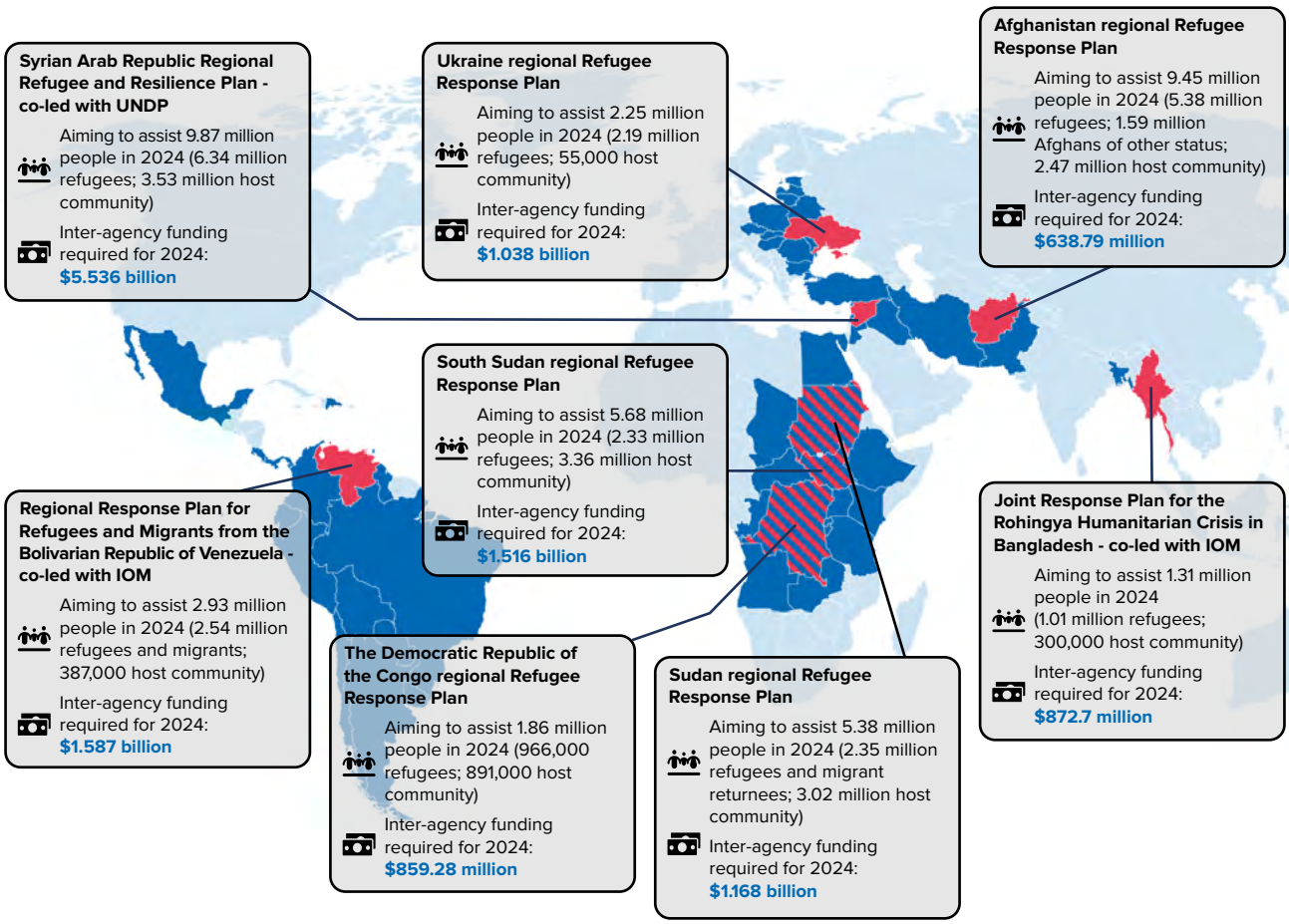
### Qatar Charity commits to Islamic Philanthropy to support forcibly displaced communities

Since 2012, Qatar Charity has been a strategic partner of UNHCR, with total contributions exceeding $56 million and reaching more than 1.9 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. In 2023, Qatar Charity and UNHCR signed a Letter of Intent on an Islamic Philanthropy collaboration and three Zakat agreements amounting to about $5 million to help address the most urgent needs of over 50,000 forcibly displaced families in Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Yemen. Qatar Charity and UNHCR also signed two agreements amounting to over $1.2 million to support more than 30,000 Sudanese refugees in Egypt and Chad through Zakat funds.

CHART 6 | **2024 UNHCR-LED/CO-LED INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE PLANS POPULATION PLANNING FIGURES AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS $13.215 BILLION REQUESTED**




Figures for financial requirements, people in need and people targeted are preliminary and subject to ongoing operational planning, pending finalization and approval by partners and host countries.

## Regional response plans in 2024

Eight Regional Response Plans will assist host governments protect and support refugees, returnees, migrants and the communities receiving them. Underpinned by the Refugee Coordination Model, these Plans establish transparent, predictable and inclusive frameworks to develop comprehensive and solutions-driven responses to emergencies and protracted situations.

In keeping with the Global Compact on Refugees, the Plans pursue a "whole-of-society" approach and include robust engagement from partners such as NGOs, local and national organizations – which include refugee-led and women-led organizations – faith-based actors, and UN organizations. Strong efforts are being made to localize responses even further.

Programmes will aim to be inclusive, by reflecting the unique needs of all beneficiaries and taking account of each person's age, gender and diversity characteristics. Recognizing climate change's devastating impact on displacement, partners will enhance efforts to reduce the effect of climate-related disasters and contribute to environmental sustainability. Protecting from, mitigating and addressing the risks of sexual exploitation and abuse as well as sexual harassment is central to all programmes. While in-kind assistance will continue where appropriate, cash assistance will be a cross-sectoral priority to empower refugees to make choices regarding how they meet their own specific needs. Enhancing resilience and preserving social cohesion remain vital elements of each Plan, reinforcing partners' commitment to fostering stronger, more inclusive communities, and development actors will be further engaged to ensure solutions are sought from the onset of responses.

## TABLE 5 | 2024 BUDGET BY REGION, OPERATION AND IMPACT AREA | USD

| REGION / OPERATION | 2024 approved budget | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Attaining favourable protection environments | Realizing basic rights in safe environments | Empowering communities and achieving gender equality | Securing solutions | TOTAL |
| **EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great lakes [1] | 7,608,908 | 14,333,604 | 4,119,220 | 3,629,840 | **29,691,572** |
| Other operations in Africa[2] | 4,515,814 | 418,424 | - | 453,424 | **5,387,661** |
| Burundi | 7,948,489 | 53,732,306 | 19,613,769 | 16,987,621 | **98,282,184** |
| Djibouti | 6,164,455 | 8,238,724 | 6,801,872 | 1,025,722 | **22,230,772** |
| Eritrea | 758,677 | - | 5,517,709 | - | **6,276,386** |
| Ethiopia | 132,617,744 | 257,638,838 | 20,983,076 | 14,760,342 | **426,000,000** |
| Kenya | 20,694,867 | 87,928,291 | 28,543,757 | 28,808,155 | **165,975,070** |
| Rwanda | 14,942,100 | 37,643,929 | 24,632,924 | 14,504,781 | **91,723,733** |
| Somalia | 33,734,639 | 70,410,033 | 27,968,447 | 44,892,612 | **177,005,730** |
| South Sudan | 31,018,864 | 95,799,653 | 101,784,876 | 30,886,520 | **259,489,914** |
| Sudan | 128,120,650 | 226,767,865 | 25,880,655 | 28,195,056 | **408,964,225** |
| Uganda | 88,317,001 | 190,271,629 | 49,620,766 | 15,183,604 | **343,393,000** |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 47,645,686 | 48,373,157 | - | 18,610,455 | **114,629,299** |
| SUBTOTAL EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES | **524,087,895** | **1,091,556,452** | **315,467,070** | **217,938,130** | **2,149,049,547** |
| **SOUTHERN AFRICA** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for Southern Africa[3] | 8,058,761 | 6,703,967 | 1,926,600 | 1,697,712 | **18,387,040** |
| Angola | 8,528,038 | - | - | 21,168,961 | **29,696,999** |
| Congo (Republic of) | 24,538,921 | - | 8,587,882 | 7,142,146 | **40,268,949** |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 65,829,321 | 93,850,819 | 34,338,352 | 55,729,266 | **249,747,758** |
| Malawi | 10,424,148 | - | 17,461,278 | - | **27,885,426** |
| Mozambique | 12,761,912 | 17,499,718 | 12,991,180 | 6,058,456 | **49,311,267** |
| South Africa regional representation [4] | 18,591,343 | - | 11,840,886 | 8,335,601 | **38,767,831** |
| Zambia | 25,414,400 | - | | - | **25,414,400** |
| Zimbabwe | - | 9,618,280 | 3,055,705 | - | **12,673,985** |
| SUBTOTAL SOUTHERN AFRICA | **174,146,844** | **127,672,785** | **90,201,883** | **100,132,142** | **492,153,655** |
| **WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa [5] | 6,438,045 | 12,127,941 | 3,485,352 | 3,071,278 | **25,122,616** |
| Burkina Faso | 32,035,028 | 49,160,991 | 27,852,586 | 10,574,841 | **119,623,446** |
| Cameroon regional representation [6] | 25,206,921 | 38,917,142 | 48,176,054 | 23,401,814 | **135,701,931** |
| Central African Republic | 9,414,398 | 41,046,785 | 34,162,064 | 15,947,996 | **100,571,242** |
| Chad | 41,594,778 | 120,434,141 | 52,535,968 | 15,468,800 | **230,033,687** |
| Côte d'Ivoire regional representation[7] | 45,341,611 | - | 7,272,042 | 13,910,269 | **66,523,922** |
| Mali | 6,554,363 | 38,648,287 | 13,035,218 | 16,009,861 | **74,247,728** |
| Niger | 81,331,593 | 36,611,537 | 10,190,689 | 9,468,233 | **137,602,052** |
| Nigeria | 28,075,639 | 49,076,844 | 14,110,529 | 15,820,382 | **107,083,393** |
| Senegal regional representation [8] | 7,749,140 | - | - | 7,142,050 | **14,891,190** |
| SUBTOTAL WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA | **283,741,516** | **386,023,667** | **210,820,501** | **130,815,523** | **1,011,401,207** |

.../...

[1] Regional Bureau covers the whole East and Horn of Africa and Great Lakes region.
[2] Includes Representation to the AU and ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
[3] Regional Bureau covers the whole southern Africa region.
[4] Includes activities in Botswana, Comoros, Namibia and South Africa and also covers without a presence Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
[5] Regional Bureau covers the whole West and Central Africa region.
[6] Coordinates activities in Cameroon and Gabon and also covers without a presence Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe.
[7] Coordinates activities in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and Togo.
[8] Coordinates activities in Senegal and also covers without a presence Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone.

.../...

| REGION / OPERATION | 2024 approved budget | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Attaining favourable protection environments | Realizing basic rights in safe environments | Empowering communities and achieving gender equality | Securing solutions | TOTAL |
| **THE AMERICAS** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for the Americas [9] | 6,274,315 | 11,819,507 | 3,396,714 | 2,993,170 | **24,483,706** |
| Other Operations in the Americas | 1,262,227 | 2,377,774 | 683,330 | 602,147 | **4,925,478** |
| Argentina regional representation [10] | 22,096,916 | 10,825,686 | 13,278,448 | 10,030,306 | **56,231,356** |
| Brazil | 7,677,650 | 21,828,638 | 12,574,862 | 10,392,189 | **52,473,339** |
| Canada | 854,353 | 1,195,804 | - | 1,059,353 | **3,109,510** |
| Colombia | 52,802,601 | 32,638,620 | 14,475,000 | 22,182,580 | **122,098,801** |
| Costa Rica | 8,498,942 | 19,140,278 | 3,823,455 | 8,963,972 | **40,426,647** |
| Ecuador | 25,487,500 | 18,517,500 | - | 29,295,000 | **73,300,000** |
| El Salvador | 4,062,001 | 9,847,620 | 4,840,319 | 9,814,740 | **28,564,680** |
| Guatemala | 9,621,996 | 9,621,996 | 6,158,078 | 12,491,573 | **37,893,643** |
| Honduras | 6,154,172 | 8,821,258 | 6,564,172 | 9,231,258 | **30,770,860** |
| Mexico | 75,474,647 | - | 2,322,098 | 43,145,877 | **120,942,622** |
| Panama regional representation [11] | 26,686,643 | - | - | 29,439,679 | **56,126,321** |
| Peru | 15,491,776 | 26,980,051 | 25,701,345 | 3,605,260 | **71,778,432** |
| United States of America regional representation [12] | 19,694,304 | 8,696,887 | 8,443,387 | 10,394,557 | **47,229,136** |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 20,169,701 | 15,400,000 | - | 28,646,922 | **64,216,623** |
| SUBTOTAL THE AMERICAS | **302,309,743** | **197,711,620** | **102,261,207** | **232,288,585** | **834,571,155** |
| **ASIA AND THE PACIFIC** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for Asia and The Pacific [13] | 6,042,137 | 11,382,133 | 3,271,020 | 2,882,410 | **23,577,700** |
| Afghanistan | 20,917,277 | 73,224,765 | 43,555,554 | 78,185,878 | **215,883,474** |
| Australia regional representation [14] | 3,055,697 | - | 813,261 | 1,917,329 | **5,786,287** |
| Bangladesh | 51,164,701 | 179,727,228 | 35,351,946 | 8,756,339 | **275,000,214** |
| China | 2,801,098 | 1,358,495 | - | 539,430 | **4,699,023** |
| India | 18,984,773 | - | - | 2,712,135 | **21,696,908** |
| Indonesia | 2,416,013 | 6,901,912 | 2,571,140 | 1,686,994 | **13,576,059** |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 12,380,569 | 107,994,857 | 6,164,517 | 13,461,591 | **140,001,535** |
| Japan | 4,384,599 | - | - | - | **4,384,599** |
| Kazakhstan regional representation [15] | 4,151,237 | - | - | 2,258,453 | **6,409,690** |
| Malaysia | 7,867,817 | 6,122,809 | 6,215,211 | 2,201,289 | **22,407,127** |
| Myanmar | 95,858,380 | - | - | - | **95,858,380** |
| Nepal | 1,091,023 | - | - | 2,796,970 | **3,887,993** |
| Pakistan | 18,780,847 | - | 89,611,615 | 11,817,538 | **120,210,000** |
| Philippines | 360,069 | 542,253 | 247,294 | 3,425,081 | **4,574,698** |
| Republic of Korea | 2,645,780 | - | 580,185 | 569,685 | **3,795,650** |
| Sri Lanka | 264,392 | 429,486 | - | 456,623 | **1,150,500** |
| Tajikistan | 841,168 | 1,760,500 | - | 1,022,542 | **3,624,210** |
| Thailand regional representation[16] | 9,511,416 | 9,401,642 | 4,046,409 | 3,731,220 | **26,690,687** |
| SUBTOTAL ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | **263,518,992** | **398,846,080** | **192,428,155** | **138,421,506** | **993,214,734** |

.../...

[8] Regional Bureau covers the whole Americas region.
[9] Coordinates activities in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay and covers without a presence the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Paraguay.
[10] Coordinates activities in Aruba, Belize, Cuba, Curaçao, Guyana, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and also covers Suriname without a presence in the latter.
[11] Coordinates activities in the Dominican Republic, Haïti and in the United States of America.
[12] Regional Bureau covers the whole Asia and Pacific region.
[13] Coordinates activities in Australia and Papua New Guinea and also covers without a presence New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.
[14] Coordinates activities in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan and also covers Turkmenistan without a presence in the latter.
[15] Coordinates activities in Singapore and Thailand and also covers without a presence Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam.

.../...

| REGION / OPERATION | 2024 approved budget | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Attaining favourable protection environments | Realizing basic rights in safe environments | Empowering communities and achieving gender equality | Securing solutions | TOTAL |
| **EUROPE** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for Europe [17] | 9,282,528 | 17,486,356 | 5,025,264 | 4,428,242 | **36,222,390** |
| Other Operations in Europe [18] | 5,300,188 | - | - | - | **5,300,188** |
| Albania | 1,901,097 | - | - | 1,598,903 | **3,500,000** |
| Armenia | 2,529,895 | - | - | 10,197,000 | **12,726,895** |
| Azerbaijan | 890,293 | - | 3,168,193 | 3,979,169 | **8,037,654** |
| Belarus | 4,546,097 | - | - | - | **4,546,097** |
| Belgium regional representation [19] | 12,243,769 | - | - | - | **12,243,769** |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 5,420,405 | - | - | 2,558,648 | **7,979,053** |
| Bulgaria | 9,162,429 | - | - | 7,791,025 | **16,953,454** |
| Croatia | 1,393,565 | - | - | 951,180 | **2,344,745** |
| Cyprus | 3,187,063 | - | - | - | **3,187,063** |
| France | 4,336,800 | - | - | - | **4,336,800** |
| Germany | 2,637,114 | - | - | - | **2,637,114** |
| Georgia | 1,362,004 | - | 5,317,018 | - | **6,679,022** |
| Greece | 26,898,538 | - | - | 19,992,876 | **46,891,414** |
| Hungary regional representation [20] | 27,949,738 | - | - | 20,085,167 | **48,034,905** |
| Italy regional representation [21] | 10,306,623 | - | - | 11,815,288 | **22,121,911** |
| Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) | 2,724,569 | - | - | 635,034 | **3,359,604** |
| Malta | 2,176,395 | - | - | - | **2,176,395** |
| Moldova | 93,017,596 | - | - | 9,792,127 | **102,809,724** |
| Montenegro | 1,957,696 | - | - | 964,238 | **2,921,934** |
| North Macedonia | 3,784,070 | - | - | - | **3,784,070** |
| Poland | 69,946,585 | - | - | 15,053,415 | **85,000,000** |
| Romania | 27,636,557 | - | - | 26,616,557 | **54,253,114** |
| Russian Federation | 2,474,031 | - | - | 4,488,309 | **6,962,340** |
| Serbia | 3,011,310 | - | 6,149,695 | - | **9,161,005** |
| Spain | 5,456,644 | - | - | 1,349,348 | **6,805,992** |
| Sweden regional representation [22] | 12,568,929 | - | - | 1,454,025 | **14,022,954** |
| Türkiye | 93,686,321 | 120,164,991 | 96,359,351 | 19,068,625 | **329,279,287** |
| Ukraine | 76,464,059 | 470,086,819 | - | 52,388,220 | **598,939,098** |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 2,974,680 | - | - | - | **2,974,680** |
| SUBTOTAL EUROPE | **527,227,590** | **607,738,166** | **116,019,521** | **215,207,396** | **1,466,192,672** |

.../...

[17] Regional Bureau covers the whole Europe region.
[17] Other operations in Europe include Austria, Liaison Office in Vienna (OSCE), Portugal, Strasbourg (Representation to the Council of Europe) and the Office for Switzerland and Liechtenstein.
[19] Coordinates activities in Belgium, Ireland, Malta (EASO), Netherlands (Kingdom of the) and Poland (FRONTEX) and also covers Luxembourg without a presence in this country.
[20] Coordinates activities in Czechia, Hungary, Slovenia and Slovakia.
[21] Coordinates activities in Italy and also covers without a presence the Holy See and San Marino.
[22] Coordinates activities in Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden and also covers without a presence Norway, Finland and Iceland.

.../...

| REGION / OPERATION | 2024 approved budget | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Attaining favourable protection environments | Realizing basic rights in safe environments | Empowering communities and achieving gender equality | Securing solutions | TOTAL |
| **MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA** | | | | | |
| Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa [23] | 20,065,970 | 11,427,029 | 3,283,923 | 2,893,779 | **37,670,702** |
| Other operations in the Middle East | 6,943,329 | 16,450,975 | - | 704,955 | **24,099,259** |
| Algeria | 4,410,910 | 28,084,698 | 8,970,000 | 781,996 | **42,247,604** |
| Egypt | 26,748,997 | 73,000,251 | 31,435,010 | 3,487,374 | **134,671,632** |
| Iraq | 34,599,951 | 93,800,117 | 12,427,620 | 62,774,013 | **203,601,700** |
| Israel | 6,973,152 | - | - | 1,480,981 | **8,454,133** |
| Jordan | 45,661,027 | 266,406,542 | 55,997,682 | 6,721,598 | **374,786,849** |
| Lebanon | 76,472,327 | 434,618,034 | 25,611,011 | 8,496,156 | **545,197,528** |
| Libya | 19,233,840 | 35,238,011 | 8,361,409 | 4,713,457 | **67,546,716** |
| Mauritania | 7,147,415 | 24,397,415 | 10,367,415 | 3,652,415 | **45,564,660** |
| Morocco | 3,021,686 | 5,599,953 | 2,678,358 | - | **11,299,997** |
| Saudi Arabia regional representation [24] | 7,505,950 | 4,818,090 | - | - | **12,324,040** |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 37,221,680 | 337,628,149 | 90,545,311 | 1,236,241 | **466,631,381** |
| Tunisia | 6,099,264 | - | 2,673,693 | - | **8,772,957** |
| Western Sahara confidence-building measures | - | 2,516,314 | 1,947,346 | - | **4,463,660** |
| Yemen | 21,161,841 | 304,034,405 | 16,865,921 | 12,365,921 | **354,428,089** |
| SUBTOTAL MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | **323,267,339** | **1,638,019,983** | **271,164,699** | **109,308,887** | **2,341,760,908** |
| **Country operational technical support** | **24,600,767** | **110,294,186** | **13,318,070** | **11,735,829** | **159,948,852** |
| **SUBTOTAL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES** | **2,422,900,687** | **4,557,862,940** | **1,311,681,106** | **1,155,847,997** | **9,448,292,731** |
| Global programmes | 104,170,524 | 196,235,649 | 56,394,597 | 49,694,687 | 406,495,457 |
| Headquarters | 62,343,796 | 123,821,914 | 33,750,942 | 29,741,191 | 249,657,842 |
| **SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES** | **2,589,415,007** | **4,877,920,503** | **1,401,826,645** | **1,235,283,875** | **10,104,446,030** |
| Operational reserve (OR) | - | - | - | - | 505,222,302 |
| Junior Professional Officers | - | - | - | - | 12,000,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **2,589,415,007** | **4,877,920,503** | **1,401,826,645** | **1,235,283,875** | **10,621,668,332** |

[23] Regional Bureau and Other operations in the Middle East cover the whole Middle East and North Africa region.
[24] Coordinates activities in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

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## Join Together Society and UNHCR strengthen collaboration to support emergency and protracted displacement situations

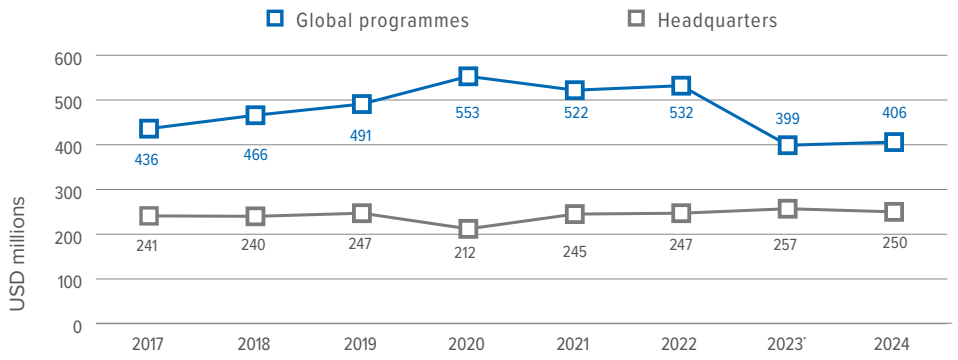
Following its donation of gas stoves for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh in 2022, the Korean organization Join Together Society (JTS) stepped up again in 2023, supporting UNHCR's response to the earthquake emergency in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye by donating hygiene products such as soaps, sanitary napkins and shampoo, worth approximately $380,000. UNHCR will continue developing its relationship with JTS in 2024 to support forcibly displaced people in emergency and protracted situations.

## TABLE 6 | 2023-2024 BUDGETS FOR HEADQUARTERS[1] | USD

| DIVISIONS [2] | 2023 [3] Current budget | 2024 Approved budget |
|---|---|---|
| **EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT** | | |
| Executive Office | 6,999,120 | 7,102,470 |
| New York Liaison Office | 4,773,679 | 4,773,679 |
| Inspector General's Office, including audit services | 9,591,638 | 9,870,644 |
| Legal Affairs Service | 4,183,052 | 4,152,002 |
| Office of the Ombudsman | 1,443,051 | 1,789,029 |
| Ethics Office | 2,120,117 | 2,120,117 |
| Enterprise Risk Management | 1,961,321 | 1,961,321 |
| Evaluation Service | 2,653,718 | 2,571,420 |
| Transformation and Change Service | 3,689,589 | 3,766,770 |
| Governance Service | 2,884,794 | 2,884,790 |
| **SUBTOTAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT** | **40,300,079** | **40,992,242** |
| Division of External Relations | 33,879,174 | 32,829,959 |
| Division of International Protection | 18,040,623 | 18,094,357 |
| Division of Resilience and Solutions | 3,366,117 | 3,335,460 |
| Division of Emergency, Security and Supply | 7,758,518 | 6,379,140 |
| Division of Strategic Planning and Results | 23,757,861 | 21,257,722 |
| Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications | 36,794,731 | 30,093,982 |
| Division of Human Resources | 48,445,842 | 49,240,267 |
| Division of Financial and Administrative Management | 33,312,005 | 33,676,764 |
| Global Service Centre Management Unit Only in Budapest | 4,556,007 | 6,505,777 |
| Global Service Centre Management Unit Only in Copenhagen | 6,098,170 | 6,135,690 |
| Staff Council | 1,116,484 | 1,116,484 |
| **TOTAL** | **257,425,612** | **249,657,844** |

[1] The Annual Programme Budget includes allocations from the UN regular budget as follows: $44.6 million for 2023 and estimated $44.6 million for 2024. The values for 2023 are provisional, subject to approval of final United Nations Programme Budget and subsequent recosting.
[2] Division includes all cost centres regardless of location.
[3] Country operational technical support is presented as of 2024, 2023 current budget was restated to ensure comparability with the 2024 budget.

## CHART 7 | BUDGETS FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AND HEADQUARTERS 2017-2024

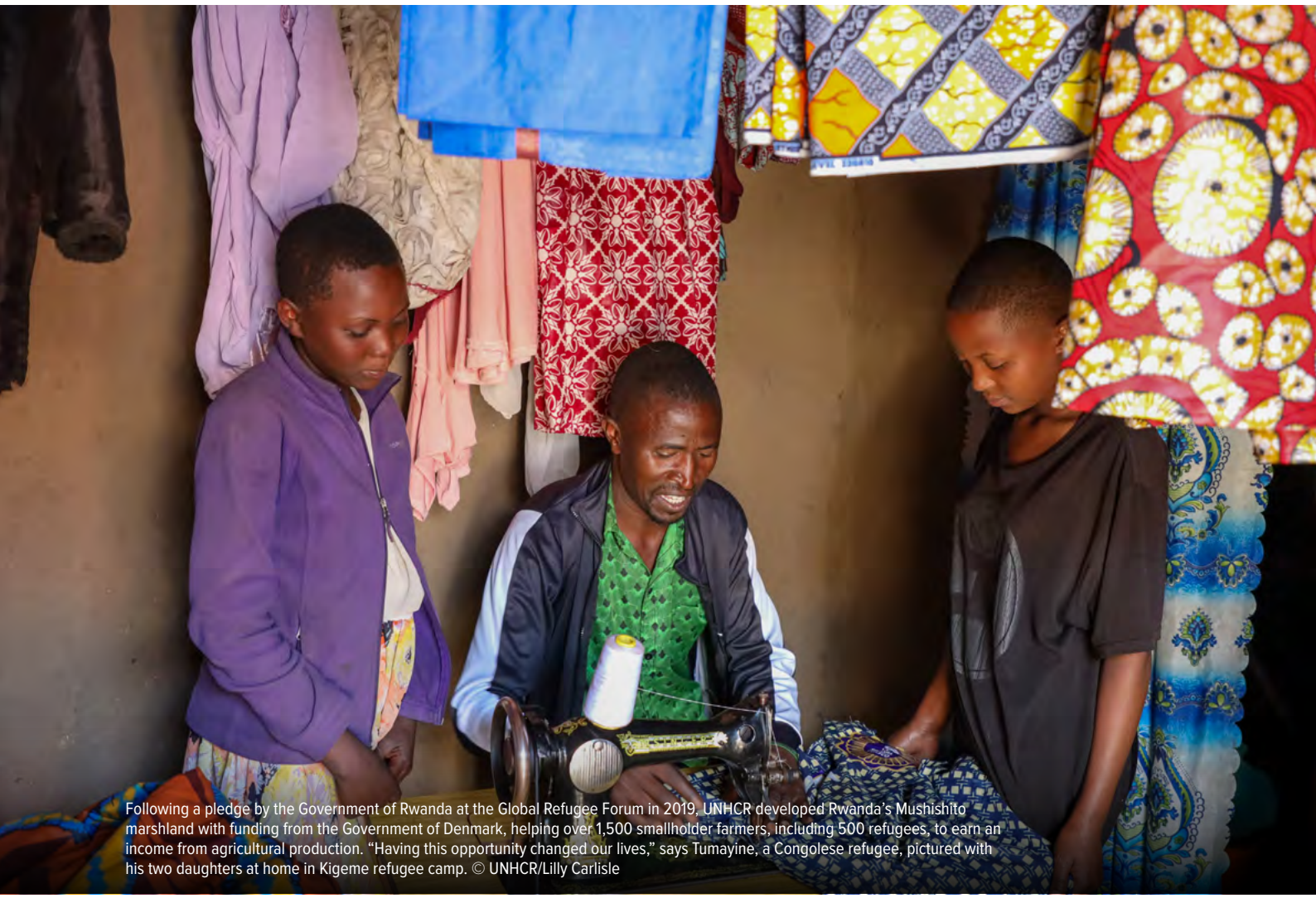



* Budgets for Headquarters and global programmes are restated to ensure comparability with the 2024 budget.

