UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GLOBAL REPORT
2024

A guide to UNHCR's Global Report in 2024

The Global Report is our annual review of our activities and results. It shows how we were funded and tells the story of how forced displacement and statelessness developed during the year, how UNHCR acted in response and what challenges we faced. The elements of the Global Report 2024 are as follows:

What you will find in this PDF:

UNHCR in 2024: key facts and figures

A dashboard of key data in 2024

High Commissioner's Foreword

A foreword by the High Commissioner

Snapshots of 2024, month by month

A calendar of some key moments of 2024

Delivering results amid complexity: impact in 2024

An overview of the main challenges and achievements of 2024

Global core output indicators

A dashboard of 2024 year-end results

Funding UNHCR's programmes in 2024

- Overview
- Budget
- Expenditure
- Income
- Raising funds from the private sector

The Global Compact on Refugees in 2024

UNHCR's work in seven regions

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

Areas of strategic focus

- Focus Area: Internal displacement
- Focus Area: Statelessness
- Focus Area: Climate action
- Focus Area: Working with development partners
- Focus Area: Accountability to affected people
- Sustainable responses
- Route-based approach

Outcome Areas

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

- Access to territory, registration and documentation
- Status determination
- Protection policy and law
- Gender-based violence
- Child protection
- Safety and access to justice
- Community engagement and women's empowerment
- Well-being and basic needs
- Sustainable housing and settlements
- Healthy lives
- Education
- Clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods
- Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Local integration and other local solutions

Enabling UNHCR's work

- Enabling Areas: This section covers the support and management functions needed to run UNHCR's programmes and help the organization work more efficiently and effectively
- Evaluations in 2024
- Strategic partnerships in 2024

What you will find online:

Country Annual Results Reports

For country and multi-country operations (available for 59 country operations)

Major displacement situations in 2024

- Afghanistan situation
- Central African Republic situation
- Colombia situation
- Democratic Republic of the Congo situation
- El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras situation
- Iraq situation
- Myanmar situation
- Sahel+ situation
- South Sudan situation
- Sudan situation
- Syria situation
- Ukraine situation
- Venezuela situation

UNHCR in 2024: key facts and figures

To protect and assist a population of forcibly displaced and stateless people of 129.9 million (+6% compared to 2023) in 137 countries and territories

UNHCR's needs-based budget was $10.785 billion (-1%)

We received $4.876 billion of voluntary contributions (-0.1%)

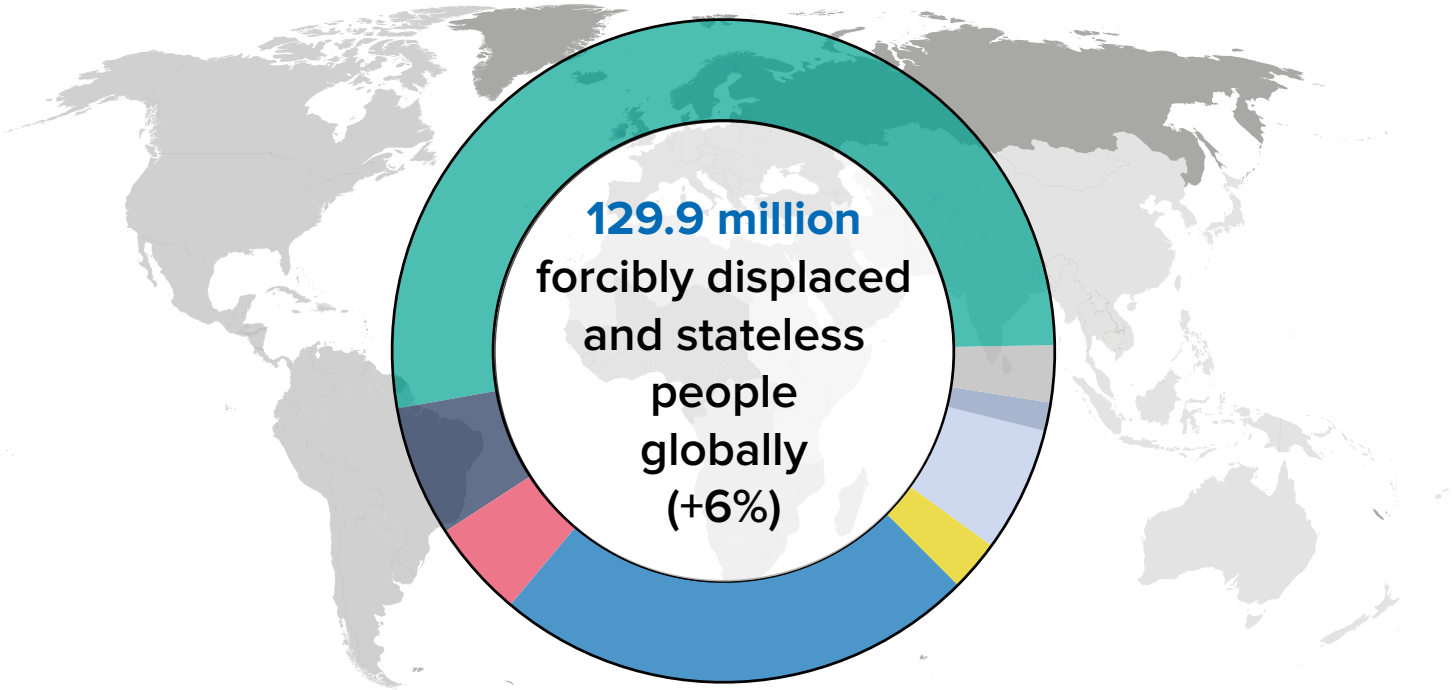
And we spent $4.933 billion (-4.5%)

68.1 million Internally displaced people

3.8 million Others of concern

1.6 million Refugee returnees

8.2 million IDP returnees



8.4 million Asylum-seekers

5.9 million Others in need of international protection

31.0 million Refugees

2.9 million Stateless people*

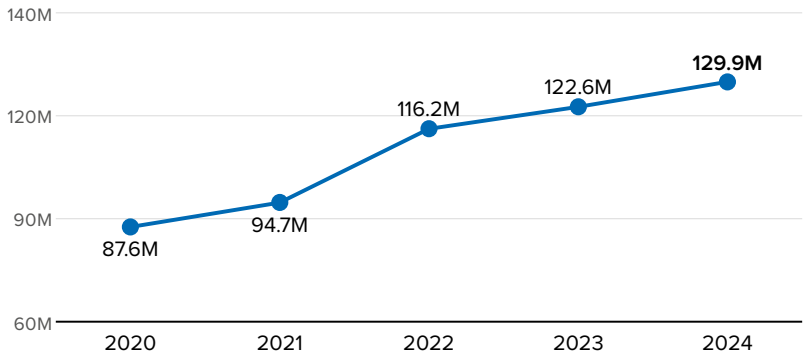
*Non-displaced stateless people only. The total stateless figure, including displaced stateless people, was 4.4 million.

Regional population breakdowns are available in respective Regional chapters of this Global Report, and online. For more data on populations and trends please visit UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder and Global Trends.

Global needs increased in 2024 but less funding was available, widening the funding gap.

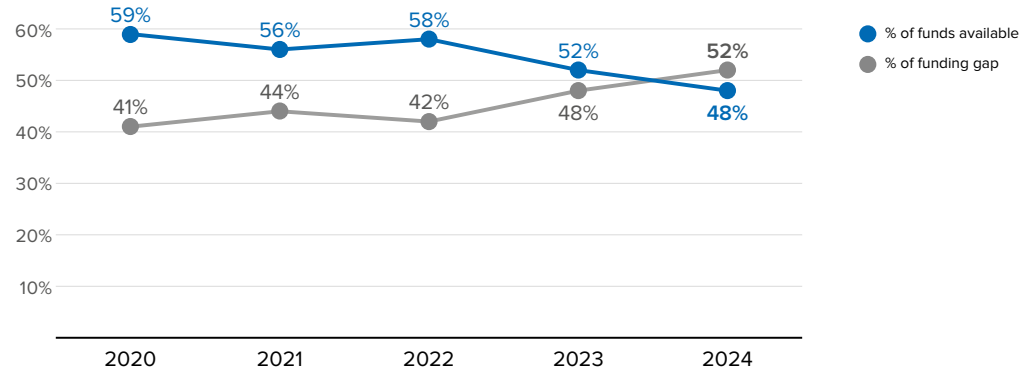
Forcibly displaced and stateless population growth | 2020-2024

+48% in 5 years

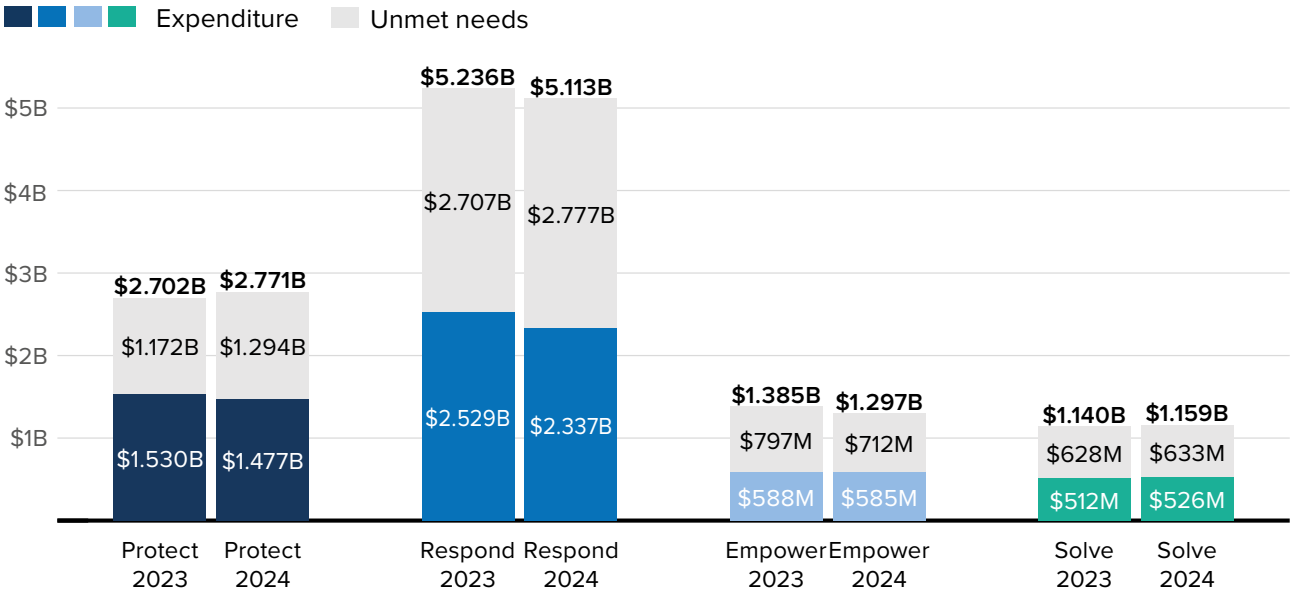


% of Funding | 2020-2024

For the first time, **the funds available in 2024 covered less than half of the needs** (48%) with a decrease of 11 percentage points compared to 2020.



Expenditure and unmet needs by Impact Area | 2023 - 2024 (USD billions)



Amount above each bar is the total budget for each Impact Area.

High Commissioner's Foreword

High Commissioner Filippo Grandi shakes hands with 52-year-old Mahamoud Alnaji Teawa, whose family fled from their village in Omdurman, Sudan, and now live at Ajuong Thok refugee camp, South Sudan. With money from his brother who lives in the the United States of America, Mahamoud opened a small shop charging mobile phones and selling groceries, enabling him to buy beds to upgrade his family's living conditions. "We are not sleeping on the floor, as before," he said. "I also managed to build a fence and shelter. Before, my family slept in an open area." © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

2024 was a complex year. A year of many contradictions and one that, in retrospect, may turn out to have been an inflection point in the work of UNHCR, and perhaps in humanitarian action globally.

War and violence continued unabated in 2024, the year ending with over 120 active armed conflicts, according to the ICRC. Conflict, human rights violations and persecution – compounded by climate shocks and by economic crises – continued to drive the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people ever higher. Sudan became the world's worst humanitarian and displacement crisis. The war in Ukraine showed no sign of slowing down. Farther from the headlines, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Afghanistan or Myanmar, new crises exploded while older ones continued to fester.

Through it all, UNHCR – with all our partners – remained determined in our work, undeterred by the complexity of the challenges, or the depth and urgency of the needs. We remained steadfast, delivering critical assistance in more than 130 countries. We prioritized life-saving protection, strengthened our emergency response capacities, and supported governments in their efforts to include refugees and stateless persons in national systems and development plans. With humanitarian funding increasingly difficult to secure, we worked ever more closely with local partners, national and subnational authorities, and other UN agencies to preserve essential services.

Even as we responded to multiple emergencies, we continued to press for solutions to displacement. 2024 saw a significant year-on-year increase in the number of returns of both refugees (1.6 million returns, or a 54% increase compared to 2023) and of internally displaced persons (8.2 million returns, or a 61% increase), driven by changes in circumstances in countries and areas of origin, or by adverse changes in countries of asylum – as was the case for displaced Syrian or Afghan people.

Resettlement of refugees to third countries also reached a high in 2024, with States reporting a record 188,822 refugees resettled, roughly 20% more than in 2023. We also made progress in addressing and resolving statelessness, with 47,200 individuals able to acquire or confirm their nationality. Last year saw the launch of the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, which will build on the achievements of the #IBelong campaign.

It is important to recognize these achievements – even if we are not able to sustain or repeat them in the coming years – because they clearly show that finding solutions is possible when we all work together, in the same spirit of solidarity and cooperation that underpins the Global Compact on Refugees. It is possible, and urgent, to make responses to displacement more sustainable, more predictable, and less reliant on humanitarian funding alone. To support governments in including refugees in their communities more fully – economically, socially, culturally – until such time they can return home. 2024 has again shown that we cannot do it alone, that humanitarian action alone is not enough. Partnerships extend our reach – development actors, international financial institutions, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society, host governments, and displaced people themselves: all are needed to work for peace, and to create opportunities for refugees to contribute with their skills and talents.

Like they did so inspiringly during the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games – one of the highlights of the year.

Looking ahead, as we face severe financial headwinds and increased scrutiny, let the achievements of 2024 further strengthen our resolve to protect and assist refugees, to find solutions to their plight, anchoring our efforts in international law, and in principled – yet pragmatic – action. The global displacement crisis will not abate soon. As you read this Global Report, please remember that behind every number is a life. Behind every result is a choice we made together—to stand firm, to adapt, and to continue delivering protection and solutions.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

– Filippo Grandi
UNHCR High Commissioner

Snapshots of 2024, month by month

January

- A fire blazes through a camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, leaving 7,000 Rohingya refugees homeless. UNHCR calls for action after a dramatic rise in Rohingya deaths at sea.
- UNHCR issues guidance on the international protection of people fleeing Iraq.
- UNHCR outlines seven recommendations for the European Union's new asylum pact, to ensure the protection of people fleeing war and persecution.
- UNHCR publishes a Policy on Child Protection, together with guidance for its country operations.

February

- Hundreds of thousands flee fighting in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many arrive in the city of Goma, traumatized, exhausted and reporting physical and sexual abuse. *(photo)*
- UNHCR revamps Refworld, its global law and policy database, and launches a Refugee Treaty and Legislation Dashboard, with data on refugee treaties and asylum legislation around the world.
- Violence and attacks on civilians by non-State armed groups in Mozambique cause 70,000 people to flee within a month.
- Forcibly displaced people in the Caribbean and Latin America can contribute strongly to the economy where they live if they have the opportunity, two economic studies show.
- The African Union Assembly of States adopts a Protocol to eradicate statelessness and advance inclusion for millions of stateless people on the continent.
- The Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network publishes its assessment of UNHCR.
- The economic damage done to Ukraine in almost two years of full scale war is estimated at $499 billion, including $152 billion of direct damage to housing and infrastructure. Most displaced Ukrainians still plan or hope to return, but increasing numbers are unsure or have no such hope.

© UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

March

- The first evacuation flight of 2024 takes 97 asylum-seekers, mainly Sudanese, Ethiopians, Eritreans and Syrians, from Libya to Italy. The evacuees include women at risk, survivors of violence, and people with severe medical conditions. *(photo)*
- Scores of Rohingya refugees are feared dead after a boat capsizes off Indonesia.
- Ethiopia launches biometric IDs to include refugees in government services, and a plan to develop refugee-hosting areas in the country's south-east.
- UNHCR commends Mali and other countries in the Sahel for keeping their borders open to people fleeing danger, but warns of the alarming crisis threatening the region.
- UNHCR publishes its plan for climate action for the rest of the decade.
- UNHCR publishes guidance on the international protection of people fleeing Haiti.

© UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

April

© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

- A global report on food crises shows that acute hunger remains persistently high in 59 countries. *(photo)*
- UNHCR launches a fund to shield refugees from climate and extreme weather shocks.
- Humanitarian leaders warn of record levels of gender-based violence, displacement and hunger in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi and Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, call on the United Kingdom to reconsider a plan to transfer asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

May

© UNHCR/Vicente Carcuchinski

- In southern Brazil, half a million people are displaced by flooding, including refugees and people in need of international protection from Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Haiti and Cuba. *(photo)*
- Heavy rains hit East Africa, flooding camps sheltering forcibly displaced people in Kenya, Burundi and Somalia.
- OECD countries show a strong increase in the number of travel permits granted to refugees for study, work, family reunification and sponsorship.
- UNHCR declares a Level 3 emergency for Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- Armed groups in Burkina Faso attack civilians, causing thousands to flee into Niger.
- UNHCR publishes a protection and solutions strategy for Afghanistan up to 2027. An assessment of recent returnees shows that most are children. Most of the adult refugees returning have no formal education and may struggle to reintegrate into the local economy.

June

© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

- High Commissioner Grandi visits Sudan, and finds an "unconscionable" level of suffering caused by "an insane war". *(photo)*
- UNHCR hosts global consultations with non-governmental organizations, focusing on solutions, inclusion in national systems, and gender equality.
- An IPSOS survey of 33,000 people in 52 countries shows enduring public support for refugees, with stark variations in attitudes.

July

© UNHCR/Benjamin Loyseau

- The largest refugee team ever, drawn from 15 countries, compete in 12 different sports at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris. High Commissioner Grandi accepts the Olympic Laurel on behalf of millions around the world who have been forced to flee their homes. *(photo)*
- UNHCR documents continuous reports of conflict related sexual violence in Sudan. The regional refugee response expands to two more countries – Libya and Uganda. Thousands are still leaving Sudan every day. UNHCR's first ever forced displacement survey in South Sudan shows the challenges awaiting refugees in the impoverished country.
- UNHCR's "Annual public health global review" documents its efforts to keep refugees alive and healthy in 2023, with 14.5 million health consultations supported by UNHCR in 77 countries.
- A data visualization, drawing on 31,000 interviews, shows the myriad dangers facing refugees on land routes in Africa.

August

© UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

- Afghanistan introduces further restrictions on women's freedoms, including movement, dress and behaviour, as well as on the rights of religious and other minorities. *(photo)*
- WHO declares mpox to be a public health emergency of international concern. UNHCR moves to protect forcibly displaced people from the outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in particular.
- Severe floods hit Sudan and a new wave of cholera spreads in areas hosting refugees and displaced Sudanese.
- Monitoring by UNHCR reveals that 85% of displaced Yemenis and their hosts cannot meet their daily food needs.

September

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

- Flooding in west Africa prompts UNHCR to declare Level 1 emergencies in Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. *(photo)*
- Israeli airstrikes displace nearly 900,000 people in Lebanon and send 557,000 fleeing into the Syrian Arab Republic, mostly Syrian refugees who came to Lebanon for safety years before.
- UNHCR issues legal guidelines on two current and critical issues in asylum policy: penalization of "irregular entry", and the "instrumentalization" of refugees.
- UNHCR updates its IDP policy guidance to help staff and partners working in situations of internal displacement, and publishes its internal displacement strategy up to 2030.
- Turkmenistan resolves all known cases of statelessness in the country.
- UNHCR's annual Education report documents remarkable progress but shows that around 7.2 million refugee children are still missing out on school.

October

© UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas

- UNHCR declares a Level 3 emergency for Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic. *(photo)*
- UNHCR launches a Global Alliance to End Statelessness.
- UNHCR's Executive Committee calls for action to support and expand durable solutions and complementary pathways to end forced displacement.
- Thailand takes a groundbreaking step towards ending statelessness for 484,000 people.

November

© UNHCR/Sishuo Zhu

- South Sudan joins the statelessness conventions. *(photo)*
- UNHCR continues its major response to the Ukraine situation as the full-scale war reaches the 1,000 day mark, with no sign of an end to the fighting.
- UN agencies and Ethiopia's Government launch a strategy to resolve internal displacement.
- UN data reveals a 50% increase in conflict-related sexual violence globally, with women and girls accounting for 95% of verified cases.
- The World Bank and UNHCR publish analysis of the global cost of including refugees in public health systems and how to meet the subsistence needs of all refugees.
- UNHCR solarizes its emergency stockpile in Uzbekistan, slashing costs and carbon emissions.

December

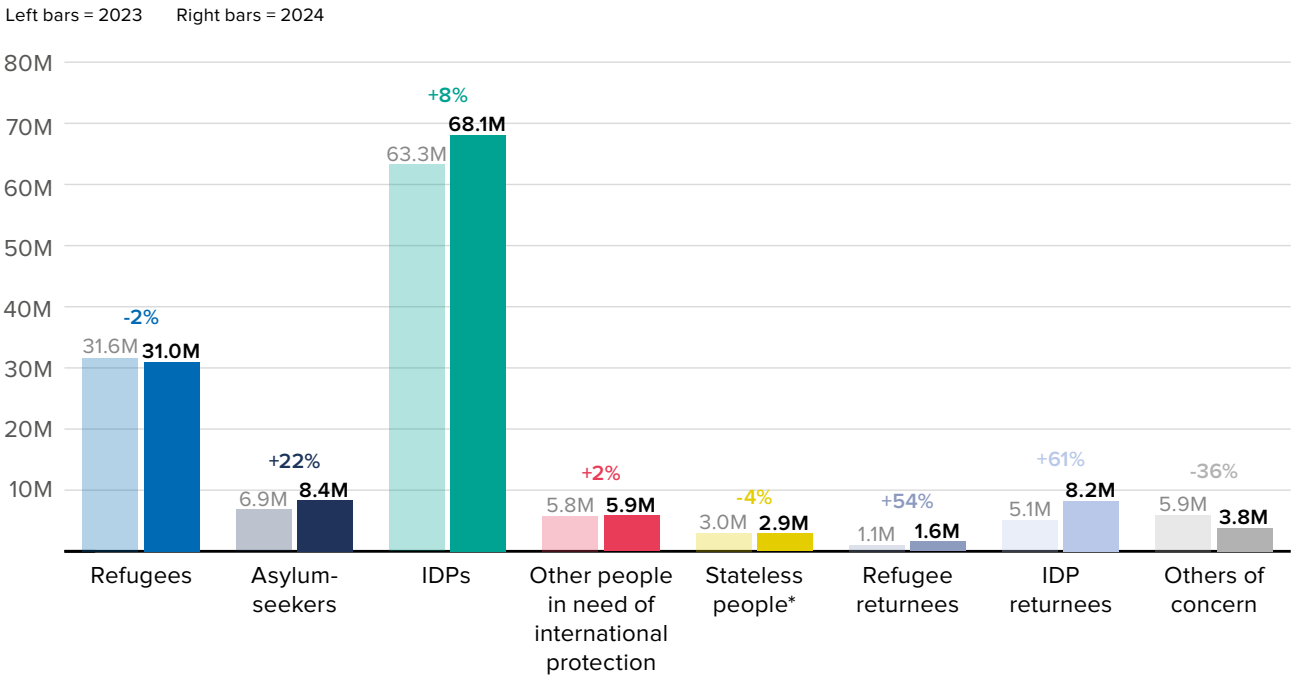
© UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas

- Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is overthrown after almost 14 years of war, sparking hopes for an end to the world's largest displacement crisis. Thousands of Syrians spontaneously return from Lebanon and Türkiye, while others flee in the other direction. UNHCR updates its position on returns to help governments understand the risks and opportunities of the changing situation. *(photo)*
- UNHCR updates the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) that guides its interaction with its inter-agency partners, and introduces the Refugee Emergency Response Scale-up Protocol for quick reactions to emergency situations.
- UNHCR and IOM launch a new strategy to support the stabilization and integration of refugees and migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean. 2024 sees a 42% drop in people making the dangerous crossing through Panama's Darien jungle, the first significant decrease since 2020.
- In Afghanistan, gaps in winterization assistance leave 900,000 people at risk.
- Private investors at the Africa Investment Forum discuss ways to unlock investment in forced displacement settings across Africa.
- Government officials meet to discuss a route-based approach to saving lives and managing migration in southern Africa.

Delivering results amid complexity: impact in 2024

Forcibly displaced and stateless population by type | 2023-2024

+6% in 2024 compared to 2023.



*Non displaced stateless only. The full total stateless people including displaced stateless persons stood at 4.4 million people.

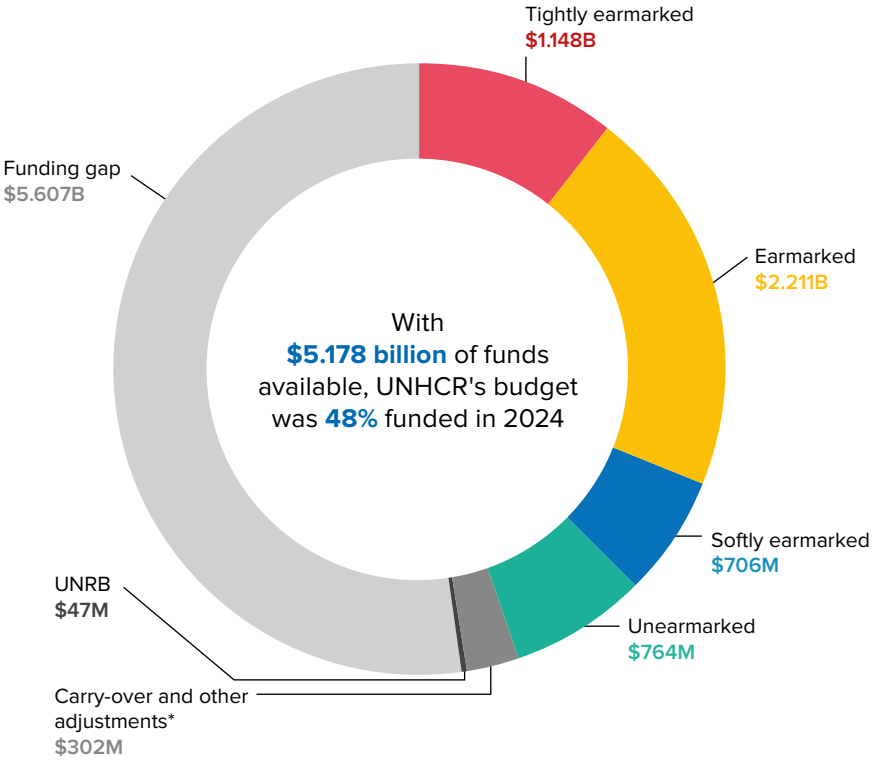
Introduction

In 2024, at nearly 130 million people, the global scale of forced displacement and statelessness was unprecedented, as was the gap between the needs and the funding available: for the first time, less than half of UNHCR's budget was funded. While struggling with difficult trade-offs in meeting the needs of many vulnerable displaced families, UNHCR intensified our focus on collective solutions and sustainable responses and, while more needs to be done, in 2024 more people found a solution to their displacement.

The war in **Sudan** remained a source of shocking **protection** needs that spilled out across the African continent, with 14.3 million Sudanese forcibly displaced by the end of the year. Conflicts in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **the Sahel** added to the desperation in a fragile region. In the Americas, violence in **Haiti** forced more than 700,000 from their homes, while millions of **Colombians** and **Venezuelans** spent another year seeking an end to their displacement. **Myanmar**'s conflict displaced another 900,000 people within the country, and in Europe 400,000 more **Ukrainians** became refugees. **Lebanon**'s long-running crisis suddenly became a displacement emergency when **Israel's** strikes caused almost a million Lebanese to flee, with 124,000 still internally displaced at the year's end, while the downfall of the government in neighbouring Syrian Arab Republic brought a double surge of movement as some Syrians fled into neighbouring countries and others rushed to return to their homes.

Overall, **UNHCR assisted 36.4 million people in 2024**, including refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, internally displaced people, and people who were returning to their areas of origin after being forced to flee. This total was slightly down from 38.5 million people in 2023, largely due to a **funding shortfall of $5.6 billion**, or 52% of the funding that was required globally.

Funds available and funding gap | 2024



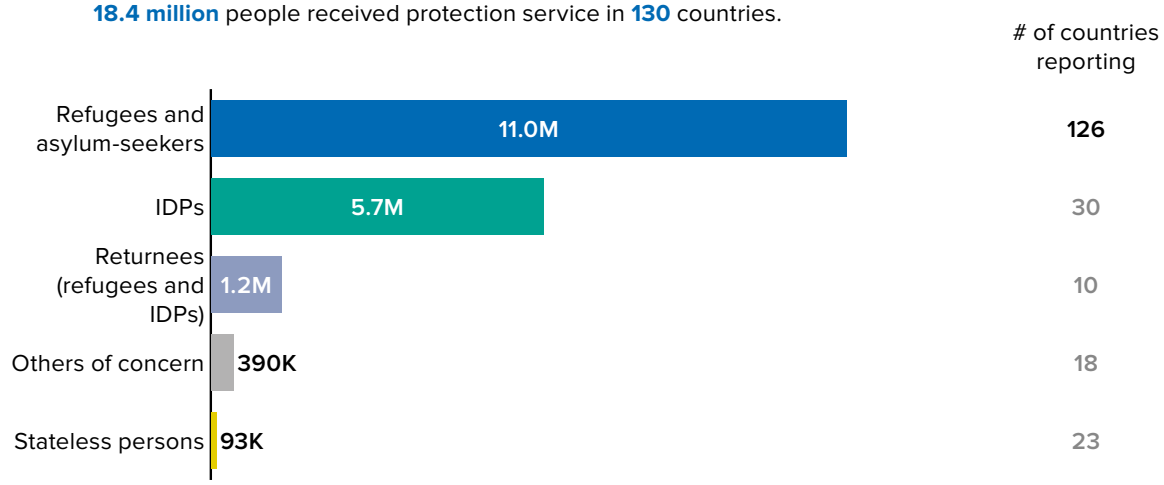
*Includes carry-over, contributions of previous years for implementation in 2024 and deduction of contributions received in 2024 for implementation in future years and other adjustments.

Refugee children Wala'a Al-Radi, 8, and Ahmad Radi, 4, receive diapers during a UNHCR distribution in Za'atari Camp, Jordan. This regular assistance supports nearly 500 Syrian refugees, bringing comfort to children with disabilities, elderly persons, and those with special health needs. © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

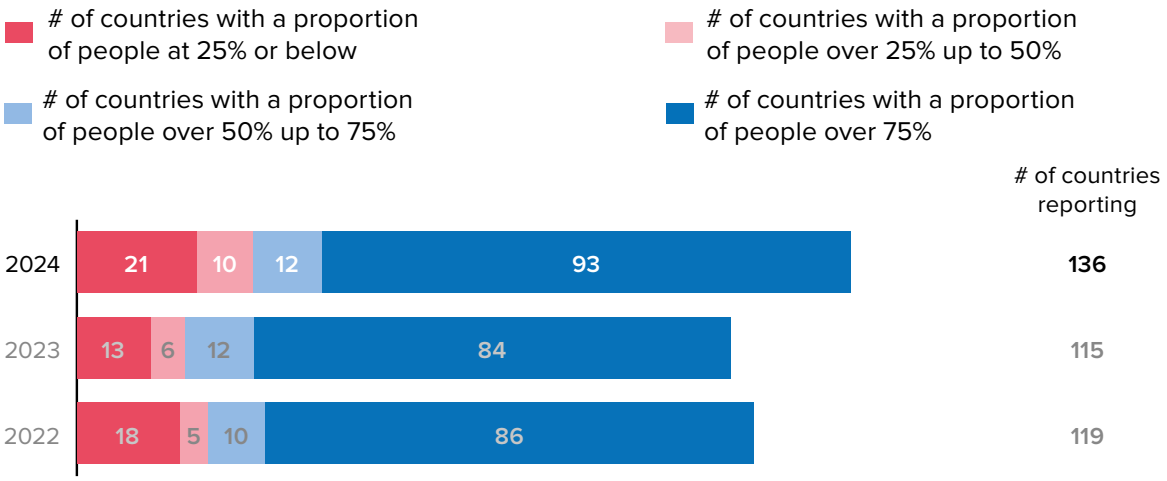
Protecting people who are forced to flee or stateless

7.3.1 Number of people who received protection services

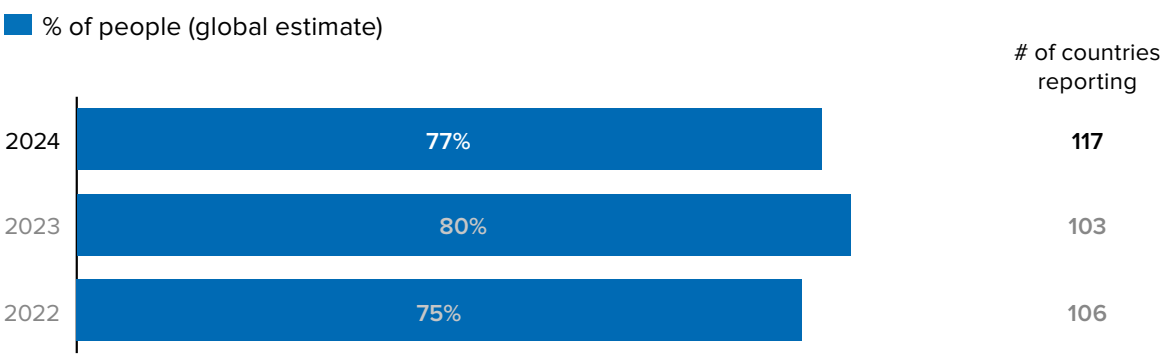
18.4 million people received protection service in **130** countries.



1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures



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



When people are forced to flee from conflict or persecution, and they cross a border seeking safety and security, they need to be admitted to territory and find protection.

Overall, UNHCR's protection services reached more than **18.4 million people** in 130 countries in 2024. These efforts were foundational, providing the stable basis required for access to health care, education, food assistance, and national social protection schemes. Protection monitoring and legal aid helped individuals navigate risks ranging from arbitrary detention to gender-based violence.

UNHCR emphasized the need for States to first and foremost preserve access to territory and the right to asylum for those fleeing conflict or persecution, and to prevent refoulement or detention. The scale of **refoulement** remains very high, with hundreds of thousands of people known or believed to have been refouled in 2024 across the globe. This includes individual expulsions and large-scale deportations and pushbacks.

UNHCR gave States technical support to design and implement laws to protect people who had been forced to flee and help them process asylum cases. Over **100 countries had legal frameworks that were aligned with the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol**, or progressing towards alignment. In 93 out of 136 countries where UNHCR collected data in 2024, at least 75% of people seeking international protection were able to access asylum procedures. In around 45 countries without an adequate asylum system, **refugee status determination** was carried out by UNHCR. Although asylum numbers continued to surge, UNHCR's efforts helped to **reduce the average time to process claims by 15%**.

Many States made improvements in their asylum systems and processes. In response to refugee outflows from **Sudan**, the **Central African Republic**, **Chad**, **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan** granted refugee status using group-based prima facie approaches. Other countries, such as **Benin**, **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Togo**, used simplified approaches to refugee recognition, acknowledging that the high presumption of eligibility warranted simpler processes. Others, such as **Brazil**, leveraged investments in their registration systems to facilitate recognition for some asylum-seekers with a high presumption of eligibility.

UNHCR registered nearly **3 million new refugees and asylum-seekers** who had been forced to flee and supported **4.6 million in securing documentation**. We provided **legal assistance to 1.4 million people**, monitored detention facilities and borders, and ensured people on the move had information about the risks they faced and the support available to ensure their rights. We sought to prevent dangerous journeys, taking a **route-based approach** to identify people on the move who were in need of international protection, or people who were already displaced and likely to be forced to move again.

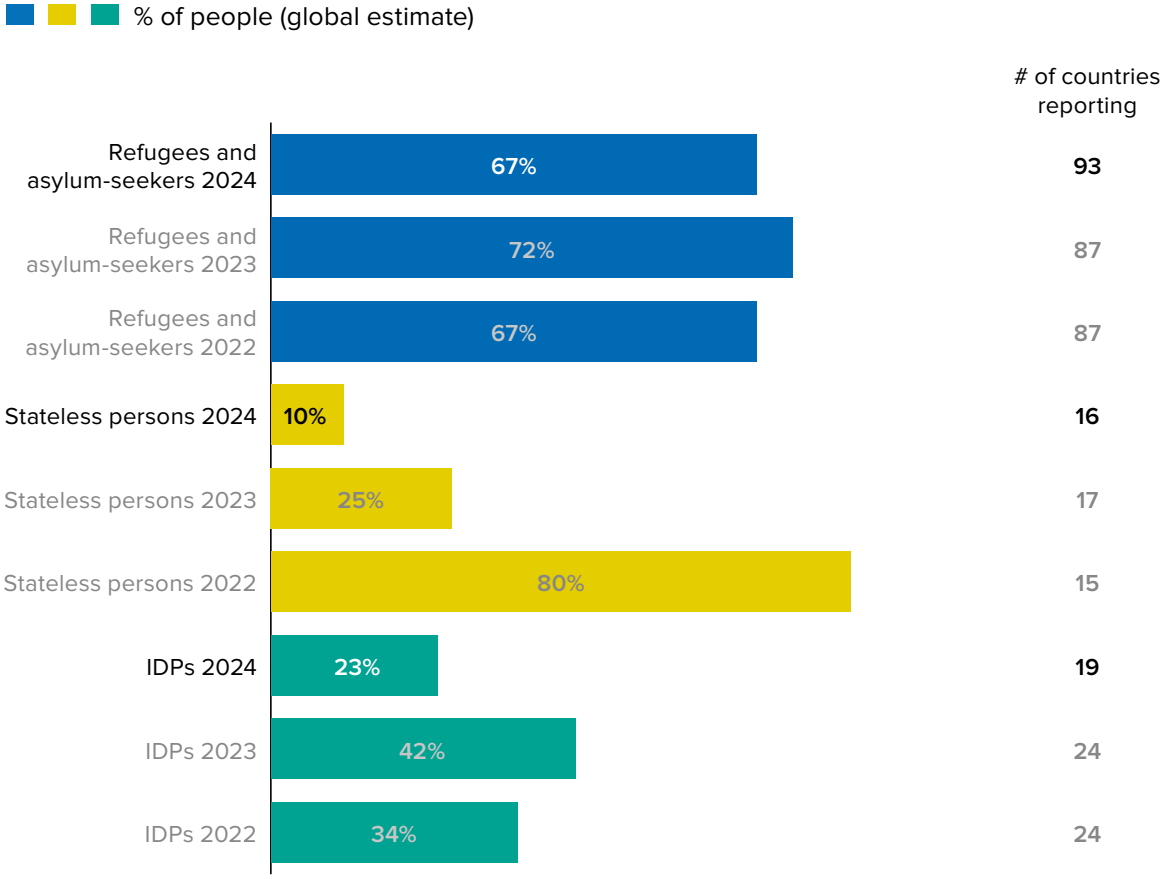
UNHCR reached over **1.7 million people with its gender-based violence prevention and response**, and over 75% of survivors in 43 countries reported satisfaction with the management of their case. Efforts to protect children expanded, reaching **1.5 million children and caregivers**; however, underfunding reduced the availability of best interest procedures and community-based protection programmes in many countries. The impact was amplified through partnerships with governments, legal aid providers, community-based organizations, and other UN agencies – enabling host states to align their asylum systems with international standards and extending legal identity to millions more. In fragile contexts, these interventions protected space for dignity, safety, and choice.

UNHCR's campaign to eradicate **statelessness** saw some important progress globally. More than 95 countries had their legal frameworks aligned and/or progressing towards alignment with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. The Central Asian States have enabled over 200,000 stateless people to acquire nationality since 2014, and in 2024, **Turkmenistan** became only the second country to resolve all known cases of statelessness within its territory.

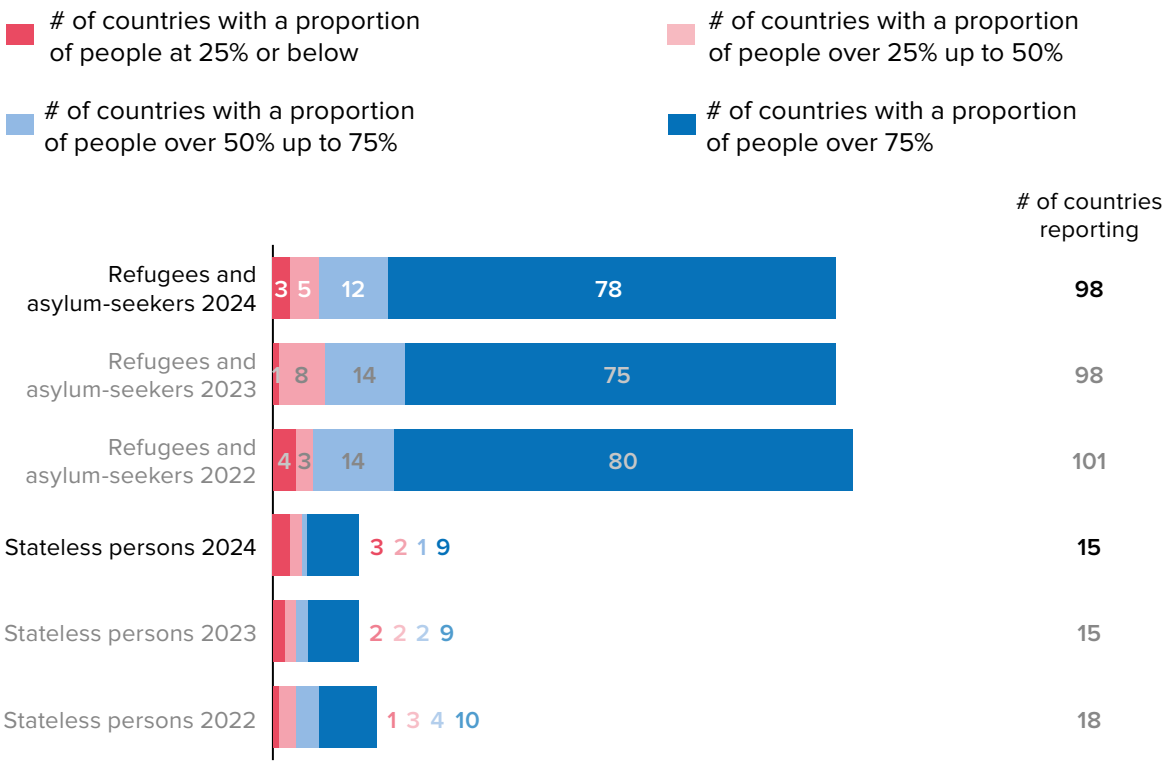
There was important progress elsewhere, with a historic resolution to fast-track nationality in **Thailand** and a constitutional amendment in **Malaysia** allowing women to confer nationality on their children. 26 States improved their policies and procedures to prevent and reduce statelessness in 2024, far exceeding UNHCR's target of 15, and two States – **São Tomé and Principe** and **South Sudan** – acceded to both statelessness conventions.

Keeping displaced and stateless people safe and healthy

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



2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services



Once protection is secured, the next imperative was to meet people's **basic needs**, especially in an emergency. People who are forced to flee often have no **shelter, clean water**, **health care** or **basic items** for cooking and keeping warm and clean. These are not optional extras but life-saving essentials that uphold dignity and stability.

UNHCR's emergency response reached millions of people with direct assistance – including shelter, water, health care, cash assistance, and core relief items. Beyond the sheer volume, the impact lay in speed and coordination: prepositioned stocks, emergency rosters, and local partnerships allowed rapid scale-up in Sudan, Ukraine, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With national authorities, UNHCR helped stabilize displacement-affected areas, often bridging critical gaps before development or recovery actors could mobilize. Through joint responses with WFP, WHO, UNICEF and IOM, and with hundreds of national NGOs, UNHCR's work helped reduce mortality, limit disease outbreaks, and enable vulnerable populations – including children and persons with disabilities – to survive and recover.

UNHCR managed 43 active emergency declarations across 25 countries, including 26 new emergencies declared in 2024 and 17 ongoing crises from 2023. Whether in newly displaced communities or protracted crises, UNHCR focused on delivering coordinated, multi-sectoral support that could stabilize families and set the stage for longer-term recovery. However, emergencies do not wait for full funding. Although this area of UNHCR's response was where most of our invaluable flexible funding was used, in 2024, the widening gap between needs and resources meant UNHCR had to prioritize – ever more rigorously – the most life-saving interventions.

At least 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers resided in **safe and secure settlements** in 56 of 93 countries where UNHCR operations reported such data in 2024, similar to the rate in 2023.

UNHCR provided **shelter and housing assistance to more than 2.6 million people**, and sought to ensure sites and settlements had drinking water, electricity, sanitation, health care, and safe spaces for women and children.

But a lack of funding took its toll: almost 300,000 Sudanese refugees who had fled from the conflict in their homeland were forced to remain in makeshift shelters on the Chadian border, exposed to extreme weather and health and safety risks, without privacy or protection.

Many forcibly displaced people live below the poverty line, ranging from 32% in Peru to 75% in Ethiopia. The most efficient way to support them is often a small cash grant that they can spend according to their own needs. In 2024, **UNHCR disbursed $650 million in cash** assistance to more than 5.3 million people, and **our global stockpiles supplied more than 6 million people with basic items**. An estimated 42% of refugees and asylum-seekers, and 29% of internally displaced people, had habitable and affordable housing.

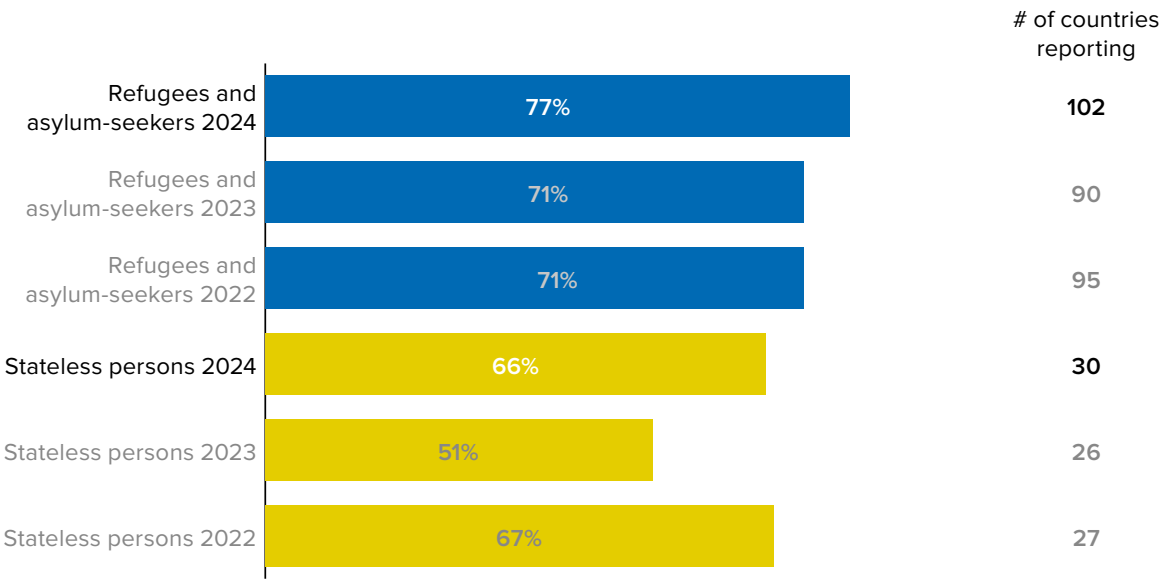
More than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers had **access to health care in 78 of the 98 countries** where UNHCR operations reported such data in 2024. That represented 80% of reporting countries, slightly up from 77% in 2023.

UNHCR-supported facilities held **15.5 million health consultations** and **1.2 million mental health consultations**. More than 2.5 million people were screened for acute malnutrition, leading to **malnutrition treatment for 261,000 children and nearly 30,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women**. UNHCR sought to ensure refugees were vaccinated, in childhood and against disease outbreaks such as mpox, and trained more than **12,000 community health workers**. UNHCR supported **7.7 million people with access to water and sanitation**, but a lack of funding meant that many refugees still had less than the standard of 20 litres per day, and hundreds of thousands had no soap and no access to toilet facilities.

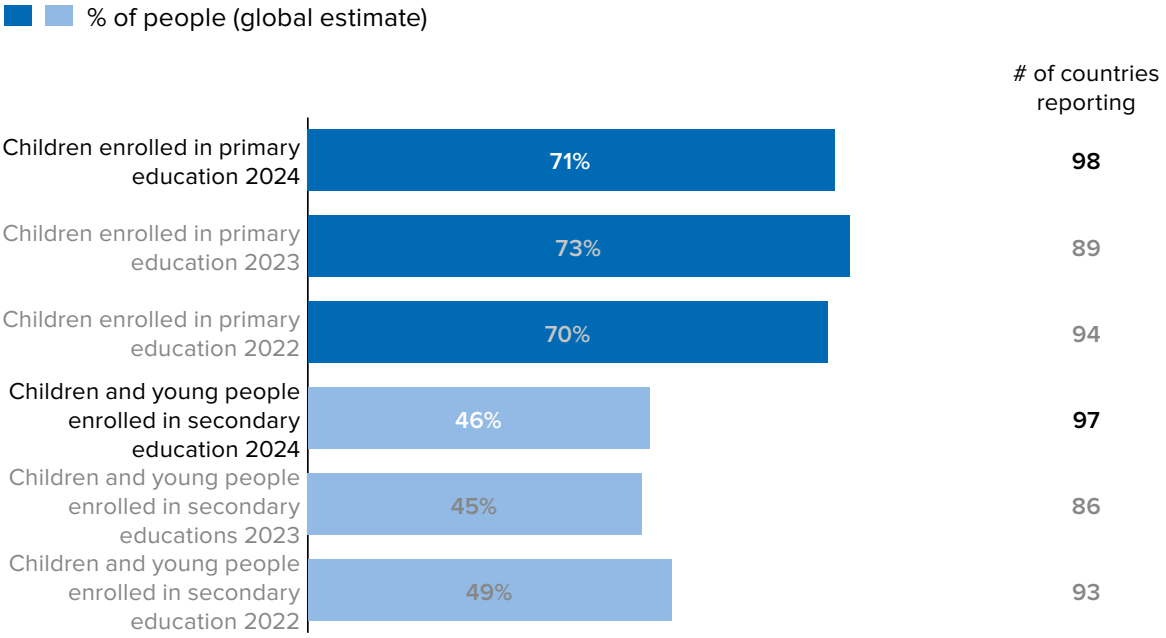
Wherever possible, UNHCR worked through local partners to reinforce national responses, support host communities, and uphold humanitarian principles in rapidly shifting contexts. **24% of UNHCR's expenditure was channelled through partners**.

Empowering displaced and stateless people

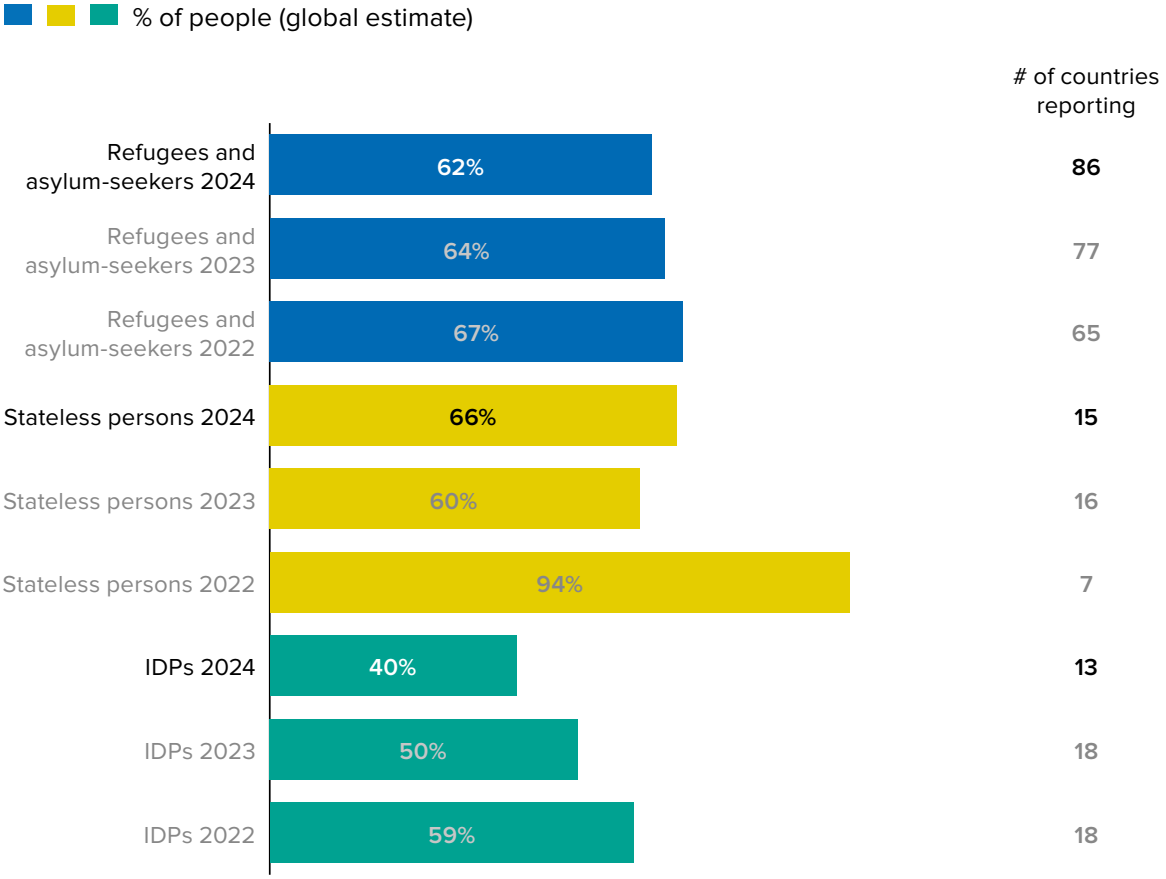
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work



3.2 Proportion of children and young people (refugees and asylum-seekers) enrolled in primary and secondary education



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



In places where displaced people seek refuge, they quickly want support to rebuild their lives – to work, to study, to contribute and to belong, while they may wish to go home when conditions are suitable. This is only possible if there is access to schools and jobs, if there are opportunities for community engagement, and if there is social cohesion and security. UNHCR invests heavily in programmatic and policy shifts that expand legal access to work and financial inclusion, livelihoods, and inclusion in national education systems. Such support fosters resilience and dignity, and better prepares displaced families when they return home or find other solutions.

Security is essential for empowerment, as is the freedom to move around. In 2024, UNHCR data from 86 countries showed 62% of refugees and asylum-seekers felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark, and refugees and asylum-seekers were able to move freely in 71 out of the 117 countries reporting data.

Globally, **77% of refugees** had a legal right to work, with improvements observed in **Colombia**, **Greece**, **Hungary**, **the Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Peru**, **Poland**, and elsewhere. But practical barriers to work, such as documentation requirements, remained in many countries. UNHCR supported **livelihoods programmes for 470,000 people**.

An estimated 71% of refugee and asylum-seeking children and youth were enrolled in primary education in 98 countries reporting data.

However, at secondary level, only 46% were enrolled, based on data from 97 countries. UNHCR supported **more than 2.1 million learners** with education programming, with notable gains in **Türkiye**, **Pakistan** and **Rwanda**.

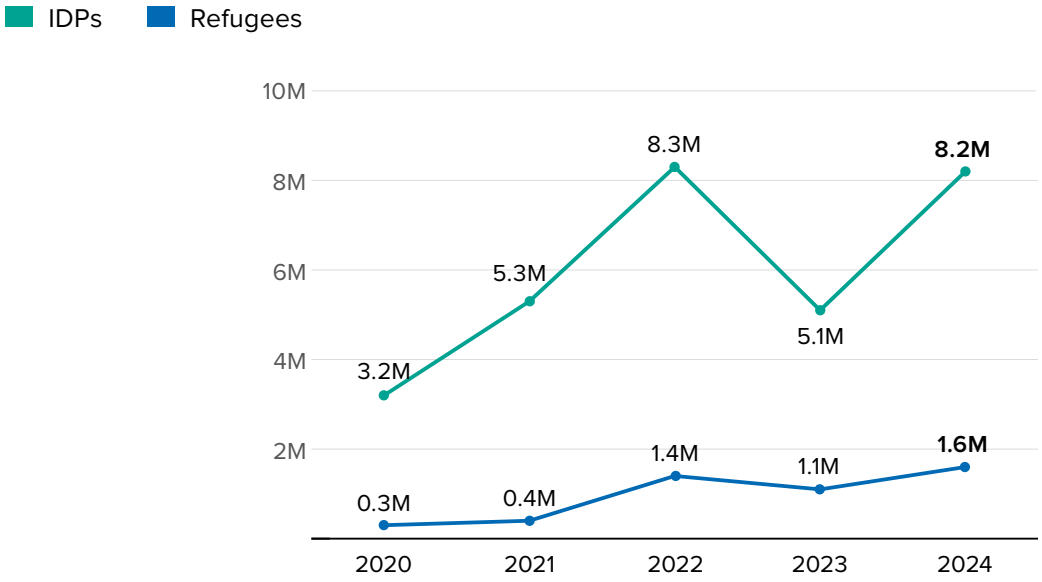
UNHCR and our partners provided targeted support to over **23,000 persons with disabilities** – including more than 18,000 children – and to over **52,000 older persons**. Women-led and refugee-led organizations were supported through **285 grant agreements**, promoting community-driven solutions and inclusive leadership.

We expanded UNHCR's network of digital channels, contact centres and social media apps, and **4.3 million forcibly displaced and stateless people used UNHCR's communication networks** to voice their concerns and needs, a big jump from 2.5 million in 2023. UNHCR consulted **263,000 people via participatory assessments**, enabling them to guide our work by voicing their fears and concerns. In addition, 13.6 million people accessed information on UNHCR's Help websites in 146 countries.

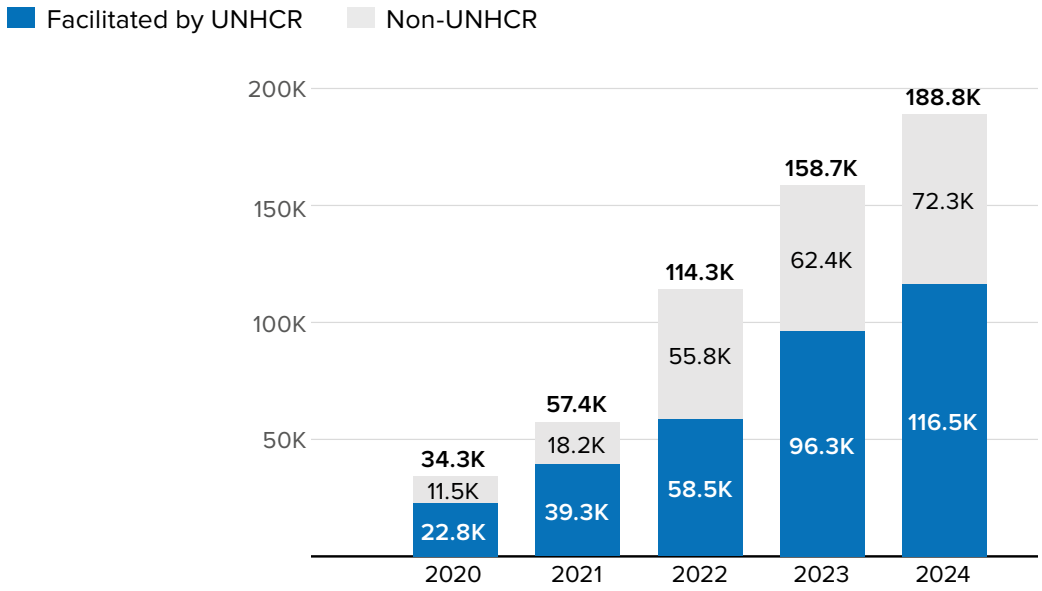
UNHCR's collaborations with development actors like the World Bank, International Finance Corporation and UNDP helped open access to jobs, training, and financial services, and supported the inclusion of displaced people in public services.

Finding ways out of displacement and statelessness

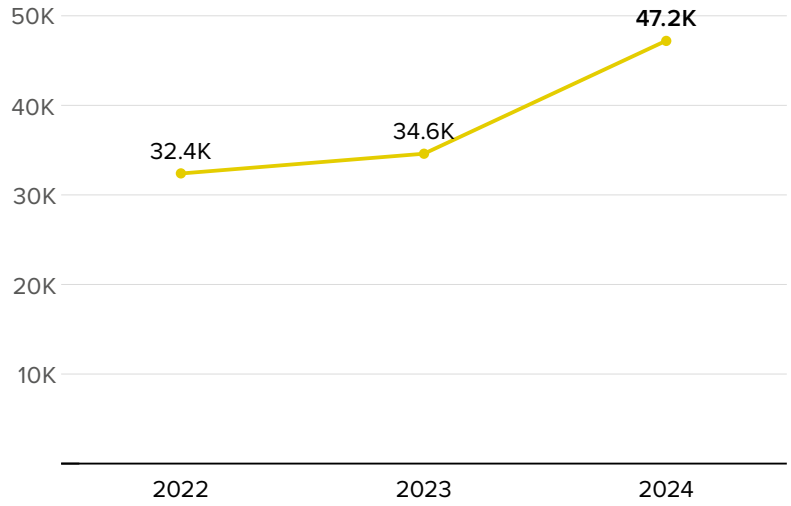
4.1 Number of refugees and internally displaced people who returned to their country or place of origin



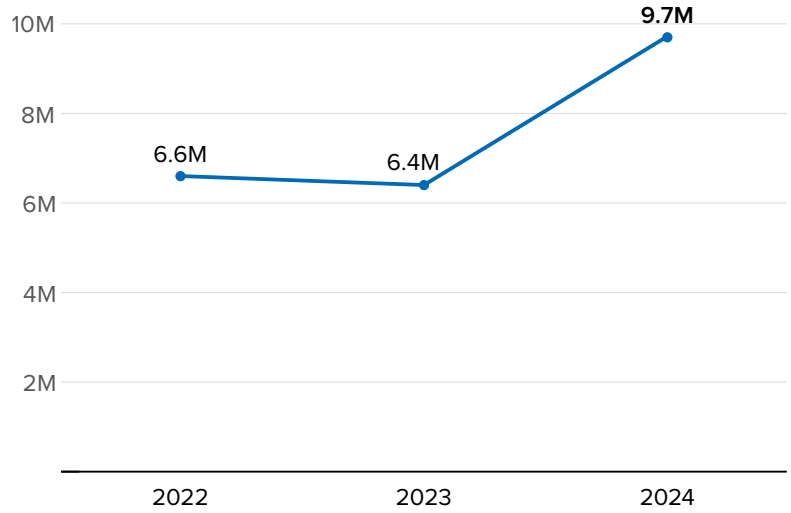
4.2 Number of people who departed on resettlement



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



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



While emergencies and dangerous journeys dominated headlines, UNHCR remained committed to long-term solutions. Whether through voluntary return to the country of origin, local integration in the country of asylum, or resettlement or another pathway to a third country, efforts to resolve displacement brought results in 2024, although still modest relative to the scale of the challenge.

In 2024, **1.6 million refugees returned** to their home country, a 54% increase from 2023. **8.4 million internally displaced people returned** to their area of origin, the second highest total ever recorded. However, the majority of returns were not made in conditions of safety and dignity, many being forced or made under duress.

UNHCR assisted more than **690,000 refugees** and **288,000 internally displaced people** who were making a return to their home areas, and provided **counselling and/or information** on voluntary repatriation to more than **353,000 people** in 104 countries.

People returning in adverse circumstances included thousands of **South Sudanese** refugees fleeing back from the war in Sudan, and **Afghans** who had sought refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran or Pakistan. At the very end of the year, new return opportunities emerged for **Syrian refugees** after the fall of the Assad government after almost 14 years of war, but for most of 2024 Syrians were still being displaced by conflict.

UNHCR carried out border and protection monitoring and we provided information and assistance to help returnees find their way safely back to a sustainable situation in their country of origin. UNHCR prioritized support with its available funding for returns to **Burundi** and the **Central African Republic**, which remain among the most underfunded displacement situations globally.

There was a welcome increase in **resettlement**, with UNHCR able to submit more than 200,000 refugees for resettlement, the highest number since 1990, and over **188,000 departed** during the year. The latest data also showed continued growth in **complementary pathways** – routes to a third country via family reunification, sponsorship, study and work visas – with nearly 285,000 refugees departing in 2023. Despite the increases, the number of refugees who were able to move a third country – neither their country of origin nor their country of asylum – fell far short of what was required.

47,200 individuals who were formerly **stateless** or of undetermined nationality were able to acquire or confirm their nationality in 2024. More than 9.7 million refugees had their residency status granted or confirmed, based on data from 114 countries. That was an increase from 6.4 million in 2023, with **Uganda**, **the Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **South Sudan** granting residency to over 2.8 million refugees between them, as well as big increases in **Italy**, **Brazil** and **Romania**. The number of naturalizations almost tripled to 89,000, mainly in **Sweden**, **Canada** and **Norway**.

UNHCR worked with national governments, the Global Compact on Refugees Support Platforms, and development partners to embed solutions planning in national policies and recovery strategies, to expand residency and regularization schemes, and to grow resettlement quotas and pilot community sponsorship schemes.

This work did not just help individuals move forward – it strengthened systems, reduced long-term aid dependency, and promoted regional stability.

Sudanese refugees shelter from the sun under trees and makeshift shelters at a temporary site in Koulbous, Chad, near the border with Sudan. UNHCR is providing continuous aid amid ongoing arrivals. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

A more integrated, inclusive, sustainable response

The increasing scale, complexity, and duration of displacement crises worldwide have created needs that far exceed the reach of humanitarian aid alone. These protracted situations place growing pressure on economies and communities hosting displaced populations. The road ahead will require not only sustained commitment but smarter, more integrated responses to meet growing needs, with a greater focus on strengthened national systems and digital platforms.

In 2024, UNHCR worked closely with national governments, development actors, the private sector and financial institutions. Our close partnership with the **World Bank**, as well as other multilateral lenders, helped to build the evidence base, spread awareness and attract financial support for more sustainable responses to forced displacement. Major collaborations, such as the **PROSPECTS Partnership**, UNHCR's Joint Initiative with the **International Finance Corporation** and partnerships with **UNDP** and **ILO** were vital to building refugees' self-reliance, employment and inclusion.

In the spirit of the **Global Compact on Refugees**, efforts to link humanitarian work with development investments continued through the **Global Refugee Forum pledges** and country-level strategies. **Ethiopia** developed a refugee inclusion strategy that was informed by research showing the potential for an "economic inclusion dividend", while **Kenya** launched a plan to transition large refugee populations away from subsistence programming and towards inclusion, recognizing refugee ID documents for the issuance of work permits. **Zambia** and **Ecuador** also took steps towards the inclusion of refugees.

UNHCR worked with the World Bank and other partners to build the evidence for including refugees in national systems, such as health and education, and to analyse the cost of doing so. A groundbreaking UNHCR and World Bank socioeconomic study also showed the benefits of granting citizenship to stateless individuals, comparing the situation of the Shona community in Kenya before and after they were granted citizenship in 2020.

In 2024, UNHCR supported over **469,000 individuals in 96 countries** with self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods interventions. For those who remain forcibly displaced or stateless, inclusion in the job market and in social protection systems – which aim to prevent or protect people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion – makes them more self-reliant and empowers them to choose their own path. It is also a pragmatic way to reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance.

UNHCR's impact in 2024 was shaped by our ability to **protect lives, adapt with agility, and maintain the integrity of core services** despite immense funding challenges. The agency's focus on inclusion, accountability, and innovation – especially through strengthened national systems and digital platforms – helped reach the most vulnerable, even as resources dwindled. The road ahead will require not only sustained commitment but smarter, more integrated responses to meet growing needs.

Faris Abu Hussieny, 51, poses with his sons Mohammad (left), Abdelrahman (middle), and Faris (right) in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Jordan. After volunteering as an electrical technician and helping improve safety in the camp, Faris is now returning to the Syrian Arab Republic, hoping to rebuild his life and share his expertise. © UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

2024 Year-end results

Global core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

In 2024, UNHCR introduced core output indicators as part of its results-based management system, enabling UNHCR to report and consolidate its achievements globally. This update highlights UNHCR's key results in 2024.

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**18.4 million** people received protection services (**130** countries reporting)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**3.4 million** people were registered on an individual basis (**104** countries reporting) **4.6 million** people were supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**88** countries reporting)
Status determination	**101** countries where UNHCR provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards (**110** countries reporting)
Protection policy and law	**131** countries where UNHCR engaged in legislative and/or judicial process to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and statelessness people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness (**142** countries reporting)
Gender-based violence	**1.7 million** people benefited from specialized GBV programmes (**86** countries reporting)
Child protection	**1.5 million** children and caregivers received child protection services (**78** countries reporting)
Safety and access to justice	**1.4 million** people received legal assistance (**101** countries reporting)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**263,300** people were consulted through participatory assessments (**122** countries reporting) **4.3 million** people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**133** countries reporting)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**469,400** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**96** countries reporting)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**5.3 million** people received cash assistance (**103** countries reporting) **6.0 million** people received non-food items (**66** countries reporting) **1.0 million** people were supported with improved cooking options (**24** countries reporting)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**2.6 million** people received shelter and housing assistance (**66** countries reporting)
Healthy lives	**15.5 million** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**63** countries reporting) **1.2 million** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**88** countries reporting)
Education	**2.1 million** people benefited from education programming (**76** countries reporting)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**7.7 million** people were supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**33** countries reporting)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**353,300** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**104** countries reporting)
Local integration and local solutions	**115,600** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**67** countries reporting)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024. People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.
Source: UNHCR and Partners

Congolese refugee Mariam Suleiman not only lives in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya, she helps keep it in good repair, having trained as a welder at the age of 18, after her mother died. She excelled in her training, part of a UNHCR-ILO project, and qualified as an instructor. "Welding is the place that fed me and my family and now, I want to train other young men and women to harness its power to make a better life for themselves," she says. Her dream is to learn underwater welding in South Africa and to open a production company that doubles as a training institute. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

The Global Compact on Refugees in 2024

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) serves as a framework for responsibility-sharing by governments, international organizations and other stakeholders. Its **objectives** are to ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugees' self-reliance, expand their access to third country solutions, and support conditions in their country of origin so that they can return safely and in dignity.

The Global Refugee Forum (GRF) provides an opportunity for States, civil society and others to show their commitment by making specific pledges to act in support of the Compact's goals. The second GRF, held in December 2023, cultivated more than 1,770 pledges, and an additional 282 pledges were made in 2024, bringing the total to 3,320 recorded since the first GRF in 2019. By the end of 2024, more than 1,000 pledges were in progress, and **512 pledges had been fulfilled**, on topics ranging from economic inclusion to education, health and resettlement. 56% of the pledges fulfilled were made by States, 19% by civil society organizations, 8% by international organizations, and 7% by private sector organizations.

In 2023, the Forum introduced **multi-stakeholder pledges**, a new model of collaboration that aimed for large-scale and transformative responses to refugee situations. Through UNHCR's active engagement and support in this process, by the end of 2024, 31 of the 47 multi-stakeholder pledges had already established roadmaps for implementation, and others had made substantial progress.

Advancement of the GCR's objectives is tracked in the GCR Indicator Report, which was last published in November 2023 and will have another edition in 2025, when a High-Level Officials Meeting will take stock of progress.

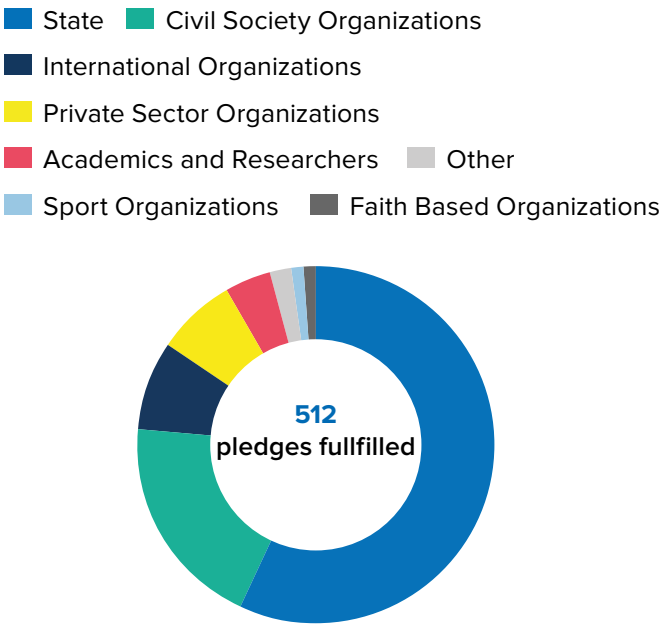
The following are **some examples of concrete impact in 2024** under the auspices of the Global Compact:

Expanding safe third country solutions

Many refugees and stateless people face a major barrier that prevents them travelling safely across borders to work, study or reunite with their family: the lack of a recognized travel document. As part of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Refugee travel documents – the 21st century Nansen Passport, UNHCR led a crucial amendment of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standard for issuing **machine-readable Convention Travel Documents**, expanding eligibility to all 193 ICAO member States. In 2024, the impact was already being seen, with **Mexico** beginning to issue these documents and **Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kyrgyzstan** and **South Sudan** also making notable progress toward implementation.

DLA Piper, the co-lead of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Supporting family reunification, designed and piloted a mapping tool that connects refugee families with service providers globally, providing them with reliable information on the support available and enhancing coordination between providers, so that **more families will be able to reunite** safely and efficiently.

Global Refugee Forum pledges



The **Australian Government** fulfilled its pledge to expand refugee resettlement, providing **20,000 resettlement places** under its Humanitarian Program 2024-2025, marking the first time since 1982 that Australia has maintained two consecutive years of resettlement places at this scale, an important step in expanding durable solutions for displaced populations.

Investing in education, skills, and economic opportunity

The **Global Partnership for Education** (GPE), a signatory of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Including refugees in national education systems, developed a policy dialogue tool to facilitate discussions and funding mechanisms to support refugees' inclusion in education. These efforts were backed by substantial financial commitments. By May 2024, **GPE had invested $1.35 billion** to strengthen education systems in 17 countries, including Chad, Djibouti, and Ethiopia, ensuring that more refugee children have access to quality learning opportunities.

Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) committed €8.7 million to improve **water and energy infrastructure in Chad, Ethiopia, Jordan, Sudan, and Uganda,** ensuring long-term access to essential services for displaced people and host communities. In Ethiopia, this initiative is supporting the country's commitment to transform refugee camps into urban settlements by improving infrastructure and living conditions, which Germany had committed to do as part of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Sustainable human settlements for refugees and their hosting communities.

Strengthening refugee and stateless data for informed inclusion

The PROSPECTS Partnership, funded by **the Kingdom of the Netherlands**, enabled Government representatives from **Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon** to be trained in applying the recommendations of the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics (EGRISS), in line with the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national statistical systems and surveys. This initiative will help the integration of forcibly displaced and stateless people by ensuring that policies addressing health, education and employment are based on reliable data.

Bridging gaps in refugee health care

The Group of Friends of Health for Refugees and Host Communities continued to serve as an innovative platform to promote inclusion in national health systems. The two Multi-stakeholder Pledges on National health system inclusion and on Fostering mental health and psychosocial well-being received an additional 18 pledges, bringing the total number of new commitments linked to the second Global Refugee Forum to 240 as of December 2024.

In **Cameroon**, the Government enrolled 90,000 refugees, 19% of the country's refugee population, into its universal health coverage scheme, ensuring greater access to essential health care.

The Governments of **Germany** and **the Kingdom of the Netherlands**, leading the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Fostering mental health and psychosocial well-being, were pivotal in mobilizing global support, including a World Health Assembly resolution on strengthening mental health and psychosocial support before, during, and after conflicts and emergencies.

Meaningful refugee participation

The quintessence of the GCR's is the "whole of society" approach, with great emphasis placed on meaningful refugee participation, from shaping the GRF 2023 to the development of multi-stakeholder pledges. In 2024, UNHCR sought to ensure refugees were engaged in follow-up processes, such as the roadmap to the High-Level Officials Meeting 2025. In consultation with the Advisory Board to UNHCR's Task Team on engagement with organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons, UNHCR developed guidance for all GCR stakeholders on how to engage refugees in the pledge implementation and stocktaking process, with practical examples drawn from existing pledges. Further consultations have been held on how to ensure meaningful refugee participation in the preparations for the High-Level Officials Meeting in 2025.

Regional Support Platforms: driving solutions

The Global Compact has prompted the creation of four **Support Platforms** that bring regional partnerships together to share responsibility for supporting refugees and host countries and finding solutions to forced displacement.

In Central America and Mexico, the **Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework (MIRPS) Support Platform** reinforced asylum systems, local integration, and refugees' inclusion in national statistics. In East Africa, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's **IGAD Support Platform** focused on building resilience and self-reliance of refugees and host communities, with increased resource mobilization and direct dialogue between refugees and policymakers. In Asia, the **Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR) Support Platform** drove solutions for displaced Afghans within Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, with UNHCR facilitating policy recommendations through the Platform's Global Core Group.

In 2024, the **Central African Republic (CAR) Solutions Support Platform (SSP)** provided a strong example of coordinated, results-driven action. Launched in October 2023, the platform gathers seven States affected by displacements triggered by the crisis in the Central African Republic: Cameroon, the CAR, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Sudan. The Platform quickly gained traction with the creation of national technical committees across most of its member States. In 2024, nearly 20,000 Central African refugees made a voluntary return to their home country, including more than **16,000 repatriations facilitated by UNHCR**. With the support of the CAR-SSP, the Government initiated a **development hub pilot project** in an area of return of refugees, in which 103 houses for returning families were constructed.

From enhancing access to essential services and creating environments for lasting solutions to advancing refugee participation and data inclusion for effective responses, the Global Compact on Refugees continued to drive meaningful progress for people forced to flee and host communities alike. As preparations begin for a High-Level Officials Meeting in 2025, the results achieved and lessons learned will help inform next steps leading up to the Global Refugee Forum 2027.

Advancing self-reliance and inclusion of refugees through employment

The **Fórum Empresas com Refugiados** (“Companies with Refugees Forum”), a joint initiative by UNHCR and the UN Global Compact in Brazil, was launched in June 2021 to engage the private sector in including refugees in the labour market. By connecting companies and business organizations, the Forum fosters experience-sharing, provides training on refugee hiring, and promotes best practices on including refugees in the workplace. It also serves as a unified voice advocating for policies that benefit refugees in Brazil. In 2024, the Forum grew its membership by 34%, launched an Advisory Committee, and conducted its first in-depth monitoring of refugees in the labour market, which revealed that over 12,000 refugees were employed. Member firms trained 1,631 refugees and facilitated 2,000 new hires – advancing refugee self-reliance and Brazil’s leadership in refugee inclusion.

Funding UNHCR's programmes in 2024

Young girls displaced from Faryab are sheltered in a damaged house in Herat, Afghanistan, following recent earthquakes. Despite growing up in poverty and uncertainty, they embody resilience amid harsh conditions. UNHCR's programmes for persons with specific needs provide vital support to families like theirs, ensuring protection for those most at risk. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

Refugees wait in line for a meal from a community-led kitchen at the Tine Transit Centre near the Chad-Sudan border. With limited international presence, local Chadians are stepping in to help the thousands fleeing violence in Darfur - many arriving exhausted, hungry, and with nothing after walking for weeks in extreme heat. © UNHCR/Caitlin Kelly

Overview

This chapter presents an overview of UNHCR's budgeted requirements, income and expenditure in 2024. More detailed information at the regional and operational level can be found in the "Planning, funding and results" section of UNHCR's website.

UNHCR's final 2024 **budget** was $10.785 billion, having increased from the 2024 original budget of $10.622 billion. Financial requirements for 2024 **programmed activities** amounted to $10.340 billion, $123 million or 1% lower than
$10.463 billion requirements for 2023.

One supplementary budget totalling $163.7 million was established in support of the Sudan situation. This brings the total final budget for 2024 to $10.785 billion as of 31 December 2024.

In 2024, **expenditure** decreased by 4.5% compared to 2023, to $4.933 billion, leading to an **implementation rate** (expenditure over total funds available) of 95%, compared to 90% in 2023.

Funds available reached $5.178 billion, leaving an **overall funding gap** – funds available compared to the needs-driven budget of $10.785 billion – of 52%, compared to 48% in 2023.

For a complete set of detailed downloadable financial tables, please refer to the Funding tables annex.

2024 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE OVERVIEW | USD

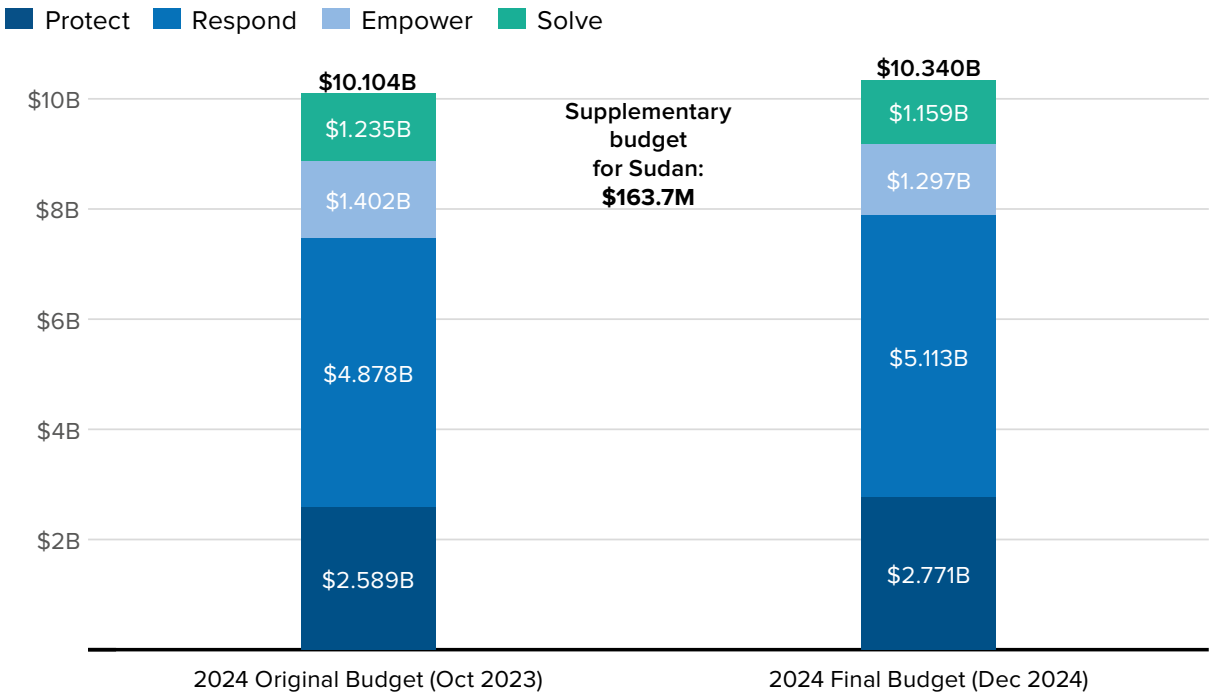
REGION		1. Protect Attaining Favourable Protection Environments	2. Respond Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	3. Empower Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality	4. Solve Securing Solutions	TOTAL	% of Global	% of programmed activities
EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES	Budget	579,216,322	1,178,984,416	264,923,837	185,924,971	**2,209,049,546**	20%	21%
	Expenditure	263,617,128	472,351,284	101,679,030	61,827,214	**899,474,655**	18%	18%
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Budget	173,045,762	129,199,190	88,786,302	101,122,401	**492,153,655**	5%	5%
	Expenditure	66,630,100	58,316,866	38,304,792	28,650,135	**191,901,893**	4%	4%
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Budget	349,032,289	451,059,742	195,677,889	119,366,959	**1,115,136,879**	10%	11%
	Expenditure	149,979,606	199,938,573	75,957,531	41,351,693	**467,227,403**	9%	9%
THE AMERICAS	Budget	297,505,506	177,896,416	100,363,781	258,805,451	**834,571,155**	8%	8%
	Expenditure	135,644,345	75,819,610	36,624,787	121,446,343	**369,535,086**	7%	8%
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	Budget	254,328,638	451,494,755	182,361,225	105,030,113	**993,214,731**	9%	10%
	Expenditure	120,729,328	192,539,787	104,338,829	60,673,320	**478,281,264**	10%	10%
EUROPE	Budget	540,734,238	607,389,268	114,117,290	203,951,875	**1,466,192,670**	14%	14%
	Expenditure	300,551,278	313,643,393	23,946,012	93,512,193	**731,652,877**	15%	15%
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Budget	377,332,680	1,678,214,647	257,182,488	101,048,006	**2,413,777,821**	22%	23%
	Expenditure	245,661,778	668,052,991	127,296,152	48,996,271	**1,090,007,192**	22%	22%
Country Operational Technical Support	Budget	25,783,172	111,725,022	12,067,461	10,782,280	**160,357,935**	1%	2%
	Expenditure	24,939,117	82,162,843	9,878,864	8,873,962	**125,854,787**	3%	3%
SUBTOTAL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES	**Budget**	**2,596,978,607**	**4,785,963,455**	**1,215,480,273**	**1,086,032,058**	**9,684,454,392**	90%	94%
	Expenditure	**1,307,752,681**	**2,062,825,348**	**518,025,997**	**465,331,131**	**4,353,935,157**	88%	88%
Global programmes	Budget	108,970,436	201,078,445	51,002,120	45,570,413	**406,621,414**	4%	4%
	Expenditure	98,302,535	155,537,779	38,939,525	34,978,502	**327,758,342**	7%	7%
Headquarters	Budget	65,119,850	126,291,989	30,478,454	27,232,509	**249,122,802**	2%	2%
	Expenditure	70,816,948	118,396,714	28,051,956	25,198,442	**242,464,060**	5%	5%
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES	**Budget**	**2,771,068,893**	**5,113,333,889**	**1,296,960,847**	**1,158,834,980**	**10,340,198,608**	96%	100%
	Expenditure	**1,476,872,164**	**2,336,759,842**	**585,017,478**	**525,508,075**	**4,924,157,559**	100%	100%
Operational Reserve	Budget	-	-	-	-	**433,205,390**	4%	-
JPO	Budget	-	-	-	-	**12,000,000**	0%	-
	Expenditure	-	-	-	-	**8,393,868**	0%	-
TOTAL	**Budget**	**2,771,068,893**	**5,113,333,889**	**1,296,960,847**	**1,158,834,980**	**10,785,403,998**		
	Expenditure	**1,476,872,164**	**2,336,759,842**	**585,017,478**	**525,508,075**	**4,932,551,428**		

Budget

Tahani Hamid, 35, holds her young son Emad in Tripoli, Libya, where she sought refuge after fleeing the war in Sudan. Once a housewife in Darfur, her life was shattered by conflict, losing her husband to armed fighters and her twin daughters in an airstrike. Now one of thousands of Sudanese refugees in Libya, she receives support from UNHCR, including cash assistance to help cover medical costs for her son.
© UNHCR/Sanne Biesmans

Financial requirements for 2024 **programmed activities** amounted to $10.340 billion, $123 million or 1% lower than $10.463 billion in 2023. **Programmed activities** are country and regional programmes; and global programmes, which are activities undertaken by Headquarters, but benefit the whole organization and help strengthen global leadership and strategic engagement. Headquarters are also programmed activities that provide leadership and management, policy guidance, administrative support, and managerial and programmatic assistance to the field.

Original and final budget for programmed activities | 2024



By Impact Area

Globally, the budget for Impact Area 2 (Realizing basic rights in safe environments) was the largest at $5.113 billion, representing 49% of programmed activities. The largest requirements for this Impact Area were for operations in Lebanon, Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ethiopia and Yemen.

The budget for Impact Area 1 (Attaining favourable protection environments) was the second largest at $2.771 billion or 27% of programmed activities. The largest budgets for this Impact Area were for Sudan, Uganda, Myanmar, Türkiye, and the Republic of Moldova.

Impact Area 3 (Empowering communities and achieving gender equality) had the third largest budget at $1.297 billion or 13% of programmed activities. The largest budgets were for the Syrian Arab Republic, Türkiye, Pakistan, South Sudan and Chad.

