UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region

July – September 2024

Sudan: UNHCR provides shelter support as thousands are impacted by floods. © UNHCR/Aymen Alfadil

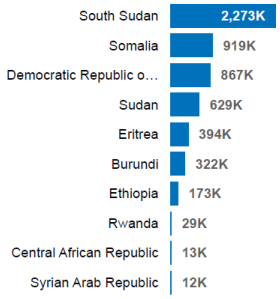
KEY FIGURES (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)

5.5M Refugees and Asylum-seekers

21.3M Internally Displaced Persons

330K Refugee Returnees in 2024

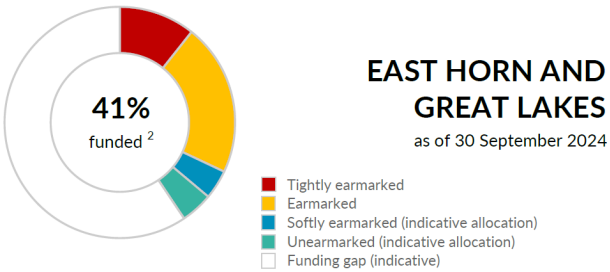
REFUGEES IN THE EHAGL REGION BY COUNTRY OF ORIGIN



FUNDING UPDATE (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2024)

USD 2.2 Billion

2024 financial requirements for the EHAGL region

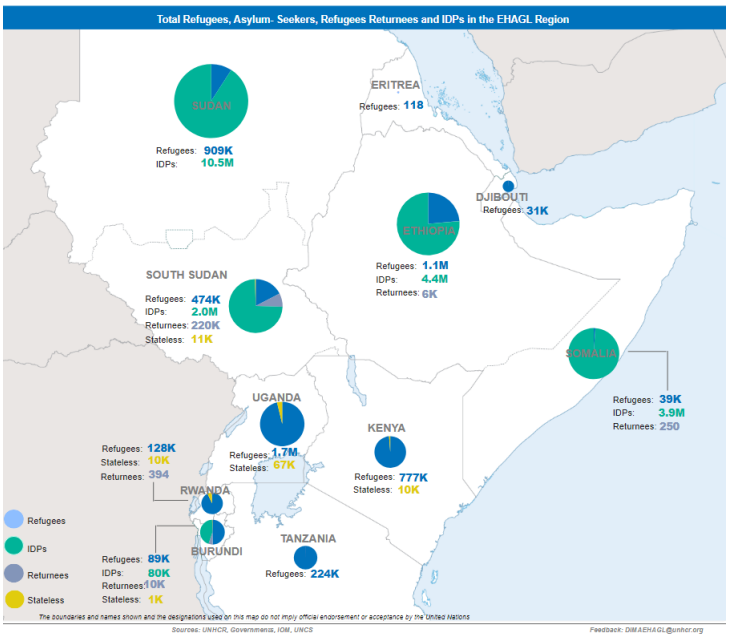


OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

As of 30 September 2024, the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) region was host to 5.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers. Additionally, there were 21.3 million internally displaced in the region as a result of conflict and climate-related disasters. Some 330,000 refugees had been documented as having returned to their countries of origin since the start of the year.

The region continues to grapple with multiple crises. With the conflict in Sudan in its second year, the humanitarian situation continued to worsen with famine conditions in parts of the country and increasing internal and external displacement.

In response to unprecedented rainfall and flooding, UNHCR launched a flood appeal on 28 June for nearly $40 million to assist and protect 5.6 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced people and local communities in Burundi, Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, South Sudan and Sudan.



On 14 August, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the surge in Mpox cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and their spread to neighbouring countries as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The dramatic increase in reported cases in 2024 has led to multiple national outbreaks across the continent, driven by the emergence and rapid spread of a new strain of the virus. Sudan and Uganda are considered high-to-moderate risk for Mpox transmission, while Ethiopia and South Sudan are at risk of importation. As a result of this outbreak, UNHCR is appealing for $21.4 million until the end of the year to urgently scale up critical response and prevention efforts for refugees in countries impacted by the mpox emergency. The appeal, launched on 11 September, aims to support 9.9 million forcibly displaced people and host communities in 35 countries across Africa.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

SITUATIONAL UPDATES

SUDAN SITUATION: Since the outbreak of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023, the war in Sudan has led to one of the world's largest displacement crisis**.** 11.3 million people in Sudan have been forced to flee their homes – 8.1 million of whom are internally displaced. 2.3 million people have fled to the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda, including Sudanese refugees, returnees (mainly South Sudanese), and third-country nationals. The latest figures are available here. According to Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), more than 23,015 fatalities have been recorded as of 5 September 2024.

As a result of the Geneva peace talks, the Adré border crossing was opened on 20 August for the first inter-agency cross-border transport since February 2024, for the delivery of vital humanitarian aid. By September, UNHCR had sent five trucks with over 1,300 non-food items kits for vulnerable forcibly displaced households to the Darfur region. These kits contain basic items such as plastic sheets, mosquito nets and cooking sets which enable forcibly displaced people to replace lost items and establish themselves. UNHCR is airlifting additional non-food items kits to Farchana, Chad to maintain the cross-border lifeline for vulnerable people in the Darfur region.

In August, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Famine Review Committee (FRC) declared famine conditions in Sudan's Zamzam IDP camp in North Darfur, marking one of the few famine designations in recent years. The assessment identified that due to conflict-driven displacement, access restrictions, and the collapse of food systems, approximately 400,000 displaced individuals in Zamzam camp faced life-threatening levels of hunger.

In July, the protection environment for refugees in Sudan worsened as Khartoum State authorities issued a 15-day notice for all foreigners, including refugees and asylum-seekers, to leave. This notice followed a series of roundups targeting foreign nationals, amid allegations of their involvement in the ongoing conflict. Nationwide, authorities increased control over foreigners, leading to a sharp rise in arrests, detentions, and deportations, with verified incidents of detention totalling 3,735 as of mid-July, more than half of whom were refugees and asylum-seekers primarily from South Sudan and Ethiopia. Kassala State recorded the highest number of detainees, followed by Sennar, Gedaref, and White Nile. In White Nile alone, 165 South Sudanese refugees were deported, contributing to a total of 772 deportations since the beginning of 2024. UNHCR, alongside legal aid partners, continues advocacy and support efforts, conducting field visits, monitoring detention facilities, and liaising with the Commissioner of Refugees to address these critical protection issues.

During July and August 2024, the working environment in Sudan did not improve. The conflict spread to Sennar State in July with more intense fighting witnessed in and around El Fasher, North Darfur. Other areas like Khartoum, Al Jazirah, the Kordofan and Darfur States saw regular fighting displacing thousands of people daily. By end-September 2024, some 10.9 million people were internally displaced, of whom about 3 million were displaced prior to this conflict and 27 per cent are displaced more than once.

In July, heavy annual rainfall resulted in flooding in the Eastern States of the country, causing further displacement and increased disease risks, particularly for forcibly displaced in gathering sites with limited facilities. In August, Sudan's Ministry of Health (MoH) confirmed a cholera outbreak, which quickly escalated due to flooding, overcrowded camps, and damaged water infrastructure. By the end of August, the outbreak had resulted in nearly 9,000 confirmed cases and close to 300 deaths, including seven refugees. UNHCR and health organizations responded with urgent measures, including vaccination campaigns targeting refugee and internally displaced populations. However, the ongoing war, logistical challenges, and funding shortages complicated efforts to expand health services and control the disease spread. In Kassala State, the MoH and WHO led a vaccination campaign that reached over 33,700 refugees and asylum-seekers in Shagarab, while schools in Kassala were closed due to the ongoing crisis.