## TABLE 7 | 2023-2024 BUDGETS FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMMES | USD

| ACTIVITIES | 2023[1] Current budget | 2024 Approved budget |
|---|---|---|
| **OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES** | | |
| Durable solutions | 12,505,505 | 12,001,773 |
| Environment-related | 500,000 | 500,000 |
| Global Clusters | 925,707 | 956,384 |
| Health | 1,871,985 | 2,000,000 |
| Innovation | 8,500,000 | 7,700,000 |
| Private sector partnerships | 156,804,078 | 166,335,888 |
| Protection-related | 8,538,171 | 5,622,580 |
| Public information and media | 10,301,850 | 14,276,170 |
| Gender-based violence, children and adolescents | 1,286,120 | 1,647,275 |
| Registration, data and knowledge management | 17,216,521 | 14,400,771 |
| Research, evaluation and documentation | 4,385,822 | 5,771,750 |
| Resettlement | 815,642 | 405,808 |
| Shelter | 3,226,311 | 3,067,518 |
| Training | 747,500 | 747,500 |
| Miscellaneous | 2,533,465 | 779,981 |
| **SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES** | **230,158,676** | **236,213,398** |
| **PROGRAMME SUPPORT (BY DIVISION)[2]** | | |
| Executive Direction and Management | 27,263,993 | 28,929,113 |
| Division of External Relations | 67,635,645 | 69,399,920 |
| Division of International Protection | 15,875,051 | 14,661,662 |
| Division of Resilience and Solutions | 30,666,376 | 30,754,446 |
| Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications | 4,293,000 | 3,474,000 |
| Division of Human Resources | 16,772,860 | 16,250,190 |
| Division of Financial and Administrative Management | 6,144,907 | 6,812,729 |
| **SUBTOTAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT** | **168,651,832** | **170,282,060** |
| **TOTAL** | **398,810,508** | **406,495,458** |

[1] Country operational technical support is presented as of 2024, 2023 current budget was restated to ensure comparability with the 2024 budget.
[2] Division includes all cost centres regardless of location.



Following a pledge by the Government of Rwanda at the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, UNHCR developed Rwanda's Mushishito marshland with funding from the Government of Denmark, helping over 1,500 smallholder farmers, including 500 refugees, to earn an income from agricultural production. "Having this opportunity changed our lives," says Tumayine, a Congolese refugee, pictured with his two daughters at home in Kigeme refugee camp. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

© UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

# The Global Compact on Refugees in 2024

UNHCR co-hosts and co-convenes together with select governments the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the world's largest international gathering on refugees, first held in 2019. The second Global Refugee Forum will take place in Geneva, Switzerland. It will be co-hosted by Switzerland, and co-convened by Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, Niger, and Uganda, together with UNHCR. Participants invited to the GRF will represent governments as well as all stakeholder groups identified in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), including, most centrally, people who are forcibly displaced or stateless.

The GRF is an opportunity for governments and other actors to show their solidarity with countries hosting refugees and other displaced populations by pledging their support for policies and programmes that advance the objectives of the GCR. A second GRF in December 2023 will bring new pledges, setting the political ambition for the protection and solutions agenda for the next four years. It will also aim to ensure the pledges announced since 2019 are further implemented. By the end of October 2023, 33% of pledges reported on by pledging entities had been fulfilled, and 67% were in progress, including long-term policy commitments.

The Forum aims to strengthen the architecture for sustained engagement and support of the international community for refugees and host communities through multi-stakeholder pledges that aim to be transformational, with large-scale reach, and work towards an ambitious common goal

supported by a defined resource base, donorship, or financial instrument linked to implementation. Pledges are under development in support of:

Engagement across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus in refugee contexts, including protracted refugee situations;

- Climate action;
- Inclusion in national health and education systems;
- Matching host country policy pledges to enhance protection, inclusion, and solutions;
- Economic inclusion and social protection;
- Increased opportunities for resettlement, family reunification, and other complementary pathways;
- Support for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration;
- Peacebuilding;
- Addressing root causes through the humanitarian, development, and peace nexus;
- Enabling protection, inclusion, and solutions environments;
- Strengthening the quality and availability of data;
- Partnerships, including with refugees and refugee-led organizations.

For example, UNHCR has initiated a climate action multi-stakeholder pledge that aims to ensure that climate action policies are inclusive of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people and their host communities; to increase financing; and generate a flow of programmes that support climate action for hosting countries and communities in climate-vulnerable, fragile and conflict-affected settings.

Another pledge aims to improve economic inclusion and social protection in 15 countries, support 1,000,000 refugees and host community members, and coordinate research and evidence generation. The pledge is co-led by key donor States (Denmark, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the United States of America), international organizations (OECD, UNICEF, IFC/World Bank), regional organizations (IGAD), and NGOs, including the Refugee Self-Reliance Initiative (RSRI), as well as the Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC). Since the initial pledge in 2019 to support 160,000 households to achieve self-reliance by 2023, 132,000 households have been reached. The pledge leaders have invited a number of host countries that have pledged policies to strengthen economic inclusion to join the pledge, which will be announced at the Forum. This grouping convened an “innovation lab” in 2022 to prepare a multistakeholder pledge for the GRF.

In addition, UNHCR plays an intermediary role, bringing host country policy pledges to protect, include, and facilitate solutions for refugees together with financial, technical, and material support provided by governments and other stakeholders for their implementation. A dedicated matching portal, established in late 2022, is a primary source on policy pledges still requiring support. While some steps have been made in pledge matching, there remains significant scope for engagement in this area in 2024. It is foreseen that the multi-stakeholder pledges announced at the GRF 2023 will provide opportunities to facilitate further matching.

The Compact remains a mechanism that can bring together governments and other stakeholders to address the hardships faced not only by refugees, but also by the countries that host them, through a multistakeholder and partnership approach. Refugees and stateless persons are engaged in the identification of needs and opportunities, the development of the multi-stakeholder pledges, and the overall shaping of the GRF programme.

The GCR Indicator Report published in November 2023 shows that although progress has been made since the first indicator report published in 2021, burden and responsibility-sharing remains highly unequal among States at a time when numbers of refugees are growing. The growing refugee situation could be more effectively addressed with the GCR as the blueprint, but efforts need to be scaled up rapidly at all levels, including through the multi-stakeholder pledges for refugees and host communities that will be announced at the next GRF.

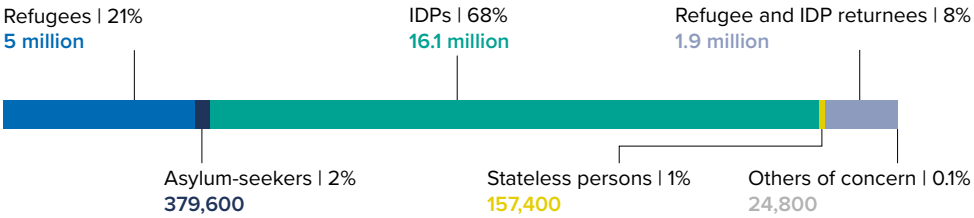
# East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes

Acel, 5, stands at her family's shelter in bushland outside the UNHCR transit centre in Renk, South Sudan, after her siblings and her mother fled from Khartoum, Sudan, and travelled for five days on trucks to reach the border.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

**2024 population planning figures**

**23.6 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **18%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

The East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region is expected to host 23.6 million forcibly displaced and stateless people by the end of 2024.

Millions have fled conflicts in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and floods and droughts stoked by climate change. Their difficulties have been exacerbated by the global economic downturn and repercussions from the war in Ukraine.

In 2024, UNHCR will prioritize emergency response, protection and basic services to stabilize populations and ensure their dignity, while pursuing opportunities for inclusion and solutions. It will support returnees in Burundi, Somalia and South Sudan, and support governments of the region to bring their Global Refugee Forum pledges to fruition. In Sudan, the conflict following the collapse of the fragile peace process in 2023 forced many thousands to flee and drove more than 1 million into neighbouring countries. Many fled to South Sudan, which also saw flare-ups of violence that caused internal and external displacement. Both countries are expected to remain fragile throughout 2024. In northern Ethiopia, the security and operating environment has gradually stabilized since a peace agreement for the Tigray region, but the Amhara, Benishangul, Gambella regions and Western Tigray remain of concern. In Somalia, the political and security environment and the ongoing impacts of a historic drought are expected to cause further displacement.

Elections scheduled between 2023 and 2025 in the DRC, Rwanda, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania may affect access to territory and asylum and opportunities for solutions, particularly where State actors instrumentalize displaced populations to achieve political ends. Election-related violence and instability may also cause new or secondary displacement, and onward movements within the region.

UNHCR will support efforts to keep asylum access open and will press the international community to take a greater share of responsibility for protecting

and assisting displaced people, as well as helping them to return safely, resettle elsewhere or integrate locally. While some countries exhibit great generosity, the region may witness a progressive tightening of asylum regimes in the face of protracted situations. UNHCR will support interventions that safeguard access to asylum procedures and protection, contribute to the reform of legal and policy frameworks that address statelessness and the risk of statelessness, and expand refugee inclusion in national systems.

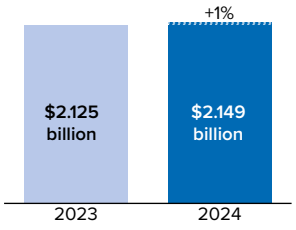
UNHCR's regional budget of $2.149 billion is 1% higher than the current 2023 budget. Low funding would preclude all but the most vital life-saving support, while full funding would give people who have been forced to flee a chance to return to full and productive lives.

UNHCR's plans include aiming for 99% of births to be attended by skilled medical personnel in Ethiopia and ensuring at least 85% of refugees in Somalia know where to access gender-based violence services. In Uganda, UNHCR will aim for at least 55% of refugee and asylum-seeking children to be enrolled in the national education school system. In Kenya, UNHCR will seek solutions via complementary pathways for 150 refugees in 2024. An estimated 500,000 forcibly displaced people may be able to return home to Burundi and areas of Somalia and South Sudan in 2024 and, despite many pressures, countries in the region show potential for delivering comprehensive solutions. Prior to the conflict that erupted in Sudan in 2023, some 560,000 refugees were projected to need resettlement from the region in 2024. That figure will have increased due to subsequent events.

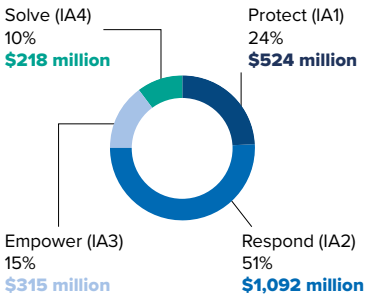
UNHCR will establish, strengthen and expand partnerships to support sustainable solutions initiatives in 2024 in Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. China, the Gulf States and Türkiye are expanding their strategic engagement in the region, which may provide opportunities for new and additional financing and a more enabling environment for comprehensive refugee responses. Regional bodies, such as the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region are also important partners in the search for solutions.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

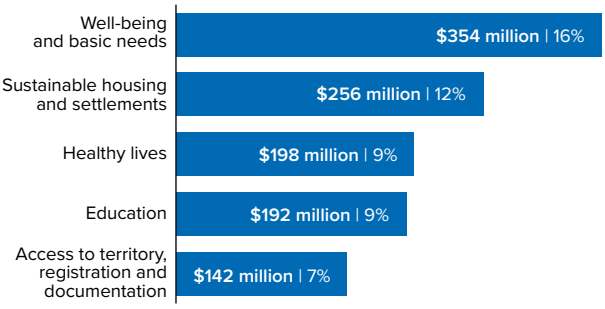
**$2.149 billion** required for 2024
**20%** of the **global budget**




## Budget by Impact Area in 2024

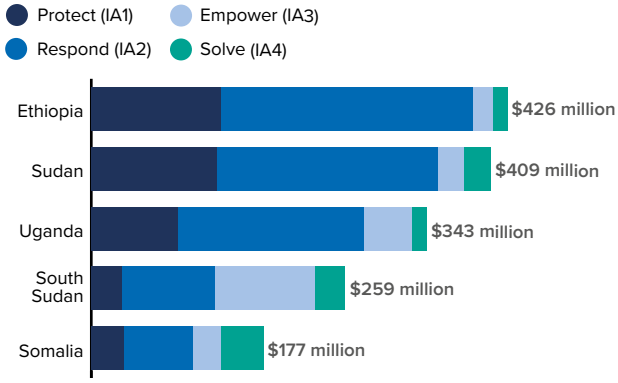



## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




Others = $1.007 billion | 47%

## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



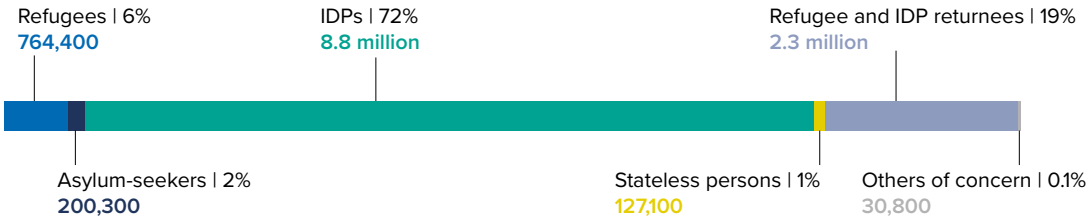
# Southern Africa

Amanzi Amade Bacar is a fisherman who has fled and returned several times from and to his house in Bagala, Mozambique. His hope now is to return to his original livelihood.

© UNHCR/Lara Bommers

**2024 population planning figures**

**12.2 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **9%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

The number of forcibly displaced people, returnees, and stateless people in the 16 countries of the southern Africa region is expected to rise to 12.2 million in 2024, mostly people uprooted by the complex emergencies in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mozambique. The region also struggles with protracted displacement and mixed migration from sub-Saharan Africa.

Across southern Africa, displaced people and the communities that host them are increasingly susceptible to inequality, conflict, food insecurity, fragile systems and natural disasters. Gender-based violence and asylum restrictions are of growing concern, most notably due to the rising instability in the DRC, the forced relocation of refugees and asylum-seekers to Malawi's Dzaleka camp in 2023, and xenophobic violence in South Africa and elsewhere. Disease outbreaks in areas with already limited health services, and tropical storms, cyclones, and severe drought, exacerbated by the El Niño weather phenomenon, are expected to bring devastation to communities across the region.

The deterioration of fragile economies will hamper supply chains and heighten competition for resources, interrupting the availability of food. Lastly, the withdrawal of MONUSCO from the DRC after the presidential elections in late 2023 will expose millions to violence, insecurity, and displacement.

UNHCR has budgeted needs of $492.2 million for the region in 2024, a 4% increase from the 2023 budget. In the past few years, underfunding of UNHCR's activities in southern Africa has increased due to donor fatigue and competing emergencies, obliging the Office to make painful reductions in critical areas such as health, education and shelter. Amid an even more dire funding outlook in 2024, UNHCR will focus on five areas: asylum space, protection, community empowerment, solutions and inclusion. Its activities will aim to address current and upcoming challenges and ensure a sustainable response.

To increase asylum space, combat statelessness and ensure displaced people have full access to their rights, UNHCR will support national asylum

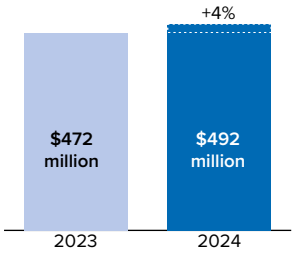
authorities to strengthen the registration of people in need of international protection, and to process asylum claims rapidly, fairly and efficiently. In the DRC, which hosts the largest number of refugees and asylum-seekers in southern Africa, UNHCR will seek to provide documents for at least 80% of this population and ensure 66% of births are registered with civil authorities. UNHCR will collaborate with regional entities such as the Southern Africa Development Community to advance the implementation of the regional roadmap on asylum systems and the regional migration policy framework. UNHCR will advocate for States' ratification and full adoption of relevant international frameworks, while engaging with other stakeholders to address mixed flows and onward movements.

Protection will be the mainstay of UNHCR's activities. In the DRC, training on safer and sustainable building techniques for local workers will ensure that UNHCR's shelter assistance is compliant with international standards and that environmental impact and hazard mitigation is integrated into activities. In Mozambique, UNHCR will promote climate-smart agriculture and circular economy practices, enhancing emergency preparedness for natural disasters. Across the region, UNHCR will invest in its work on gender-based violence and child protection and will bolster accountability processes and seek to involve the whole spectrum of community members in decision-making and awareness-raising efforts.

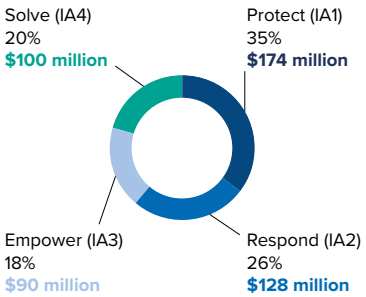
UNHCR will pursue durable solutions to the plight of refugees in southern Africa, with 63,000 needing resettlement in 2024. Others will need support for voluntary repatriation, including to Burundi, the Central African Republic and the DRC, and UNHCR will explore innovative responses and complementary pathways. To increase people's self-reliance and help their integration into the community, UNHCR will work with States, donors and development actors to advance pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum, ensure the inclusion of refugees in national systems and boost links between humanitarian, development and peace efforts in refugee-hosting areas, with a goal of shifting from emergency assistance towards sustainable solutions.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

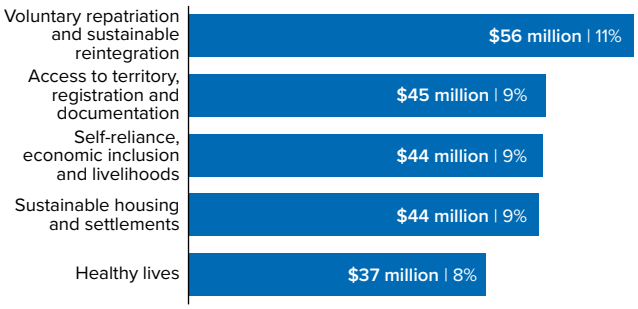
**$492 million** required for 2024
**5%** of the **global budget**




## Budget by Impact Area in 2024

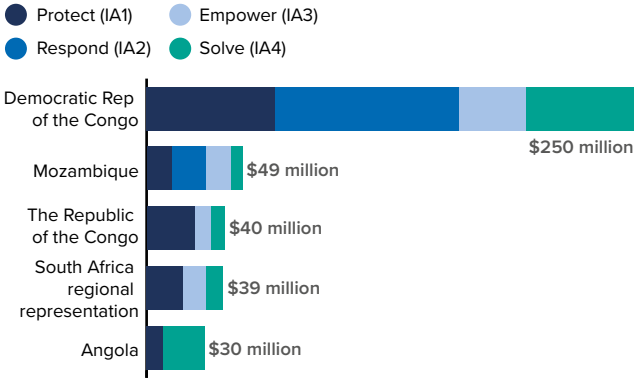



## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




Others = $266 million | 54%

## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



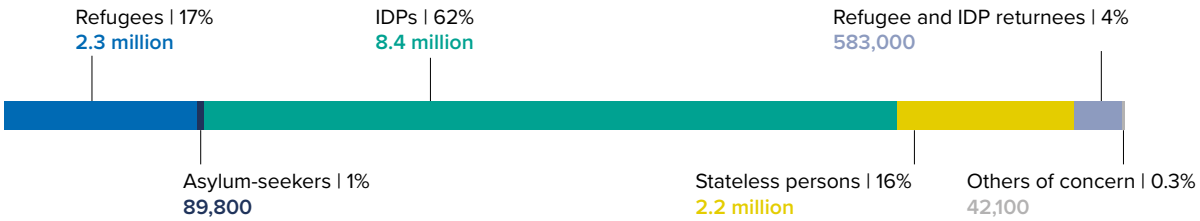
# West and Central Africa

A refugee family from Darfur, Sudan, flees across the border to Adre, Chad.

© UNHCR/Jutta Seidel

**2024 population planning figures**

**13.6 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **10%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

Political instability and armed conflict in West and Central Africa are expected to drive the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people up by 9% to 13.6 million in 2024, 8.4 million of them internally displaced. New conflicts, increased competition over resources due to the effects of climate change, poverty and inflation are increasing humanitarian needs.

The region has endured protracted displacement and long-standing conflicts in Chad and around the Lake Chad Basin, and the new crisis in Sudan has driven more refugees into Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), where humanitarian needs have outstripped the response. Political instability and worsening insecurity in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger has led to new arrivals in the coastal countries of Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Togo, and more are expected in 2024.

UNHCR's budget, reflecting expected needs of $1.011 billion in 2024, 4% higher than the latest 2023 budget, will fund emergency preparedness and response, protection, solutions and partnerships.

Enhancing emergency preparedness and response includes updating and establishing contingency plans and early warning systems. UNHCR will establish a consolidated multi-country office in Abidjan, covering Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia and Togo, ensuring efficiency and greater proximity to areas of intervention in the Sahel response, and focusing on reinforcing Governments' and communities' capacities to support and include forcibly displaced and stateless people. On protection, UNHCR will assist Governments in the face of a progressively challenging landscape marked by a fragile protection space, advocating for access to territory, supporting legal reforms for asylum, and encouraging ratification of international agreements. UNHCR will assist the Governments of Ghana and Niger with reforms of their asylum frameworks to ensure refugee status determination procedures are efficient and of a high standard. UNHCR will provide technical support to Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Nigeria to domesticate the Kampala Convention on internal displacement. Enhancing the collection, analysis and efficient use of protection data is a priority. The Inter-Agency protection monitoring system Project 21 will be expanded in the Sahel countries and extended to CAR and coastal

countries to inform evidence-based protection response and targeted advocacy.

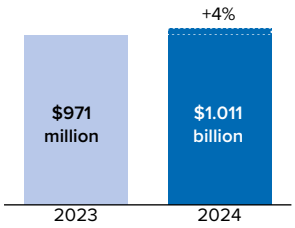
UNHCR will focus on gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response programming from the onset of any emergency, and dedicate specific attention to promoting partnership with local women-led organizations and advocacy for the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless gender-based violence survivors into national social services. In Niger, for example, UNHCR aims for 70% of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs to have access to available gender-based violence services.

In the search for durable solutions, UNHCR will help put the "Secretary-General's action agenda on internal displacement" into action, with the CAR, Chad, Niger and Nigeria among 16 pilot countries receiving targeted support for resolving internal displacement in a combined humanitarian, development and peacebuilding effort. UNHCR will seek voluntary returns and area-based initiatives, in line with the objectives of the "High-Level conference on the Lake Chad Region" and the Lake Chad Basin Governors' Forum in 2023. UNHCR will work to consolidate the solutions platform for the CAR situation that was launched in October 2023, answering the call of the 2022 Yaoundé Declaration, and will offer technical assistance for national action plans and a comprehensive response involving returns and socioeconomic integration.

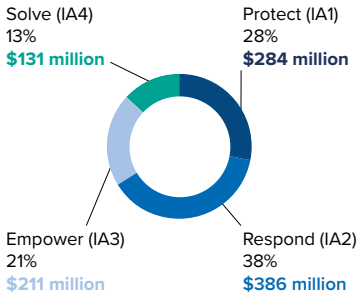
Over 59,000 refugees are expected to return to Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria in 2024. UNHCR will ensure refugees wishing to return are equipped to make well-informed decisions and that returns occur in conditions of safety and dignity. UNHCR will aim to strengthen partnerships with the World Bank and the African Development Bank and, in line with Global Compact on Refugees, will seek development actors' support for people's integration and reintegration in hosting and return areas, and their inclusion in national plans and services. UNHCR will continue to support naturalization processes for refugees who have spent decades in asylum, such as Mauritanians in Senegal and Mali. Approximately 112,000 vulnerable refugees in the region are expected to need resettlement, and UNHCR will aim to expand complementary pathways such as student visas, labour mobility schemes or family reunifications.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

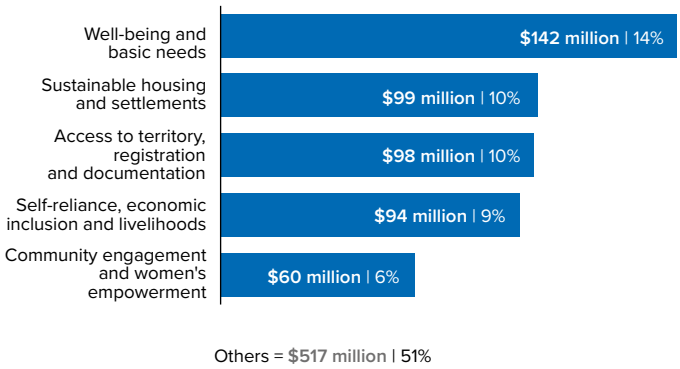
**$1.011 billion** required for 2024
**10%** of the **global budget**



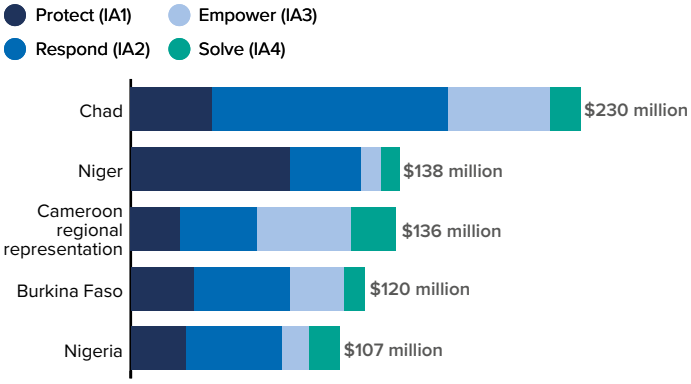

## Budget by Impact Area in 2024




## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



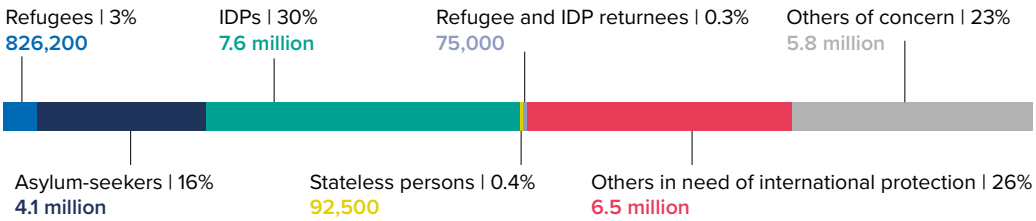
# The Americas

A record number of refugees and migrants crossed Panama's Darién jungle in 2023, and comparable numbers are expected in 2024.

© UNHCR/Ilaria Rapido Ragozzino

**2024 population planning figures**

**25 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **19%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

The Americas face multiple overlapping and growing displacement situations. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Central America, Mexico and Haiti have all experienced further significant displacement, and in 2024, the region's forcibly displaced and stateless population is expected to reach 25 million, having almost doubled since 2018, as violence, insecurity, inequality, persecution and human rights violations go unresolved. UNHCR works in English, French, Dutch, Portuguese and Spanish in the Americas, with 238 partners and over 269 partner agreements, 72% of them with local and refugee-led or IDP-led NGOs. UNHCR and its partners aim to ensure access to territory, asylum capacity, legal stay arrangements, documentation, civil registration, and inclusion in national services. Within limited resources, they will prioritize temporary shelter and other reception mechanisms, psychosocial support, legal counselling and other protection services. UNHCR will invest in trusted information platforms such as the R4V Service Mapping, the Confía en el Jaguar ("Trust the Jaguar") information network on Facebook, and the Confía en el Tucán ("Trust the Toucan") social media campaign. UNHCR and partners will ramp up efforts to engage with communities, particularly children and youth, people with disabilities, survivors of gender-based violence, and LGBTIQ+ people at risk. UNHCR will expand its work with international development and financial institutions to broaden support for host governments and host community programmes that can help open or expand fiscal space for countries absorbing large numbers of refugees and migrants, and reincentivize their welcoming policies. UNHCR works with development actors and the private sector to support inclusion and integration efforts, expanded job opportunities, health, education and housing for refugees and host communities.

In Mexico, where UNHCR has helped to match asylum-seekers' profiles and the workforce needs of more than 500 companies, over 35,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have been employed through a relocation from southern Mexico to 11 central and northern cities with a demand for workers. In Peru, a scheme launched by UNHCR and partners to promote labour inclusion has so far recognized 15 "inclusive companies". In Brazil, the internal voluntary relocation known as *interiorização* is a strategy within Operation Welcome that facilitates the socioeconomic integration of Venezuelan refugees and migrants. As of September 2023, more than 114,000 Venezuelans have been relocated to some 1,000 municipalities across the entire country. An unprecedented 400,000 people, 63% of them Venezuelans, crossed Panama's Darién jungle in the first nine months of 2023, an almost threefold increase on 2022,

and comparable numbers are expected in 2024. Reception mechanisms, already strained, are overwhelmed. Under the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in Central America and Mexico, UNHCR will provide targeted support to National Action Plans, the Regional Action Plan, and regional working groups on protection and solutions. Although some refugees and migrants will return to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, more are expected to leave, with 7.3 million across Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024. UNHCR and IOM, co-leading the Regional Inter-agency Coordination Platform and its Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan, will ensure a consistent inter-agency response across 17 countries and will support the Quito Process, an intergovernmental initiative to harmonize policies in receiving countries.

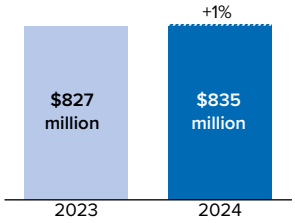
In Colombia, one of the world's largest internally displaced populations will grow further, as dissidents of the peace process and other illegal armed groups compete for territorial and social control. UNHCR will seek to strengthen networks providing protection, legal assistance, shelter and other services, and those advocating for the prevention of forced recruitment.

In Haiti, an estimated 5.2 million people will need assistance. UNHCR will launch local community-based support activities to prevent gangs recruiting youth and will give the protection cluster technical support for Government-led civil registration efforts. UNHCR and partners will advocate for increased protection measures for Haitians and respond to the needs of 200,000 Haitian asylum-seekers and refugees across the region.