The budget for Impact Area 4 (Securing solutions) was the lowest at $1.159 billion or 11% of programmed activities. The largest budgets were for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

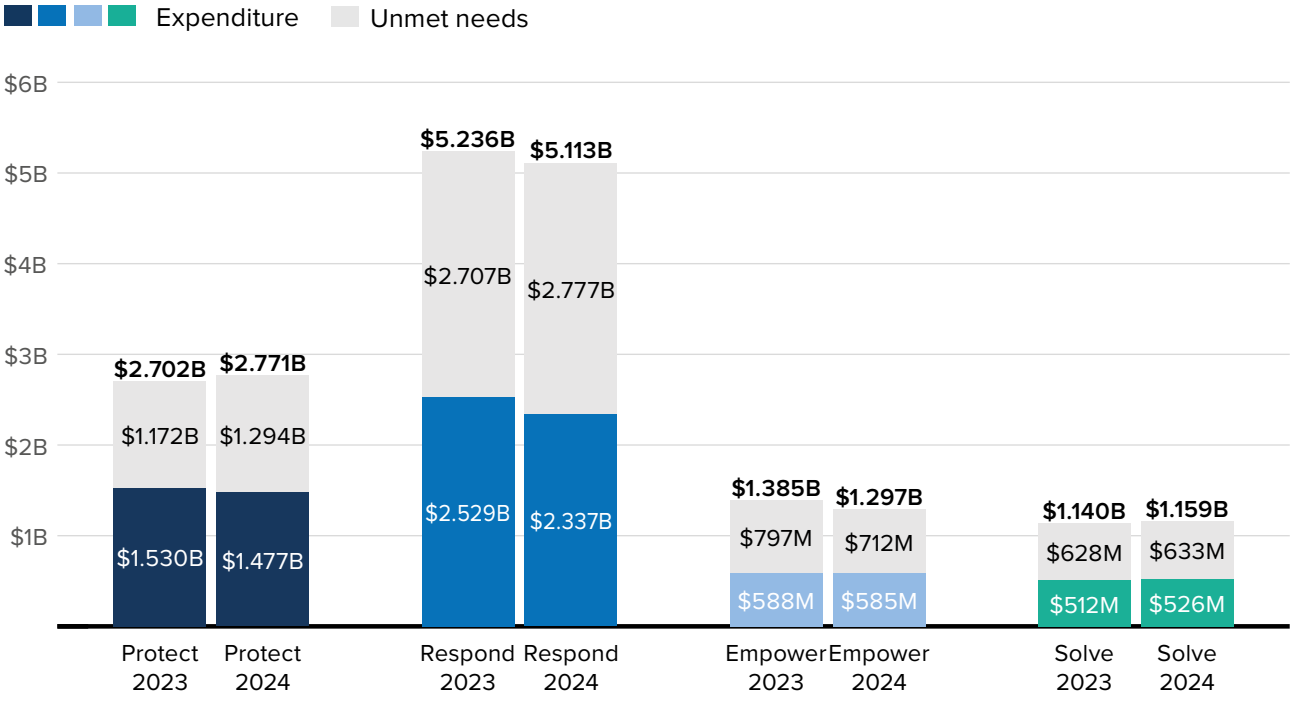
By region, the largest needs were in the Middle East and North Africa at $2.414 billion, or 23% of the total requirements for programmed activities, and East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes at $2.209 billion or 21% of the total.

Expenditure

Theophile Amanai, 35, helps construct an emergency shelter at the Lushagala site for internally displaced people in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ongoing violence in the region has forced millions from their homes, with UNHCR providing shelter, legal aid, and protection for those affected. © UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

Expenditure by Impact Area

Expenditure and unmet needs by Impact Area | 2023 - 2024 (USD billions)



Amount above each bar is the total budget for each Impact Area.

Under Impact Area 1, expenditure of $1.477 billion accounted for 30% of UNHCR's total expenditure. This was a decrease of $53 million or 3% when compared to $1.530 billion in 2023. Expenditure in this Impact Area saw interventions to address immediate protection needs from the outset of emergencies, and prioritization of protection outcomes such as access to territory, border monitoring, registration and documentation, status determination, safety and access to justice.

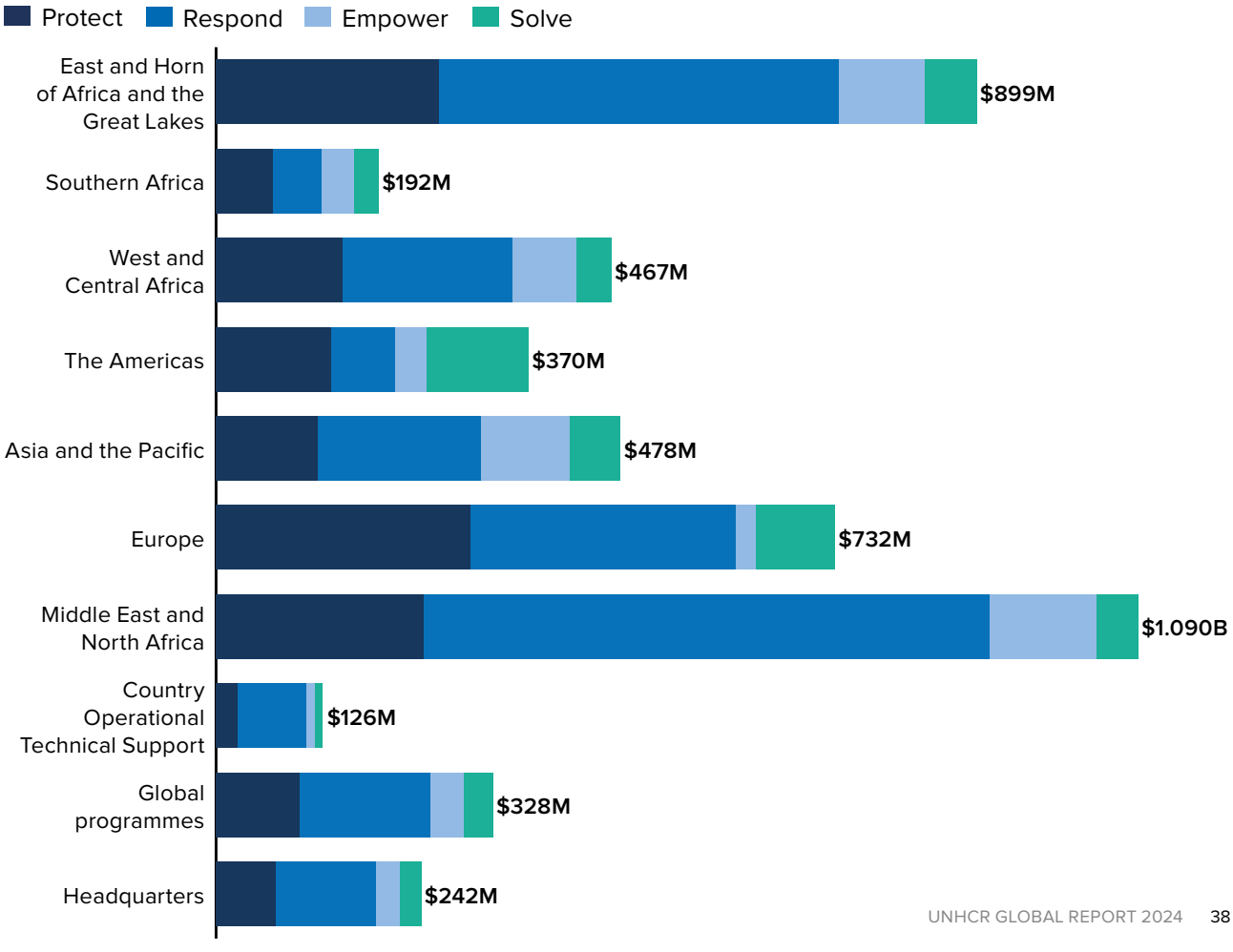
Under Impact Area 2, expenditure of $2.337 billion accounted for 47% of total expenditure, a decrease of $192 million or 8% when compared to $2.529 billion in 2023. In 2024, the office responded to 43 emergencies across 25 countries, including 26 new emergencies declared. UNHCR acted swiftly with life-saving interventions, in close coordination with governments, donors and partners to deliver life-saving protection and assistance including cash assistance, core relief items, housing, water, sanitation, energy and health care.

Under Impact Area 3 expenditure of $585 million accounted for 12% of total expenditure. This represents a decrease of $3 million or 1% when compared to $588 million in 2023. UNHCR advocated the integration of refugees into national frameworks, and supported refugees' access to vital services such as health care, education, and employment opportunities. UNHCR also reinforced partnerships with local and national organizations, faith-based organizations and refugee-led organizations.

Under Impact Area 4, expenditure of $526 million accounted for 11% of total expenditure, an increase of $14 million or 3% when compared to $512 million in 2023. UNHCR made significant strides in finding durable solutions, particularly by advancing third-country solutions by submitting 203,800 resettlement cases and over 116,500 people departing for resettlement with UNHCR's assistance. Additionally, UNHCR enhanced its collaboration with development partners and international financial institutions to integrate responses to forced displacement into broader development investments in both host and return countries.

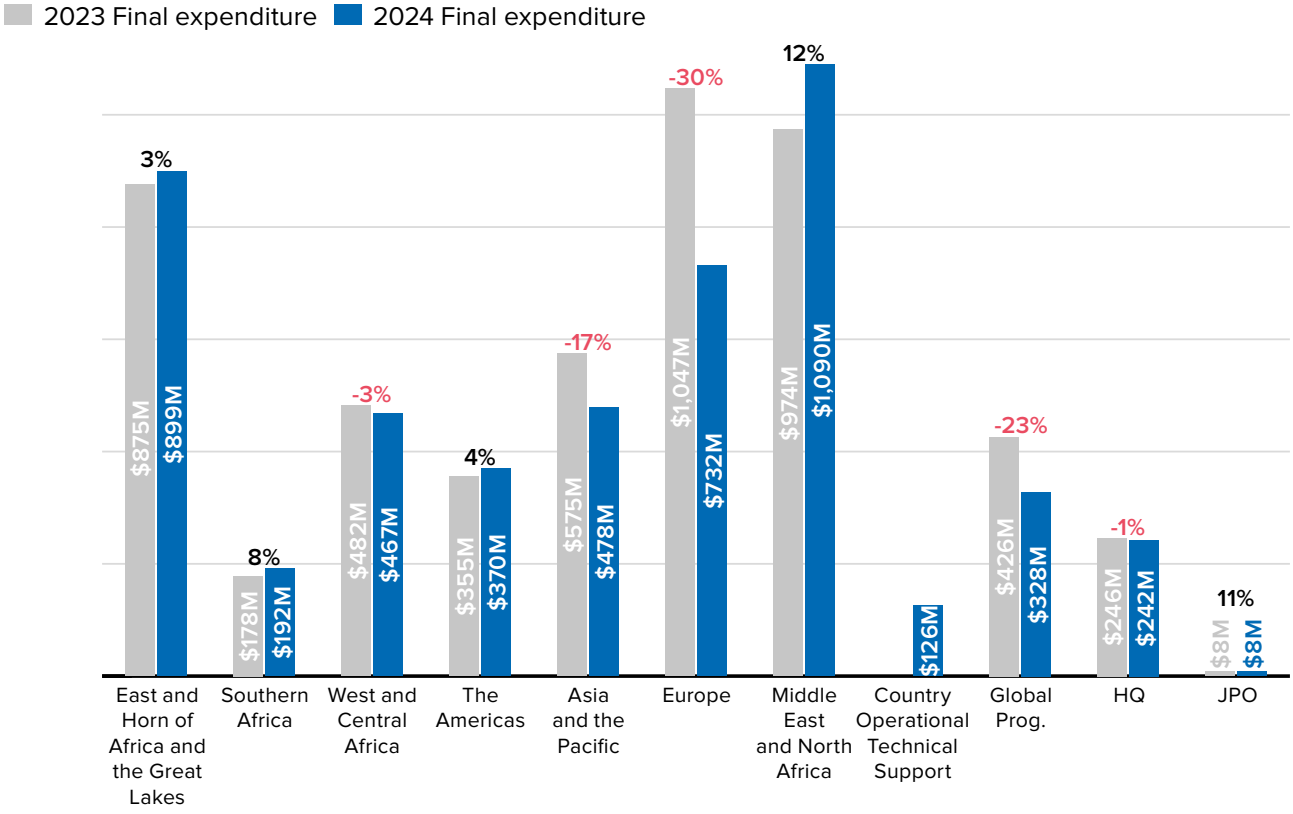
Expenditure by region and Impact Area | 2024 (USD millions)

UNHCR's expenditure for its programmed activities (excluding JPOs and operational reserve) totalled **$4.924 billion** in 2024.



2024 vs 2023 Expenditure across the regions | USD millions

Global expenditure decreased by 4.5% ($234M) in 2024 compared to 2023.



In West and Central Africa, 2024 expenditure was $467 million, a decrease of $15 million or 3% when compared to 2023. The escalating crisis in Sudan affected Chad and the Central African Republic, while insecurity persisted across the Sahel and in the Central African Republic situation. Severe flooding in Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Mali demanded UNHCR's support. These complex emergencies strained resources and required ongoing prioritization.

In the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, expenditure was $899 million, an increase of $24 million or 3% when compared to expenditure of $875 million in 2023. Faced with multiple, complex emergencies, UNHCR had to manage challenging prioritization. Amidst the ongoing war in Sudan, UNHCR also delivered crucial assistance and protection to flood-affected displaced people in Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

Expenditure in Southern Africa amounted to $192 million, an increase of 8% or $14 million compared to expenditure of $178 million in 2023.

The region grappled with ongoing conflicts, extreme weather disasters, and health emergencies. In response to the conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNHCR and partners delivered essential assistance and protection. Expenditure in the Middle East and North Africa amounted to $1.090 billion, an increase of $116 million or 12% when compared to $974 million in 2023. UNHCR faced multiple emergencies, including in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, while a surge of Sudanese refugees fled to Egypt and Libya. Operations in the region had to swiftly review and prioritize activities to tackle escalating urgent needs.

In Asia and the Pacific, expenditure amounted to $478 million, a decrease of $97 million or 17% compared to expenditure of $575 million in 2023. UNHCR remained steadfast in pursuing protection and innovative solutions despite continued large-scale displacement and restricted humanitarian access. In Afghanistan, UNHCR focused on priority areas for return and reintegration using an area-based approach. In Myanmar, UNHCR prioritized life-saving assistance and protection wherever possible.

Expenditure for Europe amounted to $732 million, a decrease of $315 million or 30% compared to expenditure of $1.047 billion in 2023. UNHCR was pivotal in bolstering Government-led efforts in Ukraine. Through the Regional Refugee Response Plan the Office worked on ensuring refugees were integrated into national systems. In Türkiye, the conclusion of the 2023 earthquake emergency response led to lower expenditures.

Expenditure in the Americas amounted to $370 million, an increase of $14 million or 4% compared to $355 million in 2023. UNHCR bolstered government asylum systems and protected internally displaced people, focusing on at-risk communities. In Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti, UNHCR delivered vital assistance to those displaced by extreme weather, disasters, conflict and violence.

Country Operational Technical Support expenditure

In 2024, UNHCR refined some budgetary and expenditure elements previously included under global programmes and, in some cases, Headquarters. Some centrally-budgeted activities were, in effect, directly implemented in country operations and had an impact on results on the ground. During budgeting, it was not known which countries would implement such activities. As an example, emergency deployments were budgeted centrally, but expensed at the country level. By creating a category called Country Operations Technical Support (COTS), UNHCR aimed to improve transparency in reflecting more accurately which centrally-managed activities were implemented directly at the country level, compared with other global activities which were not specific to a single operation. In other words, with this new presentation, global programmes supports all or many operations at a broad strategic level, while COTS focuses on more specific, targeted operational support.

In 2024, COTS expenditure amounted to $126 million and related to activities such as emergency preparedness and response, security services, resettlement, information technology support and education activities. In 2024, increased investments in global stock management services, supply management and innovative projects such as the Green Financing Facility were offset by decreased expenditure in emergency services, information and communications technology stockpiles, VSAT connectivity costs and IT security operations.

Global programmes

UNHCR's global programmes are centrally managed initiatives that transcend geographic boundaries, enhancing UNHCR's ability to deliver protection and solutions more efficiently, effectively, and equitably. These programmes are designed to support field operations and are mostly implemented in the field but are budgeted for and managed at Headquarters. These programmes provide technical leadership, policy direction, operational support and expand advocacy and resource mobilization across all UNHCR operations, ensuring continuity, innovation, and scale in refugee response.

Expenditure on global programmes was $328 million, a decrease of $98 million or 23% compared to $426 million in 2023, mainly because of the change in presentation of COTS, which was primarily included under global programmes in 2023. For activities that remained under global programmes in 2023 and 2024, there was a moderate increase in private sector partnerships of $17 million due to investments in a diverse pool of fundraising programmes.

Examples of global programmes implemented in 2024 include:

UNHCR produced global **education-related publications**, including the 2024 Education report and the Education Brief series. UNHCR also launched the Education Research Digest, a quarterly publication compiling recent academic literature on refugee education, exceeding global publication targets. These initiatives were part of the overall achievement of UNHCR assisting 2.1 million people with education (see Outcome Area 11).

Global programmes supported **health-related projects** through deployments and advice to regional bureaux and operations during emergencies in Sudan, Chad and Lebanon, and for disease outbreak responses, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the mpox response. In 2024, there were 15.5 million individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health facilities (see Outcome Area 10).

Global programmes helped UNHCR significantly enhance its **digital and data services**, which were crucial for protection and response efforts. The PRIMES platform was strengthened, supporting the overall achievement of enabling the registration of over 3.4 million people (see Outcome Area 1). The UNHCR-WFP Joint Hub successfully implemented needs-based targeting for refugees in South Sudan and refined this approach in Uganda, Niger, Mauritania, and Lebanon.

The Digital Gateway provided online access to essential information and services for forcibly displaced people. UNHCR also supported field operations through staff deployment and registration materials for 52 country operations. The World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement launched a new strategy, expanding its activities in the forced displacement data space with 41 global and regional initiatives, including 29 country-specific activities. The Refworld website had over 3.1 million visitors and 18 million visits, ensuring global access to policy and legal information.

Additionally, UNHCR released operational guidelines on Complementary Pathways and Facilitating Family Reunification for Persons in Need of International Protection.

Private-sector partnerships continued to develop, implement and amplify flagship innovative financing initiatives which create financial models to channel greater, more sustainable and efficient resources to UNHCR. Investments in these relationships helped lead to the private sector now providing approximately a third of UNHCR's unearmarked funding in 2024.

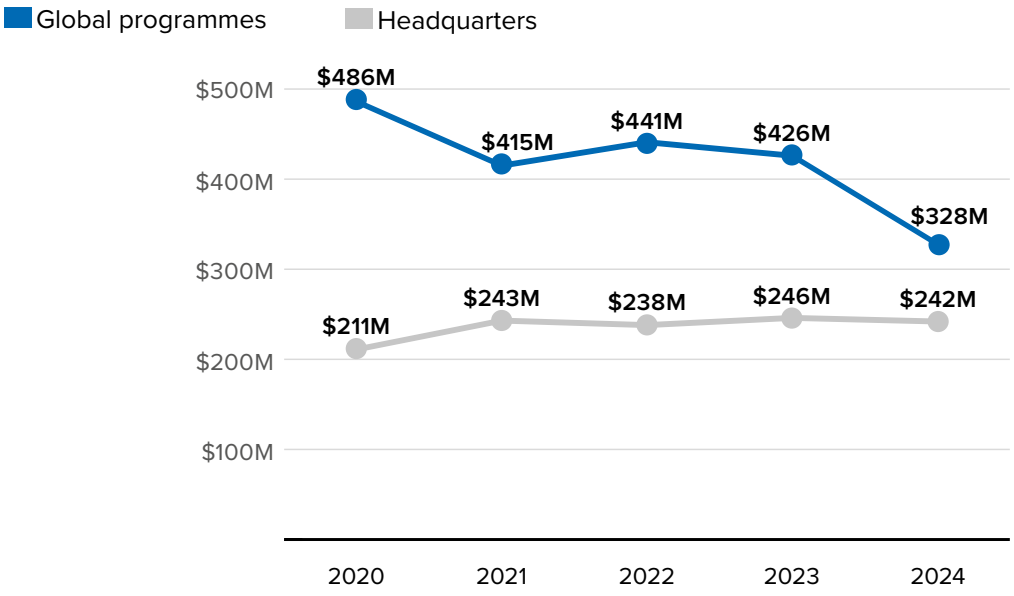
Child protection global programmes supported over 54 operations and regional bureaux with in-country and remote technical support and conducted 82 learning events that benefited up to 200 staff from UNHCR and partners each. UNHCR issued the Child Protection Policy and Operational Guidance, which supports impactful child protection programming. There were over 1.5 million children and caregivers who received child protection services in 2024 (see Outcome Area 5).

Global programmes provided technical and protection support on preventing and responding to **gender-based violence**, with use of the ProGres GBV module increasing from 18 to 27 operations. Nine emergencies were supported with GBV specialists, including South Sudan, Chad and Lebanon. Overall, 1.7 million people benefited from specialized GBV programmes (see Outcome Area 4).

Headquarters

Headquarters expenditure decreased by $4 million to $242 million or 1% compared to $246 million in 2023. The decrease is primarily related to finalization of the Business Transformation Programme in 2023.

Expenditure for Global programmes and Headquarters | 2020-2024



Operational Reserve

In support of the emergency response linked to the situation in Lebanon, $72 million was transferred from the operational reserve to operations in Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic: $49.5 million and $22.5 million respectively.

These additional resources were mobilized to address urgent needs of refugees and internally displaced people in Lebanon, including those newly displaced. The funds provided essential protection services, shelter, basic needs, and health care. Additionally, about 562,000 people fled to the Syrian Arab Republic from Lebanon, so UNHCR stepped in with essential protection services, documentation, legal assistance, and technical support for national institutions.

(See Operational reserve table in the Funding tables annex)

Expenditure via partners

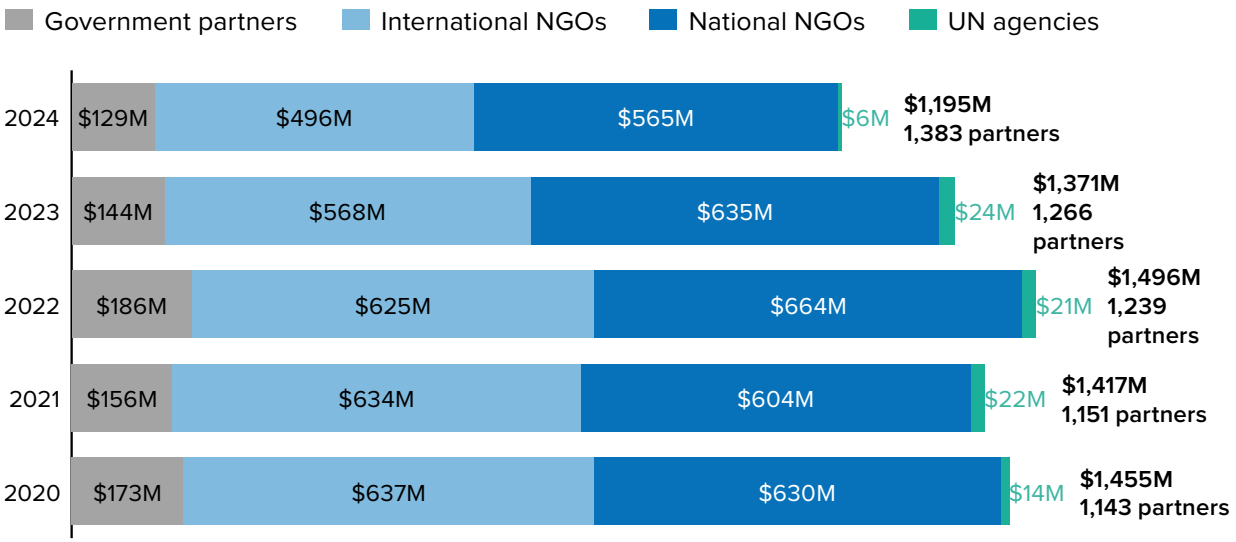
In 2024, UNHCR channelled $1.195 billion through 1,383 funded partners across 115 operations, with 87% being local and national entities. Local and national actors received $694 million – 58% of all partnership funding and 24% of total programme expenditure. UNHCR expanded its Grant Agreement* modality, supporting 285 partners (including 58 women-led and 16 youth-led organizations), and advancing inclusive, community-based engagement. Since its 2021 launch, nearly 474 grant agreements have been signed, underscoring UNHCR's commitment to localization and direct support for refugee- and stateless-led initiatives.

Partner type	Expenditure (USD million)	Global		
		%	# of partners	# of agreements*
Government partners	129	11%	235	255
International NGO partners	496	41%	152	476
National NGO partners	565	47%	964	1,074
UN Agencies/IOM	6	0.5%	32	38
TOTAL	1,195	100%	1,383	1,843

*A Grant Agreement partner is an organization or group founded predominantly by individuals with direct lived experience of forced displacement or statelessness, or where individuals hold primary leadership roles, and whose stated objectives and activities focus on responding to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people, as well as the communities hosting them.

Global expenditure via partners | 2020 - 2024 (USD millions)

$1.195 billion (-13% from 2023) spent via **1,383 partners** (+9%) in 2024.
24% of total expenditure for Programmed activities.



Coordination in refugee situations

UNHCR's planning and budgeting begin at the field level, where operational teams assess the needs of displaced and stateless people. These needs form the basis of the global programme budget, which is reviewed by ExCom and forms the foundation of the Global Appeal. In-year emergencies may lead to supplementary appeals to address unforeseen needs.

UNHCR also participates in inter-agency planning frameworks, including Humanitarian Needs and Response Plans (HNRPs) and Refugee Response Plans (RRPs). RRPs, led or co-led by UNHCR, and response plans such as the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for the Venezuela situation and the Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya humanitarian crisis in Bangladesh co-led with IOM, are central to its refugee coordination role. They outline joint strategies to support refugees and host communities, as well as other affected communities, aligned with national leadership and in coordination with development and peace actors.

RRPs complement UNHCR's internal planning and are not duplicative. They enable inter-agency coordination and shared fundraising.
In 2024, eight RRPs covered 50 host countries, engaging over 1,740 partners and seeking $12.5 billion to assist 33 million refugees and 14.1 million host community members, delivering efficiently and at scale, and scoring some notable successes. These included, for example, providing basic needs in the Republic of Moldova following the energy crisis there. Coordinating with local authorities, partners were able to swiftly scale up non-food item distributions to vulnerable refugees and host communities. In Bangladesh, following the emergency arrival of refugees from Myanmar, the target of food assistance for 1 million people was exceeded; whilst the Afghanistan RRRP reached over 84,000 people with legal support, exceeding the target of 70,700.

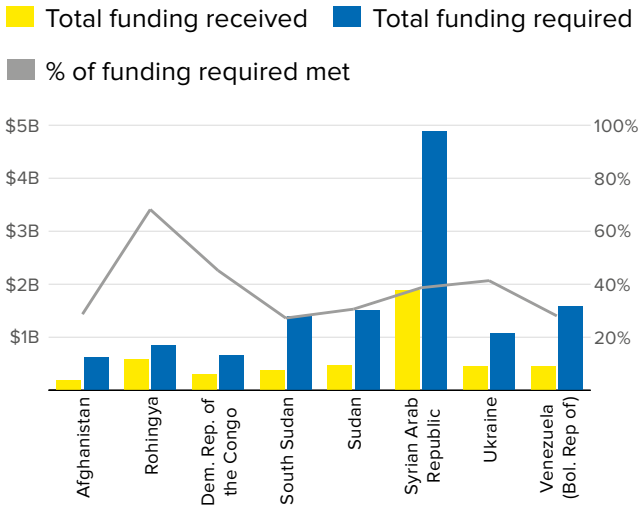
However, despite such successes, by mid-year, only 30% of required funding had been secured, leaving some RRPs with critical gaps due to underfunding, some examples of which are outlined below.

Consequences of underfunding in 2024:

- **Pakistan (Afghanistan situation):** Funding gaps halted malnutrition treatment, putting millions at risk. Despite the country's declared education emergency, the education sector was only 30% funded, limiting partners' ability to support inclusive national services and children's access to education.
- **Uganda (DRC situation):** Only 3 of 13 refugee settlements met water standards; nearly 490,000 people faced unsafe water access.
- **Ethiopia (South Sudan situation):** 85% of camp households in Benishangul Gumuz and 43% in Gambella lacked adequate housing.
- **Chad and South Sudan (Sudan situation):** In Chad, the doctor-to-patient ratio was 1:25,000; South Sudan had only 2 hospitals for 377,000 people.
- **Syria situation (3RP):** Only 19% of the food assistance target was reached; just 190,000 received support.
- **Romania (Ukraine situation):** 3,000 refugees missed vocational training; only 40% of working-age refugees were employed.
- **Latin America (Venezuela situation):** 42% of households lacked food assistance, forcing harmful coping strategies.
- **Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh JRP):** funding shortfalls necessitated food ration cuts in March 2023 which lasted until August 2024 when the ration was restored. This brought much needed relief to almost one million refugees in Cox's Bazar confronting deteriorating food and nutrition indicators, which included a 30% drop in acceptable food consumption and an acute malnutrition rate of 15.4%.

For RRPs and HRPs, donors do not fund the response plans directly: instead, they fund agencies in the plans for particular activities. Hence the importance of RRPs and HRPs as coordination, and advocacy and fundraising instruments. Those agencies, in turn, are responsible for reporting their funding to UNHCR for inclusion in the Refugee Funding Tracker, or to OCHA for inclusion in the Financial Tracking Service. The more agencies report, and the better the quality of their reporting, the better the information in both tracking systems, with benefits such as better analysis of funding flows. Donors can be and are important advocates for reporting: a donor can itself report its funding, and can also encourage the recipients of their funding to report as well.

Total funding received per Regional Refugee Response Plan | 2024



2024 UNHCR-LED/CO-LED INTER-AGENCY REGIONAL RESPONSE PLANS

1 - Venezuela (Bol. Rep of) RMRP[1] – co-led with IOM

Out of the **1.20 million individuals targeted**, **food assistance** reached **694,200** refugees, migrants and host communities.

701,100 out of **2.04 million targeted individuals** received **protection** services.

2 - Ukraine RRRP[2]

In Poland, out of **233,800 targeted individuals**, **140,888** accessed **protection** services.

In the Republic of Moldova, out of **84,792 targeted individuals**, **93,537** received **basic needs** assistance.

3 - Syria situation 3RP[3] – co-led with UNDP

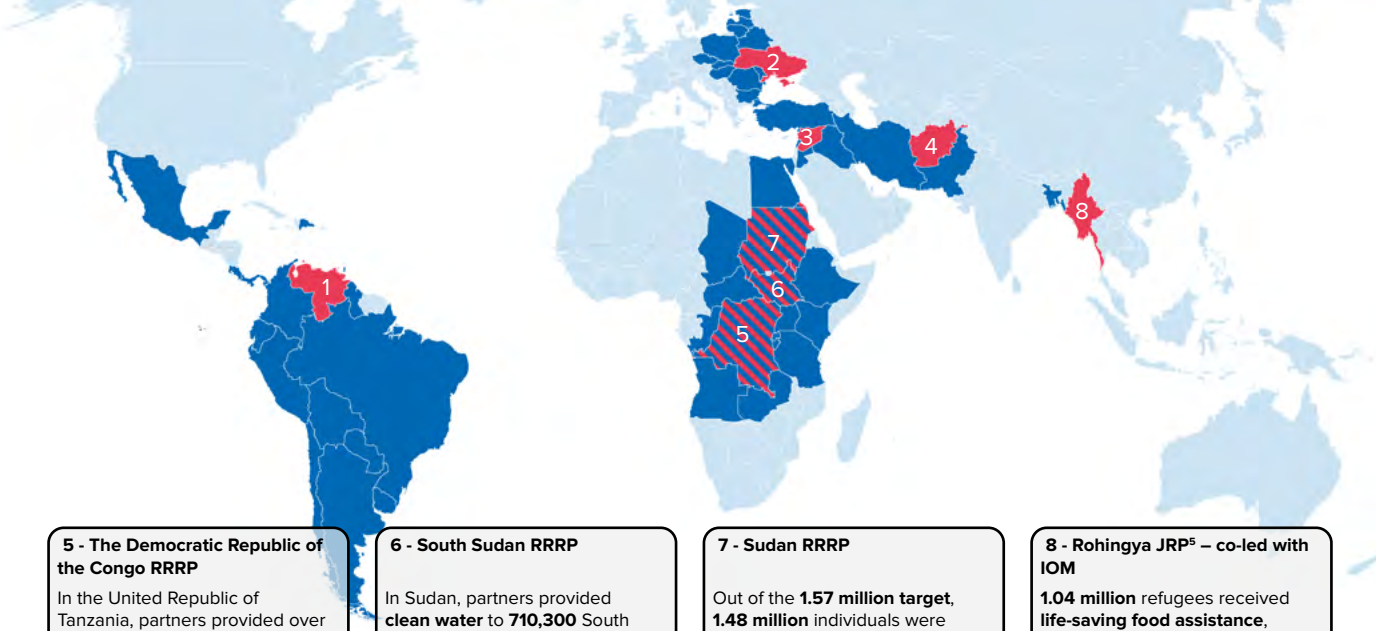
Over **233,000** out of **179,416 targeted girls and boys** received **specialized child protection services**.

Out of **780,888 targeted children**, **1.1 million** (5-17 years, girls and boys) were enrolled in **formal and nonformal education**.

4 - Afghanistan RRRP

In the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, **84,096 individuals** received **legal support**, exceeding the **target of 70,700**.

7,663 out of the 17,500 targeted individuals received **vocational training**.



5 - The Democratic Republic of the Congo RRRP

In the United Republic of Tanzania, partners provided over **186,000 health consultations** for refugees and host communities, **out of the 593,300 target**.

In Uganda, out of **125,000 targeted people**, **126,542** benefited from **education programming**.

6 - South Sudan RRRP

In Sudan, partners provided **clean water** to **710,300** South Sudanese refugees and host communities.

In Kenya **53,840 children and caregivers accessed child protection services** - including **19,572** children engaging with child-friendly spaces, family tracing and reunification for **1,913** UASCs[4].

7 - Sudan RRRP

Out of the **1.57 million target**, **1.48 million** individuals were provided with **food assistance**.

Out of 964,000 targeted individuals 840,000 received **protection services**, including **child protection** and **gender-based violence** services.

8 - Rohingya JRP[5] – co-led with IOM

1.04 million refugees received **life-saving food assistance**, exceeding the **target of 1 million people**.

In Cox's Bazar, **85% of refugees** accessed a sufficient quantity and quality of **water for drinking and domestic needs**.

[1] RMRP: Refugee and Migrants Response Plan
[2] RRRP: Regional Refugee Response Plan
[3] 3RP: Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
[4] UASCs: unaccompanied or separated children
[5] JRP: Joint Response Plan

2024 countries of origin
2024 host countries

Expenditure by source of funding

2024 Expenditure by source of funding | USD thousands

	SOURCE OF FUNDING									
	Carry-over from prior years		Voluntary Cash Contributions			Voluntary in-kind Contributions	Indirect support costs	United Nations Regular Budget	Other income[2]	TOTAL
	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Earmarked	Softly earmarked[1]	Unearmarked					
FIELD OPERATIONS										
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	10,319	-	621,020	87,689	97,503	49,156	5,000	-	28,787	**899,475**
Southern Africa	3,256	-	95,318	46,583	39,447	1,092	4,000	-	2,207	**191,902**
West and Central Africa	9,862	-	302,081	74,898	48,402	6,750	4,000	-	21,234	**467,227**
Americas	5,142	-	275,159	18,918	57,787	1,536	5,000	-	5,993	**369,535**
Asia and the Pacific	32,329	-	267,748	85,898	78,025	2,018	5,000	-	7,263	**478,281**
Europe	131,361	-	443,803	113,703	-	4,997	5,000	-	32,790	**731,653**
Middle East and North Africa	54,920	-	693,030	138,410	159,535	6,293	5,000	-	32,819	**1,090,007**
Country Operational Technical Support	15,490		76,417	11,023	9,165	10,734	-	-	3,026	**125,855**
TOTAL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES	**262,679**	**-**	**2,774,576**	**577,122**	**489,864**	**82,577**	**33,000**	**-**	**134,118**	**4,353,935**
Global Programmes	3,549	46,381	29,287	41,301	202,071	3,111	-	-	2,058	**327,758**
Headquarters	676	-	2,390	-	-	13,030	180,430	44,989	950	**242,464**
Operational Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**-**
Junior Professional Officers Fund	3,891	-	4,503	-	-	-	-	-	-	**8,394**
TOTAL	**270,795**	**46,381**	**2,810,756**	**618,423**	**691,935**	**98,718**	**213,430**	**44,989**	**137,126**	**4,932,551**
% of total expenditure	5%	1%	57%	13%	14%	2%	4%	1%	3%	100%

1 Includes contributions earmarked at the regional, subregional, situation or thematic level

2 Includes miscellaneous income, prior year adjustments, cancellations and other internal transfers

The table above displays how UNHCR used its various sources of income to cover its $4.933 billion expenditure. Unearmarked income was allocated throughout the year in line with identified priorities and needs, and according to the overall objectives of kickstarting emergency operations; bolstering underfunded operations; and enabling programmes to implement fully. No unearmarked funding was used for Headquarters.

Voluntary contributions represented the largest source of funding. Earmarked voluntary contributions funded 57% of UNHCR operations, softly earmarked funded 13%, and unearmarked voluntary contributions funded 14%. The largest expenditure funded from earmarked voluntary contributions was in the Middle East and North Africa (24.7%), followed by the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (22.1%), and Europe (15.8%).

UNHCR funded $213.4 million or 4% of expenditure from indirect support costs. Expenditure covered by indirect support costs included $180.4 million in Management and Administration costs (MA) and Programme Support costs (PS) incurred at Headquarters and $33.0 million of PS costs incurred at regional bureaux.

Income

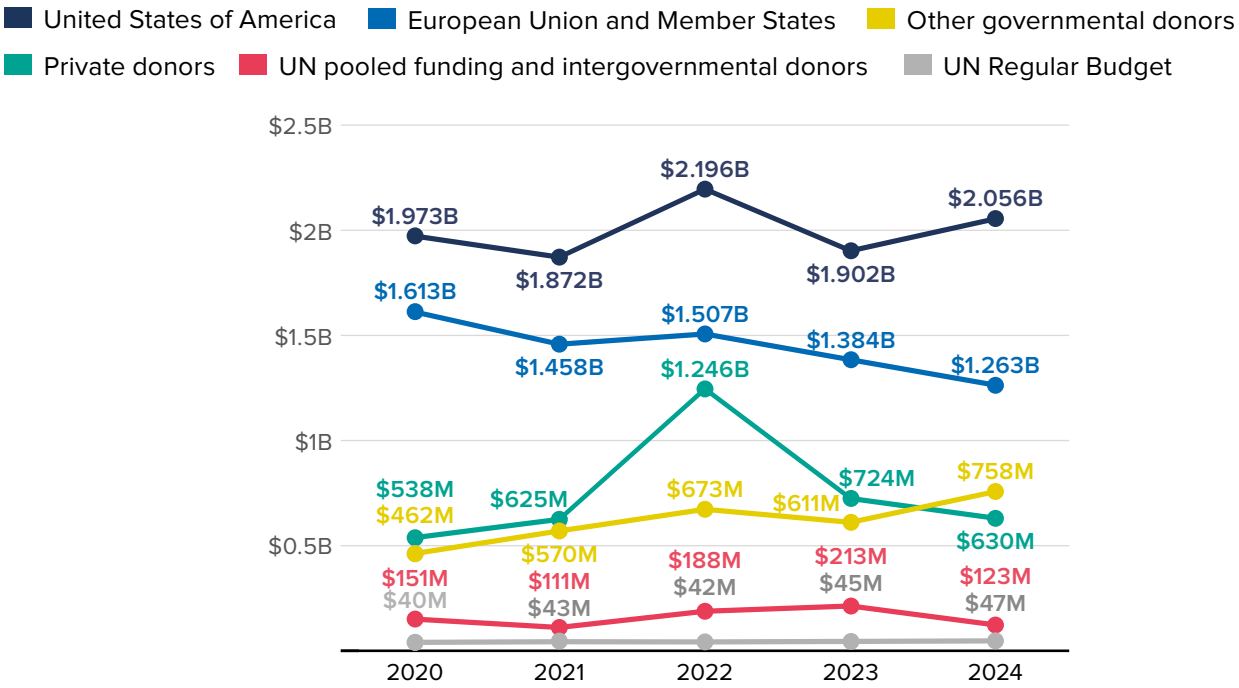
Sonia, 22, stands outside the new home her family received from UNHCR in Kushk-e-Bad-e-Saba, western Afghanistan. Displaced after an earthquake destroyed their house, they spent months in a tent with her elderly in-laws and young children. While they are still settling in and lack essentials, the shelter has brought much-needed stability and hope for rebuilding their lives. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

Introduction

2024 began with significant uncertainty around funding—especially from some of UNHCR's largest government and private donors. This unpredictability lasted into mid-year, prompting a freeze on expenditure to safeguard resources. Though operations were preserved as much as possible, the instability disrupted planning and made it harder to prioritize urgent needs.

While funding eventually matched 2023 levels, worrying trends continued: less flexible, more conditional funding complicated rapid emergency response. Meanwhile, global needs surged, with displacement reaching 123.2 million – nearly double the 2015 figure. Crises in Sudan, Ukraine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, and new prospects for returns in the Syrian Arab Republic highlighted the growing demands on UNHCR's protection, solutions, and emergency efforts.

Sources of income | 2020 - 2024



Quantity

UNHCR raised $4.876 billion in contributions in 2024, including funds for activities beyond 2024 and the $47 million assessed contribution from the UN Regular Budget (See the Contributions table in Annexe 1).

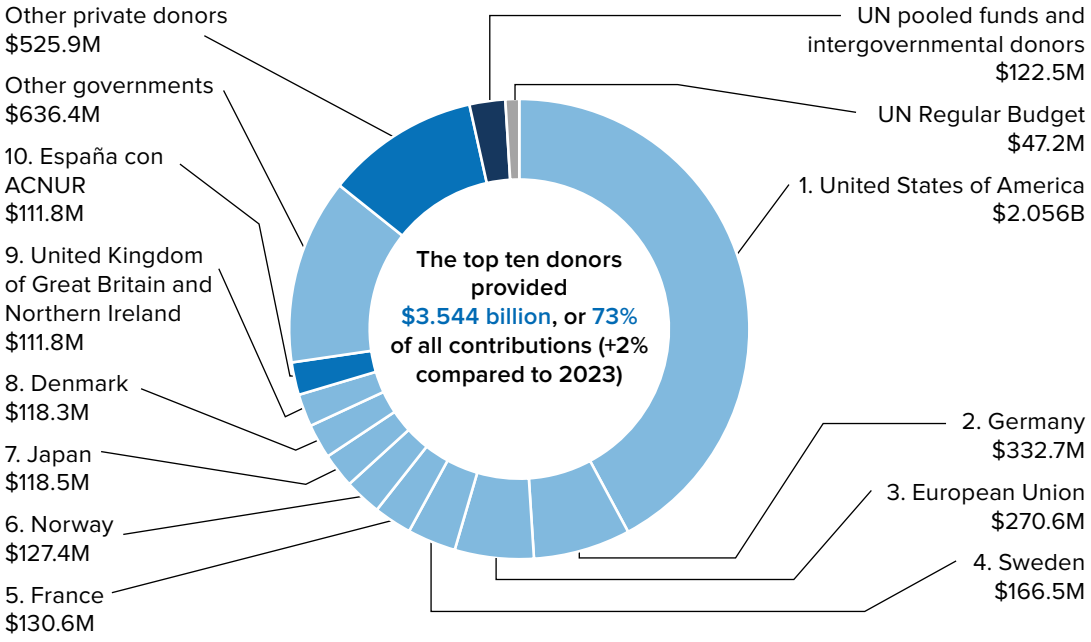
Available resources totalled $5.178 billion when carry-over, multiyear contributions and other funds and adjustments are considered. Compared to 2023, the total funds available fell, with a decrease of $538 million, and the amount of funding received in 2024 only met 48% of total needs, compared to 52% in 2023 and 58% in 2022.

Contributions and funds available in 2024 | USD

Type of funds	Contributions received in 2024	Funds from past year and others	Total funds available in 2024
Voluntary contributions received in 2024 for implementation in 2024	4,423,853,837	-	4,423,853,837
Contributions for implementation in future years	404,872,760	-	-
UN regular budget	47,206,291	-	47,206,291
Contributions from past years	-	258,274,983	258,274,983
Carry-over from past years	-	549,953,572	549,953,572
Other funds available and adjustments	-	-101,235,357	-101,235,357
Total	**4,875,932,889**	**706,993,198**	**5,178,053,327**

Voluntary contributions amounted to $4.829 billion, compared to the $4.835 billion received in 2023. UNHCR is grateful for the steadfast support of many donors, despite increasing pressures on domestic budgets for many. Income growth was observed from government donors ($160 million or 4%) and inter-governmental donors ($11 million or 4%). However, declines were noted in UN and pooled funding ($88 million or 35%) due to the overall decrease in contributions to the funds, therefore limiting the funding possibilities for all agencies. In addition, private sector funding fell for the second year in a row ($95 million or 13% from 2023), down from the large peak seen at the outset of the Ukraine emergency. However, the longer-term, ten-year trend shows an overall increase in private sector funding over time.

Contributions from the top ten donors | 2024



In 2024, both the United Arab Emirates and Qatar rejoined UNHCR's top donor group, and there were notable increases in funding from the United Kingdom, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Denmark of more than $20 million. UNHCR appreciates the commitment of these donors to our work.

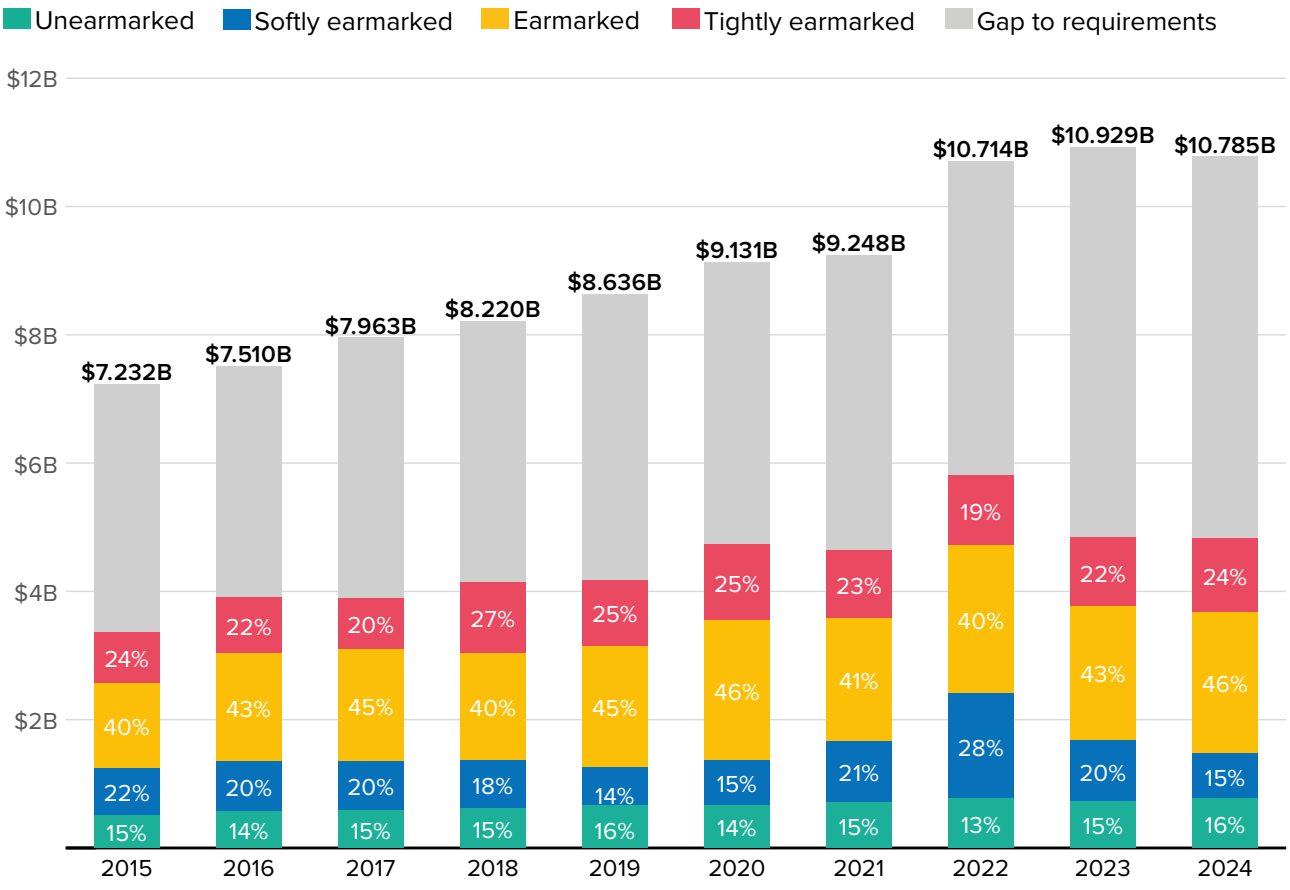
In 2024, three top donors provided $75 million in reserve pledges of flexible funding allowing UNHCR to deploy resources for critical preparedness in high-risk countries and respond within 72 hours of a crisis.

Denmark: The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs commits a portion of its 2022-2026 multiyear core contribution annually in a reserve pledge, to be allocated to emergencies or protracted situations. In 2024, UNHCR allocated this funding to breaking situations such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine and Sudan situations.

Sweden: The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs reserves a portion of its annual contribution for emergencies and protracted crises per calendar year and also provides a floating reserve to be used at any time. In 2024, UNHCR allocated this funding to emergencies and deteriorating crises in South Sudan, Sudan and Lebanon, among others.

The United States of America: The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration has provided funding through its "Reserve Pledge for Emergencies" for several years. In 2024, UNHCR allocated this funding to a range of emergencies in Lebanon, the Sahel, and the impact of El Niño in South Sudan.

Voluntary contributions vs requirements* | 2015-2024



*UN regular budget excluded. Acknowledgment year basis.

Quality, timeliness and predictability of funding

Quality of funding, in accordance with the Grand Bargain, is defined by its flexibility as well as multi-year contributions.

In 2024, UNHCR raised $1.470 billion in flexible funding, including unearmarked and softly earmarked funding. Unearmarked funding increased from $718.5 million in 2023 to $764 million in 2024, a rise of $45.6 million or 6%, mainly due to contributions from Sweden and the Republic of Korea. However, softly earmarked funding decreased by $253.5 million or 26%, primarily due to Germany's overall funding reduction and its shift from softly earmarked to country-level funding. Finally, tightly earmarked funding increased by 8%. The fall in softly earmarked funding coupled with the increase in tightly earmarked funding led to an overall decrease in flexibility despite the 6% increase in completely unearmarked funds.

Both flexible funding and the predictability of multi-year contributions are essential in allowing for a principled, needs-based response in line with UNHCR's protection and solutions mandate. Flexible funding can be quickly allocated to where it is needed most, including during the first hours and days of new emergencies, while the predictability of quality funding also allowing UNHCR to sustain its response over time leveraging the opportunity for forward planning and strategic partnerships.

Top government donors of unearmarked funding to UNHCR deserve special recognition and include **Sweden**, **Norway**, **the United Kingdom**, **Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Ireland, Australia and Finland**. In addition, top donors of flexible funding, much of which is earmarked at regional or situation level, are also a critical support and include **Germany**, **the United States of America, Sweden**, **Denmark** and **Norway**.

Quality funding is a key tenet of the Grand Bargain, whose 67 signatories committed to reach a critical volume of quality funding. In addition, at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, key donors of flexible funding led a Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Quality humanitarian funding for refugee situations. This pledge now has 11 participating members who are committed to advocating for flexible funding amongst various stakeholders and providing quality funding, enabling rapid and flexible responses to refugee situations. Current pledgees include Denmark (pledge leader), Belgium, Croatia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland.

© UNHCR/Mark Macdonald

Critical role of flexible funding in emergency response

The first half of 2024 was marked by record displacement and new crises emerged while unresolved ones deepened. In a period of reduced public funding and support, flexible funding becomes more important than ever, allowing UNHCR to allocate resources swiftly and efficiently where the needs are greatest.

An extraordinary example of this support is the **Lengkeek Family's** generous contribution of $3,687,448 (€3.6 million) to UNHCR. This significant donation underscores their deep commitment to supporting refugees worldwide. By providing flexible funding, the Lengkeek Family has empowered UNHCR to direct resources to the most critical areas, ensuring that aid reaches those in dire need.

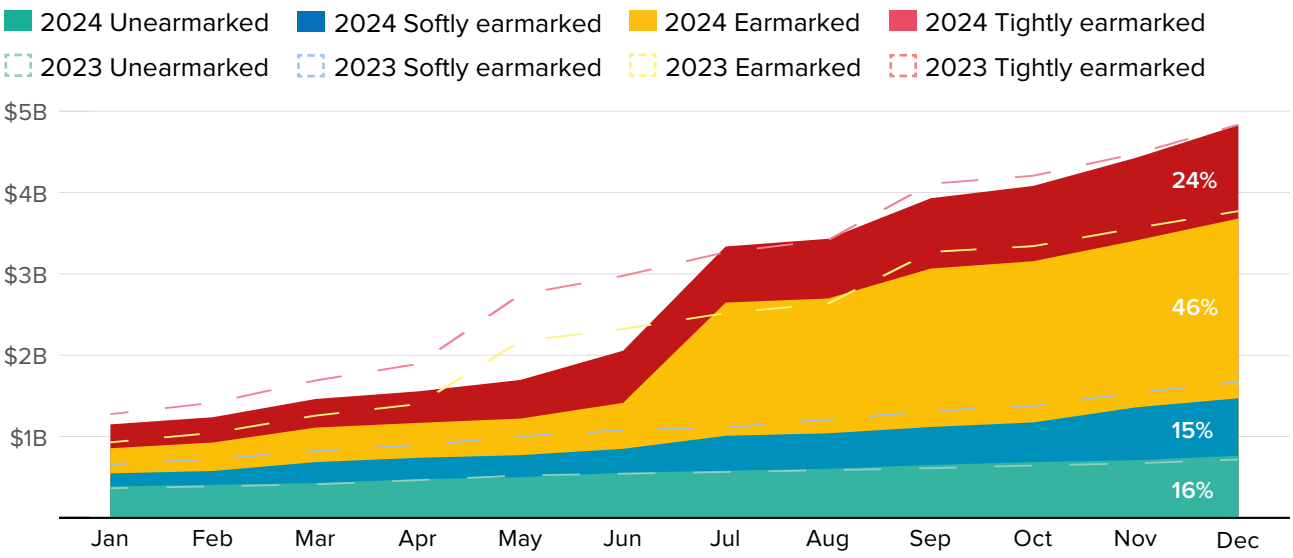
Flexible funding or unearmarked funding allows UNHCR to respond rapidly, maintain global stockpiles, and support underfunded situations saving lives.

Flexible funding

Donor	Unearmarked*	Softly earmarked*	Total flexible funding
Germany	25,068,736	197,510,537	**222,579,273**
United States of America		212,856,000	**212,856,000**
Sweden	112,228,197	17,301,847	**129,530,044**
Denmark	37,803,957	51,757,957	**89,561,914**
España con ACNUR (National partner in Spain)	77,511,243	4,832,631	**82,343,874**
Norway	58,900,524	3,925,654	**62,826,177**
France	34,148,547	26,064,816	**60,213,363**
Japan for UNHCR	49,891,333	1,641,545	**51,532,877**
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41,424,530		**41,424,530**
Private donors in the Republic of Korea	33,925,275	6,695,062	**40,620,337**
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	36,307,188		**36,307,188**
UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (National Partner in Germany)	42,176	33,941,954	**33,984,130**
Finland	7,851,994	23,095,714	**30,947,708**
Private donors in Italy	24,713,658	3,861,070	**28,574,729**
Switzerland	19,230,769	8,439,554	**27,670,324**
Australia	10,744,986	15,127,352	**25,872,338**
Sweden for UNHCR	16,669,791	8,370,964	**25,040,756**
Ireland	13,637,385	9,342,252	**22,979,638**
Belgium	14,173,468	6,578,947	**20,752,416**
Private donors in the Kingdom of the Netherlands	14,976,390	4,527,038	**19,503,428**
All other donors	134,824,803	70,046,584	**204,871,387**
TOTAL	**764,074,951**	**705,917,480**	**1,469,992,431**

*Colour bars show the portion of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds from each donor against the total.

Timing of pledges in 2024 vs 2023



Similar to predictability in contributions, the timeliness of contributions, with regard to when they are received in the calendar year, is key to allowing UNHCR to plan and implement efficiently and with appropriate advance planning.

In 2024, a large proportion of contributions arrived late in the year and May and June 2024 saw considerably lower cumulative income compared to 2023. In May 2024, recorded income was 30% lower than May 2023, primarily due to delays in signing contracts with several major donors.

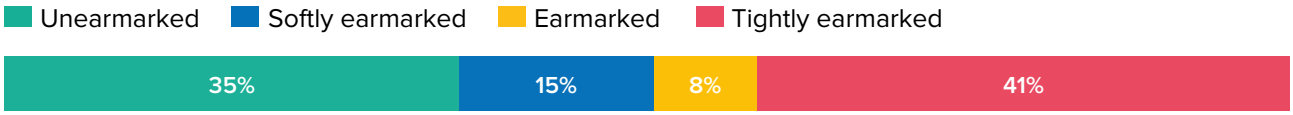
Predictability and multi-year funding

33 governments
48 private donors
14 UN funds
3 Intergovernmental bodies

$850.5 million
funds available in 2024 from multi-year contributions

35% unearmarked
$297.2 million

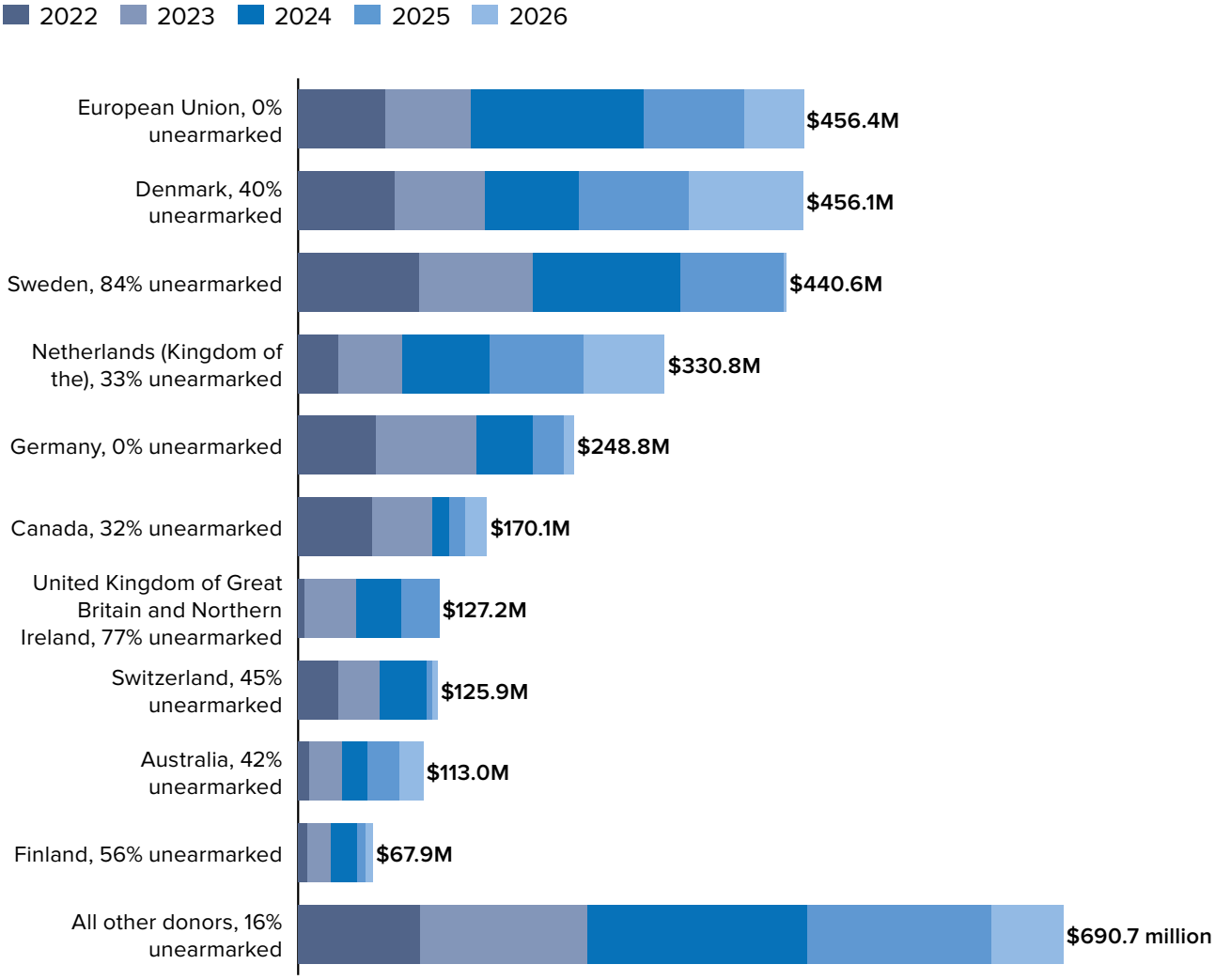
Levels of earmarking of multi-year funds | 2024



Multi-year funding – funds pledged for 24 months or more – facilitates the efficient allocation of resources early in the year. While flexible funding has trended downward in recent years, multi-year funding more than doubled over the last ten years from $431 million in 2015 to $889 million in 2024.

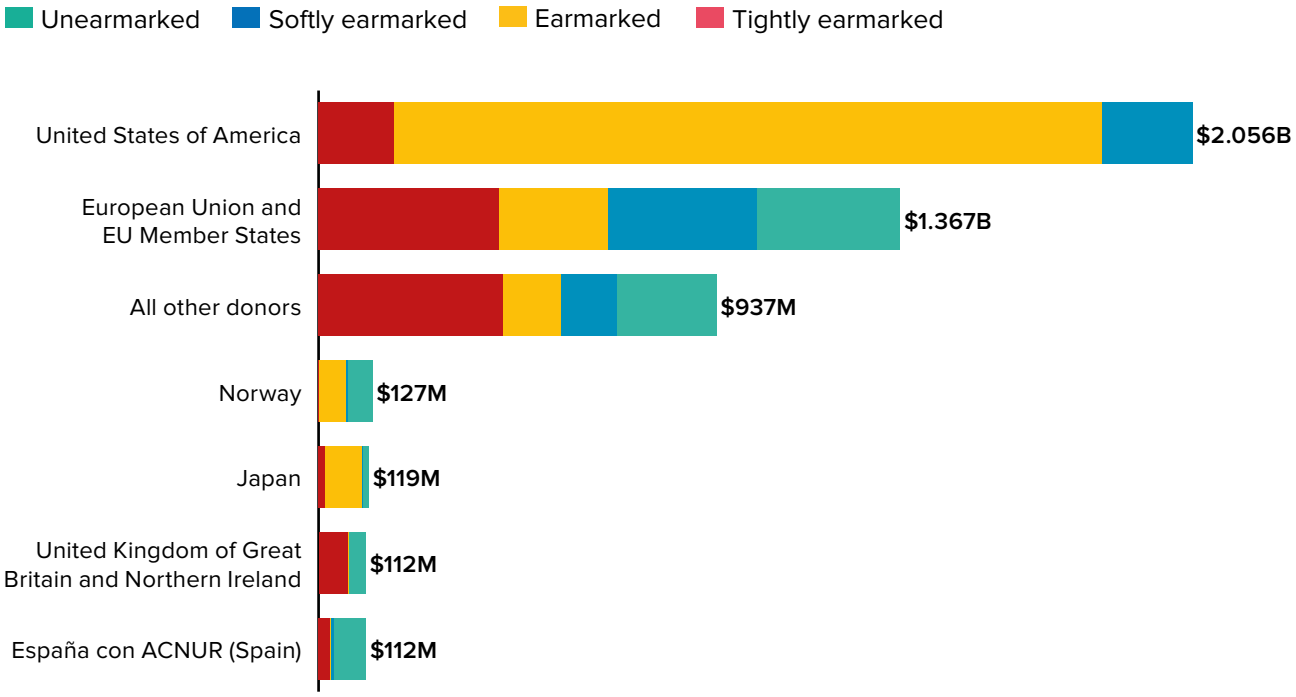
Top donors of this valuable funding source in 2024 included the **European Union**, **Sweden**, **Denmark**, **the Kingdom of the Netherlands**, **Germany**, **the United Kingdom**, **Switzerland**, **Finland**, **Australia** and **Japan**.

Top ten donors of multi-year contributions

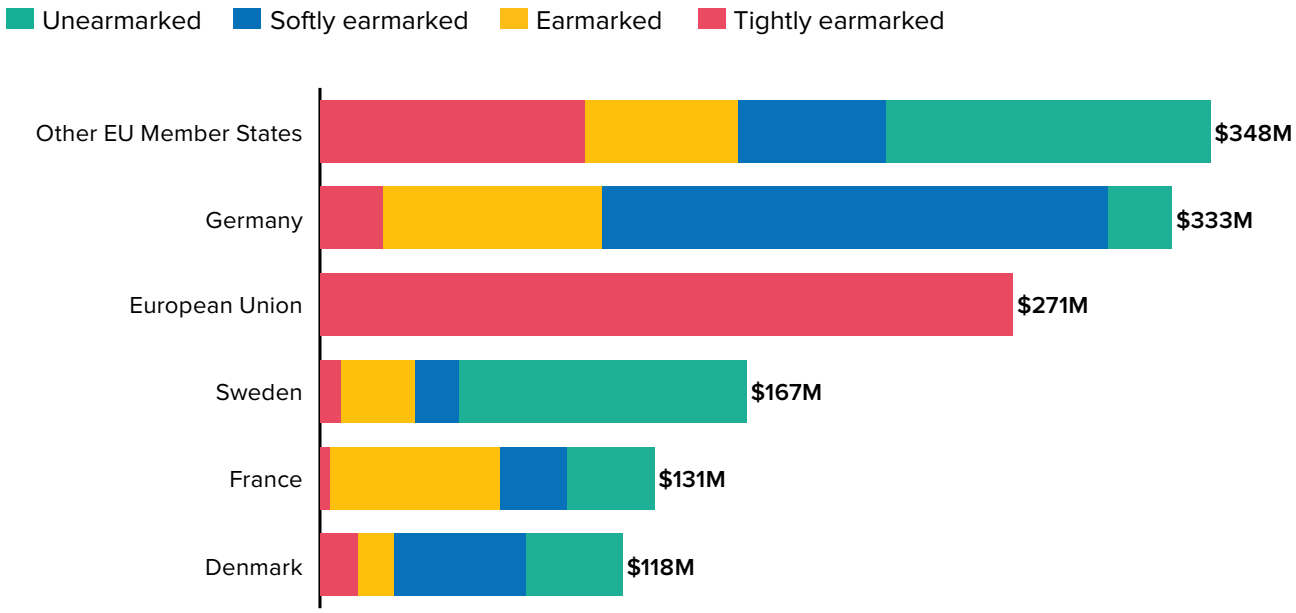


Diversification of funding

Quality of income among top donors | 2024



European Union and EU Member States



Diversification of the donor base is a top priority for UNHCR, but significant challenges remain. Diversifying funding remains difficult for several reasons. Major government donors provide predictable, large-scale support tied to foreign policy priorities, while alternative sources – such as the private sector or emerging economies – often offer smaller, less consistent contributions. Heavy earmarking by top donors limits flexibility, making it harder to demonstrate the strategic value of diversified, unearmarked funding. Risk aversion in crisis-driven contexts also discourages experimentation with new fundraising models.

UNHCR has made significant progress in the last ten years in increasing the volume of private sector contributions, with contributions more than tripling from $208 million in 2014 to $630 million, and with more room to grow.

The share of UNHCR income from the top ten donors fell in the last ten years, albeit modestly, from 77% in 2014 to 73% in 2024. During the same period, the number of top donors increased from 17 to 23. While UN pooled funds have been an important source of diversification, funds available from these sources fell significantly in 2024 and UNHCR's income from this source also fell by 35%.

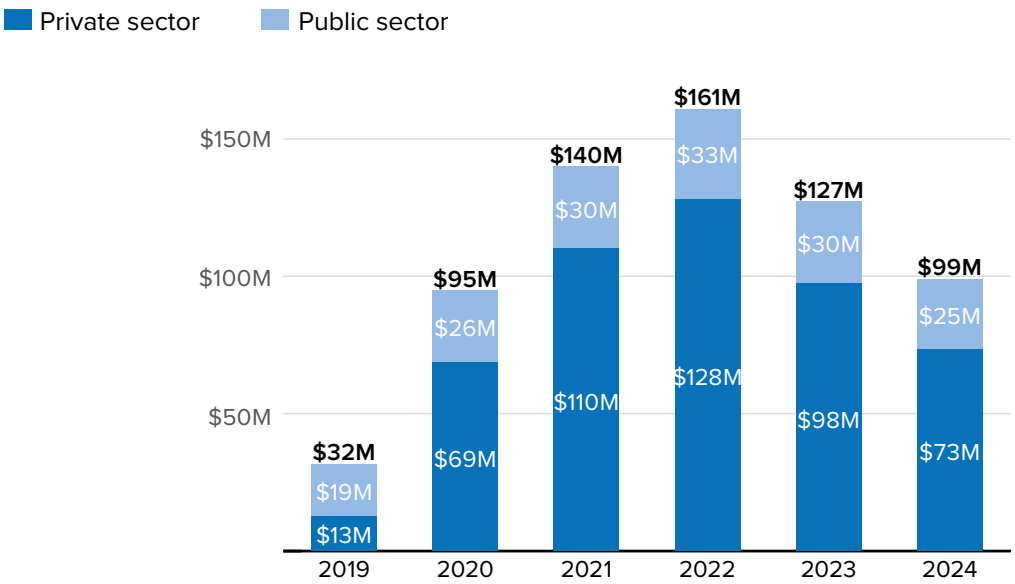
Progress with funding from multilateral development banks, notably the African Development Bank, is promising. In addition, climate funding provides an important opportunity for diversification where it matches activities within UNHCR's mandate.

During UNHCR's 2024 Executive Committee meeting in October 2024, the High Commissioner again warned of the risk of over-reliance on one donor, underlining that such an approach was not sustainable. As an organization created by the Member States of the United Nations, through a resolution of the General Assembly, UNHCR needs the wide support of Member States, through sufficient, timely and quality funding. With sincere appreciation for those who have steadfastly supported UNHCR over the years, the organization calls for the continued and broadened support of Member States to UNHCR so we can continue to deliver on our protection and solutions mandate.

Contributions in kind

As well as financial contributions, UNHCR also receives contributions in kind, including goods provided for distribution to populations served by UNHCR and services such as office premises and logistics. Contributions in kind grew rapidly from 2019 to 2022 but declined in 2023 and again in 2024, when in-kind contributions totalled $98.7 million, accounting for around 2% of UNHCR's overall expenditure.

In-kind contributions | 2019-2024



INDITEX's in-kind contribution helps refugees restore dignity

INDITEX collaborates with UNHCR to provide refugees with clothing and footwear. When so many refugees flee with few or no possessions and struggle to afford the basics of daily life, this contribution plays a vital role in restoring dignity and a sense of normalcy, as well as ensuring a most fundamental layer of physical protection against harsh weather and disease. This also reinforces the power of UNHCR's cash assistance, since households who receive both cash and clothing have more flexibility to spend on other necessities, such as food, shelter and education.

In 2024, the INDITEX in-kind donation programme entered its fifth year, and thousands of women, men, and children in Chad, Rwanda, Uganda, and other regions affected by humanitarian crises received over 1 million items of clothing and footwear, helping them feel more comfortable, warm and valued.

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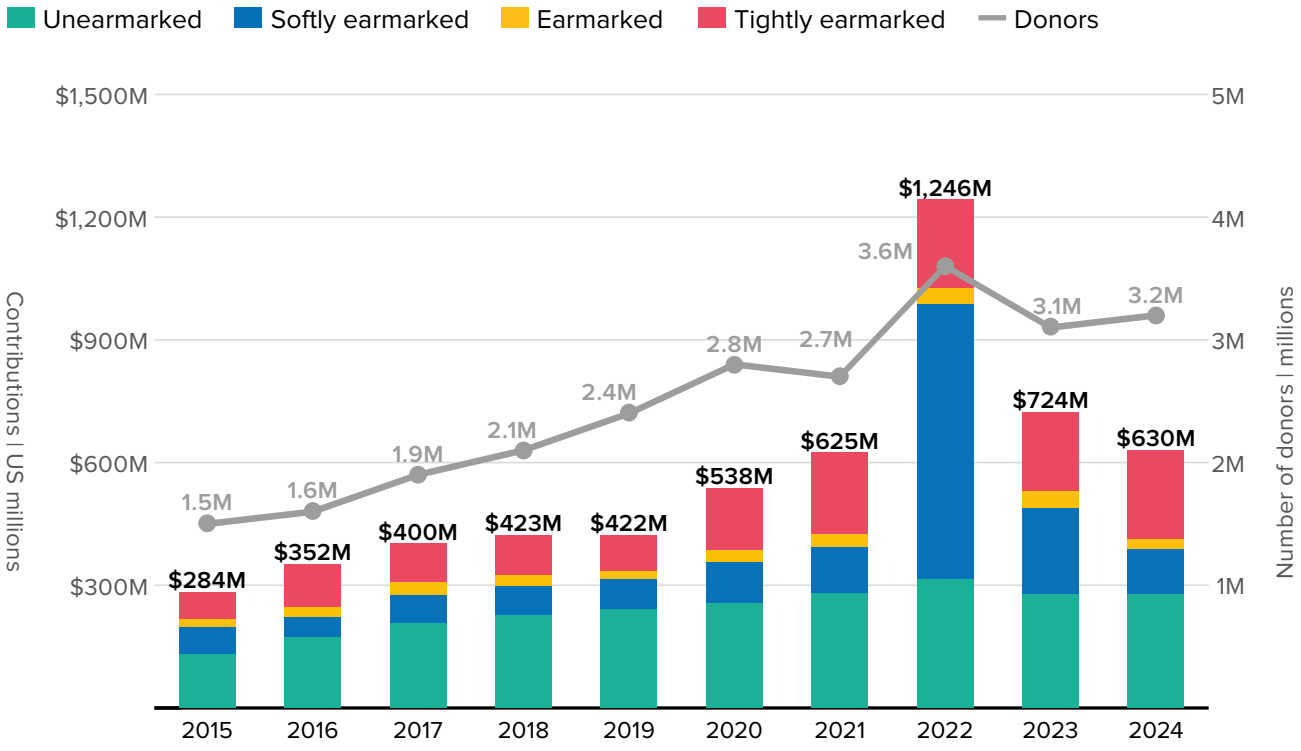
Raising funds from the private sector

Nyayika Gach holds her daughter at the nutrition centre in Jewi Camp, Gambella region, Ethiopia. Determined to help her daughter recover, she seeks support amid critical funding cuts that have shuttered nutrition services in more than half the region's refugee sites. The centre, run by UNHCR partner Action Contre La Faim, is one of the few still operating - struggling to meet growing needs with limited staff and resources.
© UNHCR/Sona Dadi

Private sector contributions and donor numbers | 2015-2024



In 2024, UNHCR's engagement with the private sector remained crucial in responding to global displacement challenges. Despite economic fluctuations and shifting donor priorities, UNHCR secured $630 million in private sector contributions, with $361 million from individual giving, and $269 million from private partnerships and philanthropy. Overall, private donors provided 13% of UNHCR's income in 2024.

Unearmarked income as a percentage of income from the private sector increased from 38% in 2023 to 44% in 2024, although in absolute terms the value did not change ($278 million). It is positive, however, to see this important funding type hold firm during a year of overall reduction in income.

Tightly earmarked funding increased from 27% to 35% This is largely due to a $25 million donation from Mastercard Foundation and gift in-kind donations received from various partners. Softly earmarked funding decreased significantly in 2024 (from 29% to 17%). Earmarked income remained steady at 4%.

With fewer emergency-driven fundraising opportunities in 2024, UNHCR relied on structured, long-term campaigns, which accounted for 74% of the total digital income. Campaigns raised approximately $55 million in 2024 with both the Winter Campaign and Aiming Higher exceeding 12% growth year on year. Individual donors contributed $249 million in unearmarked donations, 69% of total individual contributions.

UNHCR's partnerships in 2024 demonstrated a growing shift towards multi-year collaborations that go beyond financial contributions, fostering sustainable solutions and capacity building for displaced communities:

- **Mastercard Foundation** committed $25 million to expand education, livelihoods and economic inclusion for Sudanese refugees.
- **LIV Golf** launched a $10 million initiative to provide access to sports for displaced communities, promoting social cohesion and well-being.
- **IKEA Foundation** and **INDITEX** each contributed $16 million, supporting long-term refugee resilience initiatives.
- **FIFA** invested $5 million in refugee inclusion programmes, highlighting sports as a vehicle for empowerment and integration.

Recognizing the evolving fundraising landscape, UNHCR finalized the update of its Private Sector Engagement Strategy, expanding engagement beyond fundraising to include advocacy, expertise-sharing, and impact-driven collaboration. By adopting a whole-of-organization approach, UNHCR is working more strategically with businesses and philanthropists to create long-term solutions. Key initiatives included:

- Influence and solutions: businesses to play a larger role in refugee and IDP policy discussions and employment initiatives, aligning with UNHCR's efforts to promote economic inclusion.
- Market expansion and youth engagement: New approaches targeted younger donors and emerging markets, ensuring diversified and sustainable revenue streams.

As displacement continues to rise globally, UNHCR's partnerships will be essential in creating scalable, sustainable solutions that empower refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity.

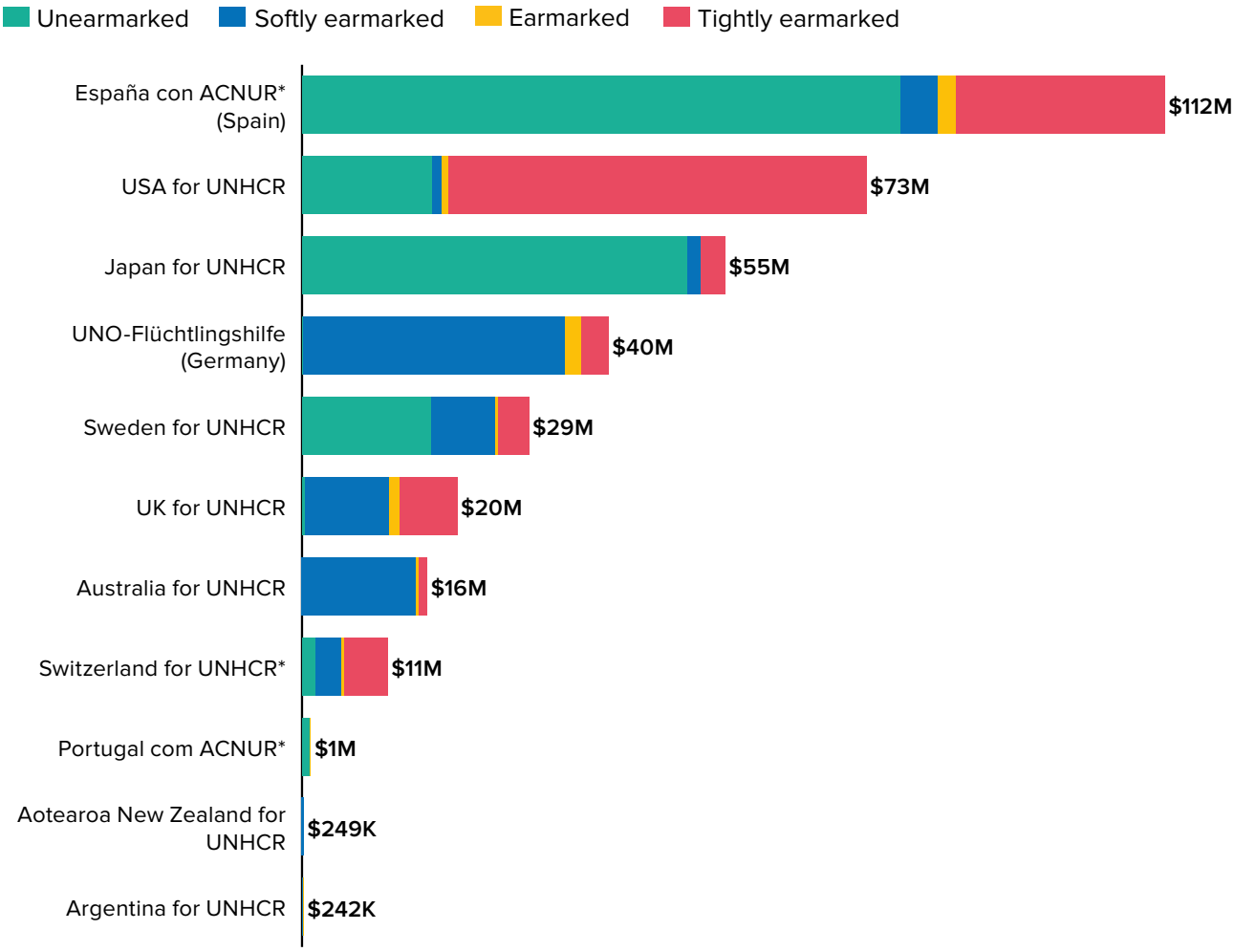
Refugee supporters have designs on UNIQLO's peaceful T-shirts

UNIQLO's "PEACE FOR ALL" campaign, launched in 2022, invites major figures to design T-shirts under the theme of "peace", and the shirts are sold in UNIQLO stores worldwide. Notable collaborations include designs by UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini and Magnum photographer Lindokuhle Sobekwa, who visited Aw-barre and Kebribeyah camps in Ethiopia. Since the launch of the campaign, UNIQLO's holding company Fast Retailing raised over $4 million for UNHCR, including $1.76 million in 2024. Refugee advocacy is a key pillar of Fast Retailing's partnership with UNHCR, and UNIQLO's PEACE FOR ALL campaign exemplifies this commitment, raising refugee awareness through its global reach.

National Association Partners

Income from National Partners | 2024

UNHCR's National Partners raised **$358 million** and **55%** of all income from the private sector including **$164 million** in unearmarked funding.



* Including contributions from regional governmental entities for a total of $8.5 million.

In 2024, UNHCR's 11 National Association Partners transferred **$358 million**, with **68% as flexible funding**. This amount also includes $8.5 million from public sources. They engaged over **1.7 million individual donors as well as corporations, foundations and philanthropists**, delivering **55% of all private sector income** and **21% of unearmarked contributions**. Three partners – España con ACNUR, USA for UNHCR, and Japan for UNHCR – ranked among UNHCR's top 20 donors.

Fundación ACNUR Argentina [$241,815 transferred | 58,904 individual donors | established in 2018]

Since its inception, Fundación ACNUR has deepened Argentina's commitment to refugee integration. Public belief in welcoming refugees has grown by 18.9%, now embraced by 69% of the population (IPSOS). This progress is the result of a sustained, multichannel engagement strategy – amplified by the solidarity of over one million Ponchos Azules, individuals championing the refugee cause. Fundación ACNUR also strengthened awareness of UNHCR in the country, achieving 16% unaided and 69% aided brand recognition. Fundación ACNUR hosted the fifth edition of Concert with Refugees, a milestone event held in one of Argentina's most iconic theatres. More than 3,200 tickets were sold, and over 40 musicians performed. The concert reached an even wider audience through a national broadcast on Paramount+, viewed in nearly 260,000 households.

Aotearoa New Zealand for UNHCR
[US$249,112 transferred | 2,918 individual donors | established in 2022]

2024 marked a year of significant development, with strong progress in regular giving acquisition through face-to-face fundraising. A new website launched mid-year introduced one-off donation functionality, followed by the roll-out of regular giving options later in the year. Additionally, a new digital fundraising programme was launched via paid social media, expanding reach and supporter engagement.

Australia for UNHCR [US$16.2 million transferred | 69,282 individual donors | established in 2000]

In 2024, Australia for UNHCR raised vital funds in support of humanitarian responses in Ukraine, the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Sudan, Yemen, and for Rohingya refugees. As part of its awareness and advocacy efforts, Melbourne-based lawyer Nyadol Nyuon – a former refugee from South Sudan – became the public face of an education campaign focused on Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya.

Australia for UNHCR also launched Flavours of Hope, a cookbook that successfully shared the stories and culinary traditions of refugees and former refugees who now call Australia home. Starting in 2025, it will be made available globally through the UNHCR Shop. Australia for UNHCR renewed its three-year partnership with national broadcaster SBS to continue promoting the Les Murray Award for Refugee Recognition, further strengthening public engagement around refugee issues.

España con ACNUR (Spain) [$111.8 million transferred (including $7.8 million from decentralized governments) | 533,397 individual donors | established in 1993]

The funding raised in 2024 was a milestone, cementing España con ACNUR's position as UNHCR's largest private sector donor globally, placing it among UNHCR's top ten donors overall and as the second-largest contributor of unearmarked funds, with $77.5 million provided without restrictions. The organization also deepened its collaboration with key strategic partners, including INDITEX, "la Caixa" Foundation, FC Barcelona and its Foundation, and the ProFuturo Foundation. It also expanded its reach by connecting with new audiences through dynamic communications and public engagement efforts.

Japan for UNHCR [$55 million transferred | 262,746 individual donors | established in 2000]

The organization is sustained by its strong base of individual donors, 71% of whom give monthly. The majority were engaged through face-to-face fundraising, reflecting the long-term commitment and loyalty of Japanese supporters. Legacy giving continued to grow steadily in 2024, reflecting the deep trust supporters place in UNHCR and in the hope of lasting change for refugees. In addition, Japanese companies, high-net-worth individuals, foundations, and faith-based organizations contributed several millions in support of displaced communities worldwide through Japan for UNHCR.

Portugal com ACNUR [$1.15 million transferred (including $104,167 from public sources) | 12,000 individual donors | established in 2021]

The organization expanded its donor support base and built a growing network of over 770 small and medium-sized enterprises and established strategic partnerships with companies that engage directly with the public, further boosting fundraising efforts. Notably, 2024 marked the first financial contribution from a local municipality to UNHCR. As part of its awareness-raising efforts, Portugal com ACNUR reached more than 3,390 people through outreach activities – including 452 university students, 1,235 secondary school students, and over 1,000 participants from primary schools and cultural centres.

Sverige för UNHCR / Sweden for UNHCR
[$29.4 million transferred | 318,081 individual donors | established in 2013]

A highlight of the year was the Christmas campaign, which raised an impressive $6.3 million from Swedish donors. Key contributions came from committed private sector partners, including the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Essity, H&M Group, Peab, and Solvatten. Longstanding partner Solvatten donated 4,392 water purification units, which were distributed to vulnerable refugee families in Uganda – significantly improving access to clean and heated

water. H&M Group supported UNHCR's emergency response to the floods in Brazil and funded a major initiative to repair emergency housing and support long-term reconstruction in Ukraine. In addition to generous financial contributions, Essity donated over two million baby diapers and nearly one million adult diapers – providing essential supplies to displaced families in need.

Switzerland for UNHCR [$11.1 million transferred (including $555,000 from public sources) | 32,665 individual donors | established in 2020]

A key milestone was securing the first ever donation from the Canton of Geneva, underscoring Switzerland's strong commitment to humanitarian action and opening doors to greater local engagement. The organization also launched its first face-to-face fundraising campaign, significantly expanding its visibility among the Swiss public and laying the foundation for future growth through this channel.

United Kingdom for UNHCR [$20.1 million transferred | 41,135 individual donors | established in 2020]

Funds raised through national appeals and partnerships in 2024 supported emergency relief in countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Sudan, as well as long-term resilience programmes focusing on education, livelihoods, and specialized health services like midwifery. In 2024, United Kingdom for UNHCR expanded its social media supporters by 46%, growing to 79,000 followers, and generated over 700 media stories to spotlight the refugee cause. Through its Storyteller programme and public engagement campaigns, refugees across the UK were given a national platform to share their voices and experiences through media, photography, film, and events.