In September, intense flooding and heavy rains across Sudan's Darfur, Kordofan, and Blue Nile States severely impacted humanitarian aid operations. In South Darfur, flash floods destroyed over 1,000 homes and rendered significant infrastructure unusable, with collapsed bridges and blocked roads halting UNHCR convoys carrying essential supplies to IDP camps like Kalma and Otash. Infrastructure failures in East Darfur led to damage in refugee shelters and latrines at El Nimir and Abu Jabra camps. Further disruptions occurred in Central Darfur, where road collapses near Krinding and Mornei bridges delayed UN deployments and halted supply movement to Zalengei Hub. Crossline routes from Port Sudan to Darfur remained impassable, leaving crucial supplies stranded and preventing delivery of thousands of plastic sheets and NFI kits needed for shelter and relief. Tragically, the flooding also caused loss of life, with reports of seven children drowning in South Kordofan's Kaja Valley.

In addition to the immediate impact on shelters and infrastructure, the floods forced widespread displacements, isolating civilians and cutting off access to essential services like psychosocial support in White Nile State, where child-friendly spaces were submerged. The humanitarian impact extended beyond Darfur, with refugee populations in South Sudan facing malnutrition and food shortages as funding gaps reduced WFP food rations, creating tensions among different groups.

On 12 September, violence escalated in El Fasher City, threatening thousands of lives, especially in IDP camps. The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan, Clementine Nkweta-Salami, condemned the attack and called for the immediate protection of civilians.

SOUTH SUDAN SITUATION: By the end of September, countries in the EHAGL region were host to more than 2.2 million South Sudanese refugees. The majority are hosted in Uganda (42.3 per cent) while 27.8 per cent are hosted in Sudan, 18.9 per cent in Ethiopia, 8.4 per cent in Kenya and 2.5 per cent in DRC.

The South Sudan situation remains one of Africa's most significant refugee crises, with 2.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in neighbouring countries and a further 2 million South Sudanese internally displaced within their own country by conflict or natural disasters. Protracted displacement has been fueled by a prolonged civil war, compounded by food insecurity, climate change and large return movements from the crisis in Sudan. South Sudan presents a multi-layered mix of refugees, IDPs, returnees (both refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and persons at risk of statelessness. Due to the protracted crisis, people also continue to flee South Sudan. Between January and September 2024, over 44,000 South Sudanese arrived in neighbouring countries.

According to UNHCR, Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) and partners, more than 650,000 South Sudanese individuals have spontaneously returned in a self-organised manner and by their own volition since the signing of the 2018 Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS). With the onset of the Sudan crisis in 2023, more than 500,000 South Sudanese residing in the country were forced to move back to their country of origin due to insecurity and economic factors. Analysis of reasons for return mentioned by South Sudanese interviewed at the border crossing points showed that most arrivals (42 per cent of interviewed travellers) indicated insecurity as the main push factor triggering their travel to South Sudan. The returnees from Sudan are escaping ongoing insecurity in the country and lack of access to basic services. In total, more than 30 per cent of returnees indicated a lack of access to services or livelihood opportunities, while another 8 per cent mentioned food insecurity as another push factor contributing to their decision to return to South Sudan from their country of asylum. More than 17 per cent of interviewees mentioned that they decided to reunite with family members for permanent return, which remains a strong pull factor for South Sudanese living in neighbouring countries.

Overall, common themes like insecurity, family reunification, and lack of services differ in emphasis depending on the country of asylum. For those crossing from Sudan, insecurity is the primary driver, while arrivals from Ethiopia cite food insecurity, lack of services, and tensions with host communities. Returnees from Uganda are motivated mainly by short family visits, family reunification, and food insecurity, whereas those from Kenya primarily mention short visits and lack of livelihood opportunities. From the DRC, key reasons include lack of services, food insecurity, and fleeing insecurity, with a notable focus on permanent return and family reunification. In contrast, returnees from CAR emphasized permanent return, family reunification, and lack of services. Read more in the South Sudan Border Monitoring Report.

Four consecutive years of flooding in South Sudan have destroyed homes and livelihoods, exacerbated food shortages and weakened the economy, and millions remain at risk. UNHCR is working closely with the authorities, partners and communities to ensure that early warning alerts based on flood simulations reach communities in time for effective risk mitigation.

COUNTRY UPDATES

BURUNDI: As of 30 September, Burundi was a host to over 88,400 refugees and 1,900 asylum seekers. There were also 250,200 assisted Burundian refugee returnees, 7,800 internally displaced persons, and 791 individuals at risk of statelessness. However, with a funding level at only 37 per cent of the required $98.3 million, resources are stretched to meet the most urgent needs effectively.

UNHCR and partners have been facilitating the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees since 2017. Most of the 250,200 refugees assisted to return are from Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, and other countries. These returns take place under the framework of the Tripartite Agreements between the Government of Burundi, the Governments of countries of asylum, and UNHCR, with all parties having committed to respect the voluntary nature of these returns.

Children, who comprise three-quarters of returnees, receive targeted support from UNHCR and its partners, including child protection and case management activities during their stay at the Nyabitare Transit Center. These activities include interactive sessions with a variety of themes such as Burundi's history, the national anthem, family roles, children's rights and responsibilities, the importance of school, and educational games designed to promote child protection.

A series of cross-border meetings involving Burundi (Muyinga), Uganda (Mbarara), Tanzania (Kibondo), and Kenya (Kakuma) were organized to enhance regional collaboration. On 28 August, representatives from Muyinga joined their counterparts in Mbarara. A virtual meeting between UNHCR and implementing partners took place on 17 September, followed by a meeting on 19 September that extended participation to local government partners. Finally, on 25 September, delegates from Mbarara joined those in Muyinga at Kinazi.

On 24 September, a new cross-border project for the protection and resilience of displaced populations in Burundi and Tanzania was officially launched at Nyarugusu Camp.

From 24 to 26 July, a mission was conducted in Rumonge Commune, Makamba Province to launch *Ideas Boxes* activities in the schools of Kizuka and Makombe. The objective was to recruit remedial teachers, psychosocial assistants, and support staff for these schools. Following interviews conducted by a panel comprising representatives from UNHCR, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), and the respective schools, each institution was staffed with two remedial teachers, two psychosocial assistants, one watchman, and one sanitation agent.

The national census took place between August and September. The inclusion of refugees in the national census of Population, Housing, Agriculture and Livestock is an important step to plan and allocate resources for local programmes. Data will provide a better overview of the realities of forcibly displaced people, notably by monitoring their living conditions, and by measuring the workforce more accurately. In addition, the data will facilitate better targeting of refugees and host communities in various projects.

Since the declaration of the Mpox outbreak in July 2024, Burundi has been facing a major health crisis affecting the general population, refugees, returnees, and UNHCR staff. As of 24 September, 36 out of 49 districts in Burundi were affected by the disease.