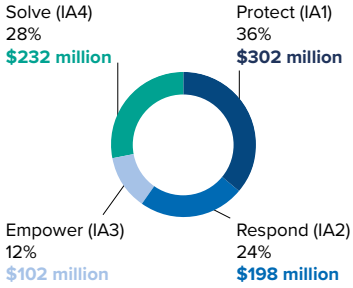
UNHCR will seek comprehensive, coordinated regional responses in 2024, and new avenues to protection, asylum, and lawful entry and stay, in line with the 2022 Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection and other regional initiatives. The 40th commemoration of the 1984 Cartagena Declaration on Refugees and the 2023 Global Refugee Forum will provide further opportunities for initiatives on law, policies and innovative solutions. Approximately 106,000 vulnerable refugees in the region will need resettlement in 2024. UNHCR's regional needs-based 2024 budget of $834.6 million represents a 1% increase from the current 2023 requirements. With funding under pressure, operations in the region will consolidate staffing structures.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

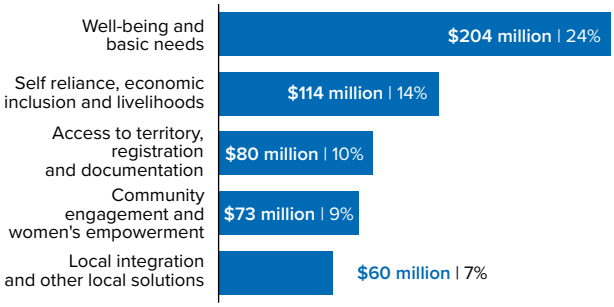
**$835 million** required for 2024
**8%** of the **global budget**




## Budget by Impact Area in 2024

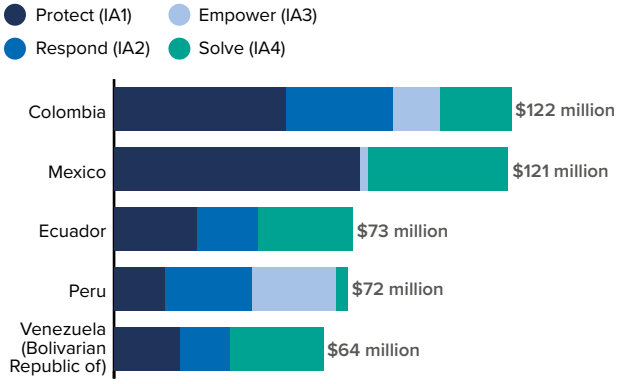



## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




Others = $304 million | 36%

## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



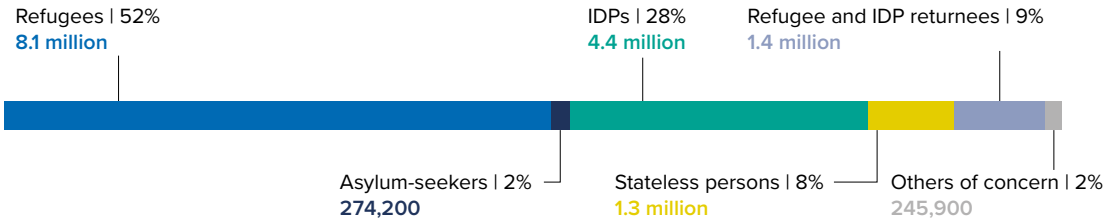
# Asia and the Pacific

UNHCR supports Rohingya refugees living with disabilities in Kutupalong, Bangladesh.

© UNHCR/Saikat Mojumder

**2024 population planning figures**

**15.6 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **12%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

2024 begins against a bleak backdrop in Asia and the Pacific: frequent humanitarian crises and climate-induced emergencies, crippling insecurity and economic instability, and a decline in funding to support a projected 15.6 million forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region, where two complex situations are major causes of forced displacement and statelessness: Afghanistan and Myanmar.

Across the region, UNHCR will seek the inclusion and empowerment of people who have been forced to flee and will aim to bring a sustainable end to their forced displacement, while easing the pressure on host communities. In 2024, UNHCR will prioritize education, livelihoods, health, mental health and psychosocial support. It will bolster multi-stakeholder approaches and partnerships, joining forces to advocate on behalf of displaced people in ways that enhance their resilience and facilitate their inclusion in national systems, such as those achieved in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In support of the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, UNHCR will assist in stabilizing the two big internally displaced populations in the region and will support protection-sensitive IDP returns. In Afghanistan, 60,000 refugees and 300,000 IDPs could return in 2024, and UNHCR will continue its role as a catalyst for attracting investment into the 80 Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration. In line with the priorities of the Global Compact on Refugees to advance long-term planning, UNHCR will shift from a one-year to a multi-year inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan for Afghanistan to promote improved access to asylum and protection, and to support resilience, inclusion and solutions.

Displacement in Myanmar is expected to push the IDP population up to 2.3 million in 2024. UNHCR will work to secure more predictable and regular access in 2024 to meet the basic needs of those displaced, both inside Myanmar and in neighbouring countries. UNHCR will engage local NGOs and community-based organizations to scale up the delivery of assistance and bolster protection and displacement monitoring.

Until conditions allow large-scale voluntary returns, UNHCR will work with partners to support the almost

1 million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. UNHCR will continue pursuing comprehensive approaches to solutions for Rohingya refugees and access to education and portable skills development opportunities. It will also support mental health and psychosocial support programmes and child protection services for 47,000 children, adolescents and caregivers.

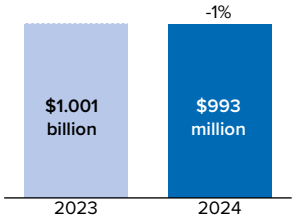
UNHCR will advocate for a comprehensive regional response to address the rise in onward movements in South-East Asia.

Overall, an estimated 730,000 vulnerable refugees in the region are in need of resettlement. UNHCR will seek resettlement opportunities for 31,400 Rohingya and 12,800 Afghan refugees in 2024 and will shore up support for complementary pathways for refugees in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia and Pakistan. It will seek solutions for more than 90,000 Myanmar refugees in Thailand, for whom voluntary repatriation remains suspended. UNHCR will also enhance partnerships and activities to enable additional opportunities for solutions through family reunification, labour mobility, education and sponsorship.

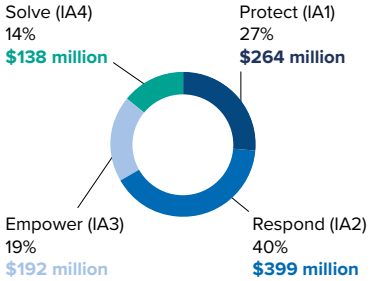
In 2024, Asia is expected to host over half of all the people under UNHCR's statelessness mandate. Central Asian countries have made significant advances to end statelessness, with Uzbekistan alone confirming the nationality of over 10,000 individuals in 2022, and UNHCR will accelerate advocacy for States to accede to the statelessness conventions and address gaps in birth registration and national legal frameworks for citizenship, in line with the "Global action plan to end statelessness 2014–2024". UNHCR will assist 1,000 stateless persons and those with undetermined nationality with confirmation or acquisition of nationality in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In Thailand, UNHCR will seek to raise 3,000 people's awareness of statelessness issues, including government partners. With climate change disproportionately affecting the region, UNHCR will advance its regional "Climate action plan 2023–2025" by emphasizing the need to include forcibly displaced and stateless people in national adaptation and disaster risk reduction plans, promoting climate-smart and sustainable environmental programming, investing in renewable energy, and mobilizing support through a risk-based approach.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

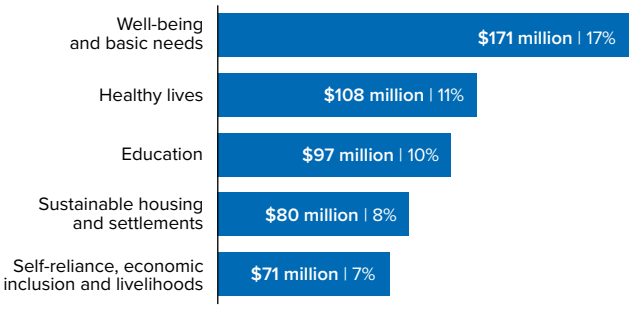
**$993 million** required for 2024
**9%** of the **global budget**




## Budget by Impact Area in 2024

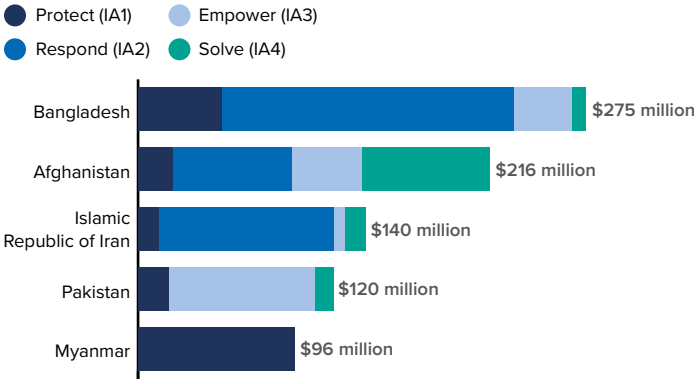



## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




Others = $466 million | 47%

## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



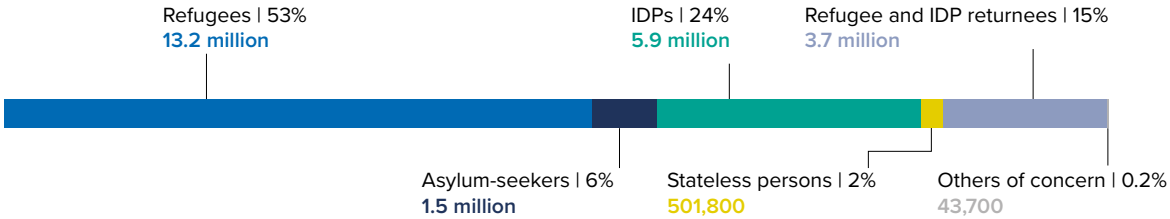
# Europe

UNHCR and partners responded after a large missile attack on Lviv, Ukraine.

© UNHCR/Olga Borymchuk

**2024 population planning figures**

**24.9 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **19%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

Europe's forcibly displaced and stateless population is projected to increase by 2% in 2024, to 24.9 million people. The war in Ukraine is exacting a brutal toll, with a forecast of 5.8 million refugees across the region and over 3.7 million people displaced inside Ukraine in 2024. Further displacement can be expected, especially over the cold winter, as military strikes target civilian infrastructure. UNHCR anticipates modest levels of spontaneous voluntary returns by refugees and internally displaced people. With the European Union (EU)'s Temporary Protection of Ukrainian refugees extended until March 2025, EU States will continue hosting refugees and providing protection and access to vital services including education, health and employment.

Inside Ukraine, UNHCR is reinforcing its presence close to the front lines. It will prioritize cash distributions to vulnerable people directly affected by the war; support for IDPs' and returnees' early recovery needs, such as shelter; assistance to State-run temporary accommodation; and winterization as part of the coordinated inter-agency response. Winterization includes targeted cash top-ups, core relief items, improvement of reception facilities, and housing repairs for over 900,000 individuals. In 2024, UNHCR will also provide 200,000 IDPs and returnees with legal assistance to obtain civil status and property documentation, while 140,000 individuals will be reached with emergency shelter support and durable house repair.

UNHCR will coordinate the Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), involving more than 300 partners in 11 countries, with the aim of identifying and supporting the most vulnerable, fostering greater inclusion and social cohesion. UNHCR's focus will continue to shift from humanitarian assistance to supporting national and local authorities to include refugees in national services. Some small-scale, targeted cash programmes and limited stockpiles of core relief items in support of preparedness will remain in place, as will activities to strengthen the gender-based violence and child protection response, given the high proportion of women and children among the refugees. UNHCR will maintain its engagement in the Republic of Moldova, supporting 70,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with obtaining civil status, identity or legal status documentation, while continuing cash assistance for vulnerable individuals. "Blue Dot hubs" will provide information and referrals to specialized services, and UNHCR community centres will offer language and vocational activities to support refugees' inclusion.

Sea arrivals in Italy, Spain and Greece continue along with overland mixed movements through south-eastern Europe. UNHCR's support for national authorities will aim to ensure arriving refugees can access asylum, receive adequate assistance and information, and have opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion. UNHCR will continue calling for broader solidarity with States at the external borders of the European Union receiving the vast majority of arrivals, and will advocate for effective access to territory, protection and rights, irrespective of a refugee's country of origin.

The security situation in the South Caucasus remains unpredictable, after more than 100,000 refugees fled into Armenia in September-October 2023. UNHCR's engagement in support of all displaced populations in the region will continue.

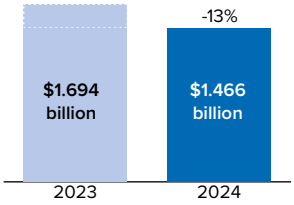
Türkiye is among the top refugee-hosting countries globally, hosting 3.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers. Many were affected by the devastating 2023 earthquakes. UNHCR will provide 175,000 refugees and asylum-seekers with case processing and protection services, and refer 186,000 to specialized services. Social cohesion activities will target 45,000 refugees and host community members. UNHCR will support the authorities to include refugees in national services and will co-lead the Regional Refugee & Resilience Plan (3RP).

UNHCR will advocate at EU-level for 44,000 refugees to be resettled to EU member States in 2024, in addition to support for complementary pathways. UNHCR will target 20,000 refugees for resettlement, both within the EU and beyond, out of the 384,000 refugees in Türkiye in need of resettlement – mainly Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis.

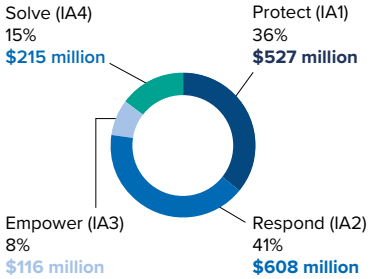
UNHCR's budget for the region will decline by 13% in 2024 due to a smaller footprint in host countries neighbouring Ukraine and the discontinuation of the state of emergency in the eleven provinces affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and transfer of earthquake activities into the main response. Funding for inclusion and solutions will increase. In the case of a funding shortfall, there will be less cash assistance for vulnerable displaced people, less shelter support for IDPs and returnees, and less assistance to State and local authorities for temporary accommodation and winterization.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

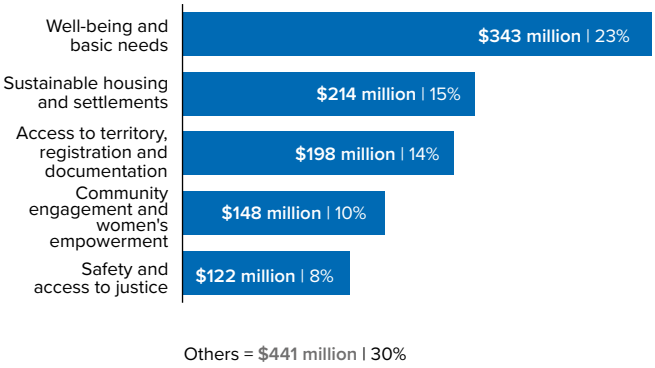
**$1.466 billion** required for 2024
**14%** of the **global budget**



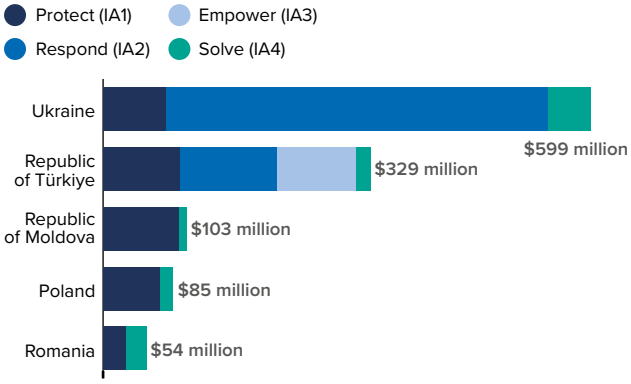

## Budget by Impact Area in 2024



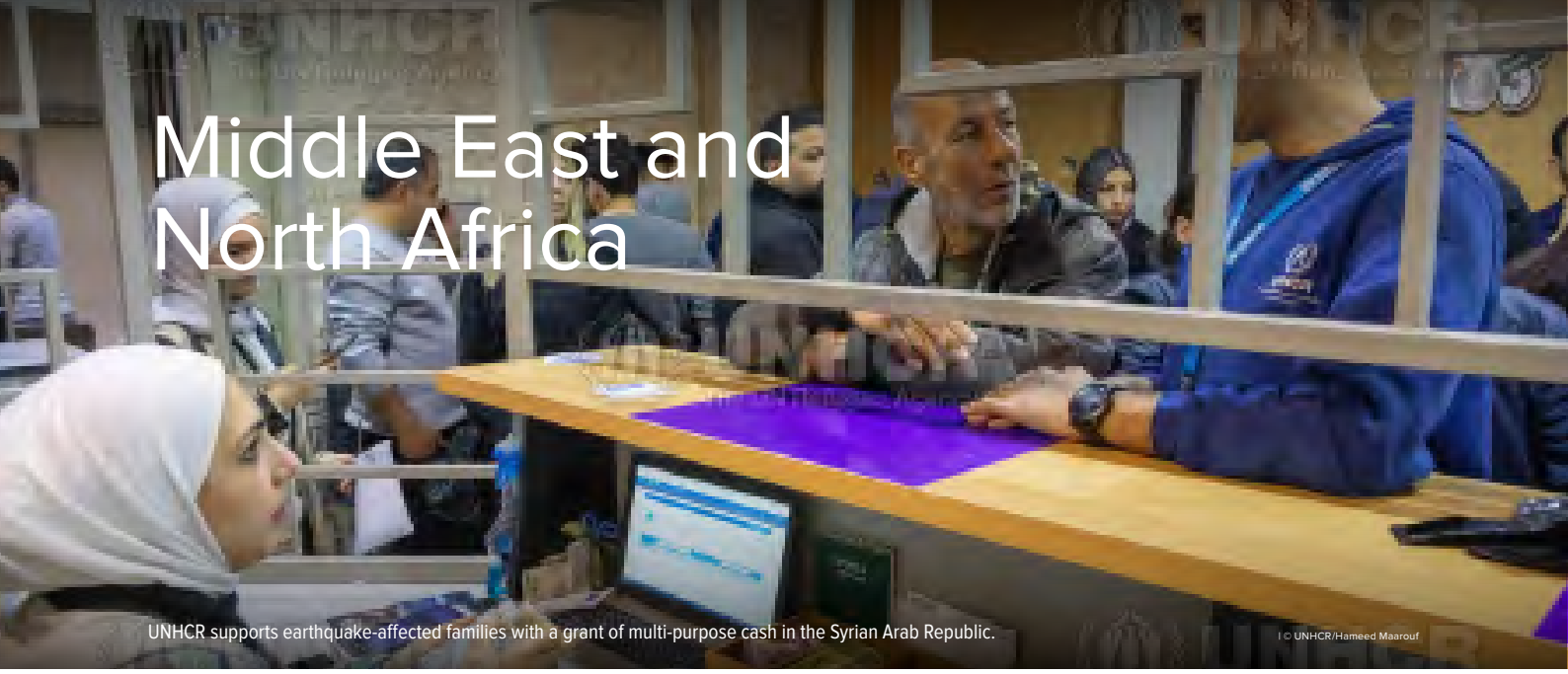

## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



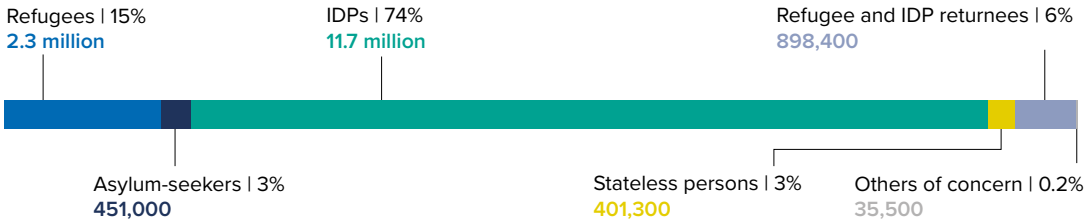
# Middle East and North Africa



UNHCR supports earthquake-affected families with a grant of multi-purpose cash in the Syrian Arab Republic. | © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

**2024 population planning figures**

**15.8 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people[1] | **12%** of global total




[1] Please see definitions of population types on UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder website.

## Regional overview

The region's protracted humanitarian crises and political and security challenges will continue in 2024. A string of new emergencies struck the region in 2023, adding to existing crises, while the war in Ukraine reversed some of the economic gains made since the pandemic. The latest shocks include devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic, natural disasters in Morocco and Libya, and a civil war in Sudan that has driven refugees into Egypt, another country with a fragile economy.

All this increases the hardship experienced by forcibly displaced and stateless people and their host communities, exacerbating their vulnerability, depleting their resources and straining social cohesion. The risks – including exploitation, smuggling, trafficking, refoulement, expulsions, arrest and detention – increase the need for UNHCR's protection work while making it harder to bring each person's displacement or statelessness to a satisfactory end. A total of 11.7 million people in the region are expected to be displaced within their own country in 2024, and UNHCR hopes to reach 5.8 million of them with assistance.

The Syria crisis remains the region's largest cause of displacement, with over 5.3 million registered Syrian refugees in Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Africa. Syrians are still being displaced and conditions are not conducive to large-scale voluntary returns, with fewer than 40,000 returning in the first nine months of 2023. Support for refugee-hosting countries is crucial. In Lebanon, for example, one of the largest refugee-hosting countries in the world, nine out of 10 refugees live in extreme poverty.

Resettlement and complementary pathways remain the most viable solution to forced displacement in the region. Including Syrians in Türkiye, 848,000 vulnerable refugees will need resettlement from the region in 2024, 753,000 of them Syrian. Syrians are the nationality with the highest resettlement needs globally.

Movements from sub-Saharan Africa towards North Africa, combined with fewer safe routes to asylum, add to the pressures on UNHCR's systems and resources. Sea departures have significantly increased from the Horn of Africa to Yemen, where two thirds of the population depend on humanitarian

assistance and the protracted conflict still produces localized escalations around contested areas. In 2024, UNHCR plans to increase cash assistance in Yemen for IDPs and returnees and shift towards sustainable local settlements.

Where possible, UNHCR will press for people's inclusion in national services and social protection systems. Progress is foreseen in Mauritania and in Iraq, where people will be included in public services instead of receiving individual humanitarian assistance, resulting in a reduction in UNHCR's staffing and budgeted needs for 2024.

UNHCR will pursue advocacy with governments, leveraging Global Refugee Forum pledges, and stronger partnerships, to ensure protection and safety, especially for those who are unable to repatriate. In conjunction with UNDP and partners, UNHCR will seek to update the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), the main platform for coordination, planning, advocacy, fundraising and programming in the Syria crisis.

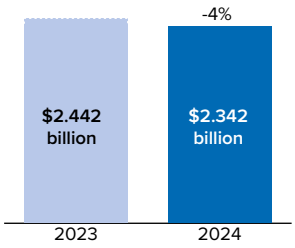
To address the effects of climate change on displacement, UNHCR will enhance early warning, early action and early recovery plans in Mauritania, where 60% of the population live in highly water-stressed areas, and in Iraq, where 20,000 people have been displaced by droughts in central and southern governorates. Area-based programming will focus on strengthening resilience and reduce vulnerability to enable forcibly displaced and host communities' positive coping mechanisms and recovery from the impacts of climate change, including onward or new forced displacement.

UNHCR will continue engaging with development and humanitarian actors and other Global Compact on Refugees partners to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in line with the "Operational strategy for climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022-2025".

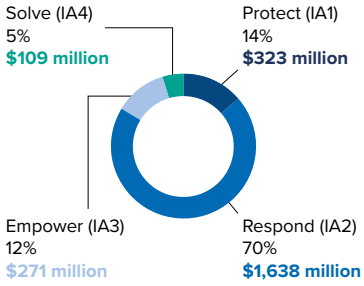
Overall, the 2024 proposed budget will decrease by $99.9 million, or 4%, compared to the 2023 current budget, partly due to the temporary needs arising from the earthquake, and the transition in Iraq. By the end of 2024, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region is projected to decrease to 15.8 million, or by 2%.

## Regional budget 2023/2024

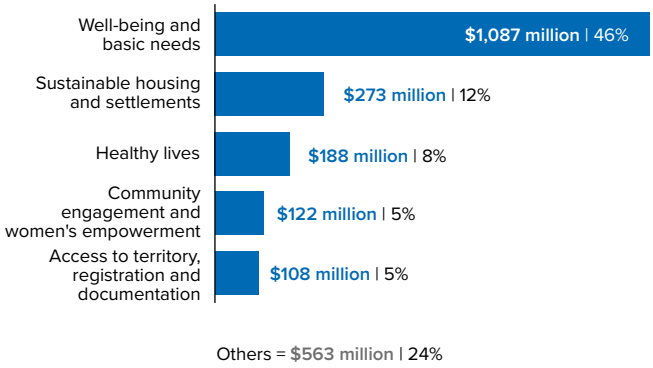
**$2.342 billion** required for 2024
**22%** of the **global budget**



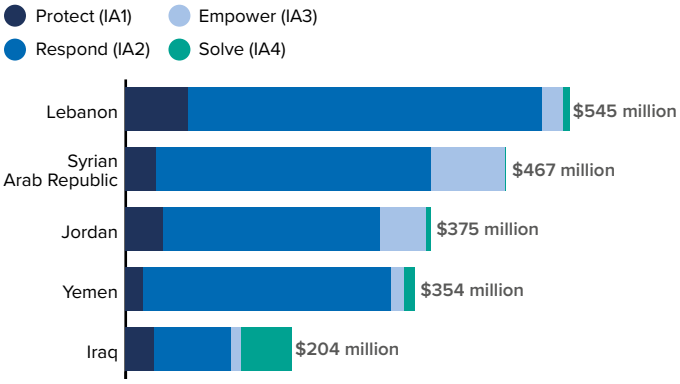

## Budget by Impact Area in 2024




## Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2024




## Top 5 operations by budget in 2024



Focus Area

When full-scale war erupted in Ukraine, Margaryta, 20, fled westward with her baby son Pavlo, leaving their home in Molochansk for the city of Lviv. She says her life was very difficult but things improved after she came to the "Unbroken" centre, which provides social housing and services for women forced to leave their homes during the war.

© UNHCR/Jordi Matas

# Internal displacement

## Global needs in 2024

UNHCR projects that the number of people who are internally displaced due to conflict and violence will reach almost 63 million in 2024.

Globally, the right to be protected from internal displacement continues to be undermined. Most situations where UNHCR works are in active conflict areas and characterized by recurrent violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, particularly against civilians. Drought, food insecurity and other climate-related disasters are increasing people's vulnerability, disrupting their livelihoods and increasing displacement.

UNHCR's needs-based budget for the year includes almost $2 billion for IDP programmes. In Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, the humanitarian situation will remain a driver of internal displacement. The number of people returning from internal displacement is expected to increase in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Ukraine and Yemen.

Tackling the challenge of internal displacement means advocating for and reinforcing the primary responsibility of States, including non-State parties to conflicts where relevant, to assist and protect people in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights law. It also means that protection of internally displaced people is not a separate activity but rather the principle underlying UNHCR's activities on the ground.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024 UNHCR expects to have IDP response operations underway in 36 countries, with an emphasis on protection and solutions, UNHCR's areas of expertise and comparative advantage. It will combine this operational engagement with its leading role in the clusters of aid organizations working on camp coordination and camp management (CCCM), protection and shelter.

UNHCR will ensure the lead on protection advocacy either through the protection cluster or as a stand-alone agency. UNHCR will also continue its leading efforts in joint protection analysis, centrality of protection implementation, and Accountability to Affected People (AAP).

The approach brings UNHCR closer to the people who have been displaced, builds its credibility with cluster partners and strengthens relationships with governments, especially at the local level. Helping to meet critical humanitarian needs also builds the trust required for dialogue on sensitive protection issues. Delivery at the point of displacement remains the priority. UNHCR will continue to prioritize follow-up to the recommendations of the "Independent review of the implementation of the IASC protection policy" (2022), particularly those specifically related to the Global Protection Cluster (GPC), and the High Commissioner will continue to co-champion inter-agency efforts on centrality of protection.

UNHCR will raise awareness and promote implementation of recently adopted IDP laws in countries such as Chad and Honduras, and will support reforms to strengthen the legislative and policy framework for protection and solutions for IDPs in countries such as Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria and Ukraine.

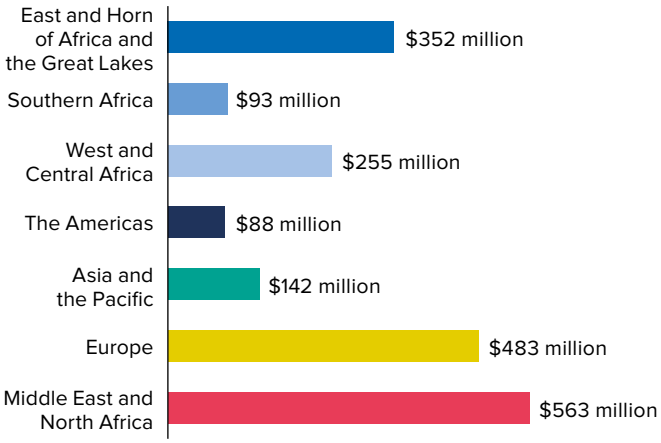
UNHCR will work to strengthen legal and policy analysis, which is key to unlocking development action, by adapting UNHCR's rights mapping tool to include IDPs. To promote strategic litigation and judicial action for IDPs' rights, it will develop a global manual on internal displacement for judicial actors and legal practitioners. In collaboration with the GPC, UNHCR will publish the annual "Global report on law and policy on internal displacement" to monitor and promote national and local action, building on UNHCR's Global Database on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement and dedicated research on the implementation and impact of existing frameworks.

To enhance its legal interventions to protect the rights of internally displaced people, the Office will seek to make better use of the sets of rules and practices that international humanitarian law offers to mitigate the impact of armed conflicts on civilian populations. These rules also aim to prevent further displacement, notably through a more methodical approach to frontline negotiation. To achieve improved protection outcomes for IDPs, this endeavour entails strengthening collaborative partnership with the Centre of Competence on Humanitarian Negotiation and other relevant partners.

### Global needs for IDP response in 2024

**$1.975 billion**
**-7%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs for IDP response



As indicated in the High Commissioner's Strategic Directions 2022-2026, UNHCR is developing an internal Strategic Action Plan to "Grow UNHCR's engagement on responses and solutions for internally displaced people". This plan will define strategies and actions for achieving measurable changes for IDPs, setting out a roadmap and milestones to monitor achievements. It will also identify barriers, opportunities, actions needed and funding requirements to promote IDP resilience and self-sufficiency.

UNHCR, the GPC and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons will continue to co-lead the IDP Protection Expert Group (IPEG) through 2024. Through targeted country support missions, as well as global advocacy, the IPEG aims to foster political will and national leadership, and to coordinate senior-level international support for protection responses. Together with IPEG and the Special Rapporteur, as well as other partners, UNHCR plans to facilitate State-to-State peer exchanges on internal displacement. This follows the success of the first Cross-Regional Forum on Implementing Laws and Policies on Internal Displacement (see video).

UNHCR will expand its community-based work with local organizations, including those led by IDP women and people with disabilities. As part of its AAP commitments and efforts, UNHCR seeks innovative approaches to ensure that IDPs, and all forcibly displaced and stateless people, have non-discriminatory access to services and can participate in a meaningful way in decisions affecting their lives. The Office will also ensure a timely life-saving response for survivors and those at risk of gender-based violence.

To help people find a way out of their displacement, UNHCR will incorporate approaches and principles that open pathways to durable solutions in its coordination, advocacy and planning/programming efforts across the displacement spectrum. This will include activities to support return and local stay, as per the preference of the individual.

The Office is committed to implementing the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, which has three goals:

- to help IDPs find a durable solution to their displacement,
- better prevent new displacement crises from emerging,
- and ensure those facing displacement receive effective protection and assistance.