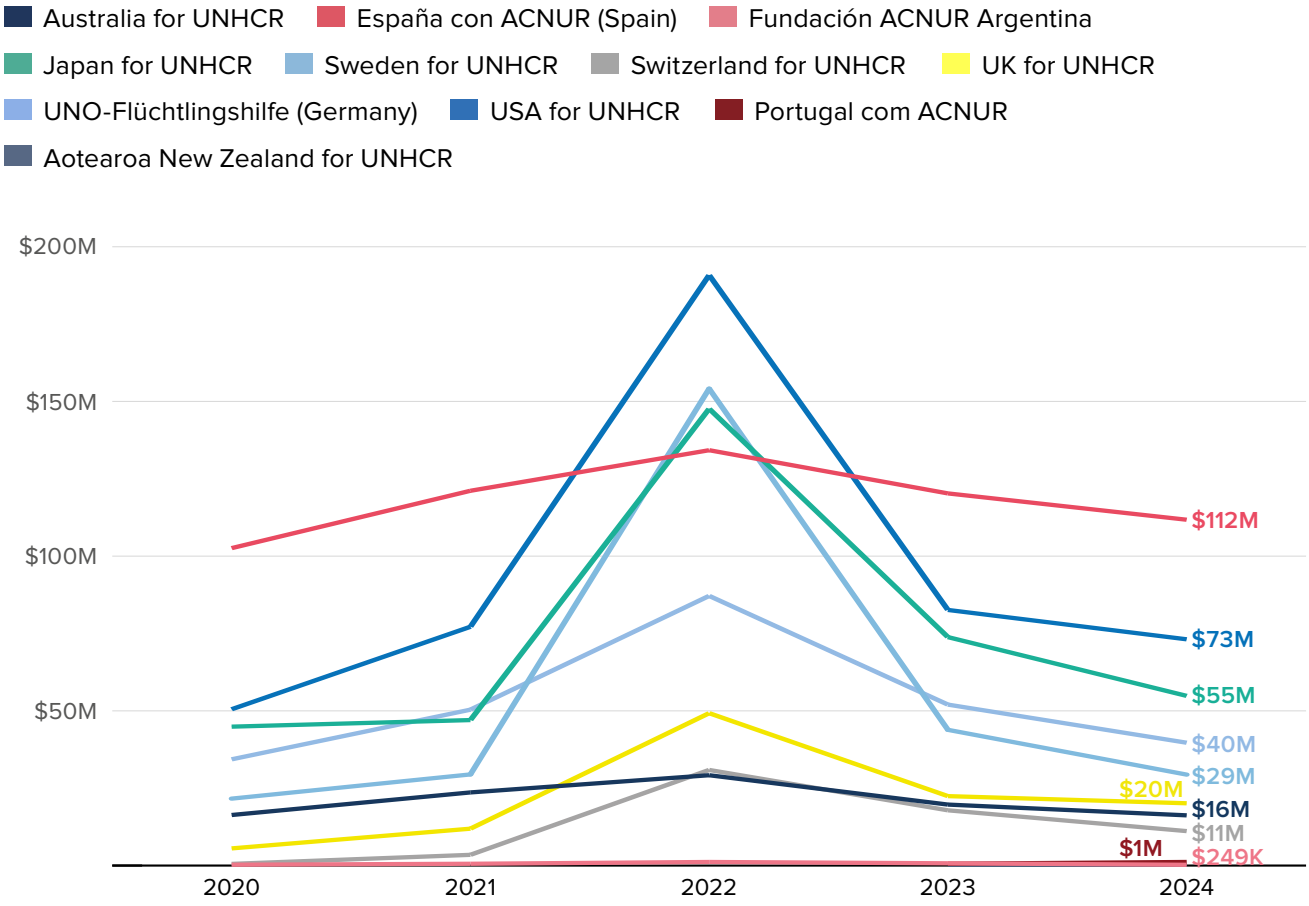
UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe [$39.7 million transferred | 222,368 individual donors | established 1980]

The #hilftsicher ("help with certainty") campaign, bolstered by the powerful voices of well-known public figures, significantly increased unaided awareness of UNHCR in Germany. Continued collaboration with trusted partners – such as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra – also contributed to this positive momentum. Digital fundraising efforts saw strong results in 2024, particularly through paid media and email marketing. Two standout campaigns included the Ramadan appeal, which featured a dedicated Zakat ask for the first time, and the winter campaign, which drove a 17% year-on-year increase in digital acquisition.

USA for UNHCR [$73 million transferred | 111,938 individual donors | established in 1989]

Civil society partnerships flourished, including a landmark multi-year commitment from Islamic Relief USA and longstanding support from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. USA for UNHCR created and launched Building Better Futures, a Women in Philanthropy campaign aiming to support 1,000 refugee women globally in accessing four-year higher education. The campaign has already secured strong early support toward its $15 million goal.

Income from national partners | 2020-2024



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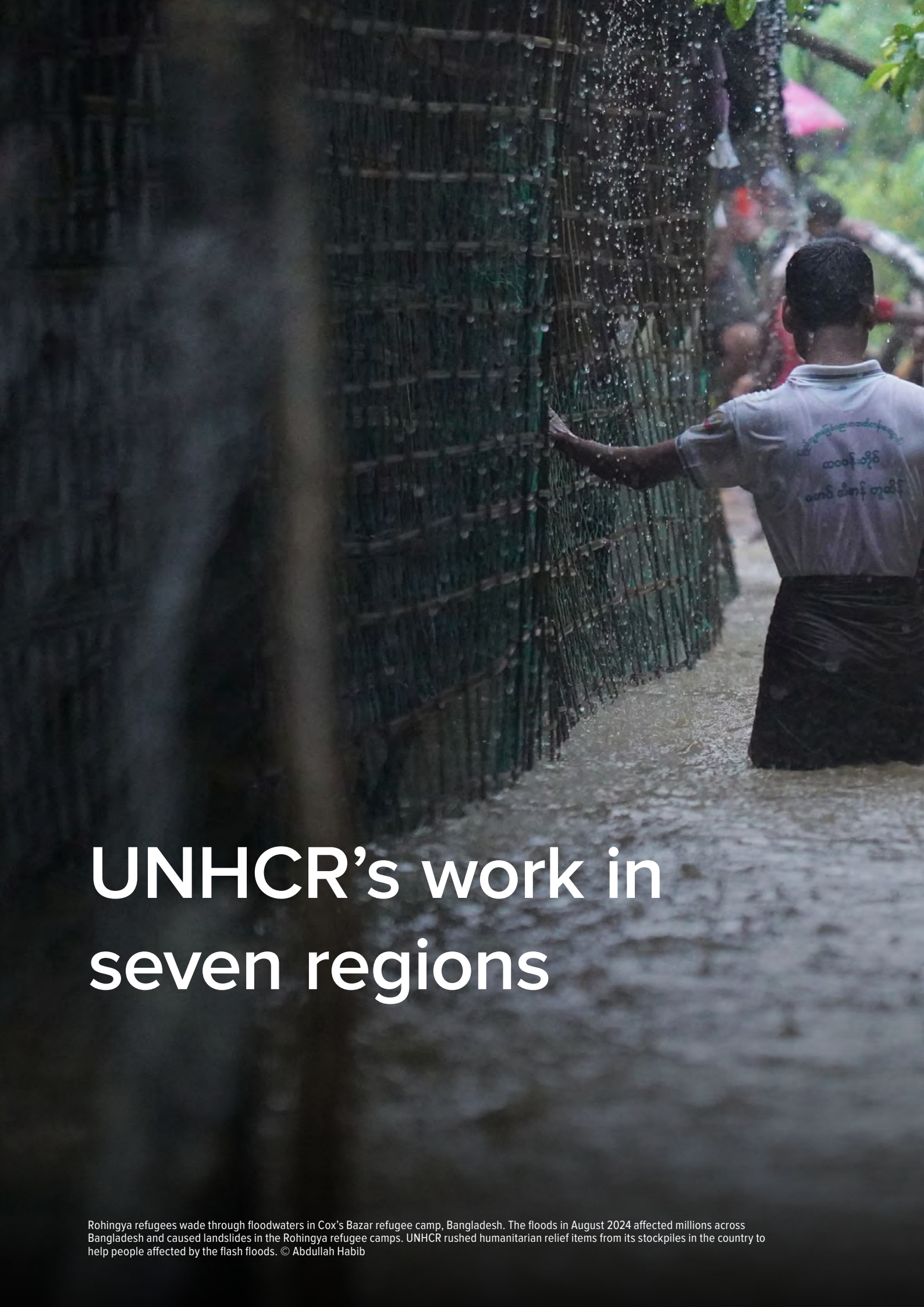
Fundación "la Caixa's" commitment enhance refugee mothers and children lives in Ethiopia

For over 20 years, Fundación "la Caixa" has partnered with UNHCR and España con ACNUR to enhance the lives of refugees in Ethiopia, where its MOM project addresses malnutrition and supports tailored care for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. In 2024, the project resulted in a remarkable 90% rate of exclusive breastfeeding of children under 6 months in Gambella's refugee camps, surpassing UNHCR's target of 75%. By employing innovative methodologies, the Foundation has contributed to research on malnutrition. They also contributed $1,039,387 (€950,000) to support primary and emergency health care in Ethiopia and provide nutrition services to refugee families.

The Foundation's support remains significant considering the droughts and conflict that have affected forcibly displaced people in the country in the last few years.



UNHCR's work in seven regions

Rohingya refugees wade through floodwaters in Cox's Bazar refugee camp, Bangladesh. The floods in August 2024 affected millions across Bangladesh and caused landslides in the Rohingya refugee camps. UNHCR rushed humanitarian relief items from its stockpiles in the country to help people affected by the flash floods. © Abdullah Habib

M.S.KAFAIT ULLAH
66
HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023
M.P.R.S.T

Regional summary

Teresa fled from the armed conflict in South Sudan more than a decade ago and sought refuge in Sudan. Now, she and 12 family members are again escaping from violence and returning to South Sudan hoping to rebuild their lives. In South Sudan, UNHCR and its partners issue refugees and returnees with essential items such as mosquito nets, sleeping mats, blankets, hygiene supplies, and female hygiene kits. © UNHCR/Sarah Velasco

East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes

In 2024, the region hosted 18% more forcibly displaced and stateless people than the previous year – a total of **27.5 million**, including 5.6 million refugees and asylum-seekers and 18.6 million internally displaced people. The Sudan conflict, starting in April 2023, displaced over 12 million people, with 3 million crossing into neighbouring countries and 8.8 million displaced internally.

UNHCR coordinated the 2024 Regional Refugee Response Plan, with 86 partners combining life-saving protection and assistance with a resilience-oriented and sustainable responses approach. Inside Sudan, access to displaced persons, protection of civilians and delivery of humanitarian aid were hampered by insecurity.

Access to asylum procedures in several countries remained challenging, with a backlog of 455,000 asylum-seekers by December 2024, one of several factors which contributed to the onward movement of tens of thousands of displaced persons within the region and beyond, often involving perilous journeys. Other factors included limited self-reliance opportunities, restricted freedom of movement outside of camps and insecurity in countries of asylum, and barriers to family reunification through safe and regulated programmes.

As part of a route-based approach, the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Rwanda facilitated protection and solutions for refugees evacuated from Libya including many who had been exposed to egregious human rights violations like torture, sexual violence, slavery, illegal imprisonment, extortion, and other forms of exploitation.

Positively, countries like Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan implemented measures to ensure fair and efficient processing in their asylum systems. Refugees were included in the African Continental TVET Strategy 2025-34 that will inform learning-to-earning pathways.

In Ethiopia, the integration of refugees in the national digital ID system and the new right to work directive strengthened opportunities for self-reliance. Rwanda and Burundi are making significant progress towards the inclusion of refugees and returnees into national education systems, the latter with support from the World Bank.

In 2024, the region hosted 2 million refugee children of school-going age with only 39% enrolled in school – marking a decrease from 49% in 2023. Access to secondary education remains a major concern for both boys and girls. Notably, while 77% of refugee girls were enrolled in primary school, this figure dropped to 34% in secondary school, and just 1% in tertiary education.

The region faced multiple health emergencies, including cholera, dengue fever, Marburg virus disease, measles and mpox, which strained national health systems. These challenges were further exacerbated by extreme weather conditions and the ongoing conflict in the Sudan, which placed additional pressure on neighbouring countries' health infrastructure.

Refugees across the region continued to face severe food insecurity, with food ration cuts ranging from 30% to 70% of the recommended daily intake. Acute malnutrition levels remained critically high in Ethiopia, South Sudan, and the Sudan, further exacerbated by the impact of the ongoing conflict in the Sudan.

UNHCR facilitated the return of over 22,000 refugees, mainly to Burundi, Somalia, and Rwanda, with over 400,000 self-organized returns to South Sudan. Nearly 30,000 refugees departed on resettlement, a historic record, complemented by new opportunities for family reunification, private sponsorship, labour mobility, and higher education in third countries.

The African Union adopted a Protocol on the Right to Nationality and Eradication of Statelessness. South Sudan acceded to international conventions on statelessness, fulfilling its 2023 GRF pledge.

A Regional Solutions Initiative improved access to nationality documentation supporting 20,000 South Sudanese to access nationality certificates and enabled the birth registration in Uganda of close to 100,000 refugees.

UNHCR delivered $23 million in cash assistance to 900,000 individuals, 85% of whom are refugees. Cash was also used to assist IDPs, refugees and hosts affected by extreme weather events in South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia and Burundi.

Major advances in development partnerships transformed the response landscape, with World Bank engagement expanding to over $2.4 billion across 50 projects in seven countries.

New collaboration frameworks with the International Finance Corporation show the potential to unlock private sector engagement in refugee-hosting areas. The African Development Bank substantially increased its resources, with further opportunities to mobilize private sector investment through the African Investment Forum.

Strengthened EU-INTPA partnerships enabled comprehensive solutions-oriented responses, including to the Sudan regional refugee crisis from the outset, in Kenya for the Shirika Plan, Uganda and in Burundi.

The collective humanitarian response to the crisis in northern Ethiopia in 2020-2023 was the subject of an inter-agency evaluation published in 2024. The inclusion of refugees in the national education systems in the region was also the subject of a UNHCR evaluation published in 2024.

© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

Sheikha Jawaher's renewed commitment to empower refugee women with health care services

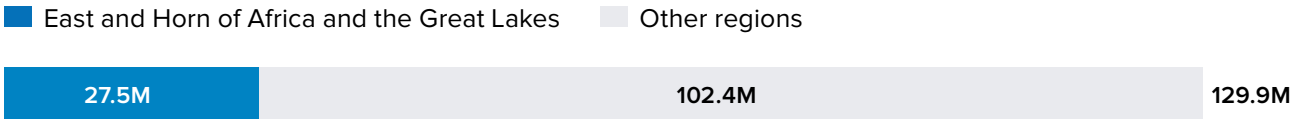
Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher Bint Mohammed Al Qasimi, appointed as UNHCR's first Eminent Advocate in 2013, has dedicated her efforts to advocating for the refugee cause. Through The Big Heart Foundation, Her Highness Sheikha Jawaher has supported over 1 million refugees and internally displaced people globally. In 2024, Her Highness extended her designation as UNHCR Eminent Advocate, and she demonstrated support through a generous contribution of $500,000 towards the construction of a health care clinic in Chad. The clinic will enhance health care access for 25,000 Sudanese refugees and host community members.

Her Highness' focus on promoting sexual and reproductive health for refugee women in Africa underscores her commitment to this vital cause.

Population overview

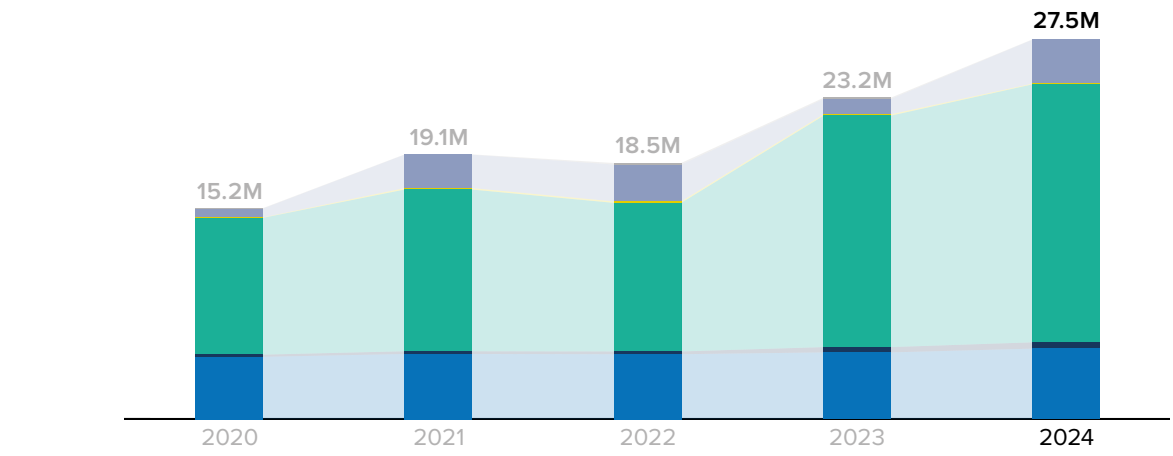
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

21% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

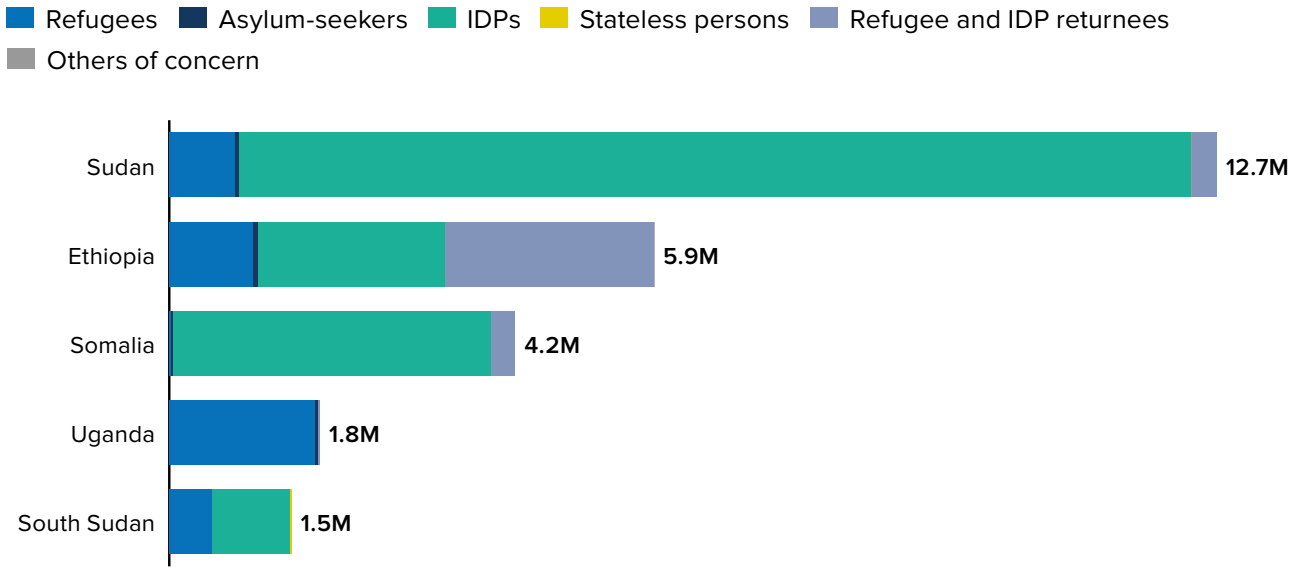


Displacement trend | 2020-2024

+18% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population | 2024



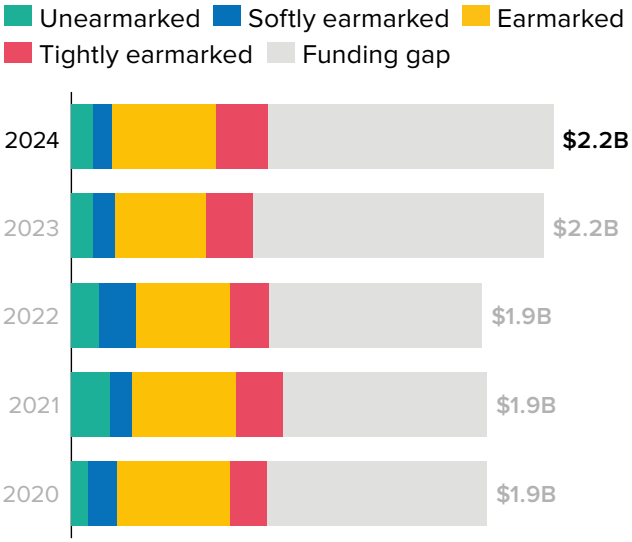
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

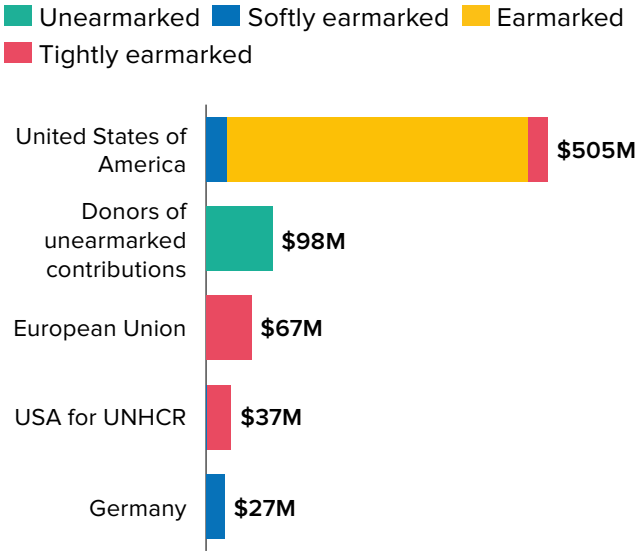
$899 million spent against a budget of $2.209 billion
$1.310 billion of unmet needs or **59%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$899.5 million funds available (41%) in 2024 out of the $2.2 billion required



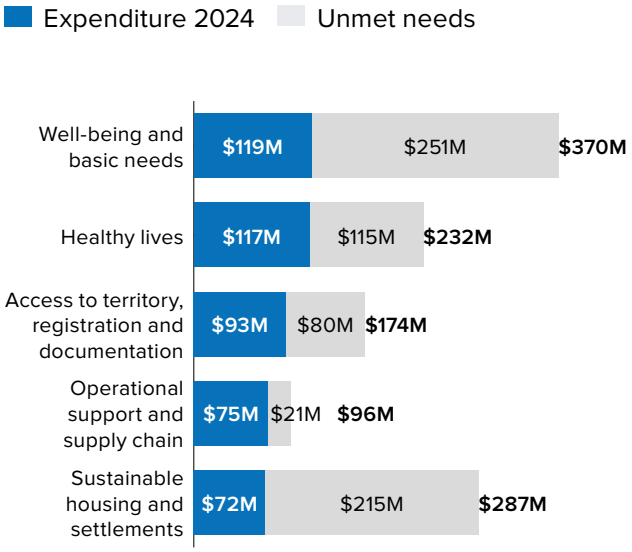
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments = $166.4 million

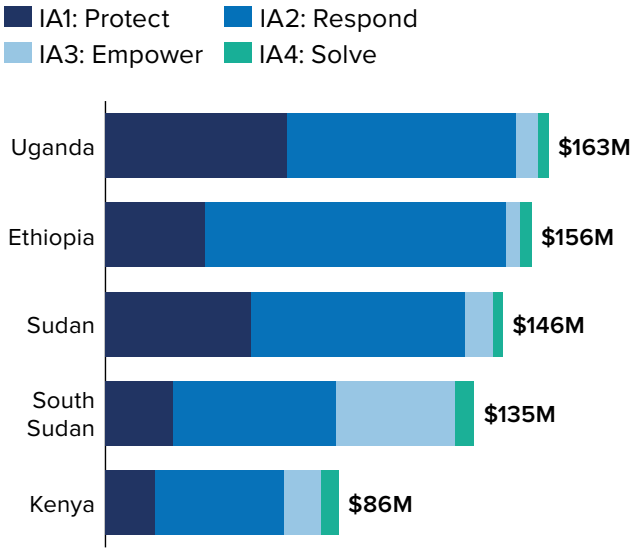
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **53%** of the total regional expenditure of $899 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **76%** of the total regional expenditure of $899 million.

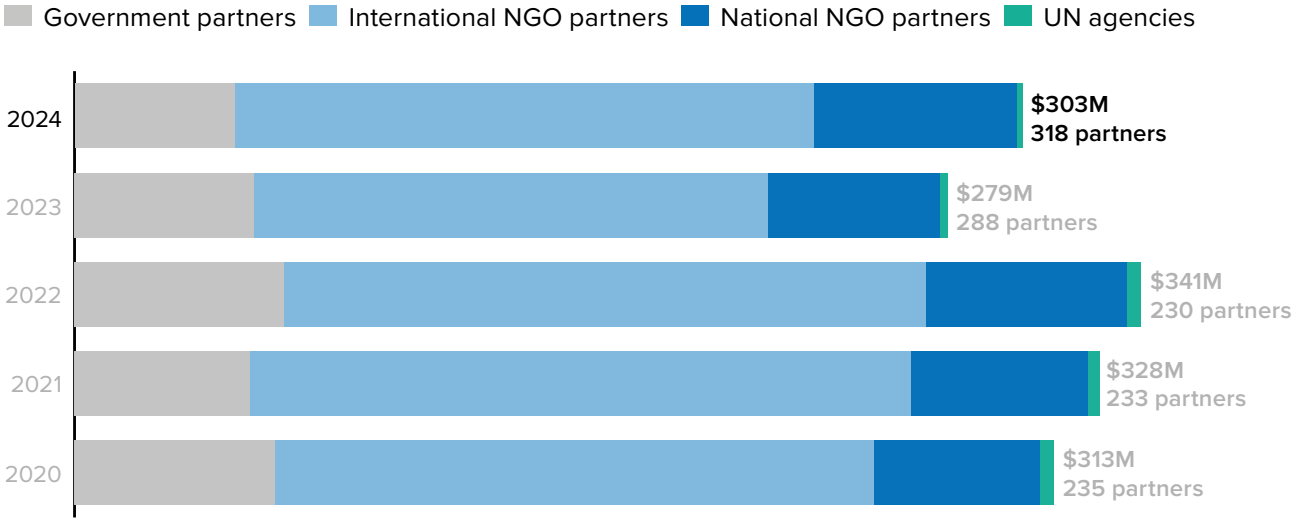


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

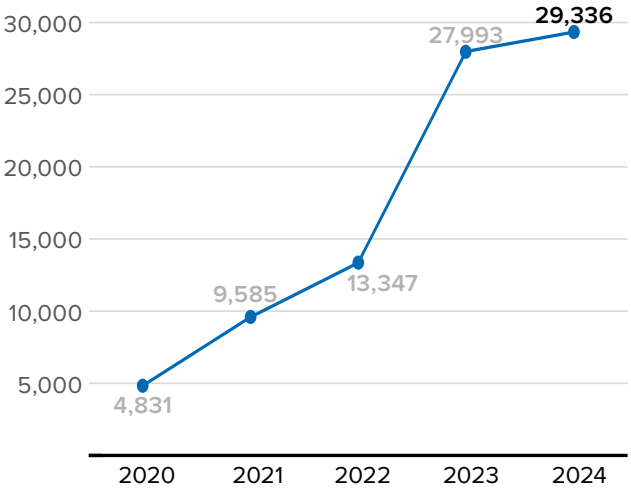
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$303 million (+9% from 2023) spent through **318 partners** (+10%) in 2024

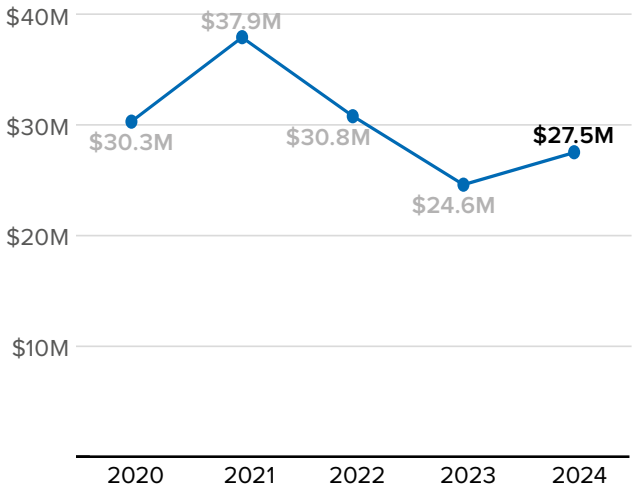


Regional trends

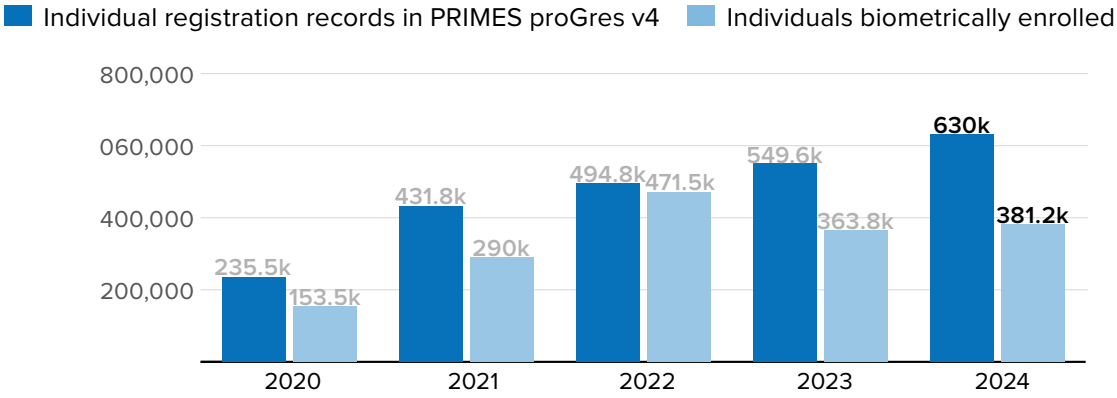
Resettlement departures | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



New individual registration records | 2020-2024



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: “active”, “hold”, “inactive”, or “closed”. The expansion of BIMS in some regions led to an increase in individuals enrolled. The difference in 2019 between individuals biometrically enrolled and individuals registered in PRIMES proGres v4 is due to imported data - stock data and flow data respectively. Due to resolution of adjudication cases of duplicate enrolment records, the enrolment figures for previous years can vary slightly from earlier reporting.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**3.7 million** people received protection services (**11** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**559,758** people registered on an individual basis (**10** countries) **1.7 million** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**11** countries)
Gender-based violence	**583,490** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**10** countries)
Child protection	**257,626** children and caregivers received child protection services (**10** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**200,989** people received legal assistance (**10** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**41,753** people consulted through participatory assessments (**9** countries) **593,980** people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**11** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**83,148** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**10** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**982,238** people received cash assistance (**11** countries) **1.7 million** people received non-food items (**10** countries) **378,410** people supported with improved cooking options (**9** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**815,018** people received shelter and housing assistance (**9** countries)
Healthy lives	**7.1 million** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**10** countries) **136,932** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**10** countries)
Education	**1.3 million** people benefited from education programming (**10** countries)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**4.6 million** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**8** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**80,151** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**11** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**2,511** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**6** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

Regional summary

Mwamini Sebuhoro, 39, recently arrived at the Bushagara site for internally displaced people, near Goma, in North Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mwamini walked more than 90km with her five children to find a safe place to stay. "I feel safe here, but I'm tired and I can't find enough food for me and the children," she says. UNHCR is providing temporary shelter, survival kits and legal assistance to displaced people, and efforts are being made to protect civilians from violence by armed groups. © UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

Southern Africa

UNHCR continued to advance **sustainable responses** to forced displacement in Southern Africa during 2024 through inclusion in national systems, development investment and strengthened resilience measures such as Zambia's transformative refugee policy, Malawi's pioneering parametric insurance programme and the SADC-led Joint Regional Programme on Forced Displacement, Fragility Mitigation and Climate Resilience with the African Development Bank. The region's commitment to the **route-based approach** was reinforced through multi-stakeholder collaboration, including with SADC to enhance protection along the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean routes to support safe and dignified movements and establishment of a disaggregated mixed movement data platform.

At the end of 2024, Southern Africa hosted 10.9 million forcibly displaced people and returnees, the majority of whom were internally displaced by **conflict** in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mozambique. The region also continued to grapple with protracted displacement and mixed migration from sub-Saharan Africa, hosting approximately 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Burundi, the Central African Republic, the DRC, Rwanda and South Sudan. Additionally, **extreme weather** events affected another 1 million people across Southern Africa with El Niño induced drought, heavy rains and cyclones. In December, Cyclone Chido displaced thousands of people in Mozambique, and caused widespread devastation in the Union of the Comoros while also destroying homes and infrastructure in Malawi.

Throughout 2024, UNHCR advanced efforts to expand asylum space, combat statelessness, and uphold the rights of displaced populations. South Africa, Botswana, Malawi, and Zimbabwe initiated reviews of their Refugee Acts with UNHCR advocating for greater refugee inclusion to support sustainable responses. In the **DRC**, UNHCR facilitated the issuance of **documentation** for 28% of refugees and asylum-seekers and ensured that 26% of births were officially registered. Meanwhile in **Angola**, over 7,000 refugee families were registered following the resumption of **registration** after an eight-year suspension.

In response to the dire humanitarian situation and needs in the region, UNHCR ensured displaced people had access to **essential services** as well as to essential relief items. In **Mozambique**, UNHCR assisted more than 2,600 people impacted by Cyclone Chido within the first 48 hours of the emergency by providing essential items and emergency shelter supplies, also facilitating access to essential mental health and psychosocial support services. In anticipation of natural disasters, environmentally resilient agriculture was promoted in Mozambique to enhance emergency preparedness.

UNHCR continued to advocate for the ratification and full implementation of relevant international frameworks by States, making significant progress on **statelessness**. In November 2024, the Pan-African Parliament endorsed the draft Model Law on the Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness, which seeks to harmonize citizenship laws and prevent future cases of statelessness. Final adoption is expected in 2025. **Zambia** became the first SADC country to join the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, setting a regional precedent, while the Pan African Parliament also joined the Global Alliance by the end of the year.

Efforts to ensure **durable solutions** for refugees in Southern Africa continued. In 2024, 6,100 refugees were resettled, marking a 67% increase compared to the 3,700 refugees resettled the previous year. Additionally, over 13,700 individuals were assisted in voluntarily returning to their countries of origin—primarily the Central African Republic, Burundi, Rwanda, and the DRC—representing a 25% increase from the 11,000 returns recorded in 2023. In **Angola**, 4,200 former refugees from Liberia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone were locally integrated and received two-year residence permits, supporting their long-term inclusion in the host country.

© UNHCR/Lara Bommers

Akelius helps provide education, the key to the future

Vicky, a 15-year-old refugee and an Instant Network Schools student from Burundi, has a dream. She wants to learn English through the Akelius language course, then she plans to become a doctor before dedicating her life to singing.

Akelius Foundation, an important partner of UNHCR since 2019, has contributed $1,166,708 to UNHCR's education initiatives in 2024. Akelius expanded its support to digital education and language training with online digital language courses in Egypt, Mozambique and South Sudan, reaching thousands of young refugees like Vicky. Akelius Foundation's founder, Roger Akelius, said "I would be ashamed of not doing anything. Helping others is a strong driving force and education is the key to a future for children and young people. Refugee children need to be able to go to school."

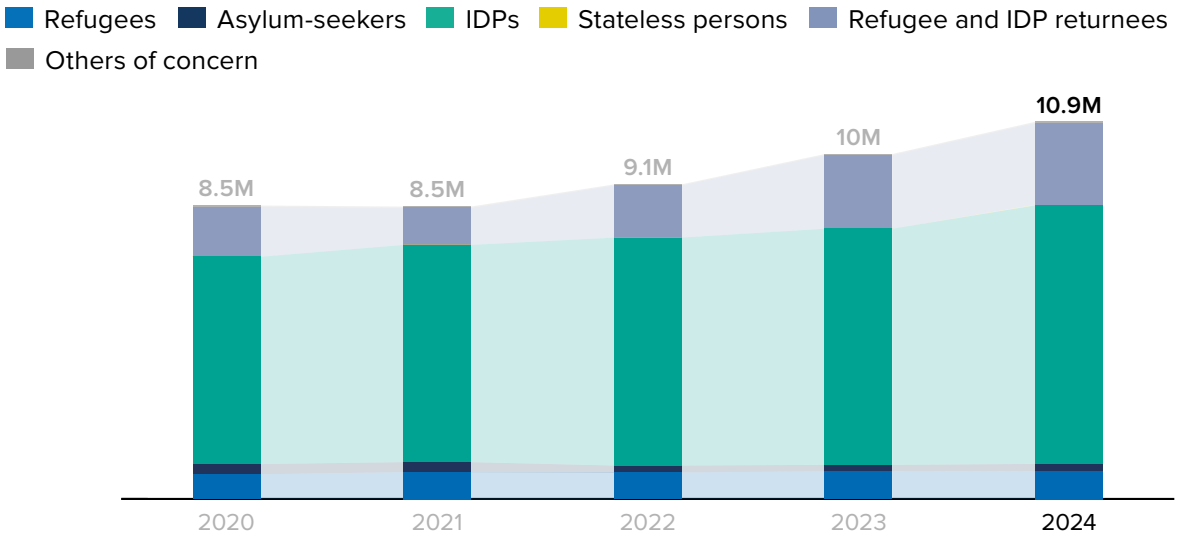
Population overview

Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

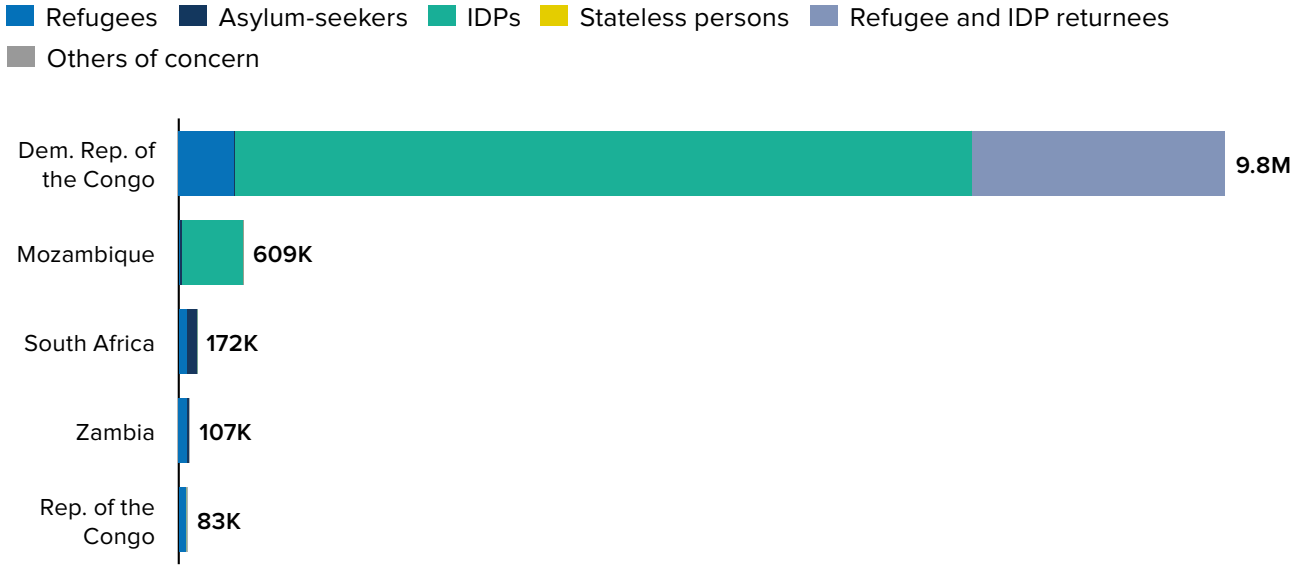
8% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

Displacement trend in Southern Africa | 2020-2024

+9.5% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population in the East and Horn Africa and the Great Lakes | 2024



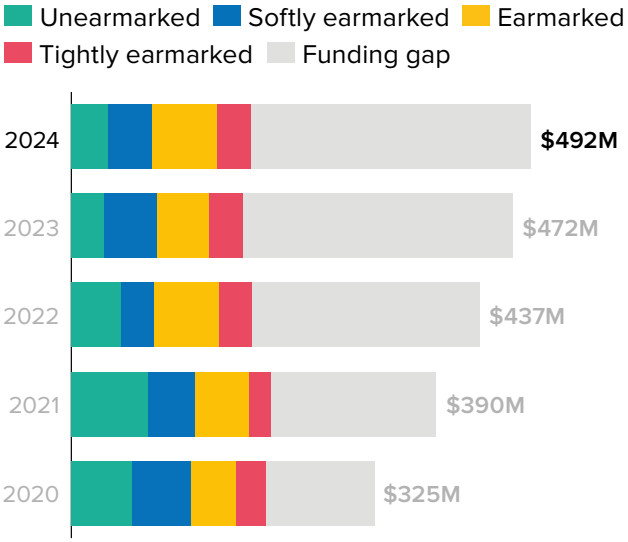
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

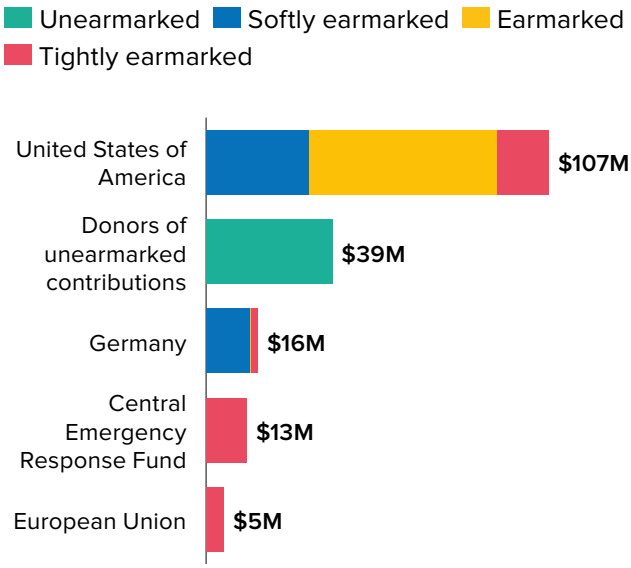
$192 million spent against a budget of $492 million
$300 million of unmet needs or **61%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$191.9 million funds available (39%) in 2024 out of the $492 million required



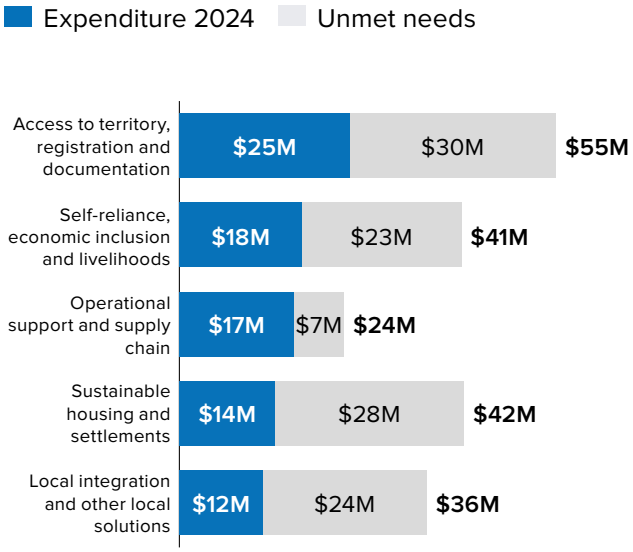
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments =$10.8 million

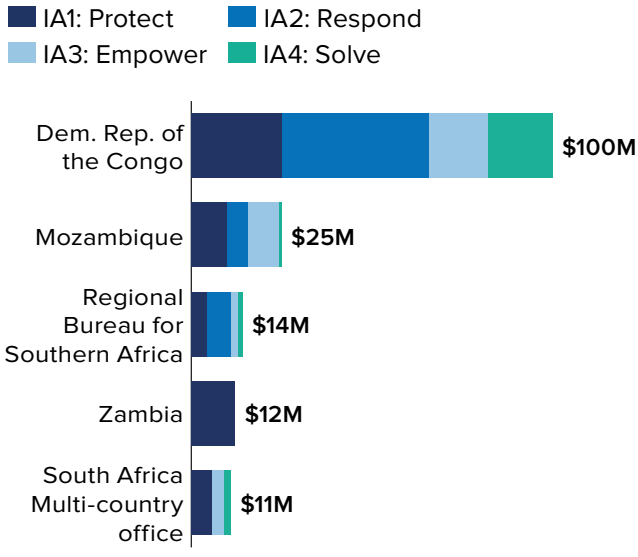
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **45%** of the total regional expenditure of $192 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **85%** of the total regional expenditure of $192 million.

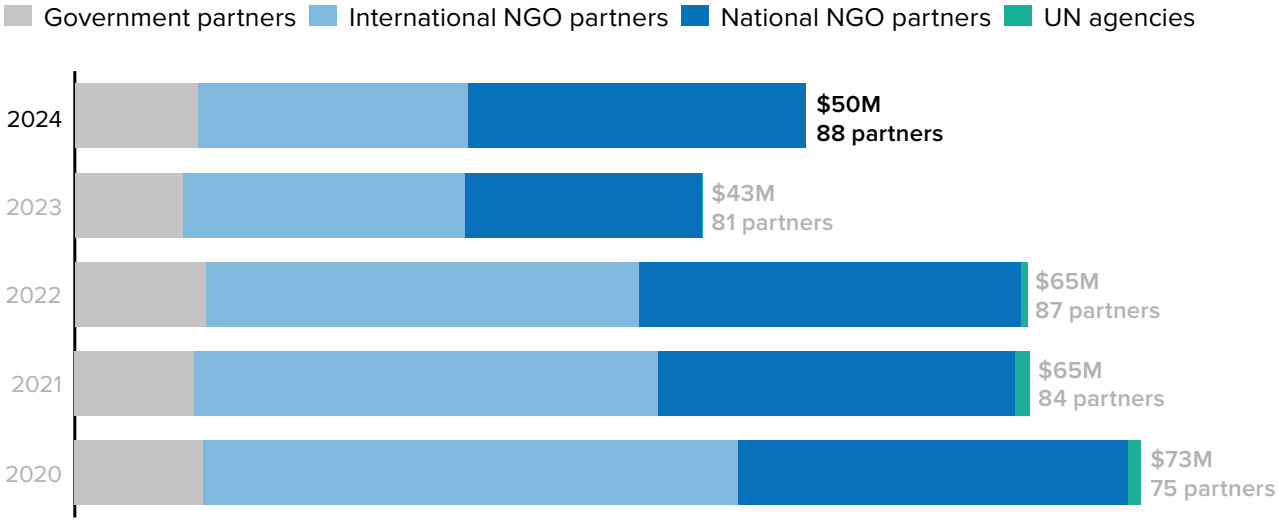


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

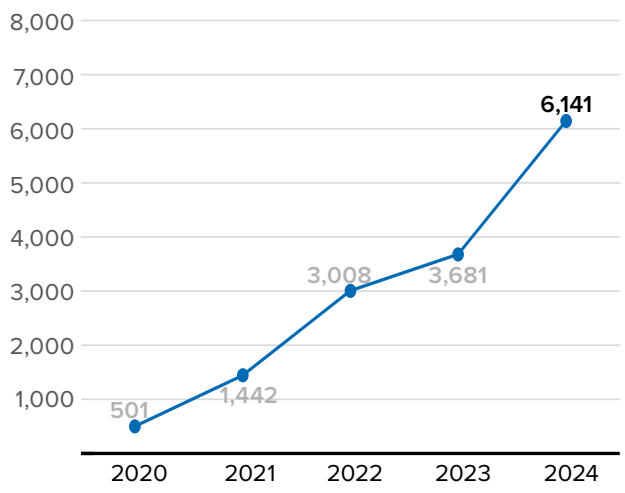
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$50 million (+17% from 2023) spent through **88 partners** (+9%) in 2024

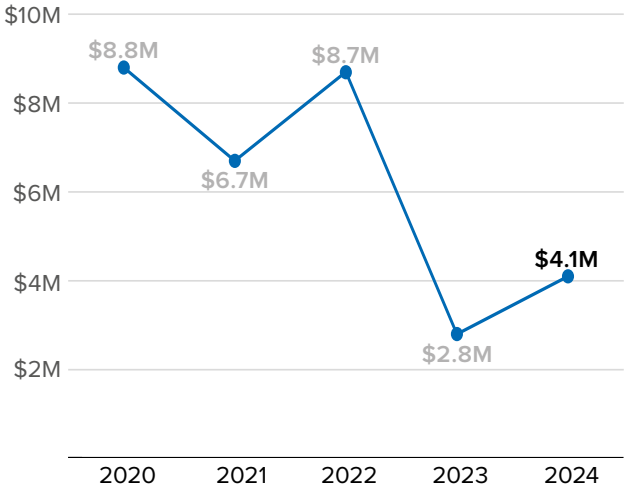


Regional trends

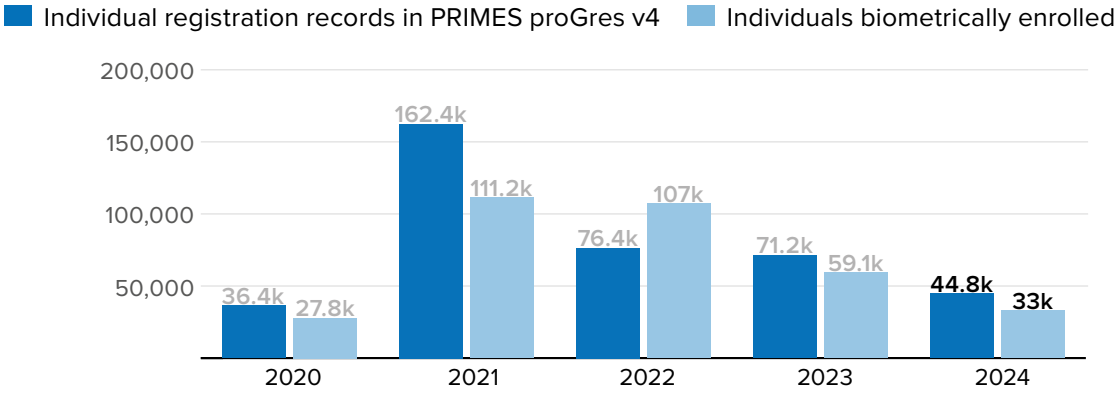
Resettlement departures | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



New individual registration records | 2020-2024



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: “active”, “hold”, “inactive”, or “closed”. In 2022, verification of previous registrations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Zambia added a large number of biometric registrations. The expansion of BIMS in some regions led to an increase in individuals enrolled. Due to resolution of adjudication cases of duplicate enrolment records, the enrolment figures for previous years can vary slightly from earlier reporting.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**1.6 million** people received protection services (**7** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**460,025** people registered on an individual basis (**15** countries) **163,060** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**8** countries)
Gender-based violence	**394,355** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**8** countries)
Child protection	**23,208** children and caregivers received child protection services (**8** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**14,477** people received legal assistance (**8** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**73,323** people consulted through participatory assessments (**14** countries) **268,084** people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**14** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**32,482** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**10** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**143,419** people received cash assistance (**9** countries) **241,568** people received non-food items (**10** countries) **9,514** people supported with improved cooking options (**5** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**121,869** people received shelter and housing assistance (**8** countries)
Healthy lives	**482,198** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**7** countries) **13,476** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**8** countries)
Education	**87,385** people benefited from education programming (**10** countries)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**624,017** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**10** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**159,868** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**12** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**34** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**4** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

Regional summary

At the border town of Adre in eastern Chad, people arriving from Sudan are immediately received by UNHCR and our partners and provided with life-saving emergency assistance. Refugees live in makeshift shelters while waiting to be relocated away from the border to more suitable sites that UNHCR has expanded and built. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

West and Central Africa

In 2024, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people in the West and Central Africa region increased to 12.4 million, of which 8.1 million were internally displaced within their own countries, and 2.7 million were refugees and asylum-seekers.

Close to 4.7 million people were displaced in and around the Central Sahel – in Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Mauritania, and the coastal countries of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. Insecurity continued to intensify across the Sahel with conflict as the primary driver of displacement.

By 31 December 2024, the conflict in Sudan had displaced over 12.3 million people. West and Central Africa was host to 1.1 million refugees from the conflict in Sudan, almost all of them in Chad, where 240,000 Sudanese refugees arrived in 2024. Another 8,200 arrived in the Central African Republic (CAR), which hosted almost 30,000 Sudanese refugees by the end of the year.

More than 1.1 million nationals of the CAR were forcibly displaced in their own country or in Cameroon, Chad or the Democratic Republic of the Congo by the end of 2024. Millions of people remained displaced by the humanitarian crisis in the Lake Chad Basin. By the end of 2024, more than 550,000 nationals of Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria had sought asylum in each other's countries and many more were internally displaced.

UNHCR continued its life-saving assistance response. In Chad, 265,000 Sudanese refugees were registered. Seven new settlements were established, and 10 existing ones were expanded for 430,000 refugees who were relocated from border areas. In settlements, over 85,000 shelters were constructed for 130,300 people, and 112 boreholes constructed, providing access to clean water benefiting over 1 million refugees. Furthermore, over 112,000 refugee children received life-saving medical treatment for acute

malnutrition, and 55,600 for severe malnutrition. Close to 336,000 refugees received non-food items and 83,000 people were assisted with cash. UNHCR supported 1.6 million health consultations for refugees, including mental health services for 21,000 individuals in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal.

Severe flooding affected over 4.9 million people across West and Central Africa, including 330,000 people who were already displaced by conflict. UNHCR provided life-saving assistance to 454,000 flood-displaced people by December 2024, notably materials for shelter reconstruction, protection services, and replaced damaged documents. Cash assistance was provided to 214,000 flood-affected people to enable them to reconstruct shelters and latrines.

UNHCR continued to support lasting solutions to forced displacement including through voluntary returns home, ensuring returns occurred in a safe and dignified manner. This included advocacy for strengthened legal frameworks for voluntary repatriation. In March, the 2015 tripartite agreement signed between Burkina Faso, Mali, and UNHCR which previously governed the repatriation of Malian refugees from Burkina Faso was revised, to include and facilitate the return of Burkinabe refugees living in Mali. In October, the Governments of the Central African Republic and Chad, along with UNHCR, signed a tripartite agreement to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Central African refugees from Chad. About 19,900 Central Africans already returned to the CAR voluntarily in 2024, with 16,265 facilitated by UNHCR, marking the peak year for returns.

In 2024, over 75,200 refugees returned to Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Nigeria, of which 59,000 returned spontaneously. 17,600 Cameroonians who had fled the Logone Birni crisis of intercommunal strife, returned.

Across the entire region close to 252,000 internally displaced people returned to their homes, with 151,000 people returning to their homes in the Central African Republic, 51,500 returning home in Mali, and 12,800 returns in Cameroon.

In 2024 protection monitoring through Project 21, the regional Inter-Agency system co-led by UNHCR was expanded to cover additional localities in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger, and was initiated in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo. Over 55,000 interviews were conducted in 2024 by mostly local partners to assess community needs and deliver life-saving assistance to survivors of protection incidents. Half of responders reported protection risks for women and girls within the communities. One in 10 households lacked civil identification documents in the Central Sahel and Lake Chad areas between July and September. In a third of communities, children had no access to formal schooling in 2024, due to insecurity.

West and Central Africa faced some of the most severe education challenges globally, hosting 24% of the world's out-of-school children. Insecurity forced the closure of over 14,300 schools across the region, disrupting the education of 2.8 million children.

To help maintain access to education for displaced children UNHCR supported 262,000 refugee children in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo during the 2023-2024 academic year. This included building 104 classrooms, constructing water and sanitation facilities in 404 schools, distributing 113,300 school kits, providing cash assistance to help 18,500 children attend school and 1,370 university scholarships.

In a positive development, refugee enrolments increased by 23%, reaching 302,000 children and youth — including 138,000 Sudanese refugee children enrolled in schools in Chad.

Despite the welcoming asylum policies of countries across the region, offering refuge to hundreds of thousands of people fleeing violence across their national borders, many host nations are facing significant challenges in managing the influx and addressing the needs of displaced populations in the region.

While departures via the Central Mediterranean Route decreased by 59% in 2024, arrivals by sea in the Canary Islands continued to increase, with approximately 30 deaths per day and nearly 10,000 fatalities reported at sea in 2024 according to the NGO Caminando Fronteras. Malians are the primary group arriving in Spain from the Central Sahel, with 391,000 having fled their country due to ongoing violence. In Chad, Mali and the Niger, UNHCR strengthened border monitoring, community-based referral mechanisms and asylum systems, and provided 1,370 refugee youth with higher education scholarships as part of the operationalization of the route-based approach.

In 2024, 0.9 million people were stateless in the region, although these statistics are largely underreported. Sao Tome and Principe ratified the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In July, Cameroon also adopted the two statelessness conventions. The ratification of these Conventions is a first step to recognizing stateless persons and taking actions to regularize their status.

UNHCR continued to advance the transition toward government-led, multi-stakeholder comprehensive responses that enhance economic inclusion and resilience. In 2024, UNHCR supported the the World Bank Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) eligibility processes in Togo and Benin, leading to stronger protection dialogue, policy planning, and a proposed top-up for a social cohesion project. Similar discussions were launched in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, while the WHR process was also supported in the Central African Republic. UNHCR and the International Finance Corporation designed a joint action plan to expand access to mobile money, enhance job opportunities, and improve access to agribusiness in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Mauritania.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

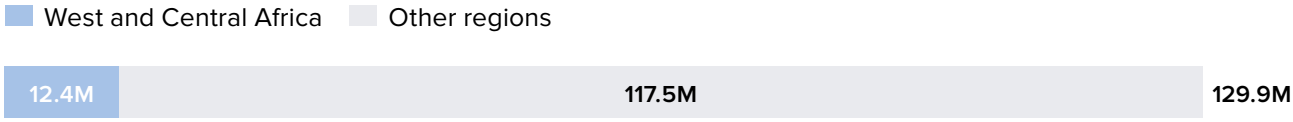
Islamic Relief USA helps to house Sudanese refugees after they flee to Chad

In November 2024, Miriam fled Sudan, leaving behind all that she knew as home. Along with her four daughters and grandchildren, she sought refuge and protection from the horrors they had experienced. In partnership with Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA), UNHCR was able to respond to the needs of families like Miriam's, providing core relief items and, more importantly, a safe place to call home. This support from IRUSA ensures that refugee families have the safety and security to rebuild their lives at a critical time. It is just one of several commitments by Islamic Relief USA, which agreed to a five-year strategic partnership with UNHCR in September 2024, with a pledge to contribute $25 million over that period. For families like Miriam's, this support is transformative, ensuring safety and carving a path for a dignified future for all families.

Population overview

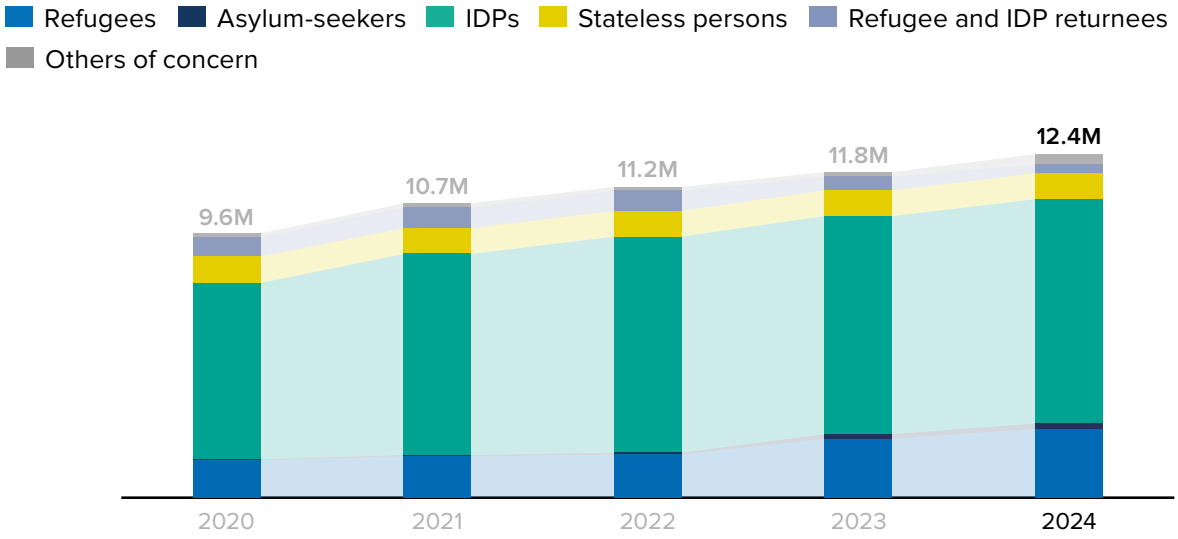
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

10% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

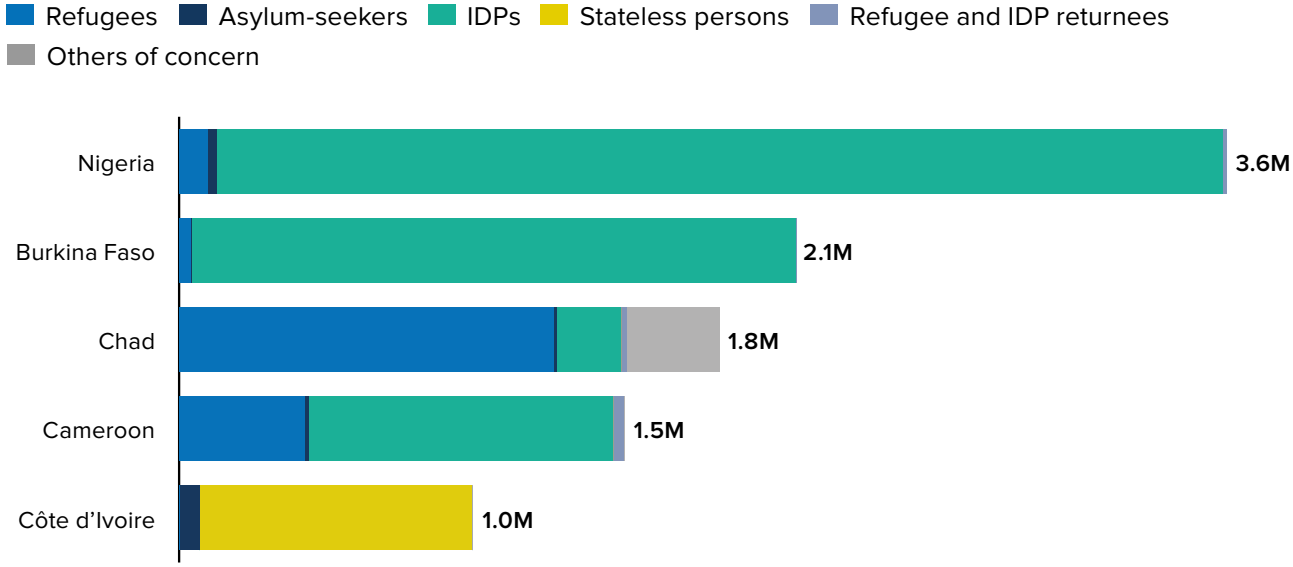


Displacement trend in West and Central Africa | 2020-2024

-13% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population in the East and Horn Africa and the Great Lakes | 2024



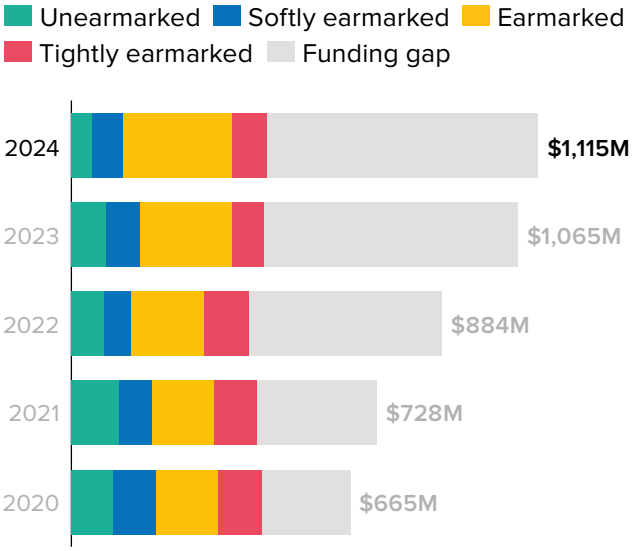
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

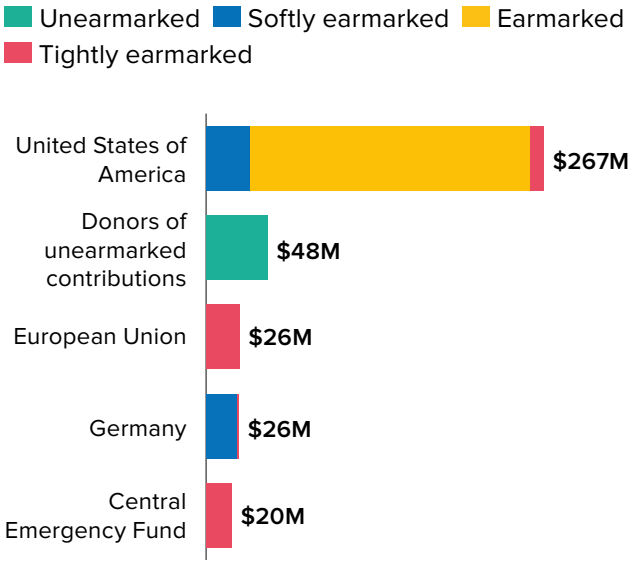
$467 million spent against a budget of $1.115 billion
$648 million of unmet needs or **58%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$467.2 million funds available (42%) in 2024 out of the $1.115 billion required



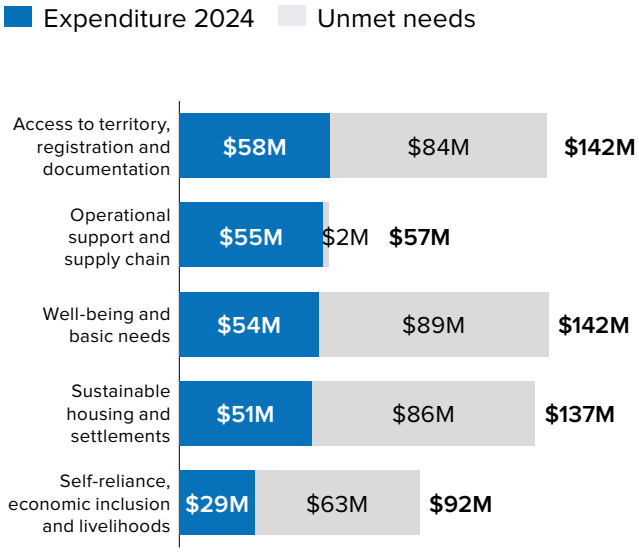
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments = $79.8 million

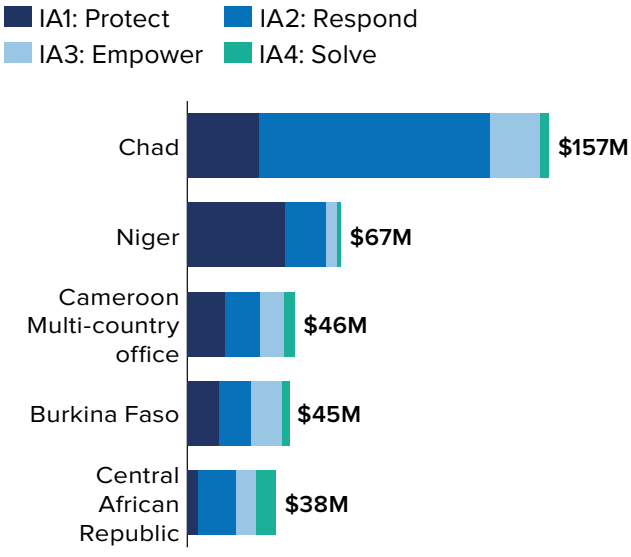
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **53%** of the total regional expenditure of $467 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **76%** of the total regional expenditure of $467 million.

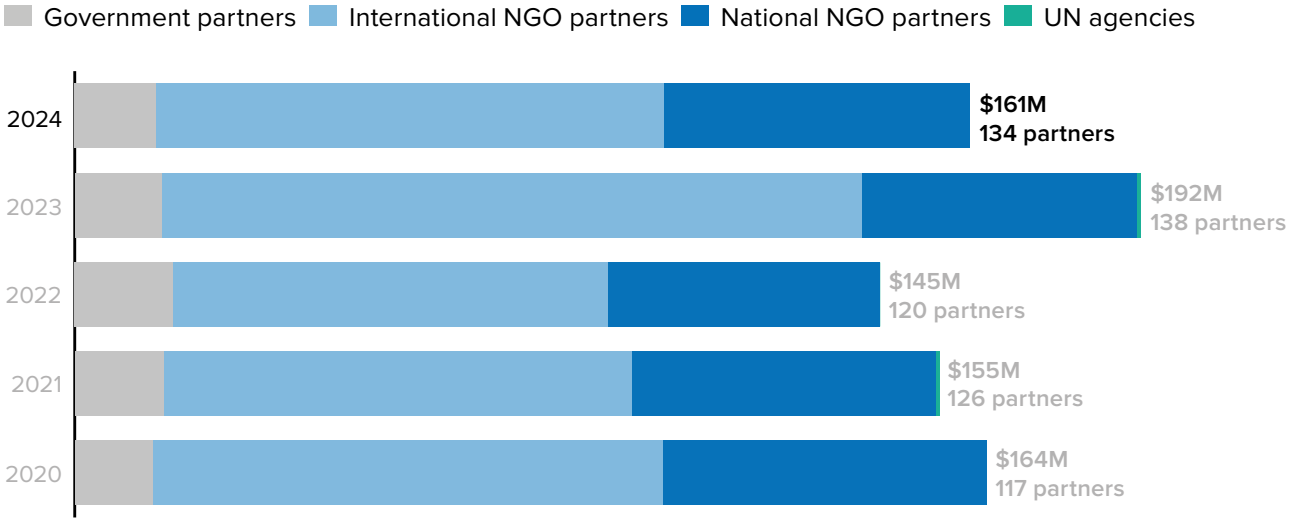


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

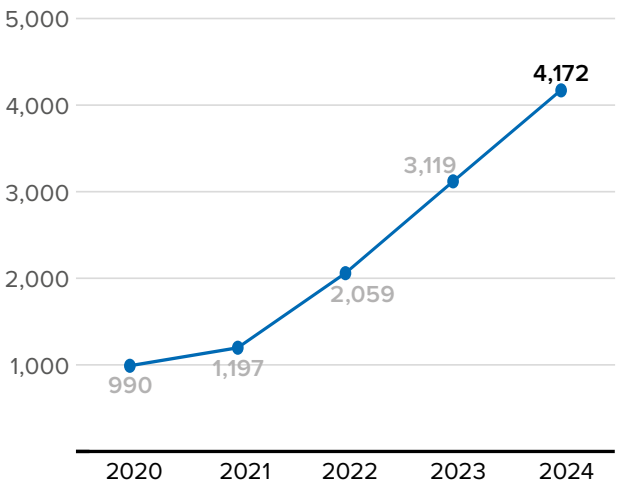
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$161 million (-16% from 2023) spent through **134 partners** (-3%) in 2024

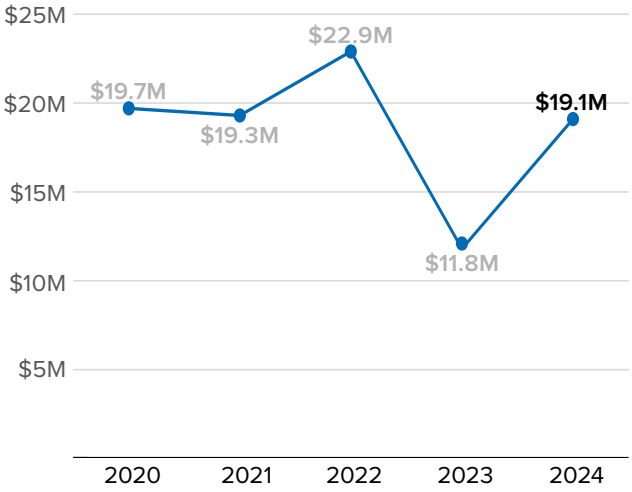


Regional trends

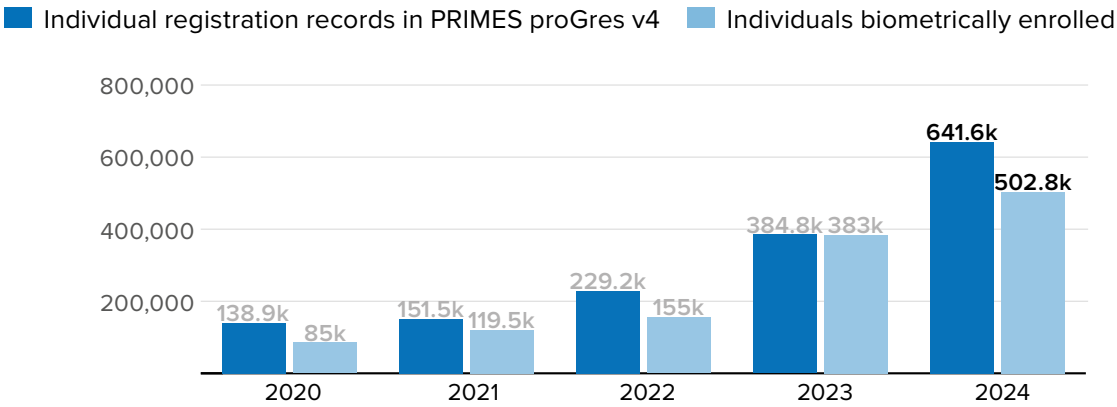
Resettlement departures | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



New individual registration records | 2020-2024



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: “active”, “hold”, “inactive”, or “closed”. The expansion of BIMS in some regions led to an increase in individuals enrolled. Due to resolution of adjudication cases of duplicate enrolment records, the enrolment figures for previous years can vary slightly from earlier reporting.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**3.3 million** people received protection services (**14** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**1.1 million** people registered on an individual basis (**11** countries) **190,544** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**11** countries)
Gender-based violence	**132,082** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**11** countries)
Child protection	**418,281** children and caregivers received child protection services (**8** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**6,401** people received legal assistance (**6** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**63,590** people consulted through participatory assessments (**12** countries) **155,058** people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**12** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**53,939** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**11** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**488,900** people received cash assistance (**8** countries) **691,559** people received non-food items (**5** countries) **20,266** people supported with improved cooking options (**4** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**437,655** people received shelter and housing assistance (**8** countries)
Healthy lives	**2.1 million** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**7** countries) **21,993** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**6** countries)
Education	**329,338** people benefited from education programming (**10** countries)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**1.6 million** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**8** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**45,363** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**12** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**2,769** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**9** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

Maimouna Ba, winner of the 2024 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for Africa, belongs to the first generation of women in her family to receive a formal education. With a bachelor's degree in marketing and management, she began helping families fleeing violence by collecting donations and securing sponsorships, becoming a beacon of the power of education and financial autonomy to address the impact of the humanitarian crisis in Burkina Faso. © UNHCR/Etinosa Yvonne

Regional summary

In Ecuador, Guillermina Caicedo and fellow Colombian refugees have a small peanut business, helped by UNHCR's support to obtain sanitary certifications and make connections along the production chain. "We run a sort of community-based farm, where producers grow in the same land, sharing the costs of maintaining a farm," says Guillermina. © UNHCR/Diana Diaz

The Americas

The Americas continued to face an unprecedented scale and complexity of forced displacement, where people continue to flee conflict, persecution, and violence. By the end of 2024, the Americas hosted more than 21.8 million refugees, forcibly displaced or stateless people, including 5.9 million refugees and asylum-seekers, 8.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and 5.9 million other people in need of international protection. In 2024, over 302,000 people crossed the Darién, representing a 40% decrease compared to 2023. Venezuelans continued to be the largest group represented, followed by Colombians and Ecuadorians.

Despite changing patterns in displacement, the fact remains that most displaced persons in the region chose to remain in Latin America and the Caribbean, supported by access to documentation, regularization processes, refugee status recognition as well as opportunities for stabilization and local integration.

For example, UNHCR supported States in modernizing their asylum systems by promoting the use of differentiated procedures and integrating technology to improve efficiency. It provided technical assistance to strengthen national institutions (Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and Uruguay), and expand a more decentralized presence of asylum authorities in Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, and Panama.

In 2024 alone, over 1.3 million refugees, migrants, and host community members received support through the regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), benefiting from initiatives focused on local integration, protection, and humanitarian assistance. Furthermore, since 2019, more than 4.5 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela have obtained legal status in 17 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean.

As an integral part of sustainable responses implemented in Latin America and the Caribbean, the efforts of governments and other relevant partners, including development actors, international financial institutions, and the private sector, provided further stabilization opportunities and socioeconomic inclusion. The socioeconomic local integration initiatives being implemented in Colombia, Mexico and Brazil are considered regional good practices. Studies undertaken by the IMF, the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have demonstrated the benefits of the integration of refugees and migrants in various countries in the region. This has been reflected in GDP growth as well as in increasing tax revenues and reducing fiscal spending.

Importantly, UNHCR also provided technical support through regional initiatives such as the Quito Process, the MIRPS, the Asylum Action Package of the Los Angeles Declaration, and Cartagena +40 process, the latter leading to the adoption of the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action – a concrete example of regional implementation of the Global Compact for Refugees, which includes measures to further strengthen asylum systems and the implementation of solutions for refugees and other forcibly displaced people in mixed movements across Latin America and the Caribbean, including those displaced by climate-induced disasters.

By the end of 2024, internal displacement in the Americas had risen to over 8.6 million people across Colombia, El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Mexico.

Colombia faces multiple displacement challenges. Despite ongoing peace negotiations, clashes between armed groups persisted, generating new forced displacement movements.

Some 1.4 million new internally displaced persons have been registered since the 2016 peace agreements while UNHCR data showed that Colombians lodged 149,000 new asylum claims in 2024 in neighbouring countries, North America and Europe. In addition, Colombia hosts 2.8 million people in need of international protection and experiences mixed movements across its territory. In Colombia, UNHCR supported conflict-affected communities by facilitating returns, relocations, and the formalization of urban settlements.

In Haiti, indiscriminate gang violence led to severe human rights violations and the displacement of more than 1 million people fleeing their homes.

To strengthen national responses, UNHCR supported the implementation of legal frameworks and worked with national statistics offices to improve data collection and analysis on internally displaced persons, including in countries like Honduras.

In 2024, forced displacement in the Americas was worsened by extreme weather events, including severe flooding in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, which affected over 2.3 million people, caused 173 deaths, and displaced over 422,000 individuals, including refugees and others in need of international protection. In response, UNHCR intensified efforts to mitigate the impact of extreme weather events on displaced populations, working with States to include them in national adaptation and resilience plans. UNHCR also contributed to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' advisory opinion on the climate emergency and supported operationally Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, and Haiti to respond to climate-induced emergencies.

© UNHCR

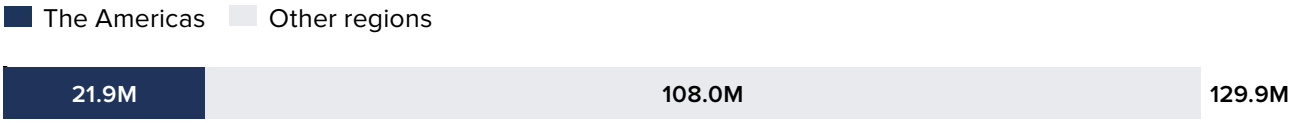
LATAM Group delivers critical supply to vulnerable communities

The partnership between LATAM Airlines Group SA and UNHCR remained strong throughout 2024, a year marked by regional crises. Through this collaboration, over 100 tons of essential supplies were transported to support humanitarian efforts, with the transportation valued at $390,000. LATAM's Solidarity Plane assistance was crucial in responding to emergencies in Chile and Brazil, facilitating the delivery of critical supplies such as modular accommodation units for housing displaced people, solar lamps, and thermal blankets. This contribution highlights the power of strategic partnerships in driving effective emergency responses and providing much needed financial relief during times of crisis.

Population overview

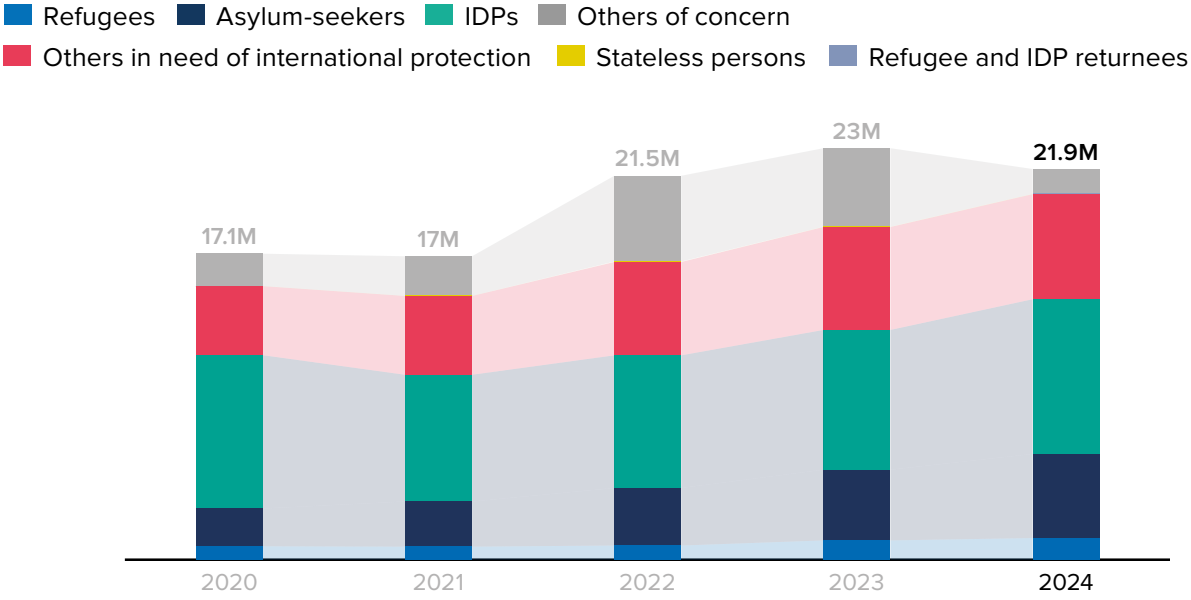
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

17% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

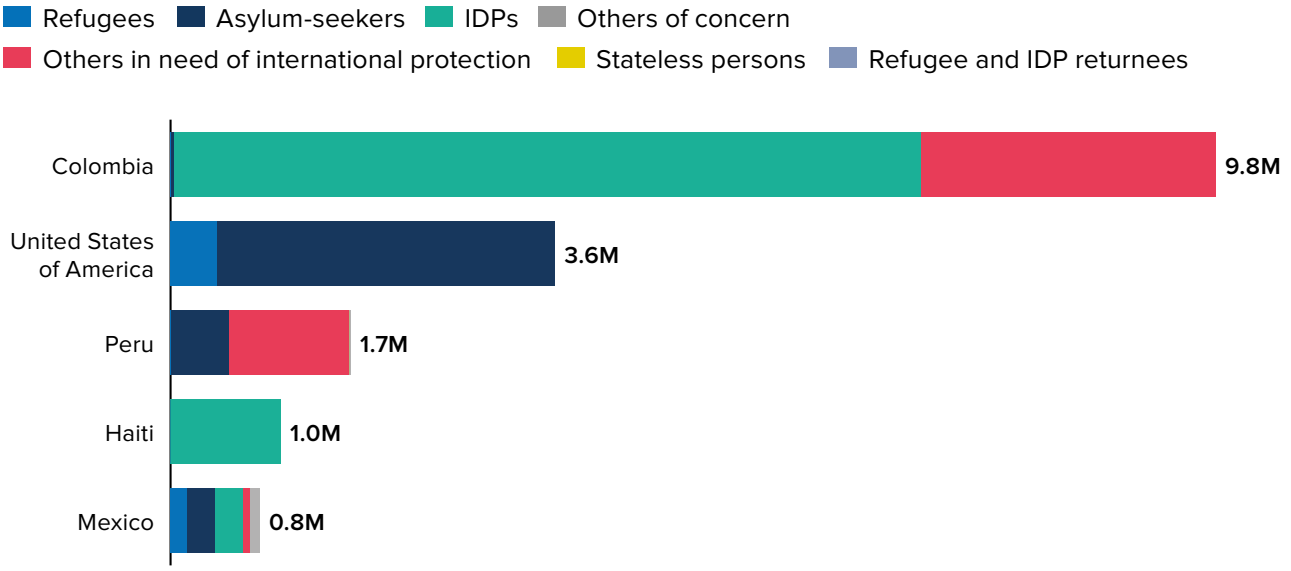


Displacement trend | 2020-2024

-5% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population | 2024



Please note: data for the United States of America is as of 30 June 2024. For all other countries, data is as of 31 December 2024.

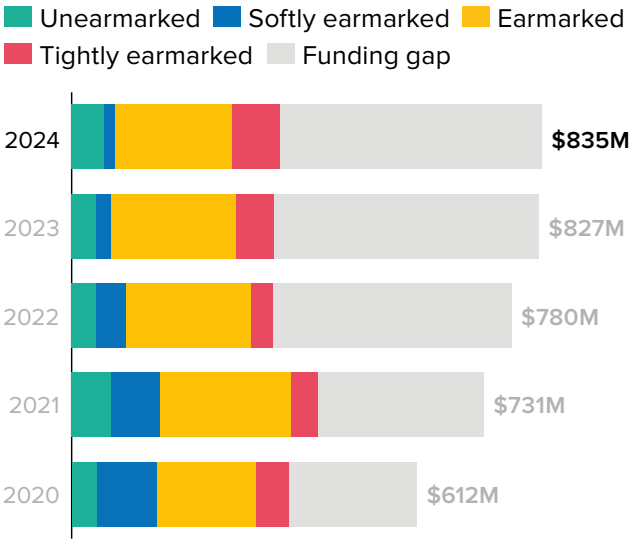
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

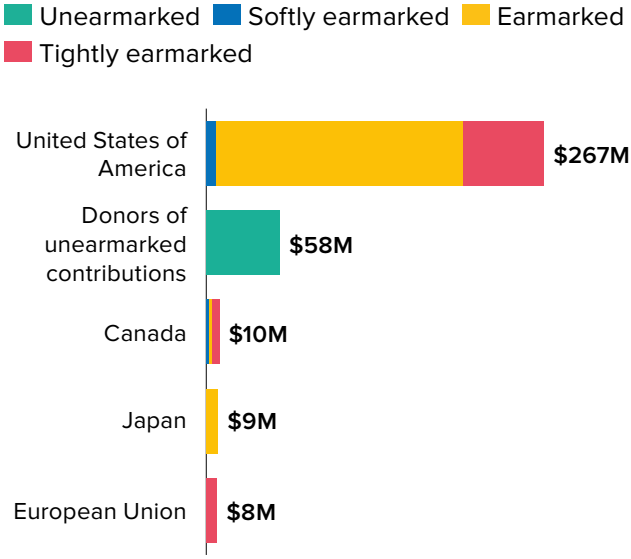
$370 million spent against a budget of $835 million
$465 million of unmet needs or **56%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$369.5 million funds available (44%) in 2024 out of $834.6 million required



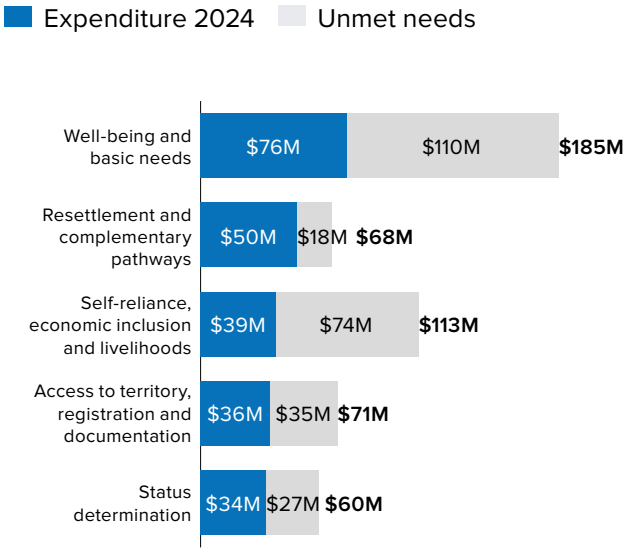
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments =$16.7 million

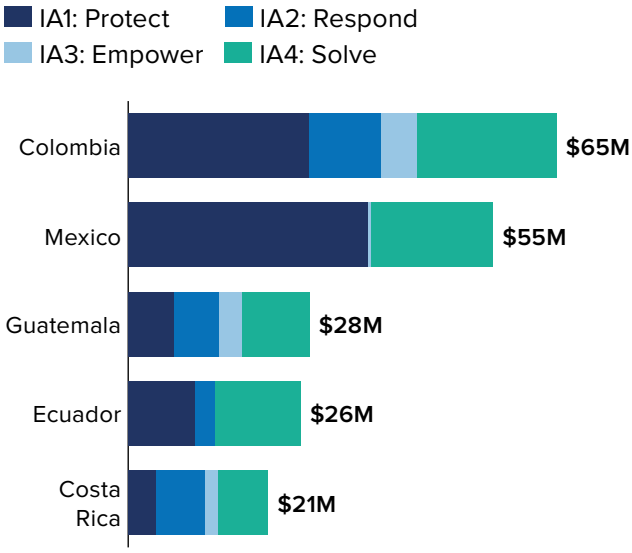
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **63%** of the total regional expenditure of $370 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **53%** of the total regional expenditure of $370 million.