In addition, El Niño has significantly impacted Burundi causing widespread displacement and affecting thousands of individuals across several provinces. UNHCR, in collaboration with government agencies and partners, has implemented various activities to assist those affected. Data collection and surveys have been conducted in Ruyigi and Bujumbura provinces to assess needs and beneficiary validation conducted in Bujumbura, Muyinga and Ruyigi followed by assistance in cash, shelter and non-food items.

DJIBOUTI: As of 30 September 2024, Djibouti was host to 31,891 refugees and asylum seekers, mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia, Yemen and Eritrea, and comprising more than 3 per cent of the total population.

In the pursuit of durable solutions, UNHCR made it a priority to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees. During the reporting period, UNHCR started community mobilization among refugees, with the Djibouti and Ethiopia operations working together to obtain and provide information regarding peace, security, access to education, health and economic opportunities in potential areas of return and coordinate the process together. Djibouti hosts over 13,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR provided assistance to 277 refugee families who lost their shelters due to the strong winds that devastated Ali-Addeh in July 2024. This represents 80 percent of the 338 families identified during the damage assessment. Furthermore, UNHCR will provide iron sheets to 117 families living in permanent shelters.

UNHCR and the Djibouti government, through the National Office for Assistance to Refugees and Disaster Victims (ONARS), coordinate the registration of new arrivals. Suspended since February 2024, the registration activity of new arrivals resumed on 25 July, with 373 individuals registered by September.

In collaboration with ONARS, UNHCR has also resumed the printing and issuance of refugee identity documents, to guarantee access to documentation. Since the beginning of the year, more than 320 certificates and 6 refugee identity cards have been issued. In addition, ONARS and UNHCR organized trainings for refugee leaders from different communities on key protection issues, including international protection, the rights, and duties of refugees, combating fraud and corruption and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. Trained leaders will disseminate knowledge to their communities and mobilize other refugees.

UNHCR and ONARS with support from the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) also provided training for over 20 government officials working with ONARS on refugee protection, including registration, and refugee status determination. This training is part of the capacity-building framework for UNHCR partners on issues relating to protection.

In September, in collaboration with ONARS and Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement (CIAUD), UNHCR launched a cash distribution to help approximately 9,000 refugee girls and women aged 12 to 49 purchase hygienic kits.

As part of the skills development project for employment in Djibouti, financed by the World Bank, the Minister of Education and Vocational Training conducted a skills profiling study of refugees in the refugee villages Ali Addeh, Holl-Holl and Markazi. Profiling for refugees living in Djibouti City will follow.

Djibouti continues to demonstrate its commitment to the statistical inclusion pledge with refugees included in the recently concluded 2024 Djibouti Population and Housing Census (RGPH-3), the third country-wide census. Preliminary results are out with the final (disaggregated) results expected to be published later this year. The strategic objective of this census is to provide the country with up-to-date data on the size and characteristics of its population key to planning, monitoring and evaluation of development policies, programmes and projects. Institut de la Statistique de Djibouti (INSTAD) also expressed commitment to including refugees in all future surveys and assessments – such as the upcoming Djibouti Household Survey 2024 (*Enquete Djiboutienne Aupres de Menages – EDAM 2024*) planned for December 2024.

ETHIOPIA: As of 30 September, Ethiopia hosted 1.1 million refugees and asylum seekers — mainly from South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea and Sudan. So far in 2024, over 11,773 new refugees and asylum seekers have arrived in Ethiopia, bringing the number of people in need of protection arriving from Sudan to 60,688 since April 2023. Along with partners, UNHCR is providing protection counselling, healthcare, and lifesaving humanitarian assistance to new arrivals in need of international protection. UNHCR continues to support and advocate with the Government of Ethiopia for the full resumption of registration across the country.

Since March, the Ethiopian government, in collaboration with UNHCR, has been issuing digital ID cards to refugees, a crucial step toward their protection and integration into national systems. Following a three-month pilot in Addis Ababa, the programme was expanded to Amhara, Benishangul-Gumuz, and Somali regions. As of September, 11,210 refugees across Addis Ababa, Alemwach settlement, and the Tsore and Kebribeyah refugee camps have received ID cards, improving their access to essential services and supporting their integration efforts. The recipients include 7,429 in Addis Ababa, 2,530 in Tsore, 987 in Alemwach, and 264 in Kebribeyah.

This initiative supports Ethiopia's commitment to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) by enhancing refugee protection through proper documentation. The digital IDs safeguard refugees against forced returns and arbitrary arrests while granting access to essential services like healthcare, education, and mobile connectivity. Crucially, they allow refugees to open bank accounts, register businesses, and participate in economic activities.

With proper identification, refugees can join the labor market, access financial services, and work towards self-reliance, reducing dependence on aid. By issuing these ID cards, Ethiopia not only improves refugees' quality of life but also fosters social cohesion and economic contribution. UNHCR will continue to support Ethiopia in extending digital ID cards to all consenting refugees. However, the full success of this initiative will require ongoing collaboration and support from the international community in the spirit of burden- and responsibility-sharing.

In September, 709,190 refugees (80 per cent of the target population) across various camps and sites received monthly food rations. These rations, however, only covered 60 per cent of their minimum dietary needs. The exception was new arrivals, who received rations that fully met their minimum dietary requirements. Without further interventions, the current ration size, which falls below the 2,100 Kcal daily minimum, may lead to a worsening nutritional situation. This shortfall could compel those affected to adopt severe negative coping strategies.

In August, Ethiopia launched its Climate Action pledge that aims to plant 100 million trees in and around refugee-hosting areas to counter the negative effects of deforestation. To mark the launch, the Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia, line ministries, government higher officials, Refugee and Returnee Service (RRS), NGOs, UN agencies, including UNHCR, and various embassies planted 2,000 tree seedlings following the allocation of 1 hectare of land to the Energy and Environment Working Group (EEWG) at the Gulele Botanical Garden. This was part of Ethiopia's Green Legacy Initiative and the National Soil and Water Conservation Programme, which has embedded reforestation and landscape restoration in its climate change and ecosystems protection plan. Most refugees hosted in Ethiopia rely on firewood for their cooking, which impacts the environment. This dependence on firewood has led to deforestation and the loss of biodiversity in areas where refugees are being hosted. Efforts are underway to identify alternative affordable energy sources, however, this sector remains severely underfunded. RRS, UNHCR and NGO partners are implementing various programmes including natural resource management, environmental rehabilitation, and afforestation to compensate for the impact on the local environment.

Significant progress has been made in promoting refugees' self-reliance and socio-economic inclusion through new financing, programming, policy advocacy, and dialogue. Ethiopia has taken another significant step towards improving the livelihoods of refugees and asylum-seekers by passing a new directive that allows them to work legally in the country. Passed in September 2024, the directive, known as Directive No. 1019/2024, focuses on the "Right to Work of Recognized Persons and Asylum-seekers" and aims to address the challenges faced by migrants seeking legal employment opportunities.

Tree seedlings are planted in Gulele Botanical Garden in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in August 2024. © UNHCR/Sona Dadi

KENYA: As of 30 September, Kenya was host to nearly 805,000 registered refugees and asylum-seekers including over 402,000 in Dadaab, 295,000 in the Kakuma refugee camp and Kalobeyei integrated settlement and over 106,000 in urban areas.