In 2023 UNHCR published its "Institutional plan on solutions to internal displacement", which includes lending strong support to efforts by Resident Coordinators to develop country strategies for protection and solutions. As part of its commitments in support of the Action Agenda, UNHCR will field-test and finalize an IDP protection risk assessment tool in government-led solutions processes, to be used by Resident Coordinators and country teams.

Outcome Area 1

A family from Chad is biometrically registered in Betoko in the Central African Republic after fleeing from violence in their homeland.

© UNHCR/Stella Fatime

# Access to territory, registration and documentation

## Global needs in 2024

Access to territory, registration and documentation are fundamental first steps for those in need of international protection. Yet, border and migration management practices are, in some cases, becoming more restrictive. Some States aim to transfer protection responsibilities to other States, making it harder for people on the move to seek safety. Reported cases of arbitrary expulsion, violent pushbacks at sea or redirections violate the internationally agreed principle of non-refoulement and have led to death and suffering. In 2022, UNHCR estimates that more than 105,000 people were confirmed, likely or possibly refouled.

Once asylum-seekers and refugees cross borders, registration and issuance of documentation is crucial for access to protection, assistance and services. Forcibly displaced and stateless people often lack civil registration and identity documentation, making it difficult to enrol children in school, take up formal employment or rent or buy property. Undocumented refugees are also at higher risk of detention or deportation. Lack of civil registration and identity documents may also increase risk of statelessness, including for forcibly displaced people. In 2024, registration will be scaled up in new emergencies and UNHCR's proGres registration system will maintain active records for over 15 million people in 137 countries.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR aims to advance access to territory, registration and documentation in at least 166 countries. UNHCR will support States to implement protection-sensitive border management and strengthen their ability to meet standards of international protection and ensure access to territory, registration and documentation are in line with international refugee law. UNHCR will continue to intervene in instances of refoulement.

UNHCR will register forcibly displaced people, including IDPs in some contexts, in 137 countries. Registration and documentation will facilitate cash assistance, where required, and other basic needs.

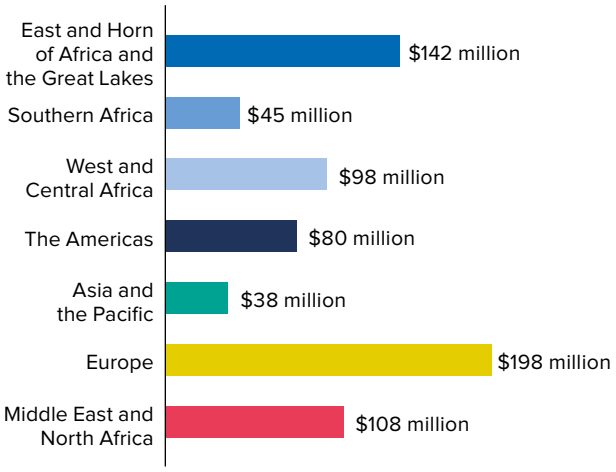
In Iraq, for example, registration includes issuance of family and individual certificates, which facilitates the issuance of legal documents by the Iraqi authorities. By the end of September 2023, 298,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered with UNHCR in Iraq, where UNHCR registration is needed to obtain a Humanitarian Residency Permit. This grants asylum-seekers and refugees access to public services and rights, including freedom of movement, participation in informal livelihoods, medical services and others. For those whose application for humanitarian residency is rejected by the authorities, UNHCR documentation serves as a protection for non-refoulement, since it is legally recognized, and UNHCR and partners can use it as grounds to advocate for release from detention, especially when detention is based on lack of legal documentation to stay in Iraq.

In Uganda, refugees and asylum-seekers can reside just about anywhere in the country. UNHCR supports the Government by biometrically registering and documenting refugees and asylum-seekers. But some refugees have to travel to reach registration centres, which are limited in number, so UNHCR will work with the authorities to increase the number of sites and the registration staff. It will also collaborate

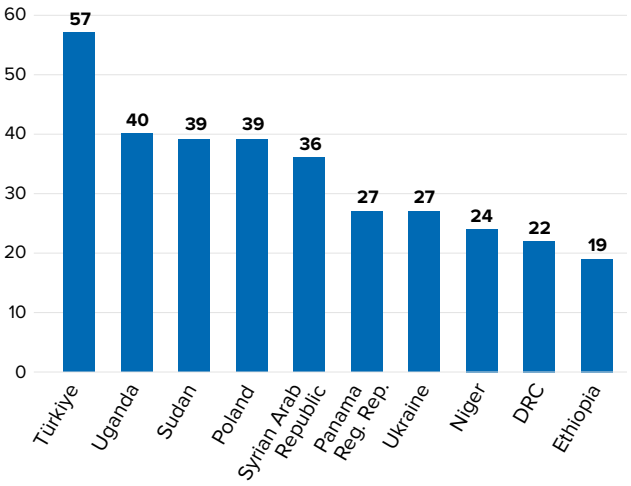
### Global needs for Access to territory, registration and documentation in 2024

**$717 million**
**-4%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Access to territory, registration and documentation (USD millions)




Others = $387 million | 54%

with the Bank of Uganda to establish procedures for identity checks in branches of commercial banks, so that refugees can use their services. Similarly, UNHCR is collaborating with the Uganda Communications Commission to open up refugees' access to mobile and telecommunications services.

UNHCR will continue improving its registration tools and will enable secure and rights-compliant data exchange functionalities with governments and partners, facilitating cash assistance and people's access to their own data. A major milestone will be the development of UNHCR's "Digital Gateway", building on the success of refugee self-enrolment platforms in the Americas ("*Movilidad Segura*") and Egypt in the context of the Sudan emergency. Part of UNHCR's Digital Transformation Strategy, with a strong component of accountability to affected people (AAP), it will provide refugees with secure and personalized access to essential information, communication channels, and UNHCR services.

In order to support the implementation of protection-sensitive entry systems in the context of mixed movement, work is underway on developing a toolkit with IOM which will compile promising practices in this and other areas. This toolkit will reinforce collaboration with key partners via the new IOM/UNHCR "Framework of engagement".

UNHCR will train staff through the specialized Emergency Registration Learning Programme and place them on the Emergency Response Team roster so that they are on standby to scale up registration activities in emergencies across the globe with 72 hours' notice.

## Core indicators

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on an individual basis

Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority

Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials

## A sample of core outcome indicators

1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on an individual basis

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 74% | 78% | 80% |
| Iraq | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Niger | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 78% | 88% | 100% |
| Türkiye | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Uganda | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 94% | 100% | 100% |

Outcome Area 2

When conflict erupted in Sudan in April 2023, Carolina (10) and Hanin (7) fled from Khartoum, where they were living with their grandmother, to join their mother Rauth and their baby sister Flora in Cairo, Egypt. Unable to return home, the family turned to the UNHCR registration centre, seeking international protection. Once the conditions allow, they would like to return.

© UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

# Status determination

## Global needs in 2024

Robust mechanisms to identify people with international protection needs, known as refugee status determination (RSD) or asylum procedures, are central to States' ability to provide protection to refugees and others in need of international protection.

Given the increasing number of people on the move and more complex types of movements, fair and efficient RSD procedures are vital for quick identification of those needing international protection as opposed to those moving for other reasons. These same high numbers and complexities have put asylum systems under strain. Without improved efficiency and investment in asylum systems, backlogs will continue to build up. Individuals may wait years for a decision and it will be increasingly difficult to return those who are ultimately found not to have international protection needs.

In about 45 countries – primarily in the Middle East, North Africa and Asia and the Pacific – where no fair and efficient asylum system is in place, UNHCR undertakes RSD directly ("mandate RSD") to achieve a specific protection or solutions benefit.

To address the situation of stateless persons in a migratory context, statelessness determination procedures enable authorities to recognize statelessness status and grant a core set of rights to those affected. Only around 25 States have established dedicated statelessness determination procedures that result in a legal status that allows residence and the enjoyment of their human rights. Otherwise, stateless migrants often have no

pathway to regularizing their stay, are denied enjoyment of rights and remain vulnerable to detention, expulsion and exploitation.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will engage in RSD-related work in more than 132 countries, either by strengthening the asylum system or by undertaking refugee determination directly under its mandate.

With funding declining, UNHCR will focus on supporting priority areas for maximum impact: improving laws and policy frameworks related to asylum systems; supporting the implementation of diversified RSD processes, such as a *prima facie* approach to the recognition of refugee status; and helping to increase institutional and staff capacity to deliver fair asylum decisions efficiently. This will be done by providing technical support and advice, access to global expertise, increasing the engagement of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, and specific guidance on core topics.

For example, in Mexico, South Africa and Türkiye, UNHCR gives guidance and advice on maintaining fairness in asylum procedures, such as access to an effective appeal, while supporting increased efficiency.

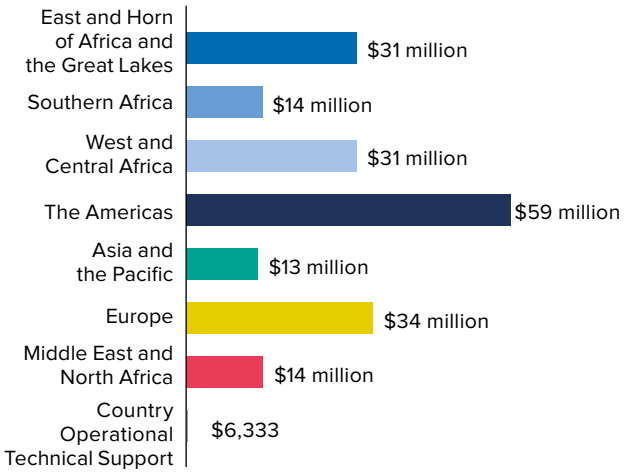
UNHCR will expand the exchange between States and other stakeholders through the dialogue platform of the Asylum Capacity Support Group (ACSG) established under the Global Compact on Refugees. The platform will enable States to call for support if they need it, enhance their expertise and resolve problems.

UNHCR will also issue guidance and tools for status determination, including country of origin information and country guidance documents, particularly for refugee-producing countries and those for which information is lacking. An asylum capacity assessment tool will enable States to assess and improve their systems. In line with its route-based approach to mixed movement, UNHCR will also provide tools and resources to support States in quickly processing manifestly well-founded

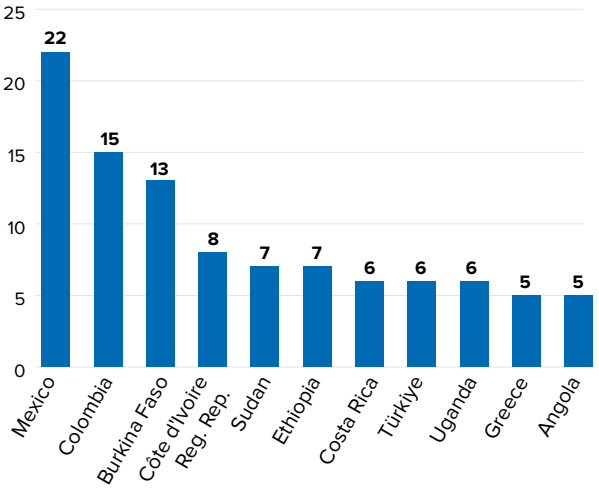
### Global needs for Status determination in 2024

**$197 million**
**-13%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Status determination (USD millions)




Others = $97 million | 49%

or unfounded applications, to ensure prompt access to asylum and reduce backlogs.

UNHCR will issue a global multi-year asylum capacity development strategy in 2024, outlining how it will bring together national, regional and development actors and international financing institutions for a broader base of support.

In 45 countries where there is no fair and efficient asylum system in place, UNHCR will continue implementing mandate RSD. Building on previous work in implementing the RSD Procedural Standards, UNHCR will keep assessing its engagement so that it only conducts mandate RSD when there are clear benefits for protection or solutions. It will streamline mandate RSD processes to be as efficient as possible, while maintaining quality.

In States that lack dedicated statelessness determination procedures, especially those with large numbers of stateless migrants, UNHCR will engage in legislative processes and advocacy to strengthen laws and policies for the identification and protection of stateless people. UNHCR will support States with insufficient procedures to bring their status determination systems into line with international standards.

## Core indicators

Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision

Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation

Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim

## A sample of core outcome indicators

2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mexico | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| South Africa | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 60% | 60% | 70% |
| Türkiye | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Outcome Area 3

A Ukrainian refugee is assisted by a staff member at the Blue Dot in Varna, Bulgaria, who shares information about the services available to her. Ukrainian refugees can access psychosocial support, health care referrals and other support from the Blue Dot, one of five in Bulgaria.

© UNHCR/Dobrin Kashavelov

# Protection policy and law

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

## Global needs in 2024

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol provide the foundation for international protection and solutions and the access to basic services and rights. 149 of the 193 UN Member States are party to the Convention, the Protocol, or both. But refugees often face legal or practical obstacles, and 65 States maintain reservations, mostly limiting the rights of refugees in areas such as work and freedom of movement. Similar challenges arise in countries not party to the conventions, often leaving people seeking safety without a legal basis for accessing their rights.

Ensuring the right to a nationality depends on an appropriate legal framework and its effective implementation. The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are the cornerstones of the international legal framework on the protection of stateless people and the right to a nationality. In 2023, 97 countries are party to the 1954 Convention and 79 are party to the 1961 Convention. Many countries have improved their legislation to prevent statelessness and protect stateless people, and some have taken significant steps to grant nationality to stateless people, but further efforts are needed to prevent statelessness and find solutions. Tackling statelessness is one of UNHCR's areas of focus for the coming years.

It is essential that States sign up to international legal instruments and implement inclusive policies that contribute to the protection and solutions of displaced and stateless populations. Amid complex humanitarian crises, increased population

movements and restrictive policies and practices, UNHCR is perennially underfunded, undermining its ability to perform its mandated responsibility. As States neighbouring countries in crisis shoulder the greatest burden in terms of supporting displaced people, it is essential that other States show solidarity by taking on their own share of the responsibility and ensuring that people can exercise their rights and find durable solutions to their situations of displacement or statelessness.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

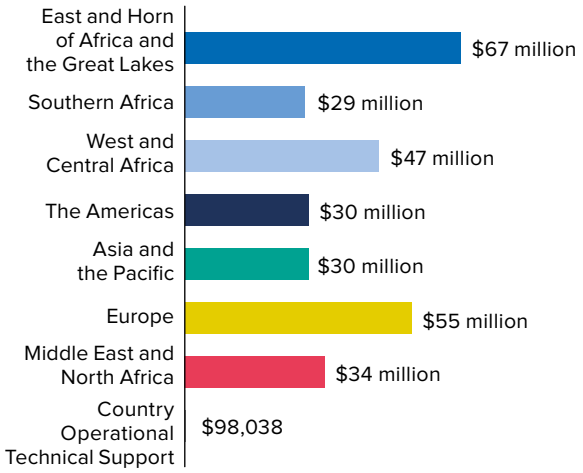
In 2022, the legal and policy framework for forcibly displaced and stateless people was not broadly aligned with international standards in more than 40% of countries where UNHCR operations reported data. In 2024, UNHCR will be monitoring the legal and policy frameworks of 165 countries, and in many instances it will be actively advocating for a strengthening of those frameworks.

UNHCR will use a variety of legal, policy and diplomatic tools to strengthen laws and policies. It will press for effective implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees across all legal and policy areas, including access to territory, respect for the principles of non-refoulement and responsibility-sharing, and access to socioeconomic rights. UNHCR will advocate for removal of gender-discriminatory provisions and introduction of safeguards to prevent statelessness in nationality laws, and for improved legal and policy frameworks to grant nationality to stateless persons.

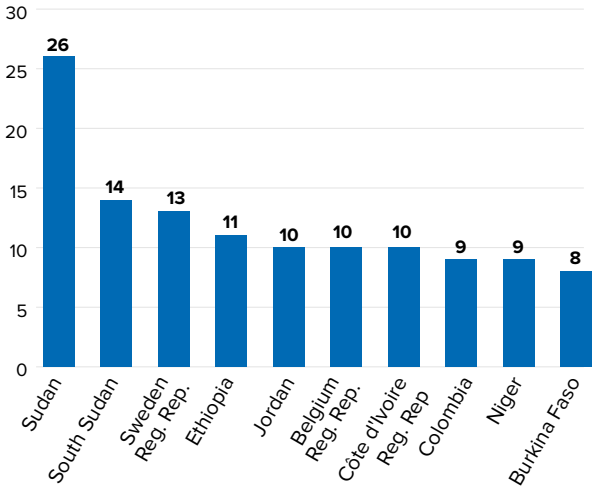
### Global needs for Protection policy and law in 2024

**$308 million**
**-2%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Protection Policy and Law (USD millions)




Others = $188 million | 61%

UNHCR will develop a global online platform to map and analyse laws and policies that drive access to rights for refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced and stateless persons.

UNHCR will advise and assist States on the interpretation and application of international instruments relevant to the protection of refugees, stateless persons and internally displaced persons and prevention of statelessness. This is done in all parts of the world and has in the past resulted in progressive case law and the adoption of strong and inclusive legislation.

UNHCR will provide legal interpretative guidance on international normative standards and engage with legislative, policy and judicial actors and processes. Maintaining dialogue with governments at different levels, and with national, regional and UN human rights institutions, civil society, academia, multilateral and bilateral development partners, UN country teams and other partners on law and policy frameworks advances understanding of legal standards and ensures access to rights and solutions.

## Core indicators

Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol

Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness

## A sample of core outcome indicators

3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Colombia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Broadly aligned | Broadly aligned | Broadly aligned |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Progressing towards alignment | Progressing towards alignment | Broadly aligned |
| Mexico | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Broadly aligned | Broadly aligned | Broadly aligned |
| South Sudan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Progressing towards alignment | Progressing towards alignment | Progressing towards alignment |

Focus Area

As part of her paralegal work, Barke, a member of Kenya's Pemba minority, goes door to door educating women on the importance of getting birth certificates and helps them fill the forms for their children.

© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

# Statelessness

## Global needs in 2024

Since the #IBelong Campaign's launch in 2014, significant advances have been made on all aspects of UNHCR's statelessness mandate. 517,000 stateless people have acquired a nationality or had it confirmed, 15 States have introduced provisions to prevent statelessness, and 21 States have established procedures to identify stateless persons and recognize statelessness status, among other achievements.

However, millions of individuals around the world still lack the basic rights and protections associated with nationality. As of the end of 2022, UNHCR's annual statistics reported 4.4 million stateless persons and persons with undetermined nationality. This is widely recognized to be much lower than the actual number

## 2024 targets

**70,000** stateless persons will acquire nationality, or have it confirmed

**4** accessions to the UN statelessness conventions

**15** States will improve their national laws, policies and procedures in line with international standards on the prevention and reduction of statelessness, and the protection of stateless persons

**Global Alliance to End Statelessness** launched

due to complexities in data collection and the fact that stateless individuals often remain invisible in national statistical exercises. While the number of stateless persons gaining a nationality is encouraging, progress remains slow in many countries with significant and often protracted statelessness situations.

Globally, there are notable gaps in the adherence to international standards concerning the right to nationality, the prevention of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons. Fewer than half of UN member States are parties to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, and not all parties have fully domesticated them. In terms of prevention, many States have yet to undertake reforms to ensure that no child is born stateless, for instance by allowing mothers to confer nationality on the same basis as fathers. While standards on safeguarding the rights of stateless persons have advanced considerably in recent years, many countries still lack any protection framework or fail to provide stateless persons with permanent solutions. Beyond the realm of legislation and policies, discrimination in the application of laws continues to be a significant driver of statelessness, which disproportionately affects minorities.

There is still limited recognition of how statelessness impacts the socioeconomic development of countries and their progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. While statelessness is fundamentally a human rights issue, governments should also consider the development potential of creating a more inclusive society.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will refocus its efforts, aiming to achieve transformative and measurable changes by 2026 in the reduction and prevention of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons. UNHCR's "Strategic plan 2023-2026: redoubling efforts on statelessness" sets out four time-bound objectives (see text box). To work towards the objectives, UNHCR will take various actions at country level, with particular efforts on two actions.

### UNHCR's multi-year vision and objectives

UNHCR's multi-year vision for addressing statelessness: By 2026, there is a significant increase in the number of people who have a nationality or are no longer at risk of statelessness, and as such enjoy their rights.

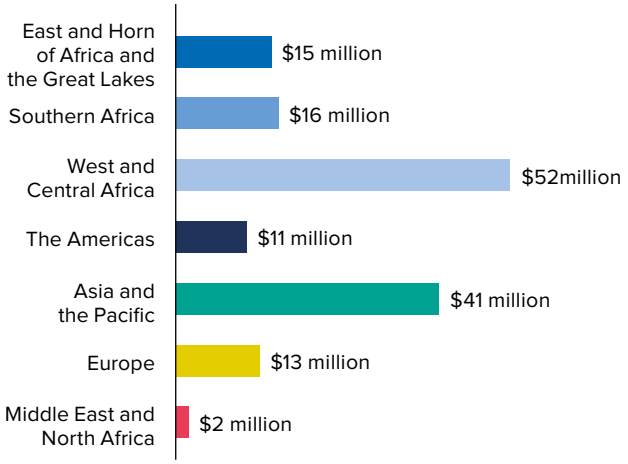
To achieve this vision and bring about positive change, there are four objectives UNHCR will work towards with other actors in 2024 and beyond:

- Increasing numbers of States are demonstrating their commitment to reduce and prevent statelessness;
- Increasing numbers of stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness have access to procedures and documents for nationality;
- Increasing numbers of stateless persons have access to public services and economic opportunities at the same level as nationals;
- Increasing numbers of stateless persons are empowered to claim their rights.

### Global needs for Statelessness in 2024

**$151 million**
**+10%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs for Statelessness



First, UNHCR's country operations will intensify context-specific proactive policy and public advocacy to encourage the development and implementation of strategies to achieve high-impact objectives, such as legislative reform to prevent childhood statelessness or confirmation of nationality for large groups of stateless people. UNHCR will work with stateless communities to achieve these goals. Its awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns will also aim to address the broader underlying causes of statelessness, including discrimination and exclusion.

Secondly, UNHCR will focus on leveraging the influence of UN Resident Coordinators, UN country teams and development partners to ensure that other UN agencies are supporting advocacy efforts and that their country programmes and budgets include stateless and at-risk populations.

UNHCR will work to underline the linkages between statelessness and development and position statelessness as a central Sustainable Development Goal issue, creating further impetus for States to act and mobilize development actors.

UNHCR will provide technical support to States, especially on the 389 pledges to address statelessness made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness and the 2019 Global Refugee Forum, and new pledges made at the 2023 Forum. It will also target gaps and discriminatory aspects in nationality law, and will ensure that procedures to implement provisions are effective. UNHCR will also offer legal support and representation to stateless individuals seeking nationality pathways or access relevant documents.

UNHCR will work to enhance the quality of statistics on statelessness to increase the visibility of stateless populations and provide evidence to governments on the extent and impact of statelessness. To achieve this, UNHCR will advocate for and support States in the implementation of the International Recommendations on Statelessness Statistics, adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2023.

Eradicating statelessness requires a broad global coalition. UNHCR will therefore work with other key stakeholders to launch a Global Alliance to End Statelessness in 2024, bringing together governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, civil society and stateless-led organizations.

UNHCR will tailor its approach to tackling statelessness in each country. It will prioritize countries with large numbers of stateless people who have long-established ties to the country ("reduce countries"), advocating with and supporting governments to grant them nationality at an accelerated pace.

In countries where children and adults are at risk of statelessness due to difficulties accessing birth registration or nationality documentation, or due to discrimination or gaps in nationality laws and policies ("prevent countries"), UNHCR will support these governments to change laws and improve documentation processes, in collaboration with UN Resident Coordinators, UN country teams and development actors.

Finally, in countries where stateless migrants and refugees lack protection ("protect countries"), UNHCR will seek to improve their identification and their enjoyment of rights, and will advocate with these governments for a pathway to nationality, in particular in countries where the government has expressed political will to address the issue.

## The cost of inaction

Insufficient funding is likely to significantly hamper the rate at which major situations of statelessness can be resolved. Addressing these often protracted situations involves resource-intensive and longer-term efforts to achieve legal reform and ensure that stateless populations are mapped and have their nationality confirmed. With limited funds, UNHCR operations will be less able to prioritize programmes that aim at structural changes. The lack of adequate funding is also anticipated to lead to reduced dedicated staffing for statelessness, negatively affecting all related activities.

Outcome Area 4

A 27-year-old asylum-seeker in Belize. “I wish to remind other women who are suffering violence... that help is out there for all of us. You can get through it.”

© UNHCR/Aida Escobar

# Gender-based violence

5 GENDER EQUALITY

## Global needs in 2024

Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for multiple human rights violations more frequently inflicted on women and girls. It includes sexual and intimate partner violence, which occurs in all displacement settings where UNHCR is present. It also includes child and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and so-called “honour-related crimes”. The threat of gender-based violence may cause somebody to flee from their home, it may pose great dangers during their flight, and it may undermine their safety once they have taken refuge elsewhere.

It is estimated that one in three women are exposed to gender-based violence during their lifetime. Conflict and displacement heighten the risks. The conflict in Sudan exemplifies the needs when responding to gender-based violence in emergencies: a June 2023 UNHCR statement on Sudan described spiralling violence, and protection and field teams assisting refugees in Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt and South Sudan were deeply concerned by grave abuses including conflict-related sexual violence reported by refugee women and girls. Yet the Sudan emergency response remained severely underfunded, as highlighted in UNHCR’s 2023 Underfunded report and its September 2023 update.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR seeks to implement life-saving gender-based violence prevention and response programming in 110 countries (including those covered by UNHCR’s multi-country offices).

UNHCR’s work is guided by its 2020 “Policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence” and adheres to the "Inter-agency minimum standards for gender-based violence in emergencies programming".

UNHCR will promote refugees' inclusion in local services for gender-based violence survivors and in prevention programming that addresses the root causes of gender-based violence.

UNHCR will strengthen gender-based violence coordination in refugee and mixed settings, and will deploy gender-based violence specialists to establish life-saving services from the very start of emergencies. UNHCR will also scale up case management services for survivors, a coordinated approach ensuring timely access to appropriate psychosocial, medical, safety and legal services.

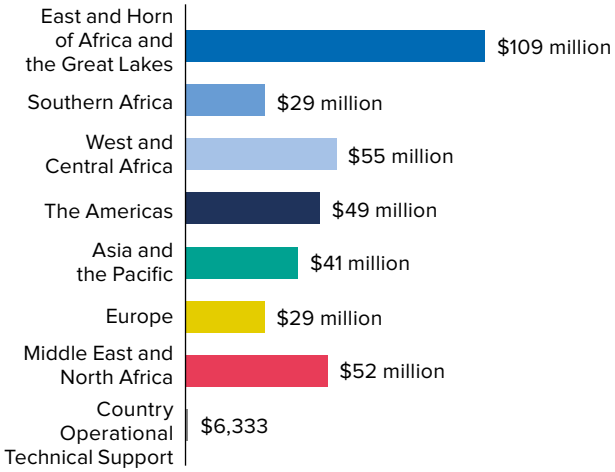
UNHCR's operations gather feedback regarding critical gaps in gender-based violence response programmes by assessing the level of general awareness of available gender-based violence services, and by surveying survivors' level of satisfaction with gender-based violence case management services in a safe and ethical manner. For example, in Bangladesh in 2023, UNHCR aimed for 90% of survivors to be satisfied with the support they received through gender-based violence case management services. In 2024, UNHCR is increasing that target to 100%.

To tackle the root causes of gender-based violence, UNHCR implements and contextualizes evidence-based prevention programmes, such as Engaging Men in Accountable Practice (EMAP), the Girl Shine programme, which focuses on the empowerment of adolescent girls, and SASA! Together, which uses a community mobilization approach that has been shown to effectively decrease violence against women. UNHCR monitors displaced people's general attitudes towards violence against women to measure progress towards effectively preventing violence from occurring in the first place.

## Global needs for Gender-based violence in 2024

**$368 million**
**+6%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs



© UNHCR/Mercury Transformations

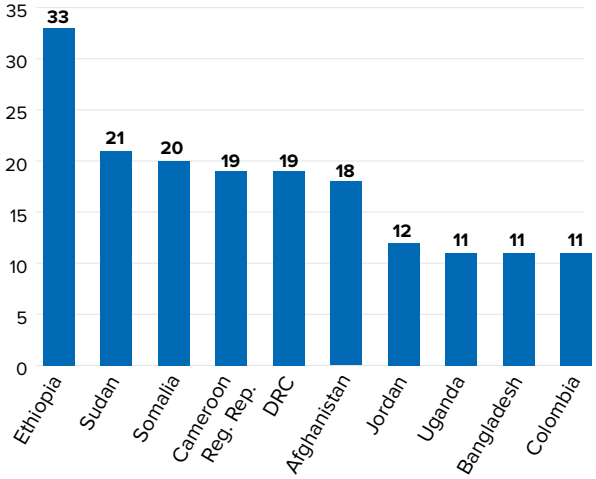
### L'Oréal supports UNHCR protection and emergency activities in Pakistan

L'Oréal provided emergency support to approximately 8.5 million people whose lives were overturned by Pakistan's devastating floods in 2022. Its contribution has enabled UNHCR to identify and address critical protection needs, allowing people in vulnerable communities in Sindh, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces to rebuild their lives. Already present in 10 countries, the collaboration aims to expand over the next few years, helping women and girls to find a way out of their refugee situation. L'Oréal's contribution will help to promote women's employability, protect gender-based violence survivors, support socioeconomic integration, and bring urgent assistance when a displacement crisis first erupts.

In 2024, in addition to its broader localization efforts, UNHCR will reinforce the leadership and expertise of organizations led by forcibly displaced or stateless women. It will increase direct partnerships with them to implement gender-based violence prevention and response programmes, including through UNHCR's small-scale grant agreements, which are designed to reduce administrative and reporting barriers. UNHCR will also sponsor participation of women-led organizations in global and regional fora to ensure humanitarian assistance policies pertaining to gender-based violence remain grounded in the lived experience of refugees and displaced women.

Gender-based violence budget requirements are increasing in 2024, reflecting an expected overall increase in the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people. Almost half of the total funding requirement is in just 10 country operations, with the greatest needs in Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Jordan, Uganda, Bangladesh and Colombia.