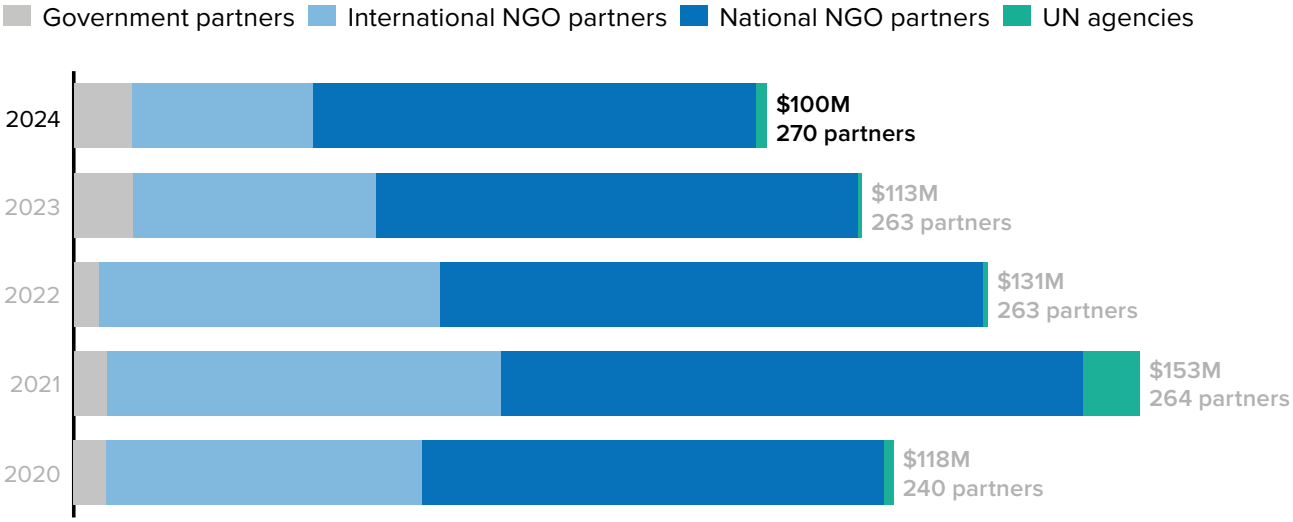


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

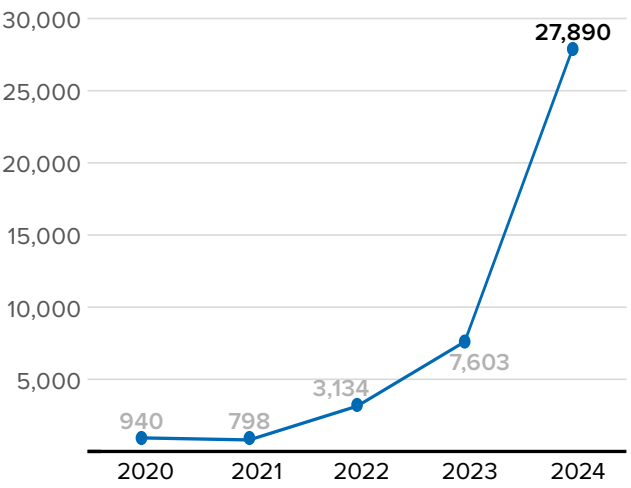
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$100 million (-12% from 2023) spent through **270 partners** (+3%) in 2024

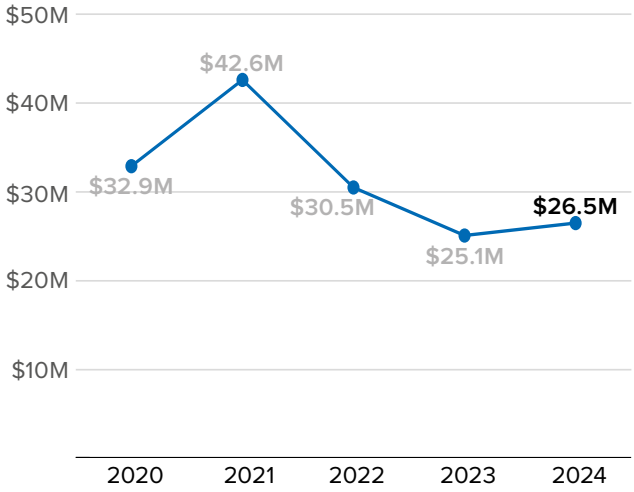


Regional trends

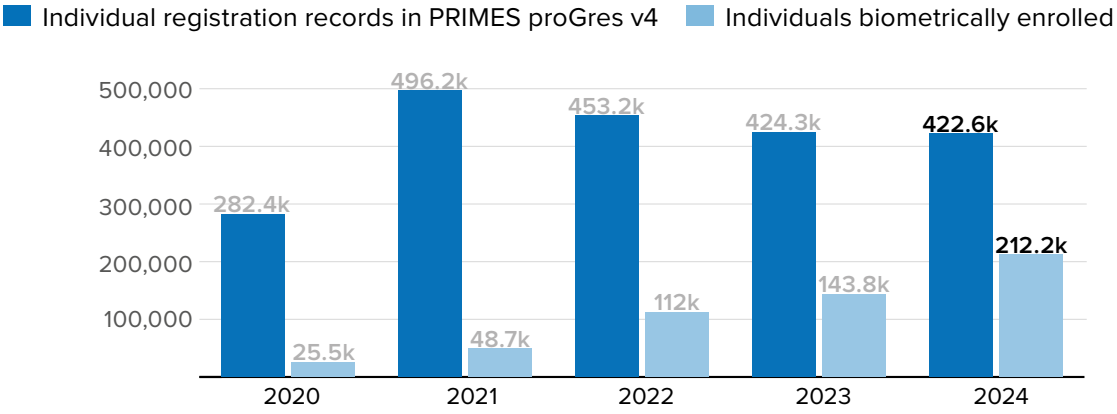
Resettlement departures | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



New individual registration records | 2020-2024



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: “active”, “hold”, “inactive”, or “closed”. The expansion of BIMS in some regions led to an increase in individuals enrolled. Due to resolution of adjudication cases of duplicate enrolment records, the enrolment figures for previous years can vary slightly from earlier reporting.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**997,960** people received protection services (**28** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**374,786** people registered on an individual basis (**25** countries) **147,020** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**18** countries)
Gender-based violence	**36,852** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**19** countries)
Child protection	**43,050** children and caregivers received child protection services (**15** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**292,023** people received legal assistance (**26** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**11,414** people consulted through participatory assessments (**27** countries) **70,085** people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**27** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**84,346** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**20** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**134,817** people received cash assistance (**22** countries) **375,937** people received non-food items (**17** countries) **35** people supported with improved cooking options (**1** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**221,544** people received shelter and housing assistance (**18** countries)
Healthy lives	**61,886** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**11** countries) **148,200** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**17** countries)
Education	**8,332** people benefited from education programming (**10** countries)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**17,652** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**2** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**10** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**27** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**8,551** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**15** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

Regional summary

Mathavi Sahathuan manages a UNHCR refugee centre in Malaysia, registering refugees and asylum-seekers who come mainly from Myanmar, including Rohingya, Chin, and other ethnic groups. Registration means refugees can obtain an ID document that opens up access to services such as health care and education, and helps to protect refugees by reducing their risk of arrest. © UNHCR/Azwan Rahim

Asia and the Pacific

In 2024, UNHCR advanced inclusive protection and solutions for over 17 million refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and other forcibly displaced and stateless people in Asia and the Pacific. These efforts unfolded against a backdrop of large-scale displacement, shrinking protection space, and dwindling resources.

Afghanistan remained at the epicentre of intersecting humanitarian, economic and human rights crises. Escalating restrictions, particularly against women and girls' education, movement and public participation, further compounded these challenges. These policies, combined with extreme weather events and severe funding shortfalls, deepened the suffering of many Afghans. Despite this, UNHCR provided protection and humanitarian assistance to over 1.7 million people across Afghanistan's 34 provinces through an approach prioritizing areas of returns. Women and girls remained front and centre of assistance, with over 50% of activities directly benefiting them.

Large-scale returns and deportations of Afghans from the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan continued in 2024. Since the launch of Pakistan's Illegal Foreigners' Repatriation Plan in late 2023, over 800,000 Afghans returned to Afghanistan from Pakistan, including some 38,700 deportees. the Islamic Republic of Iran deported over 764,000 undocumented Afghans in 2024. These returns and deportations took place despite a non-return advisory and strong advocacy by UNHCR.

UNHCR accelerated efforts to address refugee and host community needs via the recalibrated Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Afghanistan situation, providing essential services such as protection, health care, and livelihoods. Meanwhile, the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees Support Platform continued to drive collaboration in Afghanistan and neighbouring countries, engaging governments, development actors, UN agencies and civil society to bolster refugee inclusion, resilience and sustainable solutions.

In Myanmar, intensified violence across the country saw a rapid increase in the number of displaced people from 2.6 million in 2023 to over 3.5 million people by the end of 2024. Escalating conflict triggered internal and some cross-border movements, whilst some 1 million Rohingya remain hosted in refugee camps in neighbouring Bangladesh. Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Government, the 2024 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was launched, targeting 1.35 million people in need. UNHCR's Guidance Note on Myanmar urged States to grant civilians fleeing Myanmar access to territory, uphold the right to seek asylum and respect the principle of non-refoulement. Despite ongoing instability, UNHCR and partners reached 15 of Myanmar's 16 states and regions, delivering protection and life-saving assistance to over 1 million people, including 500,000 people who received in-kind support.

Efforts toward durable solutions were stepped up in 2024: UNHCR submitted over 42,100 of the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement consideration while complementary pathways provided opportunities to more than 5,100 people across the region.

In 2024, more than 11,300 Rohingya – 72% of whom were women and children – embarked on dangerous journeys overland or by boat. Of these, 9,200 undertook perilous boat crossings – a 112% increase compared to 2023. Tragically, over 650 people were reported dead or missing at sea. UNHCR continued to advocate for compassion and hospitality for Rohingya refugees who risked their lives in a desperate search for protection and safety, while also calling for greater coordination to save lives at sea, deploy rescue capacities and enable safe and timely disembarkation, in the spirit of responsibility sharing.

UNHCR also ramped up efforts to mitigate the impact of online misinformation, disinformation and hate speech by deploying tools that identify and address information integrity risks. In-depth research shaped actionable recommendations and technical guidance for field operations, informed the creation and dissemination of effective counter-narratives, and supported the development of tailored monitoring tools for specific country contexts. Strategic partnerships with civil society, refugee communities, governments and the private sector were leveraged to enhance communication, advocacy, and programmatic responses.

With UNHCR's support through the decade-long #IBelong campaign, Central Asian States made significant strides in reducing and preventing statelessness, resolving over 200,000 cases since 2014 across Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. In 2024, UNHCR unveiled the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, with Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Turkmenistan joining to reaffirm their commitment to resolving statelessness. Central Asian States also jointly adopted the Ashgabat Declaration on Ending Statelessness, demonstrating strong political will and regional collaboration. These efforts were bolstered by UNHCR's role in regional fora, including the preparation of a new UN resolution on inclusive civil registration and vital statistics systems.

Extreme weather events continued to disproportionately impact the region, especially through sudden-onset events and disaster displacement. Heavy rains and flooding in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan underscored the urgent need for inclusive adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures. In line with its Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action, UNHCR advanced efforts to build the resilience of refugees and other displaced people by advocating for their inclusion in national plans and disaster risk reduction.

In Bangladesh, five facilities were equipped with solar power, 52 sites were connected to electricity, and 11,000 solar streetlights were maintained in UNHCR-managed camps. In Pakistan, UNHCR improved 14 priority water supply schemes, installed 50 rainwater harvesting units, and upgraded water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in 24 schools. These efforts generated 8,600 kW of clean energy in 2024, cut 5,300 tons of annual CO_2 emissions and benefited over 500,000 refugees and host community members.

UNHCR advanced consultations with governments, NGOs and international organizations to implement the two significant multi-stakeholder pledges adopted at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, ReSolve for resilience and solutions to the Afghanistan situation and Expanded Resilience, Enhanced Solutions for Rohingya Refugees, informing stocktaking ahead of the 2025 High-Level Officials meeting.

© Rokada

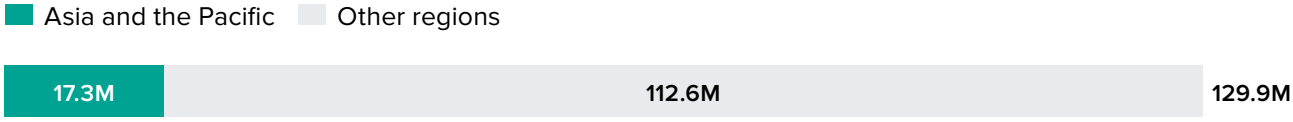
The power of collective action to drive positive change in global humanitarian response

In 2024, Mr. Hideo Yamada, through his company YAMADA HOLDINGS LLC, made a significant unearmarked contribution of ¥300 million (approximately $1.9M) to Japan for UNHCR. This flexible funding allows UNHCR to allocate resources where it is most needed, enabling us to respond swiftly to crises and fill any funding critical gaps anywhere in the world. An additional donation of ¥100 million (approximately $640,000) was given to support UNHCR's efforts in Ukraine. Mr. Yamada expressed his aspiration to continue impactful social contributions, aiming to create a better society for future generations. His generous donations are a testament to his profound support for those in need and his belief in the power of collective action to drive positive change.

Population overview

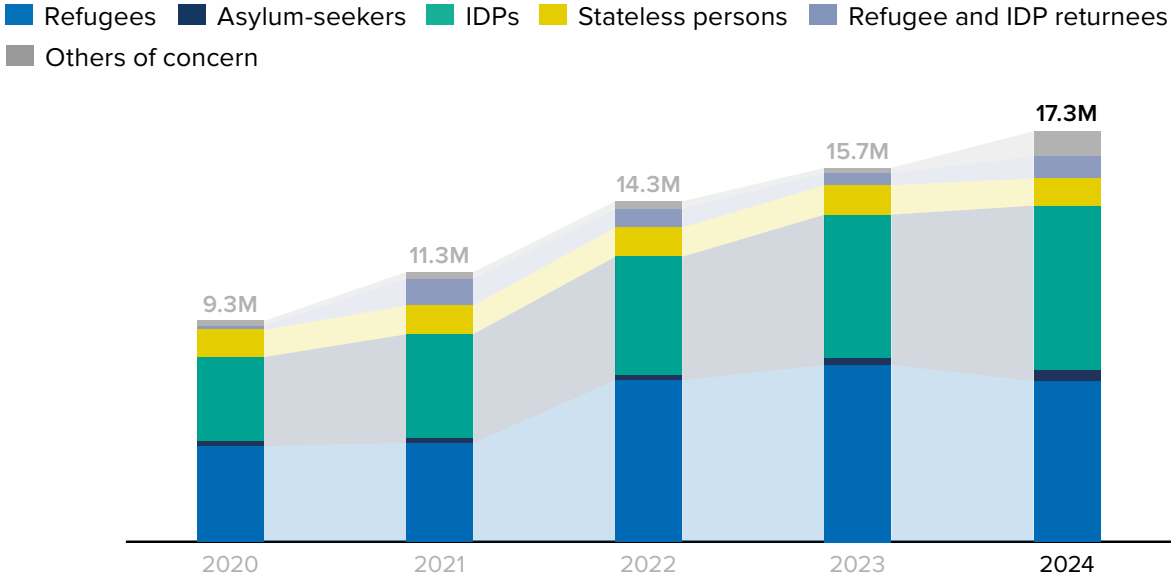
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

13% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

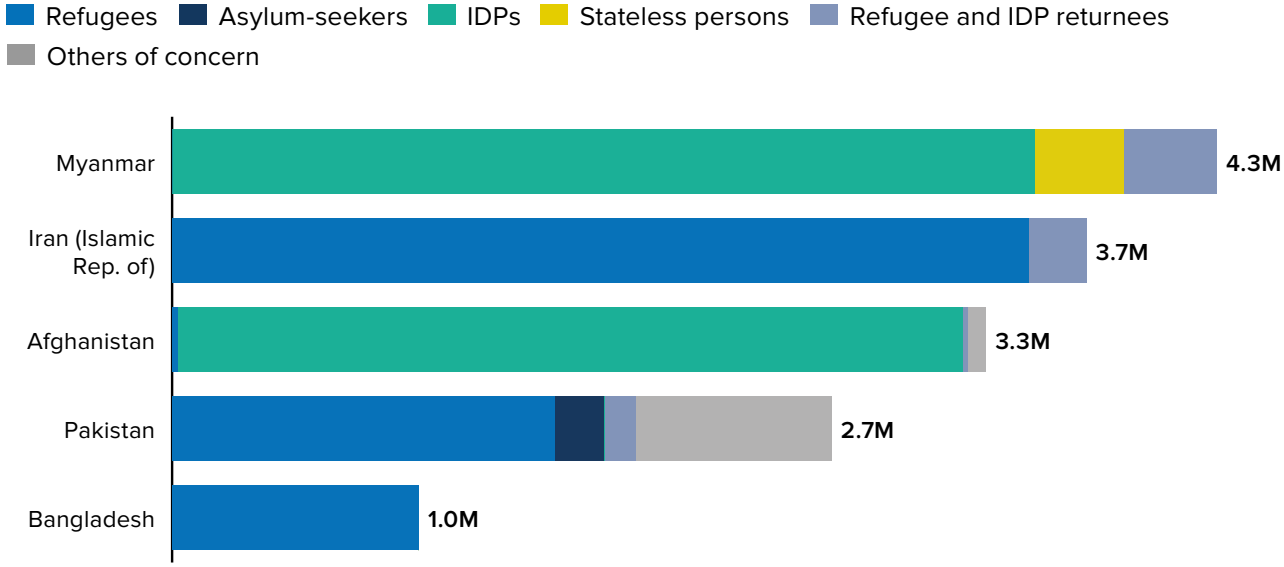


Displacement trend | 2020-2024

+10% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population | 2024



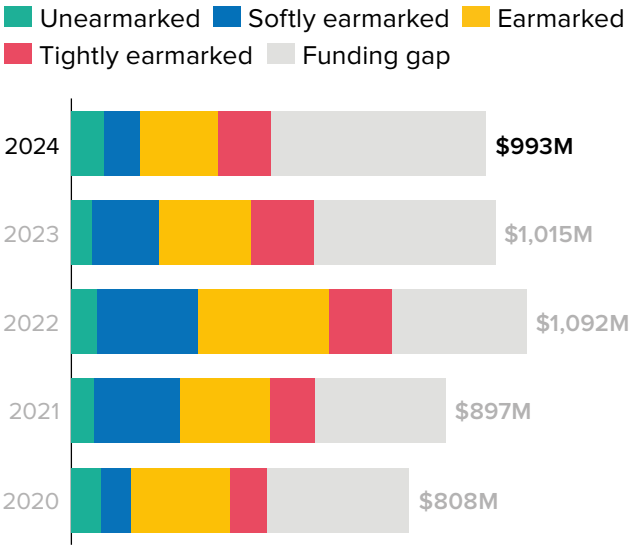
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

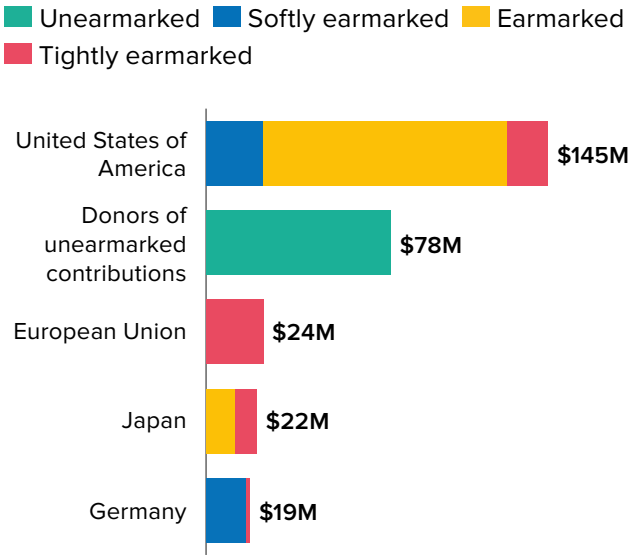
$478 million spent against a budget of $993 million
$515 million of unmet needs or **52%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$478.3 million of funds available (**48%**) in 2024 out of $993.2 million required



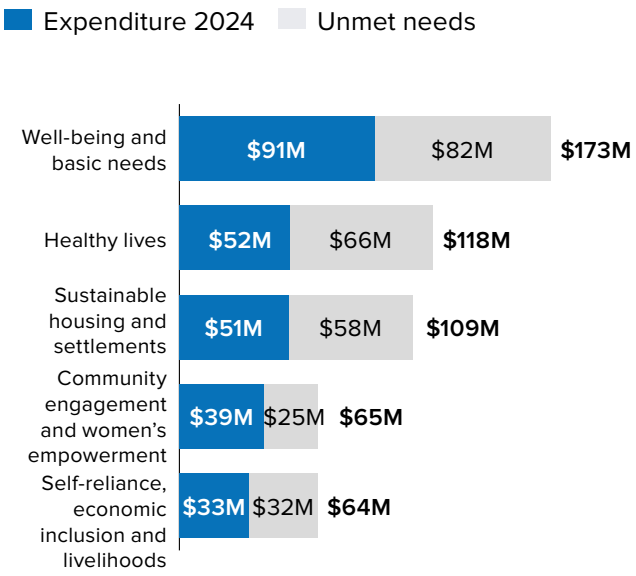
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments =$191 million

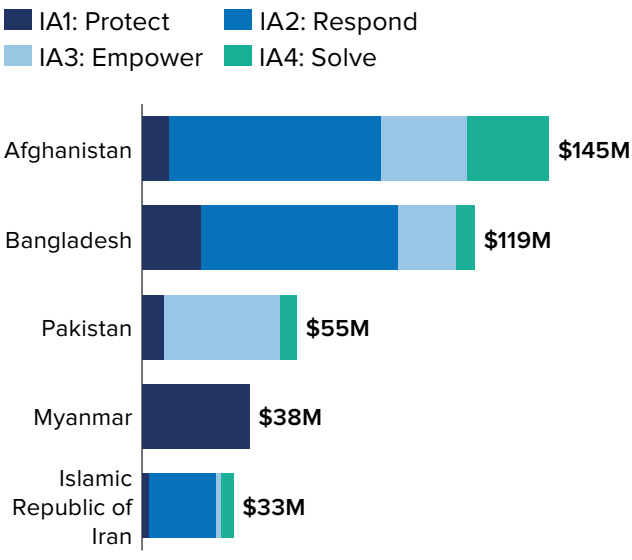
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **55%** of the total regional expenditure of $478 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **81%** of the total regional expenditure of $478 million.

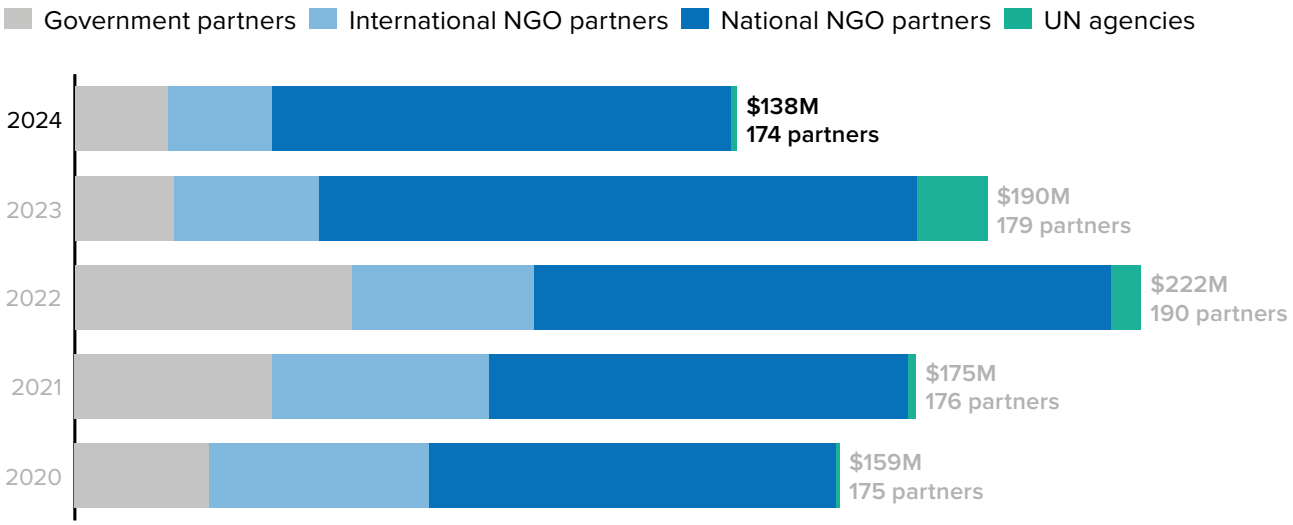


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

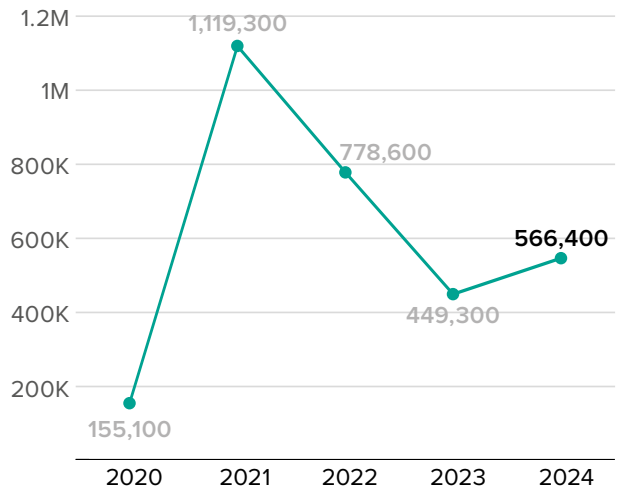
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$138 million (-27% from 2023) spent through **174 partners** (-3%) in 2024

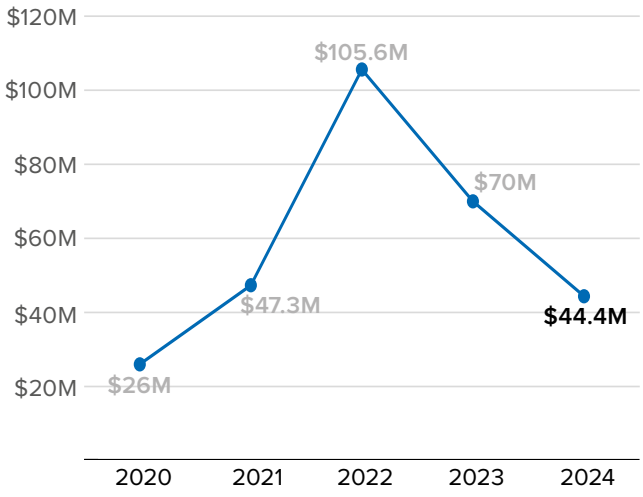


Regional trends

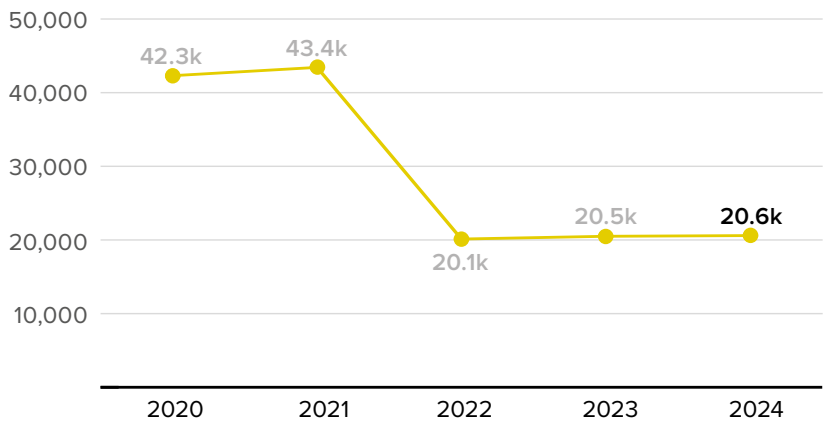
IDP returns across the region | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



Stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed in the region | 2020-2024



Historical data has been revised.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection
- **2.6 million** people received protection services (**26** countries)

Access to territory, registration and documentation
- **211,609** people registered on an individual basis (**21** countries)
- **718,590** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**11** countries)

Gender-based violence
- **272,758** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**11** countries)

Child protection
- **297,591** children and caregivers received child protection services (**10** countries)

Safety and access to justice
- **153,845** people received legal assistance (**12** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment
- **31,839** people consulted through participatory assessments (**17** countries)
- **875,358** people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**26** countries)

Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods
- **51,991** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**13** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs
- **602,400** people received cash assistance (**18** countries)
- **1.3 million** people received non-food items (**9** countries)
- **439,925** people supported with improved cooking options (**2** countries)

Sustainable housing and settlements
- **337,311** people received shelter and housing assistance (**8** countries)

Healthy lives
- **4.5 million** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**12** countries)
- **442,767** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**12** countries)

Education
- **112,265** people benefited from education programming (**12** countries)

Clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- **486,685** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**2** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration
- **28,155** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**17** countries)

Local integration and local solutions
- **11,209** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**6** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

In Bamyan, Afghanistan, 19 women graduate from a midwife training programme supported by UNHCR and the European Union, and run by UNHCR's partner WSTA. "I'm very proud, excited and happy to have graduated and to have had this opportunity", says Tahira, one of the graduating class. "There are high numbers of mothers and newborns dying and we will do our best to try to help the mothers and children of Afghanistan."
© UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

Regional summary

Ukrainian refugees wait at the RomExpo Integrated Services Hub in Bucharest, Romania. © UNHCR/Ioana Moldovan

Europe

Europe remained among the regions with the highest number of forcibly displaced people globally in 2024, with 20.7 million refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced people (IDPs) and stateless people.

As the international armed conflict between **Ukraine** and the Russian Federation continued for a third year, the security situation in the country continued to deteriorate. Some 3.7 million people were internally displaced, as ongoing hostilities and attacks on civilian infrastructure forced hundreds of thousands to evacuate to safer regions inside the country and flee abroad, leading to growing humanitarian needs among civilians.

During the year, UNHCR continued to respond to the needs of people affected by attacks and airstrikes across the country. To support people fleeing frontline areas, UNHCR and partners provided assistance to evacuees arriving at government-run collective sites, including repairs and refurbishments, supply of equipment as well as psychosocial support, legal counselling and support with finding available accommodation at collective sites.

UNHCR delivered over 1.66 million multi-sectoral services to people in need in 2024, reaching 666,200 people with protection services including legal assistance, information on rights and entitlements, psychosocial support, child protection services, and support for survivors of sexual violence, exploitation and other forms of violence and abuse. Nearly 610,000 displaced people and returnees were reached with multi-purpose cash or cash for winter needs inside Ukraine, with $171 million disbursed during the year. More than 275,000 vulnerable people received winter support, including 224,250 reached with cash for additional winter needs, 33,150 with essential items, and 18,000 with shelter/housing support. UNHCR contributed to 120 inter-agency convoys to assess the humanitarian situation across various regions, delivering 175,000 essential items to people in hard-to-reach frontline areas.

By end-2024, 5.1 million Ukrainians were registered as **refugees** and **asylum-seekers**, mainly in Europe, where many Ukrainians were registered under the European Union (EU)'s Temporary Protection Directive – which was extended until March 2026 – as well as other similar national schemes. In addition, more than 500,000 displaced Ukrainians were in Canada and the United States under various legal statuses. Outside Ukraine, UNHCR and partners provided 88,850 most vulnerable refugees with cash assistance, and over 475,000 people received protection information and services, legal support, and livelihoods support from UNHCR and partners.

UNHCR coordinated the 2024 inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the Ukraine Situation, engaging more than 300 partners across 11 countries to meet the immediate needs of refugees, including education, health care, and accommodation, while promoting access to decent work with a view to fostering longer term access to services. UNHCR continued to transition the Blue Dot Protection Hubs into a network of inclusive community and support centers, with the intention to unify these centers.

While not promoting or facilitating returns to Ukraine in 2024, UNHCR worked to help refugees to reach well-informed and truly voluntary decisions for those considering possible returns, including through the Ukraine is Home digital platform, noting that whilst some individuals were choosing to return home it is crucial that such decisions are well informed and made voluntarily in the context of the ongoing international armed conflict.

Türkiye remained among the top refugee-hosting countries globally, with some 3 million refugees – the majority of them Syrians. UNHCR prioritized the needs of refugees and the host community affected by the 2023 earthquakes through shelter, core relief items and cash assistance, while undertaking protection monitoring, and advocacy. In urban areas, UNHCR worked to facilitate access to services, increasing self-reliance and promoting social cohesion for refugees, while reinforcing access to livelihood opportunities. During the year, over 10,750 refugees departed from Türkiye to third countries through resettlement.

Following significant developments inside the Syrian Arab Republic, over 175,500 Syrians have returned from Türkiye since December 2024[1],with more expected to return in 2025. In December, UNHCR issued a Position on Return to the Syrian Arab Republic stating that any return should be made voluntarily, in safety and dignity, noting UNHCR stands ready to assist refugees who choose to return in a fully informed manner. UNHCR asked States to refrain from forced return of Syrians and maintain access to asylum for them as conditions did not meet for declaration of cessation of status/international protection.

Meanwhile, UNHCR's engagement with States in Europe focused on ensuring Syrians have access to objective and up-to-date information on the situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic and on the potential impact of visits on their legal status, access to rights and assistance in host countries. The Government of Türkiye announced a mechanism for temporary go-and-see visits from 1 January – 1 July 2025, which UNHCR considers an important confidence-building measure to allow refugees to make voluntary and well-informed decisions on possible return.

Arrivals by sea along the Mediterranean and northwest African maritime routes continued towards Europe at a high rate, with nearly 200,000 people arriving in 2024, though with a 26% decline from the year prior. Over 3,500 people were reported dead or missing along all the three Mediterranean and northwest Africa maritime routes, with the actual figure predicted to be significantly higher. The northwest African maritime route towards Spain's Canary Islands saw a further rise in arrivals from the year prior, overtaking the western Mediterranean as the primary sea route towards Spain.

Expulsions, violent pushbacks, and maltreatment continued to be reported by refugees and migrants attempting to reach Europe through irregular crossings, as some countries proceeded with strict border controls and bilateral transfer agreements, potentially impeding access to international protection and solutions for forcibly displaced people.

[1] As of 16 April 2025.

UNHCR engaged with states and regional institutions, including the EU, to ensure fair and efficient responses to migratory and refugee movements, while advancing a **route-based approach** to work with states and national actors in ensuring international protection and solutions for refugees.

In 2024, over 17,750 submissions were made globally to **resettle** refugees in Europe, with the region receiving over 14,100 refugees through resettlement.

UNHCR and partners continued to identify opportunities to expand employment for refugees in the region, working with governments and the private sector to remove obstacles to their labour and financial inclusion, as well as with the European Banking Authority, European Commission, development actors, financial service providers, refugee-led organizations and NGOs. Refugee Employment Platforms were expanded across eight countries in Europe[2], linking the private sector, forcibly displaced people and integration actors to enhance refugee employment and pinpoint economic inclusion gaps and opportunities to guide policies.

[2] Cyprus, Finland, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Romania, United Kingdom

© UNHCR/Komma Godfrey Andrugaa

Postcode Lotteries: UNHCR's steadfast partner in unrestricted giving

In 2024, UNHCR received a total of $6.2 million of unrestricted contributions from The Postcode Lotteries in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany. This generous and reliable support helps UNHCR to respond rapidly and efficiently to refugee crises worldwide.

The German Postcode Lottery has taken 2024 as the year to top up the existing partnership with extra funding of $520,833 (€500,000). UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe will now receive $2,154,820 (€2,000,000) per year in unrestricted funding.

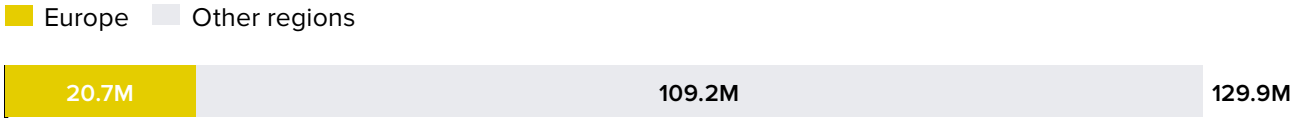
2024 also marked the first year of the extra contribution to UNHCR's operation in Aruba & Curacao. This very generous extra contribution of $1,906,826 (€1,760,000) from the Dutch Postcode Lottery enables UNHCR and partners to provide life-saving support and protection to refugees and migrants on the islands in 2024 and 2025.

The $1,478,921 (1,600,000 SEK) Dream project in the United Republic of Tanzania funded by the Swedish Postcode Lottery was implemented in 2024 with 14 health centres being solarized. This will save lives and improve the health of 207,000 refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania by increasing access to health care close to where they live.

Population overview

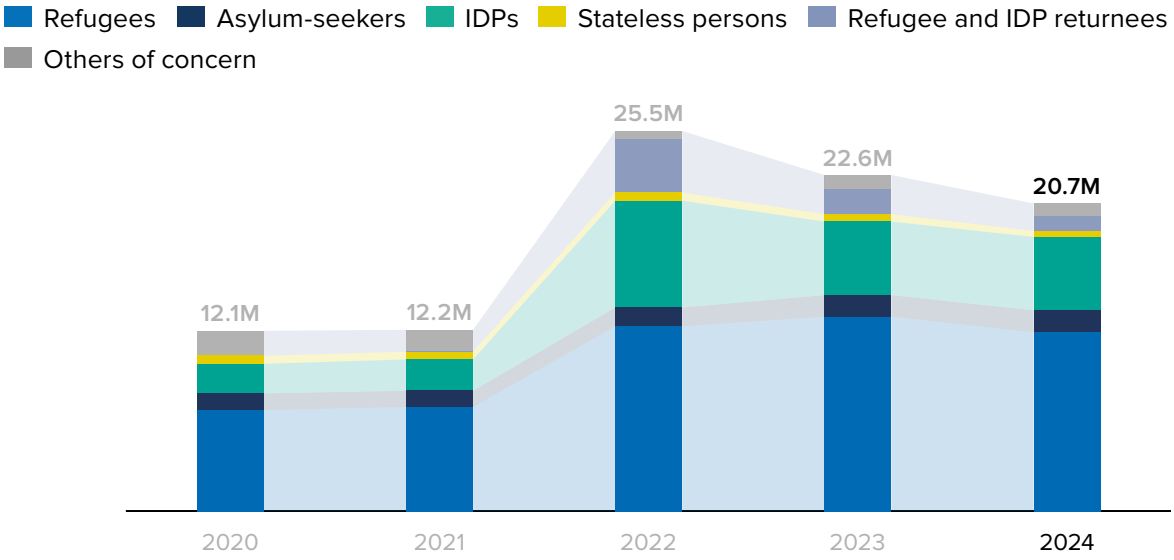
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

16% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

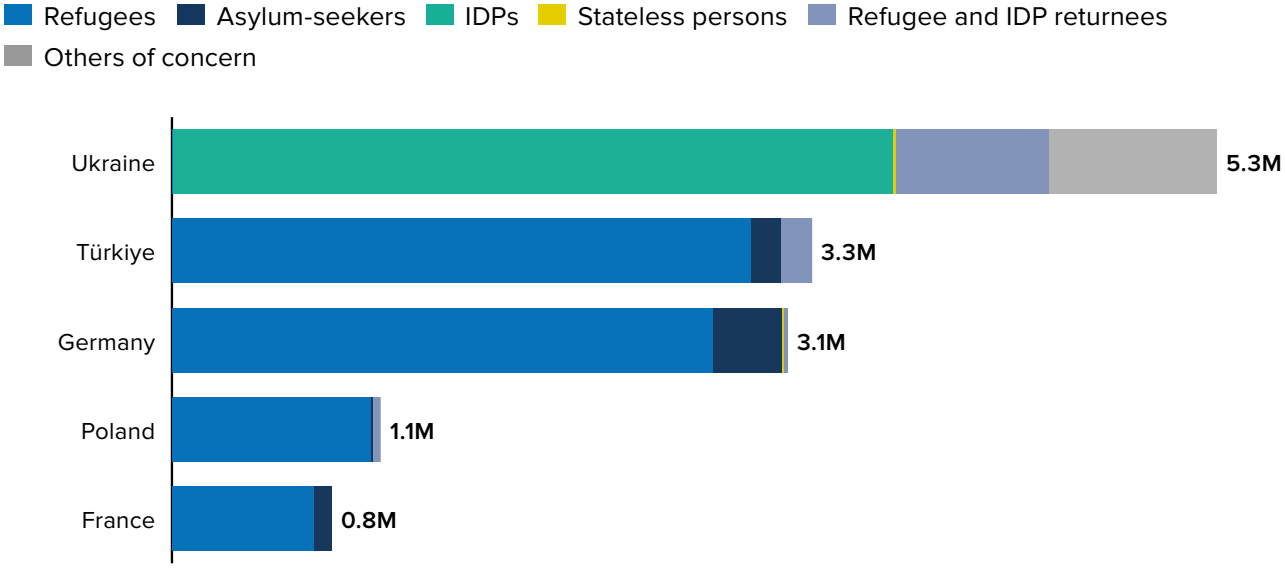


Displacement trend | 2020-2024

-8% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population | 2024



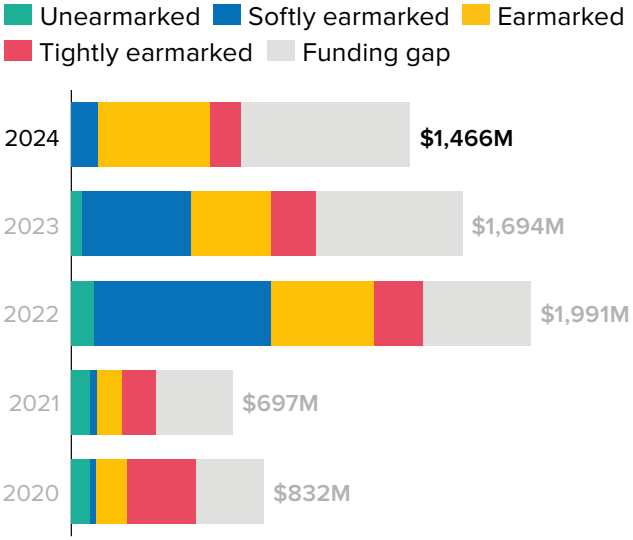
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

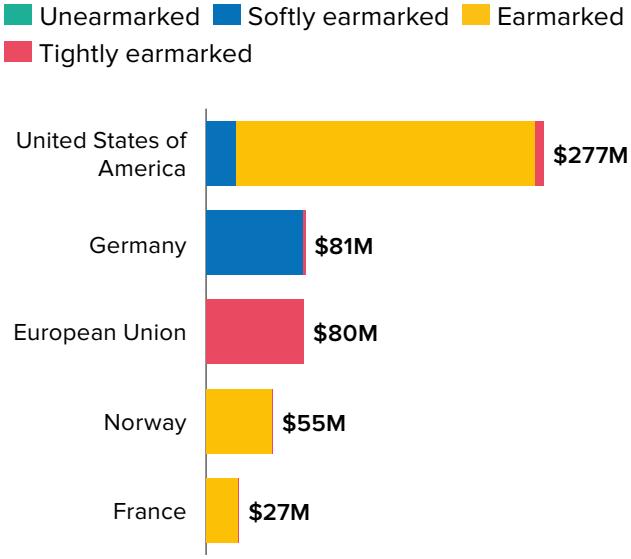
$732 million spent against a budget of $1.466 billion
$735 million of unmet needs or **50%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$731.7 million funds available (50%) in 2024 out of 1.466 billion required



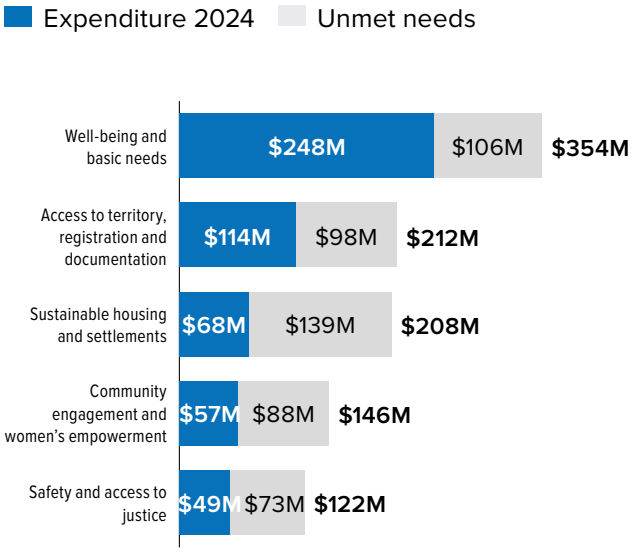
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments =$211 million

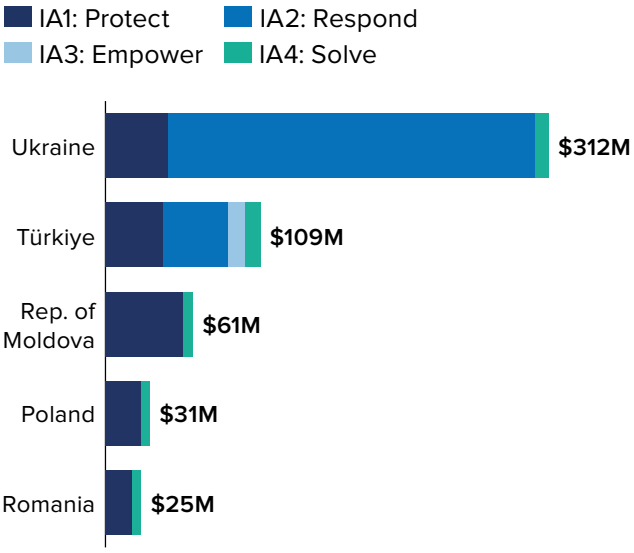
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **73%** of the total regional expenditure of $732 million.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **74%** of the total regional expenditure of $732 million.

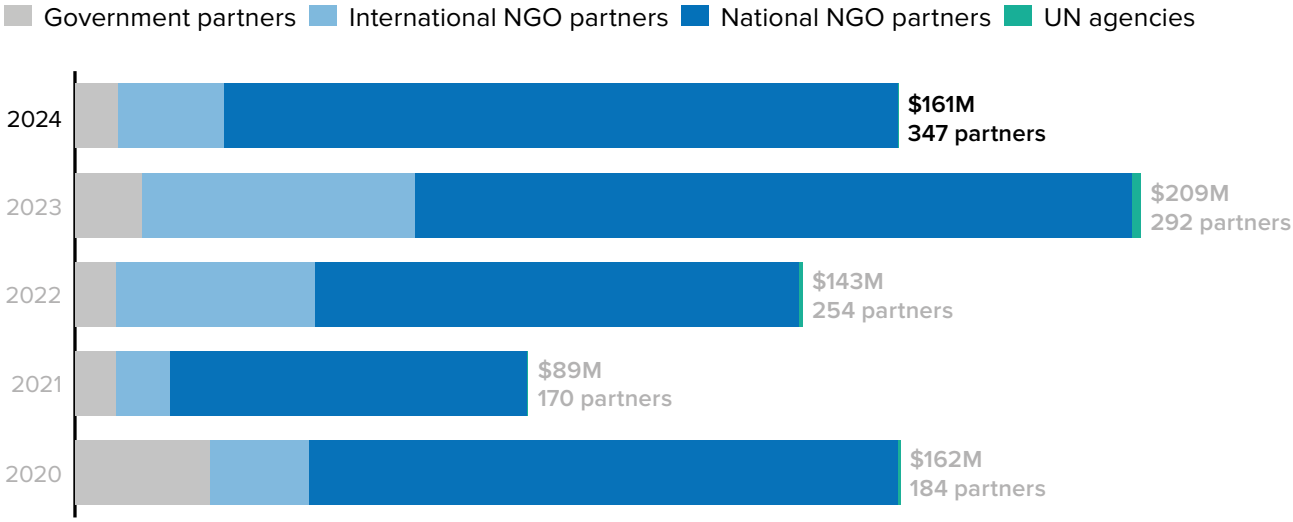


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

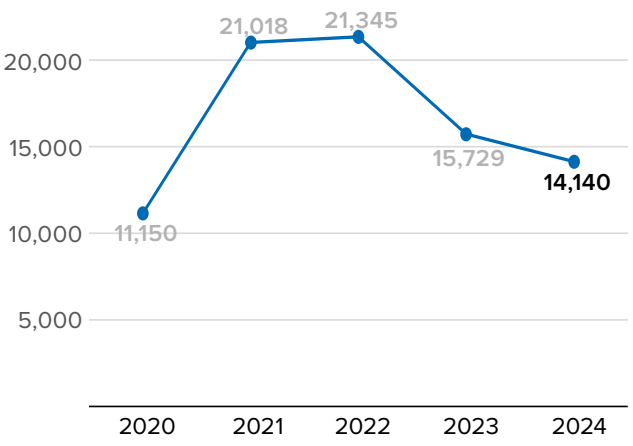
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$161 million (-23% from 2023) spent through **174 partners** (+19%) in 2024

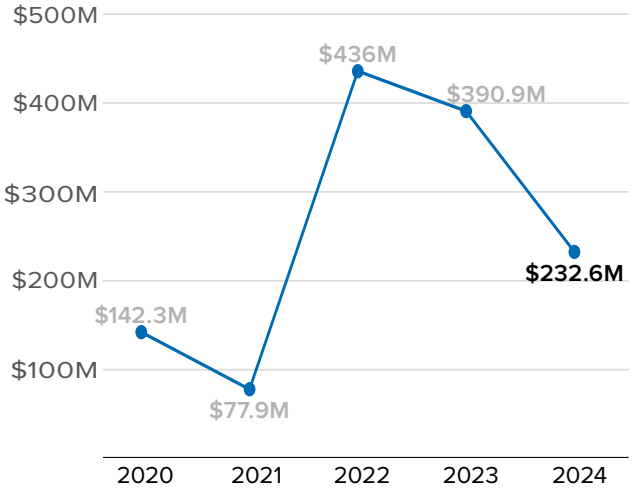


Regional trends

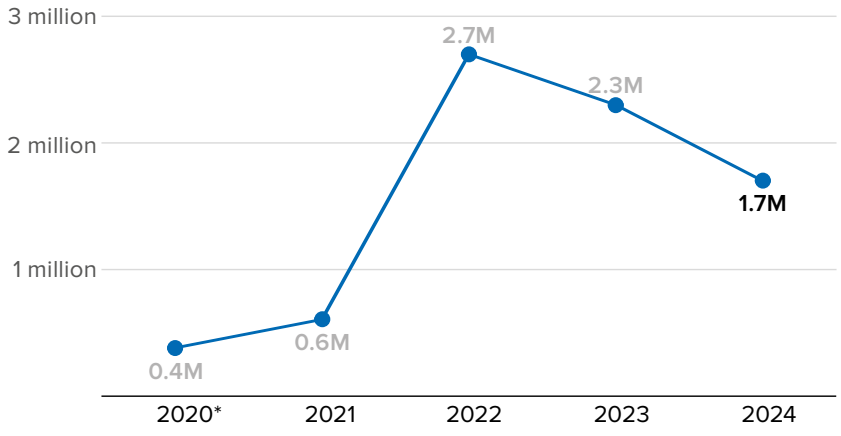
Resettlement departures to countries in Europe | 2020-2024



Cash assistance | 2020-2024



Individuals accessing protection services | 2020-2024



*2020 was part of UNHCR's Covid-19 response.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**1.7 million** people received protection services (**28** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**135,486** people registered on an individual basis (**7** countries) **274,114** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**18** countries)
Gender-based violence	**49,954** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**15** countries)
Child protection	**119,937** children and caregivers received child protection services (**15** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**216,074** people received legal assistance (**27** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**19,350** people consulted through participatory assessments (**28** countries) **805,809** people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**27** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**134,904** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**23** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**733,042** people received cash assistance (**19** countries) **322,293** people received non-food items (**7** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**171,886** people received shelter and housing assistance (**5** countries)
Healthy lives	**4,013** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**4** countries) **247,895** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**23** countries)
Education	**27,972** people benefited from education programming (**12** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**15,467** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**9** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**90,081** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**23** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner Kelly T. Clements visits a “Metro School” in Kharkiv’s underground station network during her mission to Ukraine in November 2024. The underground school network opened in September 2023 to help children continue their education during the war. UNHCR contributed construction materials to help repair restrooms for the schools. © UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

Regional summary

Syrian refugee Shadia Mohammad Jesm, 50, stands at the door of her tent in the Jasmine refugee camp in Saadnayel, Lebanon, where she has lived for the past five years, just a few kilometres from Masnaa, which borders the Syrian Arab Republic. Thousands of Syrians have reportedly crossed back into the Syrian Arab Republic from Lebanon through the Masnaa official border point, which reopened on 8 December 2024. "It's all very uncertain in Syria now," Shadia says. "We want to go back, but we are afraid. I only wish the best for my country." © UNHCR/Ximena Borrazas

Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region grappled with numerous new conflicts throughout 2024. At year-end, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in the region stood at 3.4 million people, representing a 26% increase from the 2.7 million registered at the end of the previous year. The number of internally displaced people rose slightly to 13.4 million, with new displacement largely offset by returns. UNHCR also reported some 363,000 stateless people in MENA in 2024. However, due to data limitations, this figure is understood not to reflect the total population of those impacted by statelessness in the region.

Israeli attacks and hostilities in Gaza continued to affect regional stability. In late September 2024, intensified Israeli airstrikes in Lebanon led to the displacement of approximately 1.2 million people, according to government authorities, including an estimated 560,000 people who fled from Lebanon into the Syrian Arab Republic.

On 27 November 2024, a 60-day ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon took effect. On the same day, non-State armed groups launched an offensive in the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, which rapidly spread across the country, ultimately resulting in the fall of the Assad government by 8 December 2024. In the aftermath, Syrians expressed cautious optimism, with some considering the possibility of returning home. Within weeks, over 58,000 Syrian refugees returned to the country, primarily from Türkiye, Jordan and Lebanon. Throughout this period, UNHCR maintained regular engagement with Syrian refugees, providing up-to-date information, listening to their concerns, and assessing their perceptions and intentions about returning home.

By the end of 2024, displacement patterns within and from the Syrian Arab Republic remained multi-directional and overlapping. Intensified hostilities between armed groups displaced hundreds of thousands, and by the end of the year the number of internally displaced Syrians was 7.4 million, 161,000 higher than at the end of 2023. Meanwhile, most Lebanese who had fled to the Syrian Arab Republic in response to Israeli strikes returned to Lebanon following the ceasefire. In this uncertain environment, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance services – including basic aid, shelter interventions, and health support – to forcibly displaced populations in both Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, in coordination with the authorities.

The conflict in Sudan resulted in Sudanese fleeing to Egypt, placing immense pressure on Egypt's resources and infrastructure. The Government of Egypt reported that 1.5 million Sudanese had arrived since the start of the crisis in April 2023, which would make Egypt the largest host country for Sudanese refugees. By the end of 2024, UNHCR had recorded 603,000 of the Sudanese in Egypt as refugees and asylum-seekers.

An increasing number of Sudanese also fled to Libya, with an estimated 228,800 arriving in 2024. Almost 30,800 of them were registered as asylum-seekers by UNHCR. The remaining 198,000 were estimated based on the issuance of health cards in areas outside of Tripoli and reported as people in a refugee-like situation. This brought the total number of Sudanese refugees and asylum-seekers in Libya to 255,600 by the end of 2024, almost doubling the total number of forcibly displaced people hosted in the country.

In June, the Tunisian Government communicated to UNHCR its intention to take ownership of asylum management, including through the development of an appropriate legal framework. The Government instructed UNHCR to suspend the registration of new asylum-seekers and refugee status determination activities. Subsequently, UNHCR has continued advocating with the Government for interim measures, including the resumption of at least some steps of the asylum process, such as registration and/or documentation, and identification/referrals of the most vulnerable applicants.

Mauritania continued to be impacted by the worsening crisis in neighbouring Mali, with around 110,000 new arrivals in 2024. In June, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government, UN agencies and partners, published a Refugee Response Plan responding to the large influx of Malians in Hodh Chargui. The plan builds on existing development approaches and resilience projects to address the urgent protection and basic needs of refugees.

Meanwhile, Yemen remained one of the world's worst humanitarian crises; after almost ten years of conflict, with nearly 4.8 million IDPs and 18 million people depending on humanitarian assistance, including 60,900 refugees and asylum-seekers. Detentions of United Nations and non-governmental organization staff, along with heightened restrictions on humanitarian operations, remained critical concerns.

Conflicts in MENA and neighbouring regions continued to drive mixed and onward movements to and from North Africa. Along the Central Mediterranean route, between January and December 2024, arrivals from Tunisia to Italy dropped to some 19,000 individuals, an 80% decrease compared to the previous year, largely due to increased measures taken by Tunisian authorities to reduce irregular movements. During the same period, some 41,500 people arrived in Italy from Libya, marking a 20% decrease. While numbers along the Western Mediterranean route remained stable, arrivals via the Northwest African route to the Canary Islands increased by 17%, to some 46,800 arrivals.

© UNHCR/Khaled Kabbara

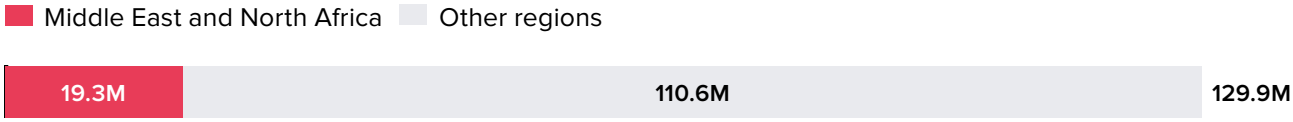
Qatar Charity's commitment to Islamic Philanthropy supports humanitarian efforts

Since 2012, Qatar Charity has been a strategic partner of UNHCR, devoting over $60.2 million to support forcibly displaced people in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, benefiting more than 2.1 million individuals. Building on its commitment to Islamic Philanthropy, Qatar Charity signed a renewed Letter of Intent with UNHCR in 2024 and pledged $5 million over 2025–2026 to support people who have been forced to flee. At the 2024 Doha Forum, UNHCR and Qatar Charity reinforced their partnership through two new agreements totalling $1.3 million, which will support more than 18,000 refugees in Ethiopia and Jordan.

Population overview

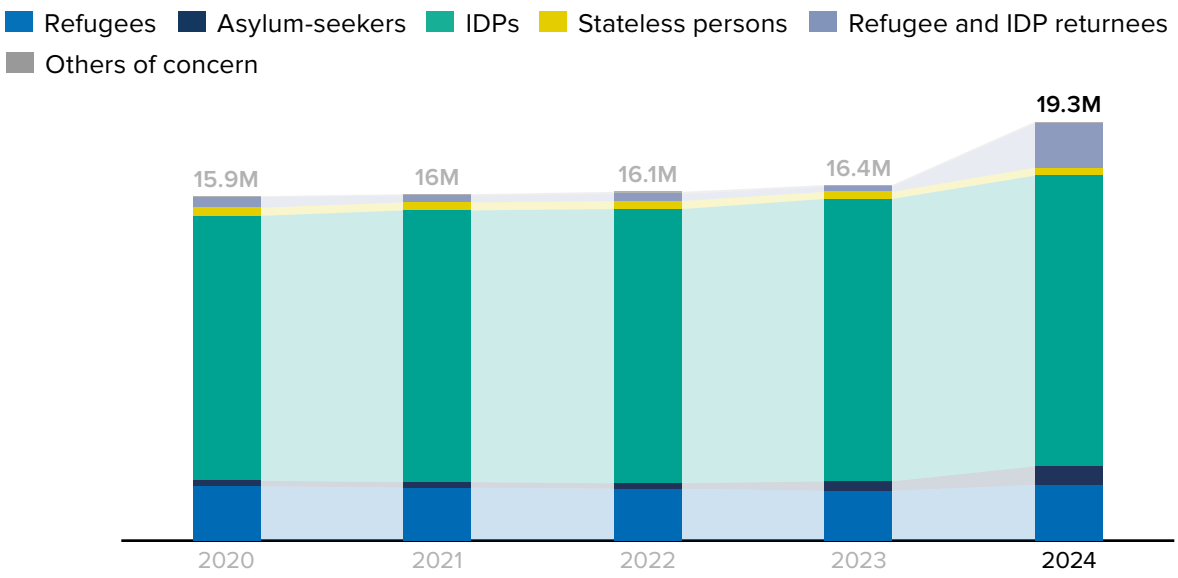
Forcibly displaced and stateless population | 2024

15% of the global forcibly displaced and stateless population

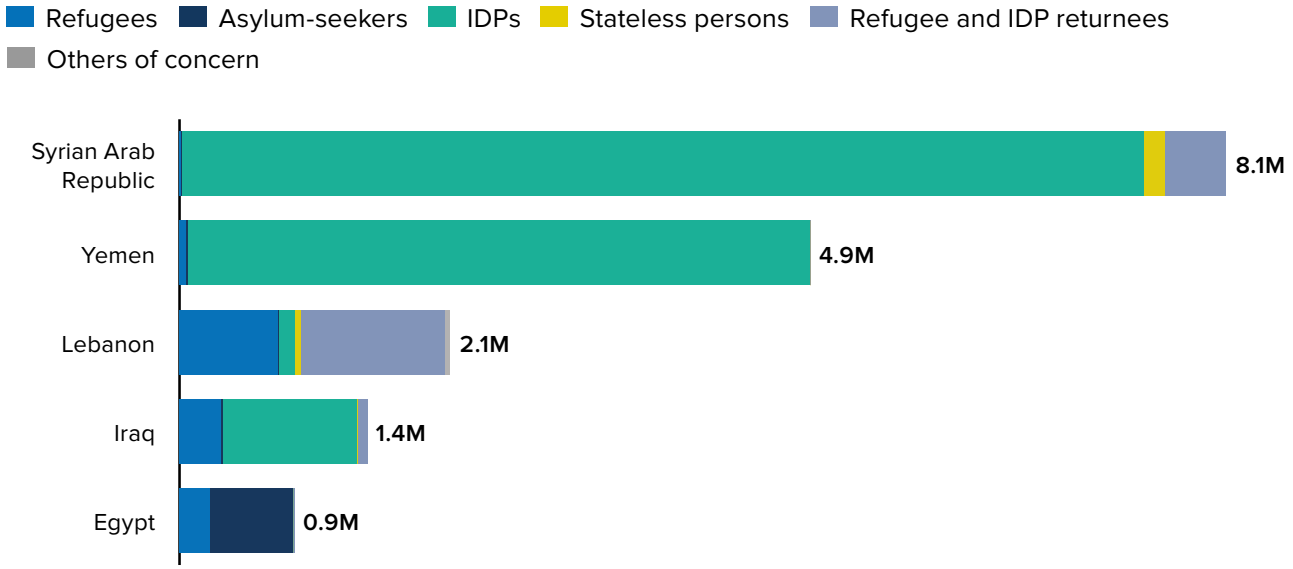


Displacement trend | 2020-2024

+18% in 2024 compared to 2023



Top 5 operations by population | 2024



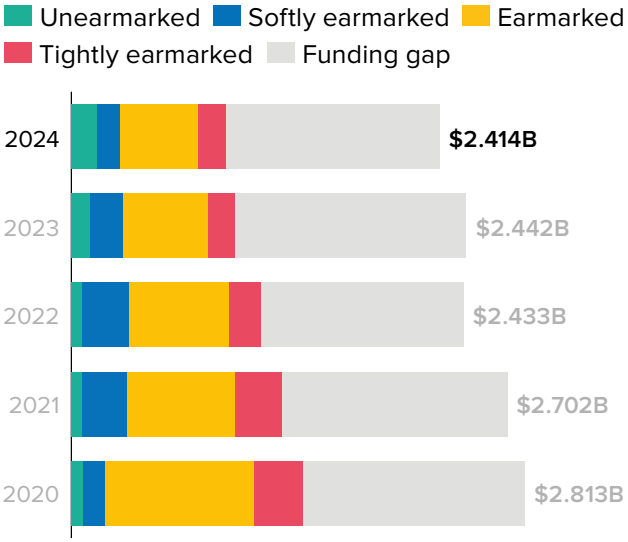
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget | 2024

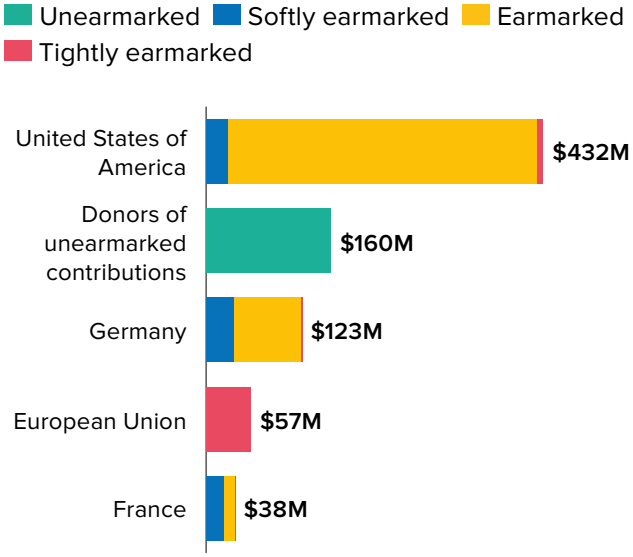
$1.090 billion spent against a budget of $2.414 billion
$1.324 billion of unmet needs or **55%** of the budget

Regional funding and earmarking | 2020-2024

$1.090 billion funds available (45%) out of the $2.414 billion required



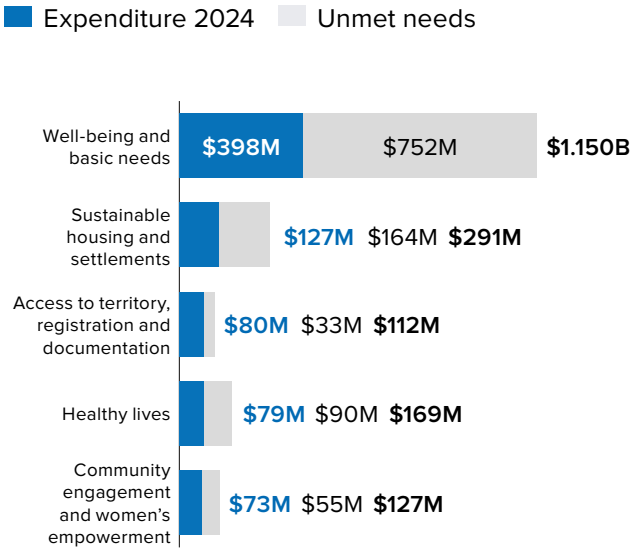
Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2024



Voluntary contributions from all other donors, carry-over and other adjustments =$281 million

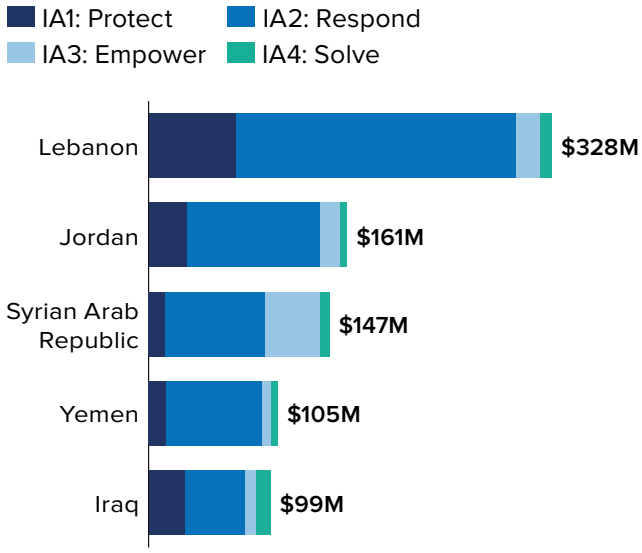
Top 5 areas of expenditure | 2024

These 5 areas accounted for **69%** of the total regional expenditure of $1.090 billion.



Operations with the highest expenditure | 2024

These five operations accounted for **77%** of the total regional expenditure of $1.090 billion.

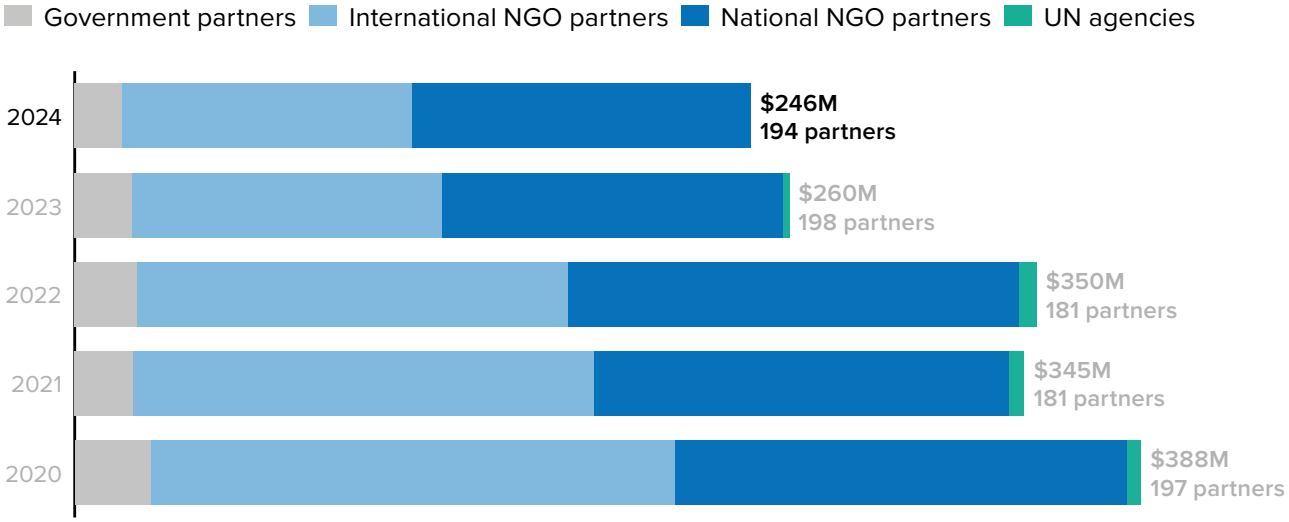


IA stands for Impact Area.

Click here to download a spreadsheet of regional financial tables

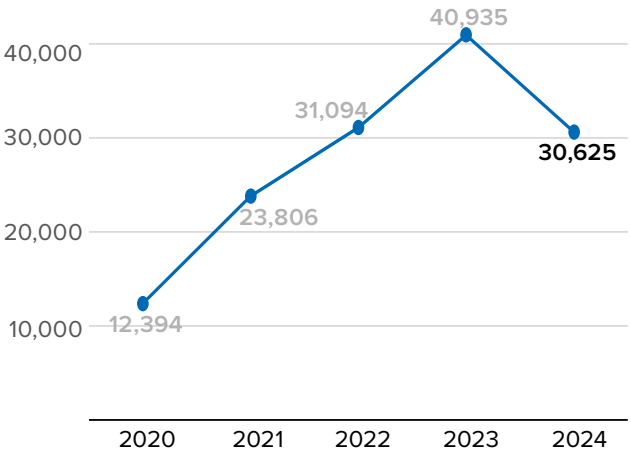
Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024 (USD)

$246 million (-5% from 2023) spent through **194 partners** (-2%) in 2024



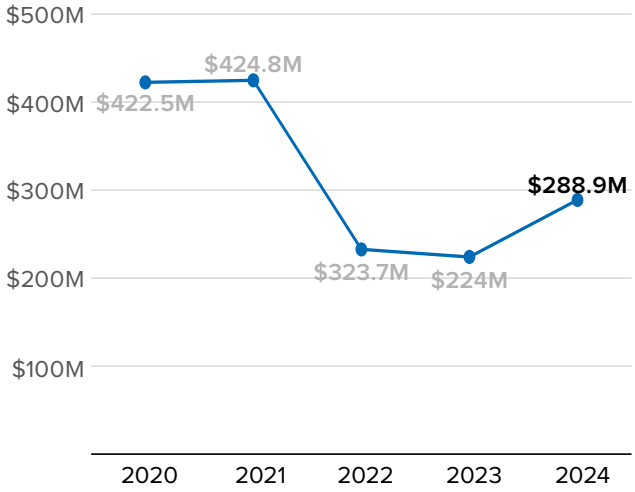
Regional trends

Resettlement departures | 2020-2024

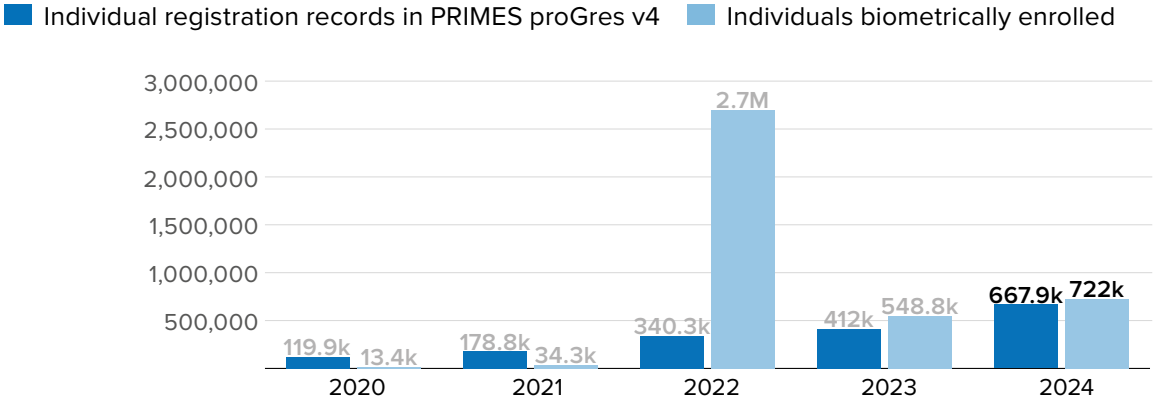


Resettlement figures include departures from Türkiye.

Cash assistance | 2020-2024



New individual registration records | 2020-2024



Individual registration records in PRIMES proGres v4 includes all forcibly displaced and stateless people registered each year, regardless of their current process status: “active”, “hold”, “inactive”, or “closed”. The expansion of BIMS in some regions led to an increase in individuals enrolled. Due to resolution of adjudication cases of duplicate enrolment records, enrolment figures from previous years can vary slightly from earlier reporting.

2024 Year-end achievements

Core output indicators

Reporting period 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024

Attaining favourable protection environments

Protection	**4.3 million** people received protection services (**16** countries)
Access to territory, registration and documentation	**625,846** people registered on an individual basis (**15** countries) **1.4 million** people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**11** countries)
Gender-based violence	**203,811** people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**12** countries)
Child protection	**303,705** children and caregivers received child protection services (**12** countries)
Safety and access to justice	**505,852** people received legal assistance (**12** countries)

Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Community engagement and women's empowerment	**22,049** people consulted through participatory assessments (**15** countries) **1.6 million** people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback (**16** countries)
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	**28,596** people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**9** countries)

Realizing rights in safe environments

Well-being and basic needs	**2.2 million** people received cash assistance (**15** countries) **1.4 million** people received non-food items (**8** countries) **160,635** people supported with improved cooking options (**3** countries)
Sustainable housing and settlements	**533,472** people received shelter and housing assistance (**10** countries)
Healthy lives	**1.3 million** individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**12** countries) **230,116** consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**12** countries)
Education	**261,580** people benefited from education programming (**12** countries)
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	**320,366** people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**3** countries)

Securing solutions

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	**24,291** people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**16** countries)
Local integration and local solutions	**460** people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**5** countries)

These 2024 figures might be underreported due to some country operations submitting their data late, which prevented consolidation at the global level. However, all 154 countries did participate in this reporting for 2024.

People reported under the core output indicators include refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees as well as internally displaced and stateless people. One operation may include more than one country.

Source: UNHCR and Partners

Areas of strategic focus

Having spent years as refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a group of families attend an awareness-raising session in Bangui in the Central African Republic (CAR), after choosing to come home. One of the former refugees, Micheline Yapiroua, described how she, her husband, their five children, and her mother, fled from violence engulfing the CAR's capital in 2021. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime

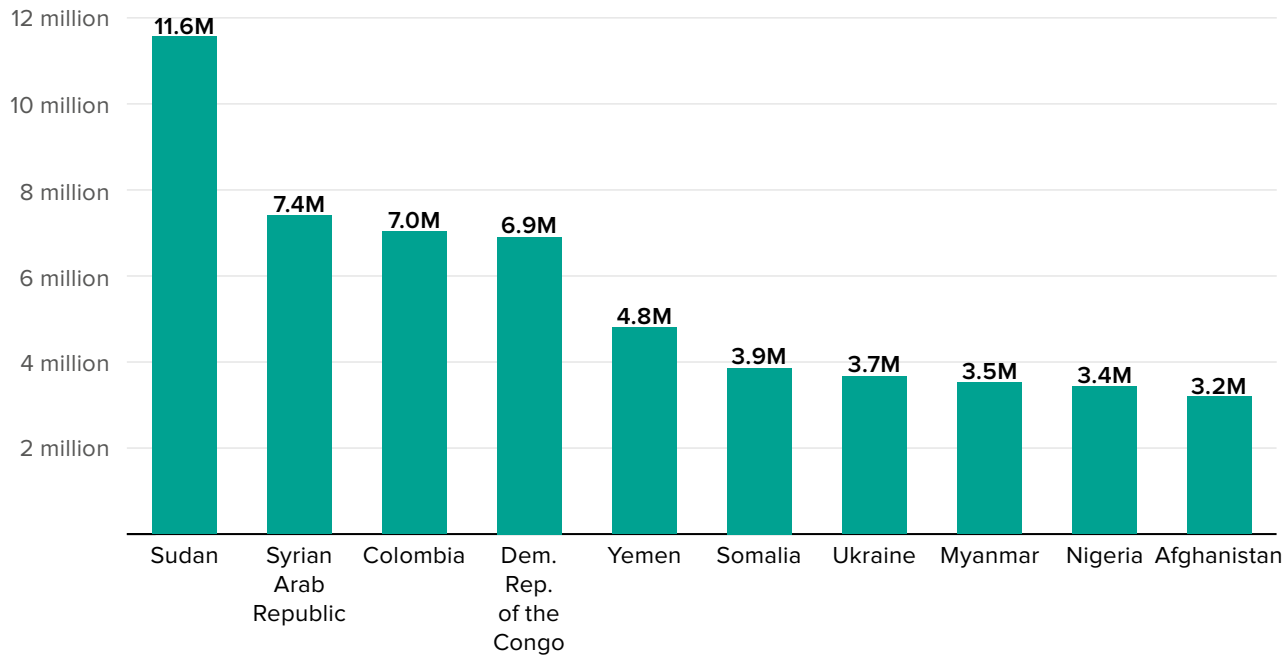
DOSSIER
KAMBALA

Focus Area

Mimi Kiva was planting yams with her husband and 10-year-old daughter on their farm in Guma, Nigeria, when herdsmen attacked, killing her husband and raping and killing her daughter. A hunter found her unconscious and helped her to reach the safety of Ichwa camp for forcibly displaced people, where she was reunited with her two sons, aged 11 and 15. Mimi received trauma counselling from UNHCR's partner, the Foundation for Justice Development and Peace, and now volunteers at the camp's primary school. © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

Internal displacement

Countries with the highest IDP population in 2024



In 2024, the number of people displaced within their own country by conflict and violence reached **a new record**, standing at **68.1 million** by the end of the year, almost 4.9 million higher than at the end of 2023. Globally, there were more than twice as many internally displaced people (IDPs) as refugees, and they faced many of the same risks, but with no recourse to international protection.

The numbers grew because of new cycles of violence and escalating conflicts in **Sudan, Myanmar, Haiti, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC), while protracted situations in **Nigeria, the Sahel region, Somalia, Ukraine and Yemen** continued to cause grave and lasting civilian harm. Only **Ethiopia, Iraq, Libya** and **South Sudan** saw a significant net decline in the numbers displaced.

UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement in 2024 was based on its "Focus Area strategic plan for protection and solutions for IDPs 2024–2030" and an updated "Guidance package" based on lessons learned over the last five years. The strategy seeks to ensure that internally displaced people (IDPs) benefit from:

- their government's **legal and policy frameworks** and administrative procedures;
- improved **access to services**; opportunities to live **dignified, safe and self-sufficient lives**;
- **active participation** in their own community's protection, and in finding solutions; and
- a humanitarian and development **coordination system** that is accountable, predictable and protection-centric, and enables durable solutions.

In 2024, UNHCR supported the provision of protection and assistance in **over 30 countries**, in line with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, and supported the development of a **new UN system-wide approach** that was developed by 28 UN agencies. UNHCR also played a major role in **coordinating humanitarian efforts** as a leader of the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination/Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters.

Building better responses to IDP situations

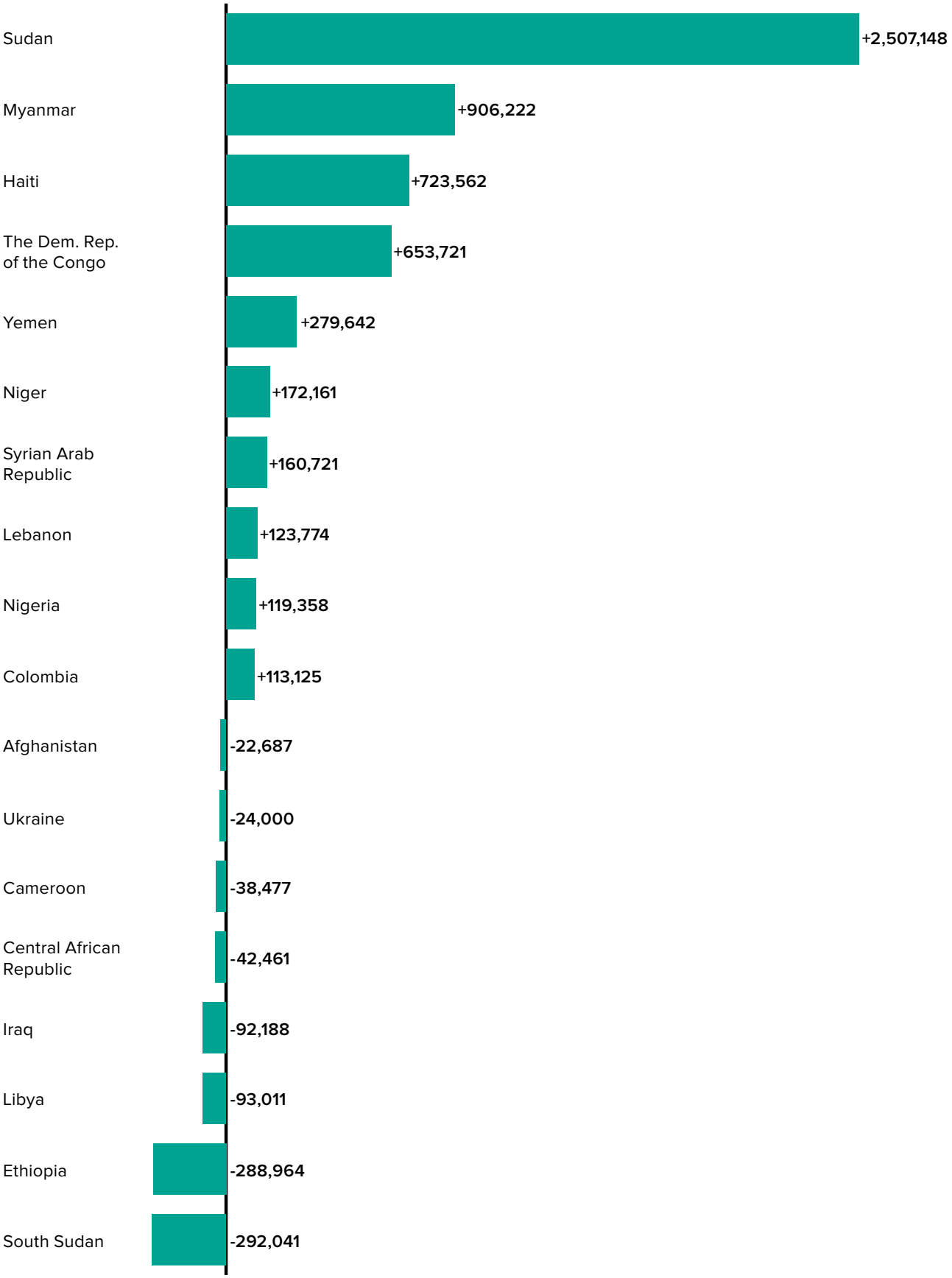
The **humanitarian system could further improve how it responds effectively** to the rapid rise in internal displacement, according to an independent review published in March 2024 by the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee**, which subsequently updated its policy on the protection of IDPs, setting out the responsibilities of national authorities and humanitarian actors. UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement was the subject of an **evaluation** published in 2024.

To keep track of progress in **laws and policies** that advance the protection of IDPs, UNHCR created an IDP law and policy dashboard. The Office supported the development of regulations to implement IDP laws – as well as **IDPs' participation** in those development processes – in **Honduras, Chad** and **the Philippines**, conducted technical support missions on law and policy in **Colombia, Mexico** and **the Republic of Moldova**, and contributed to legal and policy reforms in **Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan** and **Ukraine**.

UNHCR also remained a core member of the Steering Group on Solutions to Internal Displacement, and participated in the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) supporting the development of the UN System Wide Approach to Internal Displacement.

In the context of the **Action Agenda**, UNHCR committed to serve as a **Solutions' Champion**, along with IOM and UNDP, supporting Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN country teams to bring about **government-led solutions**, including projects financed by the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund in the **Central African Republic, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia** and **Yemen**. Officials from 13 African governments discussed how to overcome IDP protection challenges at a forum on "Implementing laws and policies on internal displacement in Africa", organized by UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, the IDP Protection Expert Group and the International Institute of Humanitarian Law.

Internal displacement: biggest changes | 2024 vs 2023



To assess **protection risks** in government-led solutions processes, UNHCR developed a tool to be used by RCs and country teams and piloted it in **Afghanistan, Chad** and **Mozambique**. This now links with the protection risks analysis approach, standards and global guidance developed by the Global Protection Cluster, using the Protection Analytical Framework as reference, in coherence with the IASC revised Policy on the protection of IDPs. UNHCR also piloted an intentions survey methodology in Mozambique, developed by the **IDP Advisory Group**, that related IDPs' choices to options offered by the government.

In coordination with the Government of Nigeria, IOM, UNDP, and the Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement, UNHCR organized "**Building Futures: the 2024 Africa Round Table on Private Sector Solutions to Internal Displacement**". The event, held in Nigeria in November 2024, aimed to harness the power of business to seek solutions and brought together some 150 business leaders, government officials and other private sector representatives.

Major IDP situations

By far the biggest internally displaced population, with the biggest increase between the end of 2023 and the end of 2024, was in **Sudan**, with **one in six of all IDPs** globally. UNHCR's IDP response, which was hindered by logistical and administrative barriers, included **cash assistance** for more than 8,050 IDP households and **shelter** support for 9,500 households. **Relief items** were issued to 238,200 IDPs, and more than 1,800 survivors of **gender-based violence** accessed support services. Each week, an average of 280 individuals accessed each of the 34 multi-purpose **community centres** that underpin UNHCR's community-based protection programme in Sudan. UNHCR supported 54 **community-based protection** networks and eight community-led projects, and provided **legal aid** to 6,700 IDPs for problems such as replacing civil documentation or forced eviction.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo,** multiple conflicts and unprecedented flooding left almost **7 million people internally displaced** by the end of the year, while **2.4 million returned** to their place of origin. Humanitarian needs escalated when the new variants of **mpox**, with 64,000 suspected cases by year end, particularly impacted crowded IDP sites and the surrounding communities. In response, UNHCR increased its **shelter** provision from 15,500 beneficiaries in 2023 to 107,800, and IDP site managers helped with mpox prevention messaging. More than 53,710 individuals also benefited from UNHCR's provision of blankets, hygiene kits, cooking utensils, and similar **relief items**. 43,000 IDPs and members of the host community received **cash assistance** totalling $1.5 million. Cash-based interventions for protection also helped IDP survivors of human rights violations, including **survivors of sexual violence**, to access critical health care services. 232,400 individuals were reached through sexual violence prevention and awareness activities – a 71% increase from 2023.

The IDP Protection Expert Group, co-led by UNHCR, visited the DRC to support UN and Government protection efforts and to promote **community-based protection** mechanisms –such as community watch groups that alert authorities about security incidents – and the creation of local committees to mediate conflicts and promote reconciliation. **Women's participation** in local community structures supported by UNHCR rose to 51%, ensuring that IDP women's perspectives were heard and their needs incorporated throughout the humanitarian response.

Intense and widespread conflict drove up the number of people displaced within **Myanmar** to **3.5 million**, an increase of over 900,000 from the end of 2023. The scale of humanitarian need within the country was exacerbated by extreme weather events, economic decline and deepening poverty. Civilians faced severe risks as essential services like **education and health nearly collapsed**, compounding protection challenges – particularly for women and girls – and **acute food insecurity**. Despite access constraints, UNHCR stayed and delivered life-saving assistance, prioritizing sustainable responses where possible to people in hard-to-reach areas. UNHCR and partners reached 15 of Myanmar's 16 states and regions, **reaching over 1 million people**, providing 500,000 people with in-kind support, 100,000 with shelter assistance, and contacting nearly 30,000 via awareness-raising sessions.

In **Haiti**, gang violence forced huge numbers of people to flee from their homes, with a tripling of the internally displaced population to **more than 1 million people**. The pervasive violence included a surge in reported incidents of gender-based violence, as well as kidnapping, looting, roadblocks and forced recruitment by armed gangs. UNHCR and its partners prioritized **access to documentation, prevention of gender-based violence, emergency shelter, legal assistance, and psychosocial support**. UNHCR and its partner **ACTED** undertook a **protection monitoring** initiative, including an assessment of the information needed by Haitians that showed that many did not know how to get humanitarian aid, water or food. The findings helped to shape the humanitarian response and to strengthen its accountability to the affected population.

In **Yemen**, the internally displaced population reached **4.8 million** after 10 years of conflict. UNHCR's protection monitoring and socioeconomic assessments, which covered over 700,000 people, showed that most displaced households had **a monthly income of less than $50**, at least one child without a birth certificate and at least one family member without a national identity card. Most depended heavily on the dwindling supply of humanitarian aid. UNHCR disbursed **cash assistance** to 474,400 individuals, although underfunding meant the number of beneficiaries was halved from 2023. UNHCR provided **legal assistance** to 11,500 IDPs and supported 17,100 IDP households with **shelter** assistance and 19,400 IDP households with non-food **relief items**. UNHCR worked with the Civil Registration Authority, in areas controlled by the de facto authorities and by the internationally recognized Government, to expand civil documentation for IDPs, issuing 14,450 **identity documents**.