In September, the Department of Refugee Services (DRS) registered 1,991 people in Kakuma and Kalobeyei; 3,617 people are awaiting registration and 10,951 refugees are in reception centres. 1,391 refugees arrived in September bringing the total number of new arrivals this year to 19,379. UNHCR supported 3,803 newly arrived unaccompanied and separated children and facilitated family tracing and reunifications for 1,488 children. Schools reopened on 26 August, with 100,217 students enrolled in 55 schools supported by UNHCR.

In Dadaab, 4,792 people were registered in September, and 1,273 refugee ID cards were distributed with 6,274 awaiting collection. 2,083 new food ration cards and 1,342 'Bamba Chakula' WFP food vouchers were issued in September. 314 birth certificates were distributed in August and a mapping exercise for missing birth certificates began on 2 August. An additional 121 birth certificates were distributed in September bringing the cumulative total this year to 6,792. Between August and September, health services provided 92,266 consultations, 1,854 mental health consultations and 483 skilled deliveries. 36 measles cases were reported in September and measures remain in place, including: disease surveillance, health education sessions, tracing, case finding and intensified immunisation outreach.

In August, 1,992 refugee students sat for their National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) exams, with 179 students enrolled in online digital training. The Market-Driven Technical Skills Training programme progressed in September with 84 students registered for NITA certification. This nationally recognised certification will assist in obtaining employment possibilities.

In urban areas, 683 refugees were registered in September, bringing the total registrations this year to 7,430. UNHCR responded to 21,063 calls via the official Helpline and facilitated 3,504 appointment requests. Two information-sharing sessions for LGBTIQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers were organized this month. The sessions covered issues like security, resettlement and access to health services and employment. In addition, 77 assessments were conducted for persons with specific needs, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and LGBTQI+ refugees to assess their protection needs for appropriate support.

UNHCR, DRS and Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) conducted a training for Nairobi City Council Government officers and Kiambu County local administrators on refugee protection, registration and documentation, Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process, role of justice system in protection refugee in Kenya, and Alternative Dispute Resolution among other topics. The trainings intend to enhance refugee community engagement and participation in host community matters.

The food basket was reinstated to 60 per cent as of September (it was cut to 40 per cent in June due to WFP funding shortfalls). The Bamba Chakula cash-based transfers was distributed at Ksh795 (approximately $6) per person per month. A total of 388,065 people received food from the general distribution.

UNHCR has made significant progress in engaging with government authorities on social protection for refugees, including the ongoing transition of health support to national systems through the National Social Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) and the 70+ cash assistance programme targeting older persons. The enactment of the *2024 National Social Protection Policy* and the *2024 Draft Social Protection Bill* is a significant step for the implementation of refugee-inclusive social protection programming, key to ensuring the legal framework for Inclusive Social Protection Programming.

UNHCR and DRS were part of a Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP-II) meeting which took place at the World Bank in Nairobi on 9 September. During the meeting, the findings of the UNHCR-World Bank joint Kenya Longitudinal Socioeconomic Study of Refugees and Host Communities survey launched in August were presented. The findings were deliberated in the context of the development of municipalities, and how this evidence can inform the design of interventions under the KUSP-II.

RWANDA: As of 30 September, Rwanda hosted some 134,600 refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (61 per cent) and Burundi (38 per cent).

UNHCR has continued to observe an increase in the number of Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing to Rwanda. As of 30 September, 642 Sudanese have been recorded as arriving in Rwanda in 2024. This includes 267 individuals (139 families) in Kigali and 375 individuals (199 families) in Mahama refugee camp. The Sudanese community in Mahama and Kigali continue to face several challenges, including language barriers, difficulties in accessing education for their children, and access to healthcare.

Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers from the DRC at Nkamira transit centre in May. Over 5,240 individuals were registered and provided with Proof of Registration documents by September 2024. UNHCR and MINEMA initiated the relocation of over 3,390 asylum seekers residing in Nkamira Transit Center to Mahama Refugee Camp, focusing on families with school-aged children. By end of September, Nkamira hosted 2,088 individuals.

The 19th evacuation flight from Libya to Rwanda arrived in Kigali on 26 September carrying 119 refugees and asylum seekers from Libya, marking the first flight after the extension of the tripartite agreement to December 2025. The latest group of arrivals comprises individuals from five nationalities: 41 Sudanese, 36 Eritreans, 12 Somalis, 17 Ethiopians, and 13 South Sudan nationals. A total of 2,474 people have been evacuated from Libya to Rwanda since September 2019. UNHCR is actively engaging with resettlement countries to expedite the processing and departure of refugees, thereby creating additional space for more evacuees from Libya.

Thirty-four percent of the refugee population was born in Rwanda. The birth registration rate among individuals born in Rwanda, regardless of age, is 96 per cent, with a coverage rate of 98.9 per cent for children under 5 years old. In July, Kiziba Camp achieved full birth registration coverage for all refugees born in Rwanda. UNHCR continues to collaborate with the Government of Rwanda and relevant ministries to enhance birth registration rates, integrating refugees into the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system. In September, UNHCR assisted in the processing of 251 birth certificates for refugees.

In July, UNHCR conducted an orientation programme in Mahama refugee camp to support 87 refugee and asylum seeker students from minority backgrounds familiarize themselves with the Rwandan education curriculum and acquire basic English language skills. This initiative was implemented in response to the increasing numbers of Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing to Rwanda and being accommodated in Mahama. The programme was implemented during the summer holidays to prepare these students for enrolment in national public schools when the new academic year starts in September. The new academic year 2024-2025 began on 9 September and enrolment of refugee students in all locations was at 91 per cent during the first week. The relocation of families with school-aged children from the Nkamira Transit Center to Mahama Camp was scheduled timely to ensure the children will be enrolled in school at the start of the new academic year.

On 24 July, the Rwandan Ministry of Health announced an outbreak of Mpox with four cases confirmed in the country by the end of the month. As a result, UNHCR and Save the Children (SCI) are working closely with the Ministry of Health and district health authorities to prevent its spread to refugee settings. Clinical staff and community health workers working for SCI in refugee health clinics and camps have been trained on the preparedness and active surveillance measures in place as part of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre protocol. To prevent the spread of Mpox in refugee settings, UNHCR and SCI continued working closely with the Ministry of Health and district health authorities. In September, an active-case search and awareness raising campaign was carried out in Mahama Refugee Camp: 5,691 households were visited, reaching a total of 33,377 individuals. Awareness messages were shared to inform the community about Mpox, including signs, symptoms, and prevention measures. Following the house-to-house visits, no individuals within the population were identified as having symptoms or signs of Mpox. UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children (SCI) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM.

UNHCR distributed the monthly cash assistance of $50 per person to refugees and asylum seekers at the ETM in Rwanda. In July, UNHCR in partnership with Equity Bank, also supported refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated in the flights in June 2024 to open bank accounts and receive bank cards so that they can receive and utilize their cash assistance.

In September, the Government of Rwanda officially submitted the new pledge on the GCR platform. The pledge is related to refugee inclusion in the national health insurance scheme. The Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management, the Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Social Security Board is discussing the roadmap for pledge implementation.

The Government of Rwanda announced the new pledge at GRF 2023 to include all refugees in the National Health Insurance scheme and to continue the existing pledges made in 2019 related to inclusive and quality education, Jobs and Livelihoods, Energy and Environment, Protection, Statelessness and Health.