**Top ten operational budgets for Gender-based violence** (USD millions)




Others = $192 million | 52%

If funding falls short of needs, forcibly displaced women and girls in particular will face increased risks of gender-based violence, while the quality and availability of services will be directly impacted, leaving survivors vulnerable to further abuses.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people who know where to access available gender-based violence services

Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with gender-based violence case management services

Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women

## A sample of core outcome indicators

4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with gender-based violence case management services

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 80% | 90% | 100% |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 96% | 100% | 100% |
| Jordan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 87% | 100% | 100% |
| Somalia | IDPs | 70% | 75% | 85% |
| Uganda | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 95% | 100% | 100% |

Outcome Area 5

Children who arrived with their parents in Armenia in September 2023, some of around 100,000 refugees who fled from fighting in the South Caucasus.

© UNHCR/Karen Minasyan

# Child protection

## Global needs in 2024

At the end of 2022, 43.3 million children remained forcibly displaced from their homes. In 2024, this number is expected to increase as the global number of forcibly displaced people continues to grow.

Forcibly displaced and stateless children face a range of risks. Violence and exploitation occur in the family, in communities and schools, in institutions and online, and can be physical, emotional or sexual. Children risk family separation, neglect, exclusion and discrimination, trafficking, child labour, child marriage, child recruitment and immigration detention. Children and caregivers commonly experience psychosocial distress.

Funding gaps in child protection have been on the rise with 37% in 2020, 43% in 2021 and 49% in 2022. This trend is expected to continue this year. Persistent underfunding remains a challenge, resulting in, for example, limited child protection services provided to increasing number of unaccompanied and separated children in Thailand and Italy, and reduced casework capacity in Colombia where only 30% of the case workers that were required could be hired. Child protection services were insufficient in Ethiopia, Uganda and Lebanon despite being the top three largest operations with child protection funding. There is an urgent need to reinforce funding for child protection across operations.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in improving child protection in 101 countries. UNHCR and partners will focus on six core programmatic actions, in

accordance with the "Minimum standards for child protection in humanitarian action".

UNHCR will work with national authorities, local NGOs and other partners, particularly development partners, to strengthen national child protection systems and services so that they can respond to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless children. Important steps include the removal of legal, policy or procedural barriers, and building national systems' capacity to respond to the scale and specific needs of displaced and stateless children. In Türkiye, UNHCR works closely with and supports national authorities to include forcibly displaced children in their national systems and services. In 2022, UNHCR supported 87 child institutions under the Ministry of Family and Social Services in 36 provinces.

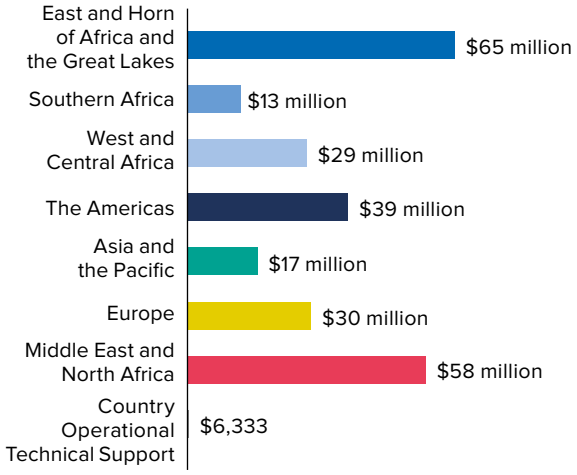
UNHCR will work with and support community actors' efforts to prevent and address child protection risks and integrate child protection within its community-based protection programming. This includes group activities for children, programmes to support families' ability to care for and protect children, and community-level initiatives to protect children, including social and behaviour change communication initiatives.

UNHCR will provide supplementary child protection services to children at risk where such services cannot be provided by national authorities or other partners. This includes identifying children at risk and referring them to multisectoral services, managing child protection cases, providing alternative care, reuniting separated and unaccompanied children with their families, and responding to gender-based violence against children. In Bangladesh, the Best Interests Procedure is in place in all 33 camps, informing recommendations and decision-making for children at risk, including referrals to multisectoral services.

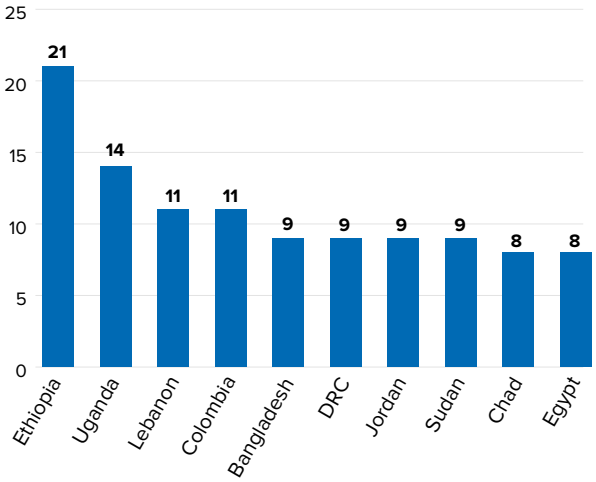
## Global needs for Child protection in 2024

**$252 million**
**+3%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs




## Top ten operational budgets for Child protection (USD millions)




Others = $141 million | 56%

UNHCR will work with national authorities and with its partners to ensure that a broad range of child-friendly protection and solutions interventions are available, including solutions that are in the child's best interests, and alternatives to detention for children and their families. UNHCR will also work on preventing and mitigating harm to children while integrating the protection and well-being of children into all sectoral responses throughout all phases of programming. In Jordan in 2022, a total of 2,155 individual counselling sessions were provided and 10,972 children at risk were referred to other multi-sectoral prevention and response by UNHCR and partners. UNHCR also provided training on child protection and child rights to 339 UNHCR, partner and government staff from different sectors.

UNHCR will ensure that children effectively participate in UNHCR's protection, assistance and solutions interventions at all stages of the management cycle, that UNHCR's communication with children is child-friendly, and that children have access to child-friendly accountability mechanisms to ensure their voices are heard.

## Core indicators

- Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by best interest procedures
- Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes
- Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement

## A sample of core outcome indicators

5.1. Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by best interest procedures

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 64% | 73% | 80% |
| Lebanon | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 88% | 88% | 89% |
| Uganda | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 8% | 11% | 11% |
| Yemen | IDPs | 68% | 70% | 75% |

Outcome Area 6

Hundreds of South Sudanese, formerly refugees in Sudan, wait to board a cargo plane at Palouch airport in Upper Nile State, South Sudan, after fleeing Sudan's conflict to return to their own country.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

# Safety and access to justice

## Global needs in 2024

Access to justice is hindered when rule of law institutions are weak, when judicial independence is limited or when courts, administrative systems, or legal aid providers have insufficient capacity. In such cases, displaced and stateless people may be denied their rights and progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 16 is obstructed.

Many States detain asylum-seekers and stateless persons, including children, for reasons of immigration control or legal status. Based on its 2012 "Detention guidelines", UNHCR will continue in 2024 to work to ensure that detention of asylum-seekers is a measure of last resort and that, where detention is unavoidable, detention conditions meet international standards.

UNHCR calls for children not to be detained for immigration-related purposes, irrespective of their status or that of their parents. Detention is never in children's best interests and harms their health and well-being, fundamentally affecting their development.

In some countries, restrictions on access to places of detention impair UNHCR's ability to monitor and provide necessary protection services to asylum-seekers. Detention may have particularly negative impacts on asylum-seekers in vulnerable situations, including those who have suffered trauma or who have been trafficked or exposed to violence on their journeys.

### Core indicator

Number of people arrested or detained related to immigration control or legal status

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, in partnership with UNDP and other rule of law actors, UNHCR will aim to strengthen safety and access to justice in 85 countries. UNHCR will develop the capacity of judicial and administrative

bodies, bar associations and other legal aid providers, human rights defenders and institutions, and organizations led by displaced and stateless people. Activities will include training, the development of tools for monitoring and oversight, facilitating exchanges on the interpretation and application of relevant legal standards, and supporting innovative approaches such as digital legal aid tools. Those institutions, with which UNHCR works closely, can play a vital role in enabling people to exercise their rights, providing access to legal advice, assistance and representation for displaced and stateless people. Targeted information and awareness-raising, including for refugee-led organizations and displaced and stateless women, will also reinforce their enjoyment of legal rights.

Several States, such as Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Portugal and Thailand, have introduced alternatives to detention, particularly for children and their families. Through its work in the UN Network on Migration and the UN Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty, UNHCR will contribute to evidence-based policy guidance and promote non-custodial and community-based alternatives to detention. Building upon the Global Refugee Forum 2023, UNHCR and partners will step up support to develop community-based alternatives to detention and peer learning exchanges to disseminate promising practices.

During 2022, it is estimated that more than 27,000 people were detained. UNHCR and partners will carry out detention monitoring and other interventions, including strategic litigation, to promote respect for the rights of detained asylum-seekers in particularly vulnerable situations, held for lengthy periods or in inadequate conditions.

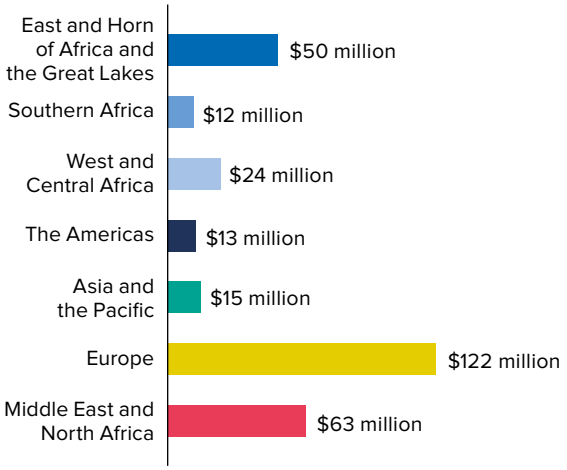
UNHCR will broaden its judicial engagement, having intervened as a third party in 13 court cases relating to the rights of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in 2022. Up to October 2023, UNHCR had intervened in 14 cases in the year to date in jurisdictions around the world.

UNHCR is partnering with the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) to survey the justice needs of host communities and displaced people, including in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Iraq.

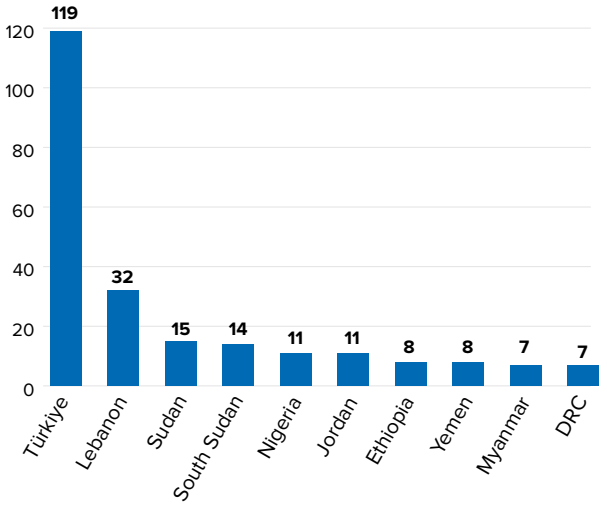
## Global needs for Safety and access to justice in 2024

**$300 million**
**-10%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs



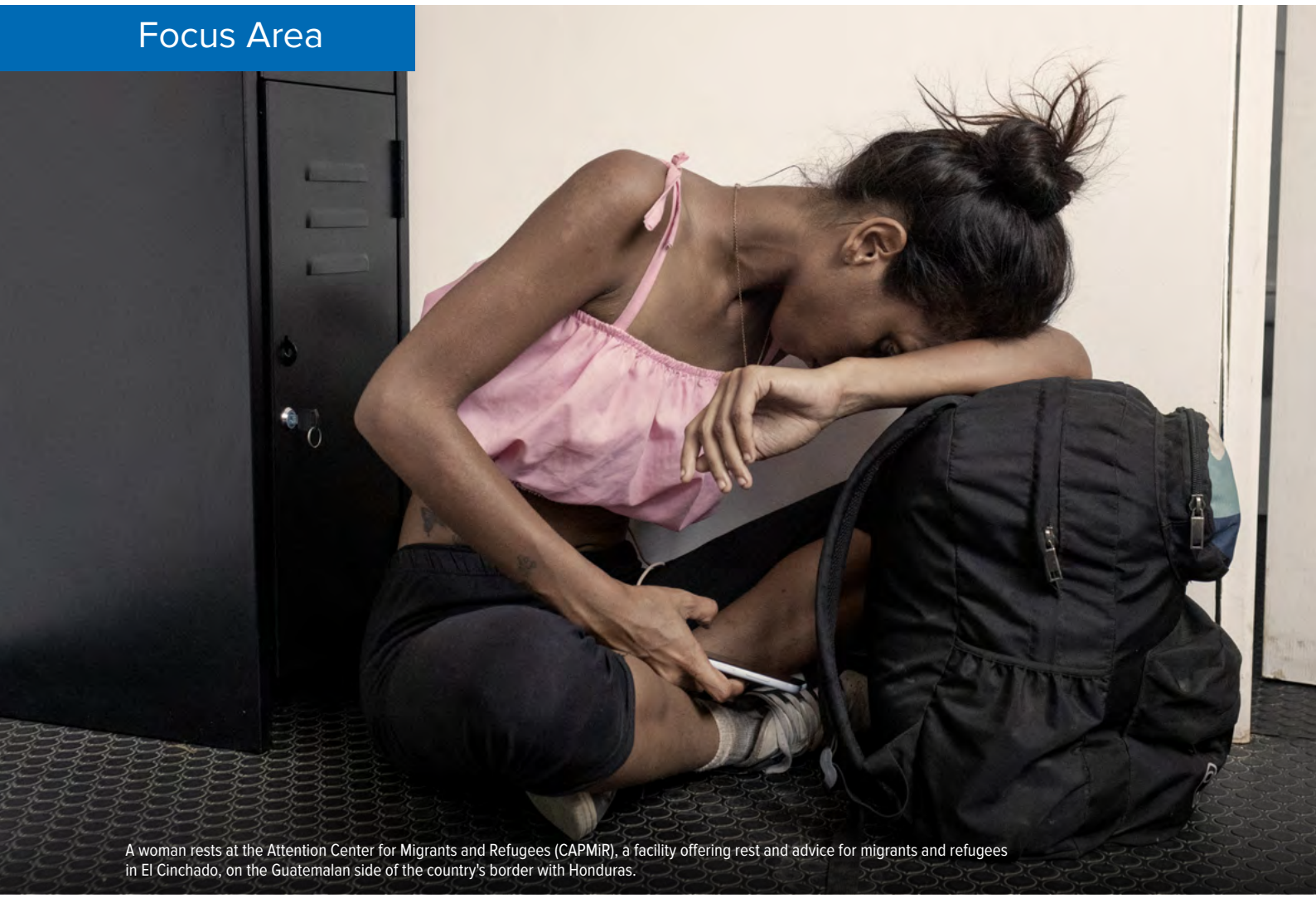

## Top ten operational budgets for Safety and access to justice (USD millions)




Others = $67 million | 22%

UNHCR will strongly encourage new pledges at the Global Refugee Forum 2023 and the restatement of existing ones – including the 2019 GRF Legal Community Pledge made by law firms, NGOs, and bar associations to provide 127,000 hours per year of free legal assistance and support training in refugee law for decision-makers. In the last four years, their commitment provided more than 586,000 pro bono hours of legal support, worth $400 million.

Focus Area



A woman rests at the Attention Center for Migrants and Refugees (CAPMiR), a facility offering rest and advice for migrants and refugees in El Cinchado, on the Guatemalan side of the country's border with Honduras.

© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

# Accountability to Affected People

Just like anyone else, forcibly displaced and stateless people need accurate and timely information to take informed decisions. Yet, on some occasions, they find themselves in an information vacuum, cut off from the information they need to protect themselves and their families, unable to influence decisions that affect them, and unfamiliar with the processes for raising concerns or providing feedback about the services they receive. Equally, they may receive conflicting or fraudulent information, be repeatedly asked for their opinion with no feedback, or be left waiting for a response to a complaint they raised.

UNHCR wants to address these challenges and is working on developing an ambitious five-year plan to strengthen Accountability to Affected People (AAP). UNHCR will ensure that people can use their preferred channels of communication to get information that enables them to make informed choices to support their protection and seek a durable solution to their situation. UNHCR will also ensure that they can reach its staff – using a variety of channels – to ask questions, provide feedback and flag sensitive concerns. They must feel safe when doing so, and confident that they will receive timely feedback. UNHCR needs to demonstrate to the communities it works with that their opinions matter, and people need to see how their voices have influenced its work and that of its partners.

## Global needs in 2024

UNHCR has identified four key areas where it aims to move the needle on AAP in 2024 – both within UNHCR and collectively with its partners.

**Operational and regional support:** UNHCR will invest in its regional and country operations' community engagement work and their feedback and response mechanisms – ensuring robust processes are in place, including to respond to sensitive complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse and fraud. This will make UNHCR more receptive to feedback and ensure a more active response. Examples include exploring the further inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in UNHCR's programme development and monitoring mechanisms, and, expanding the use of multi-channel contact centres, like the Regional Contact Centre in the Ukraine response, which responds to nearly 300 calls a day.

**Documentation, capacity building and tools:** UNHCR will ensure its staff and partners – including organizations led by displaced people – are better equipped to use a wide variety of messaging and two-way communication channels for community engagement and feedback and response. UNHCR operations will have access to an expanding AAP "toolbox" to rapidly set up or expand communication channels – including contact centres, chatbots, and one-stop-shops. For example, UNHCR will expand the use of WhatsApp, which is currently used in 16 operations. The toolbox will cater for different messaging preferences, with a focus on ensuring accessibility for women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of marginalization.

**Research and advocacy:** UNHCR will be at the cutting edge of AAP innovation. This includes researching and piloting new approaches so that communication with forcibly displaced and stateless people uses the applications or media that they are used to. UNHCR will lead by example – demonstrating the importance of research, due diligence and the ethical application of technologies to partners and other UN actors. This research will build on learning to date, with a focus on digital protection and privacy, and online risks.

**Protection leadership and coordination:** UNHCR will build on efforts to advance collective AAP within the humanitarian community and will set up or improve mechanisms for coordinating AAP in refugee emergencies. UNHCR will integrate AAP into all parts of the refugee response and advocate that all organizations working in emergencies include AAP in refugee response planning. UNHCR already contributes to collective efforts in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on AAP and will strengthen its role in collective regional and operational AAP coordination structures.

## Digital AAP

Forcibly displaced and stateless people increasingly use social media to communicate, and UNHCR is committed to meeting them where they are – online. In 2024, as a core component of the Digital Protection pillar of UNHCR's Digital Transformation Strategy, the use of digital tools for engagement with communities will grow significantly. UNHCR will expand the use of existing instant messaging and chatbots, scale up its community-facing web presence and strengthen partnerships with social media platforms. UNHCR will keep adopting new digital tools to ensure it is working with preferred and trusted channels.

The "digital gateway" to UNHCR's self-service applications will ensure that individuals are able to send and receive secure information with UNHCR. A range of services – from registration to complementary pathways – will be accessible, and users will have direct access to their own data, and control of it.

Not everyone is online, so a critical component of this digital AAP work is strengthening the connection with offline community-based protection work. UNHCR will develop linkages between those who are connected and those who are not to improve information sharing in communities.

An essential element of digital AAP is information integrity. UNHCR will ensure that processes are in place to combat misinformation and disinformation – signposting users to accurate and trusted sources.

UNHCR will use digital technology to improve feedback and response mechanisms – meaning improvements in the way data is collected, systematized, analysed, shared and responded to. Using digital methods for managing feedback will allow the development of more effective mechanisms that can be rapidly deployed by UNHCR and its partners in an emergency response.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

UNHCR's goal of holding itself accountable to the people it works with and for can appear to be an abstract and aspirational concept. But strengthening the accountability of programming has a very real impact on communities. Consider the cases of two displaced people: Pablo, who is seeking asylum and depends on UNHCR for information about his rights and entitlements, and Joelle, who hopes to go to university:

**The systematic roll-out of digital channels in 2024 will mean Pablo can:**

- Use one of his preferred channels to access verified life-saving information 24/7;
- Share information with his family – including his grandma – in audio, video and text;
- Understand how to apply for asylum and know where to seek support with his application;
- Act as an information ambassador in his community to rebut misinformation and dispel rumours;
- Connect with someone from UNHCR – in a secure safe digital space – without having to travel long distances;
- Be directed to a secure channel for raising a complaint;
- Be confident to use the channel, know his data rights and request to delete his data if he wishes;
- Provide feedback and suggestions on how to improve the services he accesses.

**The scaling up of a self-service digital gateway will mean Joelle can:**

- Securely prove her identity through an authentication process and access her own data;
- Upload her education certificates to apply for an international scholarship;
- Update her profile with a new phone number to receive updated information and timely cash distributions;
- Book an appointment with UNHCR to discuss her case;
- Raise a concern about a service provided in the community where she lives.

UNHCR will be publishing its Focus Area Strategic Plan in 2024, which further articulates its commitment to globally accelerate its Accountability to Affected People.

## Age, Gender and Diversity

UNHCR has a longstanding commitment to apply an Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach across all aspects of its programmes and activities to ensure that the protection, dignity, and well-being of all forcibly displaced and stateless people are respected, and that nobody is left behind.

AGD is a fundamental principle of humanitarian work that:

- supports the meaningful participation of people, in particular women, in decisions that affect their lives;
- draws on their experiences and abilities;
- addresses the unique needs and protection risks experienced by different groups;
- and contributes to more effective, equitable, and sustainable responses.

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in tools that support the development of programmes that are inclusive of AGD, and will strengthen the systematization of data resulting from its interactions with displaced communities to inform the implementation of its plans. The organization will increase its staff's knowledge and awareness of the AGD policy and will harness the progress achieved in fostering local partnerships with organizations representing or led by diverse groups of displaced and stateless persons.

UNHCR will also increase its use of data that is disaggregated by sex, age, disability, and other diversity characteristics when designing and implementing programmes or measuring the results of its work. UNHCR will also invest in tailored and contextually adapted training in the inclusion of persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons, and other groups at risk of marginalization.

Outcome Area 7

Hundreds of kilometres from the nearest connection to Ethiopia's electricity grid, Somali refugee Aklima Omar Osman works as a cashier and Solar Technician at Bokolmayo solar mini grid, which is helping to bring power to the local refugee population and the Ethiopian host community and creating a local economic hub.

© UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri

# Community engagement and women's empowerment

5 GENDER EQUALITY

## Global needs in 2024

Forcibly displaced and stateless people have a fundamental right to actively engage in decisions affecting their lives and well-being. Programmes and activities that respond to forced displacement and statelessness and address their impact must be inclusive, effective and informed by the voices and capacities of affected individuals and communities.

Women and girls, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, LGBTIQ+ persons, older persons and children and youth are often especially exposed to risks of violence, abuse, neglect and marginalization. These risks are compounded by gender inequality, intersecting forms of discrimination, the climate crisis, protracted and new conflicts, as well as shrinking civic spaces which create barriers for some groups, including women and girls, in exercising and claiming their rights in some countries. Furthermore, underfunding impairs partnerships with local organizations, including those led by forcibly displaced people and by women.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

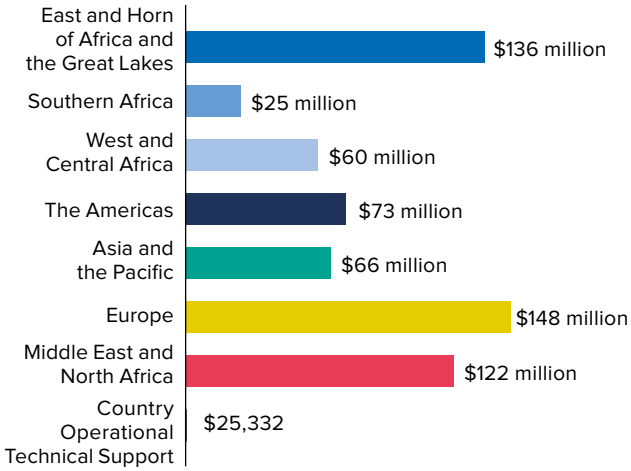
In 2024, UNHCR will invest in community empowerment and gender equality in more than 138 countries.

UNHCR invests in community-based interventions to prevent, mitigate and address protection risks and collaborates with community structures and grassroots organizations, particularly those led by

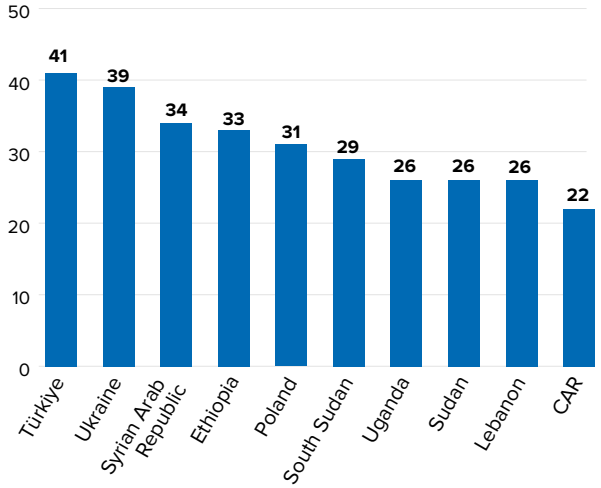
## Global needs for Community engagement and women's empowerment in 2024

**$635 million**
**-7%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




## Top ten operational budgets for Community engagement and women's empowerment
(USD millions)




Others = $330 million I 52%

displaced and stateless people, by women, and by groups at risk of discrimination and exclusion. Displaced and stateless communities are consulted to identify the needs and protection risks and engaged in the identification of sustainable and suitable responses that ensure no one is neglected and left behind.

UNHCR will promote the channelling of flexible funding to these community-led responses including through initiatives such as grant agreements, the Refugee-led Innovation Fund, and financing of displaced women's organizations working on peacebuilding, conflict prevention, climate action, and protection from gender-based violence.

Support for refugee advisory groups, outreach volunteers of different age, gender and diverse profiles, and community protection structures will continue and be expanded. To strengthen Accountability to Affected People (AAP), UNHCR will invest in better systematizing of information from participatory assessments with displaced and stateless people, and feedback and response

© UNHCR/Yukiko Sakurai

### Empowering Rohingya women through skills development

Fast Retailing, the clothing company that has been supporting refugee livelihoods for over a decade, has a joint project with UNHCR to build the skills of 1,000 Rohingya women by 2025 and produce sanitary napkins and other products for refugee households in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. The project not only provides livelihood opportunities with stipends but also rebuilds lives with dignity. A participant in the joint project said, "When my husband died, leaving behind two children, without any savings, I felt so devastated. After joining the production centre, I was able to provide education, food, clothes, and toys to my children. I feel so satisfied and proud of myself."

mechanisms to influence strategic planning, design, adaptation and monitoring of UNHCR's programmes. Additionally, the use of gender analysis and features such as gender and disability "markers" in data systems will be amplified to inform programming and reporting.

In 2022, UNHCR operations in Burkina Faso, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic reported an increase of the number of women in leadership and management in decision-making structures. In 2024, UNHCR will continue to promote the full and equal involvement of displaced and stateless women in decision-making and leadership structures. UNHCR country operations will work to ensure that women and girls have access to individual registration and documentation, and equal access and control over food, cash transfers and other assistance. Operations will facilitate equal access to livelihood opportunities, education and health services, including through national protection systems. UNHCR will promote digital inclusion and other innovative approaches to ensure women and girls have access to life-saving information, as well as skills and education opportunities enhancing their protection and economic empowerment.

As a signatory and board member of the Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action Compact UNHCR will facilitate the inclusion and participation of displaced women in the peace and security agenda. As a board member of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, UNHCR advocates for flexible funding to women-led organizations, including non-registered organizations, to empower their response to crises and emergencies as well as peace efforts.

UNHCR will support the launch of a global network of forcibly displaced and stateless persons with disabilities in collaboration with the International Disability Alliance. The network will aim to amplify the voices of these underrepresented groups in the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy and in UNHCR and States' efforts to ensure the accessibility of asylum procedures. UNHCR will enhance the understanding of disability in the context of international protection, and will promote equal access for refugees with disabilities to social protection schemes.

These efforts at collaboration and partnership with communities ensure that UNHCR's responses are effective and informed by people's needs and priorities as identified by them, and they support the agency of communities as responders to crisis.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people who participate meaningfully across all phases of the operation

Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures

Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms

## A sample of core outcome indicators

7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burkina Faso | IDPs | 41% | 50% | 50% |
| Lebanon | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 69% | 75% | 75% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | IDPs | 66% | 66% | 70% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 52% | 55% | 60% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | Returnees | 66% | 66% | 70% |

Outcome Area 8

Cecile Telem receives cash in Toukra 1 site, Ndjamena, Chad, where she and her family are living after they were among over 70,000 people forced to take refuge from heavy flooding.

© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

# Well-being and basic needs

## Global needs in 2024

People who are forced to flee from their homes often have to start from scratch in their place of refuge. UNHCR assists them with cash, core relief items (CRIs), and fuel for cooking and heating. The demand for this assistance is extremely high following an unprecedented series of emergencies, and millions of people remain in need.

Cash assistance has undeniably helped cover people's basic needs, and 89% of recipients surveyed in 2022 said they preferred to receive assistance wholly or partly as cash. Cash can present problems for refugees and other vulnerable populations, especially women, who are unable to access digital financial systems, but overall more cash is needed: only 25% of those surveyed in 2022 said they could meet half or more of their daily needs, down from 31% in 2021.

Complementing the cash assistance, the provision of CRIs will be centrally maintained for 1 million people in UNHCR's seven strategic Global Stockpile warehouse locations to respond to new emergencies.

Clean fuel is vital because as of 2023, 87% of displaced people living in and around camps still depend heavily on collecting firewood for cooking, which is harmful to their health, unsustainable for the environment, and presents risks for their safety and security. Transitioning to cleaner and sustainable sources of fuel and technology is key to fighting climate change and reducing pressure on the hosting environment, especially in climate-vulnerable areas.

Climate change and environmental crises such as deforestation are critical problems in refugee situations. Environmental degradation also heightens the risk of conflict between refugees and hosts.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in targeting the well-being and basic needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people in 135 countries.

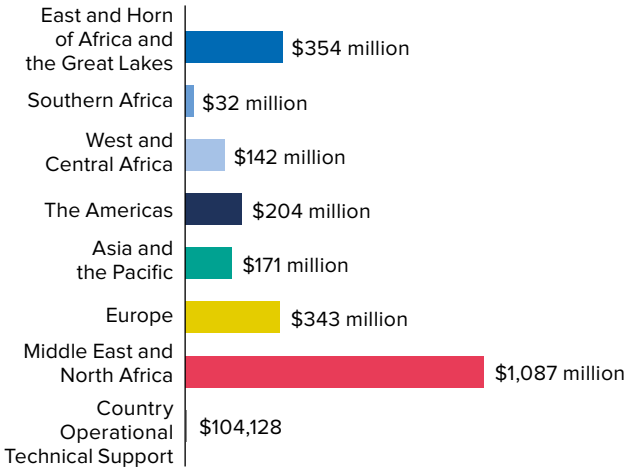
UNHCR aims to provide $600 million in cash assistance to 7 million people in 100 countries in 2024, in line with its "Policy on cash-based interventions 2022-2026", which promotes a "why not cash?" approach to prioritize cash wherever possible, including in emergencies. 95% of cash is "unrestricted", giving people the choice of how best to meet their own needs. It is also cost-efficient, especially when delivered electronically. 80% of recipients already receive cash digitally, via bank cards or mobile money for example, and UNHCR plans to expand this further in 2024, with 37% of refugees and IDPs having beneficiary-owned payment mechanisms.