In **Ukraine,** UNHCR and its local NGO partners, including the Stabilization Support Services, were key advocates in developing Resolution #812, adopted by the Government in August 2023 to introduce **IDP Councils**. A year later, 804 IDP councils had been established – consultative bodies, composed of local authorities, IDPs and civil society representatives – ensuring that IDPs can actively participate in public decision-making at local level, and that they can access housing and livelihood opportunities. UNHCR supported over 500 **community-based organizations** and initiatives in 2024. 666,000 people received UNHCR's **protection services**, and 211,000 IDPs and war-affected people used UNHCR-supported **feedback and response mechanisms**. UNHCR disbursed $151.7 million in **multipurpose cash**, or cash for winter needs, to 517,000 displaced people and returnees, while **business and vocational training grants** helped enhance IDPs' self-reliance and financial stability. **UNHCR scaled down its emergency relief**, prioritizing areas most vulnerable to immediate threats, such as missile attacks. 189,500 internally displaced and war-affected individuals received non-food **relief items** during the year, two thirds fewer than in 2023.

In the **Syrian Arab Republic**, integrated **protection services** were provided through 113 UNHCR community centres, 117 mobile units, and 2,116 outreach volunteers, assisting 730,000 people. After almost 14 years of war, an estimated **328,000 dwellings have been destroyed** or severely damaged and 600,000 moderately or lightly damaged. UNHCR provided **emergency shelter** to 16,700 households in 2024, and 2,300 households benefited from longer-term **shelter repairs,** especially returning families. Improvements in basic **infrastructure** also benefited around 129,000 individuals, including IDPs, returnees, and host communities.

Working through the cluster system

The **Global Protection Cluster** (GPC), with UNHCR serving as the lead organization, is a network of over 2,876 partners coordinating their responses to protection risks in humanitarian crises, with four specialized areas of responsibility: child protection, gender-based violence, mine action, and housing, land and property.

In 2024, UNHCR led 28 out of 32 Protection Clusters and cluster-like mechanisms, including in **Colombia, the DRC, Myanmar** and **Sudan**, collaborating on analysis, advocacy and protection response.

In 2024, the GPC Field Support Desk received 530 **requests for support** from operations around the world. The GPC also conducted 17 **in-person missions** to 10 operations, reinforcing their responses and helping to develop their response strategies. The GPC also supported Protection Clusters and their partners in their national and global advocacy, including with donors, UN Security Council members, the UN Human Rights Council, and humanitarian leadership.

For the 2025 Humanitarian Programme Cycle, the GPC, using the statistical prediction model developed as part of the Protection Cluster methodology, assessed that out of 32 million affected IDPs, approximately 26 million were exposed to various protection risks across 16 operations.

In 2024, the Global **Camp Coordination and Camp Management** (CCCM) Cluster, co-led by UNHCR and IOM, supported displaced communities across 27 countries. The cluster partners received $125.8 million under the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan to provide **life-saving assistance** to 20.8 million IDPs. With 40% of IDPs remaining in displacement sites, the Cluster prioritized safe and dignified living conditions.

To improve efficiency, the UNHCR-led Cluster introduced real-time tracking tools, including a funding tracker in **Afghanistan** to monitor financial aid, an evacuation tracker in **Ukraine** that helped coordinate IDP movements for over 83,000 displaced people, and a site monitoring tool to assess service gaps in **Burkina Faso** and **Yemen**. Efforts to prevent violence were also reinforced, particularly for displaced women and girls. In **Burkina Faso**, training sessions and awareness campaigns empowered women's associations, while in **Somalia**, the installation of 104 solar lights improved safety in IDP settlements.

CCCM partners provided training on site management tools following the collapse of the Arba'at Dam in **Sudan**, rebuilt shelters for monsoon-affected IDPs in **Myanmar**, and launched a reforestation initiative at an IDP site in **Burkina Faso** to combat desertification. The Cluster **trained** over 2,100 individuals in 22 countries in 2024, and worked with the IASC Task Force 5 on Localization to empower local leadership in humanitarian coordination.

In 2024, the **Global Shelter Cluster**, co-led by UNHCR and IFRC, coordinated shelter and non-food item (NFI) responses across 31 clusters and 11 cluster-like mechanisms, with **93 million people in need of shelter**. Despite a 66% funding gap, GSC partners reached 17 million individuals (7 million with shelter assistance and 11 million with NFIs).

The GSC co-leads supported coordination missions and remote technical assistance in **the DRC, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mali, the Philippines, the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Yemen**. Five in-person missions and extensive remote support addressed shelter severity classification, disaster risk reduction, environmental considerations, and housing, land and property rights. Environmental assessments were conducted in **the DRC** and **Mali**, and ecological profiles developed in **Afghanistan, Myanmar,** and **the Philippines**.

The GSC co-leads trained over 100 humanitarian professionals, including training on cash for shelter in the north-west of **the Syrian Arab Republic,** and regional training sessions in **Honduras, Somalia** and **Timor-Leste**. Training, contingency planning, and preparedness support strengthened shelter response capacity in **Fiji, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nepal,** and **Vanuatu**.

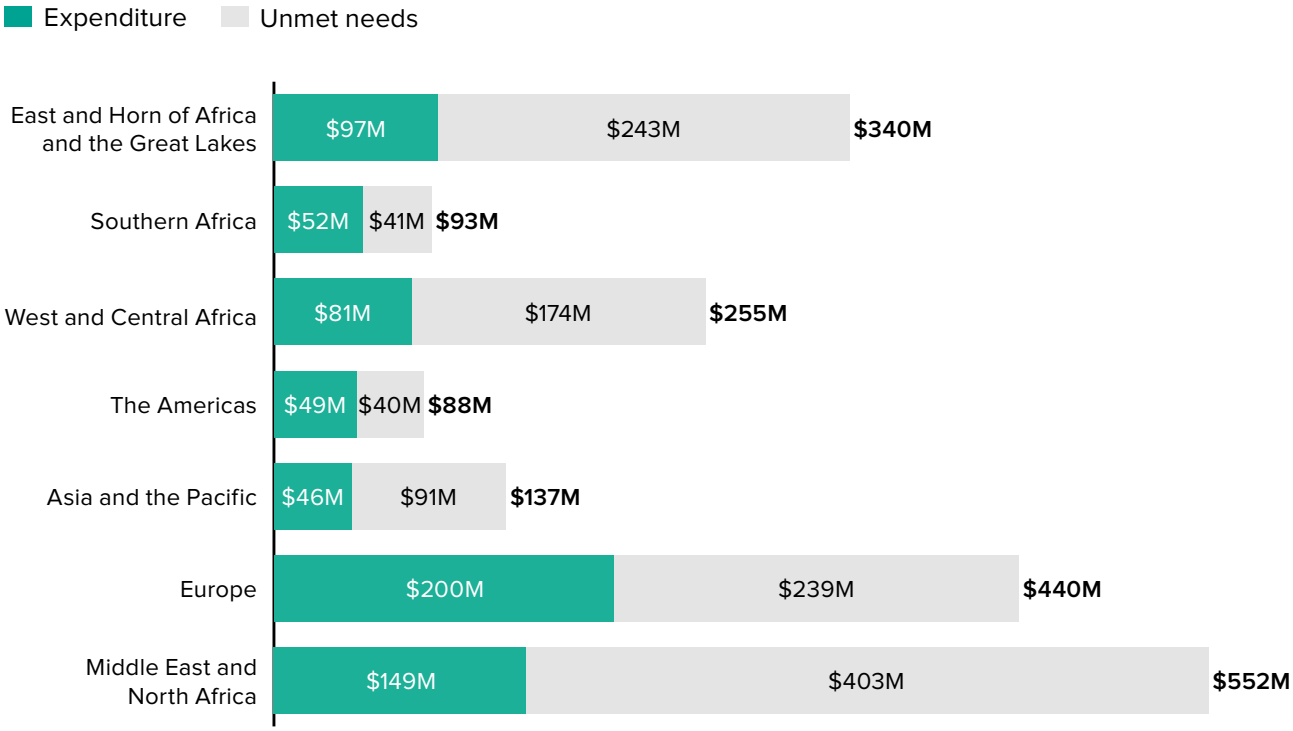
Research initiatives included fellowships in Chile, Guatemala, Türkiye, and collaborative studies on cash programming and climate impacts. Strategic funds supported **10 pilot projects** in nine countries to bolster coordination and address emerging shelter challenges.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget

$673 million spent against a budget of **$1.904 billion**.
$1.231 billion of unmet needs or **65%** of the budget.

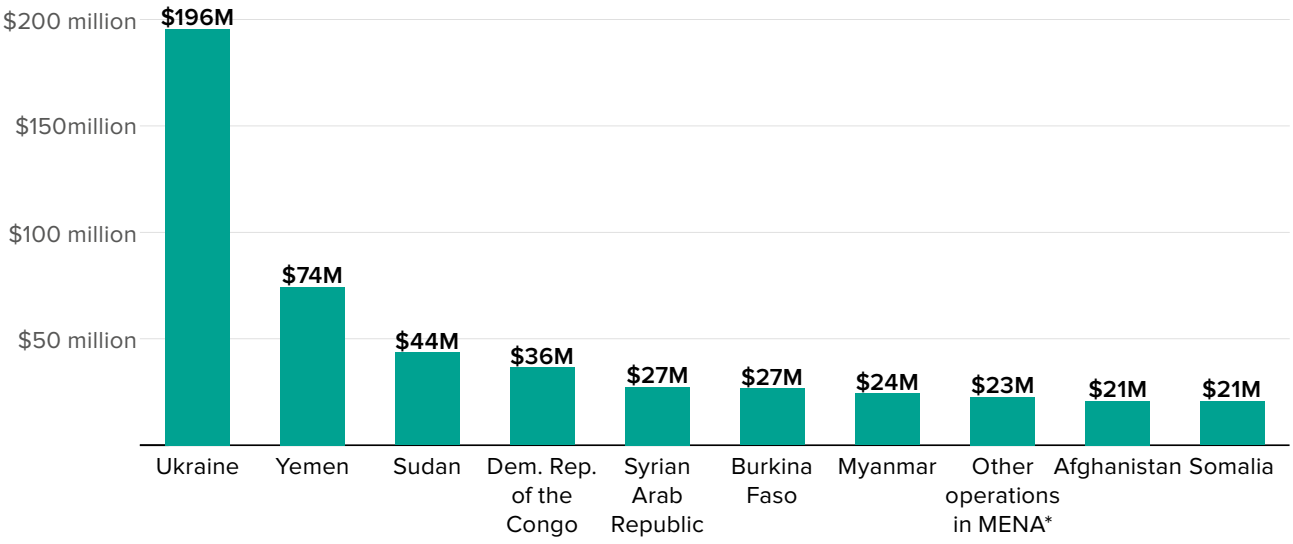
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Internal displacement response



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Operations with the highest expenditure on Internal displacement | 2024

These ten operations accounted for **73%** of the global expenditure on Internal displacement.



*Other operations in the Middle East and North Africa include the cross-border operation for north-west Syrian Arab Republic in Gaziantep, Türkiye.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Reinforcing the private sector's role in addressing internal displacement in Africa

The 2024 Africa Roundtable on Private Sector Solutions to Internal Displacement, entitled "Bridging Futures: Converging for Solutions," attracted over 250 participants from 11 countries, including top private sector executives, government leaders, development actors, international financial institutions, and UN agencies. Among the key commitments made during the event, **Tropical General Investments (TGI) Group** pledged to support agribusiness interventions in IDP-hosting areas by agricultural input financing, capacity building, and competitive market linkages. Additionally, **Outsource Global** committed to providing direct employment opportunities for French- and Arabic-speaking refugees and to establishing call centres for businesses in IDP- and refugee-hosting areas in Nigeria. The roundtable sparked strong engagement, with particularly high interest from financial sector leaders and agribusiness pioneers, reinforcing the private sector's growing role in addressing internal displacement.

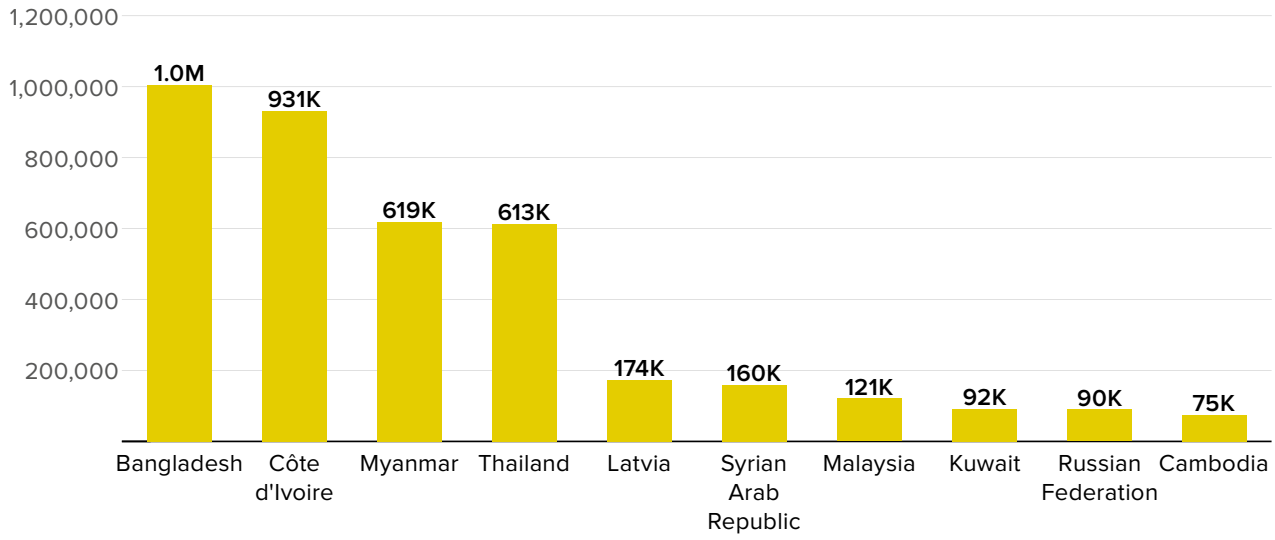
Focus Area

Samir was orphaned at 16 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, leaving him to fend for his younger brother and their little sister, who was taken into State care. When Samir turned 18 he tried to gain custody of her, but found he had no legal identity documents to prove who he was or where he was from. He also couldn't study, work, or get a driving licence or treatment in a hospital. With the assistance of UNHCR's partner Legal Clinic Adilet, he successfully navigated the judicial proceedings, proved his Kyrgyz citizenship and received a passport. © UNHCR/Elyor Nemat

Statelessness

Countries with the largest known population of stateless people

These ten operations accounted for **89%** of the global stateless population (displaced and non-displaced) of **4.4 million**.



Millions of people around the world are stateless, trapped in a legal limbo that makes it hard to live a dignified life and exercise basic rights. UNHCR seeks to eradicate statelessness entirely, but while it exists, we aim to protect and support stateless people and help them to acquire or confirm a nationality, as well as raising awareness of the global scale of statelessness and the damage that it does.

At the end of 2024, UNHCR knew of **4.4 million stateless people** globally, similar to a year earlier. During the year, 47,200 individuals who were formerly stateless or of undetermined nationality were able to acquire or confirm their nationality.

In 2024, UNHCR pursued the **objectives** set out in the "Strategic plan 2023-2026: redoubling efforts on statelessness", seeking to:

- increase the number of States taking action on statelessness;
- improve access to nationality processes and documents;
- improve stateless people's access to public services and economic opportunities; and
- empower more stateless people to claim their rights.

UNHCR advocated for States to accede to the two statelessness conventions, grant nationality to stateless populations, legislate to prevent childhood statelessness, and to improve their statistics on statelessness – by including stateless people in national censuses, for example.

A historic step was taken in **Thailand**, where the Cabinet approved a resolution to **fast-track nationality and legal status applications** for registered stateless persons who are long-term residents or born on Thai territory. This reform, in the country with the fourth largest known stateless population, is expected to benefit over 484,000 stateless people, and to help unlock the full potential of their contribution to Thailand, as those granted nationality or permanent residence will be able to move freely, to seek educational and employment opportunities and meet Thailand's dynamic labour needs.

Another landmark was achieved in **Turkmenistan**, which became only the second country to **resolve all known cases of statelessness** within its territory, having granted citizenship to 15,845 stateless individuals since 2014. **Malaysia** adopted a constitutional amendment **allowing women to confer Malaysian nationality** on their children born abroad. Once it enters into force, the amendment will grant women equal rights as men to confer nationality to children. However, the amendment is not retroactive, leaving previously stateless children without an automatic pathway to nationality.

A groundbreaking **UNHCR and World Bank socioeconomic study** showed the benefits of granting citizenship to stateless individuals, comparing the situation of the Shona community in **Kenya** before and after they were granted citizenship in 2020. The study showed how ending the legal invisibility of the Shona community brought significant improvements in their quality of life, with less discrimination, more financial inclusion, more job security and greater access to health care.

UNHCR offered technical support to help States strengthen their legal and policy frameworks, and **26 States improved their policies and procedures** to prevent and reduce statelessness in 2024, **far exceeding UNHCR's target of 15**. These included

efforts to ensure access to civil registration and identity documentation in **Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Iraq, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Republic of the Congo, Senegal, South Sudan, Thailand, Ukraine, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**.

There were also considerable achievements in **strengthening protection frameworks** for stateless persons in line with the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. **Montenegro** amended its law on free legal aid to cover individuals seeking recognition of their stateless status, strengthening access to legal assistance. **Kazakhstan** streamlined its statelessness determination process, reducing the application period from 45 to 30 days. **Japan** amended guidelines to stabilize the status of individuals whose nationality may be retroactively nullified due to contradictions in parentage. **Georgia** expanded access to State-funded legal aid for stateless individuals. **Colombia's** Ministry of Foreign Affairs Resolution, regulating the statelessness determination procedure, incorporated UNHCR's recommendations on protection of stateless persons and facilitation of their naturalization. In **Mali**, a draft law on stateless persons was adopted, pending final review.

In 2024, **São Tomé and Principe** and **South Sudan** became State parties to both statelessness conventions. **Slovenia** and **Cameroon**, with support from UNHCR, took concrete steps towards joining one or both conventions, with accessions expected in 2025. By the end of 2024, **104** States had acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, or both.

Regional organizations also spearheaded significant achievements in 2024. The **African Union** (AU) Assembly of States adopted a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, seeking to resolve legal barriers to the right to nationality on the continent. The AU Commission had pledged in 2019 to advocate for the adoption, ratification and implementation of the Protocol by AU Member States. 15 States need to ratify the Protocol for it to come into force.

UNHCR supported the **League of Arab States** in launching the "Arab Declaration on belonging and legal identity", focusing on birth registration, prevention of childhood statelessness, and strengthening legal identity rights.

The "São Paulo Declaration" was adopted by the **Latin American and Caribbean Council of civil registry, identity and vital statistics** (CLARCIEV), emphasizing universal birth registration and the right to identity. As part of the Cartagena+40 process, States in the region reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate statelessness in the "Chile Declaration",

accompanied by a 10 year plan of action setting out specific actions that would help reduce statelessness to zero.

UNHCR and the **Open Society Justice Initiative** developed "Litigating the right to a nationality: a guide for practitioners", providing practical **strategies for litigating nationality cases**, navigating legal frameworks, and securing remedies for stateless persons.

One driver of statelessness is a **lack of gender equality in nationality laws**. 24 countries prevent women from passing their nationality onto their children on an equal basis with men. UNHCR joined with the **Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights, Equality Now, the Inter-Parliamentary Union** and **UN Women** to organize a Global multi-stakeholder summit to encourage reforms and raise awareness of the issue. It brought together parliamentarians, civil society, and representatives from ministries in concerned countries and from recently reformed countries to share lessons, refine strategies, and strengthen partnerships for change.

The Strategic Plan also envisages a **multi-stakeholder approach** by setting up a platform of actors committed to end statelessness, including stateless-led organizations. Consequently, the **Global Alliance to End Statelessness** was launched during the High-Level Segment on Statelessness (HLS) at UNHCR's Executive Committee meeting in October 2024. The HLS built on the successes of the decade-long #IBelong campaign's achievements, which made important progress towards ending statelessness since 2014, with more than a half a million people worldwide acquiring citizenship. UNHCR used the occasion to amplify the voices of people affected by statelessness, featuring their keynote speeches and bringing people with lived experience together with representatives for Member States and international organizations . By the end of the year, 110 entities had joined the Global Alliance, including **22 States and 11 regional intergovernmental organizations**, collectively covering some 140 States.

In addition, **Costa Rica, the Council of Europe**, **CLARCIEV, the Organization of American States (OAS)**, and **the Philippines**, joined the Alliance's Solution Seekers Programme, committing to solve the issue of statelessness effectively and permanently.

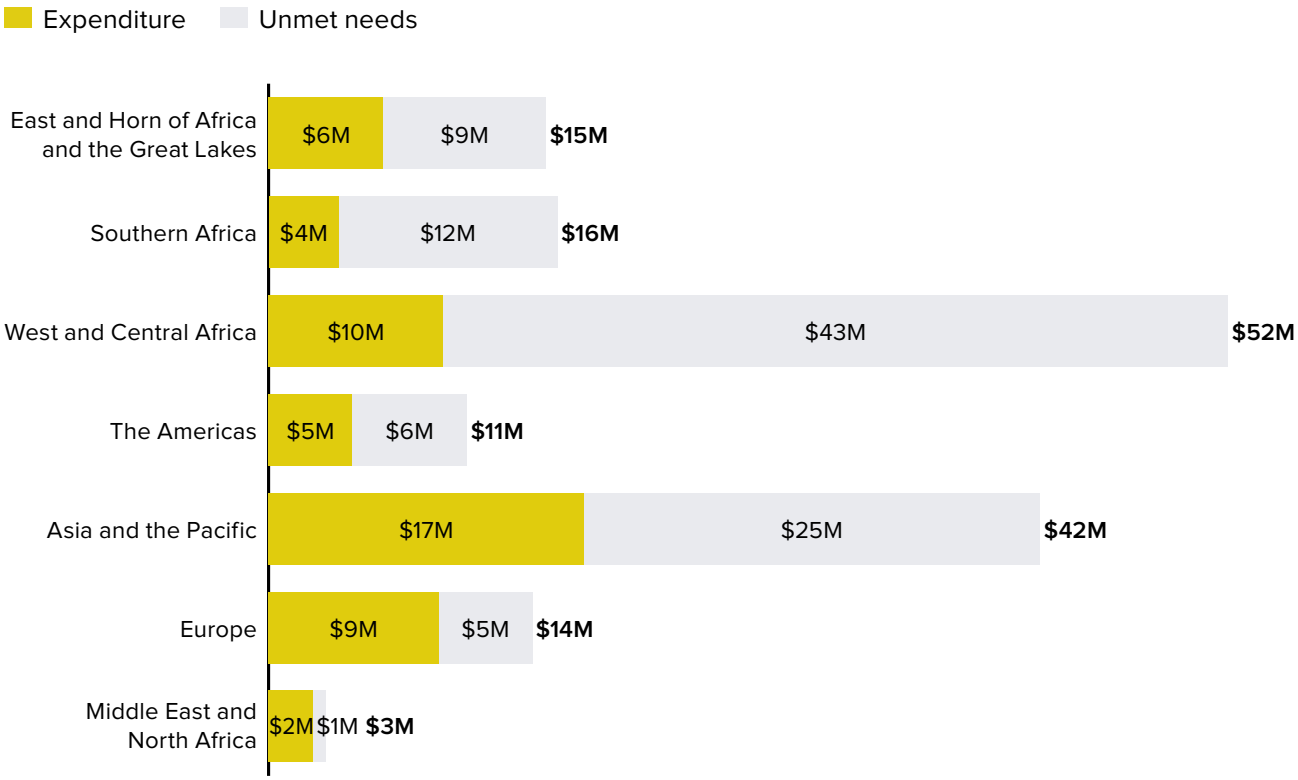
Despite commendable efforts by many countries, **progress remained slow** in resolving some of the largest statelessness situations. Millions of stateless people continued to be denied basic rights and services, often due to discrimination that strips certain groups of their right to nationality. Limited funding has compelled UNHCR to narrow its focus, prioritizing legal and policy reform support and advocacy efforts. The decrease in UNHCR protection staff has affected UNHCR's overall capacity to address statelessness.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget

$53 million spent against a budget of **$154 million**.
$101 million of unmet needs or **65%** of the budget.

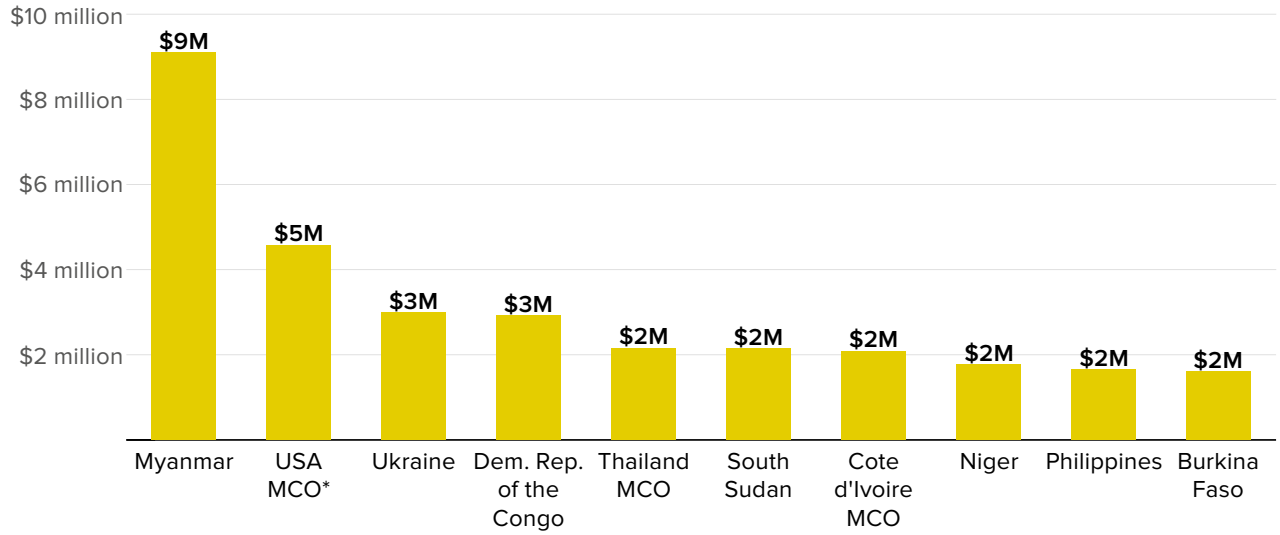
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Statelessness response



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Operations with the highest expenditure on Internal displacement | 2024

These 10 operations accounted for **58%** of the global expenditure on Statelessness.



*UNHCR's United States of America Multi-Country Office covers the United States and 18 Caribbean States and territories, including the Dominican Republic and Haiti. I MCO = Multi-country office

Nosizi Dube beams with pride as the first member of Kenya's formerly stateless Shona community to graduate from university. "It marks the end of the struggles," she says. With a degree in economics and a passport finally in hand, she now advocates for economic empowerment among stateless communities. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

Focus Area

In Mbera refugee camp, near the Malian border in Mauritania, mud from the latrines is used as fertilizer to grow the plants which will generate reforestation.
© UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

Climate action

90 million people are forcibly displaced in countries with high-to-extreme exposure to weather-related hazards such as flooding, drought and extreme heat. In 2024, one third of the emergencies declared by UNHCR addressed the impacts of extreme weather events on forcibly displaced people and their hosts – from drought in Zambia to flooding in Brazil, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and South Sudan.

At the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (**COP29**), UNHCR highlighted the worsening situation in "No Escape: On the Frontlines of Climate Change, Conflict and Forced Displacement", an evidence-based report developed with 13 partner organizations. It showed that by 2040, 65 countries are likely to face extreme climate hazards, the vast majority hosting displaced populations. By 2050, most refugee settlements and camps are expected to experience double the number of days of dangerous heat.

UNHCR set out its **vision for climate action** up to 2030 in a "Focus Area strategic plan", with objectives relating to international protection, the resilience of displaced people, stronger preparation and recovery, and minimizing UNHCR's own environmental footprint.

To implement these objectives, nearly **$80 million was mobilized in 2024** from governments, UN pooled funding, intergovernmental donors and the private sector – including a notable contribution from the IKEA Foundation for the Green Financing Facility.

This funding included over **$20 million for weather-related emergencies** and over **$57 million for projects enhancing resilience and mitigating environmental impacts**. The latter figure alone was nearly double the $30 million raised for climate action in 2023. UNHCR also launched a Climate Resilience Fund to support displaced communities and preserve and rehabilitate the environments where they live.

Enhancing resilience and access to sustainable services

UNHCR's Refugee Environmental Protection (REP) Fund and Project Flow aimed to **make services for displaced people more resilient and sustainable**. Project Flow – which recoups upfront capital by saving on recurring fuel costs – began procurement for the solarization of 21 water systems and four health facilities serving 1.2 million people in **Ethiopia, Mauritania, Rwanda** and **Sudan.** This will strengthen those services while making significant savings on fuel costs and cutting approximately 1,400 tonnes of CO_2 emissions annually.

The REP Fund pioneered a new financing model, launching procurement for pilot projects to reforest 20,000 hectares and provide 45,000 households with clean cooking solutions in **Uganda** and **Rwanda**. These projects, scalable to 1 million households over a decade, will generate the first large-scale **refugee-driven carbon credits**, as well as creating jobs and reducing firewood collection, which can bring protection risks, particularly for women. Feasibility studies have begun in **Bangladesh** and **Brazil**, with growing interest from other countries.

UNHCR aimed to shift from reactive humanitarian interventions towards longer-term, sustainable responses, as in **Mozambique**'s Maratane refugee settlement, where we provided resilient shelters that better withstand severe winds. This **investment showed its value** when Cyclone Chido devastated parts of Mozambique in December 2024, and Maratane's 8,000 refugees, mainly Congolese and Burundians, experienced minimal damage. UNHCR invited the CGIAR Fragility, Conflict and Migration Initiative to evaluate the project's contribution to the resilience of displaced and host communities.

UNHCR also invested in flood risk mitigation in Renk, **South Sudan**, a major destination for **refugees fleeing the war in Sudan**. In Maban, further south, a UNHCR project is **building dykes** that enable refugee farmers to grow crops on the flood-prone but fertile soil.

In **Bangladesh**, UNHCR improved refugee settlements with weather-resilient infrastructure, emergency preparedness and community-driven solutions. Five facilities were solarized, 52 sites electrified, and 11,000 solar streetlights maintained in UNHCR-managed camps. In an area prone to devastating floods and landslides, a three-year watershed management project is underway, **benefiting 10,000 refugees**, with activities including the planting of 800 tree saplings and the introduction of 150 wildlife species.

In **Pakistan**, UNHCR improved 14 priority water supply schemes, installed 50 rainwater harvesting units, and upgraded water, sanitation, and hygiene infrastructure in 24 schools. Additional efforts in solarizing 124 communal facilities generated 8,600 kW of clean energy in 2024, cut **5,300 tons of annual CO_2 emissions** and benefited over **500,000 refugees and host community** members.

© UNHCR/Hélène Caux

Humanity Insured addresses food insecurity through innovative insurance

Refugees and host communities are especially vulnerable to climate shocks since they are often in harsh environments and lack the funds to protect themselves. Recognizing the urgent need for financial resilience, **Humanity Insured**, an international charity backed by the insurance sector, partnered with UNHCR in 2024 to address food insecurity in Malawi's Dzaleka refugee settlement, where recurring droughts severely impact both refugees and host communities. The partnership introduces a subsidized drought insurance programme that provides rapid access to funding when specific drought conditions are met. This encourages more stability as it enables families to purchase essentials such as food and agricultural supplies during lean seasons. By ensuring quick access to funds, the initiative promotes long-term economic stability, food security, and self-sufficiency for the refugees and their hosts helping displaced and at-risk populations better withstand and recover from climate-related shocks.

Early warning systems, preparedness measures, and disaster risk reduction

To bolster global **early warning systems**, UNHCR collaborated with WMO on hydrometeorological scanning for weather-related disasters that could hit forcibly displaced populations.

In **Ethiopia**, a CGIAR expert seconded to UNHCR helped pilot a climate risk analysis methodology for displacement settings to strengthen risk-informed preparedness and responses to climate-related impacts, which will now be scaled up to other operations in Africa, including **Cameroon, Chad**, and **Kenya**. A new module included in UNHCR's socioeconomic survey of refugees in **Jordan** revealed the extent of refugees' climate vulnerability, enabling UNHCR to target support to those most at risk. The findings showed **40% of refugees showed concerning levels of vulnerability**, with many homes and shelters letting in rain and too weak to withstand storms and sandstorms.

In **Yemen**, where floods affected more than 1.3 million people and displaced over 480,000 in 2024, the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster partnered with UNDRR and national NGOs to mitigate the impacts of flooding on people in internal displacement settings – many of whom had already been displaced by conflict. These efforts **safeguarded over 154,800 people** through flood mitigation measures in 2024, protecting lives and assets, saving costs, and preventing further movements that would uproot displaced people once again.

Strengthening preparedness with the Early Warning System

UNHCR and the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology launched a predictive artificial intelligence project to develop an advanced early warning and effective response system. This initiative uses machine learning to anticipate flood-induced displacement, enhancing emergency preparedness and response. UNHCR conducted in-depth literature reviews on forecasting advancements and gathered high-quality, diverse data sets to train the model. As the system develops, it will identify pilot countries and refine its predictive capabilities to reach a minimum viable product. By providing early warning indicators and delivering displacement forecasts ahead of crises, this initiative will improve the anticipation of humanitarian needs, optimize resource mobilization, and strengthen community resilience – helping displaced and at-risk populations better withstand and recover from climate-related shocks.

UNHCR expanded its **innovative financing** partnership with the African Risk Capacity Group (ARC), a specialized agency of the African Union, to boost refugees' resilience in settlements at severe risk of drought in Malawi and Mali. ARC's parametric insurance coverage provided for a **payout of over $400,000** when drought hit Malawi, protecting the livelihoods of 2,400 refugee households in Dzaleka camp and 1,600 host community families.

The Environment and Climate Action Innovation Fund backed **24 pilot projects** pioneering scalable, community-driven solutions that directly benefited over 18,000 refugees and indirectly impacted 168,000 people. In addition to parametric insurance, projects supported ranged from training refugees in sustainable agriculture to producing eco-friendly products.

Strengthening law and policy

At **COP29**, the efforts of UNHCR and our partners resulted in the **first explicit acknowledgement of refugees in a major climate decision** on a new global financing goal (NCQG). This strategic win means refugees are more likely to be recognized in future and benefit from resourcing decisions.

UNHCR provided technical support to help States, civil society, academia, legal practitioners and other partners apply international refugee and human rights law to protect people displaced across borders in the context of extreme weather events and disasters. Examples in 2024 included UNHCR's submission to an **Australian Parliamentary inquiry** and an intervention at the **Inter-American Court of Human Rights' hearings** held in Manaus, Brazil, a follow-up to the Amicus Brief at the end of 2023 in response to a request for a Court's Advisory Opinion on the climate emergency.

UNHCR supported **Latin American and Caribbean** States in developing a blueprint for the next decade, the Chile Declaration and Plan of Action, which recommends implementing early warning systems, appropriate legal frameworks, evacuation plans, and solidarity strategies for people displaced in the context of disasters and the adverse effects of climate change.

In **Mexico**, UNHCR carried out over 50 consultation sessions with indigenous communities, including some affected by sea-level rise, to help develop a law on internal displacement in Oaxaca state, including displacement caused by disasters and extreme weather – the first of its kind in the Americas.

UNHCR co-led the development of a technical guide published by **UNFCCC** on integrating human mobility, including refugees, into national climate plans, and partnered with **UNDRR** and **the Platform on Disaster Displacement** to analyse the integration of displacement and human mobility in national and regional DRR strategies.

Reducing our environmental footprint

UNHCR aims to cut its CO_2 emissions by 30% from 2010 levels by 2030. Direct emissions, including buildings, fleet and travel, were **21%** below the 2010 baseline in 2024.

The Green Financing Facility, a revolving fund designed to provide sustainable energy security to UNHCR operations by recouping the initial investment in solar through the savings from future energy costs, completed the **solar energy transition** of nine UNHCR offices in Mauritania, Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa. These projects will achieve reductions by an average of 25% in energy costs and 1,486 tons of CO_2 emissions annually. A further 38 facilities were contracted.

Under its sustainable supply strategy, UNHCR introduced more environmentally-friendly technical specifications for **emergency relief items**, with an estimated 20-22% reduction in CO_2 emissions from the future procurement of these goods. UNHCR introduced global frame agreements for four relief items with greener specifications and discontinued the ones for sleeping mats using virgin plastic, cutting costs as well as emissions.

UNHCR's logistics hub in Termez, **Uzbekistan**, became the first of our seven **global stockpiles** to make the switch to clean energy and significant savings with a 700kW solar photovoltaic powerplant.

The Smart Fleet **ride-sharing** programme significantly reduced vehicle operating costs and cut CO_2 emissions by more than 560 tonnes.

Focus Area

Around 10,000 households in Mohammad Agha district, Logar province, central Afghanistan, are eagerly looking forward to the construction of a new comprehensive health centre. The project, carried out by UNHCR with local partner ACHRO, is supported by the Islamic Development Bank, as trustee of the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund (AHTF) and the Saudi Fund for Development. It will operate around the clock, with a wide range of health services including a maternity ward and emergency care. © UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

Working with development partners

The increasing scale, complexity, and duration of displacement crises worldwide have created needs that far exceed the reach of humanitarian aid alone. These protracted situations place growing pressure on economies and communities hosting displaced populations. To ease the burden—and unlock the potential of displaced people as contributors to local communities and economies—UNHCR is increasingly engaging with development actors. This is taking place in the context of sustainable responses, which focus on shifting from traditional, camp-based care and maintenance models to government-led, comprehensive approaches that promote refugee self-reliance and inclusion in national systems and services. Sustainable responses also aim to create the conditions for voluntary, dignified, and sustainable returns through peacebuilding and investment in socioeconomic infrastructure in countries of origin.

Guided by our "Strategy on engagement with development actors", UNHCR collaborates with development actors including governments, development agencies, international financial institutions, and other UN entities to ensure that displacement is addressed as a development priority. This partnership helps integrate displacement into broader development planning and prevents the marginalization of displaced populations. A key element of this cooperation is the joint generation and use of socioeconomic data, particularly with the **World Bank**.

Bilateral development actors

In 2024, UNHCR's engagement with bilateral development actors focused particularly on translating pledges made at the 2019 and 2023 Global Refugee Forums into practice. Examples of cooperation with bilateral development actors included:

- The growing cooperation with the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (**INTPA**) supported solutions from the outset of new crises in Chad and Ethiopia, and the reintegration of returnees in Afghanistan, Burundi, and South Sudan. INTPA supported the sustainable reintegration of Afghan returnees by combining protection, documentation, livelihoods, education, and social cohesion efforts. Through cash-for-work programmes, SME grants, vocational training, and support to women's community centres, it strengthened resilience and self-reliance in areas of high return. Complementary interventions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, and Central Asia ensured continuity of support across the displacement cycle.

  In response to the Sudan crisis, INTPA-funded UNHCR initiatives supported Sudanese refugees and host communities in Chad and Ethiopia through early recovery and sustainable development. In Chad, it improved climate-resilient agriculture, income opportunities, and inclusive value chains. In Ethiopia, it strengthened national coordination, housing, education, health, and WASH systems, while addressing housing, land and property rights. Across both countries, the project enabled durable solutions and social cohesion by expanding access to livelihoods, services, and infrastructure in displacement-affected areas.

- UNHCR's global and country-level collaboration with the **German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** in 2024 centred on BMZ's "Special Initiative on Displaced Persons and Host Communities", which allocated €434 million to 93 projects worldwide that supported economic inclusion, social protection, gender equality, meaningful participation, mental health and psychosocial support, education, WASH, peacebuilding, social cohesion, and climate adaptation. Together, UNHCR and BMZ advanced policy development and launched a global programme to support government-led, transformative initiatives for refugee inclusion. This included seconding a GCR advisor to assist Ethiopia with the Makatet Roadmap and co-designing new joint programmes in Mauritania and Mozambique. In Mozambique, through the Nexus Norte project, UNHCR, BMZ, and GIZ integrated forcibly displaced people into provincial programmes addressing gender-based violence, mental health, and vocational training.

- UNHCR and the **Japan International Cooperation Agency** cooperated to advocate for and advance humanitarian-development-peace nexus approaches in various forced displacement settings, such as in Uganda, Kenya and Zambia, by strengthening refugees' inclusion in national and local development plans. This was done by seconding technical experts to government entities coordinating the refugee response. In Zambia, JICA was instrumental in formulating local area plans for Meheba and Mayukwayukwa, where former refugees are hosted. JICA and UNHCR also worked together on the provision of education pathways for refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan.

- The **Korea International Cooperation Agency** supported the voluntary returns of internally displaced people in Myanmar, life-saving assistance in Lebanon, investments in shelter in Jordan's refugee camps, education and transit centres in Burundi, women's entrepreneurship in Cameroon, together with ILO, and UNHCR's response to support Malian refugees arriving in Mauritania.

- With the **Belgian Development Agency** (Enabel), UNHCR worked on Belgium's commitment to include forcibly displaced people more systematically in its development programming by providing information and technical guidance at global and country levels. For instance, UNHCR and Enabel cooperated in Mauritania on designing an €8 million agropastoralism project that will complement UNHCR's efforts to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of Malian refugees.

- In line with France's commitment to invest €150 million (during 2023–2027) to support refugees and host communities, UNHCR partnered with the **Agence Française de Développement** (AFD) to expand its forced displacement programming. This included contributing to the design of a new regional project in response to the Sudan crisis by providing key information and analysis. UNHCR also worked closely with AFD on ongoing initiatives in refugee-hosting areas, such as the €31 million RESPECCT project in Chad. Implemented by an NGO consortium, the project aims to strengthen peaceful coexistence and economic empowerment. UNHCR supported the development of targeting criteria to ensure effective and inclusive implementation.

- The second phase of the PROSPECTS Partnership between the **Kingdom of the Netherlands,** UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO, the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation was launched in 2024, with the aim of advancing resilience, inclusion and self-reliance in Egypt, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda. PROSPECTS is funded by the Netherlands, which has committed €800 million for 2024-2027. PROSPECTS partners are seeking to create another 36,000 jobs and other livelihoods opportunities, help 21,000 refugees and host community members increase their income, enhance working conditions or maintain resilient livelihoods, and give more than 14,000 people access to financial services to support their business, such as bank accounts, loans and other products. Through the partnership with the IFC, PROSPECTS also aims to invest and leverage $39 million in financing in refugee-hosting areas. In Kenya for example, a risk-sharing facility with Equity Bank will cover lending to micro, small and medium enterprises and individuals in 14 un(der)served counties in Kenya including the refugee hosting counties of Garissa and Turkana.

International financial institutions

Since 2017, the **World Bank** has approved 93 projects for a total value of $5 billion in 21 low income countries hosting refugees in Africa and Asia through the International Development Association's (IDA's) **Window for Host Communities and Refugees** (WHR). The WHR is a key responsibility-sharing tool that supports the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees and eases pressure on host communities. In 2024, UNHCR played a key role in supporting the eligibility of Togo and Benin to access financing through the IDA20 WHR to strengthen governments' response to the Central Sahel crisis. UNHCR plays a key role in assessing the adequacy of the protection environment and providing refugee policy advice to ascertain the IDA WHR eligibility criteria are met. In this capacity, UNHCR participated in the eligibility missions to both Benin and Togo, contributing to the Bank's WHR eligibility notes, which informed the decision of the Board to approve WHR access for both countries.

During the year, the World Bank approved 12 projects under the WHR, totalling nearly $1 billion, including $585 million to Bangladesh, $50 million for productive safety net initiatives in Chad, $90 million to support access to education and safety nets in South Sudan and $30 million to strengthen the refugee legal framework and access to economic opportunities in Zambia. UNHCR played a key role in shaping the design of IDA WHR projects by strategically engaging with World Bank teams to share refugee policy priorities, identify programmatic entry points, and provide relevant refugee data to support evidence-based project design. Through these collaborations, UNHCR helped ensure that project activities are responsive to the needs of both refugees and host communities. In parallel, UNHCR works closely with host governments to advocate for inclusive policy environments that improve refugees' access to national services and expand their economic opportunities. The Bank's Fragility Forum in February 2024 helped to emphasize the need for development financing and private sector engagement in forced displacement situations.

UNHCR advocated for greater access to innovative concessional financing for middle-income refugee-hosting countries through the Bank's **Global Concessional Financing Facility** (GCFF), which had provided $976 million grants as of December 2024 that unlocked close to $8 billion in concessional loans to GCFF-eligible countries, including new support for refugee-hosting communities in **Armenia**, **Jordan** and **the Republic of Moldova**. The GCFF also approved the restructuring of a health project in **Lebanon** to address the urgent needs of refugees and host communities affected by conflicts.

UNHCR's **Joint Initiative** with the **International Finance Corporation** supported 30 UNHCR operations and IFC teams globally in analysing how private sector actors can engage in forced displacement settings and develop opportunities for socioeconomic inclusion. This included improving conditions for financial inclusion, strengthening job placement schemes, and a series of assessments analysing local markets, available skill sets, working sessions involving regional and country-level management of both institutions, joint scoping missions, as well as joint resource mobilization efforts.

Financial inclusion assessments conducted in Latin America and Europe have shaped the entry points for investment and programming. As a result, financial institutions have tailored their products for forcibly displaced people. The same approach is now used in Africa, where several financial inclusion gap assessments are in the pipeline. The JI is also designing models to facilitate the inclusion of forcibly displaced people and their hosts into value chains with private companies specializing in the agribusiness sector. In countries of return, such as Afghanistan, private sector engagement with the support of the JI is beginning to support reintegration, job creation, and economic recovery, paving the way for solutions.

Regional development banks

UNHCR and the **African Development Bank** (AfDB) worked closely in several countries, including on the development of a project to support the Sudanese refugee response in South Sudan. The Bank provided UNHCR with a $19.8 million grant for the Sudan Refugee Crisis Response Project, which aims to support the inclusive and peaceful integration of refugees and returnees into communities, to strengthen social cohesion among refugees and host communities, and to improve the socioeconomic well-being of these communities. AfDB and UNHCR also engaged private investors at the Africa Investment Forum to discuss ways to unlock investment opportunities in forced displacement settings in Africa.

In 2024 the **Asian Development Bank** created the Community Development Window under its ADF 14 replenishment to provide additional support to the people of Afghanistan and Myanmar. While the total allocation may vary depending on the actual size of the ADF 14 replenishment, currently, it stands at $1.15 billion ($815 million for Afghanistan, $200 million for Myanmar, and $100 million for projects supporting the people of Myanmar in Bangladesh). The Bank is flexible in terms of projects, and the implementation arrangements will be through UN agencies and INGOs for Afghanistan and Myanmar, and through the Government in the case of Bangladesh. UNHCR engaged with the Bank to ensure increased grant financing to support forcibly displaced communities and the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in its development progamming.

The **Islamic Development Bank**, in line with its Fragility and Resilience Policy, increased its engagement in forced displacement situations in 2024. In response to the Sudan refugee crisis, the IsDB is providing a $2.5 million package to UNHCR through an emergency grant mechanism for supporting refugees and displaced persons in Libya, Chad, and Egypt. The interventions focus on health, food security and protection.

Generating data

UNHCR's strategic collaboration with the World Bank enlarged the available **evidence base** on forced displacement in 2024, with a growing portfolio of joint activities involving World Bank country-based economists and the World Bank-UNHCR **Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement** (JDC). UNHCR's Microdata Library contained 884 datasets by the end of the year, a rapidly expanding research resource.

The data and evidence generated with the support of the JDC have informed around **$3 billion of investments** by development actors by the end of 2024. The JDC also supported data and evidence on many subjects, including refugee returns, the labour market impact of forced displacement, development approaches to refugees in Ethiopia, and the benefits of refugees for local economies in Latin America.

The World Bank and UNHCR also worked closely together to respond to the UN General Assembly request to **measure the impact of hosting, protecting and assisting refugees**, resulting in global costing exercises that account for the inclusion of refugees in national education and national public health systems, and meeting their subsistence needs. These reports followed a 2021 study on the cost of integrating refugees into education systems, which was updated by the Bank in 2023.

The JDC's third Research Conference on Forced Displacement, organized in collaboration with the African School of Economics in September 2024, aimed to foster the dissemination of high-quality quantitative research on forced displacement and provide a platform for constructive research-policy dialogues.

UNHCR also advanced joint evidence generation with the **IMF, OECD** and regional development banks such as the **Inter-American Development Bank**. The IMF, for instance, was increasingly engaged in documenting the macroeconomic impact of forced displacement, and worked with UNHCR to integrate analysis on forced displacement within its "Article IV reports"—annual assessments of countries' economies—including Costa Rica, Jordan, the Republic of Moldova and Poland.

Development collaboration within the UN

UNHCR and **UNDP** engaged in joint work at regional and country levels under the "Global collaboration framework for inclusion and solutions", with new MoUs signed in Afghanistan, Egypt and Uganda. The value of the partnership was illustrated in two reports, "Partnership in action" and "Local action on forced displacement". For example, an Integration Hub was developed in western **Ukraine** to support host and forcibly displaced communities in transitioning from humanitarian response to sustainable development through social and cultural exchanges and support for livelihoods. Additionally, a new Knowledge Platform allowed UNHCR and UNDP staff to exchange information and resources. UNDP made dedicated funding for forced displacement available at the global level for the first time for its country offices, demonstrating the growing recognition that addressing displacement must be part and parcel of development efforts.

UNHCR also stepped up its external engagement on **peacebuilding** through the vehicle of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on "Peacebuilding and conflict prevention" launched at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, which has led to a stronger partnership with the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, which co-leads the pledge with Colombia, Egypt and Norway. The pledges by over 30 stakeholders seek to achieve conditions conducive to return in safety and dignity through peacebuilding work, including institutional capacity-building, enhanced participation of refugees and IDPs, including women and youth in peacebuilding processes and conflict prevention.

The Hanano Bakery in Aleppo in the Syrian Arab Republic was rehabilitated by UNHCR and WFP and produces bread for around 9,500 households, as well as providing temporary jobs through cash-for-work. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Focus Area

Aliona (third from left) fled Ukraine to find refuge in the Republic of Moldova in 2022, and now works with UNHCR's Refugee Green Line, which helps address refugees' concerns and provides information on available services, rights, obligations, and integration in the Republic of Moldova. The helpline is staffed by a team of Ukrainian refugees and Moldovans. © UNHCR/Mark Macdonald

Accountability to Affected People

UNHCR works to protect and assist forcibly displaced and stateless people, and to find durable solutions to their displacement and statelessness. It is vital that this work is done in a way that takes account of their potential, their needs and their vulnerability, giving them a chance to shape both the overall humanitarian response and their own futures.

UNHCR's Strategic Directions (2022-2026) set a goal of taking specific initiatives to ensure our interventions are more accountable to affected communities, effectively designed with them, and use their strengths and insights to meet their needs. In 2024, UNHCR is enhancing its efforts around the following four AAP core actions based on the UNHCR's policy on **Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD)** with the view that by 2030, forcibly displaced and stateless people of different ages, genders and diverse characteristics will have increased trust in UNHCR and can systematically influence the direction of its work:

- **participation and inclusion;**
- **communication and transparency;**
- **feedback and response;** and
- **organizational learning and adaptation**.

With increasing needs and limited funding, UNHCR initiated the work to help UNHCR operations to better track their progress on the four core actions, showing its impact, efficiency, and any potential gaps that need addressing.

The year 2024 saw reduced funding for forcibly displaced people, making it critically important that provision of assistance is designed in consultation with them, and that the limited resources target those most in need. This required the need for strengthened feedback and response systems, ensuring that the systems are effective in collecting and responding to the feedback and concerns of women, men, boys and girls.

UNHCR also contributed to the **Inter-Agency Standing Committee** Standards for Collective Feedback Mechanisms, which were finalized in 2024 and provide a comprehensive framework for the collective management of feedback in humanitarian settings. This will strengthen the way UNHCR operations gather and respond to feedback, complaints and insights from communities. It is key to fulfilling the commitments set out in UNHCR's policy on age, gender and diversity, ensuring service providers can listen to and act on the voices of displaced people. The standards will enable humanitarian organizations to record, categorize, analyse and visualize feedback in a standardized and efficient way, and most importantly, adapt programmes to the needs of forcibly displaced people.

The **shortfall in funding** for UNHCR's work in 2024 made it even more important to design humanitarian responses in consultation with the intended beneficiaries and to target the limited resources at those most in need. UNHCR operations around the world conducted participatory assessments and individual interviews, held town hall meetings and focus group discussions, provided hotlines and suggestion boxes, and supported community-led initiatives with technical help and resources. Data from UNHCR operations showed that **263,300 people in 122 countries were consulted via participatory assessments** in 2024.

4.3 million people in 133 countries used UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms in 2024, up from 2.5 million in 2023, based on data from 95 operations. An estimated 75% of forcibly displaced and stateless people had access to these mechanisms in 2024.

UNHCR co-led **three AAP projects** funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund in 2024. One, in **Burkina Faso**, aimed to strengthen the inter-agency feedback and response mechanisms. 400 community members were trained on these mechanisms and maintained regular contact with the community to ensure effective communication. In total, over 215,000 calls were made to the call centre in 2024.

Another was undertaken in the emergency in **Haiti**, where UNHCR conducted information and communication needs assessments in collaboration with our partner ACTED and the AAP Working Group. This combined qualitative data from over 12,000 households, with insights from focus group discussions with 340 individuals. The assessment ensured participation of minority groups, women, adolescents, and persons with disabilities. Key findings were incorporated into the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan for Haiti and collective inter-agency efforts to harmonize feedback and response systems among partners using WFP's SugarCRM software to record feedback and complaints.

The findings helped to shape and strengthen the humanitarian response. A third project, in **Niger**, profiled the needs of 454,000 people in four communes and strengthened community involvement in the emergency response, which led to better protection of the forcibly displaced population.

UNHCR also invested in **digital tools and solutions** in 2024, in order to:

- improve communication with forcibly displaced people;
- make sure they could quickly get accurate information on their rights, their entitlements, and any potential risks;
- ensure they had greater autonomy over their own data; and
- enhance their ability to take responsibility for their own protection.

UNHCR's **Digital Gateway** was piloted in several countries, allowing asylum-seekers and refugees to self-register through safe online accounts, access useful information and engage with UNHCR and partners. More than 40,000 **Sudanese asylum-seekers arriving in Egypt** were able to book appointments for registration on self-service portals without travelling to UNHCR premises, and could get quick access to protection services and assistance. The Gateway made the registration process more efficient and reduced pressure on UNHCR's main registration centres in Greater Cairo and Alexandria. User testing helped to refine the tool to ensure it was tailored to the specific needs of people arriving in Egypt after fleeing from the war in Sudan. In all, about 240,000 individuals created self-service accounts in **Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, and Indonesia**, 51% of them women and girls.

Community leaders from **Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Guatemala** participated in workshops for the "training of trainers" in digital literacy in 2024, supported by the multi-stakeholder Connectivity for Refugees initiative, enabling them to share the knowledge needed to navigate digital tools and platforms effectively. **69% of the participants were women and girls.** The lessons learned will inform UNHCR's future digital literacy programmes to equip women and girls with practical tools to access information, services, and opportunities, reducing digital exclusion and strengthening their roles as leaders within their communities.

Multi-language **Help websites in 146 countries** enabled forcibly displaced people, including people on the move, to access critical and life-saving information on protection services and assistance, as well as procedures on asylum applications. In total, **13.6 million people** globally accessed information on Help websites, up from 10 million in 2023. This is significant as the Help website is considered a trusted source of information by forcibly displaced people.

A global survey revealed that **messaging apps and telephone messages** are preferred by forcibly displaced people according to 74% of operations, followed by email and social media. WhatsApp-based tools enabling automated chatbots are available in 14 countries. Considering that the use of digital tools has become an indispensable way to engage with forcibly displaced people, and as the digital landscape presents unique risks and challenges, particularly in displacement contexts where vulnerabilities are heightened, UNHCR initiated an ECHO-funded research on online safe spaces to assist humanitarian responders to create safe digital spaces for communities and to enhance communication and participation of specific groups online.

The research fits into UNHCR's commitment to gain understanding of communities' perceptions of risk and management of sensitive topics, and how trust can be built between forcibly displaced people and humanitarian agencies. It also links to ongoing work on ensuring information integrity, including managing and countering misinformation, disinformation and hate speech.

UNHCR developed a learning module "Using social media in community-based protection: a guide", targeting UNHCR staff, partners and stakeholders with an interest in using social media to enhance protection while avoiding security and privacy risks to forcibly displaced and stateless people. 500 people undertook the training in 2024.

El Khansa Fouad, a Sudanese refugee with special needs, fled to Egypt after war broke out. A painter, taekwondo athlete, and activist, she founded Arab Women with Disabilities and continues to fight stereotypes, dreaming to one day defend the rights of people with disabilities across Egypt and the world. © UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

Lessny arrived in Ecuador two and a half years ago with her daughter, after fleeing from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, where she was selling coffee. After suffering a kidnapping, she had to leave her country to preserve her life. Once in Ecuador, she chose Guayaquil as her home. Here, she found a coffee supplier and was able to re-enter the coffee selling business. Thanks to entrepreneurship courses given by EPICO, with the support of UNHCR, Lessny learned to advertise on social media and improve her business strategy, which has translated into increased sales of her ground coffee. Now her business, called Mokafe, has regular customers and is projected to have a great future. © UNHCR/Omar Ganchala

Sustainable responses

By the end of 2024, nearly 130 million people were forcibly displaced or stateless—an almost threefold increase since 2013. The vast majority, 71%, were hosted in low- and middle-income countries, where governments and communities continued to provide protection and support, thereby contributing to stability and solidarity amid rising global uncertainty.

With forced displacement on the rise, life-saving humanitarian assistance remains essential. Growing evidence shows, however, that it cannot on its own address the scale, complexity, or root causes of displacement. This understanding is at the heart of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), which calls for strengthened responsibility-sharing and a whole-of-society response to forced displacement.

Accordingly, and to operationalize the objectives of the GCR, UNHCR has worked with Member States and other key stakeholders to shape what is called today the sustainable response approach. This approach systematically aligns humanitarian action with nationally-led strategies that promote inclusion and self-reliance from the outset, which in turn drive solutions to forced displacement. It also fosters close collaboration among humanitarian, development, peace, and private-sector actors, integrating immediate responses with longer-term national economic and development priorities.

The approach furthermore draws on multi-stakeholder pledges made at Global Refugee Forums to enhance local service delivery—particularly in areas such as health, education, social protection, and employment. By strengthening national and local systems, reliance on humanitarian aid alone is reduced while economic resilience is boosted and the potential of both displaced populations and host communities is unlocked.

Recognizing that no single format fits every context, the sustainable response approach is intentionally flexible and tailored to local priorities. It emphasizes meaningful participation and actively engages local authorities, civil society, and community-based organizations—including those led by displaced people. In doing so, it ensures that the specific needs and capacities of women, children, and vulnerable groups are addressed effectively, leading to outcomes that are inclusive, protective, and empowering.

Throughout 2024, the sustainable response approach guided UNHCR's work across all outcome areas, reinforcing a shift from emergency relief toward long-term, solutions-oriented responses that foster inclusion, resilience, and self-reliance opportunities for the forcibly displaced and the communities that host them. In 2024, the approach also reinforced the importance of solutions in countries of origin strengthening conditions for voluntary return, expanding third country solutions, and deepening regional cooperation to deliver more holistic, durable outcomes for refugees, returnees, and host communities alike.

Supporting solutions and conditions for return

In 2024, over 1.6 million refugees and 8.2 million internally displaced persons returned to countries and areas of origin, including Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. Many returns were spontaneous and often occurred in complex conditions marked by insecurity, damaged infrastructure, and limited services. UNHCR supported returns by providing voluntary repatriation counselling to more than 353,000 refugees in 104 countries, capturing data and evidence through monitoring and profiling exercises to inform broader reintegration efforts.

In Afghanistan, where 3.2 million people remain internally displaced, UNHCR and the UN country team advanced solutions in line with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda, with a focus on livelihoods, social cohesion, and basic services. In the Syrian Arab Republic, area-based return programmes and the establishment of border health and protection points enabled Syrian refugees to access essential support as they returned home from neighbouring countries. Notably, UNHCR's 2025 intentions survey indicated that 27% of Syrian refugees in the region expressed a desire to return within the next 12 months, a significant increase from just 1.7% in 2024. This sharp rise underscores the importance of regularly capturing community perspectives to inform preparedness, programming, and engagement with host and origin countries.

See also:

- OA 14: Voluntary Repatriation and Sustainable Reintegration
- Focus Area: Internal displacement

Advancing self-reliance and inclusion

In 2024, refugee access to livelihoods, financial services, social protection, health care, and education continued to rise across hosting countries and countries of origin. More than 469,000 refugees accessed targeted economic inclusion programmes, while social protection coverage expanded across 75 countries. Health systems in countries like Ethiopia and Cameroon became more inclusive, and in education, the Inclusion Support Programme for Refugee Education (INSPIRE) is helping governments include refugees in national systems in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan, with 11 more countries launching soon.

Governments also took steps to move away from protracted camp-based responses, which often limit self-reliance and long-term outcomes. One in five forcibly displaced people still resides in camps or camp-like settings, many in areas with vulnerabilities exacerbated by extreme weather. Countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique and Mauritania are progressively linking refugee-hosting areas to national and subnational development planning. These are complex, long-term efforts that require continual coordination, investment and political will. In Kenya, the Shirika Plan was formally launched in 2025 as a nationally-owned roadmap that promotes the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees in Kenya by transforming camps into integrated settlements for both refugees and asylum-seekers. In Ethiopia, the Makatet roadmap remains under development but reflects growing national momentum toward more sustainable, integrated approaches.

See also:

- OA 9 Sustainable housing and settlements
- OA 10: Healthy lives
- OA 11 Education
- OA 12 Clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- OA 13: Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods
- OA 16: Local integration and other local solutions

Expanding third-country solutions and regional cooperation

In 2024, progress on third-country solutions and regional cooperation supported more equitable responsibility-sharing. Resettlement and complementary pathways—such as education, employment, and family reunification—expanded, with countries including Ethiopia, Lebanon, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Rwanda and Türkiye facilitating broader access.

Governments and partners also advanced regional cooperation to link inclusion, voluntary return, and reintegration. Support platforms under the Global Compact on Refugees, along with regional bodies such as IGAD, the East African Community, the Afghan Support Platform, the Central African Republic Platform, and the Southern African Development Community played a growing role in coordinating sustainable responses across asylum and origin countries. These efforts reinforced national strategies and demonstrated how regional cooperation can deliver collective progress on protection and solutions.

See also:

- OA 15: Resettlement and complementary pathways
- The Global Compact on Refugees

Strategic enablers and partnerships

In 2024, UNHCR deepened collaboration with development partners, UN entities, peace and peacebuilding actors, the private sector, and civil society—including organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless people—to advance sustainable, nationally led responses. Dedicated financial instruments, such as the World Bank International Development Institution (IDA) Window for Hosts and Refugees for low-income countries, and the Global Concessional Financing Facility (GCFF) to provide concessional financing to support refugee hosting middle-income countries, complemented by bilateral donors, regional development banks, and UN agencies delivering technical assistance and capacity-building. These partnerships reinforced national systems and ensured that responses aligned with development priorities.

The private sector played a growing role, with more than 800 companies working alongside UNHCR to expand opportunities for refugee employment, financial inclusion, and self-reliance. The IFC-UNHCR Joint Initiative advanced private-sector-led solutions by conducting financial inclusion assessments in Brazil, Colombia, Mauritania, Mexico and Poland—helping identify investment opportunities and informing programme design.

Data partnerships were equally critical to advance more sustainable responses. The Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC), a collaboration between UNHCR and the World Bank since 2019, continued to drive progress on data inclusion. In 2024, it supported over 35 countries to integrate refugees and stateless persons into national censuses, surveys and administrative systems—providing the evidence base needed to inform policy and planning.

The participation of displaced and host communities, local authorities, and refugee- and women-led organizations is central to the design and implementation of sustainable responses. In 2023 and 2024, regional and global consultations with NGOs brought together UNHCR and partners—including organizations led by displaced and stateless people, women-led organizations, faith-based actors, and both local and national entities—around the key topic of solutions and inclusion in national systems.

See also:

- Focus Area: Accountability to affected people
- Focus Area: Working with development partners
- OA 1: Access to territory, registration and documentation
- Strategic partnerships

2024 showed that when national leadership and partnerships are prioritized, sustainable responses deliver progress for refugees and host communities alike. Continued investment and joint action are essential to sustain and scale sustainable responses. The High-Level Officials Meeting in December 2025 will provide a critical platform to review progress, deepen engagement, and chart the way forward for even more impactful, collective action.

Cristian recalls that when he first moved to La Campanera, a settlement of more than 12,000 in El Salvador, life was very nice and there were recreational spaces for children and tree planting. However, gang violence and threats created insecurity, promoted discrimination and undermined community cohesion. UNHCR is working to strengthen trust and cooperation through various initiatives with the residents of La Campanera, improving housing, public spaces and community governance. © UNHCR/Markel Redondo

Route-based approach

Global needs

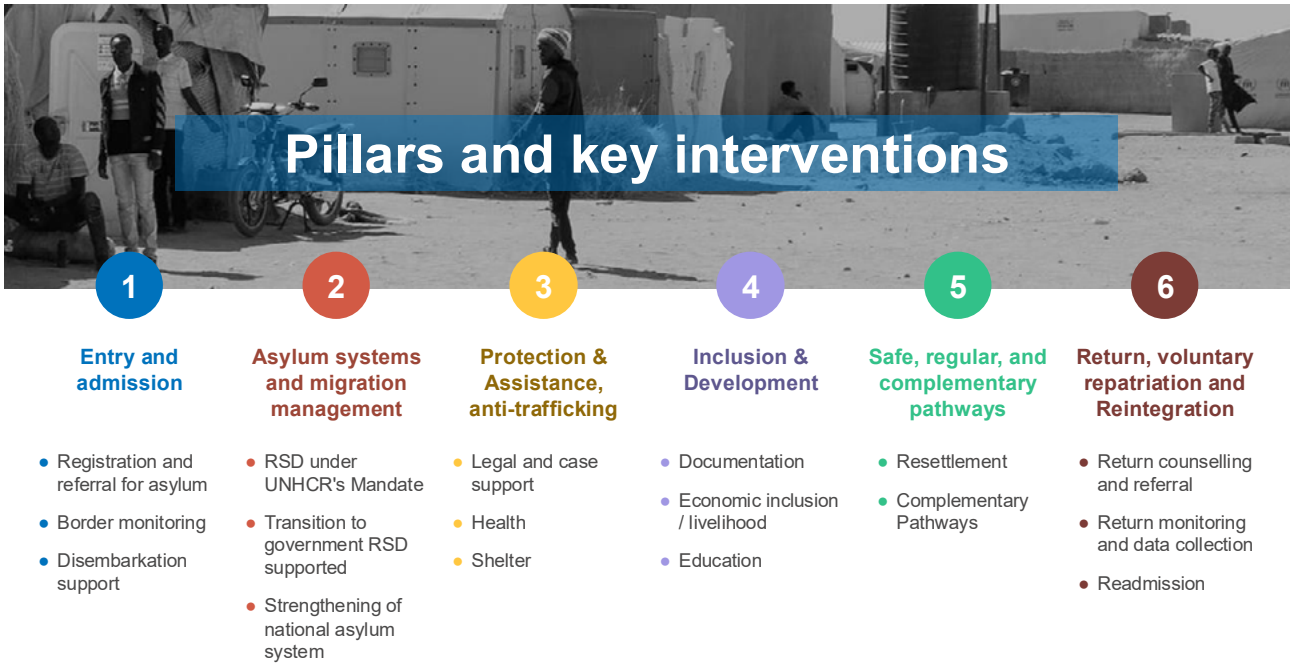
Refugees are governed by a separate legal framework from migrants and have distinct needs for international protection, as recognized in international refugee law, but they often use the same routes as migrants and face similar vulnerabilities and risks along the way, such as falling prey to traffickers and smugglers. For instance, in 2024, some 209,000 refugees and migrants attempted to reach Europe by land and sea through various routes while some 11,300 Rohingya refugees fled to neighbouring countries, of which 9,200 embarked on perilous sea/river journeys. To help mitigate protection risks, in Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, for example, UNHCR and partners reached over 7,123 Rohingya refugees directly and 587,520 through radio broadcasts with key messages and information on risks of trafficking and other abuses; in addition, in 2024 UNHCR and partners in the Anti-Trafficking Working Group in Cox's Bazar identified and assisted 316 refugees who had been trafficked. During the last quarter of 2024, the number of refugees and migrants engaging in onward movement through Panama dropped by 42% from the previous year; decreasing from 520,100 to 302,200 irregular entries. A similar pattern was observed at the United States southwestern border, where encounters with Venezuelans decreased from 360,600 in 2023 to 176,900 in 2024, representing a reduction of more than 50%. For far too many people, these dangerous journeys result in increased vulnerability, trauma or loss of life. 2024 marked the largest annual death toll recorded since 2014, with more than 8,700 deaths recorded for the second year in a row. In 2024, expulsions, violent pushbacks, and ill-treatment continued to be reported, potentially impeding access to international protection and solutions for forcibly displaced people.

How UNHCR made a difference

In response to these challenges, UNHCR operationalized the "route-based approach" in 2024, working closely with States, IOM, other UN agencies, civil society partners, migrant and refugee organizations, and other stakeholders. The approach identified the following routes, involving dangerous journeys:

- The American routes;
- The North Africa/Mediterranean routes
- The South-east Asia routes;
- The South Asia routes;
- The South-west Asia/Europe routes;
- The Southern Africa routes.

The approach is built around six pillars that aim to save lives by providing alternatives to dangerous journeys early and offering effective, rights-based responses to help States address the challenges of mixed and onward movements.



While increasingly endorsed by many partners, UNHCR further promoted the route-based approach with States and stakeholders in the European Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Regional Economic Committees, the Tokyo Immigration Forum, the Bali Process and the Inter-Governmental Consultations on Migration, Asylum and Refugees. Cooperation with UN partners was strengthened, notably in the context of the UN Network on Migration and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). For example, UNHCR leveraged its ICAT partnership to highlight the increased risks of trafficking for forcibly displaced and stateless persons in humanitarian settings, especially children and, in particular, unaccompanied and separated children in mixed movements, this also informed ICAT Principals' call for accelerated action to respond to child trafficking. UNHCR also enhanced its advocacy (e.g. Side-event at the 2024 NGO Consultations) and operational engagement with international NGOs on the route-based approach including in relation to the need to revise its partnership agreements and to appeal for more flexibility with donors. and operational engagement with international NGOs on the route-based approach including in relation to the need to revise its partnership agreements and to appeal for more flexibility with donors.

UNHCR developed **regional strategies** in the Americas, Asia and southern Africa to target interventions in priority areas along the six identified pillars. New tools, such as the app developed with the Regional Support Office of the Bali Process, allowed for **rapid screening, profiling and referrals** of refugees and migrants. We intensified advocacy and operational work in support of **disembarkation in safety**, such as in Indonesia, where 800 people were safely disembarked and provided with protection and humanitarian assistance. UNHCR established **multipurpose hubs**, as in Tiné in **Chad** and in Niamey in **Niger**, providing services including pre-registration, relocation, and registration to asylum-seekers along the routes.

To strengthen government services, UNHCR trained officials in key locations, holding a multi-country workshop with representatives from **Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger,** and **Senegal** and working with the Sanremo Institute to train SADC staff and Government officials from across southern Africa. In **Niger**, for example, UNHCR supported the decentralization of asylum processing to the Agadez region, a hub for Africans travelling to Libya, Algeria and Europe.

UNHCR also assisted States and stakeholders to ensure the **inclusion of refugees** in national services in countries such as **Botswana, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Somalia, South Africa, Zambia** and **Zimbabwe**, reducing the marginalization that can lead to onward movements. Greater data collection and analysis allowed for better mapping of rescue efforts and gaps along the southern Africa route, the western Indian route and other routes in Asia (e.g. dashboard on maritime and land movements of Rohingyas).

UNHCR contributed to **reducing dangerous journeys** by communicating with people on the move and communities along routes, informing them about protection risks and the alternatives (e.g. digital participatory assessment rolled out in four country operations in Asia Pacific). Further targeted resource mobilization and greater coordination of mixed movement responses also helped implement more effective responses along routes. For instance, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) adopted a Handbook on technical and practical aspects of inter-agency coordination in responding to mixed movements.

UNHCR supported access to **solutions** along the routes, so that people in need of international protection were less inclined to continue on their risky journey and depended less on UNHCR's assistance. For instance, in 2024, the **Emergency Transit Mechanism in Rwanda** facilitated the resettlement of almost 600 refugees transferred from **Libya**, many of whom had been exposed to serious human rights abuses.

Along key routes, UNHCR submitted tens of thousands of refugees for **resettlement and complementary pathways** such as higher education or labour mobility schemes that enabled them to leave their country of asylum. More than 5,700 **Afghans** and 6,400 **Rohingya refugees** departed in 2024 in relation to the South-East Route, as well as 2,500 refugees in North Africa and 30,000 in East Africa in relation to the Central Mediterranean Route. However, these efforts were limited in scope and needed to be scaled up to respond to the overall needs of people on the move and States along the routes.

Global Refugee Forum pledges

The GRF 2023 multi-stakeholder pledges were not initially framed under the route-based approach, but many are closely linked to its objectives and thematic pillars, including the Multi-stakeholder Pledges on Alternatives to Detention, Trafficking and Protection at Sea covering refugees and migrants. UNHCR supported efforts to put the pledges into practice, particularly along the Western Mediterranean route (e.g. IDC engagement on ATD; the Gambia leadership in the missing migrants focal points network) and the South-East Asia route (e.g. Thailand's further efforts on ATD).

The impact of underfunding

A lack of sufficient support and alternative options for people in need of international protection in 2024 contributed to dangerous onward movements, loss of lives, increased protection challenges, and undermined efforts to stabilize populations, resulting in increased challenges for States and greater protection risk for the individuals concerned.

Underfunding also significantly reduced UNHCR's ability to provide life-saving interventions and services to people who experienced physical and/or sexual violence or trafficking along the route. It further undermined UNHCR and our partners' ability to build up States' capacity for registration, border monitoring, asylum processing, and other interventions that are essential to effective management of mixed and onward movements.

Leveraging AI to enhance humanitarian response

In 2024, UNHCR's Innovation Service significantly leveraged AI to enhance UNHCR's humanitarian efforts and operational efficiency. UNHCR collaborated with private sector innovators to integrate advanced AI solutions, driving cost savings and impactful outcomes. More than 40 generative AI proof-of-concepts have been explored, enabling secure Azure-based AI chatbots to summarize community insights, analyse funding applications, and facilitate interagency collaboration – streamlining workflows in alignment with the UN 2.0 Quintet of Change. AI is also enhancing predictive analytics, with initiatives such as Project Jetson in Brazil and Somalia, which utilize historical data, weather patterns, and socioeconomic indicators to forecast displacement trends. These AI-driven innovations have optimized decision-making and resource allocation, and improved service delivery and expanded outreach to forcibly displaced populations, demonstrating AI's transformative potential in humanitarian contexts.

Outcome Areas

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Outcome Area 1

Despite the conflict in Sudan, UNHCR and national Commission of Refugees have scaled up registration efforts in the country. In Tunaydbah camp in Gedaref state, a UNHCR staff member registers Kbrom, Abru and their family, Ethiopian asylum-seekers who had fled from the conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region and originally sought safety in Khartoum. The conflict in Sudan forced the family to move again in search of safety. Registering means they can receive ID cards that protect them from arbitrary arrest and detention. © UNHCR/Althea Gonzales

Access to territory, registration and documentation

Global needs

People who are fleeing from conflict or persecution must be allowed to reach safe territory, and they must be able to claim protection and request assistance.

They must not be sent back into danger: **non-refoulement** is a norm of customary international law – binding all States, whether signatories or non-signatories of refugee and human rights treaties – that prohibits removal of people to persecution or serious harm.

Preventing refoulement is a life-saving priority at the heart of UNHCR's mandated protection work. It is a pressing issue, as the scale of refoulement remains very high, with hundreds of thousands of people known or believed to have been refouled in 2024 across the globe. This includes individual expulsions and large-scale deportations and pushbacks.

Registering people who have been forced to flee and issuing them with civil documentation is not merely administrative, but fundamentally life-saving. Being registered means they are legally visible and can be protected from arbitrary detention or refoulement. They can more easily be connected to essential humanitarian services and enrolled in national civil registration and documentation systems. Having valid identity documents can open the way to inclusion in the local economy and public services, increasing self-reliance and removing obstacles to a durable solution. Being legally recognized is also crucial for the registration of births and other vital events, which is critical for access to education and to meet administrative requirements.

How UNHCR made a difference

As a core protection mandate responsibility, UNHCR supported States in working to ensure that people who were fleeing conflict and persecution would be admitted at borders and could enter and remain in safe territory. UNHCR supported them in developing and operating protection-sensitive entry management systems, and working to uphold the principle of non-refoulement.

In 2024, UNHCR engaged substantively with States in all regions to prevent and respond to threatened or actual refoulement, including by working with Interior Ministries, asylum authorities, courts, lawyers and other stakeholders. The organization also helped States to develop the capacity of border and asylum authorities, including for screening and referrals at borders. In this way, UNHCR supported States to better manage arrivals and asylum claims at borders and within their territory, in line with their international obligations.

By the end of 2024, 91% of refugees and asylum-seekers had been individually registered – by national authorities or by UNHCR – in 98 countries where UNHCR recorded the extent of registration. This was a slight increase from 89% of the 90 countries reporting data in 2023. During the year, UNHCR supported the registration of over **3.4 million people**, including **2.96 million individuals newly registered** in UNHCR's proGres registration system on an individual basis, up from 2.55 million in 2023.

UNHCR conducted registration, verification and documentation activities jointly with governments in refugee-hosting countries such as Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Jordan, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Türkiye and Uganda. In addition to registering new arrivals, verification exercises were conducted in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Pakistan and Uganda.

During 2024, UNHCR supported more than **4.6 million people** to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 88 countries. The total included 4.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers, 153,000 internally displaced people, 50,000 returnees and 63,000 stateless people. In 61 of the 88 countries, more than three-quarters of refugees and asylum-seekers had legally recognized identity documents or credentials. In 78 countries where UNHCR operations recorded data, 70% of refugee children under five had their births registered.

UNHCR and **Ethiopia**'s Refugees and Returnees Service supported refugees in obtaining digital ID cards and proof of registration with unique identifiers to facilitate access to essential services. In **Egypt**, UNHCR registered and provided government-recognized documentation to newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers from Sudan. In **Chad**, UNHCR collaborated with the National Agency for Secure Documents and the National Commission for the Reception and Reintegration of Refugees to issue biometric ID credentials with unique identifiers to all refugees aged 16 and above. In **Sudan**, UNHCR and the Commission for Refugees continued registering refugees and asylum-seekers and issuing identity documents. In **Bangladesh**, UNHCR and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner conducted a biometric verification exercise to update refugee numbers and avoid duplicate registrations. UNHCR and **Malaysia**'s Government renewed and issued documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers who had heightened protection risks and vulnerabilities.

Digital Gateway

In Egypt, UNHCR received a Government green light in August 2024 to launch its Digital Gateway, a secure portal for newly arriving Sudanese refugees to register for emergency registration and services. By the end of the year, 16,629 accounts had been created for 41,332 individuals, allowing them to pre-register and request appointments in Cairo and Alexandria to expedite their registration process. This will help to address the registration backlog in Egypt, documented in the recent evaluation of UNHCR's emergency response to the Sudan situation. In Indonesia, where most refugees live far from the capital Jakarta, a verification exercise started in May 2024 and more than 70% of the displaced population was connected to the portal, allowing them to request appointments, update their contact details and check their resettlement status.

PRIMES Interoperability Gateway (PING)

The PRIMES Interoperability Gateway (PING), UNHCR's data-sharing platform, was deployed in **Ethiopia**, where the exchange of data between UNHCR and national authorities enabled refugees to enrol in the national digital identity system, giving them access to public services such as education, health care, banking, and legal pathways to employment. This put the refugee ID card on par with the ID cards held by Ethiopians and foreigners residing in Ethiopia. In the United Republic of **Tanzania**'s refugee camps, data-sharing between UNHCR and WFP meant that WFP could provide food baskets in a targeted way, based on age profiles and family composition, and UNHCR had more accurate information about the people in the camps.

The impact of underfunding

Despite its critical importance, reduced donor contributions and restricted funding flexibility undermined refugee registration and documentation efforts. This severely affected refugees. For example:

- Delays in issuing valid documentation dramatically increased the risks of exploitation, arbitrary detention, family separation, and forced returns.
- Inadequate ID documentation prevented refugees from accessing the national social, legal and protection services and availing themselves of economic opportunities, specifically when they could not obtain work permits or business licences.
- Interruptions to registration increased the risk of statelessness and limited pathways to repatriation, resettlement and integration.
- Without registration and access to an effective humanitarian aid system, displaced individuals were forced to move onward in search of assistance, increasing regional instability.

Investing in robust refugee registration systems, whether humanitarian or government owned, as well as national identification and document systems, is not only humanitarian but strategically essential. It ensures targeted, accountable, and efficient humanitarian responses and offers displaced populations a clear pathway to dignity, resilience, and productive integration into society. In a challenging funding landscape, maintaining strong commitments to refugee registration upholds our collective humanitarian principles and supports global stability, security, and sustainable development.

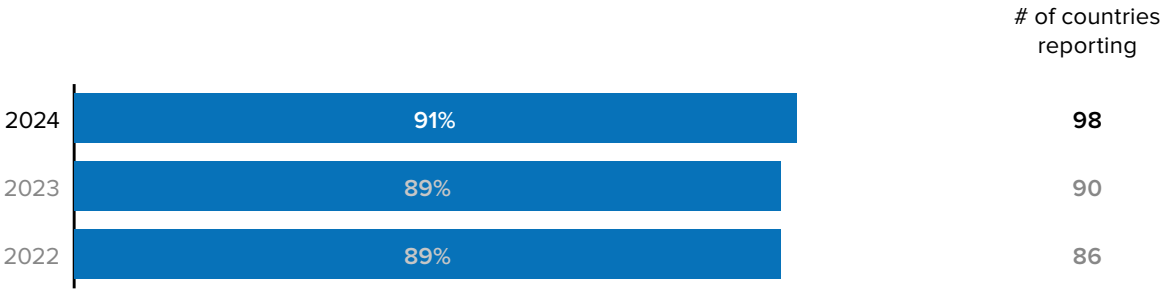
Core indicators

Access to territory, registration and documentation

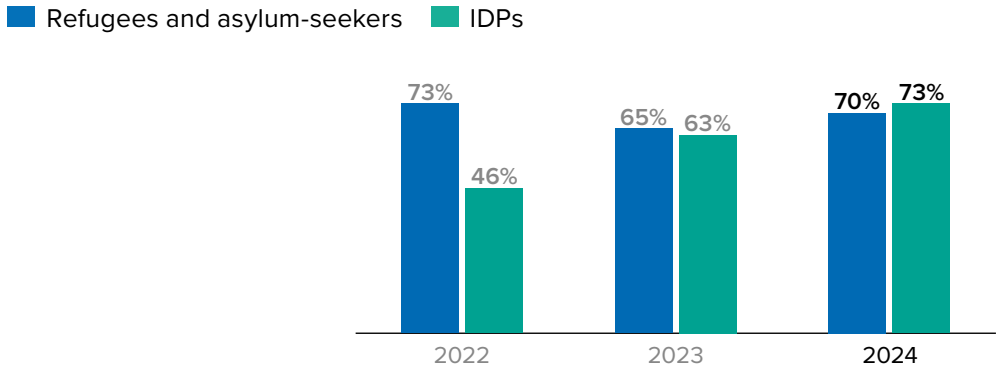
3.4 million people were registered on an individual basis (**104** countries reporting).

4.6 million people were supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation (**88** countries reporting).

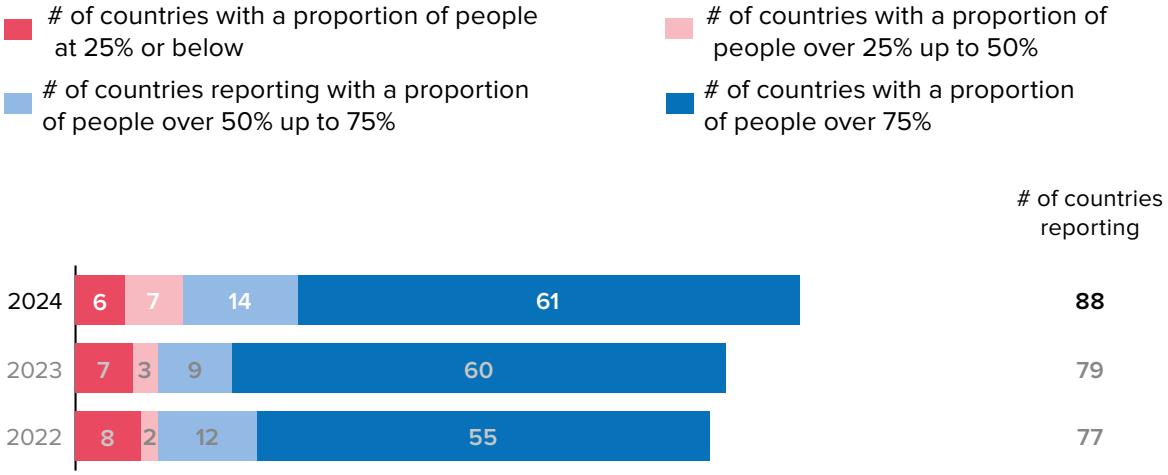
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on an individual basis (%)



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



1.3 Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with legally recognized identity documents or credentials

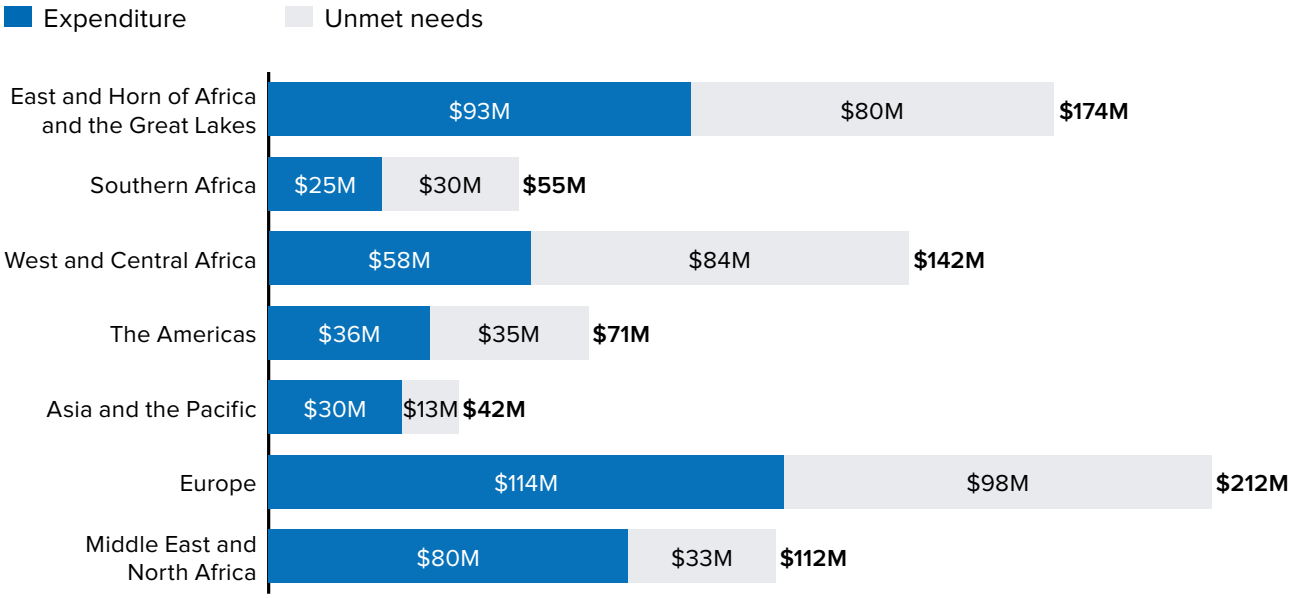


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Access to territory, registration and documentation

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$448 million** towards budgeted needs of **$820 million**. **$372 million** of unmet needs or **45%** of the budget

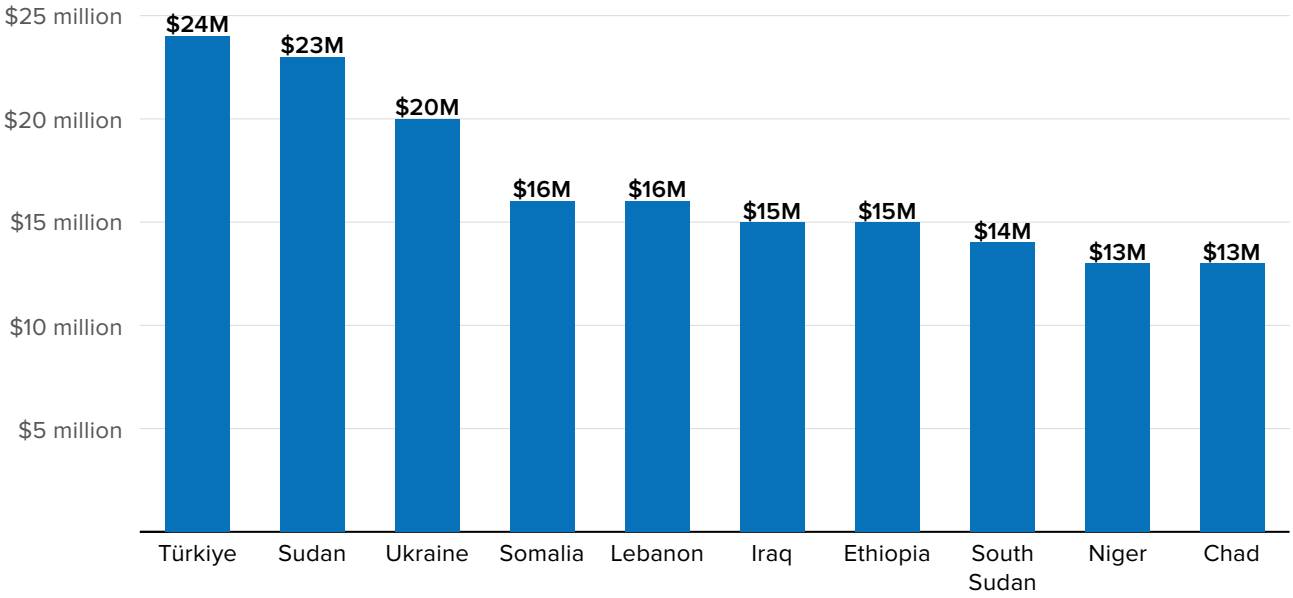
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Access to territory, registration and documentation



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Access to territory, registration and documentation: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **38%** of **$448 million** global expenditure in 2024



Mariam Hassan Mahamat and her daughters Djanatte and Asra are biometrically registered at the UNHCR registration centre in Chad. The three crossed the border into Chad after fleeing from El Geneina in Sudan, where many of their family members were killed by armed groups. Mariam said she was very happy to be safe in Chad. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

Outcome Area 2

Francisco and Juan are Venezuelans and requested refugee status in Mexico. When they arrived in the country, they approached the offices of the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance, where they presented their application for refugee status, had their biometric data taken, and received their 'Constancia' (certificate). Francisco and Juan received their public services and begin the integration process in their new communities. © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

Status determination

Global needs

Anyone fleeing conflict or persecution should be able find and enjoy asylum and receive protection from refoulement. This is at the heart of what UNHCR does. Identifying who is in need of international protection, and who is not, requires a system that can determine someone's status, rapidly and fairly, so that asylum-seekers are not kept in a legal limbo and reception capacity is not overwhelmed by a backlog of claimants. A fair and efficient system also facilitates the safe, dignified, and rights-based return of those found not to be in need of international protection – after they have received a correct and final decision on their asylum claim.