SOMALIA: Nearly 4 million people are internally displaced in Somalia due to conflict, insecurity, and the effects of climate change, such as cyclical droughts and floods. The majority of people have self-settled in over 2,400 IDP sites in urban and peri-urban areas across the country. As at the end of September, over 347,000 had been newly displaced since the beginning of the year. In addition, Somalia hosts close to 41,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Ethiopia and Yemen.

Since December 2014, over 139,500 former refugees have returned to Somalia from their countries of asylum, mostly from Kenya, followed by Yemen. From the total number of refugee returnees, more than 95,000 individuals have been directly assisted by UNHCR, mainly through the Voluntary Repatriation Programme from Kenya and the Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) Programme from Yemen.

In September, UNHCR and partners received the first two groups of Assisted Spontaneous Returnees (ASRs) from Yemen in Berbera, Somaliland. In total, 252 ASRs were received. They were biometrically registered and provided with a phone, SIM card, accommodation, hot meals, and various other services, including health screening, GBV support, and information about their areas of return. Furthermore, the returnees received onward transport allowance for their areas of return in Somaliland and Puntland, as well as air transport for those returning to the south and central part of Somalia. Out of the total ASR arrivals, 194 individuals returned to various locations in the south and central parts of Somalia. All returnees will receive one-time payment of a reinstalment grant, six months' worth of subsistence allowance, as well as an education grant to cover nine months of school fees for school-going children.

The humanitarian situation in Somalia continued to be precarious in September, with over six million Somalis reported to be in need of humanitarian assistance. This is because of continued armed conflict, insecurity, climate change, outbreaks of diseases, and economic disruption. The Protection and Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN), which has been tracking internal displacement trends for the past 17 years, recorded some 4,976 internal displacements in September of which 47 per cent were due to conflict/ insecurity and 24 per cent were due to climate change.

UNHCR participated in the National Social Protection Sector Coordination organized by the Ministry of Social and Labour Affairs (MoSLA). The meeting emphasized the importance of integrating refugees and forcefully displaced populations into Somaliland's social protection system. During the meeting, UNHCR advocated for the inclusion of displaced individuals with protection risks into social protection measures to tailored to their needs and facilitate their integration into the host communities. UNHCR advocated further for the policy review to accommodate circumstances and challenges facing displaced populations within the broader social protection framework.

In August, UNHCR distributed core relief items to 444 IDP households in Luuq, Gedo, and prepared non-food items for 500 households in Mogadishu in anticipation of flooding as Shabelle River levels rose. During the month of September in Mogadishu, UNHCR, together with the National Commission for Refugees and IDPs and the Daynile District Commissioner, launched an IDP profiling exercise to register 4,000 households (approximately 24,000 individuals) for assistance.

From 15 August to 15 September, the Protection Cluster reached 26,484 individuals with risk education and explosive hazard management in Jowhar, Baydhaba, Banadir, Belet Weyne, and Kismaayo. During this period, renewed conflict displaced 22,187 individuals, while flooding and drought forced additional relocations, and the Housing, Land and Property (HLP) AoR managed forced evictions and supported voluntary relocations across several regions.

The Federal Government of Somalia, through its Ministry of Planning, Investment and Economic Development, launched the National Solutions Pathways Action Plan (2024-2029) on 4 September. The action plan, developed in collaboration with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders including multilateral development organizations, is aimed at finding durable solutions for more than 1 million displacement-affected people through improved livelihoods and drive sustainable development.

In Hargeisa, Somaliland, a high-level Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Advocacy Convention was held on 17 to 18 September, primarily supported by UNICEF, UNFPA, Action Aid, Save the Children, and UNHCR. The meeting brought together Members of Parliament and Senators from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, and beyond, along with civil society organizations, UN agencies, health professionals, religious leaders, activists, and advocates. They collaborated on strategies to eradicate FGM. Key discussions focused on policy advocacy, knowledge sharing, and regional collaboration, culminating in the approval of a comprehensive FGM policy. This policy outlined actionable strategies for advocacy and community engagement, emphasizing culturally sensitive approaches to address the severe impacts of FGM, which affects 98% of women and girls in Somaliland.

South Sudan. Some of the thousands fleeing Sudan violence search for phone signals on their way to the UNHCR transit centre © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

SOUTH SUDAN: As of 30 September 2024, South Sudan hosted nearly 500,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Another 2 million South Sudanese are internally displaced. Sudan remains the main country of origin constituting 94 per cent of all refugees, followed by DRC (3 per cent), and Ethiopia (1 per cent). Some 97 per cent of the population reside across 12 camps/settlements across the country with the remaining three per cent in urban locations.

Since the start of the Sudan emergency, South Sudan has received over 800,000 new arrivals. Most arrivals, (77 per cent) are South Sudanese nationals returning home. UNHCR has scaled up its response to the ongoing Sudan emergency by establishing transit centres and monitoring border points to provide urgent humanitarian aid. Other new arrivals include Sudanese refugees and third-country nationals. In addition, UNHCR continues to support over two million people internally displaced by the legacy of civil war, sub-national conflict and four years of consecutive flooding/climate shocks.

On 11 July, UNHCR hosted a delegation of four U.S. officials from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) and USAID in Jamjang, located in the Ruweng Administrative Area. During this visit, the delegation engaged in various activities, including touring a primary healthcare centre, a primary school, and a women's centre. They also met with new refugees in a focus group setting and visited a seed storage facility, where they participated in discussions with the Agricultural Production Committee, consisting of both refugees and local farmers. Additionally, the delegation met with partners working in Jamjang.

As of 29 August, flooding had severely impacted approximately 472,000 people across 26 of South Sudan's 78 counties, particularly in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap, Western Bahr el Ghazal, Jonglei, Unity, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria. By 3 September, the situation had worsened in Maban County, where Bunj town experienced its first flood of the year, displacing residents and damaging government facilities. Additionally, over 500 metric tonnes of food assistance remained undelivered in Jamjang due to the flooding. By 10 September, the crisis escalated further, with more than 710,000 people reported affected by severe flooding, leading to widespread disruptions in aid access and the cancellation of various humanitarian missions. In this context, Anyuak refugees in Gorom protested the reduction in food assistance due to funding shortages.

In light of the ongoing challenges faced by refugees in South Sudan, UNHCR is actively engaged in supporting the implementation of the 2018 Peace Agreement in South Sudan through joint efforts with UNMISS and other UN agencies. Key priorities include restoring transitional justice mechanisms, facilitating the participation of IDPs and refugee returnees in constitution-making and election processes, and assisting the South Sudanese government in fulfilling Global Refugee Forum pledges related to education, livelihoods, energy, infrastructure, solutions, and statelessness.

In September, the African Development Bank (AfDB) announced the approval of a $19.8 million grant for the Sudan Refugee Crisis Response Project in South Sudan (SRCSSP) which will be implemented between November 2024 and October 2026. UNHCR will contribute a further $2.43 million towards the project. The overall objective of the project is to build peace, inclusion and resilience in South Sudanese communities.

SUDAN: Sudan has historically hosted one of the largest refugee populations in Africa with close to 875,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, many of whom have faced multiple displacements due to the conflict. Despite the conflict, UNHCR and the Commission of Refugees (COR) have registered close to 17,000 refugees and asylum-seekers across Sudan since the start of the year. The majority being Eritreans followed by Ethiopians and South Sudanese. It must be noted that overall, South Sudanese are not new arrivals. They were already living in Sudan for some years and have opted to seek international protection due to the conflict. Meanwhile, most of the registered Ethiopians and Eritreans have newly arrived due to instability in their countries of origin.