Cash also contributes to inclusion, since it brings displaced populations into the local economy, with links to financial inclusion and social protection. In 2024, UNHCR will advocate with regulatory authorities for "know your customer" requirements and financial inclusion regulations to meet the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people, as per its guidance "Cash assistance and access to formal financial services".

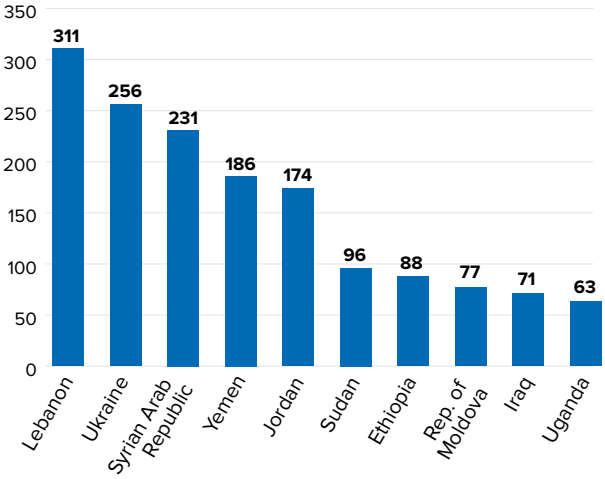
### Global needs for Well-being and basic needs in 2024

**$2.339 billion**
**-10%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Well-being and basic needs (USD millions)




Others = $785 million | 34%

© UNHCR/Anna Limnowicz

### Swedish company Essity restores dignity for people who need it the most

Essity continues to be a significant partner to Sweden for UNHCR. In 2024, UNHCR is looking to strengthen its partnership with Essity in the areas of sanitation and hygiene, with a particular focus on health and hygiene for women and girls. In 2022 and 2023, Essity donated a total of $1.4 million to UNHCR. This included both cash donations and in-kind donations of various sanitary products, including over 300,000 diapers and 500,000 sanitary pads to support people affected by the earthquake in Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic and 1.3 million diapers to people displaced by the war in Ukraine.

To strengthen monitoring, financial management and accountability of cash assistance, UNHCR's cash management system CashAssist will expand to 60 countries, and post-distribution monitoring to 75 countries. UNHCR will conduct impact assessments of cash assistance in six countries, and expand the use of common cash transfer mechanisms with humanitarian partners to 30 countries. It also aims to significantly increase local co-chairmanship of Cash Working Groups in refugee settings.

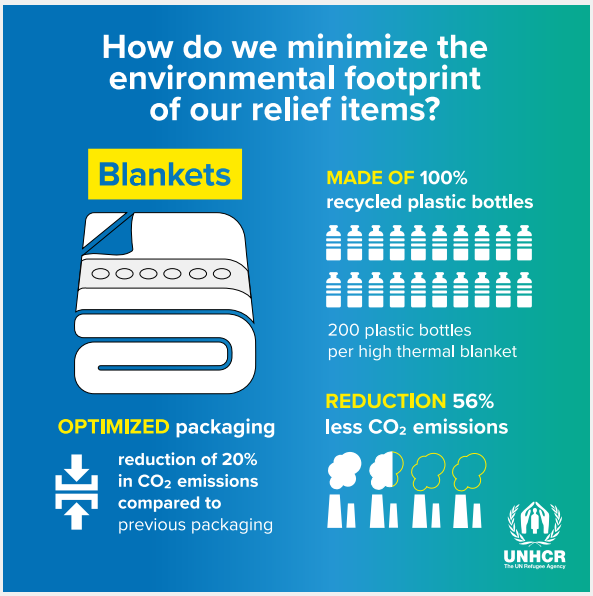
To meet basic needs, UNHCR also maintains global emergency stockpiles of essential items to respond to the needs of up to 1 million people in new emergencies, and regularly reviews and optimizes this network.

UNHCR is committed to reducing the carbon emissions generated by the procurement, delivery and use of relief items by 20% before 2025, and aims to reach the 10% mark in 2024, up from 5% in 2023. UNHCR will add three more environmentally-friendly product specifications in 2024 to the current six, cutting back on single-use plastic packaging and virgin plastic materials and increasing the proportion of recycled material.

The Office will explore alternative sourcing to decrease the geographical concentration of source markets for these selected items from 95% to 90%. By prioritizing local procurement and considering diversity, gender balance and ethical practices, UNHCR is supporting local economies and social inclusion. UNHCR will also cover the full life cycle of its goods by introducing new sustainability provisions into inventory, transportation and waste management. The Office will advocate for reducing the humanitarian supply chain's carbon emissions by 30% by 2030.

To ensure recipients' awareness and promote correct waste management, relief items will carry a green label with recycling information and a QR code linking to the help.unhcr.org page, which provides digital access to protection tools and product information.

The Refugee Environmental Protection Fund (REP) will invest in reforestation and clean cooking for refugees and host communities in Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda, registering them as verified carbon credits in 2024.




## Example from Asia and the Pacific region

In 2022, UNHCR launched a pilot procurement of sustainable core relief items to replenish stocks in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan. The project included orders of blankets made with 100% recycled plastic bottles, switching to natural colour boxes, and bales made of recycled material, banning single-use plastic packaging, and optimized packaging for blankets and sleeping mats. These efforts lowered $CO_2$ emissions by an estimated 1.777 metric tons, a saving which is equivalent to some 660,000 litres of diesel. The Office is gradually replenishing its worldwide stocks with greener items.

In Bangladesh's refugee camps, UNCHR and partners provide nearly 100% of refugees with clean cooking fuel by distributing LPG. In Uganda, 29% of refugee households have access to clean fuel such as LPG, and more sustainable solutions, such as briquettes. Several countries, including Bangladesh, Kenya, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda, also provide awareness-raising campaigns to refugees on energy-saving practices to further increase the adoption of energy-efficient stoves and alternative cooking fuels.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance

Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology

## A sample of core outcome indicators

8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Egypt | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 33% | 55% | 60% |
| Mexico | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 49% | 68% | 68% |
| Ukraine | IDPs | 43% | 45% | 45% |
| Ukraine | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Yemen | IDPs | 31% | 35% | 35% |
| Yemen | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 64% | 70% | 75% |

| UNHCR's targets for management of core relief items | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|
| Maintain sufficient stock and pipeline of CRIs to enable response to field needs, particularly emergencies, respecting a minimal coverage target of 1 million people | 1M | 1M |
| Reduction of $CO_2$ through the introduction of "greener" CRIs to ensure the sustainability of the end-to-end supply chain | 5% | 10% |
| Number of CRIs and other items for which new "greener" specifications are developed | 7 | 10 |
| Concentration of source markets (top 5 source countries) for 10 selected CRIs decreased through alternative sustainable sourcing | 95% | 90% |

© UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

### Japan's private sector rallies in response to global emergencies

Since 2023, private Japanese companies have demonstrated increased solidarity and support toward global humanitarian responses, donating nearly $15 million to the Ukraine situation and people affected by the earthquakes in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye. In 2024, private donors in Japan will continue to play a pivotal role in enabling UNHCR to efficiently deliver aid and develop lasting solutions for those affected by global displacement crises.

Focus Area

The impact of Cyclone Mocha, which hit Myanmar in May 2023, is starkly visible at Thae Chaung village, Rakhine State. An estimated 7.9 million people live in areas that experienced winds of 90 kph or more, and 3.4 million of them faced very destructive winds of more than 120 kph.

© UNHCR/Reuben Lim Wende

# Climate action

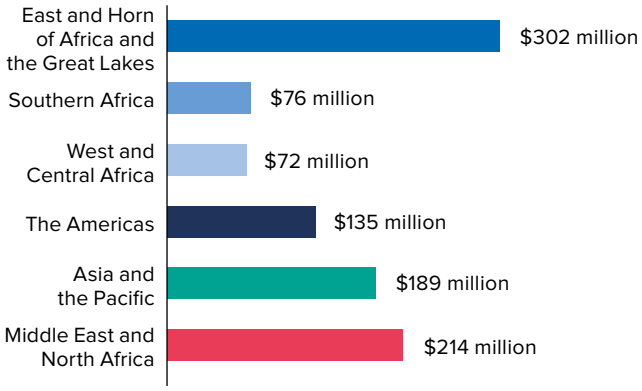
The global climate crisis is amplifying the drivers of forced displacement and increasing the protection and humanitarian needs of displaced and stateless people. Food and water are becoming scarcer, with droughts and floods becoming more frequent. Many of the people UNHCR serves are excluded from public services or living on the margins of society, vulnerable to climate events and in urgent need of investment to reduce climate risk and build their resilience.

Over 93% of the climate budget is for activities that contribute to climate resilience and/or environmental sustainability in UNHCR's operations. The majority of the funding required relates to the need for climate-resilient transitional shelters and access to renewable, clean, and sustainable energy sources, including for clean cooking.

## Global needs for Climate action in 2024

**$1.074 billion**

## Regional needs



The remainder of the budget largely supports innovative finance projects, such as the Green Financing Facility, which aims to green UNHCR's operations in the field, and the Refugee Environmental Protection (REP) Fund.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

UNHCR has set out its approach in its "Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030", which will be supported by multi-year climate action plans for each region. Its long-term vision is that by 2030, increasing numbers of forcibly displaced and stateless people fleeing from climate-fuelled crises, and/or living in climate vulnerable countries, are **protected where needed, resilient to the impacts of climate change, and living self-sufficient lives**. From 2024, UNHCR will work alongside partners to pursue four objectives to realize this vision. **First**, it will work to **ensure States provide international protection more systematically** to people fleeing in the context of the impacts of climate change and from fear of related persecution, violence and human rights violations.

UNHCR will advocate for the protection of refugees and others displaced across borders in the context of climate change. To improve the systematic provision of international protection for those who need it, it will provide technical and legal guidance and ensure that States and legal partners understand the "Legal considerations regarding claims for international protection made in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and disasters"

UNHCR is conducting research with partners on the application of the refugee definition criteria of "events seriously disturbing public order" under the 1969 OAU Convention, for the protection of people displaced across borders in relation to climate change impacts and disasters in Africa[1]. UNHCR will continue to engage judges, legal practitioners as well as State, institutional, academic and civil society actors to build knowledge in this area for the effective protection of people displaced in these contexts.

Using advocacy and technical expertise, UNHCR will promote States' responsibility in situations of internal displacement, especially in countries significantly affected by climate change such as Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Nigeria. UNHCR will support legislative and policy reforms that strengthen IDP protection and solutions, including States' development and adoption of new instruments.

**Second**, UNHCR will work so that forcibly displaced, returned and stateless people and their hosts have **improved access to protection-centred, environmentally sustainable resources and services.**

UNHCR will significantly step-up efforts to provide sustainable water services, cleaner energy and other services in an increasingly climate-smart manner. Access to sustainable services, such as clean energy, enables displaced communities to gain greater control over their lives and futures and protect local ecosystems and habitats.

UNHCR's Refugee Environmental Protection Fund will kickstart investment in reforestation and clean cooking in several climate-vulnerable refugee situations in 2024. UNHCR's Project Flow will solarize at least 20 water systems in 2024 and will conduct feasibility studies to enable solarization of more water systems, with an eventual target of 180 solarized systems.

**Spotlight example**: In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a UNHCR solarization project will supply environmentally friendly energy, water and sanitation, as well as providing livelihoods and powering UNHCR offices. UNHCR will construct shelters out of more sustainable materials and will plant trees, reducing deforestation, and will promote ecological farming and rural practices that are adapted to changing climate patterns.

[1] See Assessing serious disturbances to public order under the 1969 OAU Convention, including in the context of disasters, environmental degradation and the adverse effects of climate change Cleo Hansen-Lohrey UNHCR, 2023

**Third**, UNHCR will work so that forcibly displaced, returned and stateless people and their hosts have **improved economic and physical means to prepare, withstand and recover from climate shocks and stresses.**

UNHCR's life-saving role in enhancing people's resilience to climate-related and other environmental risks includes investing in or advocating for durable and sustainable shelter, early warning and shock preparedness, economically viable livelihoods, social safety nets and other cash-based interventions. In Bangladesh, for example, UNHCR is empowering and training Rohingya refugees to mitigate the effects of monsoons, cyclones, floods and landslides by improving infrastructure, soil stabilization and watershed management to reduce risks of further displacement within the camps. UNHCR's new "Policy on emergency preparedness and response" clarifies the organization's engagement in natural hazard-induced crises and emphasizes the need for strategic decision-making and anticipatory action in the preparedness phase.

UNHCR's advocacy and technical advice supports the inclusion of displaced people in governments' climate policy frameworks and strategies, including National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, and in coherence with disaster risk reduction strategies and wider frameworks for sustainable development.

To strengthen preparedness and early action in response to climate risks and displacement, UNHCR will be joining humanitarian and development partners in the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership.

**Spotlight example:** In Malawi, UNHCR is partnering with the African Union's African Risk Capacity on a pilot Replica project providing for Dzaleka refugee camp. This aims to deliver rapid and predictable finance in response to climate events, promoting the refugee population's inclusion in climate action strategies.

**Fourthly**, UNHCR is fast-tracking efforts to **minimize its environmental footprint**. UNHCR has set ambitious environmental goals, aiming to decrease its environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 45% from the 2018 levels by 2030. In 2024, UNHCR will convert at least 15 large UNHCR office sites to renewable energy, using the Green Financing Facility, an innovative financing mechanism designed to maximize efficiency and sustainability of greening investments. UNHCR's Green Box initiative, monitoring offices' energy use, will expand to cover distribution warehouses, and three UNHCR offices will run a smart air conditioning pilot.

In line with its "Sustainable supply strategy", UNHCR is on track to achieve a 20% reduction, by the year 2025, of carbon emissions that stem from the procurement, delivery and utilization of goods. UNHCR will develop three additional environmentally friendly product specifications, thereby achieving the greening of the ten highest emitting relief items and other goods. Modifications are made by avoiding single-use plastic packaging, reducing virgin plastic materials and increasing the proportion of recycled material by up to 100%.

UNHCR is also introducing new sustainability provisions into inventory, transportation and waste management. A new transport management system will allow the Office to track, mitigate and reduce emissions related to international air, sea and road transportation of goods.

**The Global Compact on Refugees: Climate Spotlight:** UNHCR has initiated a "Climate action multi-stakeholder pledge" that aims to increase financing and support for climate action for hosting countries and communities in climate-vulnerable, fragile and conflict-affected settings. Stakeholders are encouraged to take immediate and structural action across financial support, laws, policies, plans, programming and partnerships to ensure climate action is inclusive of refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless people and their host communities.

## The cost of inaction

The climate crisis demands that UNHCR prepares and responds in a climate-smart manner. Business as usual cannot ensure the safety of millions who are increasingly faced with hazardous weather events, degraded environments and dwindling access to food and water.

Underfunding would leave millions without the capacity and infrastructure to prepare and withstand hazardous climate events, or the means to build or maintain livelihoods and preserve their natural environment. Investing in climate resilient options not only increases wellbeing, but also contributes to cost-efficient aid.

For example, not investing in climate resilient infrastructure and settlements will result in more damage to shelters that require repair, reduce access to essential life-saving services during a disaster, and displace people once again.

Similarly, not providing environmentally sustainable resources and services, such as clean cooking options or solar-powered, sustainable water services, presents a variety of risks to human life and health including air pollution, conflict with local communities, and exposure of women and girls to the risk of gender-based violence when out collecting wood and water.

Failure to prepare is costly, and waiting for disaster to strike is not an option.

© UNHCR/Tiksa Negeri

### IKEA Foundation boosts UNHCR's green initiative

The IKEA Foundation, a strategic UNHCR partner since 2010, has been instrumental to the Organization's work on livelihoods, clean energy, and the economic inclusion of refugees and forcibly displaced people. In 2023, the IKEA Foundation committed $23.7 million to the Green Financing Facility, which aims to cut UNHCR's reliance on costly polluting diesel generators in hundreds of remote, off-grid locations, such as in Kenya and Uganda, part of UNHCR's plan to reduce its overall carbon emissions. The GFF uses financial guarantees to enable longer-term contracts, as well as a revolving fund to allow the same capital to solarize multiple sites over time.

Outcome Area 9

22-year-old Sakhi Gul lost nine family members in an earthquake that struck Afghanistan on 22 June, 2022. UNHCR is providing 1,300 earthquake-resilient houses for families affected by the earthquake in 15 villages, using local labour to help inject cash into the impoverished region.

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# Sustainable housing and settlements

## Global needs in 2024

Millions of people rely on UNHCR's help with sustainable housing and the management of the settlement where they live. Millions live in climate-vulnerable "hotspots" where investment in resources and infrastructure is needed to adapt to an increasingly inhospitable environment.

In 2022, most UNHCR country operations reporting data on housing said that the majority of refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees in those countries did not have habitable and affordable housing.

In Burundi for example, only 7% of refugees were reported to be living in habitable, affordable housing. Underfunding meant that not all UNHCR's planned activities could go ahead. The Operation faced serious difficulties as ageing shelters have to be rehabilitated every year, and restrictions on freedom of movement were an obstacle for refugees wanting to obtain local construction materials for themselves.

Many displacement situations have lasted so long that the temporary infrastructure has deteriorated. Thus investment is needed in many of the protracted situations in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, and countries affected by the

Syria situation. Refugees and asylum-seekers often cannot exercise their rights to housing, land and property, and their temporary and transitional shelters often suffer from harsh weather conditions, requiring replacement or frequent maintenance. Decarbonizing the shelter response is also an imperative.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR plans to invest in sustainable housing and settlements in 38 countries.

When a new displacement emergency erupts, UNHCR aims to conduct a shelter and settlement assessment within three days and provide emergency shelter assistance to newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers.

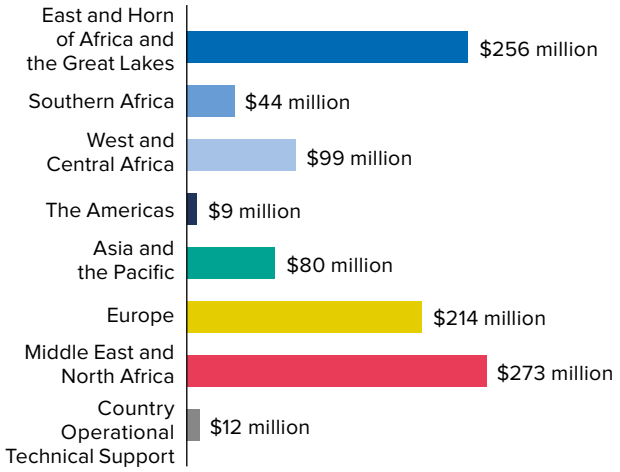
UNHCR will work with academic and private entities worldwide to expand the shelter solutions available, with a specific focus on the use of local materials and designs.

UNHCR also plans to start procurement in 2024 of a new tarpaulin with less environmental impact, following a research and development project in partnership with ICRC and IFRC. It will be lighter, stronger, more resistant to damage, and will include 15% recycled polyethylene. UNHCR will seek to invest in a programme to improve green areas in and around refugee camps, and land restoration will be a priority in 2024.

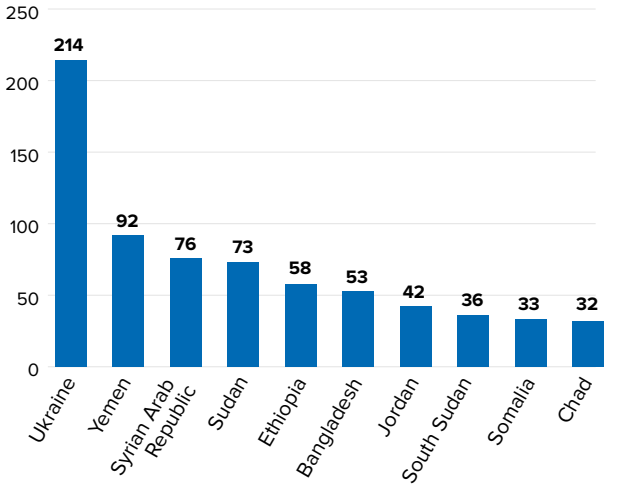
### Global needs for Sustainable housing and settlements in 2024

**$993 million**
**-1%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Sustainable housing and settlements (USD millions)




Others = $285 million | 29%

© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

### Lighting up lives in refugee settlements

The Signify Foundation has been a partner of UNHCR since 2020, bringing solar-powered lighting to refugee camps and shelters worldwide. Dedicated to making a real difference by bringing light where needed, the foundation donated solar lighting to UNHCR and other organizations during the Ukraine emergency and Pakistan floods. In 2023, Signify initiated a pilot project in Uganda to install solar streetlights in areas where sexual and gender-based violence are significant concerns. UNHCR and the Signify Foundation have been working with the local refugee communities to determine their safety needs and provide practical solutions for the people in these communities.

UNHCR promotes planned settlements only as a last resort. However, formal camps and camp-like settlements remain a reality, often developing gradually from an emergency camp into long-term settlements. UNHCR will keep advocating for humanitarian settlement planning so that camps and camp-like settlements are designed with long-term development in mind, as in Bangladesh's Settlement Development Plan (SDP), where UNHCR is leading a long-term strategy involving humanitarian actors, donors and the Government of Bangladesh.

UNHCR is mapping the climate vulnerability of 30 refugee and IDP settlements, part of its "Operational strategy for climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022-2025". Funding will be sought in 2024 to make them climate resilient.

The UNHCR Shelter Sustainability Assessment Tool developed by the Geneva Technical Hub assesses the environmental impacts, technical performance, habitability and affordability of shelter designs, thereby supporting decisions on the design and procurement of shelters provided by UNHCR and its partners.

Through the Geneva Technical Hub's academic support, UNHCR will also roll out a tool to map flood risks in settlements.

UNHCR aims to increase refugees' access to sustainable energy sources while remaining sensitive to the host community's needs. UNHCR will reduce carbon emissions by switching diesel-powered water infrastructure, health centres and schools to renewable energy, particularly solar hybrid systems. Decarbonization also means maintaining existing systems to avoid breakdowns and energy inefficiency that could add to $CO_2$ emissions. In Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, UNHCR's multi-year collaboration with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, "Energy Solutions for Displacement Settings", will explore the potential of the operation and maintenance service model for solar photovoltaic systems, and recycling and reuse of distributed solar to reduce electronic waste.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing

Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting

## A sample of core outcome indicators

9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | IDPs | 5% | 9% | 10% |
| Afghanistan | Returnees | 72% | 72% | 80% |
| Bangladesh | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 8% | 13% | 18% |
| Burkina Faso | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 18% | 60% | 75% |
| Chad | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 71% | 80% | 85% |
| Ukraine | IDPs | 83% | 47% | 47% |

Outcome Area 10

Esperance Muhimpundu, a Burundian refugee, holds her child during a malaria test at the temporary clinic at the Kalobeyei Reception Centre in Kenya, where UNHCR and partners are actively promoting malaria awareness and malaria prevention measures such as bed nets, sanitation and timely medical assistance.

© UNHCR/Pauline Omagwa

# Healthy lives

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## Global needs in 2024

Access to primary and secondary health care is a major challenge for forcibly displaced and stateless people. Many countries have fragile health systems and many do not include refugees in national health insurance schemes. Refugees are often charged for public services and especially hospital level care may be unaffordable.

In 2023, the UNHCR health information system noted several worrying trends, including increasing child mortality, a drop in vaccination coverage amongst children, increasing reports of malaria, dengue and cholera, a higher prevalence of malnutrition and a greater need for mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS).

In middle-income countries, more and more refugees are living outside of camp settings, increasing the need for their inclusion in public health systems, ensuring universal health coverage.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will invest to maintain and improve forcibly displaced and stateless people's health care in 95 countries.

UNHCR will work with governments and partners towards greater and sustainable inclusion of refugees in national health systems, supporting them with evidence and advocacy, including through the Group of Friends of Health for Refugees and Host Communities.

UNHCR will support forcibly displaced and stateless people's access to essential health services to meet their health needs and reduce morbidity and mortality, and will support the provision of quality essential medicines to address gaps. Enhancing prevention and access to care and treatment for communicable diseases will be a priority for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3 and ending the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases by 2030.

Childhood vaccination is a priority, considering fragile post-COVID health systems. UNHCR will enhance efforts to reach under-immunized children and to strengthen community-based approaches, working towards a harmonized refugee community health workforce that is empowered to lead promotive and preventive health interventions.

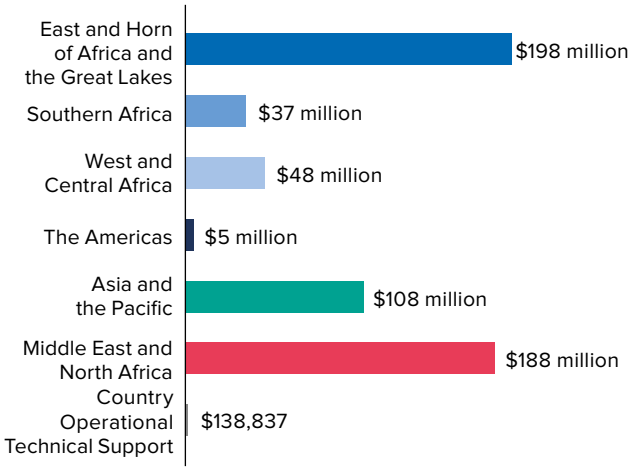
In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, for example, UNHCR will work with national and local health authorities and partners to reinforce last-mile childhood immunization, aiming to increase the childhood measles vaccination coverage from 64% in both countries to over 90% and 85% respectively.

UNHCR will further enhance the capacity of field staff to implement high quality, evidence-based sexual and reproductive health programming, in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO and partners. A blended learning course will be developed to equip UNHCR public health staff to prepare for and lead an evidence-based public health response during emergencies. UNHCR is also accelerating inter-agency action and coordination on HIV in humanitarian settings, including co-investing with UNAIDS and WFP in a Global HIV Advisor post.

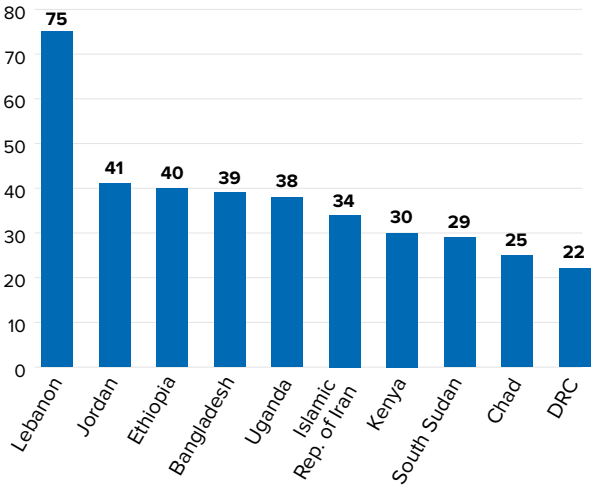
## Global needs for Healthy lives in 2024

**$590 million**
**+4%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs




## Top ten operational budgets for Healthy lives (USD millions)




Others = $216 million | 37%

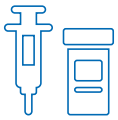
UNHCR's private sector engagement aims to support host governments and health systems to improve noncommunicable disease (NCD) care for refugees and host communities. UNHCR will collaborate with WHO and partners to advocate for NCD work in humanitarian settings.
The consolidation of MHPSS within UNHCR's multisectoral programming, guided by the inter-agency "Minimum service package" for MHPSS, is expected to lead to stronger mental health services within general health care.

UNHCR will also step up its efforts to facilitate equitable access to rehabilitation and assistive technology for forcibly displaced people.

UNHCR will work with partners to strengthen prevention and treatment of all forms of malnutrition through community and facility-based activities, monitoring the impact via the standardized expanded nutrition survey. UNHCR will continue its partnership with the other UN agencies (WHO, WFP, UNICEF and FAO) to advance the reduction of wasting efforts under the Global Action Plan on Wasting initiative.

UNHCR will work with Ministries of Health and partners to strengthen community and facility health information systems, including interoperability between the Integrated Refugee Health Information System and District Health Information Software (DHIS2) in camp and settlement settings. UNHCR will also keep pressing for refugees' inclusion in national health surveys.

## Core indicators



Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination

Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel

## A sample of core outcome indicators

10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 64% | 90% | 92% |
| South Sudan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 64% | 80% | 85% |
| Sudan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 76% | 80% | 88% |

Outcome Area 11

A boy who is internally displaced in Mozambique does his homework outdoors after the roof of his house was torn off by Cyclone Freddy, which affected 1 million people in Zambezia province.

© UNHCR/Guilherme Chirinda

# Education

## Global needs in 2024

The situation concerning the education of refugee children is increasingly dire. The school-aged refugee population surged from 10 million to 14.8 million by the end of 2022, and 51% are out of school.

UNHCR's top priority is forcibly displaced and stateless people's equitable and sustainable inclusion in national education systems. This is laid out in the Refugee Education 2030 strategy and aligned with the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees. Some progress has been made, for instance in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where the Refugee Education Integration Policy resulted in a 20% increase Syrian refugee children's enrolment in grades one to four.

Nevertheless, excluding the Ukraine situation, 83% of refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries where education systems often face their own constraints, complicating efforts towards refugee inclusion. (Monitoring inclusion is also difficult since official enrolment figures often do not show the number of refugees.)

UNHCR's comprehensive education strategy aims for better educational access and quality, and transformative partnerships. If national systems can sustainably include more refugees, UNHCR can envisage a gradual reduction in its oversight role, and the reallocation of resources.

However, in 2022, UNHCR received only 49% of the funding required for educational initiatives. A similar

shortfall in 2024 would constrain vital programmes, exacerbating the already high out-of-school rates among refugee children and undermining the long-term inclusion strategy, with knock-on impacts related to protection, health, peace and security, and social cohesion.

The importance of education for developing human potential cannot be overstated. A lack of adequate investment risks perpetuating cycles of disenfranchisement, leaving refugees ill-equipped for meaningful employment and active participation in their communities.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in education in 82 countries. UNHCR will strengthen national systems to sustainably include larger numbers of refugees, boost refugee teachers' professional development, deepen youth engagement through strategic learning-to-earning interventions and partnerships, and address the impacts of climate on refugee education.