States have the primary responsibility to determine international protection needs and UNHCR focuses primarily on assisting States in this task. But even with many State asylum systems making improvements, it was not always possible to keep up with demand: the number of **outstanding asylum applications grew by 22% in 2024 to 8.4 million**. During the year, there were **3.1 million new individual asylum applications**, 835,600 people were recognized on a group basis, and 954,600 people received temporary protection status.

These high numbers resulted from many existing and new displacement situations but also from people without international protection needs using the asylum system to regularize their stay, in the absence of a functioning migration procedure.

In 2024, UNHCR data from 74 countries showed that in 66 of them, a majority of people undergoing asylum procedures had access to legal representation. However, in a few countries, few or no asylum-seekers had legal representation. In 63 countries, out of 75 reporting data, most people also had an effective appeal mechanism.

State authorities also need **statelessness determination procedures** (SDPs) so that they can identify stateless people, recognize their stateless status, and grant them a core set of rights. While some States improved their SDPs in 2024, the lack of dedicated SDPs, especially in countries with large numbers of stateless people, affected stateless people's access to basic human rights. There is a need for legislation and advocacy to strengthen laws and policies that allow for the identification and protection of stateless people.

How UNHCR made a difference

To address these challenges, UNHCR has placed a renewed emphasis on reinforcing asylum systems, improving interlinkages between asylum systems and systems for the return of people not in need of international protection, and urgently addressing backlogs. In 2024, although global asylum numbers went up, **the average time to process claims** went down, to 369 days, based on data from 64 countries where UNHCR operations reported on that indicator.

In 2024, **UNHCR supported 100 countries** to strengthen their asylum systems, especially where UNHCR's engagement would lead to a sustained increase in their capacity to handle asylum applications. UNHCR also prioritized situations involving mixed movements of migrants and refugees, and onward movements from a first country of asylum.

For example, UNHCR developed the capacity of asylum staff in **Kenya**, where the national asylum procedure is less than 10 years old, and helped to reduce the backlog. In many countries in the Americas, such as **Mexico** and **Colombia**, UNHCR increased the standard and efficiency of case processing by enhancing case management systems, supporting the implementation of differentiated procedures and providing expert staffing support. UNHCR's work in these countries helped to ensure that refugees were quickly recognized and were able to access protection, while ensuring that those without international protection needs were processed and did not add to the asylum backlog.

To support asylum decision-makers and guide States on questions of asylum, UNHCR issued **country guidance**, including on Iraq, Haiti, Myanmar, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

In response to the 2022 evaluation of UNHCR support to national asylum capacity development and in preparation for the issuance of a new strategy on strengthening national asylum systems in 2025, UNHCR developed a tool to assess national asylum capacity. The Asylum Capacity Support Group's Dialogue Platform, supported by UNHCR, complemented regional initiatives such as the MIRPS Support Platform and the Quito Process, by holding technical events on legal representation in asylum procedures and unlocking efficiency through improved case management systems.

In approximately **45 countries** where there was no fair and efficient asylum system in place, UNHCR conducted refugee status determination under its own mandate ("mandate RSD"). UNHCR also worked on improving the quality and efficiency of its own procedures, including by issuing internal guidance on situations where mandate RSD has a protection impact, on effective RSD workforce planning, and on simplified processing for particular profiles of applications.

As **Egypt** moved towards the establishment to a national asylum procedure, UNHCR supported the Government in the transition process, while still conducting refugee status determination under its mandate to support the protection of refugees in the interim period.

In 2024, UNHCR supported the strengthening and implementation of **statelessness determination procedures in 19 countries**, with technical assistance, training and advocacy. Its recommendations informed new rules in **Kazakhstan** that aimed at streamlining the determination process of persons without proof of citizenship – including shorter review periods, clearer communication with applicants, strengthened appeal rights, and improved verification of documentation. UNHCR also played a key role in the development and roll-out of a new SDP in **Colombia**, supporting the adoption of legal frameworks and the establishment of dedicated institutional mechanisms for implementation. UNHCR extended a Memorandum of Understanding with the authorities in **Italy** to improve procedural efficiency, reduce backlogs, and ensure better access to protection for stateless persons.

In February 2024, UNHCR also launched the new version of its Refworld website to enhance usability and accessibility of law and policy information.

The investment in the platform has allowed quicker access to law and policy information on forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

The impact of underfunding

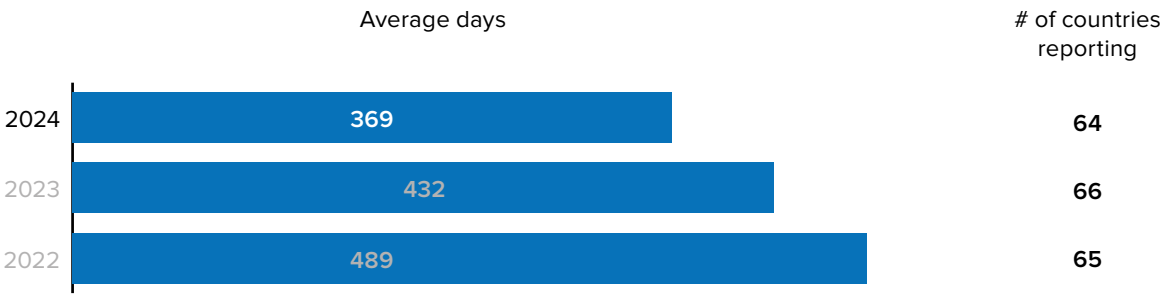
Asylum systems globally are facing significant challenges, with increasingly high numbers and complex displacement situations. Refugees face difficulties accessing safety and securing legal status in a timely manner, and States face challenges managing their systems in a fair yet cost-effective manner that supports the inclusion of refugees and the return of those not in need of international protection. Without adequate funding in this area, UNHCR will be unable to effectively work with States to strategically improve asylum systems, which means that inefficient systems will continue to waste resources, refugees will wait years to get a decision, negatively impacting their economic and social well-being and States will have increased difficulties returning those without international protection needs.

Core indicators

Status determination

101 countries where UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards (**110** countries reporting).

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



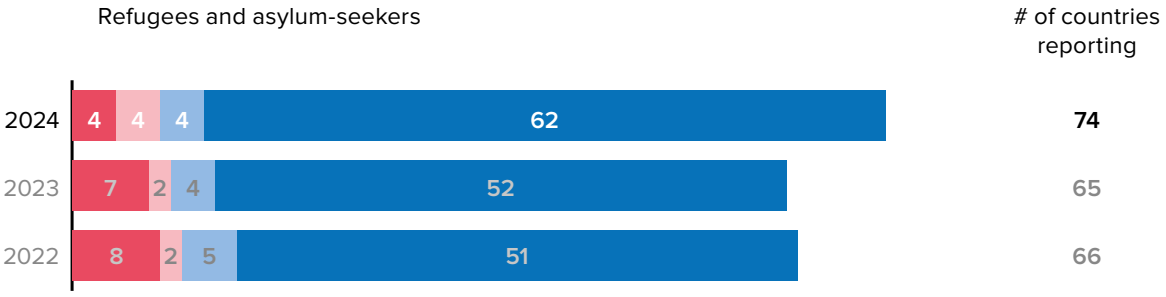
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries reporting with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%



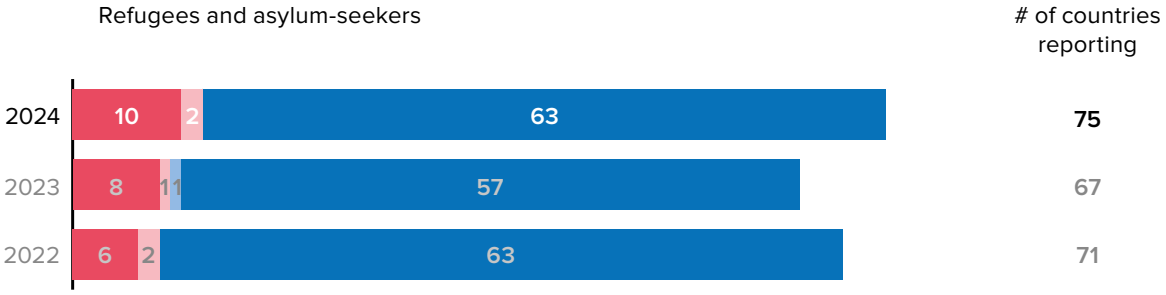
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

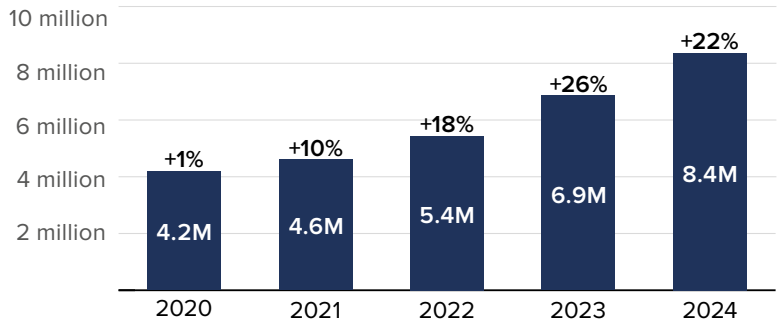
# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries reporting with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%



Asylum-seeker numbers | 2020-2024



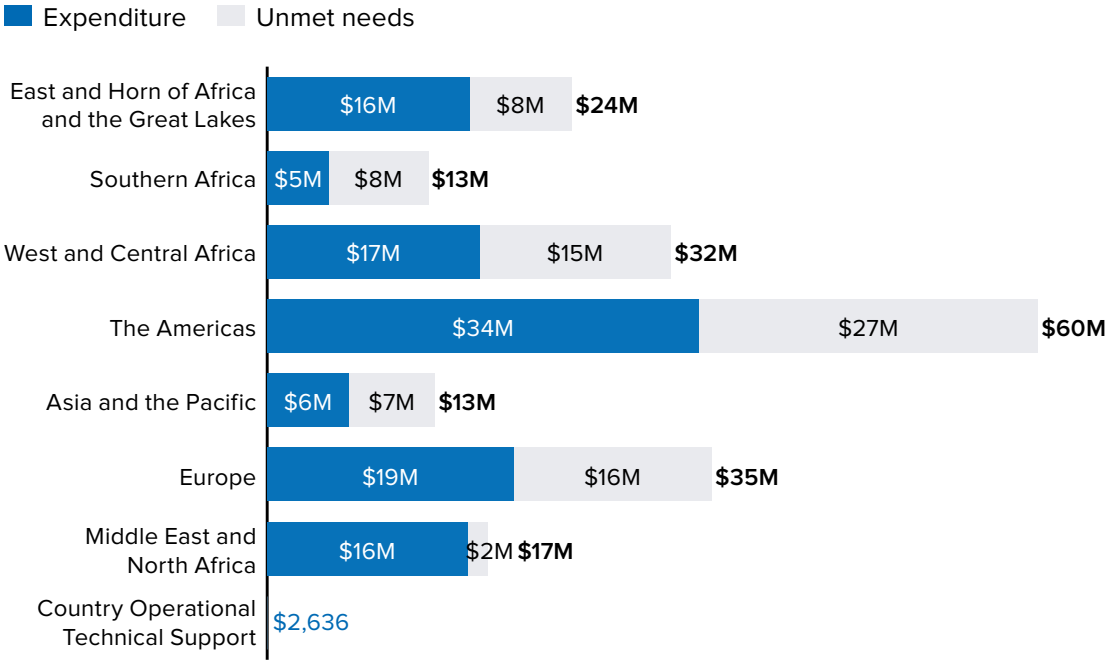
Please note: the 2024 asylum-seeker data includes mid-year figures for the United States, and full-year figures for other countries.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Status determination

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$114 million** towards budgeted needs of **$196 million**. **$81 million** of unmet needs or **41%** of the budget.

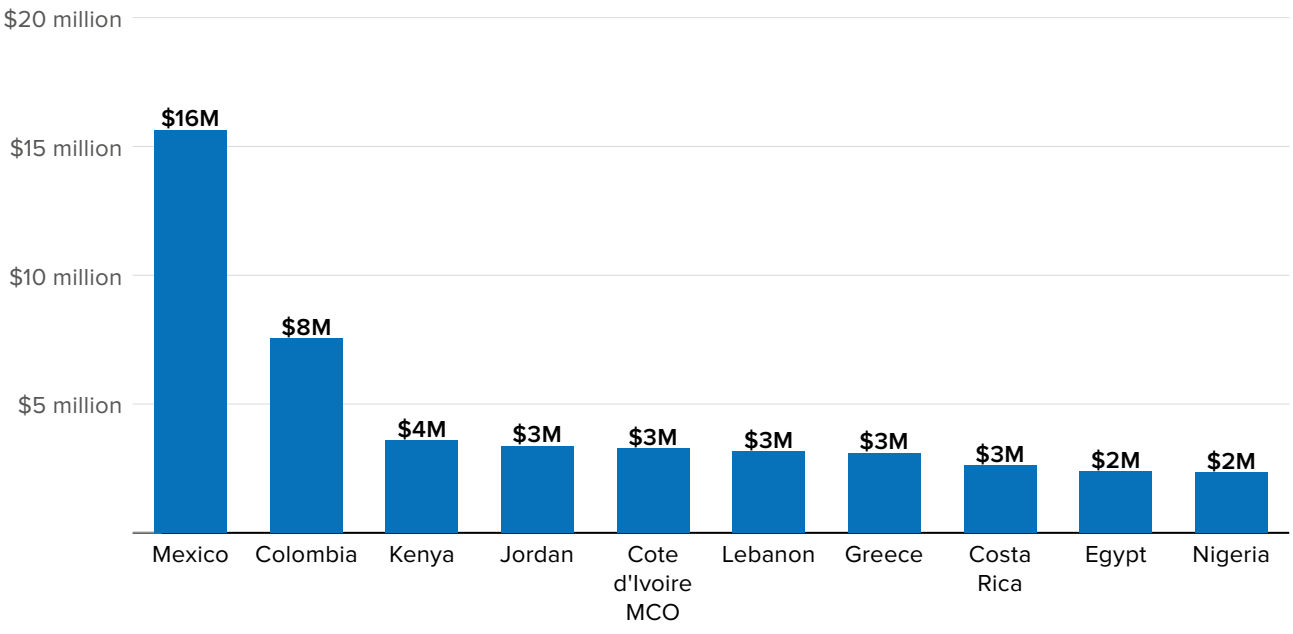
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Status determination



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Refugee status determination: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **41%** of **$114 million** global expenditure in 2024.



MCO: Multi-country office

Eman and her husband Mohamad arrived in Egypt in February 2024 with their two children, Zayad and Ola, after fleeing war in Sudan. The family is from Khartoum, where they both worked in stable jobs. They fled for their safety, leaving everything behind. They had to pay smugglers who transported them through the desert, before they reached safety at the Egyptian border. They are now living in Cairo where they have registered as refugees. They hope to find stable income and education for both of their children. © UNHCR/Christina Rizk

Outcome Area 3

Legal counsellor Marjan Fazli guides families on obtaining vital civil documents like a tazkira (the national ID card) or birth certificates in Herat province, Afghanistan. UNHCR runs legal assistance programmes across Afghanistan with partners to provide information to more people, especially displaced and returnee Afghans, about the importance of holding valid civil documents. Not having a tazkira can mean children are unable to attend school, and adults may be unable to receive humanitarian or other basic services. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

Protection policy and law

Global needs

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol are the cornerstone of the global refugee regime, providing a solid foundation for international protection and durable solutions. At the end of 2024, 149 States were party to one or both. There were no new accessions to either instrument during the year, but UNHCR continued to promote further accessions, including by following up on the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF).

Additionally, 48 African States were party to the 1969 "OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa" and 15 countries in the Americas have incorporated the broader refugee criteria under the 1984 "Cartagena Declaration on refugees" into their domestic laws. Both instruments are key regional complements to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol.

At least 151 countries and other territories have laws in place that relate to the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR data in 2024 showed that one third of them were not yet aligned with the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol, nor progressing towards alignment.

The 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness are core instruments to prevent statelessness and protect and assist stateless persons. At the end of 2024, 99 States were party to the 1954 Convention and 81 to the 1961 Convention. This included **São Tomé and Principe** and **South Sudan**, which acceded to the two instruments in 2024. However, UNHCR data on 149 countries showed that 54 of them still had a national legal framework in 2024 that was not aligned with the 1961 Convention.

How UNHCR made a difference

UNHCR engaged extensively in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen domestic legal frameworks and align them with international legal standards. In 2024, reports from UNHCR operations showed that UNHCR engaged in at least 123 countries on laws and policies on refugee protection. UNHCR engaged on legal and policy issues relating to statelessness in 45 of the 50 countries where UNHCR operations reported data on such engagement.

In **Egypt**, for example UNHCR worked with the Government to ensure the implementation of the country's first national asylum law was consistent with international standards, and to assist with the transition to a State-led asylum system. **Chile** passed legal reforms maintaining the principle of non-penalization for irregular entry in accordance with the 1951 Convention, after receiving technical observations and feedback from UNHCR.

UNHCR also advised governments and civil society in several European States on implementation of the **European Union**'s Pact on Migration and Asylum, to ensure a focus on legal safeguards and protection sensitivity when the new rules of the common European asylum system come into effect in June 2026. UNHCR also called on the **United Kingdom** to reconsider a plan to transfer asylum-seekers to Rwanda, and the newly-elected Government decided not to proceed with it.

Important legal guidance in accordance with UNHCR's supervisory responsibility was issued on non-penalization of refugees for irregular entry or stay under Article 31 of the 1951 Convention, family reunification for refugees and other beneficiaries of international protection and on access to territory and asylum in situations where the movement of people is "instrumentalized" by States.

UNHCR revamped the Refworld website, improving its usability and allowing swifter access to law and policy information. Further investments were made to the Refugee Treaty and Legislation Dashboard and the IDP Law and Policy Dashboard, part of the Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform, showcasing law and policy information for the protection of displaced persons.

In 2024, UNHCR engaged in over 30 countries on laws and policies related to internal displacement, supporting capacity-building on internal displacement standards and responses for governments and their national and local partners, as well as internally displaced persons themselves, for example in the **Mexican State of Oaxaca**. UNHCR's "Global report on law and policy on internal displacement" presents a global and regional overview, drawing on evidence from 15 countries of recent key law and policy developments related to prevention, protection and solutions for internally displaced persons. As of the end of 2024, 143 laws, policies and strategies had been adopted across 40 countries in all continents on the protection of internally displaced persons.

In the **Philippines**, the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) adopted the first rights-based law on internal displacement in South-east Asia, and over 15 municipalities passed ordinances on internal displacement. Protection of IDPs and solutions to internal displacement in BARMM was the subject of an evaluation conducted in 2024.

UNHCR assists courts around the world in adjudicating asylum cases, ensuring compliance with international standards. In 2024, UNHCR intervened in 18 cases in 11 jurisdictions, including 10 before national courts in seven countries and eight before regional courts involving six countries. UNHCR's interventions addressed a wide range of issues, including access to territory and asylum procedures involving situations of "instrumentalization"; "pushbacks" or refusals of entry at borders and the principle of non-refoulement; family reunification and the right to family unity; and reception conditions. Other interventions addressed complementary pathways, resettlement and the risk of statelessness.

UNHCR advocated through the UN human rights mechanisms, delivering four statements during Human Rights Council sessions, contributing information for five Special Procedures' annual reports and eight country visits, preparing 21 public submissions for the Universal Periodic Review, and providing 86 confidential written briefs and 18 country briefings to UN treaty bodies. UNHCR, jointly with OHCHR, supported the Platform of Independent Experts on Refugee Rights (PIERR), which released five global statements and engaged in two Human Rights Council side events, a panel and side event at the African Commission of Human and People's Rights session, and a panel and capacity segment for magistrates and judges at the International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges' Africa Chapter conference. UNHCR continued its engagement with national human rights institutions, supporting the follow-up of the Global Refugee Forum multi-stakeholder pledge, which aims for national level pledge implementation.

Various regions advanced legal frameworks to address statelessness with support from UNHCR. The **African Union** (AU) Assembly of States adopted a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, seeking to resolve legal barriers to the right to nationality on the continent. 15 States need to ratify the Protocol for it to come into force. **The League of Arab States** launched the "Arab Declaration on belonging and legal identity", focusing on birth registration, prevention of childhood statelessness, and strengthening legal identity rights. In the Americas, **the Latin American and Caribbean Council of civil registry, identity and vital statistics** (CLARCIEV) adopted the "São Paulo Declaration", emphasizing universal birth registration and the right to identity. As part of the Cartagena +40 process, States in the region reaffirmed their commitment to eradicate statelessness in the "Chile Declaration", accompanied by a 10-year plan of action setting out specific actions to reduce statelessness.

Underfunding and other constraints

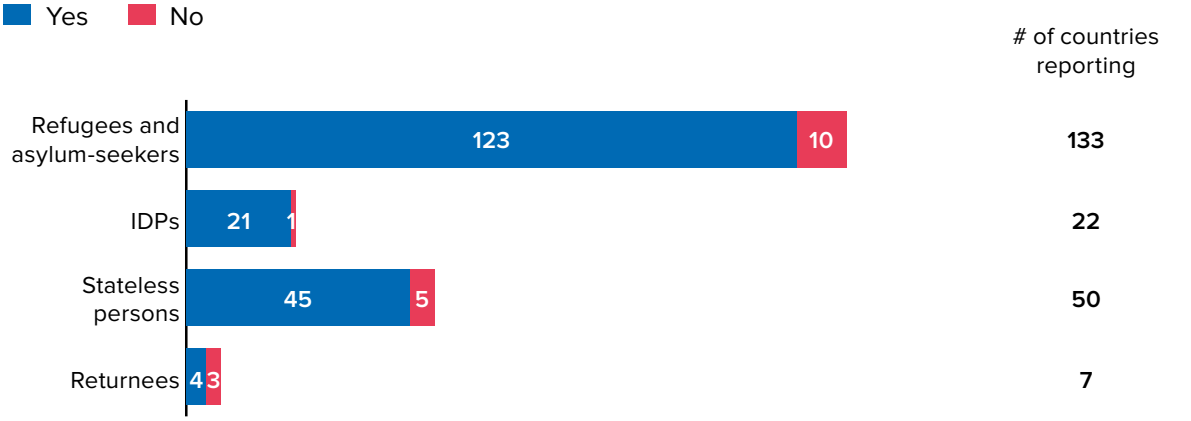
Underfunding hindered UNHCR's ability to advance dialogue on law reform, advocate for simplified naturalization procedures, provide legal aid and to undertake strategic litigation, while many other challenges remained, including weak legal and institutional frameworks, limited implementation of legal reforms, and insufficient legal awareness and access to justice. Capacity gaps among judicial and administrative bodies, bureaucratic and administrative barriers, insecurity and political instability, lack of coordination among stakeholders, social and cultural barriers, and challenges in information and data collection, analysis and dissemination further complicated efforts. Addressing these challenges requires sustained investment in legal reform, training of judges and government officials, awareness-raising, and institutional strengthening.

Core Output indicator

Protection policy and law

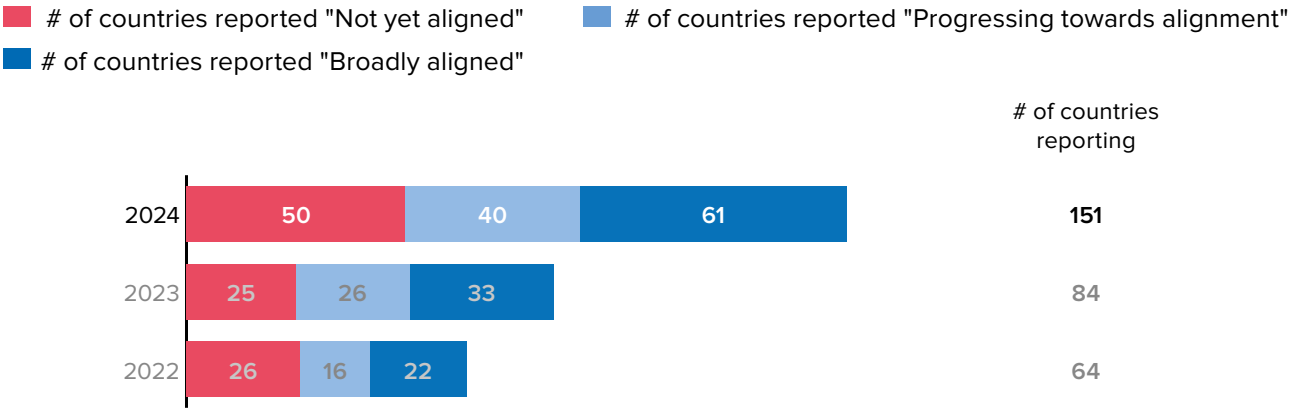
131 countries where UNHCR engaged in the legislative and/or judicial process to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness (**142** countries reporting).

3.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness

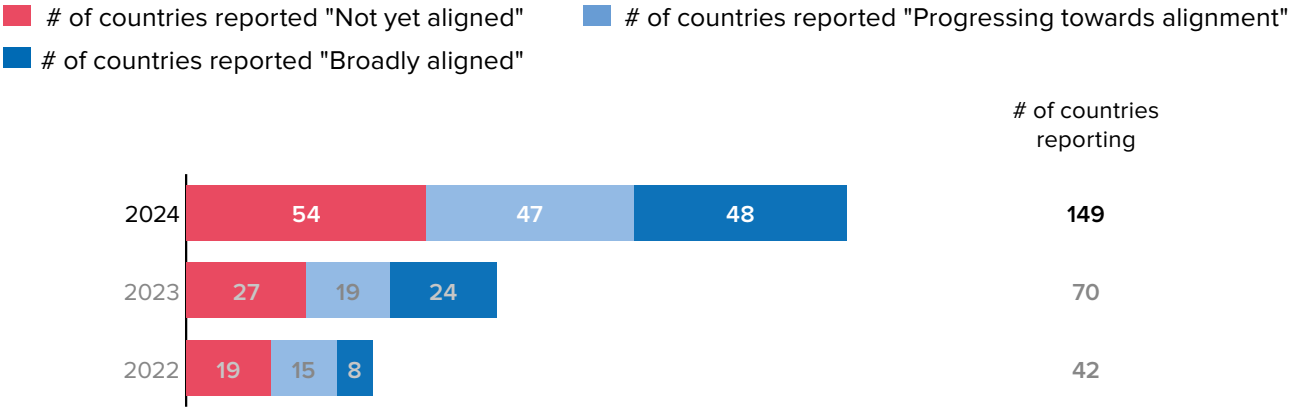


Core Outcome Area indicators

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



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

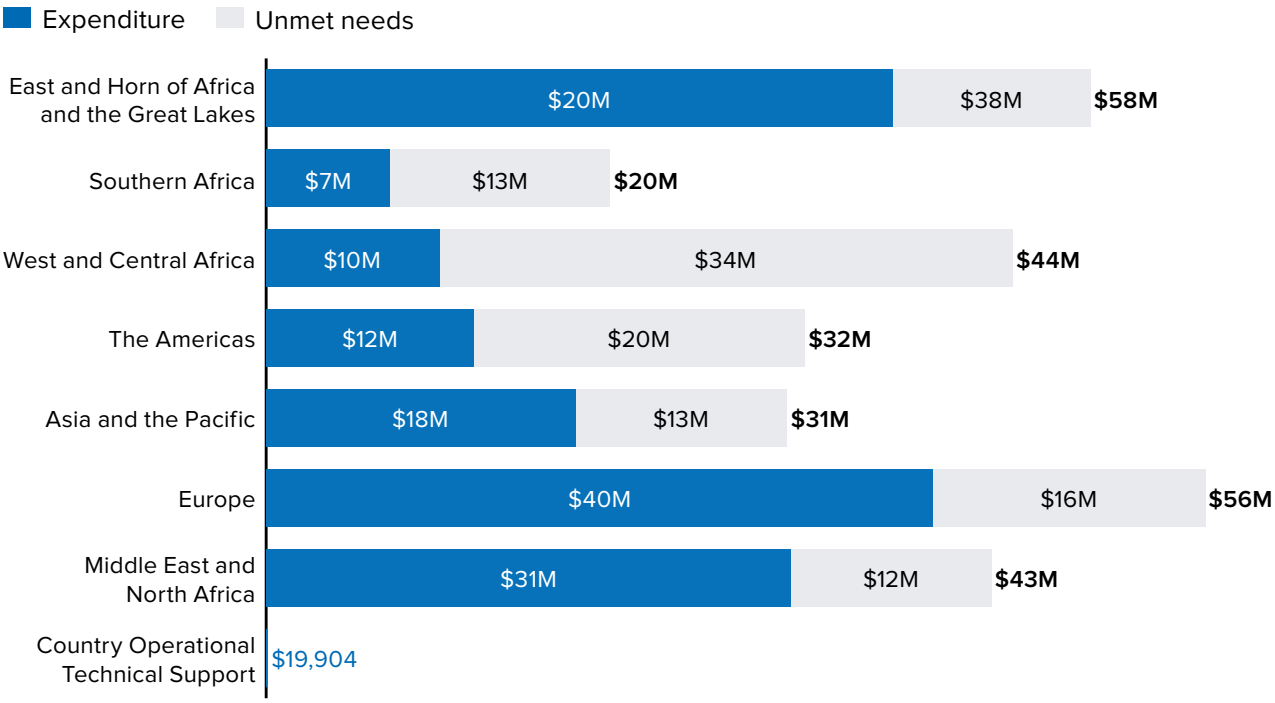


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Protection policy and law

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$157 million** towards budgeted needs of **$302 million**. **$145 million** of unmet needs or **48%** of the budget.

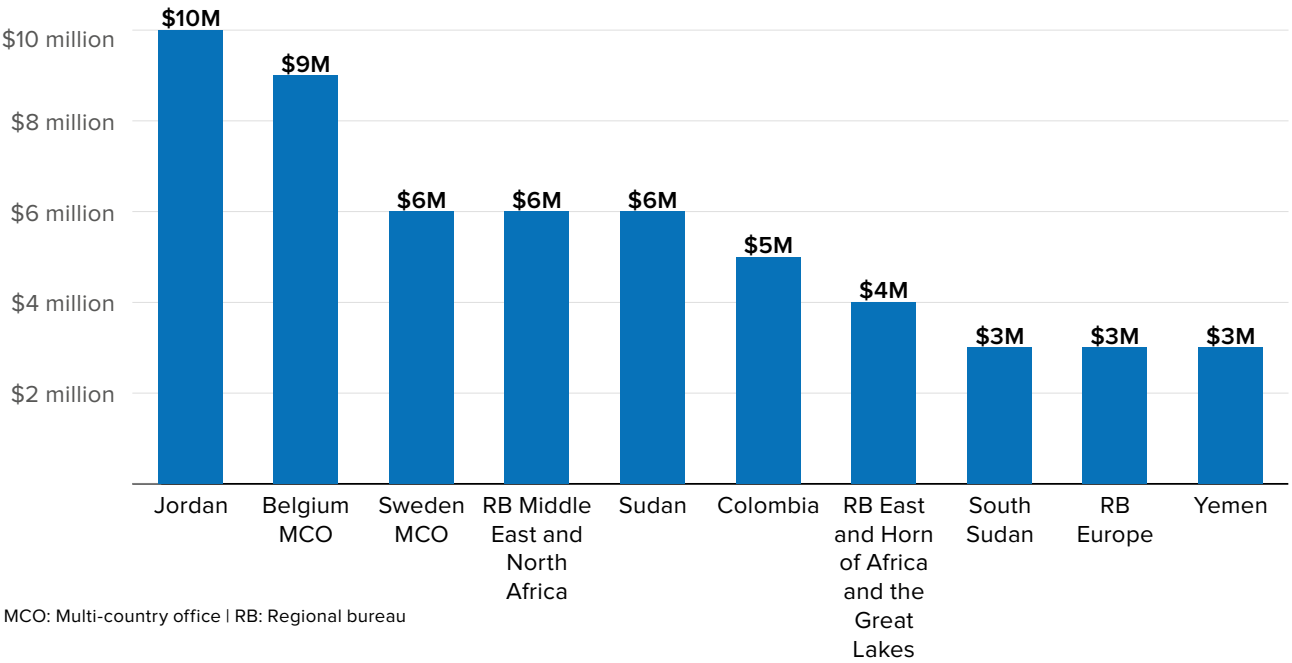
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Protection policy and law



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Protection policy and law: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **36%** of **$157 million** global expenditure in 2024.



MCO: Multi-country office | RB: Regional bureau

Asylum-seekers from El Salvador attend an amnesty ceremony in Belize. The Belize Amnesty Programme provides asylum-seekers and irregular migrants with an alternative pathway to permanent residency. By the end of 2024, Belize had granted amnesty to 492 asylum-seekers, and UNHCR had assisted 168 applicants in covering the costs of their permanent residency IDs. © UNHCR/Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

Outcome Area 4

Displaced women take part in a group session led by UNHCR Gender-Based Violence Officer Josefina Cheia at a centre run by UNHCR partner Helpcode in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. "This is, for us, aid workers, our greatest accomplishment: to have contributed, in our small way, to giving women back their powers, their dignity, and hope for their futures," says Josefina. © UNHCR/Hélène Caux

Gender-based violence

Global needs

Conflict and displacement significantly heighten the risk of gender-based violence, posing a serious threat to over 65 million displaced women and girls worldwide. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict noted that reports of conflict-related sexual violence surged by 50% in 2023 alone; this continued to have a devastating impact on the lives of forcibly displaced women and girls in 2024. Data from 25 countries experiencing humanitarian crises in 2024 showed gender-based violence was assessed as a severe or extreme risk in 22 of the 25. The conflict in **Sudan** has been catastrophic for women and girls, with the number of people in need of gender-based violence services reaching 6.7 million by the end of 2023 and increasing further in 2024.

Despite heightened risks in forced displacement contexts, gender-based violence often goes unreported due to fear of stigma, retaliation, or because of social norms that may discourage disclosure and prevent survivors from seeking the care and support they need.

Informing forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls is critical to ensuring they get rapid access to services after an incident of violence. UNHCR data from 65 countries in 2024 showed that only around 61% of refugees and asylum-seekers knew where to access available services relating to gender-based violence. The equivalent among internally displaced people, based on 19 countries, was just 42%. There were big improvements in awareness in **Bangladesh**, **Ethiopia** and **Kenya**, but deteriorations in **Cameroon**, **Burkina Faso** and the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC). In 85% of reporting countries, the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers consulted did not accept violence against women. This is a slight increase when compared to 2023.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR prioritized life-saving, cost-effective programmes to address violence against women and girls, enabling them to live safely and reach their full potential. UNHCR supported 290 specialized partners in 2024 – 65% were local partners. UNHCR partnered directly with 91 women-led organizations, including those led by refugee women, thus promoting their leadership and investing in effective and sustainable solutions to end violence against refugee women and girls.

An independent evaluation of UNHCR's gender-based violence work, to be published in 2025, observed that UNHCR's support for women-led organizations was a strong example of a direct response to clear needs among populations served by gender-based violence programming, helping them to achieve legal status and to advocate and fundraise more effectively.

UNHCR's programmes addressing violence against women and girls reached over **1.7 million people in 86 countries**, including nearly 1 million refugees in countries such as **Bangladesh**, **South Sudan** and **Uganda**, and 514,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in countries such as **the DRC**, **Mozambique** and **the Syrian Arab Republic**. Investments in capacity strengthening led to 79% of refugee operations increasing the percentage of survivors who were satisfied with gender-based violence case management services or maintained a satisfaction rate above 90%.

UNHCR supported Women and Girls' Safe Spaces, where specialized social workers provided psychosocial support to enhance survivors' well-being and decrease the risk of further violence. UNHCR also supported survivors with health services, safe shelters, legal aid, access to justice and cash assistance for urgent needs. In cases where there were imminent life-threatening risks, UNHCR and its partners helped survivors relocate to safety, including at times through emergency resettlement in a third country.

In **South Sudan**, UNHCR assisted 195,000 forcibly displaced people with specialized support, including the provision of dignity kits, psychosocial support (including case management), and referrals to specialized services. 160,700 individuals were reached through community-based awareness activities, thus investing in preventing violence against women and girls before it occurs. A tailored programme for adolescent girls and their caregivers contributed to reducing violence, including child marriage. Thanks to the tireless work of the Refugee Women-led Organization implementing this programme, 80% of girls increased their knowledge on girls' rights while a 100% felt more empowered.

In **Sudan**, 34 Women and Girls' Safe Spaces were established in the first six months of 2024 to address the immediate and longer-term consequences of conflict-related violence. In **Chad**, over 436,000 Sudanese refugees, primarily women and girls, were reached through UNHCR's programmes addressing violence against women and girls. This included joint programmes combining awareness raising on risks of violence and economic empowerment interventions for over 17,000 refugee women. In the **Central African Republic**, survivors received care and assistance through 31 Women and Girls' Safe Spaces and a free helpline, which ensured remote access to psychosocial support for survivors living in isolated areas. 97% of survivors shared positive feedback on the impact of those programmes on their lives and dignity. In **Pakistan**, 22 Women and Girls Safe Spaces offered support to Afghan refugee women and girls.

UNHCR worked to increase awareness about available gender-based violence services, and survivors' satisfaction with those services. In **Uganda**, 136,400 people were reached by gender-based violence services, achieving a 92% service satisfaction rate among survivors. 79% of refugees and 88% of the host community knew where to access services, this result was achieved in part thanks to initiatives directly led by refugee women-led organizations.

In **the DRC**, awareness activities reached a total of 232,368 individuals, a 71% increase from 2023, and more than 75% of survivors and women at risk were engaged in empowerment projects. 82% of survivors accessed psychosocial care, up from 78% in 2023, while the overall medical response to gender-based violence increased by 10% compared to 2023. Income generating interventions for women and older adolescent girls at risk has contributed to effectively reduce risks of sexual exploitation. In **Colombia**, UNHCR strengthened the national gender-based violence specialized partners network by providing training and facilitating the exchange of best practices, while also supporting three safe houses for women at high risk of femicide and their children.

UNHCR also implemented programmes to prevent violence against women and girls before it happens. UNHCR and its partners implement women and girls' empowerment programmes as well as programmes that engage men and boys to prevent violence against women and girls. In **Bangladesh**, this led to a 13% decrease in violence at home and a 26% reduction in the number of community members who believed that women were to blame for violence inflicted on them. Significant progress was achieved in terms of stigma reduction as an increase of 34% was reported in terms of women feeling that they could safely report violence. The Women's Empowerment and Leadership Programme reached 1,118 women, many of whom stepped into non-traditional roles such as firefighters and electrical workers. This enhanced women's skills while also helping broaden opportunities for women within the camps. In **Ethiopia**, gender-based violence prevention programmes reached over 82,700 individuals, reducing stigma around seeking help, while mobilizing religious leaders and communities to publicly speak out in support of women and girls.

UNHCR deployed **specialists to 10 emergencies and complex humanitarian situations**, including those in **Chad**, **Lebanon**, **Mauritania**, **South Sudan** and **Yemen**. This contributed to improving the quality of gender-based violence services and ensuring the humanitarian response was accountable to the needs of women and girls.

UNHCR provided 1,058 hours of expert technical support to enhance the quality and confidentiality of psychosocial support (case management) and to improve information management (in UNHCR's GBVIMS+ and proGres systems), in countries such as **Egypt**, **Kenya**, **South Sudan**, **the Syrian Arab Republic**, **Sudan** and **Ukraine**.

7,199 UNHCR and partner staff received training related to gender-based violence, and 91% of participants reported that it had improved their knowledge.

UNHCR led 46 gender-based violence coordination mechanisms at national and sub-national level, ensuring efficient and impactful inter-agency refugee responses. UNHCR also played a pivotal role in global advocacy and coordination, including as a co-chair of the Call to Action International Organizations Working Group.

Impact of underfunding

Underfunding hampered efforts to end violence against women and girls. Gender-based violence programmes were only 38% funded under the six regional refugee response plans, leaving many refugee women and girls without adequate support. UNHCR's overall expenditures for gender-based violence programmes decreased by 6% from 2023 to 2024. Violence against forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls is preventable: with more investments we can jointly address it and contribute to a safer, more stable world for all.

© UNHCR/Anna Limnowicz

L'Oréal Foundation and Cascais Municipality empower displaced women and girls

Women and children are the primary victims of conflict-related gender-based violence. Addressing this issue requires concerted efforts and strategic partnerships.

Since 2018, the L'Oréal Fund for Women has partnered with UNHCR to support refugee women and girls. This collaboration spans emergency responses in countries like Lebanon, Pakistan and Ukraine, and sustainable solutions in Argentina, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya and Morocco. In 2024, the L'Oréal Fund for Women backed projects in Colombia and Morocco, aiming to assist more than 1000 women and girls over a two-year period (2024-2025), and during the Lebanon emergency. To date, the UNHCR-L'Oréal Fund for Women partnership has reached tens of thousands of women and girls across four regions, strengthening their resilience and expanding opportunities for a better future.

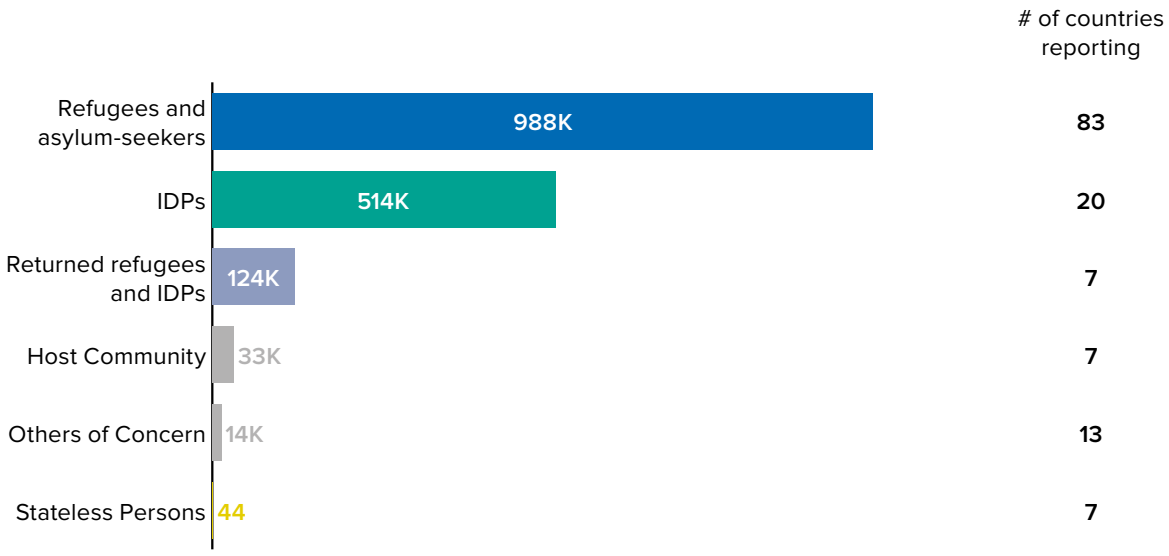
In a similar vein, the **Cascais Municipality** in Lisbon granted $104,167 (€100,000) in 2024 to support UNHCR's essential assistance to Ukrainian refugee women and children in Poland. This project aims to prevent gender-based violence, protecting vulnerable groups from human trafficking, exploitation, and abuse by focusing on psychosocial support for victims and training for professionals in host communities. These interventions are crucial in protecting forcibly displaced populations from gender-based violence and reflects the shared commitment to empowering women and girls worldwide.

Core Output indicators

Gender-based violence

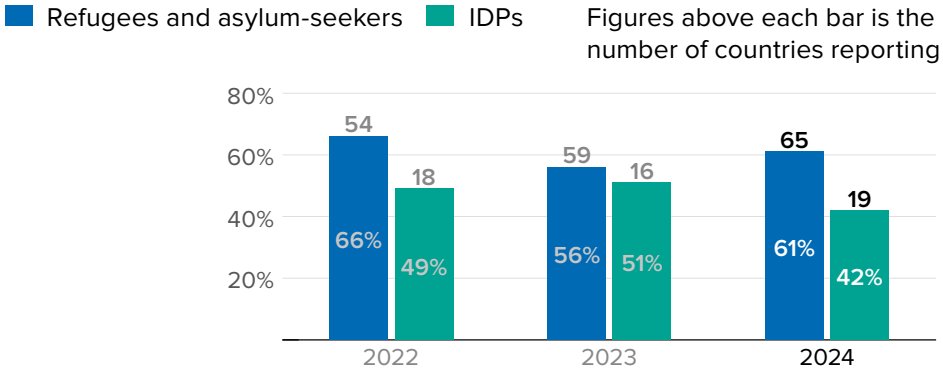
1.7 million people benefited from specialized gender-based violence programmes (**86** countries reporting)

4.1.1 Number of people who benefited from specialized GBV programmes

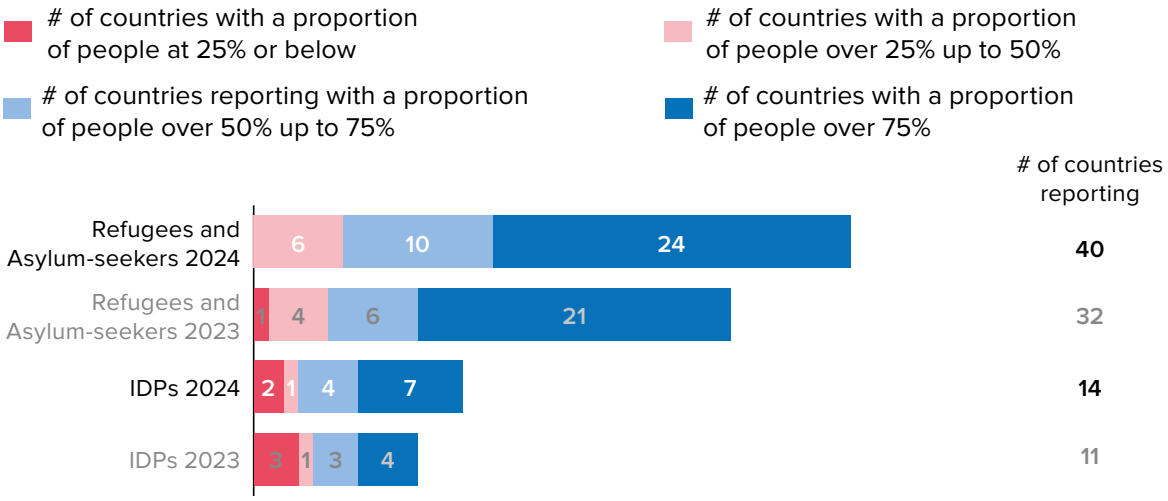


Core Outcome Area indicators

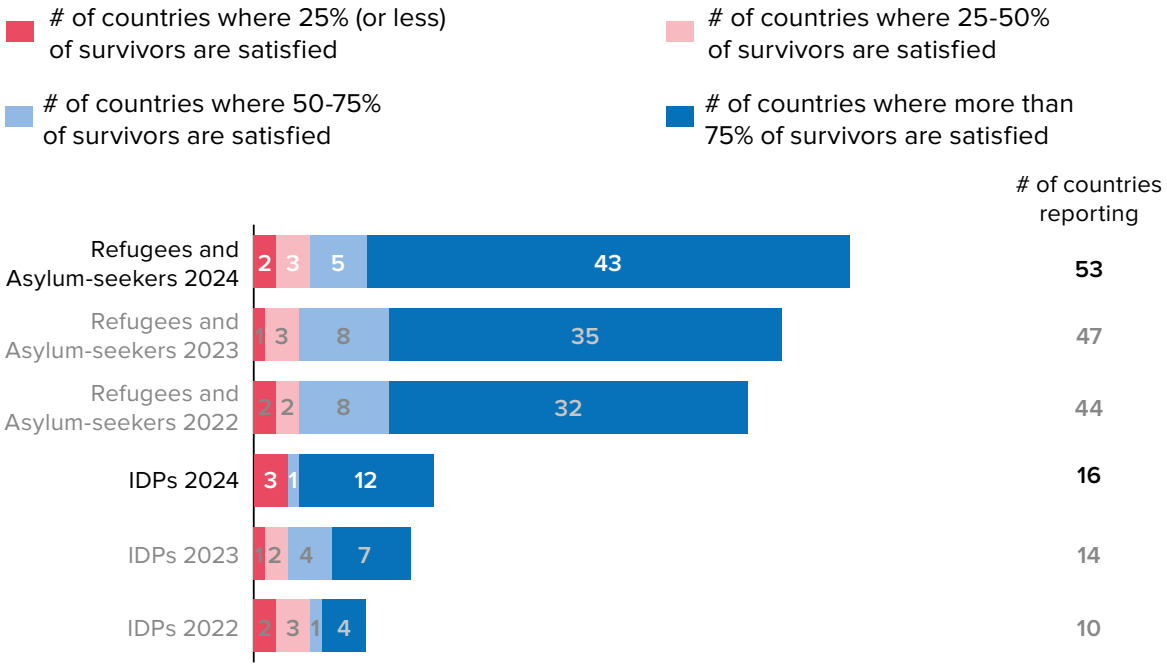
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services



4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women



4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services

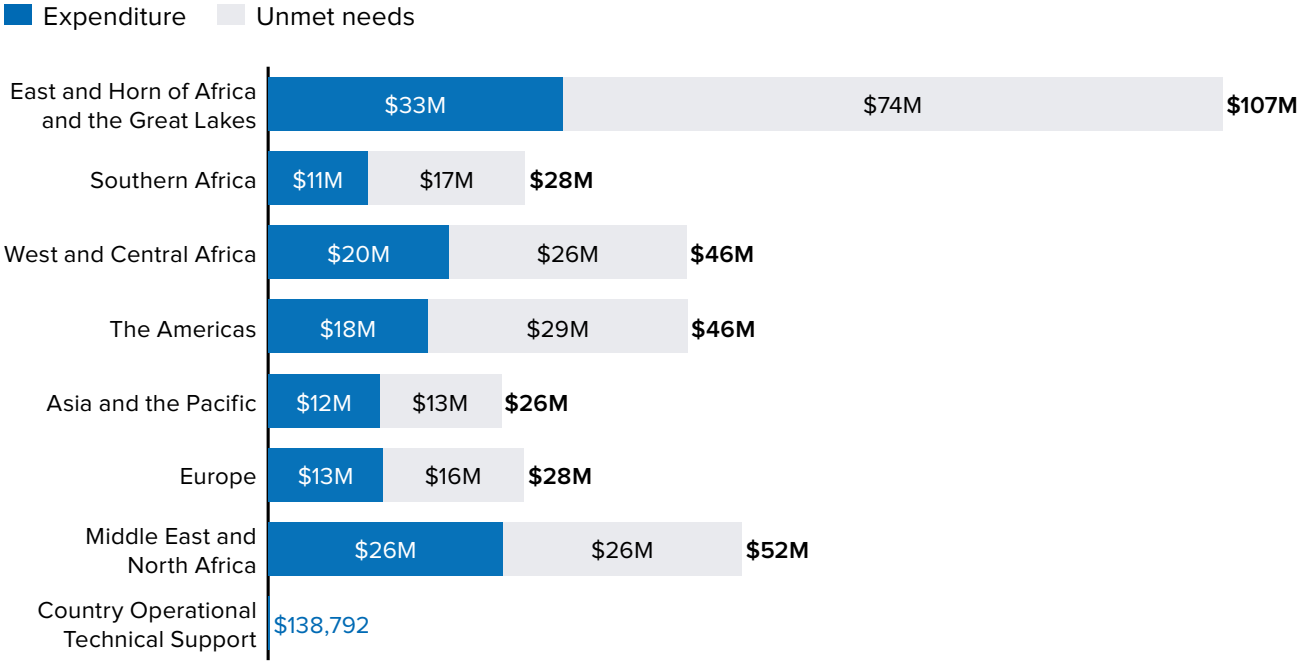


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Gender-based violence

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$137 million** towards budgeted needs of **$339 million**. **$202 million** of unmet needs or **60%** of the budget

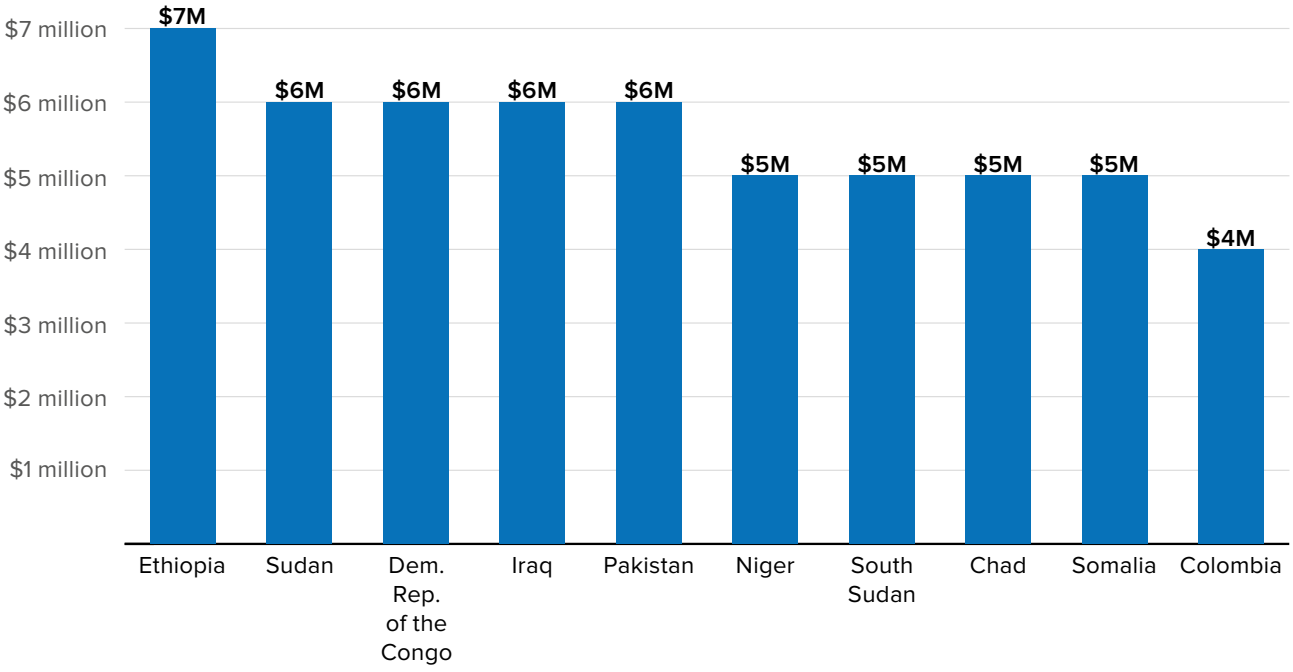
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Gender-based violence



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Gender-based violence: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **40%** of **$137 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 5

Sudanese refugee child Maimouna, 3, left, naps while her brother Saleh, 5, and their foster siblings Salim and Zakaria pose for a photograph at their shelter in Arkoum refugee camp, eastern Chad. Their foster parents Abdoulaye and Hawaye are among nine refugee foster families at the camp, supporting orphaned and unaccompanied children displaced by the Sudan crisis, as part of the UNHCR-supported refugee foster family programme which protects displaced children. © UNHCR/Levon Sevunts

Child protection

Global needs

In 2024, the scale and complexity of child protection needs among forcibly displaced and stateless children remained alarmingly high. With an estimated 56 million forcibly displaced and stateless children globally, protection concerns were amplified by escalating conflicts, displacement and systematically underfunded humanitarian responses. Children among refugee, internally displaced, and stateless populations faced violence – including sexual violence, neglect, exploitation, child marriage, trafficking, immigration detention, recruitment and use by armed actors, and death while seeking safety.

Overwhelmed child protection services in countries hosting large numbers of refugees – such as **Ethiopia**, **Chad** and **Uganda** – struggled to meet the growing needs of children. Chad alone received around 240,000 Sudanese refugees in 2024, 64% of them children. With just one case worker for every 300 at-risk children, providing adequate protection and support was nearly impossible.

Family separation is a major consequence of refugee crises. In 2024, a staggering 218,000 **unaccompanied and separated children** were registered, including over 52,000 in South Sudan and more than 20,000 each in Ethiopia and Uganda, and around 10,000 in Cameroon.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR supported more than **1.5 million children and parents or caregivers in 78 countries**, especially where national child protection systems were unable or unwilling to do so. UNHCR and partners delivered critical child protection services, including the **Best Interests Procedure** for children at heightened risk, enabling timely, consistent, structured decision-making in the child's best interests. With more displacement and less funding, the proportion of children supported by the Best Interests Procedure declined slightly. UNHCR data from 62 countries showed that in 15 of them, fewer than 25% of children were covered, up from 10 countries in 2023. The number of countries with good coverage – more than 75% of children – fell from 21 in 2023 to 17 in 2024. In **El Salvador** and **Slovakia**, all children at heightened risk were supported.

UNHCR provided alternative care arrangements for more than **117,000 unaccompanied and separated children** in 2024. UNHCR data from 59 countries showed that in 39 of those countries, the majority of unaccompanied and separated children were in alternative care. This included 100% of unaccompanied and separated children in **Hungary**, **Slovakia** and **Togo**, 96% in **India**, 77% in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, and 70% in **Niger**.

UNHCR engaged children, families and communities as frontline actors in child protection, recognizing that sustainable protection is rooted in protective communities. **Community-based child protection initiatives reached 4.9 million children**, complemented by positive parenting sessions for caregivers. In 16 of the 62 countries where UNHCR recorded data in 2024, at least half of refugee children participated, an improvement from 12 countries in 2023. There were also fewer countries showing very low participation rates. The biggest improvements were in **Serbia** – which had 100% coverage, **Cote d'Ivoire**, **Benin**, **India**, **Central African Republic** and **South Sudan**. In **Pakistan**, community-based child protection committees and children's clubs reached over 26,000 children, parents and caregivers with awareness-raising campaigns.

In **the Syrian Arab Republic**, UNHCR facilitated access to child-friendly spaces and outreach activities through community and satellite centres, enabling families and volunteers to be actively involved in protective and recreational programming.

UNHCR's work was underpinned by its first ever comprehensive "Policy on child protection", which emphasized:

- children's inclusion into national systems of care;
- child-friendly protection and solutions;
- accountability to children;
- comprehensive and child-sensitive protection programming rooted in national systems and community engagement.

UNHCR collaborated with UNICEF and other partners to strengthen inclusive national child protection systems that ensure refugee and stateless children had equitable access to protection services. This collaboration prioritized advocacy, supporting the social service workforce, and access to birth registration. An evaluation of a European Union-funded UNICEF-UNHCR programme to support refugee and migrant children in El Salvador, Mexico, South Africa and Zambia found that it strengthened child protection systems, reduced detention, and was cost-effective, although it faced challenges and its successes may not be sustainable without continued staffing, funding, and government support.

UNHCR supported **national asylum systems** to ensure that procedures were child-friendly – including specialized legal representation, child-sensitive interviewing, adherence to international standards in age assessment, and the skills and mechanisms to assess the best interests of the child, their asylum claims and options for solutions.

For example, in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, UNHCR worked with the Ministries of Justice and the Interior to improve children's access to justice and civil documentation. UNHCR also worked with the National Commission for Refugees to strengthen documentation and identity systems, and integrated child protection considerations into the mandate of local ombudsmen, for systematic advocacy and response.

In **Uganda**, over 50,000 children were identified with protection needs, of whom 37,942 children at heightened risk were supported through the Best Interests Procedure. Uganda's national census included refugee children for the first time – a milestone in inclusive national planning that promises to strengthen future policy and programming.

In **Colombia**, in collaboration with the National Ombudsperson's Office for Children, UNHCR trained 6,000 staff from the National Family Welfare System to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless children benefited from implementation of the Ombudsman's procedure, guaranteeing their safety, rights and well-being.

In **Ethiopia**, UNHCR made important progress in supporting national asylum and child protection systems. The Government incorporated specific provisions for children into new directives on refugee status determination, and birth certificates were issued as part of the verification process for refugee identification cards issued under the National Identity Documentation Programme.

The impact of underfunding

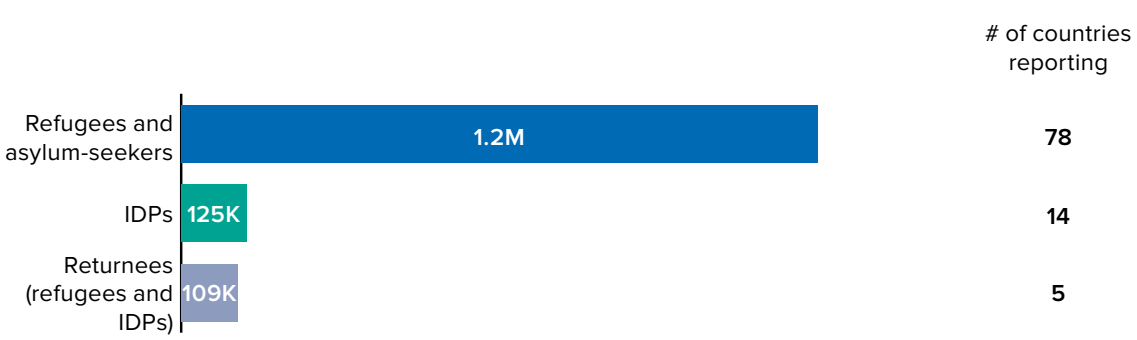
Only 44% of UNHCR's 2024 child protection budget of $246 million was funded, undermining services that were critical to children's survival, development and well-being. More than 100,000 unaccompanied and separated children did not get the care they needed. This shortfall was exacerbated by a lack of access to education, health, food and other essential services in several countries. In Uganda, for example, reduced support for livelihoods and education pushed vulnerable families to resort to harmful coping mechanisms, including child marriage and child labour, in order to survive.

Core Output indicator

Child protection

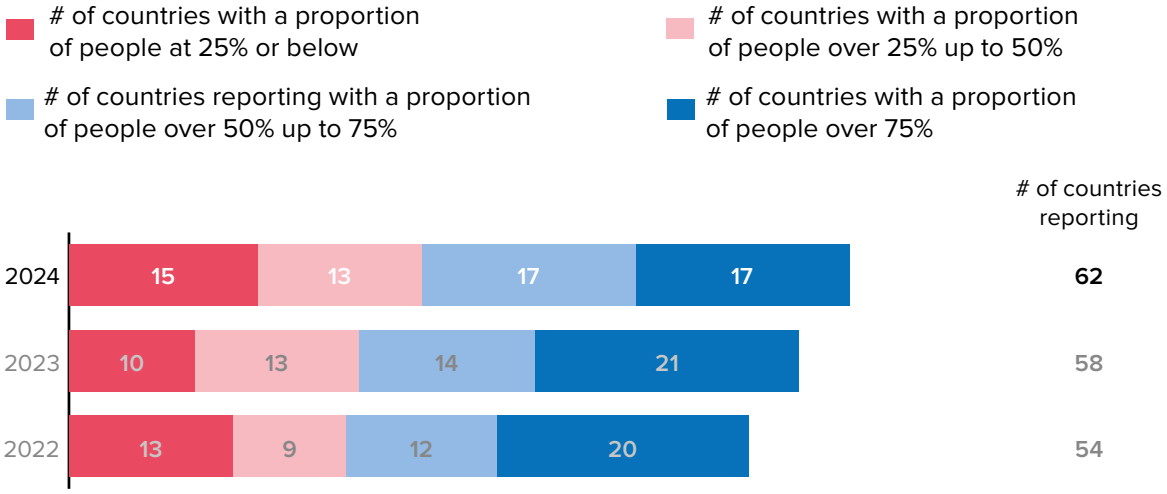
1.5 million children and caregivers received child protection services (**78** countries reporting).

5.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services

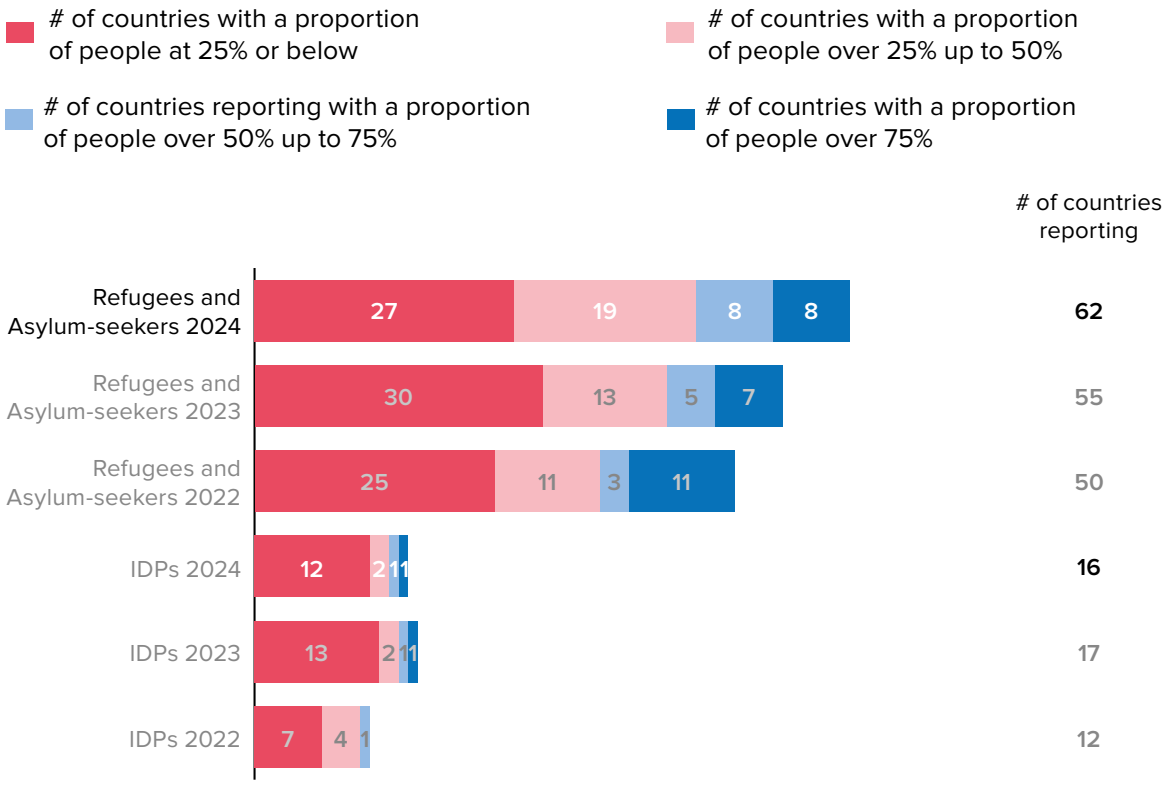


Core Outcome Area indicators

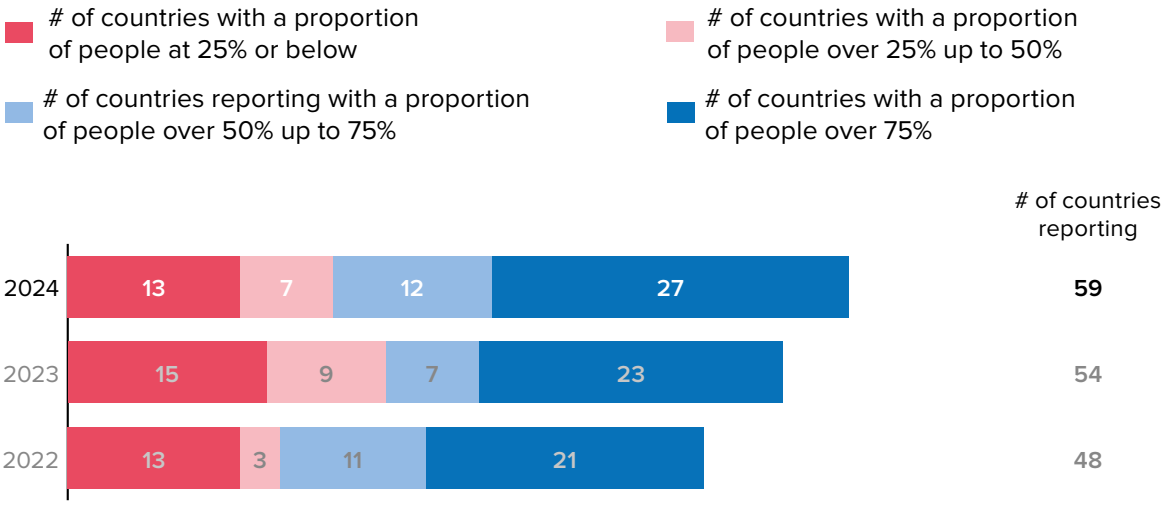
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who were supported by a Best Interests Procedure (refugees and asylum-seekers)



5.2 Proportion of children who participated in community-based child protection programmes



5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who were in an alternative care arrangement



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From DAFI to Primary Impact: Fundación Occident supports refugee children and young people

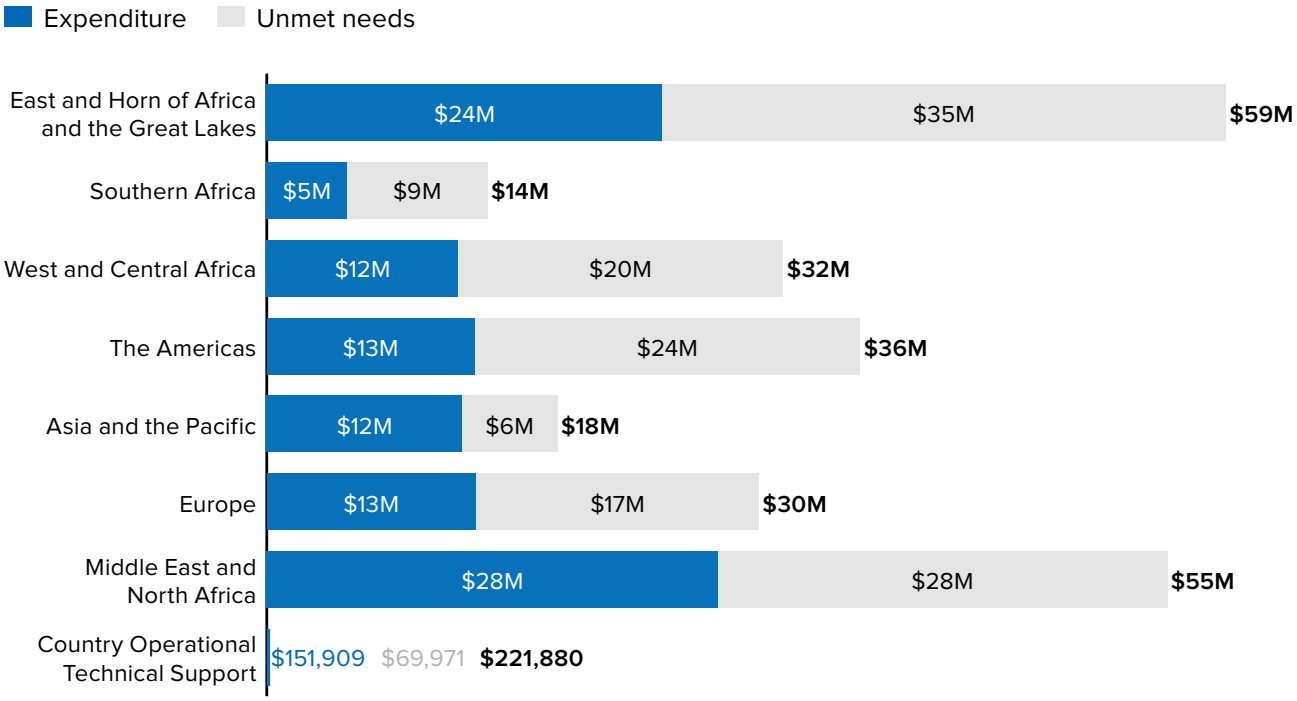
Fundación Occident and España con ACNUR, UNHCR's National Association Partner in Spain, have partnered through the DAFI programme to create opportunities for refugee university students worldwide. Recognizing that half of all refugee children do not have access to primary education, the Foundation also funded the Primary Impact programme with a 3-year commitment (2024-2027) of $327,000 (€300,000), paving the way for possibilities of a brighter future for refugee children in Zimbabwe's Tongogara camp. In 2024, the programme provided scholarships to 400 children, supported 200 girls' empowerment clubs, trained 35 teachers in child protection and mental health, and offered salary incentives to 3 teachers. Additionally, it funded the construction of a safe space, providing mental health assistance to 206 children.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Child protection

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$108 million** towards budgeted needs of **$246 million**. **$138 million** of unmet needs or **56%** of the budget

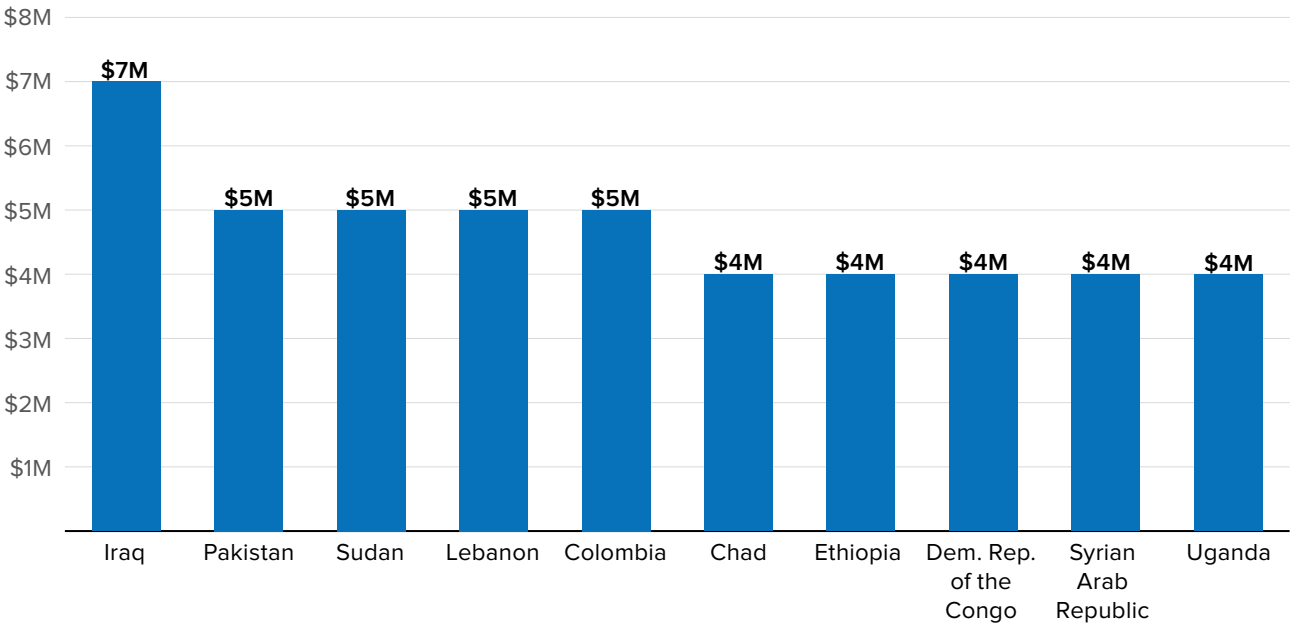
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Child protection



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Child protection: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **42%** of **$108 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 6

A group of vulnerable Sudanese refugee women wait at Rome's Fiumicino Airport, Italy, after a humanitarian flight from Libya organized by UNHCR. This was the third flight carried out in 2024 as a result of a protocol signed in December 2023, providing for the evacuation of 1,500 refugees over three years. The protocol renewed a commitment that Italy made in 2017, enabling the reception of 1,509 people. © UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

Safety and access to justice

Global needs

Asylum-seekers and refugees are at risk of becoming trapped in arbitrary detention imposed in the interests of immigration control, without the means to challenge their situation or exercise their right to seek asylum.

Access to safety and justice is a core component of their protection. Yet, in many countries, they face barriers due to discrimination and marginalization, often related to their status and lack of documentation.

Publicly available **data** on the number of people detained in relation to their legal or immigration status is lacking for most countries and is not specifically recorded in most national detention statistics. In 2024, UNHCR operations in 56 countries recorded that 31,166 asylum-seekers and refugees and 1,654 stateless persons were detained in relation to their status; this is an extremely low figure, which reflects only the limited number of cases known to UNHCR. Despite UNHCR's significant efforts to find innovative answers, there remains a dearth of disaggregated data showing the forcibly displaced and stateless people separately in national statistics that are relevant to access to justice, which is critical for advocacy, policy and programming, particularly with development actors.

In 2024, restrictive border and asylum policies in several countries led to increasing numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, including children, being detained on immigration grounds, often on entry or pending deportation. However, a handful of countries, such as **Colombia** and **Ecuador**, do not practise immigration detention at all. Nevertheless, in some countries, lack of procedural safeguards, barriers to access legal assistance, poor detention conditions and use of prolonged detention persisted, raising protection concerns.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR published legal guidance to support States' effective implementation of their obligations – established under the 1951 Refugee Convention – not to penalize asylum-seekers and refugees on account of irregular entry or stay. UNHCR published "Legal considerations on asylum and non-refoulement in the context of 'instrumentalization'" to help States manage their

borders without eroding the right to seek asylum for political reasons while upholding their international refugee and human rights law obligations. UNHCR advocated with States to prevent arbitrary detention and end child immigration detention, and published "Unlocking rights: towards ending immigration detention for asylum-seekers and refugees" during the 57th session of the Human Rights Council. Furthermore, as co-lead of the Alternatives to Immigration Detention workstream of the UN Network on Migration, UNHCR promoted promising State practices in this area. In addition, as a member of the UN Task Force on Children Deprived of Liberty, UNHCR contributed to the advocacy brief "End immigration detention of children".

Across the globe, UNHCR operations engaged in **monitoring** at borders and detention facilities, supported and referred forcibly displaced and stateless people to legal and other protection services, advocated for access to alternatives to detention and contributed to release and prevention of refoulement. For example, in **Lebanon**, UNHCR and partners undertook 6,058 detention monitoring visits and ensured access to legal aid and dignified standards of treatment for at least 3,200 detained individuals.

Encouragingly, a few countries reported a decrease in the number of refugees subject to immigration detention. This included, for example, **Jordan**, thanks to UNHCR advocacy and legal interventions.

In 2024, **1.4 million forcibly displaced and stateless people in 101 countries received legal assistance** from UNHCR and our partners. Legal services are critical to empowering forcibly displaced and stateless people to claim rights, seek remedies, access essential services, and pursue self-reliance and durable solutions. UNHCR worked with partners in the majority of country operations to increase awareness of legal rights and provide information, counselling, legal aid, and alternative dispute resolution services, including through mobile clinics and digital tools.

For example, in **South Sudan**, UNHCR and partners provided legal services in 54,000 cases and legal representation before courts in 136 cases. In **Mexico**, UNHCR's network of legal partners across 19 states provided 164,000 people with legal information and assistance on asylum procedures and family reunification, amongst other issues. In **Colombia**, UNHCR worked with the Ombudsman's Office to improve access to rights of 16,600 refugees, migrants, and 20,429 displaced Colombians; in addition, 16,703 people received legal assistance through a network of legal clinics in 32 universities across the country. In **Myanmar**, UNHCR enhanced legal awareness and assistance, reaching 10,305 people and counselling them on issues such as citizenship and legal identity documents, birth certificates and documentation related to housing, land and properties, as well as on the risks of trafficking.

Training of asylum authorities, police, border guards, judiciary and other legal practitioners on refugee protection was reported by the majority of UNHCR operations and further enhanced access to rights and inclusion in national systems. As part of its supervisory responsibility for the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR presented its opinions to courts in the form of amicus curiae briefs or interventions concerning the interpretation and application of the provisions of the 1951 Convention and other relevant regional refugee law and human rights instruments.

In 2024, **UNHCR intervened in 18 cases** in 11 jurisdictions, including 10 before national courts in seven countries and eight before regional courts involving six countries.

Underfunding and other constraints

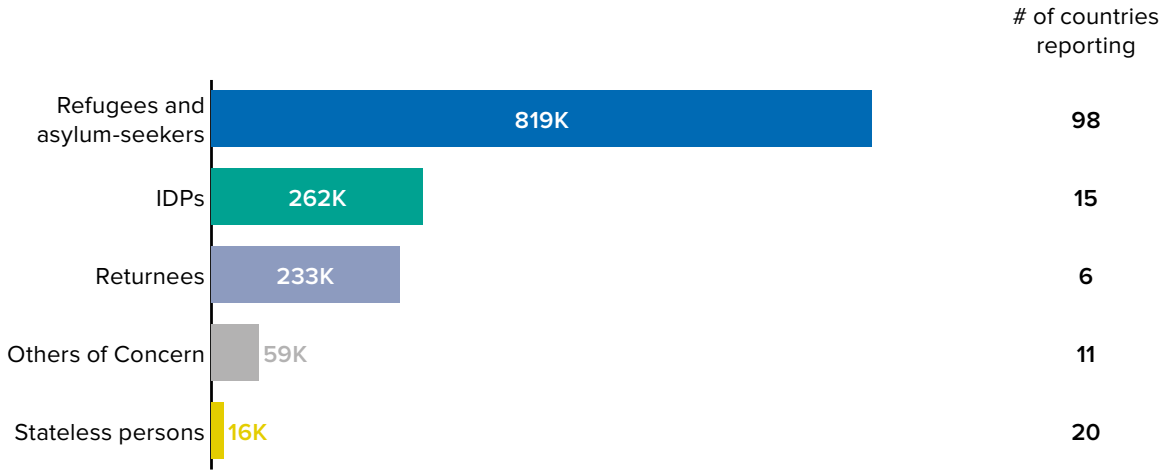
With unprecedented displacement driven by conflict, violence, and persecution, growing numbers of displaced and stateless people faced serious barriers to safety, protection and legal solutions. Fragile institutions, weak rule of law, insecurity and declining socioeconomic conditions – combined with limited resources for legal aid and restricted access to detention facilities – undermined access to justice for these populations. Underfunding of UNHCR's budget for safety and justice affected our ability to monitor detention and provide legal aid to forcibly displaced and stateless people in detention. This has meant prioritizing only the most vulnerable cases and being unable to reach remote or hard to access geographical areas.

Core Output indicator

Safety and access to justice

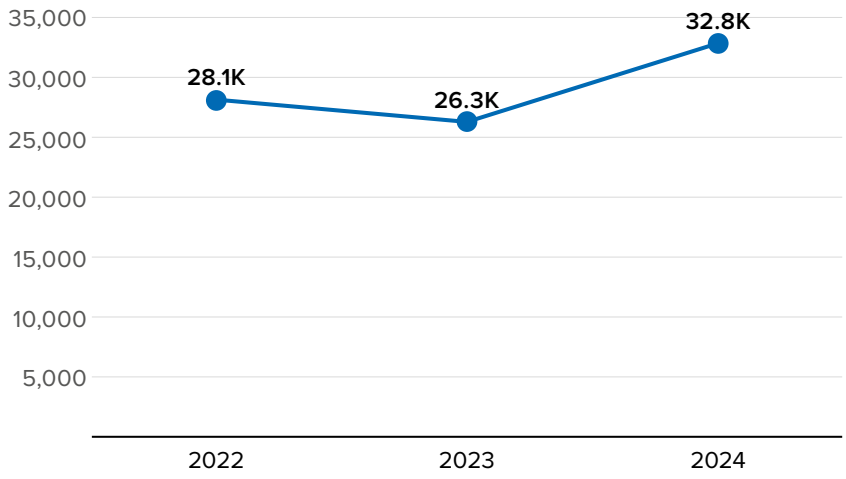
1.4 million people received legal assistance (**101** countries reporting)

6.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance



Core Outcome Area indicator

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

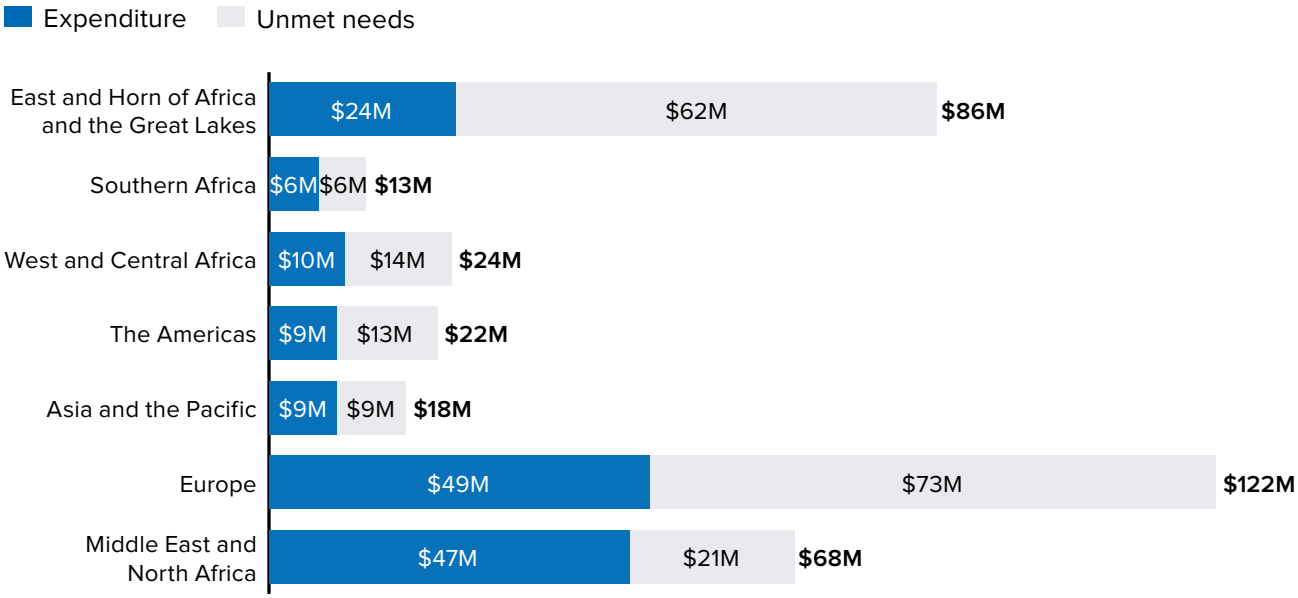


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Safety and access to justice

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$153 million** towards budgeted needs of **$352 million**. **$199 million** of unmet needs or **56%** of the budget.