During July and August 2024, the working environment in Sudan did not improve. The conflict continued unabated, spreading to Sennar State in July with more intense fighting witnessed in and around El Fasher, North Darfur. In September, intense fighting was witnessed in Khartoum, Al Jazirah, the Kordofan and Darfur States displacing thousands of people daily. By end of September, nearly 11 million people were internally displaced, of whom close to 3 million were displaced prior to April 2023. Another 2.3 million people have sought safety in neighbouring countries.

UNHCR, along with its partners, conducts protection monitoring in forcibly displaced and host communities, identifying key protection concerns and collaborates with the authorities and specialised partner organisations to find solutions.

Between July and August, UNHCR's partner provided services in Gedaref to 557 women and girls at five women and girls' centres located in Tunaydbah, Um Rakuba, Babikri, and Um Gargour refugee camps. The centres offered protection services, including tailored psychosocial support and case management for survivors of violence. Additionally, the partner conducted life skills sessions and organized social and recreational activities to support the well-being of these women and girls. Additionally in September, UNHCR and partners distributed some 150 dignity kits to refugee, IDP, and host community women and girls of reproductive age living in East Darfur and West Kordofan enhancing their access to essential hygiene products and services.

By the end of August, more than 54,400 refugee children of whom about 48 per cent are girls had returned to schools based in refugee camps in White Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, and Blue Nile States. Despite this progress, over 300,000 school-aged refugee children are still out of school for a variety of reasons such as closure of schools in conflict hotspot areas or language barriers, which were prevalent also prior to the conflict.

Between July and August, UNHCR and its partners provided tertiary education grants to 57 refugee university students under the DAFI and urban tertiary education programmes. Students receive $65 for a month to support them meet their regular expenses. For the moment, classes are being held online moving to in-person classes if the security situation allows. Unfortunately, of the 225 refugee university students UNHCR had been supporting prior to the conflict, 133 (60%) have left Sudan with the majority returning to their countries of origin, albeit under adverse circumstances.

In September, UNHCR, the White Nile State Ministry of Education and partners held a three-day Teacher Preparatory Training Programme for over 150 primary and secondary teachers from Kosti and Rabak localities. The training aimed at equipping teachers with the necessary skills and attitudes to address the current education emergency. It covered topics such as education in emergencies, pedagogy, and protection principles.

In July and August 2024, UNHCR and partners reached more than 4,000 IDP and refugee households comprising some 20,220 forcibly displaced people in River Nile, Gedaref, White Nile and Kassala States with shelter interventions which comprise the distribution of tents, emergency shelter kits or the repair of shelters and collective centres. Additionally, in September UNHCR and its partners distributed non-food items kits to some 37,000 internally displaced, refugee and host community households in Gedaref, Kassala, South Darfur and West Darfur States. Non-food items kits contain basic items such as a solar lamp, plastic sheets, and blankets intended to support recipients meet their most basic needs while in displacement. Overall, since the start of the year, some 77,000 households have received non-food items across Sudan.

Since the start of the year, UNHCR and its partners have reached close to 26,600 households comprising about 133,000 forcibly displaced people with shelter assistance in Blue Nile, Gedaref, Kassala, South Darfur and West Darfur States. Shelter assistance comprises installation of tents, distribution of plastic sheets for shelter enhancement, cash for shelter, and partitioning of existing structures for more privacy.

TANZANIA: By the end of September, Tanzania was hosting over 230,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Burundi and the DRC, living in two camps. Some refugees from the 1972 Burundian population resided in villages and three old settlements in Kigoma, Katavi, and Tabora Regions. In coordination with the Government, UNHCR and partners have been receiving asylum seekers fleeing violent clashes in the DRC since March 2023. As of 30 September 2024, a total of 14,704 new arrivals were received in Tanzania.

UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons, extending material assistance to the host community as well. In addition, UNHCR sought durable solutions. A total of 12,714 refugees repatriated to Burundi so far in 2024 and 177,558 since the start of the voluntary repatriation exercise in September 2017.

UNHCR's protection efforts included Mpox preparedness in the refugee camps, with regular community awareness sessions, provision of face masks, and ensuring handwashing facilities. There were no reports of Mpox cases in the camps. From 6 to 7 August, UNHCR organized a 2-day orientation for refugee community health workers on mental health and psychological support.

The DRC Ministry of Education released results for the 2024 Grade 6 National Exams, with 1,625 out of 2,236 Congolese students in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp passing their exams. UNHCR and its partner, IRC, completed a 10-day inclusive education training for 95 Congolese refugee teachers. Schools for Congolese and Burundian students in both camps reopened on 2 September 2024, following a successful back-to-school campaign conducted by Education Working Group partners. Partners enrolled 64,349 out of 90,591 (71 per cent) school-aged children who reported back to schools across the two camps.

Rudima, a refugee from Congo living in Nyarugusu refugee camp in Tanzania has access to continuous medical care and receives monthly supplements of nutritious food. He also works with his family in their kitchen garden to grow healthy food..© UNHCR/Sara Lewis

Despite advocacy efforts to reduce the costs for Burundian examinations for 2024, UNHCR and the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) provisionally agreed on 4 September to conduct exams for Burundian students at a rate of $311 per candidate. NECTA attributed the high unit cost for 2024 to the labour-intensive nature of the examination process, which includes the need for expertise and security, the establishment of an examination bank for Burundian exams, and increased daily subsistence allowances (DSA) for government officials. NECTA will commence examination preparations from late November to early December 2024 for 902 Burundian refugee students (351 girls, 551 boys) in grades 9, 12, 13, and 14 from Nduta and Nyarugusu camps. On 27 September, NECTA provided UNHCR a new cost of $219.5 per candidate for the 2025 and 2026 Burundian student examinations.
In health and nutrition, UNHCR's health partners conducted 32,334 consultations for refugees and host community members, with crude mortality and under-five mortality rates within global standards. 42 under-five children (31 refugees, 11 Tanzanians) with Severe Acute Malnutrition were identified and treated.

Refugees in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps received 82 per cent of dry food rations, and hot meals were provided to repatriating Burundian refugees and new arrivals. Water supply coverage was above global standards, with Nduta Camp receiving 27.3 liters per person per day (l/p/d) and Nyarugusu Camp 27.1 l/p/d. UNHCR and partners maintained 62 shelters in both camps and constructed two emergency family shelters for Congolese asylum-seekers in Nyarugusu Camp.

In resilience and self-reliance, UNHCR's partner, the Danish Refugee Council, provided technical support to 4,305 individuals through various gardening initiatives. Mushroom production projects were also established. The total number of refugees repatriated to Burundi in 2024 reached 11,802. UNHCR established three clean cooking gas (LPG) facilities and completed the installation of solar panels in eight health facilities.

The Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, together with the European Union (EU), UNHCR, International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council, and Icirore c' Amahoro (ICCA), launched a four-year project to strengthen the protection and resilience of Burundian refugees in Tanzania and returnees in Burundi. Fully funded by the EU with a contribution of €8 million ($8.8 million), the project runs from 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2027 and will support 338,579 Burundian refugees in the Nyarugusu and Nduta camps, as well as host communities in Tanzania's Kigoma region.