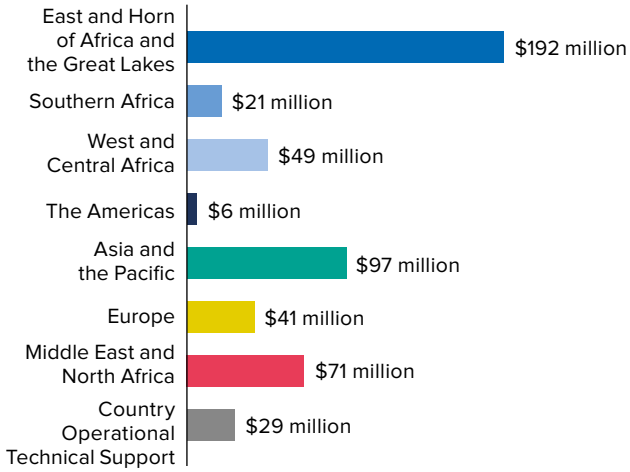
The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) at the end of 2023 represents an opportunity to revitalize inclusion efforts by increasing international cooperation and securing multi-year financing to realize inclusion pledges by host countries.

The UNHCR-Educate A Child programme has enrolled 1.6 million out-of-school refugee children in primary education since its launch in 2012. Set for renewal in 2024, it plans to enrol 400,000 more children in the next four years. A new initiative, Primary Impact, will benefit another 475,000 children

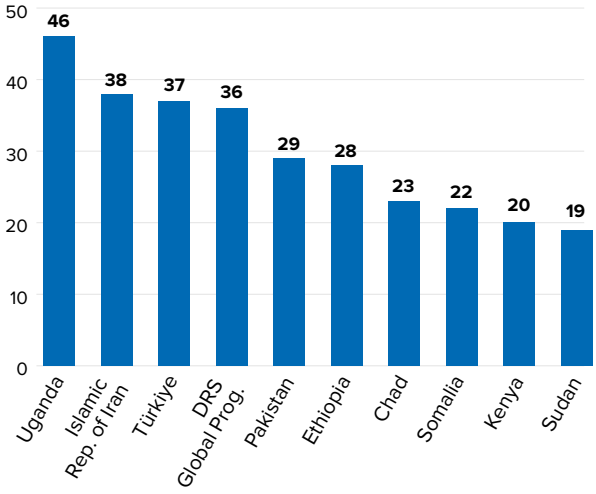
### Global needs for Education in 2024

**$514 million**
**+8%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Education (USD millions)




Others = $215 million | 42%

© Bereket Golom / Canaan Group

### Canaan Group helps to build school facilities for refugees in South Sudan

The Canaan Group is demonstrating its unwavering commitment to education by expanding its support beyond its yearly financial donations to UNHCR. In August 2023, it embarked on a construction project at the Gorom refugee settlement in South Sudan. This will include eight classroom blocks, an office block, a kitchen, staff toilets and six toilet blocks. Through these efforts, Canaan Group is helping to improve the learning and working environment for refugees in South Sudan.

over the same period. These programmes will enhance primary education access and quality for refugee children.

Secondary education requires urgent investment. Although global secondary enrolment averages 77%, it drops to just 41% for refugees, with significant regional disparities. To address this gap, a UNHCR pilot programme in Ethiopia, Iraq and Pakistan will focus on quality secondary education for refugees, providing insights that will shape a broader approach supporting 300,000 secondary school students.

For higher education, UNHCR and its partners are committed to achieving enrolment of 15% of refugee youth by 2030. The global average has risen to 7%, from 1% in 2019, but more work is needed to meet the target of 500,000+ enrolled by 2030. Inclusive policies and practices, such as Burundi's commitment to equalizing fees for national and refugee students, are crucial. Initiatives such as the Peer to Peer Solutions Advisor Network are essential in filling gaps and helping refugees navigate admission to higher education.

UNHCR will reach 75,000 students with connected learning initiatives across 25 countries in 2024, including Instant Network Schools, funded by the Vodafone Foundation, and a partnership for connected education with the ProFuturo Foundation. Alongside these efforts, UNHCR is pioneering technological innovations, including a collaboration with Learning Equality to automate curriculum alignment through machine learning algorithms.

UNHCR will improve its data collection to enhance evidence-based strategies for refugee education. The UNHCR education report covers more than 70 countries, and UNHCR has joined forces with partners like Porticus Foundation and the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center on research to measure learning outcomes among displaced populations.

## Core indicators

Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education

Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system

## A sample of core outcome indicators

11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 0% | 2% | 3% |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 4% | 5% | 6% |
| Kenya | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 3% | 6% | 6% |
| Pakistan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 5% | 5% | 5% |
| Sudan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 4% | 5% | 10% |

Outcome Area 12

Congolese refugee Rachel Nikuze (left) and her neighbours Marcelina Tumusifu and Charlotte Shimiyimana collect water at a water point in Rubondo, in Nakivale refugee settlement, Uganda. As a water user committee member, she helps to protect and care for the community water source.

© UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

# Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

## Global needs in 2024

Access to adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services is increasingly dire for forcibly displaced and stateless people, as well as the communities that host them, and at odds with UNHCR's commitment to "leave no one behind". For example, only 35% of forcibly displaced people in Ethiopia, 55% of those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 79% of those in the United Republic of Tanzania have access to "at least basic drinking water services". Significant work is needed to reach this and other WASH targets.

As the causes and impacts of displacement increase in complexity and connectedness, meeting basic WASH needs is increasingly challenging. The speed, size and physical distribution of displacement, overlapping with the vulnerability of hosting populations and ongoing disasters, add challenges to UNHCR's WASH responses, affecting the accessibility and acceptability of WASH services provided across the duration of displacement.

Climatic shocks and trends complicate WASH services since WASH infrastructure is vulnerable to damage from increasingly frequent climate events such as floods and landslides. These events also cause onward movements of forcibly displaced people, disrupting efforts to build up operational and maintenance expertise among the displaced population and to build self-sufficiency within the community.

Ensuring continuity in operating and maintaining WASH service provision is increasingly difficult given the protracted nature of displacements, often resulting in failing systems that are less able to meet the needs of the population. A majority of forcibly displaced and stateless people are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, whose governments face multiple challenges in providing WASH services. Transitioning to government-led systems requires long-term interventions in such settings.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

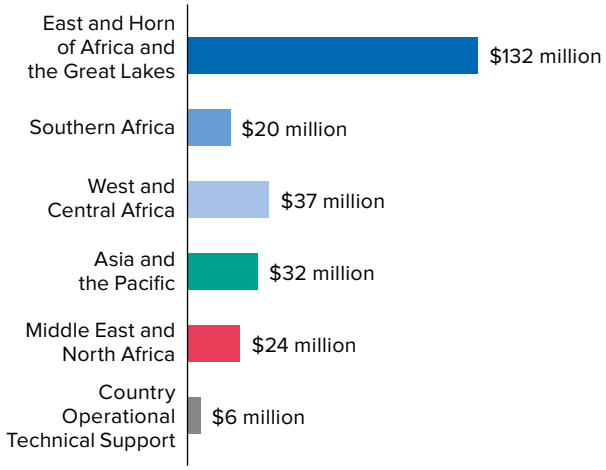
In 2024, UNHCR will provide WASH services to forcibly displaced people in new life-saving responses and protracted situations in 34 countries. In line with the "Operational strategy for climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022-2025", UN member States' commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will advocate for increasingly sustainable and climate-resilient WASH services.

UNHCR will also advocate for the systematic inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in national WASH services and related plans, as in Uganda where a number of water systems are being handed over to district water authorities, and in Ethiopia, where water supply systems are being developed in direct collaboration with the Government and development partners.

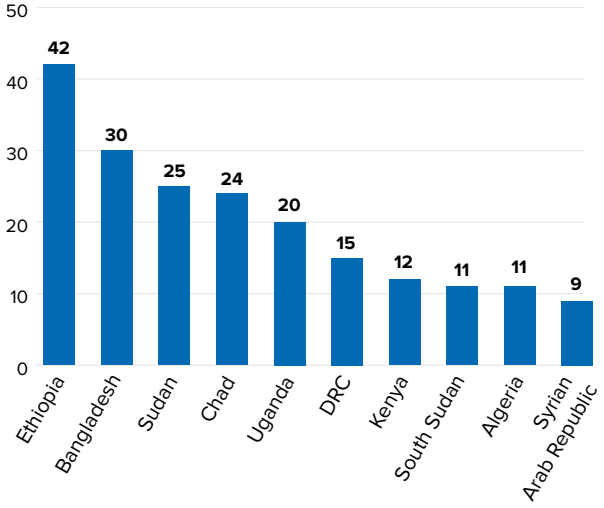
## Global needs for Clean water, sanitation and hygiene in 2024

**$252 million**
**+7%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs




## Top ten operational budgets for Clean water, sanitation and hygiene (USD millions)




Others = $52 million I 21%

© UNHCR/Saikat Mojumder

### Sony Group Corporation strengthens efforts to support refugee health and access to safe water

The Sony Group Corporation has been supporting UNHCR in addressing the needs of forcibly displaced people since 2001. From the earliest stages of the COVID-19 pandemic Sony stepped up to support UNHCR's response, making a $3 million contribution in 2020. In 2023, Sony strengthened its partnership with UNHCR to support COVID-19 recovery efforts in Bangladesh and in southern Africa, donating $6 million over three years for health care, water, sanitation, and hygiene, bringing long-term benefits for people who have been forced to flee.

Through Project Flow's innovative financing mechanisms, UNHCR is aiming to solarize at least 20 water systems in 2024, supporting the global effort to mitigate climate change while also improving the water service levels and sustainable use of groundwater. Additional feasibility studies, including water and energy assessments, and detailed designs will be undertaken to reach the eventual target of solarizing 180 water systems, servicing host communities as well as the forcibly displaced population.

UNHCR will further consolidate the use of smart water sensors (SWS) for improved management of water supplies. 10 countries in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, including Bangladesh, Iraq and Uganda, will benefit from real-time monitoring of multiple operational variables including water network performance, groundwater levels, water quality and energy consumption. Trends and gaps in water systems efficiency, groundwater and energy use will be monitored from a distance, facilitating easier and more regular oversight. This data and analysis provide strong evidence to enable optimization and greater efficiency, reducing the operating cost, saving water, and increasing environmental sustainability.

As part of its efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change, UNHCR will strengthen the climate resiliency of critical WASH infrastructure, for example through infrastructure enhancements to prevent damage by floods and sustainable water resource management.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services

Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet

## A sample of core outcome indicators

12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 55% | 70% | 85% |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 35% | 85% | 100% |
| Mauritania | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| United Republic of Tanzania | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 79% | 100% | 100% |

Focus Area

Displaced people install a new electricity transformer at the Corrane site for internally displaced people in Nampula Province, Mozambique, where UNHCR, in collaboration with the World Bank, has brought electricity to 1,451 households.

© UNHCR/Hélène Caux

# Working with development partners

## Global needs in 2024

The global situation is well known: forced displacement is rising relentlessly, new emergencies keep flaring up, and once a person is forced to flee or stateless, their situation is hard to resolve. Some States host large numbers for years. According to the latest UNHCR data, over three quarters of refugees, internally displaced and stateless people live in protracted situations for up to a decade.

With so many people displaced indefinitely, humanitarian funding cannot be the sole tool for the job. It makes no sense, economically or morally, to keep people in a "temporary" situation where they depend on charity, with no end in sight. The obvious answer is to allow them to work, be empowered and participate in the local society and the local market, where their labour and taxes make them net contributors rather than a burden on the community. The problem is that three quarters of them live in low- and middle-income countries that are struggling with their own fragile economies. Funds are short, and solidarity among States is scarce. In 82% of the countries where refugees live, there is restricted access to formal employment, significantly hampering their ability to contribute to local economies. Millions of people are neglected, and vast human potential is wasted.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

UNHCR is changing the way the world thinks about forced displacement and statelessness, and has been working for several years to deepen the involvement of development actors, organizations with the means to support governments to strengthen these fragile economies. By working with them, UNHCR can ensure they include forcibly displaced and stateless people in their research, censuses and funding programmes, and that host governments have the support they need to include these populations – in schools, health care, housing, legal/administrative systems and the economy as a whole.

UNHCR has a multi-year vision for its engagement with development actors: that by 2026, increasing numbers of refugee, IDP, returnee and stateless people are able to enjoy their rights and are socially and economically empowered, with the means to be self-reliant and to contribute to sustainable development. This vision stems from the Global Compact on Refugees and is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the OECD Development Assistance Committee's "Recommendation on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus".

UNHCR will work with national governments, international financial institutions (IFIs), multilateral and regional development banks, bilateral development actors, NGOs and the private sector to achieve this vision. It has four objectives to achieve by 2026:

- Increased numbers of States are demonstrating their commitment to protection and inclusion;
- Increased proportions of forcibly displaced, stateless populations and host communities have equitable access to public services;
- Increased proportions of forcibly displaced, stateless populations and host communities have access to economic activities and employment opportunities;
- Increased proportions of refugees and IDPs can return voluntarily to areas where they are able to live self-sufficiently.

In pursuit of these objectives, UNHCR will bring development partners together, as foreseen by the GCR, for:

- Joint impactful advocacy, working closely with development partners to encourage law and policy changes that support protection, solutions and inclusion in national services and socioeconomic opportunities;
- Leveraging the technical and financial capacity of IFIs and development actors in countries heavily affected by forced displacement, statelessness or return;
- Programming, prioritizing area-based programmes with arrangements in place for a transition from humanitarian response to national assistance supported by development actors;
- Joint evidence generation, partnering with governments and development actors to better understand the costs and benefits of inclusion;
- Deeper partnerships with UN agencies, ensuring that their country programmes and budgets include displaced and stateless populations, leveraging their executive boards' global commitments for burden sharing.

For example, in sub-Saharan countries targeted for funding by the World Bank IDA Window for Host Communities and Refugees, UNHCR will work with

development actors and host governments on policy objectives outlined in the Refugee Policy Review Frameworks, advocating for the removal of barriers that restrict the rights of refugees and of their hosts, and leveraging financial and technical support for the development and solutions efforts led by the host country and the country of origin.

Other plans include a joint programme, with the Government of the Netherlands, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank, UNICEF and ILO, on education, employment, protection and critical infrastructure in Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Kenya, Jordan, Lebanon, Uganda and Sudan. UNHCR will also work with the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships on creating conducive conditions for voluntary return in Burundi and South Sudan, among other countries, as well as on economic inclusion and education. Together with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), UNHCR will focus on fostering inclusion in social protection, education and other national systems, as well as on climate action and energy programmes, in common priority countries. UNHCR will work with the IFC on strengthening private sector investments in hosting areas, as well as promoting micro, small and medium enterprises, including refugee-owned businesses.

UNHCR will also seek to maximize the synergies between its programming and that of development actors. Joint advocacy will be based on evidence from research and data generation on the advantages of socioeconomic, legal and administrative inclusion. This will also be the basis of targeted support offered to host governments who want to give forcibly displaced people access to social, legal, administrative and financial services and economic opportunities on the same terms as nationals. UNHCR will also work closely with UN development partners to ensure that forced displacement is integrated into the work of UN development agencies and their country programmes at least in main host and return countries.

### The cost of inaction

While engagement with development actors does not require additional resources *per se*, development actors have supported UNHCR to build adequate human resources and technical expertise. Development Officers and Economists positions have been created, working in close collaboration with protection staff across UNHCR's Regional Bureaux and relevant country offices. Without this dedicated team, it would be impossible for UNHCR to: i) build the capacity of relevant UNHCR staff to regularly engage with development actors at policy and programme levels; ii) build protection expertise of development actors engaging in forced displacement-affected settings; and iii) generate the comparable socioeconomic data that inform development responses in host and return areas.

Outcome Area 13

Alice Lemuyubenyo at the farm in Kang'ura in Kalobeyei, Kenya, where she and other farmers grow vegetables. The Kalobeyei Settlement, established in 2015 to accommodate the growing population of the Kakuma Refugee Camps, was set up based on principles of refugee self-reliance, integrated delivery of services to refugees and host community members, and greater support for livelihoods.

© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

# Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

## Global needs in 2024

Many developing countries are struggling with conflict, violence, economic shocks, climate change and food insecurity. This heightens the risks for forcibly displaced and stateless people, who are invariably among the most vulnerable. If they cannot participate in local economies, they must depend on humanitarian assistance, which is increasingly stretched. Economic exclusion can lead to poverty, a loss of professional skills and networks, or towards the informal economy, which brings a risk of exploitation, poor working conditions and other abuses.

Refugees also frequently encounter significant challenges in accessing financial services due to their uncertain legal status, limited employment opportunities and restricted freedom of movement. Even when refugees have a right to a financial account, local regulations or financial service providers may block them in practice. Also, refugees are often unaware of the options available to them.

UNHCR's 2023 "Global survey on livelihoods and economic inclusion" shows that only 45% of refugees live in countries with unrestricted access in practice to formal employment, including wage-earning jobs and self-employment. This figure remains low, but it has been on the rise, from 18%

in 2019, 38% in 2021 and 45% in 2023, with progress in countries such as Brazil, Kenya, Mauritania and Nepal. In Mexico, more than 30,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from cities in the south, where opportunities for integration are scarce, have successfully been relocated to 11 municipalities with demand for workers. With formal jobs, they have contributed over $8.5 million in tax revenues.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

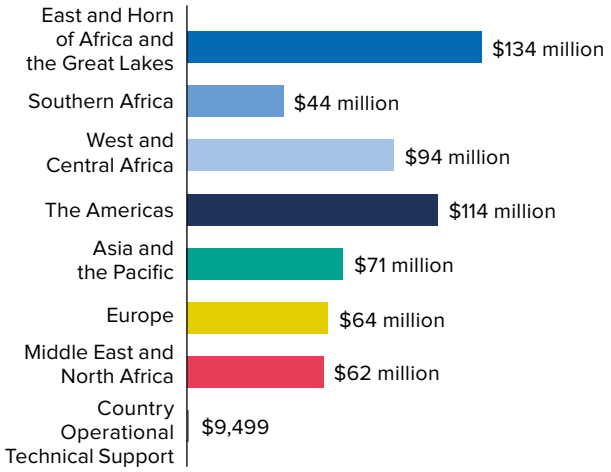
In 2024, UNHCR will invest in self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods interventions in 121 countries.

UNHCR aims to convene stakeholders who can support displaced people's access to rights, services, land, employment and self-employment opportunities. It is backing the Global Refugee Forum "mega-pledge" to reach 1 million people with economic inclusion and broader social protection programming within four years, and to support 15 States in strengthening or adopting laws and policies on economic inclusion and social protection. UNHCR also wants to see forcibly displaced and stateless people included in national services and programmes. It seeks partnerships to invest in the areas hosting them, facilitate their access to decent work, and support economic recovery in areas of voluntary returns. With the Joint Data Center and others, UNHCR will gather and analyse data on sustainable socioeconomic inclusion in national development plans and programmes, such as the Shirika Plan, where Kenya is shifting its approach to refugee management by transforming refugee camps into integrated settlements.

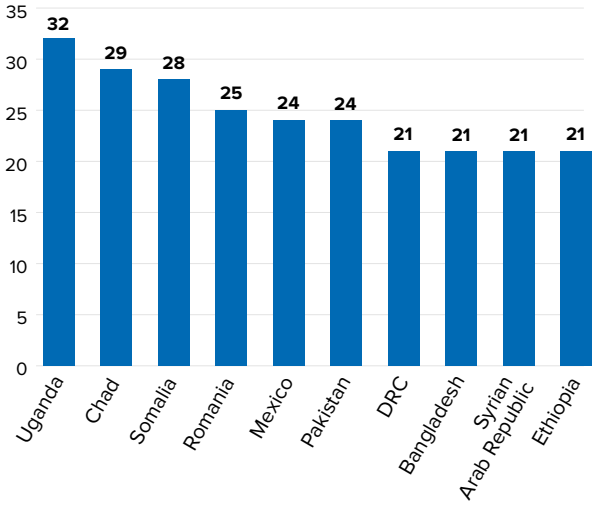
### Global needs for Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods in 2024

**$586 million**
**+7%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods
(USD millions)




Others = $339 million | 58%

© UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin

### Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives partners with UNHCR to improve the self-reliance and livelihoods of refugees

Since 2021, Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives has contributed over $26 million to support more than 600,000 refugees, IDPs, and host community members in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East in the areas of food assistance, emergency response, and livelihoods. In Bangladesh, its sustainable livelihoods programme provides vulnerable refugee families with climate-smart agricultural skills and materials so that they can grow produce to consume and sell. The project has decreased dependence on food rations and empowered families to become self-sufficient.

UNHCR will collaborate with governments, development actors, including the ILO and the World Bank Group, the private sector, researchers and academia to tackle issues related to the global underemployment of forcibly displaced and stateless populations and to advance a just transition. The Office will partner with development actors to support investment in climate-resilient, sustainable, circular and inclusive markets and agrifood systems in refugee-hosting areas.

UNHCR and the World Bank will expand the insect farming initiative in Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe to include Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico and Uganda. Insect farming for food, feed and fertilizer production can increase access to nutritious food and feed, create green jobs, improve the climate and the environment, and strengthen local economies.

UNHCR is dedicated to promoting the financial inclusion of refugees and will invest in specific, market-oriented employment and self-employment initiatives. UNHCR brings development expertise and can test or scale up new approaches, or build evidence to attract the right partners. Its activities will be evidence-based and focus on inclusion in the digital and financial economy, small business development, employment facilitation and linkages with social protection. As humanitarian funding is scarce and development funding often focused on a few countries, it is essential for UNHCR to step in and support governments, local communities and the private sector in maximizing the potential of refugees to contribute to local economies and rebuild their lives.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money service provider

Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed

Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year

## A sample of core outcome indicators

13.1 Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money service provider

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ethiopia | IDPs | 33% | 50% | 60% |
| Ethiopia | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 30% | 40% | 50% |
| Jordan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 9% | 22% | 23% |
| Peru | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 48% | 55% | 60% |
| Uganda | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 14% | 20% | 20% |

Outcome Area 14

Somali refugee Ayaanle lived in Yemen for five years after he and his family fled the conflict in their homeland. But Yemen's own conflict made life too difficult, and he was among 105 refugees who left the Port of Aden on 27 August 2023 to seek new livelihood opportunities in Somalia.

© UNHCR/Abdullah Babrek

# Voluntary repatriation and reintegration

## Global needs in 2024

Most refugees want to go home. This is consistently the result of surveys of their intentions. However, very few are able to do so – only 1% in 2022. Political instability, insecurity, climate impacts and a lack of services and livelihoods all prevent sustainable returns and reintegration. Nevertheless, progress is possible: in Côte d'Ivoire, 98% of refugees previously registered across West Africa have returned.

## How UNHCR will make a difference in 2024

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in voluntary repatriation and reintegration activities in 79 countries.

To remove obstacles to returns, UNHCR draws on its network of partners, including UN agencies and multilateral financial institutions, to form coalitions that can bring a wide spectrum of support to specific geographic areas. It will work with the "support platforms" under the aegis of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) in Latin America and Mexico, and a fourth platform has been launched for the Central African Republic situation.

The 2023 Global Refugee Forum is also expected to generate pledges supporting progress on

peacebuilding, conflict prevention and housing, land and property rights in countries of origin, which will add to the potential for returns. UNHCR will also seek to ensure that refugees have access to up to date local information on their country and area of origin, allowing them to make informed decisions about returning.

In Burundi, UNHCR has facilitated voluntary repatriation since 2017, primarily from the United Republic of Tanzania. To ensure returns are sustainable, UNHCR is working with development actors to advance access to livelihoods and services and advocates for refugees' integration in national development plans.

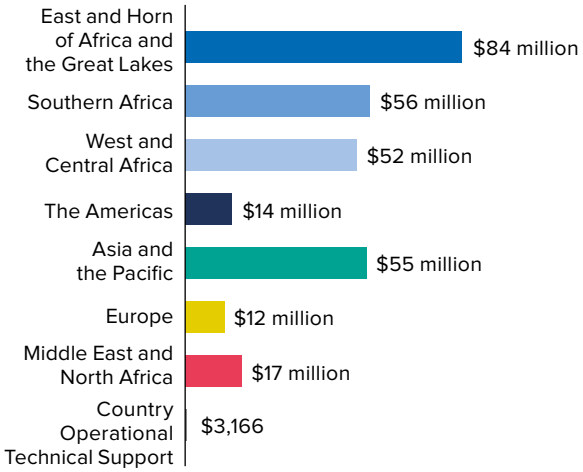
148,200 South Sudanese refugees returned in adverse circumstances in the first six months of 2023, mostly fleeing Sudan. UNHCR does not facilitate these returns, but will keep supporting returnees via "Pockets of hope", a solutions-oriented, area-based and status-blind initiative. UNHCR also supports access to documentation, a challenge due to the complex political context, limited government capacity to issue civil documents, and the cost and administrative requirements to request nationality certificates, which function as national identity cards.

6,000 Afghan refugees returned in the first half of 2023, with drivers including the improved security situation in Afghanistan and the desire to reunite with families. In 2024, to address returnees' immediate needs and mitigate protection risks, UNHCR will continue to issue cash grants and provide multi-sectoral assistance at encashment centres. Information collected through return monitoring will inform UNHCR's programmes and interventions in areas of displacement and returns.

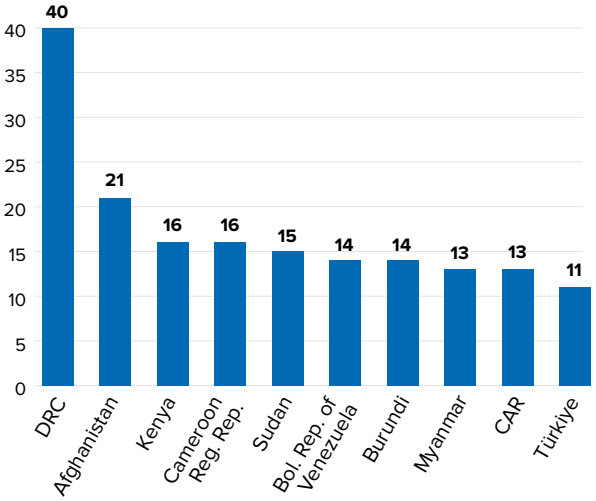
## Global needs for Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration in 2024

**$292 million**
**+11%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration (USD millions)




Others = $118 million | 40%

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNHCR is in discussions with the Government to remove obstacles to return, and will continue providing returning refugees and other vulnerable people with humanitarian assistance and other services through a network of community centres. UNHCR is also prioritizing birth registration in asylum countries, which has significantly contributed to an increase in the number of Syrian children with legal identity documents. The number of Syrians born in refugee-hosting countries of the region who had no birth registration documents has fallen to 5% in recent years, compared to 35% in 2012. The 2023 survey of "Syrian refugees' perceptions & intentions on return to Syria" showed that 92% possessed at least one valid document showing Syrian origin.

UNHCR will implement the recommendations of a recent evaluation of its support for voluntary repatriation and reintegration, aiming to improve context analysis, monitoring of returnee needs, needs-based planning, refugee participation, advocacy strategies, multi-stakeholder engagement, regional and national agreements, and knowledge management.

Without the required funding, UNHCR will be less able to provide the return packages that support returnees' initial reintegration needs, to provide up-to-date and localized information to refugees, to conduct intentions surveys and protection monitoring in areas of return, and to inform and engage actors, including development partners, of reintegration needs.

## Core indicator

Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials

## A sample of core outcome indicators

14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Afghanistan | Returnees | 47% | 50% | 60% |
| Burundi | Returnees | 68% | 75% | 80% |
| Somalia | Returnees | 58% | 65% | 70% |

Outcome Area 15

In the Green Tree Cafe in Rothesay Library, on Scotland's Isle of Bute, Syrian refugee Wafa Murad meets with her son Lalesh Musawir, David Miles-Hanschell (left), who helped teach her English, and Hugh O'Hagan (right), coordinator of the local SAWA resettlement programme. Wafa and her two sons were resettled from Dohuk, Iraq, in 2021, and she now volunteers to work in charity shops and helps other refugees settle in.

© UNHCR/Andrew Testa

# Resettlement, complementary pathways and family reunification

## Global needs in 2024

One route out of forced displacement is via a third country. This might be resettlement or a complementary form of legal entry that is open to people in need of international protection, such as humanitarian admission, family reunification and named sponsorship, or skill-based education and labour mobility pathways. Resettlement and these complementary pathways are vital for individual refugees and are a part of comprehensive protection and solutions strategies. They also constitute an important way to alleviate pressure on refugee-hosting countries, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

Resettlement offers a unique and meaningful chance for individuals and families to rebuild their lives. Over 2.4 million refugees will need resettlement in 2024, a 20% increase in the requirement in 2023, and 59 UNHCR operations have projected resettlement needs. UNHCR assesses refugees' needs and refers them for resettlement in close collaboration with the governments of resettlement and host countries, NGO and civil society actors, and the refugees

themselves. Only a small number can be resettled, so UNHCR prioritizes those with urgent or emergency protection needs and those who have been in long-term displacement.

According to the global commitments under the 2030 Roadmap, in 2024, 220,000 refugees should be able to reach complementary pathways as safe and regulated opportunities to support themselves in a third country and potentially reach a sustainable and lasting solution to end their refugee status. This entails building systems through partnerships, with UNHCR coordinating and supervising protection.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR plans to invest in resettlement; building complementary pathways, and enhancing access to family reunification in 148 countries.

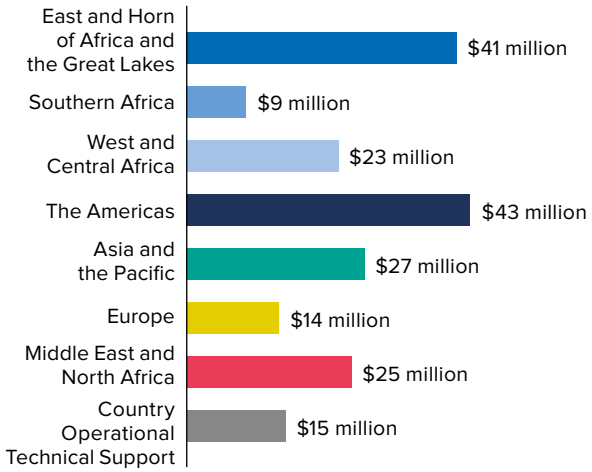
UNHCR will press governments to reduce the gap between resettlement needs and the number of places available. UNHCR will coordinate resettlement globally to ensure the largest possible number of active resettlement countries and the timely and efficient processing of resettlement, which currently averages 971 days between submission and departure. UNHCR will focus on five priority situations: the Central Mediterranean situation and Syrian, Venezuelan, Afghan and Rohingya refugees.