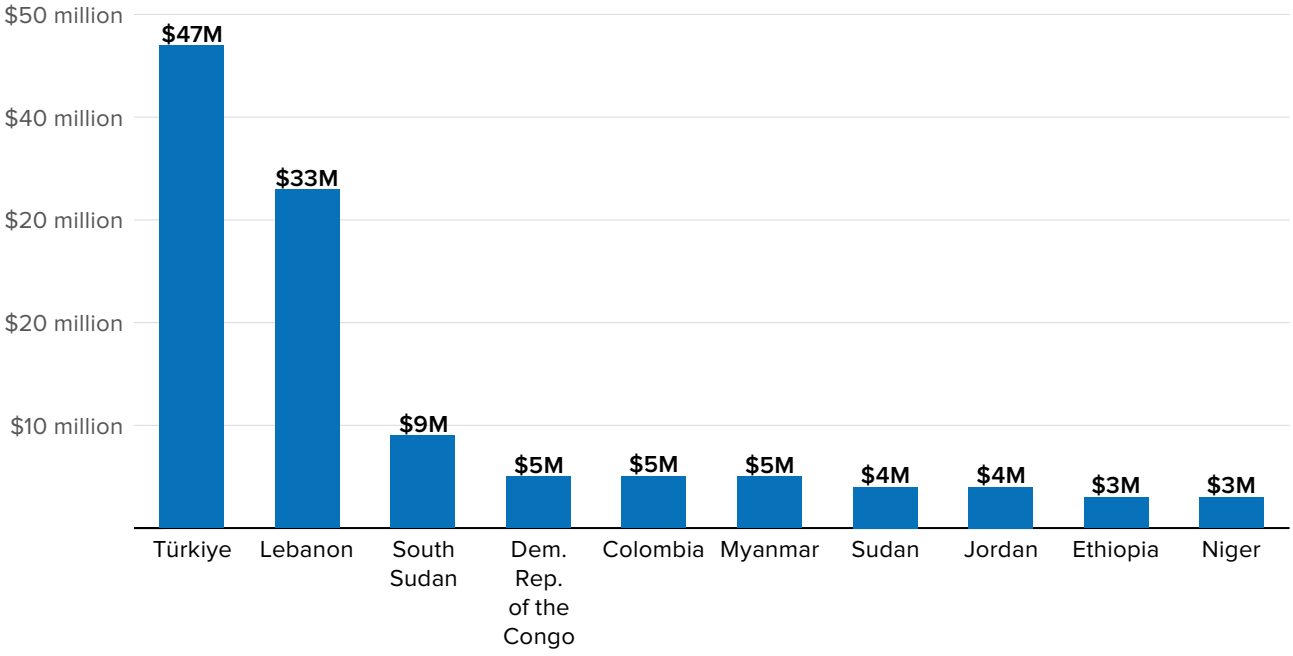
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Safety and access to justice



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Safety and access to justice: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for 76% of $153 million global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 7

Hamdi Mohamed works for Halgan, one of two women-led refugee organization in Dadaab, Kenya, combatting gender-based violence occurring in camps. Hamdi says: "the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence is a critical opportunity to amplify the voices of refugees, especially women and girls, who face compounded vulnerabilities. Together, we can challenge harmful norms, empower survivors, and build communities rooted in equality and justice". © UNHCR/Mohamed Maalim

Community engagement and women's empowerment

Global needs

People who have been forced to flee or who are stateless are often more aware than anyone of their risks and needs. Affected communities are often first responders in an emergency. They have knowledge and capacity to act for their own protection and well-being, including through their structures and organizations. They must have opportunities to participate in and influence decisions that affect their lives and to provide feedback on UNHCR assistance and activities. Their power to organize themselves and to act needs to be encouraged and nurtured. During displacement, women, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ persons are often at greater risk and marginalized, but they also have agency, strength and the equal right to actively participate.

There is a need, and an opportunity, to boost the protection and well-being of all forcibly displaced and stateless people, by meaningfully engaging with them and their organizations and giving them the tools and support they need to act in their own interest.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, 66 of UNHCR's country operations reported taking action to support the **participation of refugees and asylum-seekers in UNHCR programmes**, with 36 of those – including in **Lebanon**, **South Sudan** and **the Syrian Arab Republic** – offering "extensive" support. This meant engaging them in the identification of risks, needs, priorities and capacities to inform UNHCR's work, and involving them as key contributors to the response. UNHCR also offered extensive support for the **participation of internally displaced people** (IDPs) in seven out of 17 reporting countries, including **Burundi**, **Colombia** and **Myanmar**.

© UNHCR/Reason Moses Runyenga

Empowering young refugees through education, livelihood and policy advocacy

"I am now confident to express myself in English. Through this programme, I've not only gained a new skill but also met incredible friends and opened doors to networking opportunities," says Alla, one of the 200 students from refugee and host communities in South Sudan who graduated from a transformative 3-month English language skills course supported by the Mastercard Foundation. 65% of the graduates are refugee women.

The Mastercard Foundation launched a three-year programme in 2024 to provide $25 million to UNHCR to offer critical support in education, vocational training and economic inclusion for Sudanese women and girls. With nearly 5.8 million women and girls internally displaced in Sudan and more living as refugees across the region, removing barriers to education and livelihoods is crucial. The Mastercard Foundation also works to develop policy environments that enable long-term solutions for refugee employment, ensuring meaningful opportunities for those forcibly displaced.

UNHCR strengthened measures to improve its accountability to affected people, including by enabling forcibly displaced persons to safely raise concerns and provide feedback. **4.3 million forcibly displaced and stateless people** in **133 countries** used UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms in 2024, a significant increase from **2.5 million** in 2023 – largely thanks to UNHCR's growing network of digital communication and feedback channels such as contact centres and social media apps in addition to face-to-face interactions. In eight countries – **Bangladesh**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, **Egypt**, **Kenya**, **Lebanon**, **Pakistan**, **Türkiye** and **Ukraine** – more than 200,000 forcibly displaced people or returnees contacted UNHCR via such channels. UNHCR collected data on the reach of its feedback mechanisms in 78 countries in 2024, and in 59 countries at least 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to them.

Digital tools also enhanced UNHCR's longstanding participatory assessment method, allowing the analysis of needs, risks, community capacities and proposed solutions to feed more effectively into planning and strategies. UNHCR involved more than **263,000 individuals** (60% refugees and asylum-seekers and 33% IDPs) in participatory assessments in 122 countries in 2024.

In 75 countries, UNHCR worked with forcibly displaced and stateless people through **community structures** such as women and youth groups, traditional and religious leaders, and site committees, encouraging their initiatives through technical, in-kind and financial support and training. In 27 countries, including **Afghanistan**, **El Salvador**, **Lebanon**, **Sudan**,the Syrian Arab Republic and **Pakistan**, UNHCR deployed community volunteers to reach out to women, persons with disabilities, LGBTIQ+ persons, minorities and indigenous people, providing information and facilitating their access to life-saving assistance and services. UNHCR signed 251 **grant agreements** worth $2.2 million with community-based organizations – 20% of them women-led and 19% refugee-led – in 43 countries. Another 29 refugee-led organizations received $1.1 million from the Refugee-led Innovation Fund for community-led initiatives promoting protection, inclusion and social cohesion in displacement-affected areas. In **Ukraine**, over 470 community-based organizations received support. In **Myanmar**, 187 community-based initiatives benefited over 129,000 people.

UNHCR and partners provided targeted support to over **123,000 persons with disabilities** – including more than 18,000 children – and to over **52,000 older persons**. Support included targeted cash assistance, rehabilitation services and assistive devices, accessible shelter, access to education and employment opportunities, as well as mental health and psychosocial support. In 22 countries, UNHCR worked with governments to include forcibly displaced persons with disabilities in national social protection systems.

For example, in **Djibouti**, a strategic partnership with the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities (ANPH) facilitated the access of 367 forcibly displaced people to national health services, education, and economic opportunities. UNHCR also supported the establishment of a Global Network of Refugees with Disabilities to amplify the voices of refugees with disabilities in global advocacy efforts.

UNHCR maintained an inclusive approach to protect **LGBTIQ+ persons** fleeing violence and persecution and worked to ensure access to international protection and non-discriminatory access to services. Efforts included learning initiatives for staff and partners, including asylum authorities, on safe and fair asylum procedures and on inclusive services, and expanded engagement with LGBTIQ+ organizations at country and global levels. 56% of country operations reported having implemented programmes and activities that integrate the needs of LGBTIQ+ persons in UNHCR's work. Information on available services for LGBTIQ+ persons was shared via UNHCR's Help websites and trusted LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations.

Women's participation in leadership and management structures improved in several countries where UNHCR reported on such an indicator in 2024. Equal participation was achieved in 31 of the 68 countries reporting data relating to refugees and asylum-seekers, and nine of the 18 countries reporting data on IDPs. Consistent advances in women's leadership and engagement in refugee groups, refugee-led organizations, and other community initiatives was signalled in **Costa Rica**, **the DRC**, **Egypt**, **Greece**, **Malaysia**, **Niger**, **Nigeria**, **Rwanda**, and **the Syrian Arab Republic**. In **Somalia**, UNHCR promoted inclusive governance structures in 1,600 IDP settlements, with 75% of these structures led by women.

UNHCR partnered with **255 women-led organizations** (WLOs), mainly local women's organizations, representing **18%** of all UNHCR-funded partners and **15%** of the overall funding provided to UNHCR's partners. In **Greece**, **the Republic of Korea**, **the Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Malaysia** and **Romania**, displaced women's groups received grants for community-based activities. In **South Sudan**, UNHCR partnered with the refugee-led Women For Peace Culture and Development Organization on women's livelihood programmes, while in **Sudan**, Mutawinat Benevolent Company – a national WLO – provided much needed legal aid services to displaced populations. In **Afghanistan**, community centres run by WLOs provided safe spaces for women and girls to access information on services and engage in livelihood activities. "Promising practices" with displaced WLOs were documented in **Brazil**, **Ecuador**, **Nepal** and **South Africa**. 56% of the beneficiaries of UNHCR multi-purpose cash assistance were women and girls and, in several countries, UNHCR prioritized women as primary recipients to promote their financial inclusion and management of family resources.

The UNHCR Global Consultations with NGOs, attended by more than 40 WLOs, recommended acknowledging WLOs' role as frontline responders, increasing support through multi-year funding and institutional capacity, and including WLOs in coordination mechanisms as equal partners. As chair of the funding board of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund, UNHCR reinforced advocacy for more financial support to organizations led by forcibly displaced women.

UNHCR promoted gender analysis and supported initiatives led by women and girls through a network of focal points at global and field level. UNHCR met or exceeded in 15 out of 17 of the indicators in the 2024 UN-SWAP 2.0 accountability framework, which measures performance on gender equality and women's empowerment. UNHCR activated a senior level Committee to steer organization-wide efforts to implement the UN Gender Equality Acceleration Plan (GEAP). Following the Global Refugee Forum 2023, UNHCR facilitated collaboration among signatories of the Multi-stakeholder Pledge on Gender equality and protection from gender-based violence to catalyse pledge implementation.

The impact of underfunding and other constraints

The meaningful participation of forcibly displaced people and community-driven action was hindered by protracted crises, poverty and limited prospects that affected their activism and motivation – especially amongst youth. Women and girls, LGBTIQ+ persons, and persons with disabilities continued to face safety concerns, discrimination,

communication barriers – including the digital gap, and legal obstacles to their inclusion in national systems. In some countries, legal and cultural norms restricted women's participation in leadership and decision-making structures. Grassroots organizations faced bureaucratic obstacles to their activities, poor funding, and limited organizational capacity. Access constraints – particularly in ongoing conflicts – made it harder for UNHCR and partners to reach all locations where communities needed support. Community-based work to build trust and leverage the capacity and initiatives of communities and local organizations traditionally needs longer-term investment to show impact, which made underfunding all the more damaging in 2024.

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Empowering women by bridging the digital gap

As digital technologies reshape our world, forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls are increasingly left behind, facing growing barriers to accessing digital tools and connectivity. This deepens gender inequalities by restricting access to information, services, education, employment and financial inclusion.

UNHCR works to address this gap through initiatives such as the “Digital Gender Inclusion and Innovation Bootcamps”. In 2023 and 2024, UNHCR supported **44 grassroots organizations**, mostly led by forcibly displaced women from 26 crisis-affected countries with a week-long workshop that was designed to improve women’s digital skills, familiarize them with tools and platforms, encourage them to lead change in their communities by promoting digital technology, and enhance strategic networking, including direct engagement with donors.

In **Afghanistan**, **Cameroon**, **Ecuador**, **Kenya**, **Nigeria**, **the Syrian Arab Republic** and **Zambia**, women-led organizations have applied the knowledge gained through the Bootcamp and organized peer-to-peer training in digital literacy, safety, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship with other women from their community. In **Sudan**, Women Advocacy and Development Initiative (WADI) organized a series of digital workshops with women-led groups in conflict-affected areas to boost virtual collaboration, raise cybersecurity awareness, and promote girls’ digital empowerment. In **Yemen**, Social Researcher Foundation for Development (SRFD) piloted an initiative called “Empowering Her Digital Skills” to help women build digital literacy and market their businesses online. In **Uganda**, refugee women entrepreneurs trained by Let’s Help International, a UNHCR grant agreement partner, are using digital tools to grow their businesses and strengthen local economies.

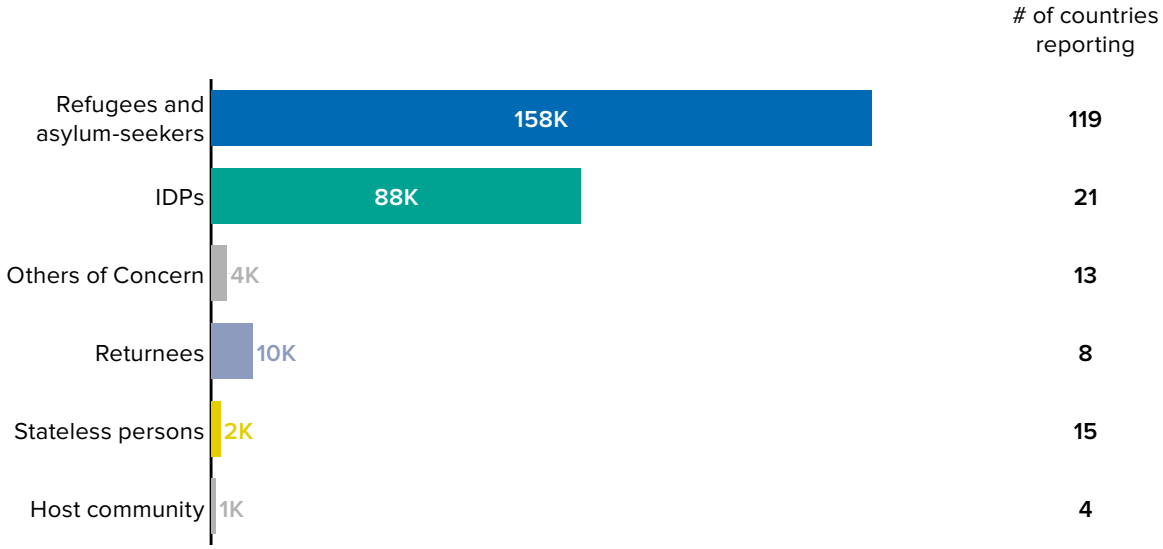
Core Output indicators

Community engagement and women's empowerment

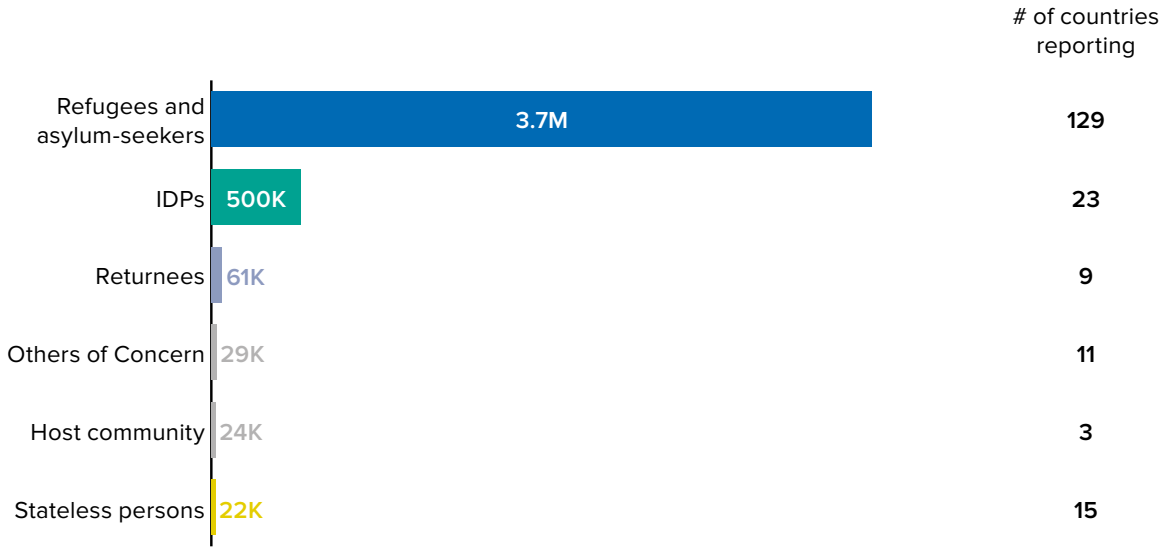
263,300 people were consulted through participatory assessments (**122** countries reporting).

4.3 million people used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns /feedback (**133** countries reporting).

7.1.1 Number of people consulted through participatory assessments

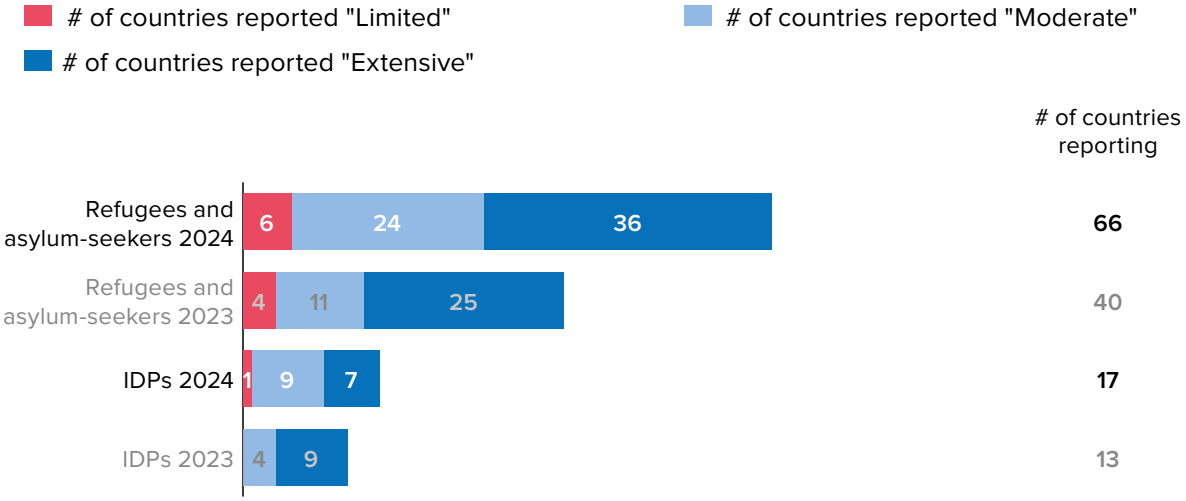


7.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback

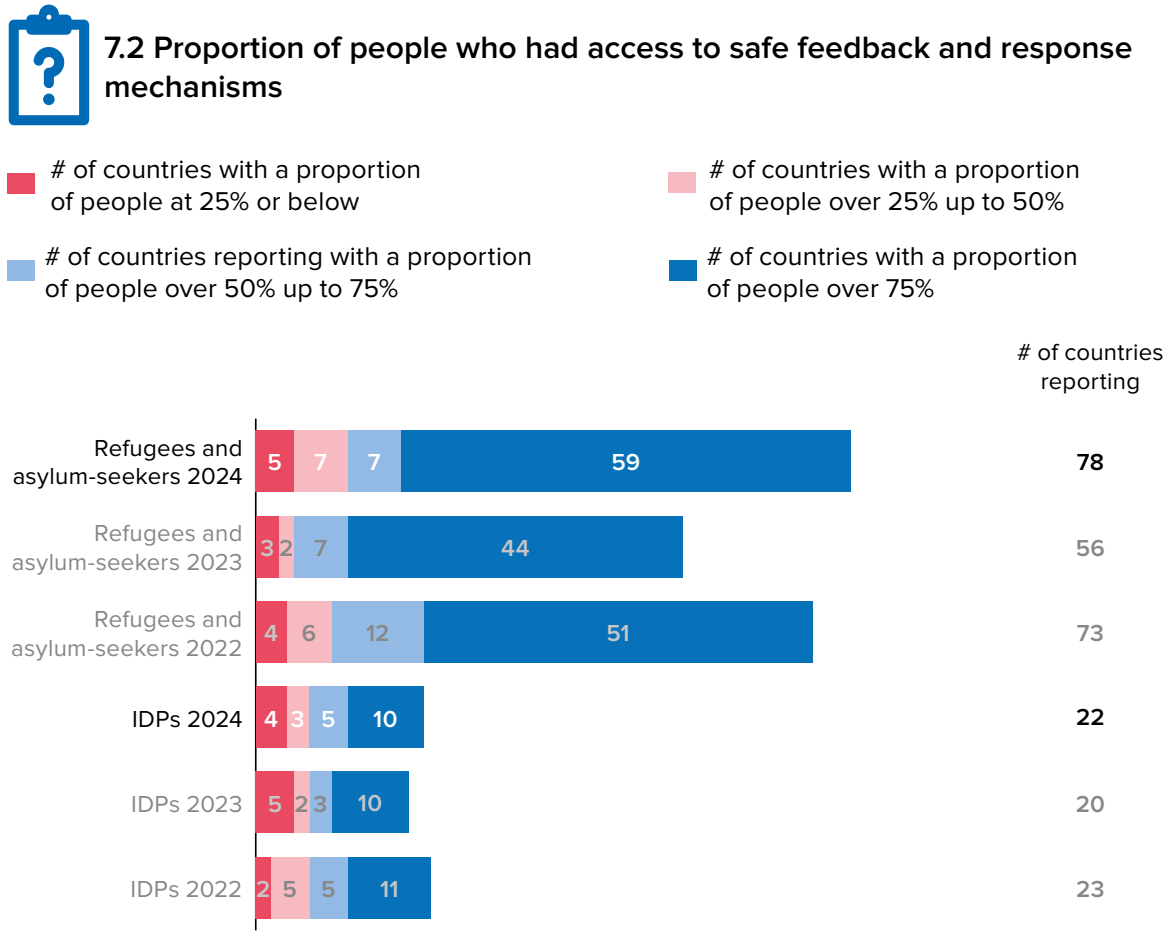


Core Outcome Area indicators

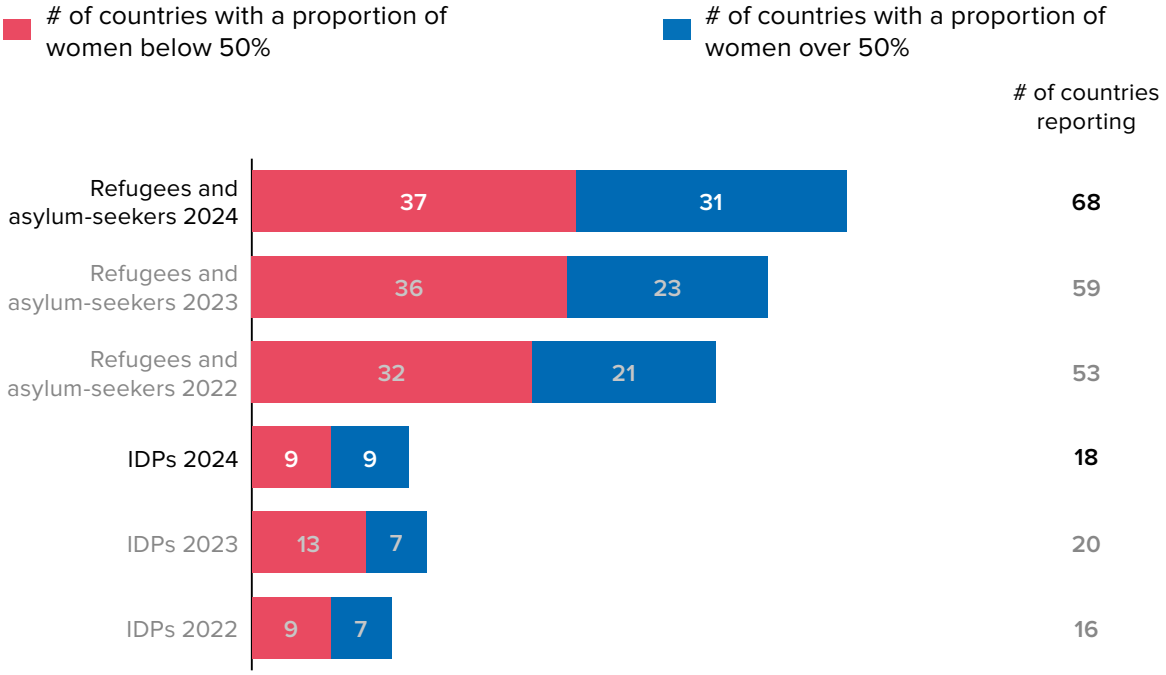
7.1 Extent to which the participation of displaced and stateless people was supported across programme phases



7.2 Proportion of people who had access to safe feedback and response mechanisms



7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures



Driving impact through innovation and local solutions

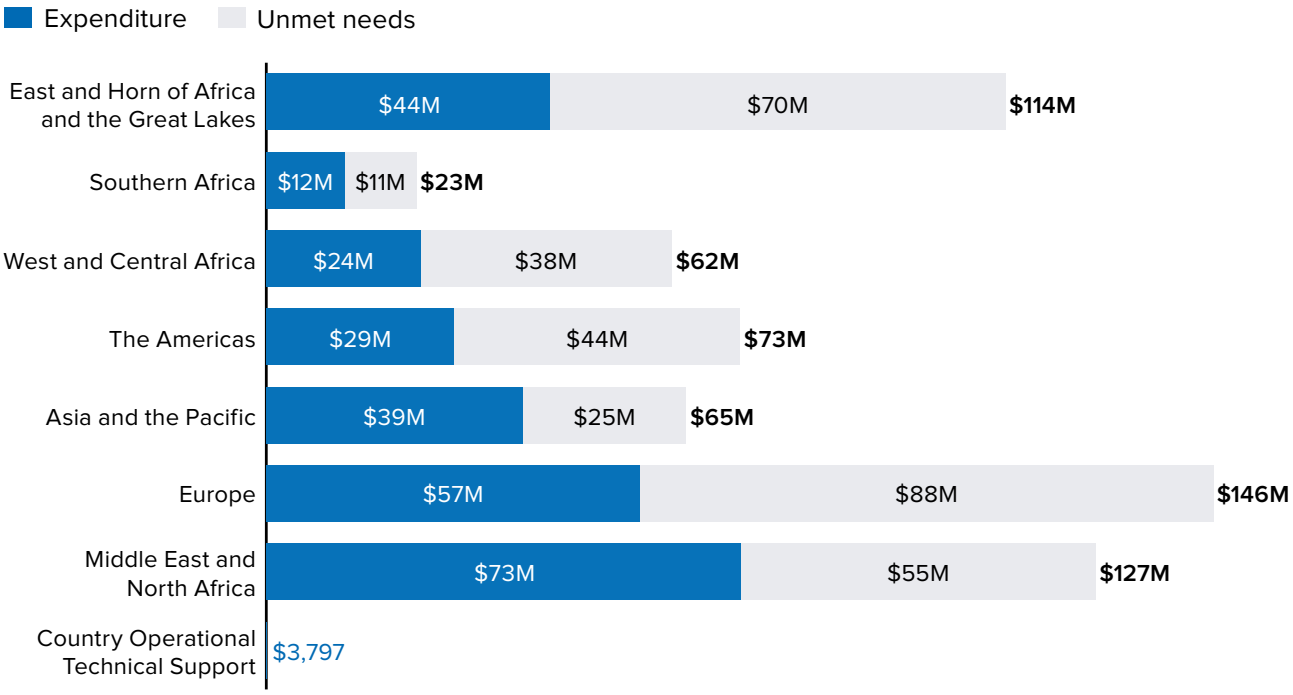
In 2024, UNHCR's Innovation Service supported 72 pilot projects, bringing the total number of innovation initiatives since 2022 to more than 120. These projects have improved the lives of over 750,000 refugees and host community members in 51 countries, addressing challenges in education, livelihoods and displacement. UNHCR has invested $12 million over two years, including $2 million directly channelled to more than 40 refugee-led organizations, positively impacting 160,000 individuals. Over 30% of these organizations are women-led. By fostering locally driven solutions, UNHCR is strengthening resilience and expanding opportunities for displaced and host communities worldwide.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Community engagement and women's empowerment

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$281 million** towards budgeted needs of **$614 million**. **$333 million** of unmet needs or **54%** of the budget.

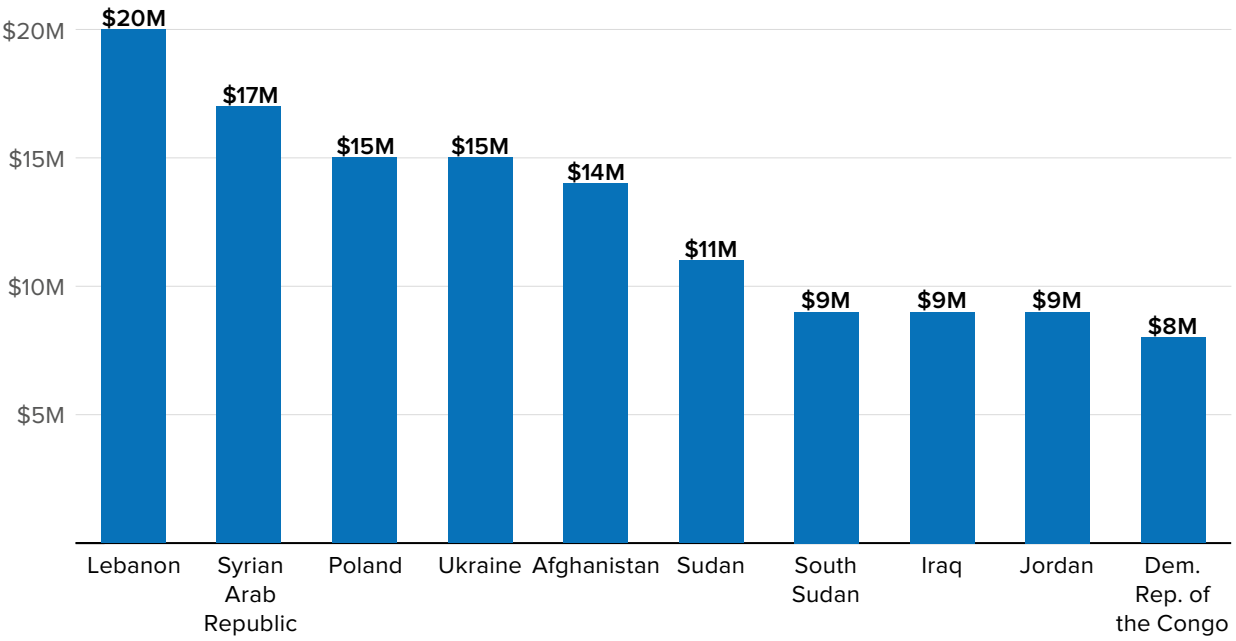
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Community engagement and women's empowerment



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Community engagement and women's empowerment: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **45%** of **$281 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 8

Arafa and her family fled their home in Jebel Awlia in Sudan's Khartoum in April 2023. 15 days later they reached Gedaref state, where the family had distant relatives, and lived in a cramped house with three other displaced households. Another distant relative offered them a plot of land in Karfes neighbourhood, and they moved there in 2024. Cash assistance from UNHCR meant Arafa was able to start construction of a *rakouba* made of local materials to accommodate her family of eight. © UNHCR/Althea Gonzales

Well-being and basic needs

Global needs

People who are forced to flee often have to start from scratch in unfamiliar environments, relying on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs. UNHCR provides **cash**, **core relief items** and **clean fuel for cooking and heating** to support their safety, dignity and recovery.

But the assistance available does not reach all of those who need it, largely due to underfunding. UNHCR recorded data in 80 countries on our efforts to improve well-being and basic needs by distributing cash and relief items in 2024, and in most places – 56 out of the 80 countries – most refugees and asylum-seekers did not receive any such assistance, leaving a huge gap in terms of unmet needs. The picture was even starker for 24 countries reporting data on distributions to internally displaced people: in 19 countries, less than a quarter of those in need actually received anything. Globally, cash is the preferred form of support but in post-distribution monitoring, 66% of beneficiaries said they could still only meet half their basic needs or less.

Access to clean fuel also remained limited, with the vast majority of refugees relying on firewood for cooking – posing risks to health, safety and the environment. Data collected by UNHCR in 52 refugee-hosting countries showed that in 28 of them, most refugees were not using clean cooking fuel and technology. The overall expenditure under this outcome area decreased by 17%, from $1,203 million in 2023 to $997 million in 2024.

How UNHCR made a difference

UNHCR delivered **$650 million in cash assistance to more than 5.3 million people** (56% female) in 103 countries. Most of the cash – $421 million in 58 countries – was delivered via **CashAssist**, a cash management system that records payments quickly, efficiently and accurately, avoiding duplication and minimizing fraud. Cash is low cost, with bank fees of around 1-3%, making it more cost efficient than other assistance.

95% of the cash disbursed in 2024 was **unrestricted**, leaving recipients to choose how to spend it, in line with UNHCR's policy. UNHCR's largest cash operations were in **Afghanistan**, **Egypt**, **Iraq**, **Lebanon**, **Jordan**, **the Republic of Moldova**, **Mexico**, **the Syrian Arab Republic**, **Ukraine** and **Yemen**.

In post-distribution monitoring, 96% of respondents reported that cash improved their living conditions, and 41% said the improvement was significant, up from 33% in 2023. 98% of recipients reported overall satisfaction, although 5% indicated a preference for in-kind assistance, mainly because the cash was not sufficient.

Receiving cash, especially by digital payments, also increased displaced people's **financial inclusion** in the wider economy and helped to link them into government **social protection** systems and other national services. This was the case in Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Mexico, the Republic of Moldova, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, and other countries affected by the Ukraine crisis. By promoting choice, dignity, and connection to national systems, cash assistance serves as a critical enabler of sustainable responses – laying the groundwork for long-term inclusion, resilience, and reduced dependency on humanitarian assistance.

90% of countries identified as at risk of emergencies had acceptable cash assistance preparedness in place. UNHCR used cash to prevent and respond to weather-related disasters in over 20 countries and collected learning in **Brazil**, **Mauritania**, **South Sudan**, **Yemen** and countries of West and Central Africa.

As a leader in cash assistance, UNHCR co-chairs the Global Cash Advisory Group with OCHA, coordinating humanitarian cash operations around the world. The Group's "quality cash coordination framework" brings country data into one place, with the results visible on a global cash working group dashboard, used by 37 countries. UNHCR also issued guidance on cash and shelter and promoted ways for women to be considered their household's primary cash recipient.

After using **blockchain** technology to deliver cash in **Ukraine**, with real-time traceability and zero cost, UNHCR rolled out the same innovative approach in **Argentina**, delivering $4.6 million, 80% of it for business startups.

UNHCR also utilized its **global stockpiles** of relief items to meet basic needs, particularly in situations where procuring local stocks was challenging and implementing cash-based interventions was difficult to set up or restricted by the national framework. UNHCR organized **six airlifts** and dispatched **5.1 million emergency items** from its global warehouses to provide relief to more than **6 million people in 65 countries** in 2024. 56% of the recipients were refugees and asylum-seekers in countries such as **Bangladesh**, **Chad**, **Ethiopia**, **Sudan**, **the United Republic of Tanzania** and **Pakistan**. 31% were internally displaced people in **Myanmar**, **the Syrian Arab Republic**, **Sudan**, **Ukraine**, **Central African Republic** and elsewhere. 10% were **Syrian refugees returning home**, and members of the host community in **Lebanon**.

In line with the new "Supply strategy 2024-2030", UNHCR increased efforts to improve **in-kind assistance** with a resilient and sustainable supply chain. These measures included sourcing goods closer to the point of delivery, replenishing our global stocks with items with recycled materials, promoting sustainable transportation modes, reducing plastic in storage, packing and labelling and installing renewable energy sources in our global warehouses. Additionally, UNHCR sourced more eco-friendly items without UNHCR branding, which can be transferred at cost to partners in need of immediate response. This will help enhance the sustainability of supply chains across the humanitarian sector.

In addition to providing forcibly displaced people with cash and relief items, UNHCR supported **1 million refugees** with **clean cooking fuels and technology**, since many refugee-hosting communities rely primarily on firewood for fuel. Collecting firewood can incur protection risks as well as damaging the local environment and burning it can damage people's health and lead to uncontrolled fires.

UNHCR supported 133,900 displaced households to use liquefied petroleum gas (**LPG**) for cooking, in countries such as **Algeria**, **Bangladesh** and **Rwanda**, and expanded the "cash-for-gas" programme in **Mauritania** to enable about 1,200 households to purchase LPG kits each year. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, UNHCR supported a hospital and three departure centres with LPG for communal cooking. An evaluation of LPG provision in Bangladesh found a wide range of benefits for Rohingya refugee households, ranging from less time spent on cooking to higher agricultural production.

UNHCR also pursued solar-electric cooking, establishing solar kitchens in communal facilities like schools and health centres in **Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, and **South Sudan**. Elsewhere, UNHCR provided transitional solutions that are cleaner than firewood, such as green briquettes and improved stoves in **Cameroon**, **Chad**, **South Sudan**, **the United Republic of Tanzania**, and **Uganda**. UNHCR provided sustainably harvested, fast-growing Prosopis in **Djibouti** to minimize green wood use, and developed sustainable woodlots in **Ethiopia** and **Sudan**.

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Essity and Euroclear contribute to improved dignity for refugees in emergencies

In emergency situations, people forced to flee often escape with nothing but clothes on their backs. Addressing their immediate needs becomes paramount, not only to survive, but to help them regain a sense of well-being after enduring harrowing circumstances.

Two private sector partners have actively responded to meet these critical needs. Essity – a leading global hygiene and health company – is dedicated to improving well-being through its products and services. In 2024, **Essity** renewed its commitment as an Emergency Action Partner of UNHCR. Apart from a generous cash donation of $189,271, Essity donated more than 2 million baby diapers and almost a million adult diapers. These vital products were distributed in Armenia, Jordan, and Türkiye.

Belgium-based financial services company **Euroclear Group** also stepped up through flexible funding, enabling UNHCR to provide immediate support to new humanitarian crises and deliver life-saving aid to those facing protracted displacement, from conflict zones to climate-related disasters globally.

By meeting these fundamental needs, whether through cash assistance, clean cooking fuel, and non-food items, private sector partners can support refugees in their journey towards recovery and hope.

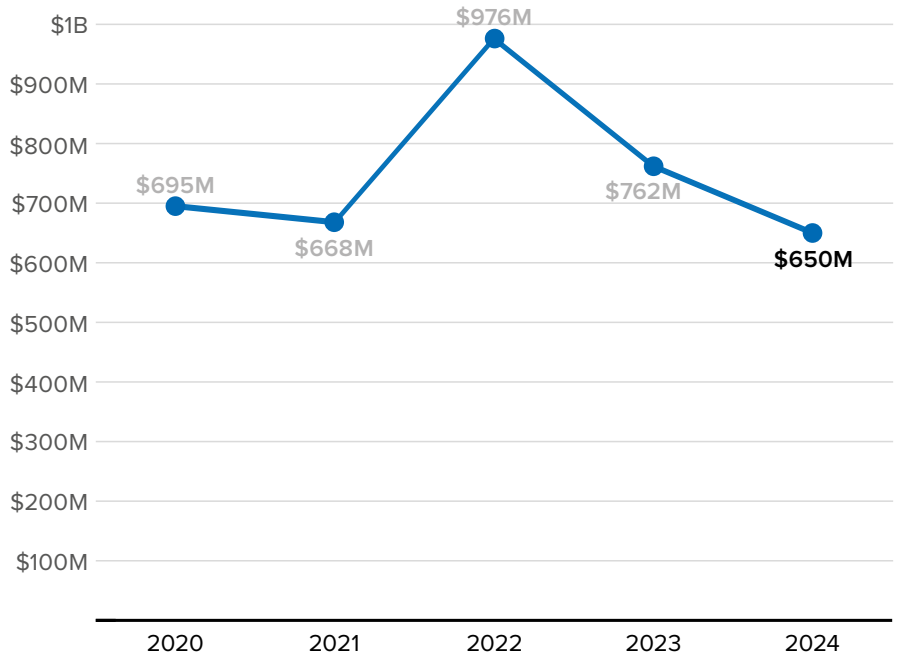
The impact of underfunding

Underfunding forced UNHCR to cut **spending** on well-being and basic needs by 17% in 2024. The number of cash beneficiaries, which reached 9.8 million people in 2022, fell by a quarter to 7.3 million in 2023 and by another quarter to 5.3 million in 2024. The sums paid out are small, averaging around $122 per beneficiary in 2024. Even after receiving cash, 66% of households interviewed said they could meet no more than half of their basic needs. 69% of the households were using coping strategies such as cutting back on spending, borrowing money, or skipping their rent payments. 9% had resorted to risky behaviours such as begging, and another 9% to child labour.

Underfunding significantly disrupts our supply chain, jeopardizing our ability to deliver goods on time. It limits our sourcing capacity and options, which can lead to delays, slower replenishment of stocks and increased costs. So far, the global stockpiles have been maintained to meet the urgent needs of up to 1 million people with core relief items. However, due to funding constraints, there is a substantial risk that these stockpiles may be reduced.

Underfunding of clean cooking drives the use of natural forest and bushes, leading to poorer health, deforestation, environmental degradation, conflict with host communities, and protection risks during firewood collection.

Cash assistance | 2020-2024



Core Output indicator

Well-being and basic needs

5.3 million people received cash assistance (**103** countries reporting).

6.0 million people received non-food items (**66** countries reporting).

1.0 million people were supported with improved cooking options (**24** countries reporting).

Core Outcome Area indicators

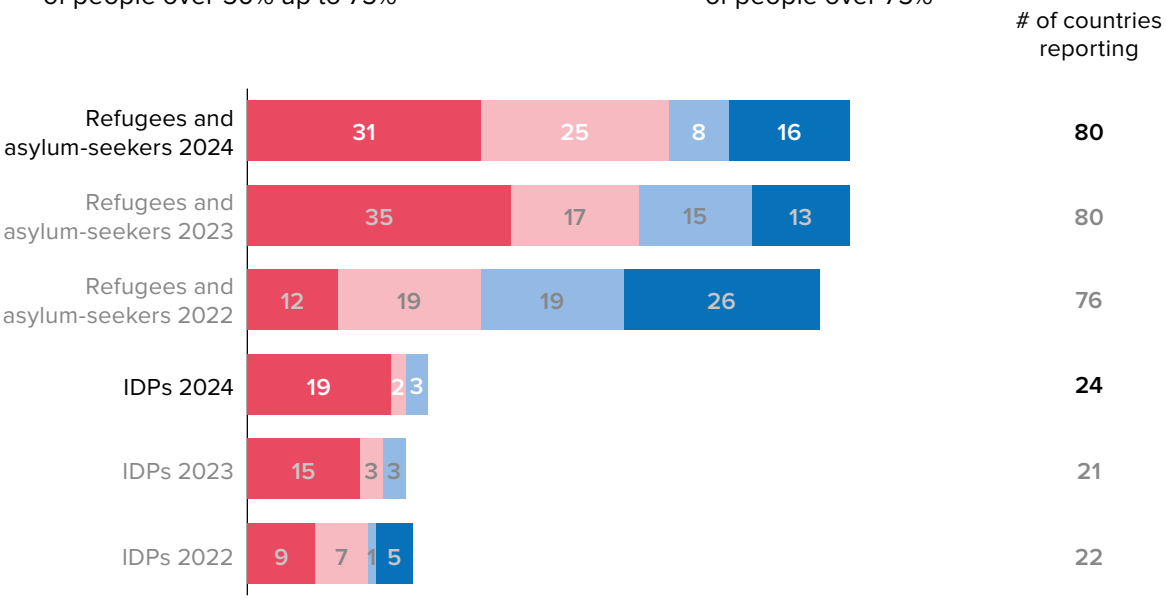
8.1 Proportion of forcibly displaced people that received cash transfers and/or non-food items

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries reporting with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%



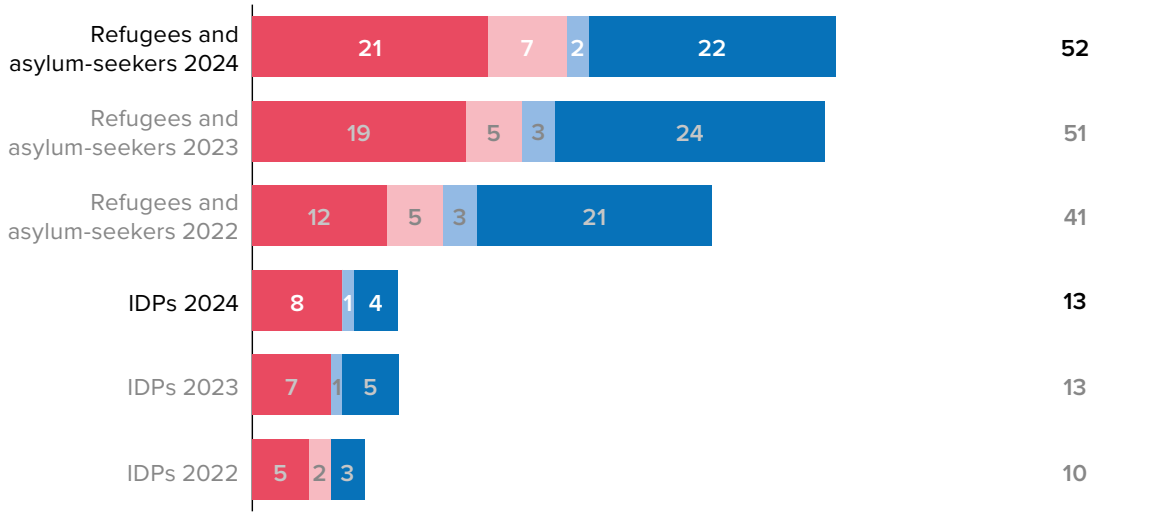
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries reporting with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%

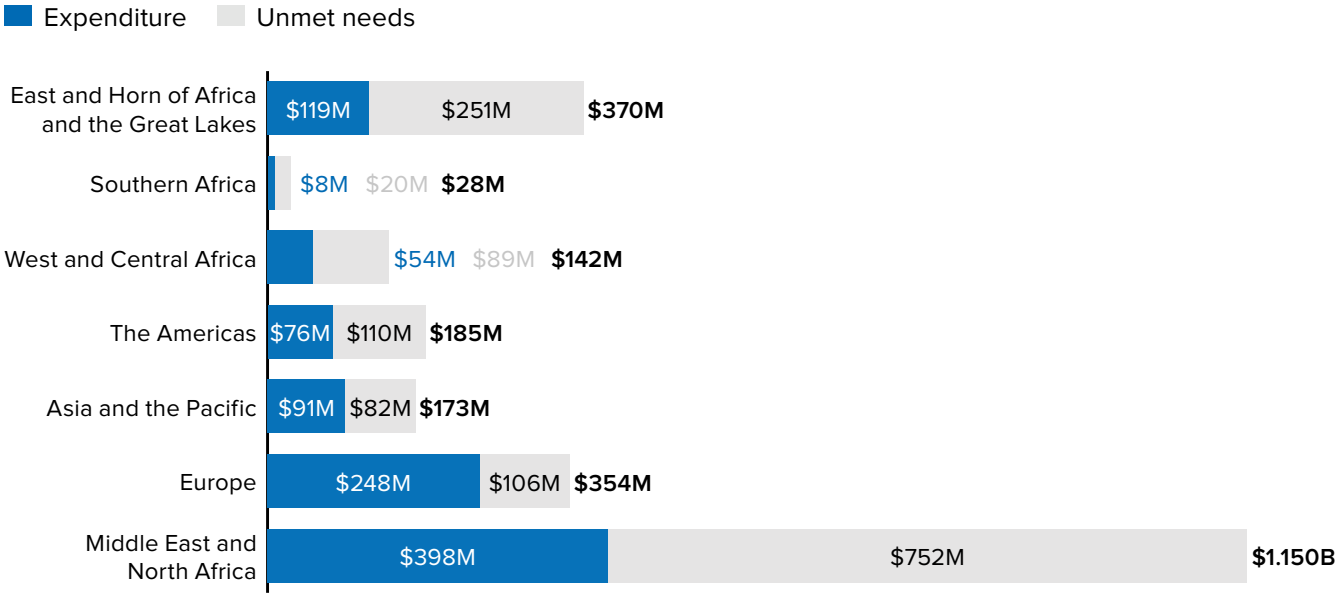


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Well-being and basic needs

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$997 million** towards budgeted needs of **$2.409 billion**. **$1.411 billion** of unmet needs or **59%** of the budget.

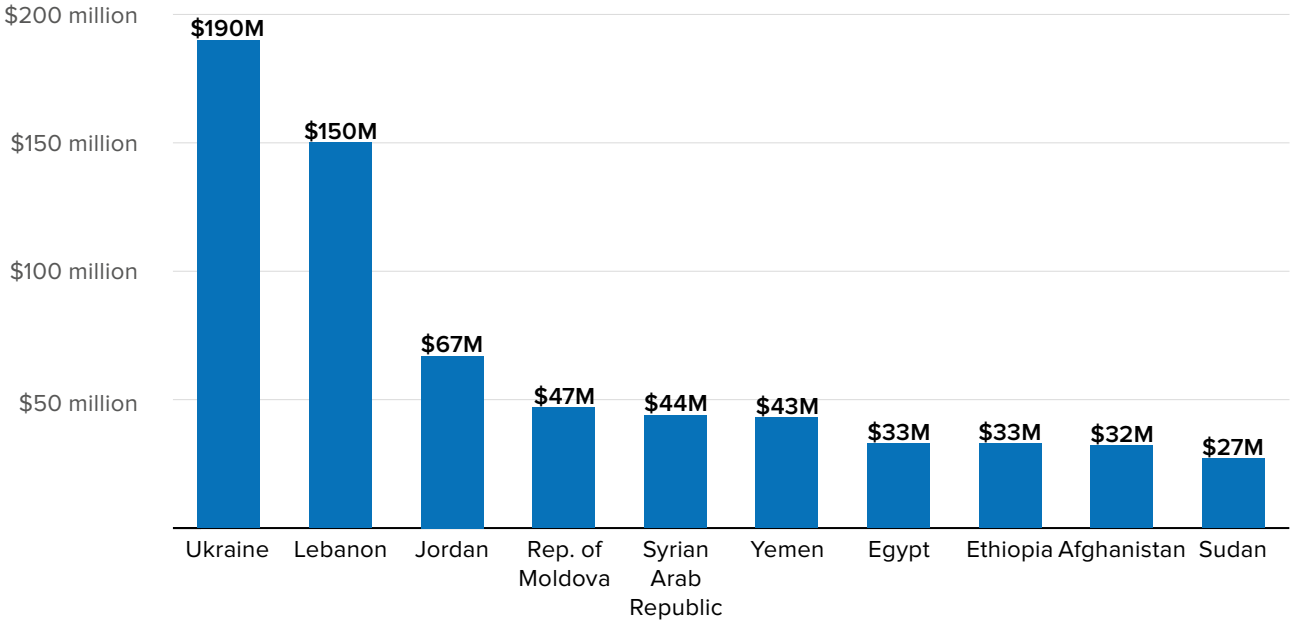
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Well-being and basic needs



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Well-being and basic needs: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **67%** of **$997 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 9

Since January 2024, a pilot project called "Workshop on Wheels" run by UNHCR and NGO partner "Angels of Salvation", has been operating in war-affected areas of Kharkiv region, Ukraine, to help war-affected people repair their homes. The project includes five mobile teams of skilled workers equipped with a range of tools who provide support to people who want to repair their homes on their own. In 2024, the project aimed to support 1,500 families in the Kharkiv region with loans of tools, technical expertise and assistance with repairs. © Angels of Salvation/Oleksii Hutnyk

Sustainable housing and settlements

Global needs

A safe place to live is one of the most basic needs faced by anyone who has been forced to flee from their home. Many people who are forced to flee find themselves in camps or sites with little or no infrastructure. They need a safe and durable shelter, or cash with which to rent a place to stay.

Globally, an estimated **42% of refugees and asylum-seekers had habitable and affordable housing** in 2024, based on reports from 41 countries. That marked a slight improvement from 39% in 2023. But the proportion of internally displaced people with habitable and affordable housing fell from 39% to an estimated 29%, based on data from 20 countries.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR provided shelter and housing assistance to more than **2.6 million people** in **66 countries**, down from 2.9 million people in 67 countries in 2023. This included emergency, transitional and durable shelter for people who had been forced to flee from their own homes, as well as repairs and upgrades, and cash grants and vouchers for rental subsidies and shelter materials.

Rent tends to be the second highest expense for forcibly displaced people, after food, which means that cash assistance is often the most effective and efficient way of helping them to meet their shelter needs. Most of UNHCR's shelter support was provided as cash in 2024, particularly in Afghanistan, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In addition, 67,000 households, notably in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, received **cash for shelter support**, to fund repairs and maintenance.

UNHCR provided **emergency shelters** for people fleeing for safety, in countries such as Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Niger, Sudan and Ukraine. UNHCR provided or maintained **323,884** of these temporary shelters, which are often made from wood, straw, tents or plastic sheeting.

In addition, **20,495 forcibly displaced households** received **transitional shelters** or had their existing shelters maintained, particularly in Algeria, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Somalia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Yemen.

UNHCR delivered **5,226 durable shelters** in Afghanistan, Algeria, Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

To enhance settlement conditions and access to services, **119 km of roads and drainage systems** were constructed or maintained.

In **Ukraine**, emergency shelter assistance included Emergency Shelter Kits (ESKs) and building materials for war-affected people and returnees, mainly along the conflict line and missile-strike areas.
A total of 70,865 ESKs were distributed, aiding 137,984 people and 955 social infrastructure sites. Kit numbers matched 2023 levels, as the intensity of the conflict continued. For durable housing, 10,000 families received support through mixed-modality repairs and a "core home" programme. UNHCR repaired 9,851 homes and provided 149 families with prefabricated core homes, offering homeowners a choice of contractor services, materials, or cash.

In **Afghanistan**, UNHCR supported the reintegration of returning Afghans by providing 12,989 individuals with cash to build a permanent shelter, 4,711 with cash for repairs, and 221,753 with winterization assistance, to ensure they had adequate shelter during the harsh winter months.

To house people fleeing from the conflict in **Sudan**, UNHCR built shelters in neighbouring countries, and provided cash for maintenance and construction in refugee settlements. Almost 65,000 emergency shelters were provided or maintained as part of the Sudan refugee response in 2024, and new refugee sites were set up in Chad and Ethiopia.

Millions of forcibly displaced people live in places that are at risk of flooding. UNHCR collaborated with the Geneva Technical Hub (GTH) and ETH Zurich to launch a "Flood risk mitigation toolbox", which includes a compendium of risk mitigation measures, a GIS tool and a participatory risk mapping methodology. A pilot study during the rainy season in the Republic of the Congo helped to develop a flood mitigation strategy for the town of Bétou, where the 15 Avril site houses 6,400 refugees.

UNHCR's investment in climate-resilient shelter proved its worth when Cyclone Chido devastated parts of **Mozambique** in 2024. In Maratane camp, where UNHCR had provided wind-resistant shelters, 8,000 mainly Congolese and Burundian refugees experienced minimal damage.

Following the 3-year Eco-design Tarpaulin project, a collaboration with ICRC and IFRC, UNHCR introduced new specifications for the tarpaulins it distributes each year to give millions of displaced people a rudimentary shelter. The new design cuts CO_2 emissions by 8,000 tonnes and plastic use by 1,000 tonnes yearly. It is 14% lighter, includes a minimum of 15% recycled polyethylene, and offers a longer lifespan without compromising quality. Each tarpaulin costs 20-30% less per unit and 10% less to transport.

As set out in its "Operational strategy for climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022-2025", UNHCR sought to shore up refugees' resilience by preserving and rehabilitating the surrounding environment. The Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) project in **Bangladesh** improved refugee settlements with weather-resilient infrastructure, emergency preparedness and community-driven solutions in an area prone to devastating floods and landslides.

As part of its shelter work, UNHCR aims to improve **access to lighting** for forcibly displaced people. Approximately 65% of refugees had energy for lighting in the 39 countries where UNHCR collected data in 2024, an improvement from 49% in 2023. Solar streetlights and solar-powered household lighting improved the lives of forcibly displaced people hosted in countries such as Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, the Syrian Arab Republic, South Sudan and Zambia.

In **Pakistan**, for example, household solar kits and the solarization of 124 public and community facilities provided 8,600 kW of clean energy in 2024. In **Zambia**, UNHCR initiated the installation of 235 kW of solar power across various public service facilities, such as schools, health facilities, and community centres, providing improved health care access, better education quality, and safer and more inclusive communal spaces.

Underfunding and other constraints

A lack of funding forced UNHCR to **cut spending** on shelter and housing assistance by 16% to $393 million, down from $469 million in 2023. This meant that **tens of thousands of newly arrived refugees** could not be relocated to planned sites or receive durable shelter, exposing them to live in overcrowded or informal settlements without basic infrastructure, sanitation, or services. For example, **294,595 Sudanese refugees** were forced to remain in **makeshift shelters** at the eastern Chad border due to a lack of funding for relocation and adequate shelter construction, exposed to **extreme weather**, lack of **privacy and protection**, and increased **health and safety risks**.

Shelter initiatives faced multifaceted challenges. Material shortages delayed construction and maintenance, especially in Bangladesh and Sudan. Insecurity and extreme weather hindered logistics in Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan.

Land tenure disputes in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Sudan obstructed shelter construction, while restrictions on movement and durable materials in Burundi and Lebanon further complicated implementation. Funding shortfalls limited shelter coverage and project scalability in Rwanda, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Republic of Tanzania. In urban and protracted refugee situations like Lebanon and Ukraine, shifting government schemes, economic crises, and partner capacity strained response effectiveness.

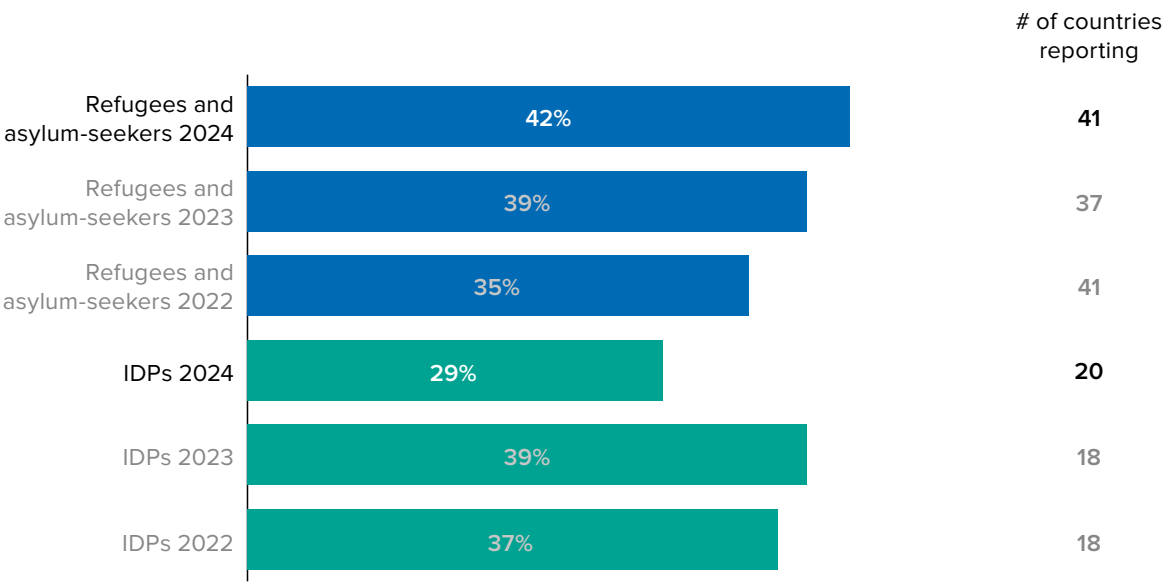
Core Output indicator

Sustainable housing and settlements

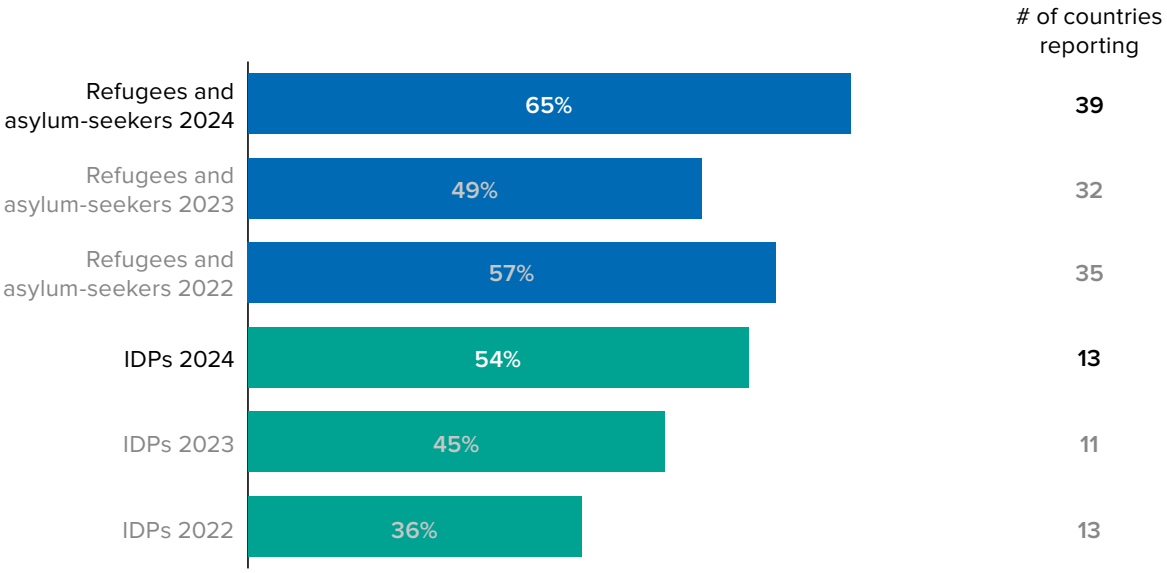
2.6 million people received shelter and housing assistance (**66** countries reporting).

Core Outcome Area indicators

9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing

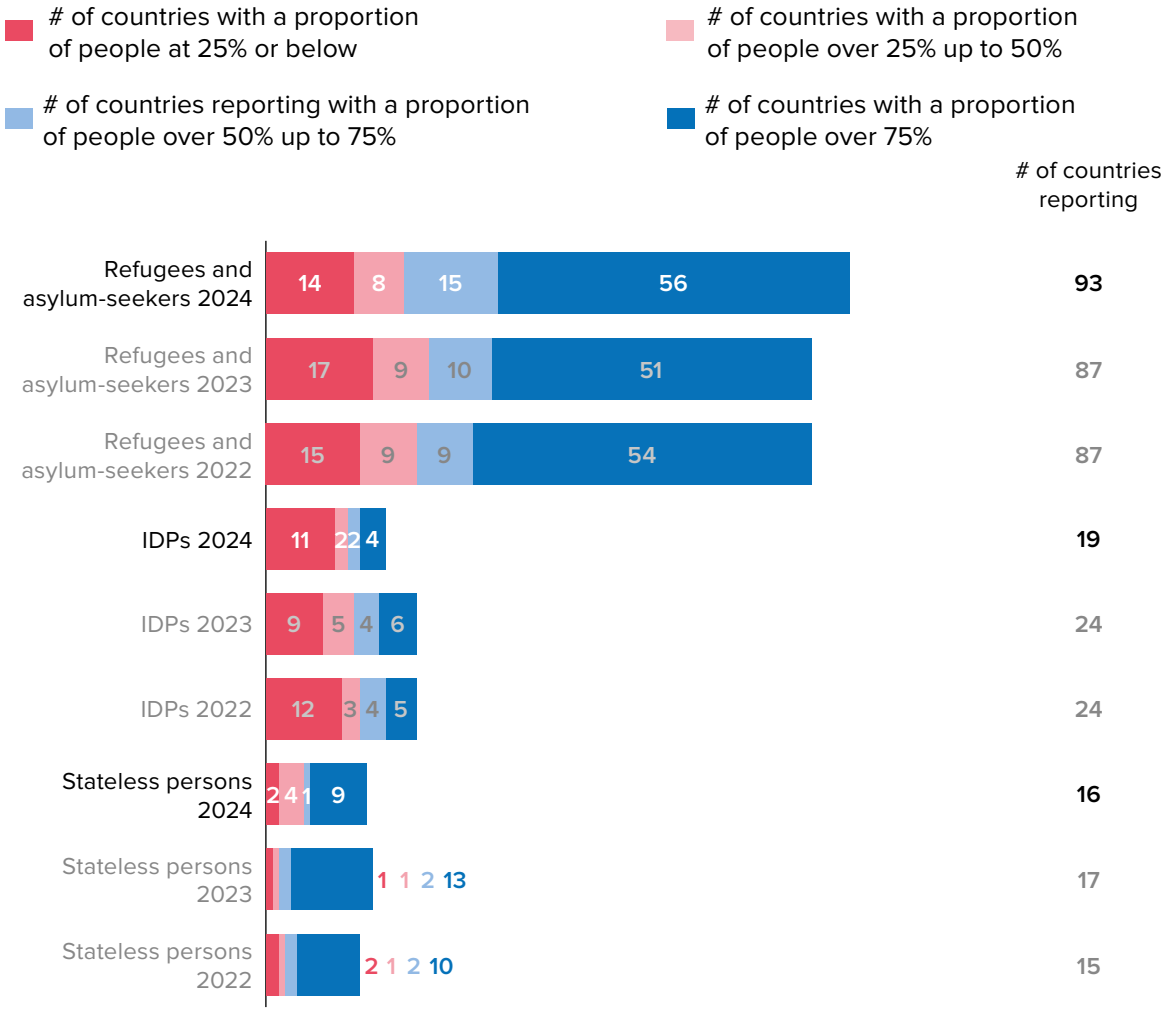


9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting



Core Impact Area indicator

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

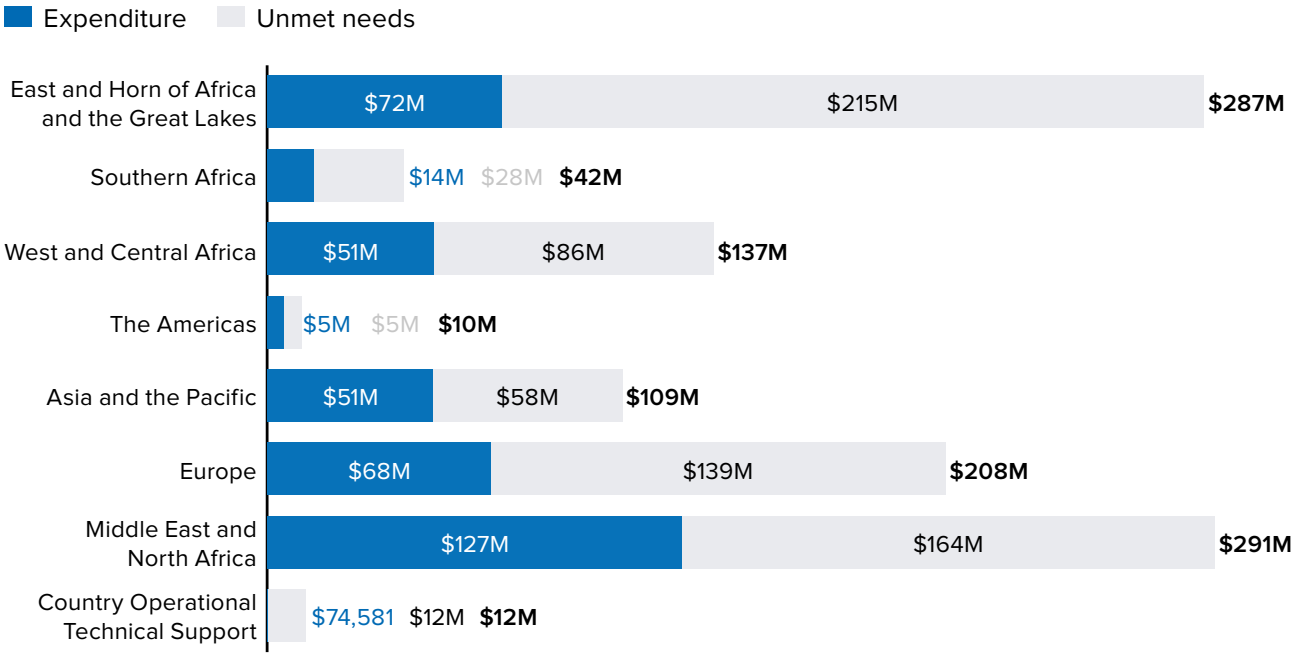


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Sustainable housing and settlements

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$393 million** towards budgeted needs of **$1.100 billion**. **$708 million** of unmet needs or **64%** of the budget.

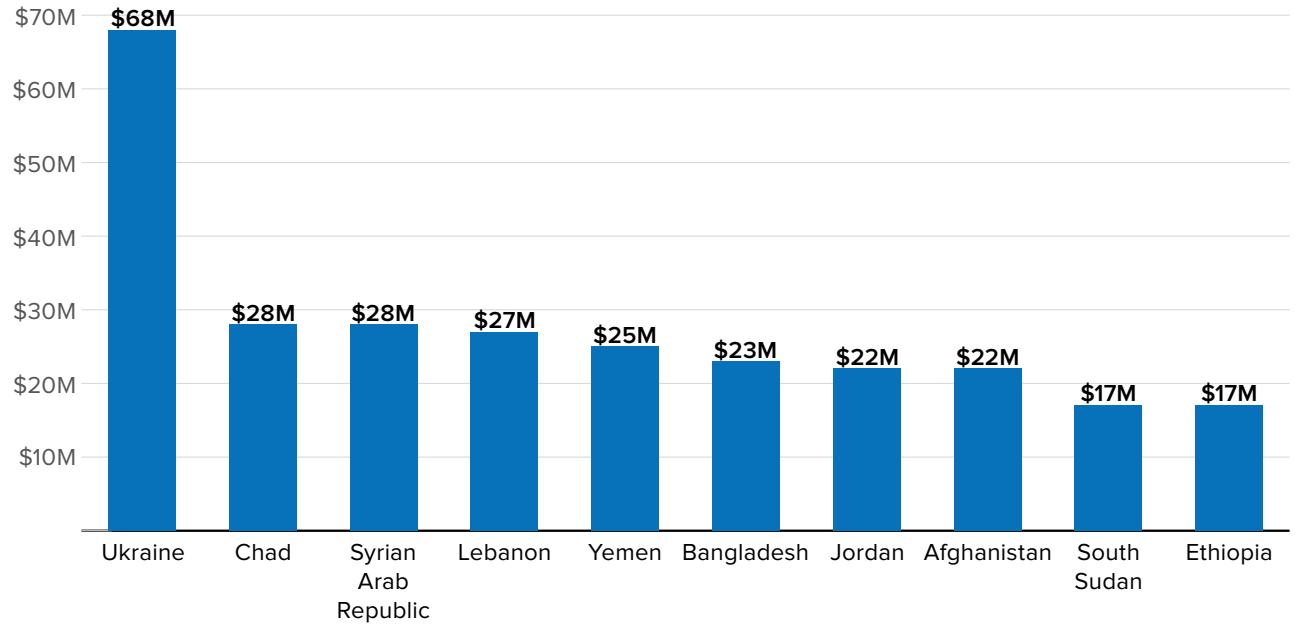
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Sustainable housing and settlements



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Sustainable housing and settlements: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **71%** of **$393 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Refugee returnee, Asrael, will soon be able to move into a permanent shelter in his village in Archi district, northeastern Kunduz province, Afghanistan, thanks to UNHCR. His household is one of 35 households in the district who are being assisted with new shelters. "Now I'm more hopeful about the future. This shelter was very much needed. In winter, we can remain warm. I have come back to my country, and I am very happy. With some of UNHCR's cash grant, I bought a cow which gave birth to a calf a few months ago." © UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

Outcome Area 10

Manamanyi Ojulu, a lab technician at the primary health care centre in Gorom refugee settlement, South Sudan, administers a rapid diagnostic test for malaria. The health centre offers health care and laboratory services to refugees, the host community and displaced South Sudanese, and most cases are malaria-related. "I have received patients as young as day-old children and as old as 80-year-old adults here in the lab," says Ojulu, who originally arrived as a refugee from Ethiopia in 2013 and now works for UNHCR's partner ACROSS. © UNHCR/Reason Moses Runyanga

Healthy lives

Global needs

People who have been forced to flee their homes or who are stateless often face serious risks to their physical and mental health, not only during displacement but also in the places where they seek safety. Many face significant barriers to accessing essential health care and services for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) – whether due to legal status, financial limitations, language barriers or overstretched local systems.

According to UNHCR data from 98 countries, in 2024 there were eight countries where fewer than half of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to health services. The situation improved from 2023 in 30% of countries and worsened in 19%.

In 2024, one in 10 refugee children in refugee settlements suffered from acute malnutrition, one in three was affected by stunting, and nearly half suffered micronutrient deficiencies, based on nutrition surveys in 128 refugee settlements in 19 countries. Children under five accounted for nearly one in three deaths in refugee settlements. Many deaths could have been prevented with a low-cost health intervention.

Sustainable responses to forced displacement, such as the **inclusion of refugees** in public health systems, were urgently needed. A World Bank-UNHCR report estimated the total cost of including the world's refugees and asylum-seekers in national systems at $11 billion. However, for the 14.4% living in low-income countries, the cost would be just $249 million.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, in collaboration with governments and partners, UNHCR facilitated access to essential health, nutrition and MHPSS services for more than **13 million refugees and stateless people** and members of their hosting communities. UNHCR-supported health facilities in 63 countries conducted **15.5 million individual consultations**, most of them in the 22 countries where the integrated Refugee Health Information System (iRHIS) is deployed. 57% of the consultations were for women and girls.

Globally, the average **crude mortality rate** and **under-five mortality rate** declined to 0.13 and 0.07 deaths per 1,000 population per month, respectively, with overall progress masking significant variance and disparities between the care available in different countries.

UNHCR reinforced its commitment to safeguarding **maternal and child health** and intensified its efforts to deliver comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services to refugees. Globally, the average skilled birth attendance rate remained stable at 93%, with 70% of the reporting countries reaching the target of 90% or more, compared to 69% in 2023.

UNHCR prioritized the early identification and management of **acute malnutrition**, screening more than **2.55 million individuals in 30 countries**, resulting in acute malnutrition treatment for over 261,000 children and nearly 30,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women. Enhanced maternal and child nutrition reached over 297,000 mothers and caregivers in 30 countries through awareness on healthy feeding practices.

Despite progress in some countries, overall **childhood vaccination** coverage still fell short of global targets. 36% of reporting countries achieved at least 95% measles vaccination coverage, up from 29% in 2023.

Extreme weather events like heatwaves, changing rainfall patterns and droughts intensified health risks. UNHCR worked with partners to reinforce **disease surveillance** and to prepare for, and rapidly respond to, disease outbreaks affecting refugee populations. In camps in **Bangladesh, dengue** cases surged to over 15,000, prompting rapid risk assessments to identify potential hazards and risks for transmission, leading to action in the water, sanitation and health sectors, community-based surveillance, and multisectoral actions. **Mpox** outbreaks in 20 African countries were addressed through strengthened community-based surveillance, water and sanitation programmes, and including refugees in vaccination campaigns. 547 cases were reported among refugees, with no deaths. UNHCR contributed to WHO public health advice to reduce transmission.

Community health interventions are at the heart of UNHCR's health, MHPSS and nutrition response, linking refugee populations and formal health care systems. A total of **12,182 community health workers** – 6% more than in 2023 – played a pivotal role in building trust, providing health education and essential services, including first aid, disease surveillance, and referrals to health facilities.

Over 1.2 million consultations in 88 countries were recorded in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services. This includes psychiatric care in health facilities, scalable psychological interventions and community activities. Most (69%) of these consultations (852,000) were for refugees and asylum-seekers and 15% were for IDPs, mostly in Ukraine and Afghanistan. The number declined by 6% compared to 2023, which can be attributed to reduced funding for community MHPSS activities. UNHCR trained 8,265 community volunteers in health or other sectors on **psychological first aid**. In emergencies such as the **Sudan** refugee situation, high mental health needs among displaced populations are observed. MHPSS is therefore included within the response, using inter-agency tools such as the Minimum Service Package for MHPSS which was introduced in **Chad**, **Ethiopia** and **South Sudan**, where UNHCR ran workshops for 311 government officials and humanitarian workers, enabling them to assess and support the mental health of people fleeing from the conflict in **Sudan**.

UNHCR and partners, including the "Group of Friends Health" convened by UNHCR and WHO, advanced refugee **inclusion in national health systems**, helping to promote universal health coverage (UHC) and advancing **mental health and psychosocial well-being through multi-sectoral action**.

The group received 18 new pledges during the year, bringing the total linked to the Global Refugee Forum 2023 to 240. Research undertaken with Queen Margaret University on refugee inclusion expanded with case studies in **Iraq**, **Kenya** and **Peru**.

Partnerships with development agencies, the private sector, UN partners and others strengthened health systems and infrastructure. Milestones included the transition of camp health services to national authorities in **Iraq**, the integration of refugee health workers into **Kenya**'s national nurse training, and **Cameroon**'s enrolment of over 93,000 refugees in its UHC programme. Health service management in **Mauritania** shifted from NGOs to the Ministry of Health, cutting consultation costs by 80% and improving outcomes.

UNHCR worked with **Uganda** and **Bangladesh** to make iRHIS data interoperable with Health Ministry data, while **Malawi** included refugees in its 2024 demographic and health survey. UNHCR and **ILO** worked on including refugees in social health protection systems in **Egypt**, **Ethiopia** and **Kenya**.

The Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT) on **HIV** in Emergencies, co-led by UNHCR, WFP, and UNAIDS, was relaunched with a focus on updating the 2010 IASC Guidelines, highlighting the importance of integrating HIV into emergency responses to help end **AIDS** by 2030. A joint mission to **Ethiopia** by UNHCR, WFP, UNAIDS, and UNICEF in November 2024 stressed the need for more resources and community-led HIV services in humanitarian settings.

UNHCR and WHO organized a technical meeting on **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) in emergencies, hosted by the Government of Denmark, to explore ways of building the prevention and control of NCDs into humanitarian responses. NCD services in Burundi's and and the United Republic of Tanzania's refugee camps were the subject of an assessment commissioned by UNHCR's Evaluation Office, which called for enhanced NCD preparedness and responses in emergencies, the inclusion of forcibly displaced people, financing for NCDs through to recovery, enhanced community engagement, and improved NCD data in national systems.

The impact of underfunding

The underfunding of health care services hindered refugee inclusion, strained local health systems and created gaps in care that led to preventable disease and death. There were 7% fewer health consultations, 6% fewer MHPSS consultations, 12% fewer assisted deliveries, and 8% fewer children treated for acute malnutrition than in 2023.

Nearly one third of deaths were in children under 5, and 180 maternal deaths were reported. Most could have been prevented with better access to health services. New low-cost, high-impact interventions to address especially maternal and newborn deaths have started to be utilized in refugee operations but require seed funding for wider roll-out.

© UNHCR/Eric Bakuli

Novo Nordisk Foundation and Grundfos Foundation bolster health care and WASH in Kenya

A three-year partnership with **Novo Nordisk Foundation** and **Grundfos Foundation** is helping UNHCR improve access to water and sanitation and health care for refugees and host communities in Turkana County, Kenya, as well as facilitating the inclusion of refugees into the national health system.

The partnership also strengthens health care capacity by providing scholarships to local students, including refugees, at the Kenya Medical Training College in Lodwar. In 2024, more than 50 nursing students, 16 of them refugees, were admitted to the scholarship programme which also offers mentoring and psychosocial support. Additionally, the two foundations are dedicated to upgrading health facilities that serve both refugees and host communities with new medical equipment, a reliable water supply, latrines and better waste handling – enabling them to provide better health services, including for non-communicable diseases.

Core Output indicators

Healthy lives

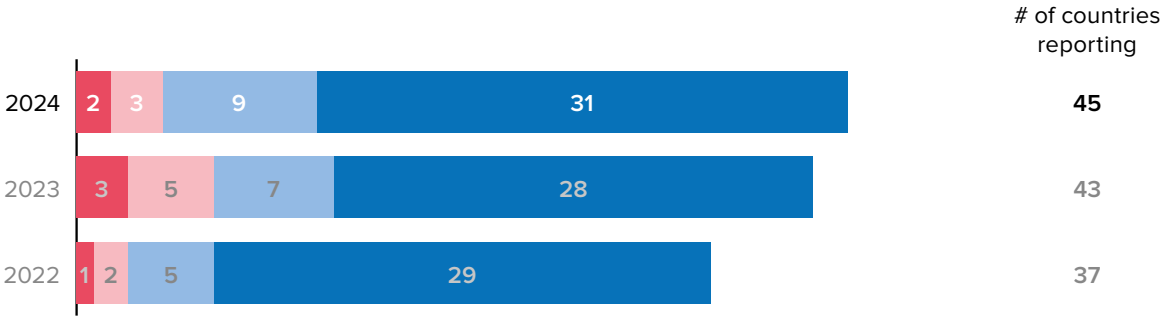
15.5 million individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services (**63** countries reporting).

1.2 million consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services (**88** countries reporting).

Core Outcome Area indicators

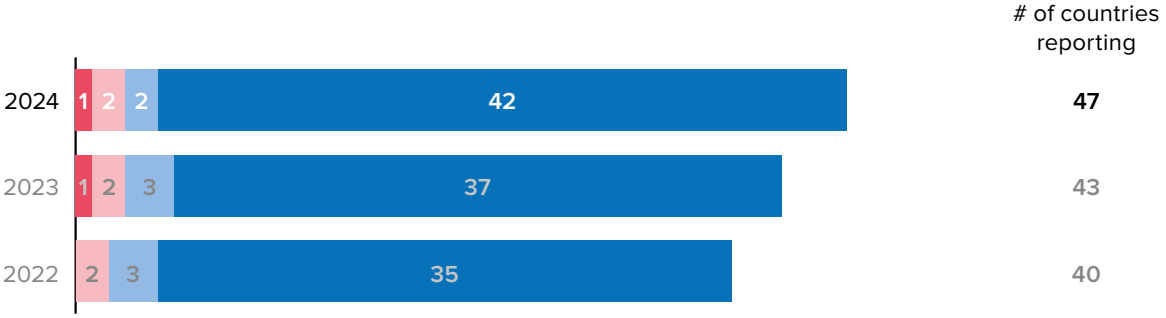
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination (refugees and asylum-seekers)

- # of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 75%



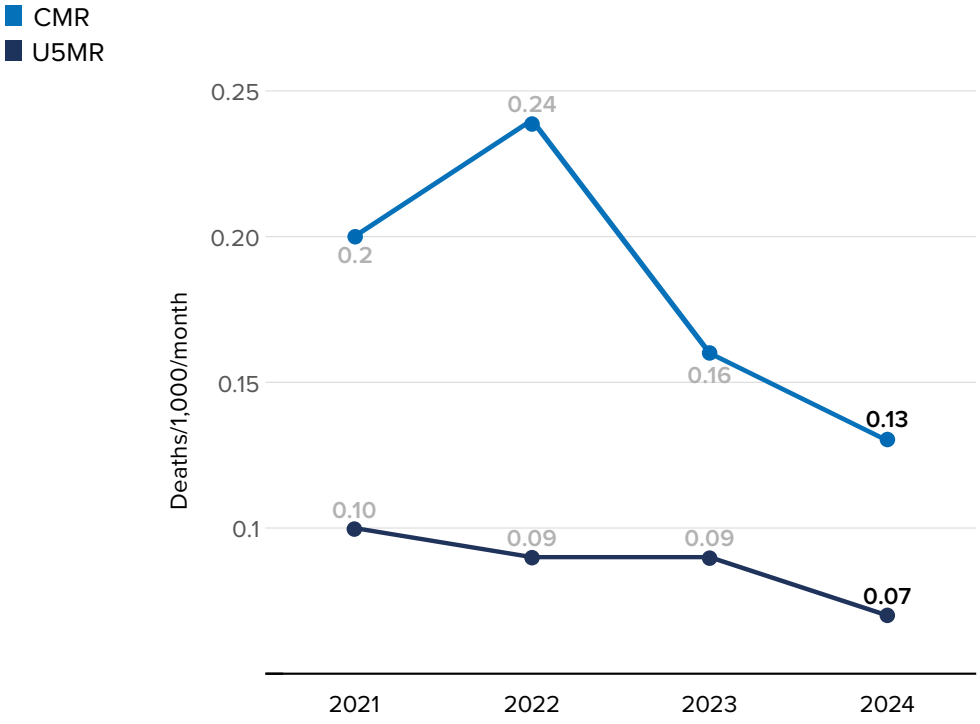
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (refugees and asylum-seekers)

- # of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%
- # of countries with a proportion of people over 75%

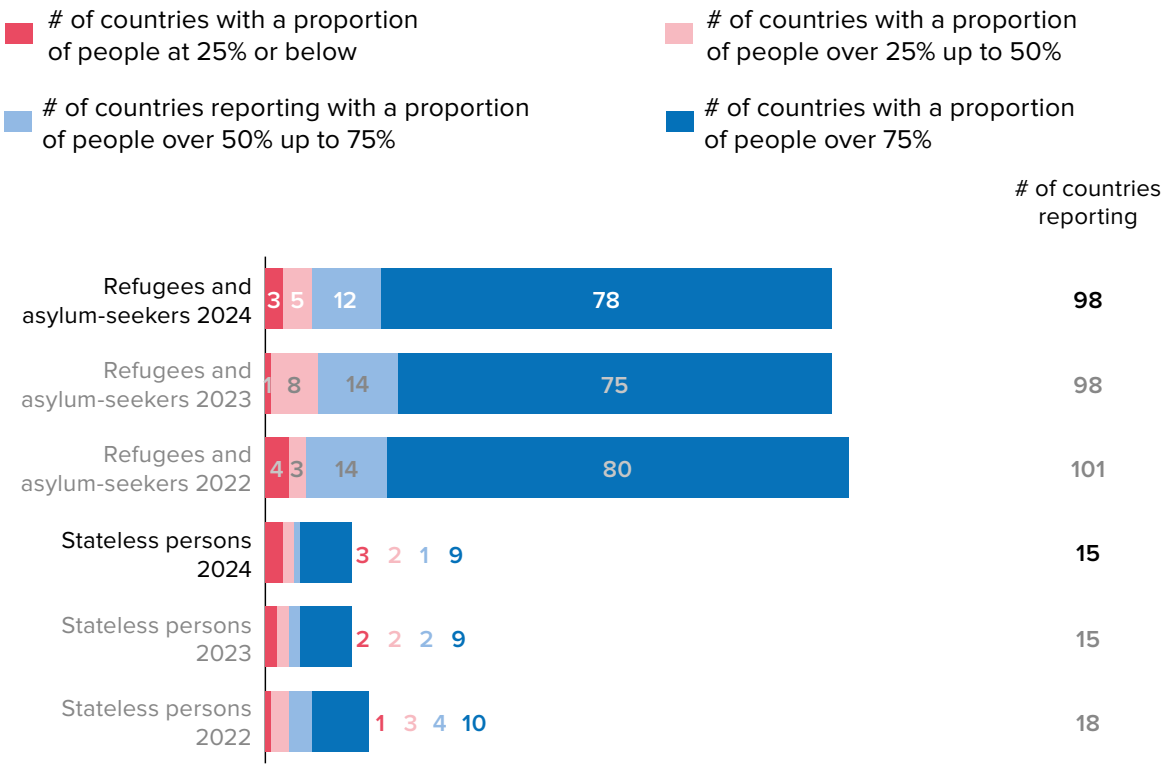


Other indicators

Crude and under 5 mortality rate | 2021-2024



2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services

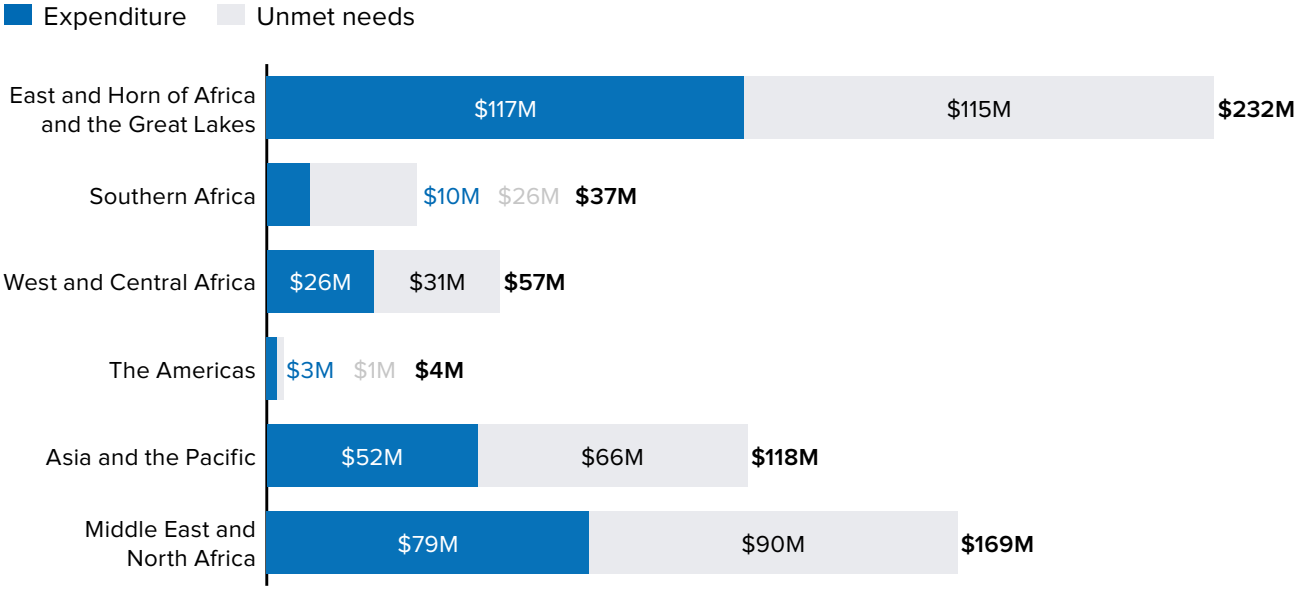


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Healthy lives

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$291 million** towards budgeted needs of **$621 million**. **$330 million** of unmet needs or **53%** of the budget.