UGANDA: By the end of September, Uganda was hosting over 1.8 million refugees and asylum seekers. New arrivals have continued to enter the country mainly from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and South Sudan. Since the start of the year, 145,900 individuals (including 28,005 new births) have been registered in Uganda, 29 per cent of whom are new arrivals from Sudan, 19 per cent from the DRC, 15 per cent from South Sudan, and 11 per cent from Eritrea. The average number of registered Sudanese since the start of the Sudan conflict in April 2023 is 5,100 individuals per month over the last three months.

As of September, Uganda's Urban Refugee Response has been integrating refugees into urban settings, particularly in Kampala, where over 154,000 refugees reside. These urban refugees face socioeconomic challenges, including limited funding, insufficient livelihood opportunities, language barriers, and inadequate healthcare.

Uganda has been dealing with the outbreak of Mpox since July. By 24 July, 10 cases had been confirmed mainly in districts such as Kasese, Kampala, Mayuge, and Wakiso. UNHCR worked alongside the Ministry of Health and partners on a coordinated response, ensuring no refugee cases were reported at that stage. By 19 August, confirmed cases remained at 10, with ongoing monitoring and health education. By late August, a rise to 24 cases was noted, including one confirmed case among a 12-year-old South Sudanese refugee. By the end of September, a total of 24 cases had been confirmed countrywide since the outbreak began. No deaths have been reported.

From 18 to 30 August, a Health Sector Monitoring Mission took place involving the Ministry of Health, UN agencies, NGOs, and donors such as USAID and the World Bank, to assess the implementation of the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan. Major gaps identified included staffing shortages, infrastructure needs, and insufficient medical supplies.

By the end of September, 3,122 gender-based violence (GBV) incidents had been reported, and 1,574 children with protection challenges were supported. There were 55,165 children with specific protection needs and 20,400 active child protection cases. The Feedback Refugee Response Mechanism (FRRM) helpline received and addressed over 10,000 new queries between July and September. In 2024, a total of 31,096 queries were received through FRRM, with 59 per cent resolved at the helpline level and 41 per cent referred and addressed by UNHCR and partners. In September 2024 there were 217 reported suicide attempts, including 39 fatalities. This is a 16 per cent increase from the 170 attempts recorded by the end of August 2023.

As of 30 September, education indicators across the settlements remained below national standards. The Pupil Teacher Ratio (PTR) is 1:60 in Pre-Primary and 1:78 in Primary as of term 2. The Pupil Classroom ratio (PCR) is 1:82 in Pre-Primary, 1:125 in Primary and 1:77 in secondary. The gap in teachers is 2,316, the classroom gap is 4,164, the gap in desks is 63,382 and the gap in latrines is 2,558 in primary schools.

There were 626,804 students (421,517 refugees, 205,287 nationals) enrolled across 662 settlement schools and 475 host community schools. UNHCR and partners provide some form of support to all schools, with significant support to 287 pre-school centres, 270 primary, and 61 secondary schools. The gross enrolment rates at pre-primary, primary, and secondary levels are 43 per cent, 91 per cent, and 9 per cent respectively, for both refugees and nationals. In contrast, the net enrolment rates are 25 per cent at pre-primary, 60 per cent at primary, and 5 per cent at secondary levels. This gap is due to many over-aged children enrolling whose educational progress has been delayed by their displacement.

UNHCR continued to provide essential healthcare services to refugees and displaced persons, ensuring their well-being and ability to rebuild their lives. Key efforts included access to primary healthcare, maternal and child health, immunizations, reproductive healthcare, HIV prevention, and facilitating secondary and tertiary care through referrals. Community health initiatives involved training health workers and conducting health education campaigns. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) included counselling and community-based support programmes. Disease prevention and control efforts involved vaccination campaigns and disease surveillance, especially among new arrivals. These services are critical for disease prevention, mental well-being, and overall resilience in humanitarian crises.

UNHCR assisted Village Health Teams (2,785) to improve access to quality primary healthcare and address factors contributing to ill-health, including non-communicable diseases. There were 67 health partners in the operation providing health services to forcibly displaced individuals. UNHCR delivered primary healthcare through 101 health facilities in 13 refugee-hosting districts, 80 per cent of which have been accredited, strengthening the national healthcare system's capacity to cope with the increasing demand for health services for refugees and the host population. UNHCR provided core staffing support of around 1,918 health workers, upgraded and rehabilitated infrastructure, supplied medical equipment and essential medicines, and ensured the operation of 65 ambulances for emergency response across the refugee-hosting districts.

UNHCR's Food Security and Nutrition sector focused on ensuring that refugees and displaced persons had access to adequate, nutritious food to support their survival, health, and well-being. This sector included providing emergency food aid and cash-based interventions to meet immediate needs and support local markets. It also implemented nutrition programmes to address malnutrition through supplementary feeding, micronutrient supplementation, and promoting healthy infant and young child feeding practices.

Additionally, UNHCR enhanced food security through agricultural support and integrating food security with livelihoods programmes. These efforts were crucial for survival, disease prevention, and overall development in humanitarian crises.

With UNHCR and OPM support, WFP maintains general food assistance (GFA) for refugees in Uganda, delivered as in-kind (37 per cent) and cash (63 per cent). Due to funding shortfalls, a needs-based targeting approach is being used by WFP to prioritize food assistance to vulnerable refugees. Newly arrived refugees still receive 100 per cent of the food ration, equivalent to 2,100 Kcal per person per day, during their first 6 months in Uganda. As per WFP's food prioritization, the most vulnerable households (14 per cent of the refugee population as of July 2024) receive 60 per cent of the full food ration while the moderately vulnerable households (80 per cent as of July 2024) receive 30 per cent of the ration. As of the end of the second quarter of 2024, a total of 9,655.152 metric tons of food and $7,420,673 in cash assistance were distributed.

There has been a shift from emergency to long-term WASH infrastructure development in settlements in recent years, focusing on reducing operating costs and UNHCR's carbon footprint. The Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) aids the integration into national systems of WASH services in the refugee settlements. Efforts include transferring water systems to entities like the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and the Northern Umbrella for Water and Sanitation (NUWS).

UNHCR's Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items (NFI) sector provided refugees and displaced persons with safe, dignified living conditions. This sector focused on delivering emergency, temporary, and permanent shelter solutions, optimizing land use, building essential infrastructure, and ensuring environmental sustainability. The Shelter, Settlement, and Non-Food Items Working Group (SSNFI WG) adopted an innovative 'self-help' model, where refugees received standard shelter kits for constructing emergency shelters that could later be upgraded to semi-permanent structures.

REGIONAL UPDATES

Development Partnerships and Fundraising

In August, the African Union Commission's (AUC) held a workshop on the revision of the **Africa Continental Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Strategy** 2025-2034 at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Notably, the draft updated the **TVET Continental Strategy** that aims to address growing youth unemployment, features specific inclusion of refugees. The drafting team comprising representatives from the AUC, Africa Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), ILO, UNESCO, UNHCR, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), African Development Bank (AfDB), the private sector, education and skills development experts and practitioners; legal and policy specialists; and communications and advocacy specialists, converged to develop the revised strategy for the next ten years.