UNHCR will refine its identification and processing methodologies and promote the strategic use of resettlement to complement wider solutions and resilience strategies. UNHCR will support community sponsorship, an important tool to increase reception and integration capacity and strengthen welcoming societies.

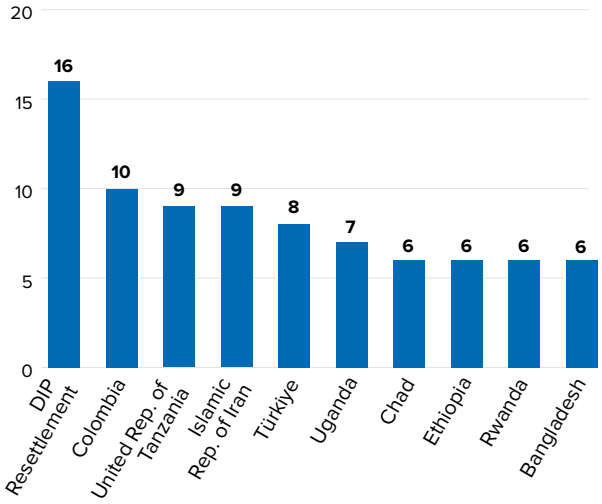
### Global needs for Resettlement, complementary pathways and family reunification in 2024

**$205 million** I **+2%** vs 2023 current budget

### Regional needs




### Top ten operational budgets for Resettlement, complementary pathways and family reunification (USD millions)




Others = $122 million I 60%

UNHCR will work closely with States and civil society actors – including in the Private Sector - to expand education, labour and humanitarian pathways, improve access to family reunification and implement 2023 Global Refugee Forum pledges supporting refugees' access to legal pathways. UNHCR will broaden partnerships and work to lift barriers to the independent and safe movement of refugees by advocating for unhindered access to refugee family reunification, humanitarian admissions and issuance of individual travel documents.
UNHCR will remain the protection lead, bringing together different actors to ensure that legal pathways become a real attainable option. Expanding numbers and inclusion of refugees in the global migration frameworks will remain UNHCR's priority and main role.

UNHCR will ensure a protection-sensitive approach to developing pathways by contributing to the work of the Global Task Forces on Refugee Labour Mobility and Third Country Education Pathways and enhanced access to family reunification through leading on the Family Reunification Network. This work aims to level the playing field so that qualified refugees can compete for opportunities. UNHCR's opportunities platform, which helps refugees find accredited higher education and professional development programmes, will expand to include labour opportunities.

UNHCR will strengthen its data collection to track the progress of complementary pathways and family reunification, improving the joint OECD-UNHCR data collection process and UNHCR's monitoring and evaluation frameworks. At the field level, UNHCR will continue identifying and building the capacity of partners, including refugee-led organizations, to support refugees' readiness and access to complementary pathways. In many countries, UNHCR will continue initiatives building towards a systematic framework with protection safeguards, including Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, the Philippines, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia.

## Core indicators

Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement

Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority

Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country

## A sample of core outcome indicators

15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bangladesh | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 1,082 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Chad | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 1,209 | 856 | 1,200 |
| Iran | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 3,126 | 5,000 | 5,000 |
| Lebanon | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 9,656 | 11,800 | 7,800 |
| Libya | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 464 | 650 | 700 |
| Uganda | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 3,790 | 3,500 | 4,500 |

Outcome Area 16

Afghan refugee Sara Faizi opened the first Afghan restaurant in Sofia, Bulgaria. She started her restaurant, Khaala Sara Foodz, with microfinance support from SIS Credit, a non-banking institution that provides low interest loans for people from vulnerable groups.

© UNHCR/Dobrin Kashavelov

# Local integration and other local solutions

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

## Global needs in 2024

Recent years have seen record forced displacement on an unprecedented scale. Although the vast majority of displaced people want to go home, very few are able to do so. Many countries that host refugees are willing to find local solutions but they need help to bridge financial, technical and policy gaps.

States are showing solidarity and generously supporting integration efforts, but in many instances UNHCR operations remain significantly underfunded, with an acute shortfall in financing for durable solutions – even where shifting local conditions have given rise to improved prospects for local integration.

## How UNHCR will make a difference

In 2024, UNHCR will invest in local integration and other local solutions in 141 countries.

UNHCR will seek to inspire and mobilize a willing and capable coalition of partners both locally and globally, through the GRF and the high-level political platform that it presents.

With millions of vulnerable lives hanging in the balance, UNHCR is determined to maintain and, where possible, consolidate its local integration efforts, broadly, by strengthening collaboration with development actors, the private sector and other UN system partners – including on scalable initiatives that create pathways or directly contribute to local integration where multilateral financial institutions are helping to meet the housing needs of refugees and their host communities. Further investing in legal research and in the practical feasibility of the options of permanent legal residence and the acquisition of nationality across regions, including in the context of existing regional communities, will be explored.

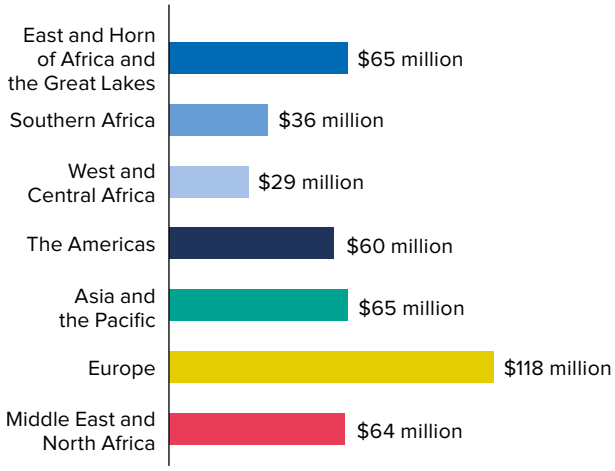
To implement the Global Compact on Refugees and promote related existing initiatives as presented at the 74th Executive Committee meeting, UNHCR will continue to promote sustainable solutions for forcibly displaced people, including through local integration and other local solutions for refugees that build on and leverage:

- The Regional Comprehensive Protection and Solutions Frameworks (MIRPS, by its Spanish acronym) and its support platform, the Quito Process, and the Cities of Solidarity initiative in the Americas. UNHCR also aims to continue its support to forced displacement in Colombia and El Salvador, with an eventual outlook towards restitution and the overall restoration of secure housing, land and property rights for those impacted by displacement and armed conflict, and to facilitate regularization processes in informal settlements, relocations, and the constitution of indigenous reservations.

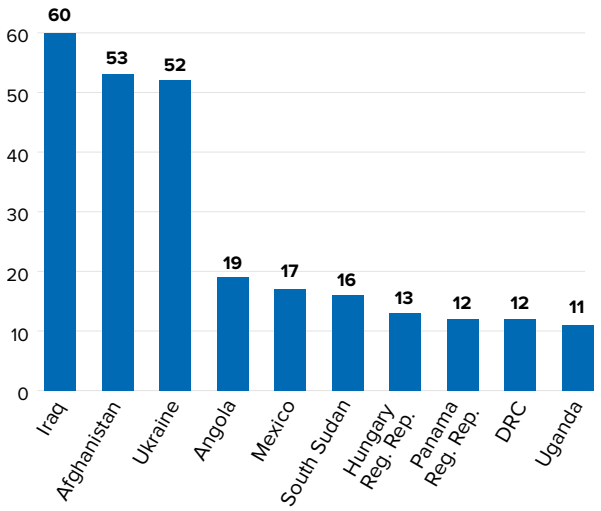
## Global needs for Local integration and other local solutions in 2024

**$437 million**
**+8%** vs 2023 current budget

## Regional needs




## Top ten operational budgets for Local integration and other local solutions (USD millions)




Others = $172 million | 39%

- The Ministerial Declaration of Support adopted and signed by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the East African Community (EAC) and the IGAD Support Platform Roadmap for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum that were launched in Djibouti.
- Ongoing support by UNHCR in West and Central Africa, such as on the submission of naturalization applications by Mauritanian refugees in Senegal and the issuance of passports, birth certificates and residence permits to former Ivorian refugees in Ghana. The Yaoundé Declaration on solutions to the situation in the Central African Republic, and collaboration with regional institutions such as ECCAS to strengthen UNHCR's advocacy efforts, will continue to play an important role.

In Asia and the Pacific, efforts to find solutions for Sri Lankan refugees facing protracted situations in India will continue, including by identifying pathways to local integration for those refugees who wish to integrate.

In the Middle East and North Africa, scaling up advocacy with local and national authorities to create conditions for addressing refugee needs will be considered – for example in Iraq where UNHCR is supporting the inclusion of enhanced housing, land and property rights in the national Refugee Law.

## Core indicators

Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land

Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems

## A sample of core outcome indicators

16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land

| Country | Population Type | Baseline | Target 2023 | Target 2024 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Iraq | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 36% | 36% | 36% |
| Nigeria | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 0% | 40% | 45% |
| South Sudan | IDPs | 10% | 25% | 25% |
| South Sudan | Refugees and Asylum-seekers | 66% | 70% | 70% |

UN colleagues stand together on a ferry on the way to Qustol border point in Egypt, where UNHCR is leading the inter-agency coordination and response to the Sudan situation.

© UNHCR/Christine Beshay

# Enabling Areas

## Introduction

The five Enabling Areas refer to support and management functions needed to deliver UNHCR's Impact and Outcome Areas, and to do so effectively and efficiently. The following summarizes plans for the Enabling Areas in 2024:

## Enabling Area 17: Efficient, modern, and streamlined systems and processes

In 2024, UNHCR will leverage new cloud-based business solutions in finance, and supply (Cloud ERP), partnerships (the Project Reporting Oversight and Monitoring Solution, PROMS) and external engagement (Synergy), making sure they function in an integrated way (Link). These follow the launch of two other systems under UNHCR's Business Transformation Programme (BTP), transforming its approach to results-based management (COMPASS, in 2021) and human resources (Workday, in 2022). In 2024, UNHCR will prioritize stabilization of BTP systems and train over 4,000 UNHCR and partner users of PROMS. It will support the wider UN system by sharing its experience with new digital solutions and practices through an inter-agency knowledge-sharing community. The results of an assessment of impact gains stemming from the BTP, performed with support of the UN Advisory Alliance (UNAA), will be available in the second quarter of 2024.

UNHCR will also make further investments in data and digitalization.

Transformative efforts will not be confined to systems and will include a revision of existing processes and procedures, as prompted by the adoption of new technology.

Changes planned within this enabling area will position UNHCR to be more agile, efficient, inclusive and collaborative, and to champion the global solidarity envisaged in the Global Compact on Refugees.

## Enabling Area 18: Enhanced operational support, supply chain and technology

In line with its "Policy on emergency preparedness and response", UNHCR will continue to strengthen country operations' preparedness and response to multiple complex humanitarian emergencies and increased displacement, including due to climate change. This will be done by furthering emergency risk analysis and contingency planning, doubling emergency training capacity in view of increased deployment of UNHCR emergency roster members, maintaining the Emergency Surge team, and expanding dialogue with the standby partnership network to ensure that the emergency needs of country operations are met in a timely and effective manner.

UNHCR country operations will be supported to promote a safe working environment and apply security risk management processes to bring risk to within acceptable levels. This will be achieved through global security risk analysis, application of a person-centred approach, immediate response to critical security incidents, security learning, and engagement with the UN security management system.

In line with UNHCR's "Strategic plan for climate action 2024–2030", as one of the key actions to reduce its carbon footprint in 2024, UNHCR will further enhance the sustainability of its end-to-end supply chain. The Office will expand collaboration with other stakeholders to transition its supply management into a more purposeful, data-driven and strategic service. It will further engage in the sustainable procurement and delivery of core relief items (CRIs) from its global stockpiles, which are able to meet the emergency needs of up to 1 million people. For more details, please see the chapter on Climate Action and Outcome Area 8: Well-being and basic needs.

UNHCR will continue to promote a culture of innovation in the Office and plans to support the release of up to 80 operational innovation projects.

Equipped with the largest fleet of vehicles in the UN Common System, UNHCR will focus on making its fleet safer and more climate-friendly through the introduction of more fuel-efficient vehicles. Building on the roll-out of ridesharing to over 100 offices in 2023, UNHCR will continue to explore ways to maximize more sustainable ways of transportation. Safety in transport will also be advanced by piloting the latest fleet management technologies.

## Enabling Area 19: Strengthened human resources and improved organizational culture

UNHCR will continue its human resources transformation journey. The stabilization of Workday and its enhancements will continue in 2024. It will hone the potential of the workforce and ensure the deployment of people with the requisite skills. Workday's performance management model, "Evolve" is expected to improve relations between managers and employees while developing staff skills and competencies for their current role and their future career. UNHCR will keep investing in training regional HR teams and the wider community of HR practitioners on race equality, gender parity, disability inclusion, and other aspects of diversity.

This initiative is an integral component of UNHCR's broader institution-wide diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) priorities and objectives outlined in its DEI Strategic Framework. This serves as a structured roadmap guiding its intentional endeavours to promote these principles throughout the Office.

Leveraging the occupational health and safety framework and the mental health and well-being strategy, UNHCR will continue to reinforce the first line of support in high-risk duty stations and provide direct mental health and psychosocial services. The Office will also enhance the capabilities of its workforce through its innovation fellowship to enable better delivery on UNHCR's mandate.

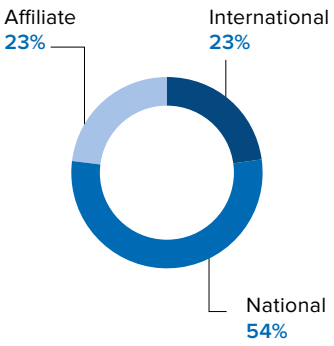
UNHCR will promote a safe working environment by deploying sound safety and risk management practices. It will advance global security risk analysis, upgrade its response to security incidents, and expand security learning and engagement with the UN security management system. UNHCR is committed to strengthening its risk management culture in all operational and management areas in line with the "Risk management 2025" strategy and will advance its level of risk maturity.

## Global presence (as of 30 September 2023)

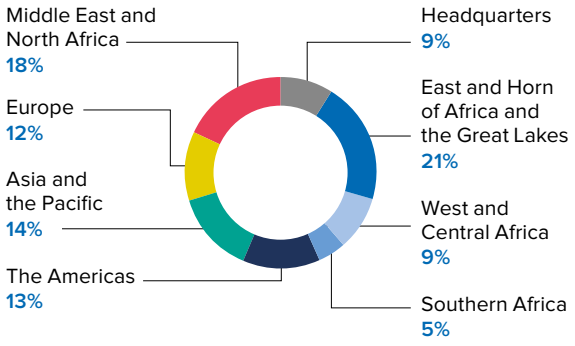
UNHCR is present in **133 countries** and **territories** with offices in **508 locations**

| STAFF MEMBERS | AFFILIATE WORKFORCE* | GLOBAL WORKFORCE |
|---|---|---|
| 15,910 | 4,848 | 20,758 |

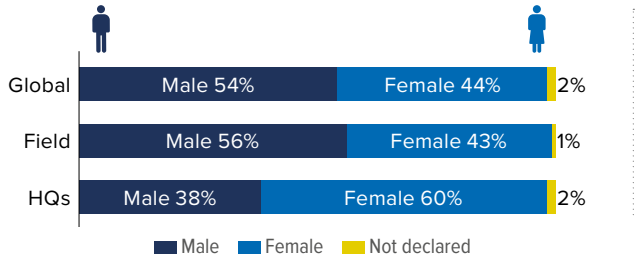
### Global workforce by category




### Global workforce by region




### Global workforce by gender




### Global workforce by location

* Includes UNVs, individual contractors and consultants hired through UNOPS or directly, deployees, secondees and interns.

Better risk management will support informed decision-making, help teams mitigate risks and seize new opportunities, and lead to improved responses and operational impact.

UNHCR's engagement in eradicating the root causes of sexual misconduct both in the workplace and against forcibly displaced and stateless people will continue in accordance with the "2023-2025 strategy and action plan". In 2024, the Office will provide experiential training to UNHCR and partner workforce on detecting, preventing and responding to sexual misconduct. Expansion of the Victim Care function, and the promotion of tools and initiatives such as NotOnlyMe and the joint UNHCR-ICVA "Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse outreach and communication fund" will increase support to survivors. UNHCR will continue to streamline and coordinate efforts in this regard, integrating protection from sexual exploitation and abuse into emergency response mechanisms.

### Enabling Area 20: Enhanced partnerships, coordination, public outreach, and resource mobilization

UNHCR will strengthen its communication to foster solidarity with refugees, advocate for their right to safety, promote their inclusion, mobilize funding, and combat hate speech targeting them. UNHCR will seek to diversify and strengthen partnerships at the global and regional levels in support of

people forced to flee and stateless persons. It will collaborate to link up humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work, promoting localization and accountability to affected populations.

UNHCR will step up efforts to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless people are included in UN programmes as well as national humanitarian and development policies and plans. It will leverage strategic partnerships within the United Nations family, built upon complementary expertise, and will maintain its engagement with NGOs and civil society, including sport actors, as strategic partners to advance operational, policy and advocacy priorities at the country level, and to achieve global advocacy goals. UNHCR will look at how to further promote meaningful participation of organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless people, to influence policy discussions and shape the responses.

UNHCR will exercise effective field leadership and coordination in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and Inter-Agency Standing Committee frameworks, proactively contributing to the development of inter-agency policies, guidance and tools, training and support to operations on inter-agency matters, maintaining a roster of inter-agency experts, and furthering the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people in inter-agency documents.

UNHCR will strengthen strategic partnerships with media organizations, key players in public advocacy, academia and civil society through better identification and inclusion of civil society actors in strategic processes.

More information on UNHCR resource mobilization, including public and private sector fundraising and RRPs, is available in the chapter on Funding UNHCR's programmes.

## Enabling Area 21: Effective strategic leadership and governance and independent oversight

Through high-level representation and engagement, including with UNHCR's Executive Committee, States, government and non-government entities, political leaders, regional and international organizations, the private sector, and through strategic partnerships with UN and other entities, UNHCR will promote and enhance protection and solutions. UNHCR will continue to organize the annual cycle of governance meetings and coordinate the preparation of relevant reports.

UNHCR will continue to build a culture that is results-oriented, risk mature, and evidence driven. Strengthening accountability to the people UNHCR serves is a priority. In 2024, UNHCR will focus on supporting the use of evaluation as a management tool, improving evaluation practices, quality assurance, and sharing lessons and evidence. The recent practice of embedding evaluations into operational budgets will continue. Particular attention will be made to ensuring that the evaluation recommendations are incorporated into planning and reporting processes. UNHCR foresees a gradual expansion in the number of evaluations at country and regional levels and where large programmes or innovative projects need to demonstrate value and scalability. The results of an independent evaluation of UNHCR's regionalization reform will inform any further "fine-tuning" required in the functions of Headquarters and the Regional Bureaux.

UNHCR welcomes oversight as a means to enhance operational effectiveness and address lapses in integrity. In 2024, the Inspector General's Office (IGO) will continue its work to ensure UNHCR has an efficient and effective independent oversight system. It will provide strategic guidance and insights from investigations and oversight recommendations, thereby enabling management to improve UNHCR's systems and processes.

Given the record number of complaints of misconduct received (itself a function of trust and improved reporting mechanisms) the IGO will seek ways to ensure the appropriate handling of complaints and expand its capacity to undertake proactive work, including analysis of irregularities amounting to fraud. Initiatives launched in 2023 to enhance the IGO's work will continue to take shape in 2024, including those related to digital forensics and artificial intelligence systems.

# ANNEX

## MEMBERS OF UNHCR's EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STATES PARTIES TO THE REFUGEE AND STATELESSNESS CONVENTIONS

UNHCR is governed by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In 1958, ECOSOC established the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly. Its main tasks are to approve the High Commissioner's programmes, advise the High Commissioner in the exercise of his functions (mainly on protection issues), and oversee the Office's finances and administration.

ExCom holds an annual session in Geneva every October. The 74th session took place from 9 to 13 October 2023. Meetings of the Executive Committee's Standing Committee are held at various dates throughout the year to carry on the work between plenary sessions.

ExCom membership is on the widest possible geographical basis from those States (Members of the United Nations) with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of refugee problems. By the end of 2023, there were 108 ExCom members in the following table – in blue – which also shows the States parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol of 1967 and to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

In 2023, Angola became the 108th ExCom member.

In 2023, the Republic of Congo acceded to Statelessness Conventions on the Status of Stateless Persons and on the Reduction of Statelessness.

| ExCom members (in blue) and other States parties to the Conventions | Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol | | Conventions on the Status of Stateless Persons and the Reduction of Statelessness | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1951 | 1967 | 1954 | 1961 |
| Afghanistan | 2005 | 2005 | | |
| Albania | 1992 | 1992 | 2003 | 2003 |
| Algeria | 1963 | 1967 | 1964 | |
| Angola | 1981 | 1981 | 2019 | 2019 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 1995 | 1995 | 1988 | |
| Argentina | 1961 | 1967 | 1972 | 2014 |
| Armenia | 1993 | 1993 | 1994 | 1994 |
| Australia | 1954 | 1973 | 1973 | 1973 |
| Austria | 1954 | 1973 | 2008 | 1972 |
| Azerbaijan | 1993 | 1993 | 1996 | 1996 |
| Bahamas (the) | 1993 | 1993 | | |
| Bangladesh | | | | |
| Barbados | | | 1972 | |
| Belarus | 2001 | 2001 | | |
| Belgium | 1953 | 1969 | 1960 | 2014 |
| Belize | 1990 | 1990 | 2006 | 2015 |
| Benin | 1962 | 1970 | 2011 | 2011 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 1982 | 1982 | 1983 | 1983 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 1993 | 1993 | 1993 | 1996 |
| Botswana | 1969 | 1969 | 1969 | |
| Brazil | 1960 | 1972 | 1996 | 2007 |
| Bulgaria | 1993 | 1993 | 2012 | 2012 |
| Burkina Faso | 1980 | 1980 | 2012 | 2017 |
| Burundi | 1963 | 1971 | | |
| Cabo Verde | | 1987 | | |
| Cambodia | 1992 | 1992 | | |
| Cameroon | 1961 | 1967 | | |
| Canada | 1969 | 1969 | | 1978 |
| Central African Republic (the) | 1962 | 1967 | | |
| Chad | 1981 | 1981 | 1999 | 1999 |
| Chile | 1972 | 1972 | 2018 | 2018 |
| China | 1982 | 1982 | | |
| Colombia | 1961 | 1980 | 2019 | 2014 |
| Congo | 1962 | 1970 | 2023 | 2023 |
| Costa Rica | 1978 | 1978 | 1977 | 1977 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 1961 | 1970 | 2013 | 2013 |
| Croatia | 1992 | 1992 | 1992 | 2011 |
| Cyprus | 1963 | 1968 | | |
| Czechia | 1993 | 1993 | 2004 | 2001 |
| Dem. Rep. of the Congo | 1965 | 1975 | | |
| Denmark | 1952 | 1968 | 1956 | 1977 |
| Djibouti | 1977 | 1977 | | |
| Dominica | 1994 | 1994 | | |
| Dominican Republic | 1978 | 1978 | | |
| Ecuador | 1955 | 1969 | 1970 | 2012 |
| Egypt | 1981 | 1981 | | |
| El Salvador | 1983 | 1983 | 2015 | |
| Equatorial Guinea | 1986 | 1986 | | |
| Estonia | 1997 | 1997 | | |
| Ethiopia | 1969 | 1969 | | |
| Fiji | 1972 | 1972 | 1972 | |
| Finland | 1968 | 1968 | 1968 | 2008 |
| France | 1954 | 1971 | 1960 | |
| Gabon | 1964 | 1973 | | |

# EXCOM MEMBERS AND PARTIES TO CONVENTIONS

| | 1951 | 1967 | 1954 | 1961 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Gambia | 1966 | 1967 | 2014 | 2014 |
| Georgia | 1999 | 1999 | 2011 | 2014 |
| Germany | 1953 | 1969 | 1976 | 1977 |
| Ghana | 1963 | 1968 | | |
| Greece | 1960 | 1968 | 1975 | |
| Guatemala | 1983 | 1983 | 2000 | 2001 |
| Guinea | 1965 | 1968 | 1962 | 2014 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 1976 | 1976 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Haiti | 1984 | 1984 | 2018 | 2018 |
| Holy See | 1956 | 1967 | | |
| Honduras | 1992 | 1992 | 2012 | 2012 |
| Hungary | 1989 | 1989 | 2001 | 2009 |
| Iceland | 1955 | 1968 | 2021 | 2021 |
| India | | | | |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 1976 | 1976 | | |
| Ireland | 1956 | 1968 | 1962 | 1973 |
| Israel | 1954 | 1968 | 1958 | |
| Italy | 1954 | 1972 | 1962 | 2015 |
| Jamaica | 1964 | 1980 | | 2013 |
| Japan | 1981 | 1982 | | |
| Jordan | | | | |
| Kazakhstan | 1999 | 1999 | | |
| Kenya | 1966 | 1981 | | |
| Kiribati | | | 1983 | 1983 |
| Kyrgyzstan | 1996 | 1996 | | |
| Latvia | 1997 | 1997 | 1999 | 1992 |
| Lebanon | | | | |
| Lesotho | 1981 | 1981 | 1974 | 2004 |
| Liberia | 1964 | 1980 | 1964 | 2004 |
| Libya | | | 1989 | 1989 |
| Liechtenstein | 1957 | 1968 | 2009 | 2009 |
| Lithuania | 1997 | 1997 | 2000 | 2013 |
| Luxembourg | 1953 | 1971 | 1960 | 2017 |
| Madagascar | 1967 | | | |
| Malawi | 1987 | 1987 | 2009 | |
| Mali | 1973 | 1973 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Malta | 1971 | 1971 | 2019 | |
| Mauritania | 1987 | 1987 | | |
| Mexico | 2000 | 2000 | 2000 | |
| Monaco | 1954 | 2010 | | |
| Montenegro | 2006 | 2006 | 2006 | 2013 |
| Morocco | 1956 | 1971 | | |
| Mozambique | 1983 | 1989 | 2014 | 2014 |
| Namibia | 1995 | 1995 | | |
| Nauru | 2011 | 2011 | | |
| Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | 1956 | 1968 | 1962 | 1985 |
| New Zealand | 1960 | 1973 | | 2006 |
| Nicaragua | 1980 | 1980 | 2013 | 2013 |
| Niger | 1961 | 1970 | 2014 | 1985 |
| Nigeria | 1967 | 1968 | 2011 | 2011 |
| North Macedonia | 1994 | 1994 | 1994 | 2020 |
| Norway | 1953 | 1967 | 1956 | 1971 |
| Pakistan | | | | |
| Panama | 1978 | 1978 | 2011 | 2011 |

| | 1951 | 1967 | 1954 | 1961 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Papua New Guinea | 1986 | 1986 | | |
| Paraguay | 1970 | 1970 | 2014 | 2012 |
| Peru | 1964 | 1983 | 2014 | 2014 |
| Philippines | 1981 | 1981 | 2011 | 2022 |
| Poland | 1991 | 1991 | | |
| Portugal | 1960 | 1976 | 2012 | 2012 |
| Republic of Korea | 1992 | 1992 | 1962 | |
| Republic of Moldova | 2002 | 2002 | 2012 | 2012 |
| Romania | 1991 | 1991 | 2006 | 2006 |
| Russian Federation | 1993 | 1993 | | |
| Rwanda | 1980 | 1980 | 2006 | 2006 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 2002 | | | |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 1993 | 2003 | 1999 | |
| Samoa | 1988 | 1994 | | |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 1978 | 1978 | | |
| Senegal | 1963 | 1967 | 2005 | 2005 |
| Serbia | 2001 | 2001 | 2001 | 2011 |
| Seychelles | 1980 | 1980 | | |
| Sierra Leone | 1981 | 1981 | 2016 | 2016 |
| Slovakia | 1993 | 1993 | 2000 | 2000 |
| Slovenia | 1992 | 1992 | 1992 | |
| Solomon Islands | 1995 | 1995 | | |
| Somalia | 1978 | 1978 | | |
| South Africa | 1996 | 1996 | | |
| South Sudan | 2018 | 2018 | | |
| Spain | 1978 | 1978 | 1997 | 2018 |
| Sudan | 1974 | 1974 | | |
| Suriname | 1978 | 1978 | | |
| Swaziland | 2000 | 1969 | 1999 | 1999 |
| Sweden | 1954 | 1967 | 1965 | 1969 |
| Switzerland | 1955 | 1968 | 1972 | |
| Tajikistan | 1993 | 1993 | | |
| Thailand | | | | |
| Timor-Leste | 2003 | 2003 | | |
| Togo | 1962 | 1969 | 2021 | 2021 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 2000 | 2000 | 1966 | |
| Tunisia | 1957 | 1968 | 1969 | 2000 |
| Türkiye | 1962 | 1968 | 2015 | |
| Turkmenistan | 1998 | 1998 | 2011 | 2012 |
| Tuvalu | 1986 | 1986 | | |
| Uganda | 1976 | 1976 | 1965 | |
| Ukraine | 2002 | 2002 | 2013 | 2013 |
| United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | 1954 | 1968 | 1959 | 1966 |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 1964 | 1968 | | |
| United States of America | | 1968 | | |
| Uruguay | 1970 | 1970 | 2004 | 2001 |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | | 1986 | | |
| Yemen | 1980 | 1980 | | |
| Zambia | 1969 | 1969 | 1974 | |
| Zimbabwe | 1981 | 1981 | 1998 | |
| **Total Parties** | **146** | **147** | **97** | **79** |

# CREDITS

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

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

All amounts are in US dollars unless otherwise specified.

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Cover photo:
Sudanese refugee Abdallah spends time with his wife and children under their shade at the UNHCR transit centre in Renk, Upper Nile State, South Sudan, which is hosting thousands of refugees and returnees. He and his family fled Sudan after the conflict broke out.
© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

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H5- Using tech to protect (12-14)

H6- To ensure that national (10-14)

H6- What progress do you see in 2023? (10-14)

*H6- What progress do you see in 2023? (10-14)*

H7- Caption for some beautiful picture (8-9)

# Vid et aut officaes aut entur rehene natis

## Nimolup icimpor re nonsecatem solorente poriatem et quaepudia que cusaepuda

Qui di que cum volore vent:

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*Untempor sed quodita vollaut acias accabo. Voloriti uta volupta erione ex etur?*

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Bore venimusdae dolupti quistia volore dem fugiasincti dolor a velicias ut ped molorum harum solupta que magnientur, que et plabo. Picienet ium, que volorae. Cumet vellorior rem lat fugiaestorum quo cum si ut ommolor atur, experorati cuptis ditati aut excerit abo. Et lab ideruptatem.

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