At the Third Quarterly Informal Briefing on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) on "Inclusion and Self-Reliance" held on 4 September, representatives of the multi-stakeholder pledges on Human Settlements, the UN Common Pledge 2.0, Economic Inclusion and Social Protection, Education, and Health, shared updates on pledge implementation. **Ethiopia** reported progress on the **Human Settlements** pledge, which received 47 pledges, including policy pledges from 10 refugee-hosting countries and 9 financial pledges. Ethiopia showcased the Melkadida Refugee Compact 2024-2027 and the Kebribeyah Inclusion Roadmap 2023-2027, as well as efforts in Kenya and Mauritania to transition camps into settlements. The **UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya** highlighted the involvement of 50 UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and 19 UN agencies in the **UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion**, which aims to advance the 2030 Agenda and integrate refugees into national systems and budgets as well as into UN plans. He shared the specific approach taken by the UNCT in Kenya, in support of the Government's Shirika Plan.

GRF Education Mega Pledge: Financing and Governance Workshop / 10 - 12 Sept 2024: UNHCR with support from the LEGO Foundation, brought together bilateral partners from US, UK, Denmark, ECHO/EU; World Bank, Global Partnership for Education (GPE), Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and UNICEF; private sector partners (Porticus and LEGO Foundations) as well as UNHCR education specialists from seven countries in the region, on how to best leverage synergies between individual strengths and constraints to better facilitate sustainable refugee inclusion into national systems. The GRF Mega Pledge leadership group committed to develop country, regional and global level commonalities, harmonized messages and approaches, and facilitate the building of a strong international community who are better able to support host Governments and refugees.

At the inaugural **Africa Urban Forum** (AUF) 2024 organized by the African Union Commission held in Addis in September, UN-Habitat organized a side event on '*More resilient African cities as part of the solution for forced displacement and migration*'. The discussion explored the links between forced displacement and sustainable urbanization in Africa, with speakers from governments, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, World Bank and Cities Alliance providing holistic insights between the two notions using case studies from Sudan, Ethiopia, Mauritania and Somalia. The topic of forced displacement has key impacts on sustainable urbanization in Africa given the increasing rate of influxes of displaced populations toward urban areas. A triple nexus approach that integrates humanitarian aid, development, and peacebuilding was emphasized. Overall, the discussion called for comprehensive data collection, long-term spatial planning, job creation and social cohesion strategies. Emphasis was placed on local capacity development to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of urbanization strategies, with a final note on the necessity of ongoing dialogue between communities to maintain social cohesion and prevent conflict. Read more on the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

On 7 September, with the support of UNHCR's Representation office to the AU, the AUC convened a technical meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe themed "**Humanitarian response in Africa - Implementation of pledges made at Global Refugee Forum**" to follow-up on the implementation of the pledges made by the African Union Commission at the 2023 GRF. The meeting brought together Member States as well as Regional Economic Commissions (RECS), featuring exchanges on the effective strategies for pledge implementation,

mapping, coordination and reporting. Other deliberations included the draft AUC Roadmap for the implementation of pledges and technical support mechanisms for Member States.

Building on the **Call to Action** made to development partners during the GRF in December 2023 to respond to the Sudan regional crisis, a **Development Partners Meeting on the Sudan Regional Refugee Crisis** was held in Nairobi on 17 September. Co-hosted by the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), and the UN Development Coordination Office for Africa (DCO), the event brought together 115 in-person attendees and more than 200 participants online, including senior representatives from international financial institutions, multilateral development banks, bilateral development actors, UN agencies, and other partners. With the escalating displacement crisis caused by the conflict in Sudan, the meeting sought to facilitate regional-level information sharing, understand development financing investments channelled to Sudan and countries of asylum, enhance development actor coordination, and foster partnerships to strengthen collaboration on the crisis.

Regional Statelessness Meeting/ 23-25 Sept: The Regional Bureau for EHAGL together with UNHCR Tanzania organized a 3-day meeting of key stakeholders of statelessness in the region in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The meeting brought together 36 participants from governments, civil society organizations, and UN Agencies, from seven countries (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and Tanzania), and representatives of the affected populations.

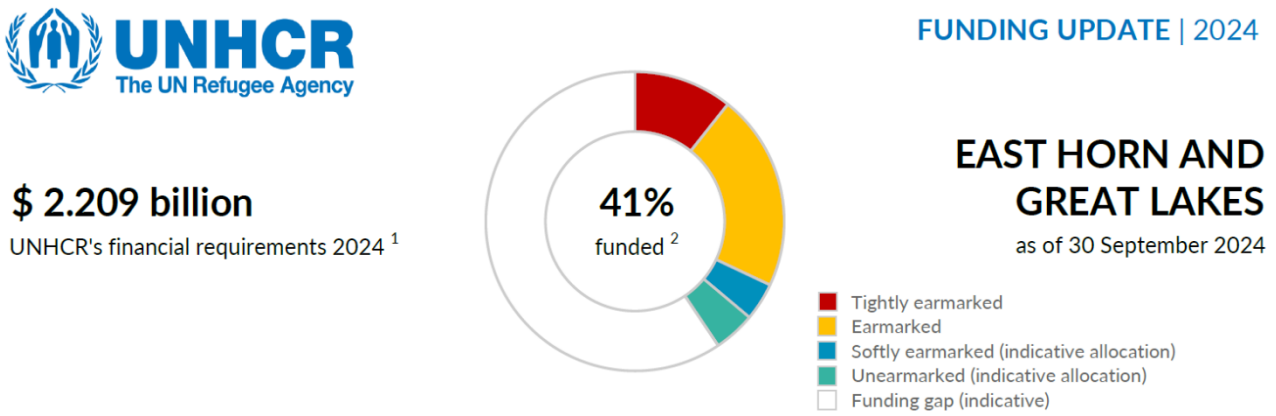
Inter-Agency Coordination

Webinar on Strengthening Refugee's Protection and Resilience in the Context of Climate Change in the Region was held on 24 September 2024. The webinar attended by 100 participants from UNHCR and partners provided insight into the interlinkages between climate change and forced displacement in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (EHAGL) Region. Somalia, Burundi, and South Sudan shared lessons and best practices for providing protection and building resilience for affected persons. FAO highlighted how livelihood is a key tool in adaptation to climate change. UNHCR underscored that 40% of refugees are in highly climate-vulnerable countries, 70% of the IDPs are displaced into areas that are vulnerable to climate change, and 60% of stateless persons are also living in highly climate-vulnerable countries. UNHCR also shared the regional action plan and the climate action GRF pledges in the region.

The Humanitarian Coordinator for South Sudan, Ms. Kiki Gbeho, met with UN agencies, including UNHCR, in Nairobi on 5 September 2024 to discuss the humanitarian situation in South Sudan. It was noted that the country is at risk of being a perfect storm if humanitarian triggers and concerns remain unaddressed. Based on the joint analysis by HCT, the meeting highlighted the identification of early warning triggers, based on the humanitarian narrative, that would lead to early action to mitigate the crisis. The meeting also discussed engagement with the key stakeholders regionally and globally, raising the profile of the humanitarian crisis, and advocating for much-needed resources.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the **East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region,** as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.



NOTES:

1. The financial requirements for East Horn and Great Lakes are for the operations in Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania.

2. The percentage funded (41 per cent) and total funding amount ($896,580,562) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of $1,312,468,984 representing 59 per cent of the financial requirements.

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