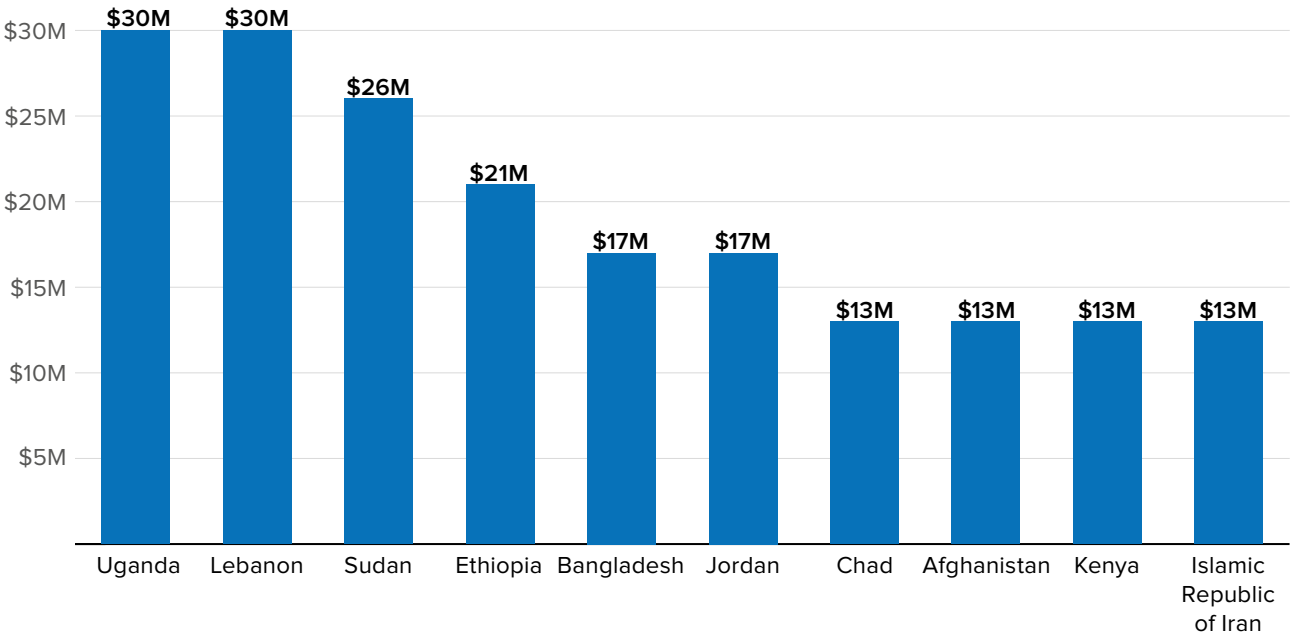
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Healthy lives



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Healthy lives: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **66%** of **$291 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 11

Around 600 students are looking forward to the completion of a new primary school in Shahrak-e-Muhajreen village in Afghanistan's Logar province. The project, carried out by UNHCR with local partner ACHRO, is supported by the Afghanistan Humanitarian Trust Fund, managed by the Islamic Development Bank with funding from the Saudi Fund for Development. Until the school is ready, the children study in the open air and under tents, without desks or chairs. © UNHCR/Caroline Gluck

Education

Global needs

Refugee children face barriers to education that many children do not face.

The most recent annual data, for 2023, shows a global average primary gross enrolment rate of 102%, but just 65% for refugee children. Progress has been made in increasing refugee education access in some key hosting countries, there are still concerning trends, particularly in regard to education access after primary. Secondary gross enrolment was just 42% for refugees, with significant regional disparities, against a global average of 77%. At **tertiary** level, estimates indicate that in 2024 only 7% of refugee youth were enrolled in higher education. UNHCR data from 48 refugee-hosting countries showed that only seven met the global target of having 15% of refugee youth enrolled in tertiary or higher education.

In addition to low enrolment, refugee children are also disadvantaged because of overcrowded, under-resourced classrooms, curriculum and language barriers, and conflict-driven school closures.

Sustainable responses to forced displacement, such as the inclusion of refugees in host country public education systems, has been the focus of UNHCR's approach. The Global Compact on Refugees made the case for including refugees in national education systems and supporting host countries with inclusion. Positive developments in policy have taken place, including the recent decision of the government of Trinidad and Tobago to open its education system, under certain requirements, allowing Venezuelan students access to education. The **World Bank** has estimated the cost of including refugees into national education systems in low-income refugee-hosting countries at only $309 million per year.

However, UNHCR data from 49 countries showed that **only 46% of refugee children were enrolled in national education systems** in 2024, down from 51% in 2023. Low national enrolment was the case in several countries in East Africa, where – despite an enabling legal and policy environment – over 80% of refugees study in parallel schools, managed and financed by the international community.

An evaluation of educational inclusion in seven States in East Africa found governments had met their commitments to put in place inclusive policy frameworks, but the strong political will had not been met with sufficient financial support from the international community. Another evaluation, in West and Central Africa, found that while refugees were included in education systems in theory, critical challenges remained around the acute shortage of teachers.

How UNHCR made a difference

More than **2.1 million forcibly displaced people** in **76 countries** benefited from UNHCR's education programming in 2024. Most were refugees hosted in African countries such as **Chad**, **Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, **South Sudan** and **Uganda**, and some were former refugees returning home to **Burundi**, **Central African Republic** and **the Syrian Arab Republic**.

Some of the biggest refugee-hosting countries have seen progress in primary education enrolment, based on finance allocation and policy and governance shifts under refugee inclusion approaches. In **Uganda**, for example, a gross enrolment ratio of 73% in the 2018-2019 school year had increased to 96% by 2022-2023, even though the refugee population grew by 50% over the same period. In **Iraq**, there has also been an increase in primary enrolment, from 50% in 2018-2019 to 73% in 2022-2023.

UNHCR is a leader in **generating data** on refugee education. Our flagship annual refugee education report examines the state of access to education and the education brief series synthesizes the latest evidence and research. In 2024, as part of a push to address the lack of data on learning, UNHCR collected data on holistic learning using Save the Children's HALDO assessment tool in **Mauritania**, together with RET International, and with Save the Children in **Mexico**. The UNHCR-World Bank collaboration also generated evidence, for example on the power of education to drive integration of refugees in **Kenya**. A series of socioeconomic surveys undertaken with IOM yielded data about the education situation of **Ukrainian** refugees in 10 European refugee-hosting countries.

UNICEF and UNHCR worked together to improve education for refugee children through the Strategic Collaboration Framework – in West, Central and North Africa especially – with practical steps like including **refugee teachers** in national systems and helping countries integrate refugee students into their education data systems.

UNHCR participates in the International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, ensuring that the issue of refugee teachers in protracted crises are considered in global advocacy as well as programmatic interventions. A UNHCR project with Jigsaw Education, financed by GPE KIX, investigated ways of ensuring refugee teachers' qualifications are recognized. In 2024, UNHCR supported **teacher training programmes** for refugee students in countries such as **Afghanistan**, **Iraq**, **Pakistan**, **Rwanda**, **South Sudan** and **the United Republic of Tanzania.**.

In **connected education**, UNHCR, in partnership with Learning Equality and the Vodafone Foundation, is developing an AI-powered intervention to create guided lesson plans for the Instant Network Schools (INS) programme in **South Sudan**. To address the challenge of teacher turnover and the need for sustained teacher support under the INS programme, new content was rolled out, including a life-skills course in six countries. In partnership with the ProFuturo Foundation for Education, UNHCR made connected technology available to learners through content design tools in **Nigeria**, **Rwanda** and **Zimbabwe**, allowing teachers to create localized digital learning materials aligned with student needs, as well as AI-powered learning tools.

The 15by30 Roadmap aims for enrolment of 15% of refugee youth in **higher education** by 2030. As shown by UNHCR data, progress is being made towards achieving this goal, bringing the global average to 7% in 2024. The **DAFI programme**, UNHCR's flagship tertiary education scholarship programme, supported 7,890 refugee students to enrol in accredited higher education institutions in 59 countries; 45% of scholars were female. UNHCR and Times Higher Education joined forces to map higher educational opportunities for refugees globally. In 2024, increases in refugees' higher education enrolment were observed in the **Philippines** (from 2% in 2023 to 5% in 2024), **Uganda** (from 0.3% to 2.1%), **Türkiye** (from 14.1% to 15.2%), and **Serbia** (from 3.7% to 10.2%).

The impact of underfunding

In 2024, UNHCR asked donors to fund a budget of $509 million for critical education support. However, we received only half of the requested funding. The chronic shortfall means more refugee children were out of school. This potentially creates significant challenges beyond the fundamental issue of children missing out on education, as being out of school increases gendered protection risks such as adolescent pregnancy, early marriage, gender-based violence, armed recruitment and child labour. Under the Global Compact on Refugees and sustainable responses approach, UNHCR worked with host governments to support inclusion, although in many countries, UNHCR continued to bear recurrent costs for the provision of education.

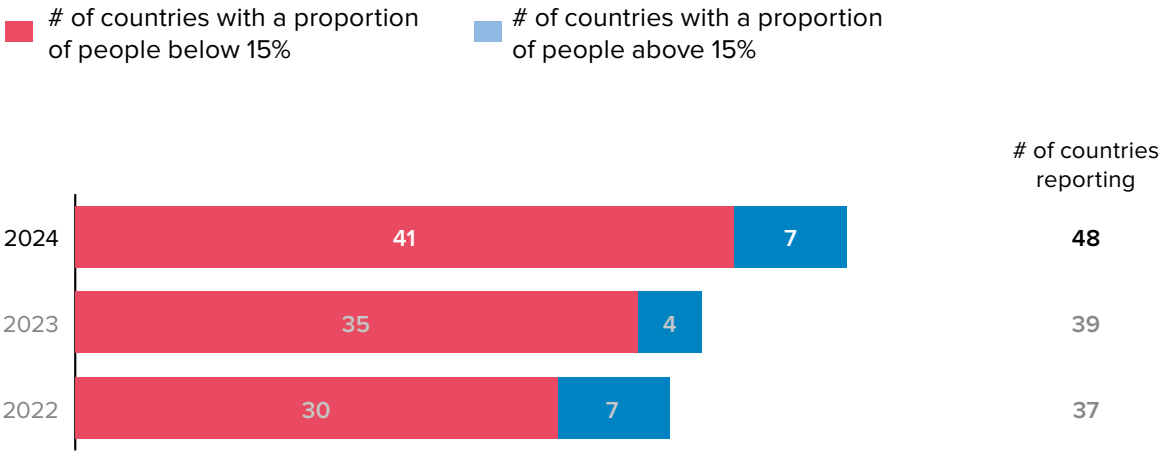
Core Output indicators

Education

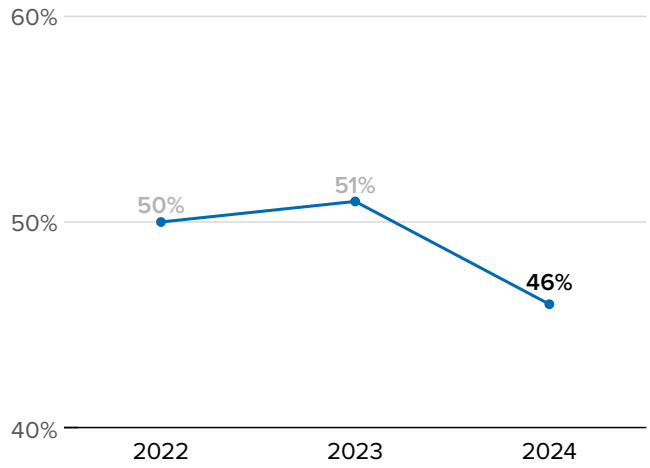
2.1 million people benefited from education programming (**76** countries reporting)

Core Outcome Area indicators

11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education (refugees and asylum-seekers)



11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system (refugees and asylum-seekers)



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ProFuturo helps expand opportunities through education

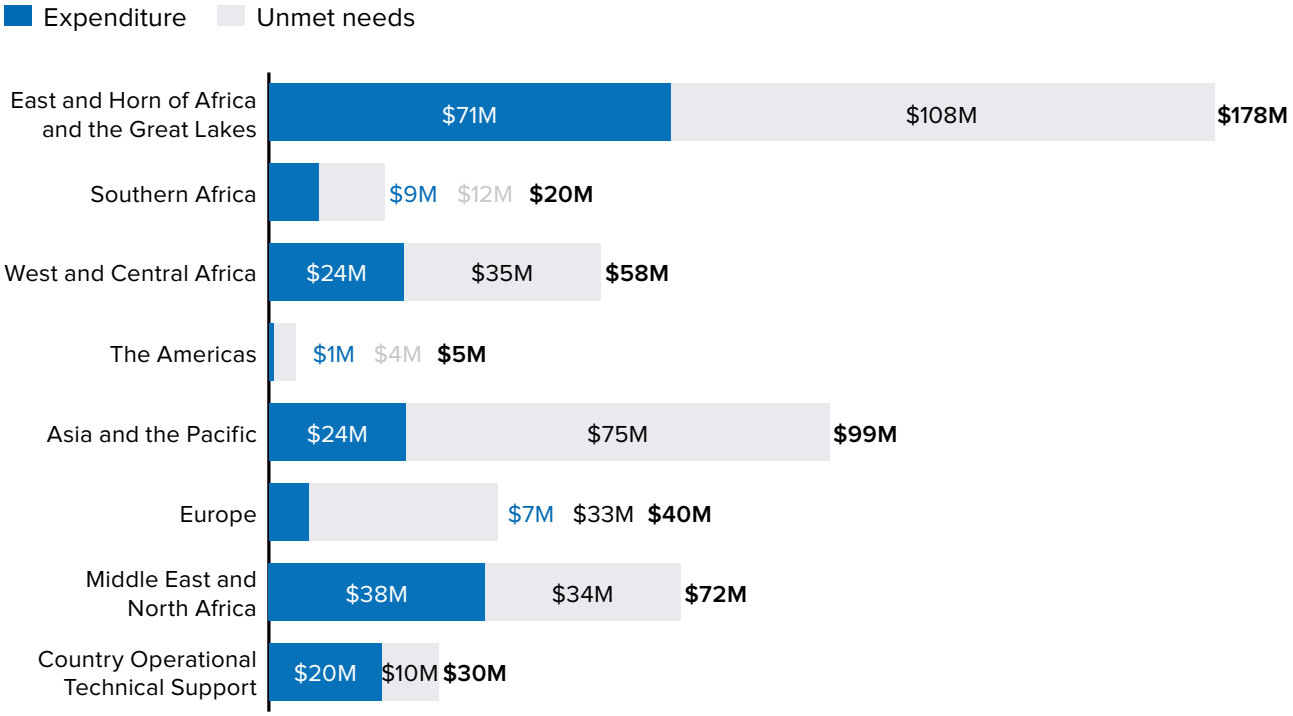
In 2024, ProFuturo Foundation has strengthened its partnership with UNHCR to increase digital education access for refugee and host community children in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. With a contribution of over €1 million ($1,033,507), the initiative has benefited more than 24,000 students across 24 schools. ProFuturo has provided a comprehensive digital education programme that includes training for teachers, digital learning resources, and an innovative educational platform to enhance the learning experience of children in vulnerable contexts. In addition to this core initiative, ProFuturo has also supported efforts to improve the learning environment by providing educational materials, funding extracurricular activities and supporting school meal programmes. Through these efforts, ProFuturo continues to foster inclusive, high-quality education, empowering children with the skills they need for a brighter future.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Education

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$194 million** towards budgeted needs of **$509 million**. **$314 million** of unmet needs or **62%** of the budget.

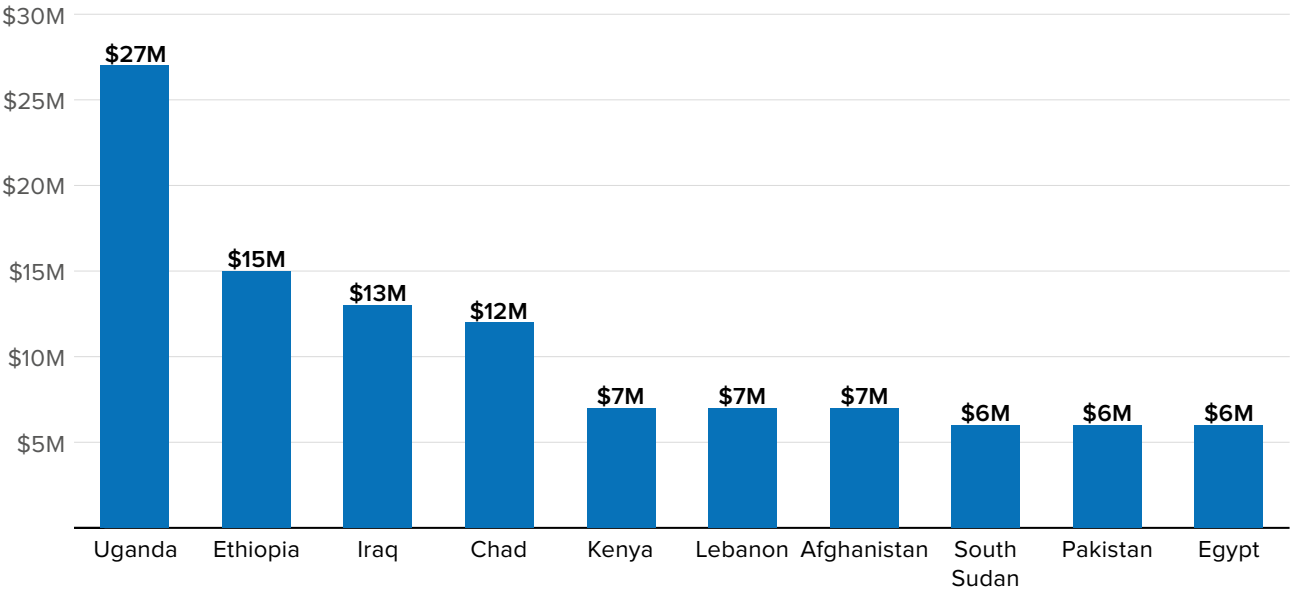
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Education



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Education: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **54%** of **$194 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Blaise Kpenu teaches Central African refugee children in an Instant Network School in Boyabu, in the province of Sud-Ubangi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

Outcome Area 12

People collect water at a distribution point built with UNHCR support at the Bushagara site for internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's North Kivu province, where clashes between armed groups and attacks on civilians caused massive displacement. UNHCR is providing temporary shelter, survival kits and legal assistance to displaced people, and efforts are being made to protect civilians from violence by armed groups.
© UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

Global needs

When people are forced to flee, they urgently need access to clean drinking water, toilets and washing facilities. Many of us take these vital amenities for granted, but millions of refugees simply do not have them, and many millions of others find themselves in sites, settlements and shelters where they are obliged to depend on humanitarian aid for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

These needs grew in 2024, as new emergencies forced more people to flee, protracted refugee situations went unresolved, and water resources were increasingly at risk. In 35 countries where UNHCR had WASH activities, **85% of refugees and asylum-seekers had basic drinking water services**, a marginal improvement from 84% in 2023.

However, the proportion was below 50% in several countries – **Burkina Faso**, **Central African Republic** and **Mali** – and below 60% in **South Sudan** and **Sudan**. This means that nearly 800,000 people who had fled to those countries for safety did not have the most basic ingredient for life: drinking water. Nevertheless, most countries with data for both 2023 and 2024 showed that drinking water services reached a similar or greater proportion of the refugee population in 2024. The number of countries showing a worsening water situation in 2024 was smaller than in 2023.

The situation was worse in terms of **access to toilet facilities**. In 2024, in the 33 countries where UNHCR collected data, only **53%** of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to a safe household toilet, down from 63% in 2023. The proportion fell most sharply in **the Democratic Republic of the Congo**, declining from 62% in 2023 to 20% in 2024. It halved in **Sudan**, from an already low 28% in 2023 to just 14% in 2024 – meaning that out of 838,000 people who had fled for safety in Sudan, 721,000 had no access to a safe household toilet. Out of 27 countries showing comparable data for 2023 and 2024, only nine showed an improvement in the proportion of refugees with access to toilets, and 11 reported a deterioration.

Site-level WASH surveys suggested that 76% of refugee households possessed **soap** at the time of the survey, below the UNHCR post-emergency minimum standard of 85%.

With many forced displacement situations continuing for years or even decades, there **is a dire need for long-term, sustainable solutions** that remove refugees' dependence on humanitarian WASH services. Refugees need climate-resilient infrastructure, often most effectively and efficiently done by connecting them to public water and sewage, obviating the need for parallel services funded by overstretched humanitarian budgets. In such cases, host countries often need support to include refugees in their national public services.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, **UNHCR supported 7.7 million people in 33 countries** with access to water and/or sanitation services – 7.2 million refugees and asylum seekers, 368,000 internally displaced people, 78,000 returnees and 43,000 members of host communities.

UNHCR provided an average of **18 litres of water per person per day** in its WASH operations, a figure consistent with 2023, despite the increased refugee population, but still below the minimum daily standard of 20 litres in protracted situations.

In **Chad** and **South Sudan**, UNHCR scaled up its WASH response to address the influx from **Sudan**. In **Chad** alone, over 11,000 latrines were constructed and a major deployment of emergency water supply systems achieved water provision of nearly 13 litres per person per day, 80% toilet usage and 71% soap access. In **South Sudan**, UNHCR's hygiene promotion activities reached over 283,700 people, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks. In **Sudan**, even amidst crisis, essential sanitation infrastructure was built and upgraded. Over 2,500 latrines were desludged in Sudan's refugee camps, and UNHCR provided soap to 275,000 refugees, reached 585,000 people with hygiene promotion activities, and provided 102,440 women and girls with menstrual hygiene management kits comprising soap, underwear, disposable sanitary pads, and buckets.

Project Flow, UNHCR's push to **solarize water systems** and shift away from costly diesel generators, passed the halfway mark to reach **51% of boreholes**. In 2024, agreements were reached to solarize 21 water systems and four health facilities serving 1.2 million people in **Ethiopia**, **Mauritania**, **Rwanda** and **Sudan**, saving an additional $2 million and 1.6 million litres of fuel annually, and cutting another 1,400 tonnes of CO_2 emissions. In **Cameroon**, solarizing boreholes helped water supplies rise from 14 litres per person per day to around 16-17 litres.

UNHCR made a major advance in the installation of **smart water sensors**, with more than 1,800 sensors installed in Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Iraq, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, providing crucial real-time data for groundwater management and leak detection.

Initiatives in **Bangladesh** and **Cameroon** improved faecal sludge management, improving environmental and public health outcomes. UNHCR and Oxfam's innovative Pit Intelligent Tracker app in Bangladesh facilitated the effective monitoring and maintenance of over 21,000 toilets. In Cameroon 30% of refugee households gained improved access to family toilets, and toilet emptying and composting produced biofertilizer.

UNHCR sought to **optimize limited resources** and develop more **sustainable responses**, actively promoting the inclusion of refugees in national systems. Examples included shifting towards a development-oriented approach in Buramino camp in **Ethiopia** and integrating refugee WASH services into national and local systems in **Niger**. In **Cameroon**, UNHCR worked with the Ministry of Water and Energy to improve service delivery and transition WASH responsibilities to the national authorities. In **Sudan**, UNHCR and UNICEF formulated a roadmap for shared water resources and utility management in two refugee settlements. Under the Regional Refugees-WASH (R-WASH) project, UNHCR and partners advanced the establishment of three water utilities in **Ethiopia**'s Somali region and expanded the Itang water utility in Gambella, encouraging peaceful co-existence between host communities and refugees.

The impact of underfunding

Underfunding of WASH services **reduced access to basic services**. In **Ethiopia**, water access averaged 14 litres per person per day, far below the UNHCR standard of 20 litres. Toilet coverage was 33.4% in Ethiopia and 45% in **Chad,** leaving many refugees reliant on unsafe sanitation facilities. In **Sudan**, soap distribution reached only 31% of the target population, compromising personal hygiene and increasing the risk of disease outbreaks.

Aging and overwhelmed infrastructure went without repair and maintenance. Daily water supplies in **Bangladesh**'s Teknaf camps fell to 15 litres per person during the dry season. Delays in operation and maintenance limited access to potable water in **Algeria**'s Boujdour camp and left communal sanitation facilities overcrowded and unsafe in **Rwanda**.

The lack of adequate WASH services heightened **health risks and protection concerns**, including cholera outbreaks in **Sudan**, communicable diseases in **South Sudan**, and protection risks for women and girls in **Bangladesh**. Low sanitation coverage, as in **Kenya**, increased rates of open defecation.

Underfunding hindered efforts to transition refugees into national systems and implement sustainable solutions. In **Uganda**, delays in signing MoUs with the Ministry of Water and Environment stalled the integration of refugee settlements into national systems. In **Rwanda**, collaboration with development partners like AfDB and JICA was constrained, delaying the integration of WASH services into national frameworks. In **Ethiopia**, the delayed R-WASH project and aging water systems impeded progress toward durable solutions.

© UNHCR/Eugene Sibomana

MBRGI addresses critical needs of Sudanese refugees with clean water and medical services

With over 700,000 Sudanese refugees seeking safety in Chad due to ongoing unrest in Sudan, Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives (MBRGI) remains committed to supporting displaced communities in their time of need. In 2024, $1.5 million of funding from MBRGI, part of a wider $16.5 million pledge to UNHCR, played a vital role in enhancing refugees' well-being by providing clean drinking water through 10 newly established boreholes, improving public health and reducing the burden of long-distance water collection. To further strengthen these efforts, MBRGI also funded the construction of a health care clinic, ensuring refugees have lasting access to essential medical services. Through these initiatives, MBRGI continues to build resilience by addressing critical needs and improving overall refugee well-being.

Core Output indicator

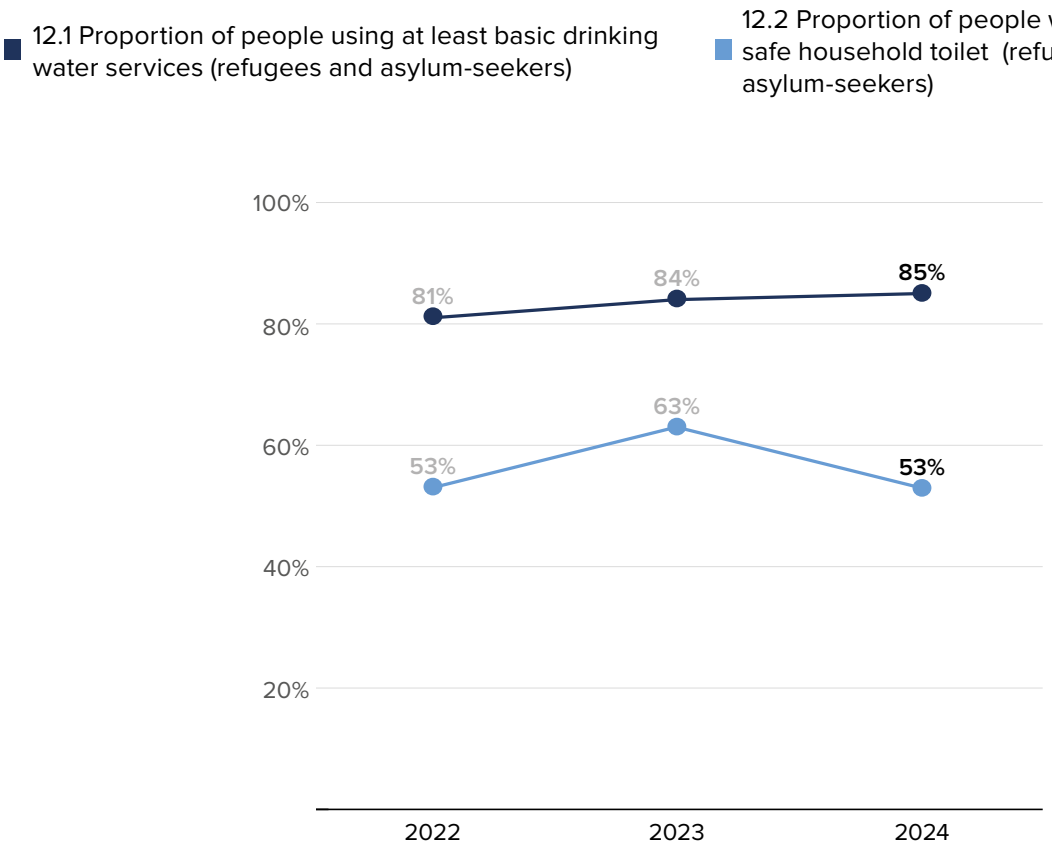
Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

7.7 million people were supported with access to water and/or sanitation services (**33** countries reporting).

Core Outcome Area indicators

12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services (refugees and asylum-seekers)

12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet (refugees and asylum-seekers)

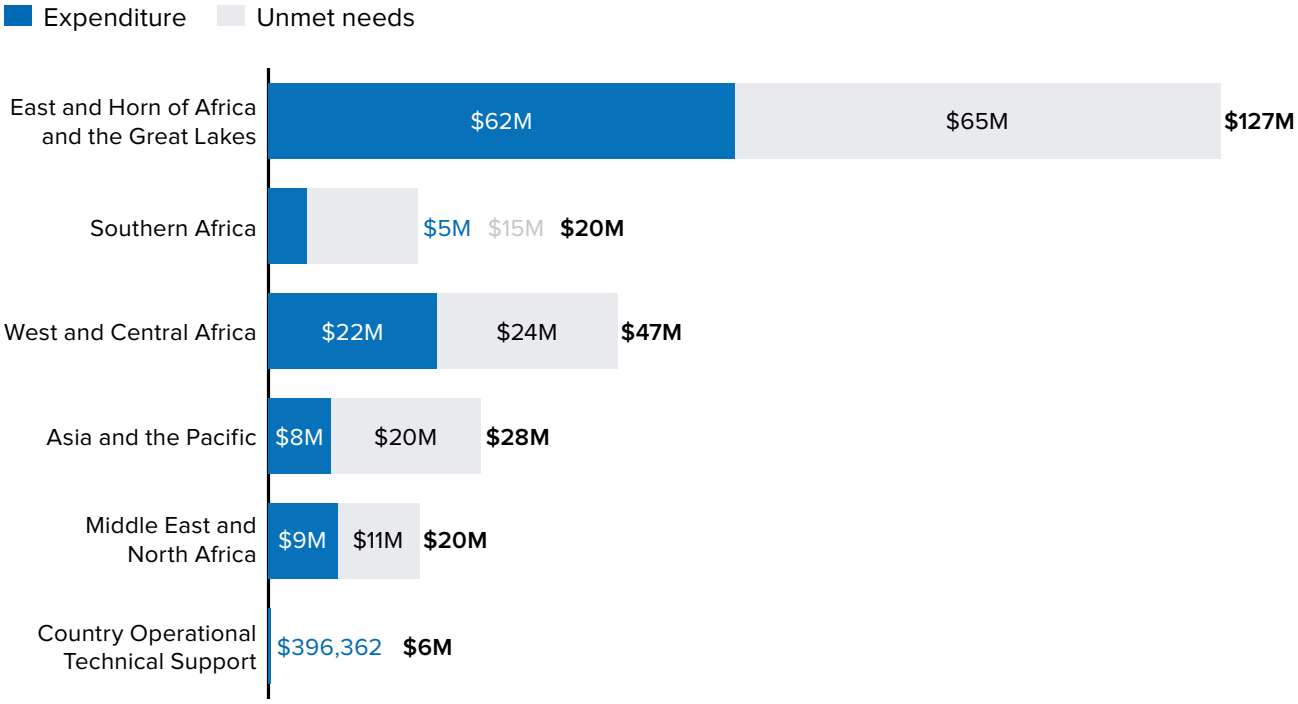


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$110 million** towards budgeted needs of **$249 million**. **$139 million** of unmet needs or **56%** of the budget.

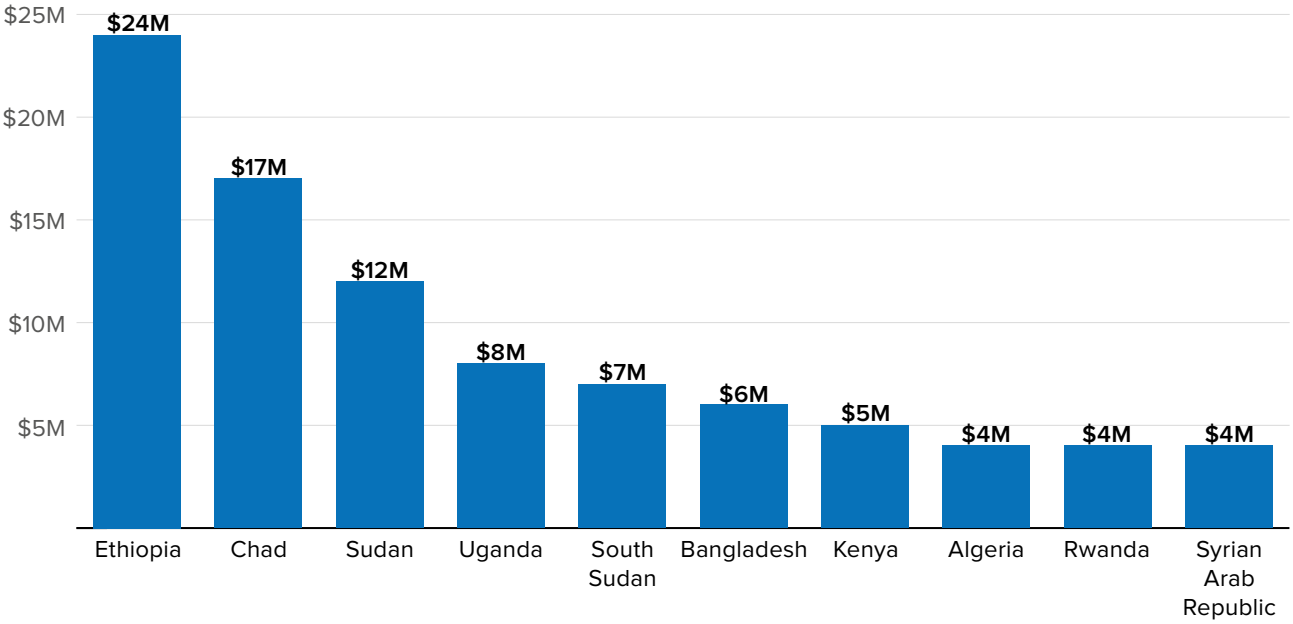
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Clean water, sanitation and hygiene



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Clean water, sanitation and hygiene: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **83%** of **$110 million** global expenditure in 2024.



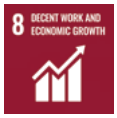
Jerrycans are filled in eastern Chad, where UNHCR is building toilet/shower blocks and emergency water systems to improve hygiene and health in overcrowded communities. © UNHCR/Cristina Dorado

Outcome Area 13

Women work in a wool spinning centre in Afghanistan that was set up by a beneficiary of a UNHCR livelihood grant. UNHCR provides small business grants to many returnees or displaced Afghans with skills and business ideas. This support helps families to be self-reliant, often creating new job opportunities and thus supporting others to gain skills and support their families. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

Global needs



There were about 80 million forcibly displaced and stateless people of working age in 2024, but most were not working even if they were skilled, qualified and keen to work. They faced legal, administrative and practical barriers, and their prospects were often overshadowed by economic instability, security concerns, and prejudice against refugees. Although 67% of refugees had full legal access to the labour market according to UNHCR data, only 45% enjoyed practical access due to persistent implementation barriers that continue to hinder inclusion despite supportive national legal frameworks. For instance, many potential employers did not know about refugees' right to work, and many refugees did not know about job opportunities and employment procedures.

Data is crucial for reinforcing the case for economic inclusion and including refugees in national job markets. The existing evidence shows that economic inclusion empowers forcibly displaced and stateless people and makes them self-reliant, reducing their dependence on humanitarian aid and development assistance. But low- and middle-income countries often require support to remove the barriers and scale up their economic inclusion and development efforts.

Data from 61 countries where UNHCR worked on self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods showed that in 40 of those countries, most refugees and asylum-seekers still did not have a bank, financial or mobile money account – an important accelerator of economic inclusion. Moreover, in 51 of the 58 countries where UNHCR operations collected data on incomes in 2024, the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers did not report any positive change.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR supported over **469,000 individuals in 96 countries** with self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods interventions. This included:

- investing in efforts to generate socioeconomic **data and evidence** to stimulate economic inclusion, often with the support of the World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement (JDC) and other partners;
- advocating for **laws and policies** that improve access to rights, decent work and economic opportunities; and
- working through refugee employment platforms, and in partnerships such as the JDC, the IFC-UNHCR Joint Initiative, and the PROSPECTS Partnership with ILO, IFC, UNICEF and the World Bank to turn those **opportunities into reality** through a development-oriented approach.

These efforts represent tangible interventions towards UNHCR's **sustainable responses** approach – focused on fostering collaborative engagement for self-reliance, strengthening national systems, and connecting displaced people to long-term economic opportunities.

Research and data published during the year by UNHCR and its partners covered topics such as digital livelihoods, access to and working conditions on digital labour platforms, market-led programming, the link between employment and refugee mental health, economic inclusion in Chad and other fragile economies, factors influencing return decisions, the state of self-reliance and economic inclusion in East Africa and the Americas, and the development opportunity for countries hosting Venezuelans.

In **Ethiopia**, a socioeconomic survey of refugees, supported by UNHCR, the World Bank and the JDC, showed the host community display a generally positive attitude towards economic inclusion, and pointed to an "**economic inclusion dividend**", with the potential for annual assistance needs to fall from around $210 per person to about $78 – if refugees were able to work and travel as Ethiopians do. The survey influenced a Government directive on allowing refugees and asylum-seekers to work, and informed the development of the *Makatet* ("inclusion") strategy for including refugees in national systems. These data-informed policy reforms paved the way for expanded private sector engagement through collaborations with banks and microfinance institutions.

UNHCR's advocacy and policy support led to **significant reforms for economic inclusion and refugee self-reliance**, bolstered by Multi-stakeholder Pledges on Economic inclusion and social protection and Agriculture, food systems, and food security that came out of the Global Refugee Forum at the end of 2023.

Kenya launched its "Shirika Plan", transitioning large refugee populations towards inclusion and away from subsistence programming, and unveiled its "differentiated assistance" model, aiming to support refugees and asylum-seekers based on their individual needs rather than their status. Kenya also recognized refugee documents as valid ID credentials for the issuance of refugee work permits.

Zambia launched an inclusive National Refugee Policy and Integrated Local Area Development Plans, and **Ecuador** issued a presidential decree to regularize Venezuelan refugees and migrants, supporting their socioeconomic inclusion and contribution to local economies.

In **Brazil**, the Companies with Refugees Forum expanded to 130 members, employing over 12,000 forcibly displaced people, demonstrating the growing commitment of the private sector to refugee inclusion. In **South Sudan**, in support of the Government's pledge to provide 50,000 acres of agricultural land, UNHCR mobilized resources and partnerships with organizations like Inkomoko, FAO, the Mastercard Foundation, EU INTPA and the African Development Bank to enhance employment, food security and economic stability. **Cameroon**'s Government formalized its pledge to include refugees in national development plans, agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding and an action plan with UNHCR, and it allocated 150 hectares and three tractors to support agricultural activities in the Minawao refugee camp.

In **Mexico**, through the EU4Decent Jobs project, UNHCR, ILO, and the Mexican government

developed the "Mexico Employs You" portal, managed by the National Employment Service (SRE), which facilitates access to work for refugees and has assisted over 4,760 individuals. In **Chad**, the Government has committed to allow qualified refugees to practise medicine once their diplomas are authenticated and the individuals registered as health professionals. With the support of the Chadian bar association, around 120 refugee jurists and paralegals were recruited by legal NGO and associations.

Agriculture is a vital source of livelihoods: about 60% of refugees in countries like Chad, Uganda and Ethiopia have agricultural skills and backgrounds. An evaluation of a UNHCR agricultural livelihoods project in Rwanda in 2024 found it significantly impacted refugees' lives, increasing their incomes and access to bank accounts and reducing their dependence on aid. The Global Refugee Forum in 2023 produced 62 pledges to promote refugee inclusion in agriculture and food systems, including **Uganda**'s commitment to create 300,000 economic opportunities including agribusiness, and **Chad**'s pledge of 30,000 hectares of arable land. The World Bank allocated $49 million to support agribusiness mong refugees and host communities in eastern **Chad** through the Window for Host Communities and Refugees, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) provided $13 million towards refugee-host cooperatives operating 1,000 hectares in **Ethiopia**. In **South Sudan**, the African Development Bank funded a $22 million project with a component supporting agricultural enterprises training and access to mechanized tools.

In **Uganda**, WFP pledged to support 70,000 refugees and 30,000 host community members in achieving self-sufficiency by 2027. UNHCR also worked with FAO to enhance agricultural livelihoods in the East and Horn of Africa.

Refugees' **financial inclusion** accelerated as digital services were rolled out. In countries such as **Brazil**, **Chile**, **Colombia**, **Ecuador**, **Malawi**, **Peru**, **Uganda** and **Zambia**, UNHCR's local financial service partners offered forcibly displaced people and their host communities transactional accounts, credit and payments.

The UNHCR-IFC Joint Initiative supported financial service providers in countries such as **Colombia**, **Brazil**, **Georgia**, **the Republic of Moldova**, **Peru** and **Poland**, and launched a $20 million risk-sharing facility to Equity Bank of Kenya to boost financial inclusion in **Kenya**'s under-served regions, including Turkana and Garissa – areas hosting large refugee populations.

Another notable initiative – established in 2019 by UNHCR, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation – reached over 130,000 people with financial and non-financial services in 2024.

UNHCR's partner Kiva supported financial access through the Kiva Refugee Investment Fund, which has mobilized $60 million in total investments, providing financial services to over 77,000 end borrowers who were forcibly displaced in 2024.

© UNHCR

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and UNHCR restore hope to families

When Salwa, a Sudanese mother, was forced to flee her home, she had nothing but her children and the hope of a better future. Through the support of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Latter-day Saint Charities Australia and the Latter-day Saints community, Salwa found immediate shelter, safety, and the essentials to rebuild her life. With stability restored, Salwa has now opened a small restaurant in Ura, Ethiopia, using her skills to feed others in her community who have also lost everything. This partnership, powered by a $6 million donation to support nearly 85,000 refugees in Chad, Ethiopia and South Sudan, goes beyond providing immediate needs – it restores dignity, opportunity, and hope. Across the region, women like Salwa are empowered find security, rebuild, and reclaim their futures.

Core Output indicator

Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

469,000 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (**96** countries reporting).

Core Outcome Area indicators

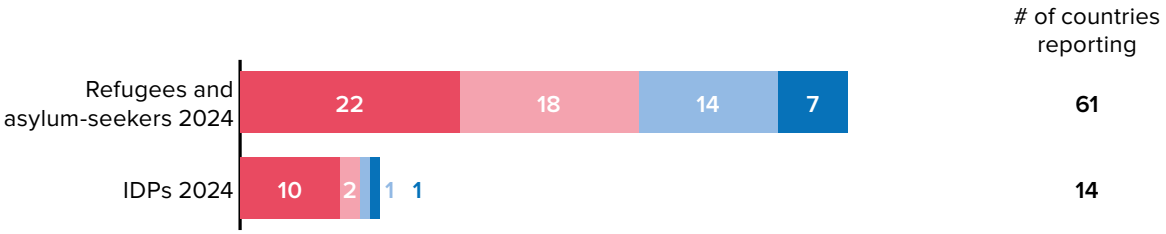
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%



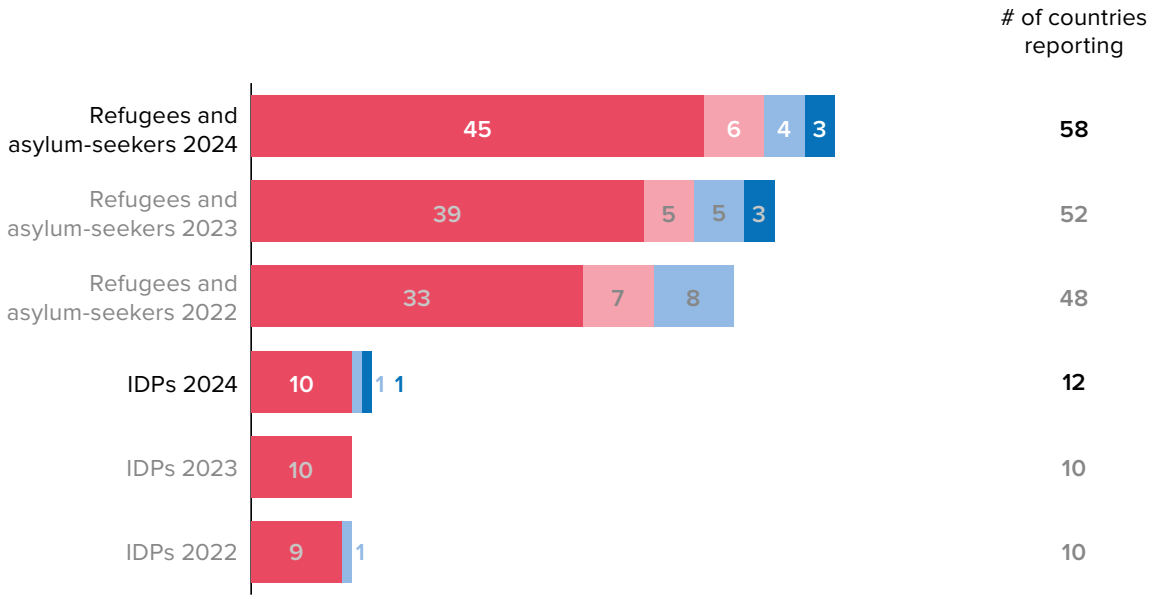
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year

of countries with a proportion of people at 25% or below

# of countries with a proportion of people over 25% up to 50%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 50% up to 75%

# of countries with a proportion of people over 75%

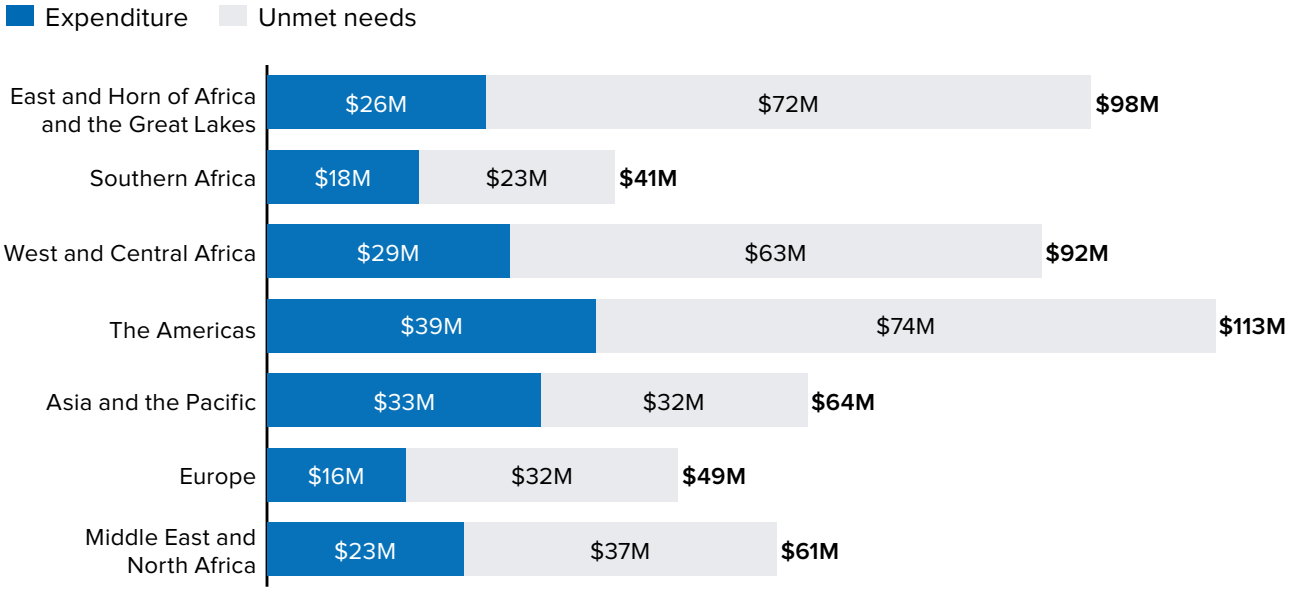


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$186 million** towards budgeted needs of **$521 million**. **$335 million** of unmet needs or **64%** of the budget.

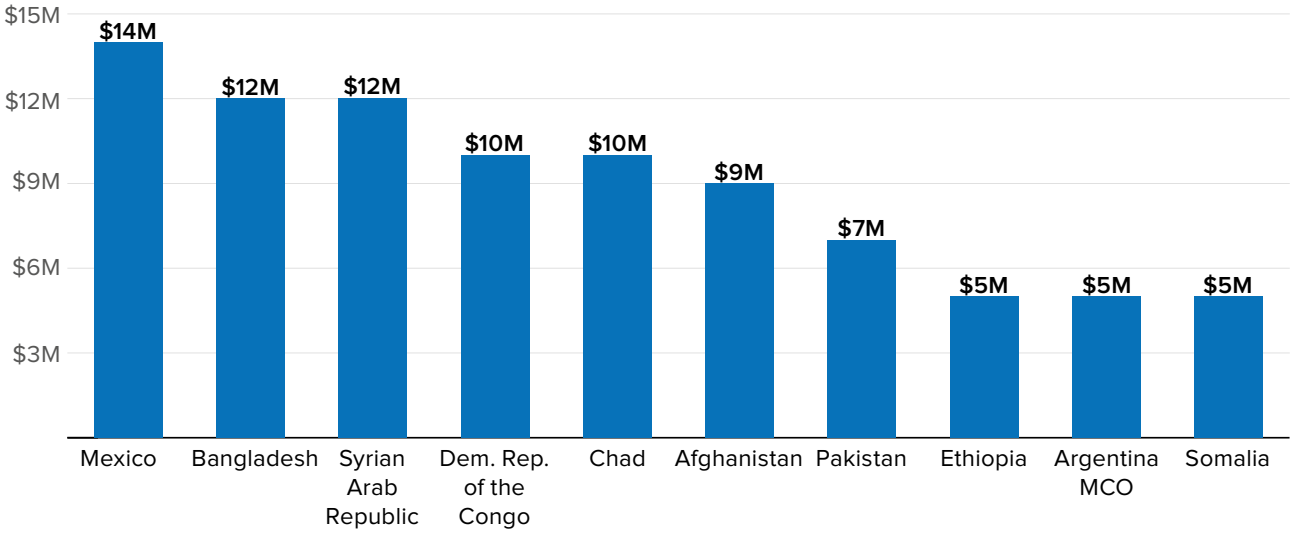
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **48%** of **$186 million** global expenditure in 2024.



MCO: Multi-country office

© UNHCR / Pedro Gomes

MADE51 – building brighter futures through craft and commerce

In its seventh year, MADE51 continued to prove that when refugee talent meets market access, livelihood opportunities take root. Operating in **23 countries**, the UNHCR-launched initiative linked **106 refugee artisan groups** to buyers worldwide, enabling **3,456 refugee and host-community artisans** to earn a total of **$478,400**. These earnings, calculated using fair trade wage standards, helped parents put food on the table and children in school: an estimated **15,110 children** benefited from the increased household income.

Market reach expanded on two fronts. Direct MADE51 commercial activities – trade shows, e-commerce, pop-up events and corporate gift programmes – generated **$723,200** in sales of refugee-made goods. Meanwhile, local social enterprise partners sharpened their own marketing strategies, moving an additional **$616,400** worth of products through regional and online channels. The result was stronger, diversified demand for handcrafted baskets, textiles, jewellery and holiday ornaments that blend contemporary design with heritage techniques.

Behind every sale is a story of determination. In Cairo, Sudanese refugee **Nagwa Mohammed Adam (pictured)** works at night after her children are asleep, using stem-stitch embroidery to craft elegant floral motifs and scenes from Sudan. The income she earns through a MADE51 social enterprise partner, Threads of Hope, covers school fees and household needs, easing the burden on her husband, who cannot work after a back injury sustained during their flight from Sudan. “Working puts a smile on my children’s faces,” Nagwa explains. “Each order means I can buy what they need for school, and that makes them proud of me.”

Nagwa’s pride is echoed across workshops and refugee settlements – from Syrian embroiderers in Jordan to Burundian basket-weavers in Zambia – where artisans train one another, hone business skills and uphold cultural traditions. MADE51’s 2024 achievements demonstrate that when refugees have access to markets, they contribute products that are valued by customers, strengthen local economies and build brighter futures for their families and communities.

Outcome Area 14

Syrian refugee families returning from Türkiye arrive at the Bab al-Hawa border crossing point on 16 December, 2024, just days after the overthrow of the Syrian Arab Republic's former government. UNHCR issued an updated position on returns on the same day, and monitored return processes at border crossing points. Returning refugees said their priority needs were long-term housing, cash to meet basic needs, and legal assistance with civil documentation.
© UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

Global needs

Nobody wants to be forcibly displaced, and the vast majority of those who are forced from their homes are eager to return as soon as conditions are right. People must be able to return in safety and dignity, and their return must be sustainable in order to avoid secondary displacement and to support their reintegration in their place of origin, often after an exile of many years. But long-running conflicts generate protracted refugee crises, stopping people from returning and eroding their hope of ever doing so.

In 2024, **1.6 million refugees returned** to their home country, a 54% increase from 2023. **8.2 million internally displaced people returned** to their area of origin, a 61% increase, and the second-highest annual figure ever recorded. However, the overall number of forcibly displaced people continued to rise.

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2024, UNHCR assisted more than **690,000 refugees** who were returning to their homeland, including 293,000 **South Sudanese** coming back from Sudan, and 148,000 **Syrians** who were refugees in Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Türkiye.

UNHCR also assisted **288,000 internally displaced people** who were making a return to their home areas, almost half of them Syrians. In some cases, as with refugees returning to **Burundi** or the **Central African Republic** (CAR), UNHCR provided returnees with cash to meet their immediate needs.

UNHCR provided **counselling and/or information** on voluntary repatriation to more than **353,000 people** in 104 countries, mainly in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, **the United Republic of Tanzania**, **Pakistan**, **Rwanda**, **Cameroon**, **Chad**, **the Republic of the Congo**, **Türkiye**, **Uganda** and **Lebanon**.

UNHCR also sought to ensure that returning refugees had **legally recognized identity credentials**. Data collected by UNHCR in 12 country operations in 2024 showed that in eight of them, at least 75% of returnees had such documents: **Burundi**, **the CAR**, **Chad**, **the DRC**, **Ethiopia**, **Kosovo** (S/RES/1244 (1999))[1], **Nigeria** and **Rwanda**. However, fewer than a quarter of refugees returning to Afghanistan, Mali and Pakistan had legally recognized ID credentials.

Although UNHCR does not promote returns to **South Sudan**, and reaffirmed its call for States to refrain from returning South Sudanese to the country, 405,000 refugees returned in 2024, almost three quarters of them coming from Sudan. UNHCR carried out border monitoring, in conjunction with IOM, South Sudan's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, and other partners, conducting household-level interviews daily. UNHCR carried out protection/return monitoring and provided shelter, emergency relief items, drinking water, sanitation, health care, malnutrition screening, help with documentation, cash assistance and onward transportation, when funding was available.

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in South Sudan continues to affect millions due to a mix of factors: armed conflict, intercommunal violence, economic challenges, the war in Sudan, and climate-related impacts.

UNHCR also carried out protection monitoring on **Afghanistan**'s border, assisting 54,800 Afghans who returned from Pakistan during the year, mainly women and children. UNHCR biometrically processed returnees and provided them with cash assistance, protection services, basic health care, vaccinations, mine risk education, child-friendly spaces, overnight accommodation, and referrals for specialized assistance. Communities in Afghanistan continued to face significant challenges to access basic necessities such as health care, food and clean water. The humanitarian situation in the country remained extremely dire as a result of decades of armed conflict, economic hardship and natural disasters. With support from the EU Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA) and the Government of Japan, UNHCR strengthened access to basic services and livelihoods for Afghans, with a particular attention to women, children and vulnerable populations – including internally displaced people, refugees, minorities and returnees. UNHCR conducted various activities to empower vulnerable populations, prioritizing women, in several Priority Areas of Return and Reintegration (PARRs), where there were high numbers of returnees and displaced people.

The fall of **the Syrian Arab Republic**'s Government in December 2024, after almost 14 years of conflict, triggered a sudden return of thousands of displaced Syrians. In 2024 as a whole, 514,000 internally displaced Syrians and 513,000 refugees returned. UNHCR has conducted intention surveys since 2017, as well as border monitoring, protection monitoring and return monitoring.

[1] Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

UNHCR provided returnees with information on the services available in the areas of return, counselling, referral services, and basic medical attention. UNHCR also gathered feedback from refugees who were eager to know about developments in the country and the prospects for a return in 2025.

The **Central African Republic** began turning towards recovery after years of crisis, following the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Agreement and the restoration of security in some regions. In 2024, UNHCR and its partners supported the return of around 152,000 IDPs and nearly 20,000 refugees, primarily from Cameroon and the DRC, marking the highest annual return since 2019. In October 2024, a tripartite agreement was signed to facilitate the return of Central African refugees from Chad. UNHCR advocates the early agreement of tripartite legal frameworks – involving the country of origin, the country and UNHCR – to ensure safe, dignified returns and address obstacles.

A project funded by the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund was launched by UNDP, IOM, UNHCR, and UNICEF to support the roll-out of the CAR's "National strategy for sustainable solutions" for IDPs and returnees. The project aimed to foster social cohesion through local peace and reconciliation committees, particularly in Bria, which has the largest displaced population in the CAR. To support sustainable return and reintegration efforts within the Government-led development hub, UNHCR and its partners assisted the Government in rehabilitating local infrastructure, particularly administrative buildings, hospitals, and schools.

In **Burundi**, UNHCR helped over 21,000 refugees return home. UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government, issued attestations recognizing civil registry and identification documents issued to refugees in their country of asylum. This helped them reintegrate into the area where they returned to, and enabled those entitled to an ID card to obtain one. 90% of returnees acquired civil status documentation in 2024, compared to 74% in 2023.

UNHCR also supported returnees with cash assistance, although rising inflation reduced its effectiveness.

To inform development engagement, with the support from INTPA, UNHCR tracked reintegration by profiling the situation of 1,466 households, around 25,000 people, in eight provinces. The information gathered included their displacement history, their housing situation, their access to basic services such as education, health, water, sanitation and local markets, and their security, economic activity, social integration and participation in public life.

Underfunding and other constraints

Reintegration requires much more than a person's return to their place of origin. After years in exile, rebuilding lives requires sustained support. In the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, 7 out of 10 Syrians still need humanitarian assistance, with 90% of the population living in poverty, the economy in ruins, and civilian infrastructure destroyed or damaged. Syrians returning in 2024 needed support with housing, safety, finding jobs, and the availability of basic resources. 122 community centres supported by UNHCR provided them with mental health support, legal assistance, gender-based violence prevention programmes and mine awareness education. But dwindling funding means that 44% of the centres will have to close by the summer 2025.

Many refugees were deterred from returning to Burundi because of the limited availability of basic services there. The number who did return was less than half what was planned. In other countries, returnees were put off by persistent insecurity, difficulties with transport and identity documents, lack of State support for reintegration, and political instability.

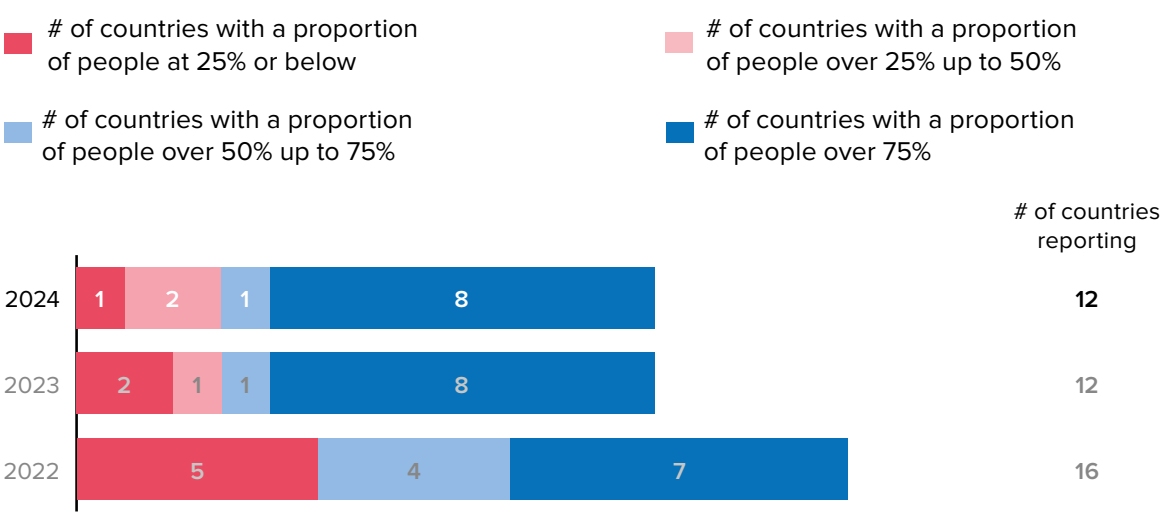
Core Output indicator

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

353,300 people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation (**104** countries reporting)

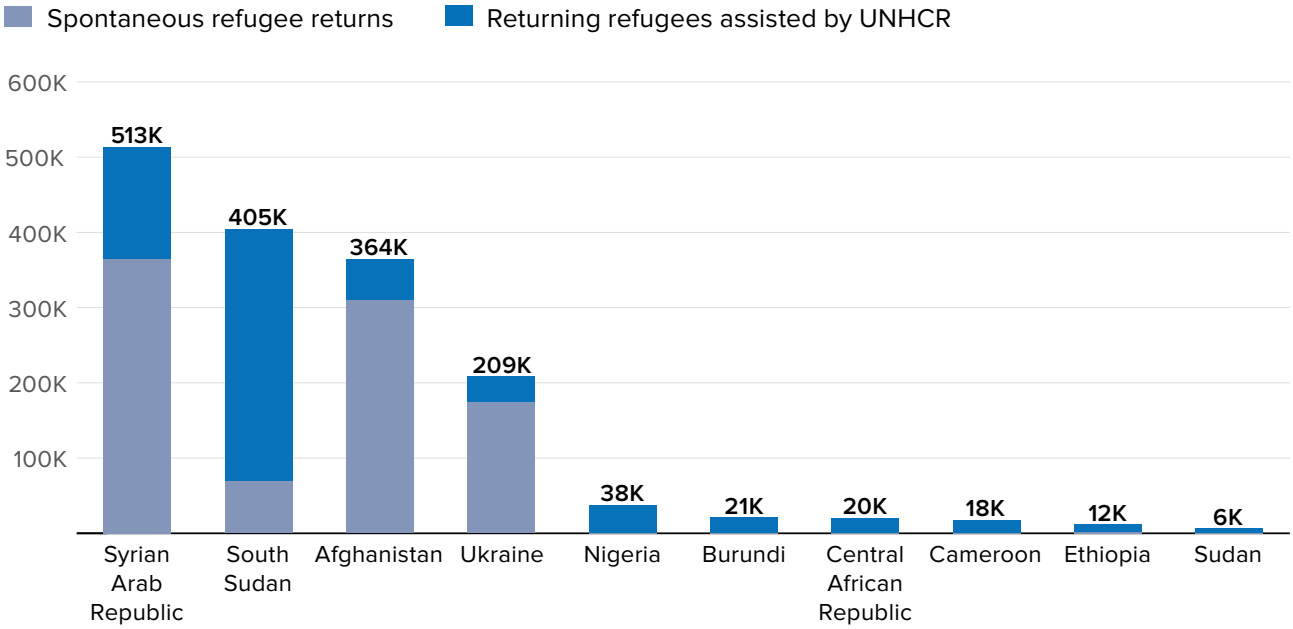
Core Outcome Area indicators

14.1 Proportion of returnees (refugees and IDPs) with legally recognized identity documents or credentials



Top 10 countries for refugee returns

These ten operations accounted for **99%** of the **1.6 million** refugee returns in 2024.

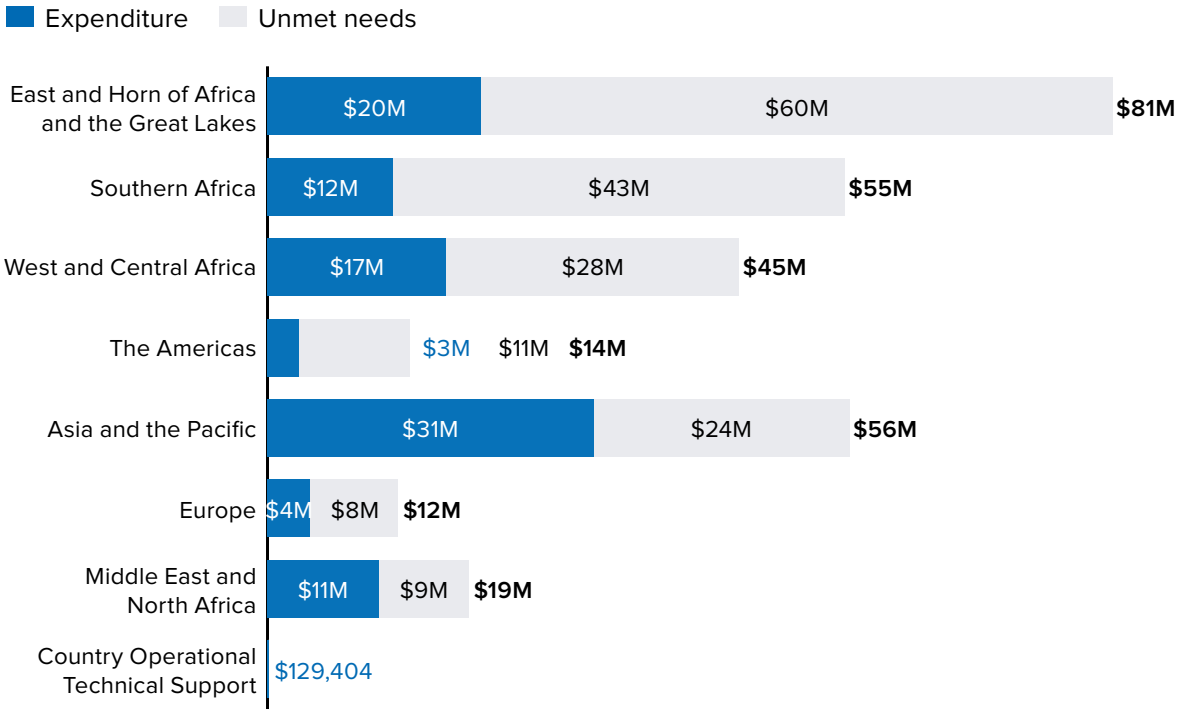


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$99 million** towards budgeted needs of **$282 million**. **$183 million** of unmet needs or **65%** of the budget.

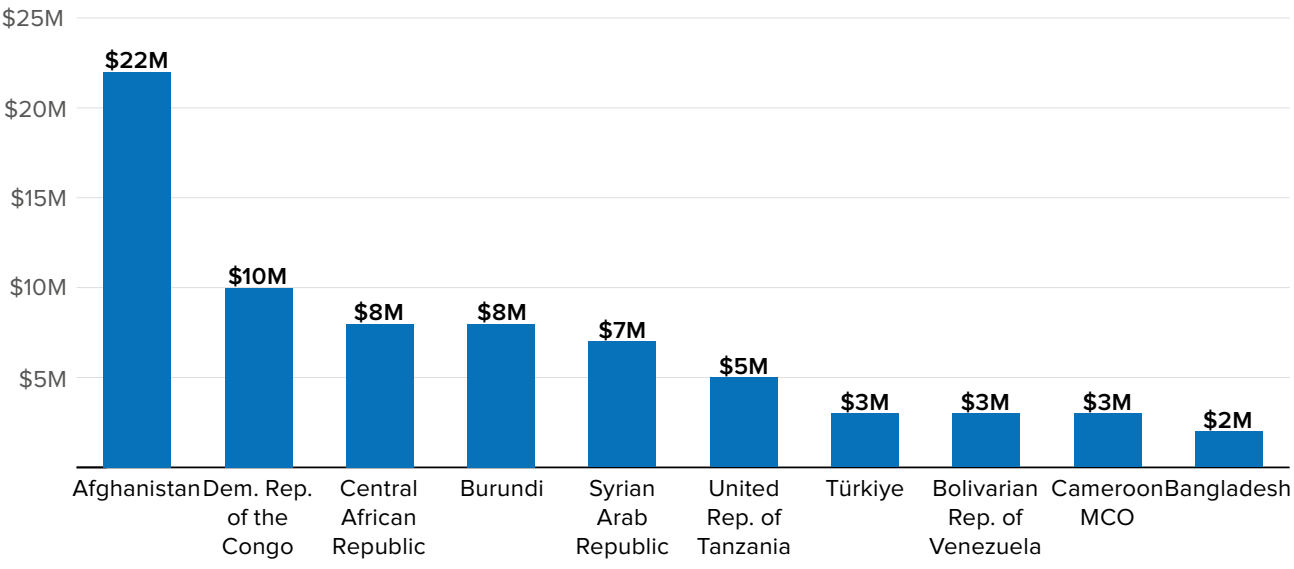
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **71%** of **$99 million** global expenditure in 2024.



MCO: Multi-country office

Micheline Yapiroua and her family fled the Central African Republic in 2021 amid escalating violence during the presidential elections. Arriving in Zongo, the first town in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), they were provided with food and emergency shelter, before UNHCR relocated them to Wenze in the DRC. Micheline was reunited with her husband Michel in Zongo. After four years, Micheline and her husband are part of the 30th convoy of 218 Central Africans from the Wenze site in the DRC who have chosen to return home. © UNHCR/Stella Fatime

Outcome Area 15

In Amman, Jordan, Italian trainer Stefano Vitale speaks to Syrian goldsmiths hoping to be selected to work for the Italian jewellery company Mattioli. UNHCR worked with Talent Beyond Boundaries and the Turquoise Mountain Institute in Amman to identify suitable candidates, with 15 refugees eventually being selected to travel to Italy on a skilled worker visa via the Labour Corridors for Refugees initiative. © UNHCR/Arthur Tainturier

Resettlement and complementary pathways

Global needs

Refugees' lives can be saved if they have a safe route to a country where they can build their future. Resettlement in a third country – neither their country of origin nor their country of asylum – offers such an opportunity to refugees facing acute protection risks. Other opportunities to reach a third country, known as complementary pathways, are based on family reunification, work and study visas or sponsorship schemes.

Resettlement and complementary pathways are essential as a solution to forced displacement, giving refugees a path back to a normal life in a new country without resorting to a dangerous journey. They are also a way for States to share responsibility with countries of first asylum, easing the pressure on fragile economies hosting large refugee populations. In addition, allowing refugees to work or study in another country can be mutually beneficial: refugees are protected and empowered, while States gain access to their untapped potential. To increase refugees' chances of taking a legal route to a third country, there is also a need to reduce administrative, policy and legal barriers and to include them in employment and education initiatives in countries of first asylum, which would equip them to access regular migration pathways. Better data and systemic law and policy changes are also necessary to empower more refugees to access international opportunities.

In 2024, States reported a record 188,822 refugees resettled, 19% more than in 2023. There is a desperate need for more reception capacity and more housing for refugees in resettlement countries.

How UNHCR made a difference

Over **116,500 resettlement arrivals** were facilitated by UNHCR in 2024, including 1,000 under the unallocated quota reserved for refugees needing expedited processing or residing in locations with no allocated quotas. This marked the highest number of departures since 2016 and surpassed the 2024 target of 100,000, as set out in "Third Country Solutions for Refugees: Roadmap 2030". This achievement was due to efforts by 21 countries and partners and the work of 90 UNHCR country operations, which made **203,800 submissions to 23 countries** – the highest since 1990.

However, UNHCR-assisted refugee arrivals (116,500) were less than 5% of the estimated 2.4 million refugees who needed resettlement, and that number was 20% higher than in 2023.

Resettled refugees undergo one of the most rigorous vetting processes among individuals issued visas. Most refugees departed to the **United States of America**, **Canada** and **Australia**, while the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, **Myanmar** and the **Syrian Arab Republic** were the top countries of origin. Women and girls at risk made up over 50% of resettlement submissions. On a regional level, the Americas region saw a 220% increase in submissions and a 266% rise in departures, thanks to innovative identification tools and the use of a portal and self-registration tool and expedited processing.

UNHCR continued engaging with the resettlement community including via a new collaboration with NGOs that are given the possibility to identify and directly refer cases to States. Direct referrals by NGOs complement referrals by UNHCR and have the potential to increase the number of places globally available. The Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways – welcoming for the first time host countries and attended by over 300 participants – and Priority Situations Core Group events were instrumental in nurturing these collaborations. In 2024, UNHCR strengthened the integrity of the resettlement process through robust methodologies and standard operation procedures, collaboration with States and an updated anti-fraud framework focused on preventing, detecting and responding to fraud.

In addition to existing programmes, education mobility pilots were launched with UNHCR's support in **Australia** and **Slovenia**. UNHCR advocated for including refugees in migration systems to empower them to make safe migration choices without relying on aid. Following UNHCR's advocacy, **Italy** became the first country to grant refugee workers visas through its migration framework for non-nationals.

UNHCR's Executive Committee unanimously adopted "Conclusion no.117 (LXXV) on durable solutions and complementary pathways", showing clear political will to advance safe pathways. The conclusion highlighted complementary pathways as a facilitator for solutions and stressed the importance of enabling factors such as refugee travel documents, which are essential for safe international travel. Following UNHCR's advocacy, **Malawi** and **Zimbabwe** resumed issuing refugee travel documents, and Annex 9 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation was amended to promote issuance by States. A UNHCR internal survey reported that only around 45% of 167 surveyed countries were issuing machine-readable Convention Travel Documents.

A UNHCR-University of Essex roundtable resulted in a set of recommendations for issuance and acceptance of various travel document types for refugees and stateless persons that will pave way for subsequent advocacy on access to travel and identity documents for refugees.

UNHCR issued operational guidelines on complementary pathways and family reunification for its staff and guidance on law and policy relating to family reunification – all instrumental in systematizing policy and engagement.

UNHCR and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) "Safe Pathways for Refugees V" report shows that between 2019 and 2023 over 1 million individuals from **Afghanistan**, **Eritrea**, **the Islamic Republic of Iran**, **Iraq**, **Somalia**, **Sudan**, and **the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** received permits from **OECD countries and Brazil** for family, work and study purposes, including nearly 285,000 people in 2023, up from 215,000 in 2022. Family reunification remained the most resorted to legal pathway for refugees, with 63% of permits.

UNHCR and partners involved in the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative launched the Global Sponsorship Fund aimed to support sponsor groups and coordinating organizations in launching and maintaining sponsorship-based pathways in various parts of the world

The impact of underfunding

Resettled refugees undergo rigorous vetting, including assessments, interviews, biometrics verification, document checks and case reviews to ensure the right individuals are resettled. All these are crucial elements to maintain the integrity and efficiency of the process.

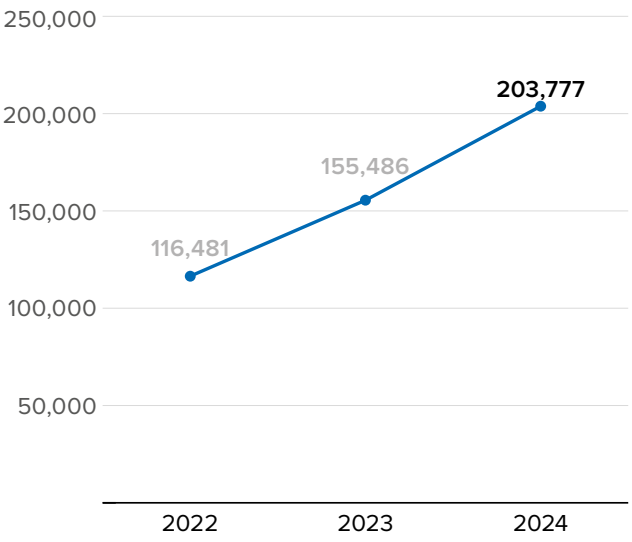
Adequate funding is essential to uphold these standards, including for functions like refugee registration, integrity and child protection.

Underfunding translates into less assistance, which exacerbates vulnerabilities and protection risks, and increases resettlement needs.

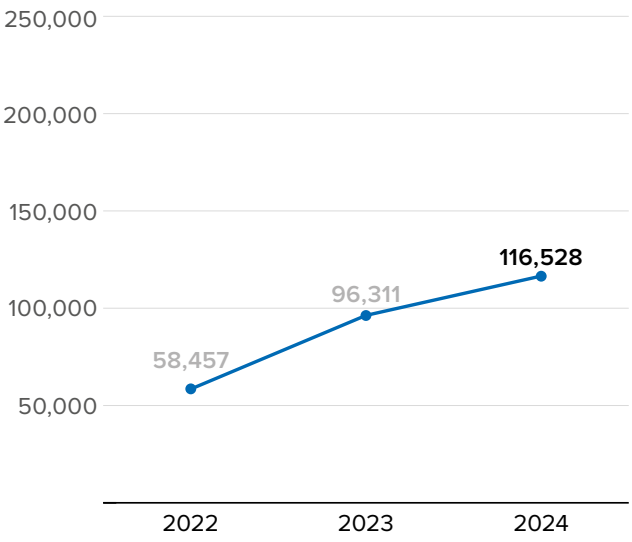
Although complementary pathways are driven by partners, the lack of funding – for UNHCR staff to ensure protection sensitive coordination, policy change advocacy and information provision to refugees – has halted their advancement in several countries. Limited funding for livelihoods, training and education also impacted refugees' ability to compete for opportunities abroad and obtain solutions through complementary pathways.

Core Outcome and Impact Area indicators

5.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement



Number of people who departed on resettlement assisted by UNHCR

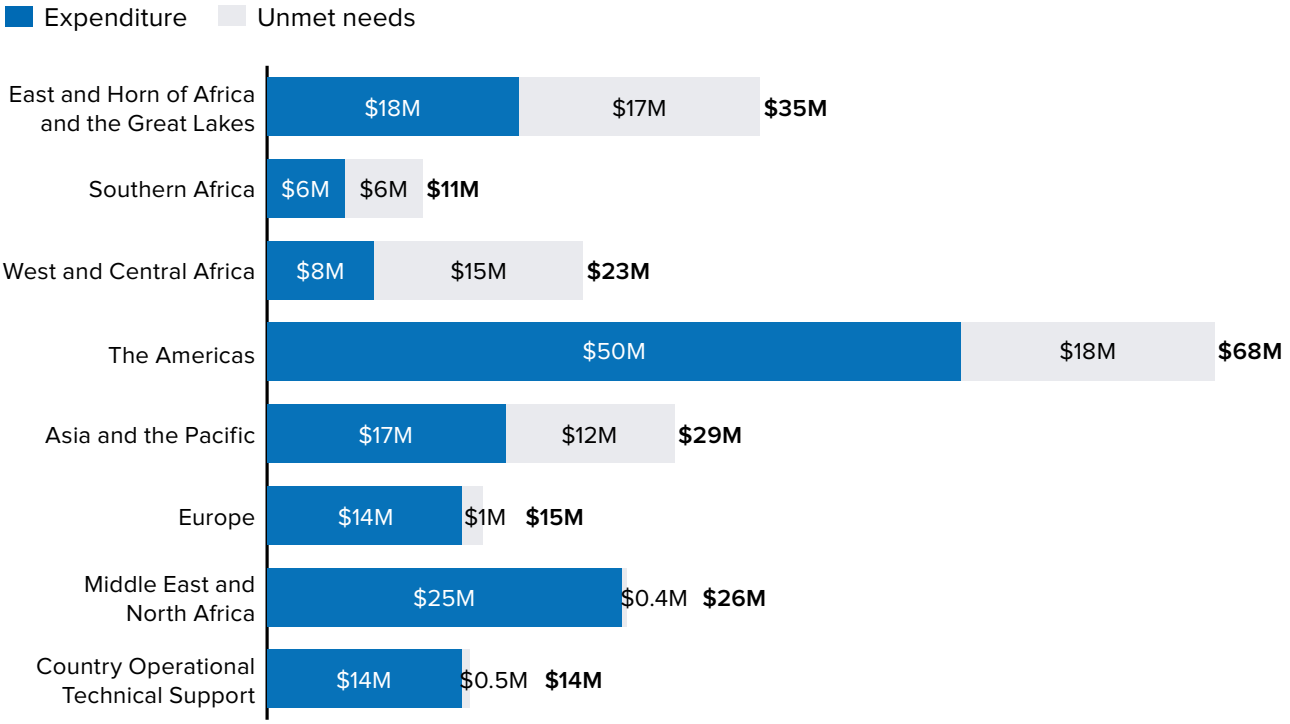


Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Resettlement and complementary pathways

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$156 million** towards budgeted needs of **$227 million**. **$71 million** of unmet needs or **32%** of the budget.

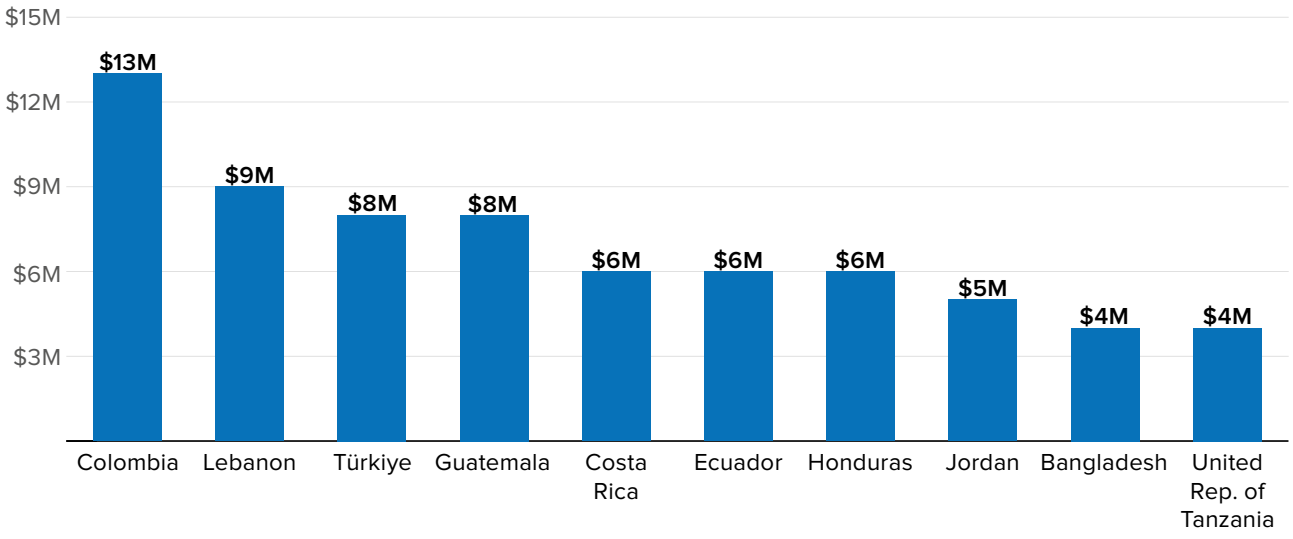
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Resettlement and complementary pathways



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Resettlement and complementary pathways: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **44%** of **$156 million** global expenditure in 2024.



Outcome Area 16

Sara and Obada are now Ecuadorian citizens, more than 10 years after they left the Syrian Arab Republic. He had left before the war started to find a job, while she stayed during the first year of the war. "I had never heard explosions before, it was scary," said Sara. The couple moved to Saudi Arabia but struggled to integrate and, unable to return home, they moved to Ecuador where they were granted asylum. Seven years later, they applied for naturalization, a durable solution to their plight. © UNHCR/Diana Diaz

Local integration and other local solutions

Global needs

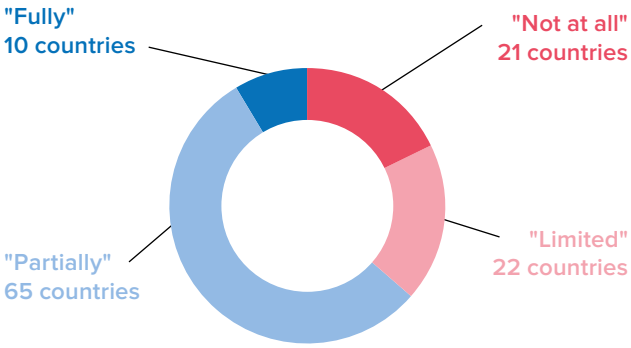
Most refugees have no short-term prospect of returning home because the dangers that they fled from have not gone away. While they wait in exile, their status often leaves them on the margins of society, unable to live a normal life and participate fully in their local community. One potential solution is to integrate locally, gaining legal status and access to legal, administrative and social services, as well as economic opportunities.

A very small minority of refugees are naturalized in the country where they have asylum. In 2024, that number was the highest since 2009, with 88,761 naturalizations – mostly in **Canada**, **Sweden**, **the Kingdom of the Netherlands**, **Norway** and **Armenia** – almost triple the number of naturalizations in 2023. For those who remain forcibly displaced or stateless, inclusion in the job market and in social protection systems – which aim to prevent or protect people against poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion – makes them more self-reliant and empowers them to choose their own path. It is also a pragmatic way to reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance – and thereby shrink UNHCR's needs-based budget. An evaluation of UNHCR's inclusion efforts in West and Central Africa recommended close collaboration with governments' emerging social protection programmes. To quote the World Bank's recent "State of social protection" report: "the time for investing more and better in social protection is now".

UNHCR data from 118 countries in 2024 showed that refugees had full access to social protection programmes in only 10 countries, or 8% of the total. 74% of countries offered partial or limited inclusion, and 18% had no inclusion at all. The extent of social protection coverage was also low: UNHCR data from 60 countries in 2024 showed that half of those countries provided social protection to only a limited number of refugees (less than 25%), with only 10 countries reporting high coverage (over 75%).

People who are forcibly displaced in their own country may also have low take-up of social protection, as shown by an "Access study" in Ukraine. It found the most widespread barrier to access was information, with many internally displaced households unaware of their eligibility for social protection.

16.1.1.Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people (118 countries reporting)



To integrate in the local community, refugees and asylum-seekers also need the right to hold **secure tenure of housing and land**, which is not the case in most countries. However, in 2024, UNHCR data from 53 countries suggested a positive trend, with a majority of refugees and asylum-seekers in 36% of countries able to enjoy secure tenure, up from 25% of countries in 2023. Notable progress was observed in **Ethiopia**, **Italy**, **Niger** and **Rwanda**.

How UNHCR made a difference

UNHCR's championing of refugees' inclusion resulted in tangible outcomes, including pathways to citizenship, permanent residency and – in a few countries – legislation allowing for the issuance of work permits, business licences and self-employment permits for refugees.

UNHCR assisted **116,000 individuals in 67 countries** to obtain nationality or permanent residency, or access naturalization procedures. The largest number, 85,000, were in Armenia, which grants refugees rights equal to **Armenian** citizens. UNHCR and its partners supported livelihoods, vocational training and employment initiatives, enabling refugees to gain financial independence. UNHCR also empowered refugee-led organizations through an NGO Forum, promoting further community-driven integration efforts.

In **Burundi**, over 3,400 refugee households were enrolled in the State-led, World Bank-funded, *Merankabandi* social safety net programme, which provides vulnerable people with a phone, cash assistance and entrepreneurship training to help them start-income generating activities.

UNHCR's collaboration with WFP and the European Union enabled 800 refugee households in **Djibouti** to receive monthly e-vouchers and led to 505 refugees with disabilities being eligible for national disability benefits.

In **Bulgaria**, UNHCR leveraged its legal aid and community centre network to support over 800 successful court appeals, securing refugee access to social protection entitlements such as disability payments that would otherwise have been denied.

UNHCR played a central role in supporting **Kenya**'s "National social protection policy", which includes refugees as part of "shock-responsive social protection". UNHCR's work with the Government led to 10,000 refugee households' inclusion in the Enhanced Single Registry alongside Kenyan nationals, providing an opportunity to access social protection programmes. Moreover, over 68,000 refugees were enrolled in national health systems, a significant shift toward institutionalizing refugee access to mainstream services.

UNHCR actively supported **South Sudan**'s development and adoption of a "Durable solutions strategy and plan of action" which includes refugee inclusion and other local solutions and a focus on securing housing, land, and property rights. Over 650 individuals were issued land documentation, including lease agreements and customary certificates, while 811 people gained secure tenure rights. UNHCR also scaled up legal assistance and training, providing counselling to 1,732 individuals, with 319 receiving full legal representation.

In **Colombia**, UNHCR supported the legalization of 24 informal settlements, benefiting over 12,000 households. UNHCR's broad strategic approach, including partnerships with the Ministry of Housing, the Land Restitution Unit, and local authorities, enabled the inclusion of displaced communities in long-term planning and services, laying a foundation for sustainable local integration.

UNHCR's collaboration with the **Mexico**'s Commission for Refugee Assistance and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs enabled more than 600 refugees to submit naturalization applications, and more than 300 obtained citizenship, enabling them to settle permanently in Mexico. UNHCR also worked

to streamline documentation procedures and supported legal identity transitions, critical for long-term integration.

In 2024, UNHCR developed its first "Social protection global strategy", accompanied by technical guidance on preparing government social protection systems for inclusion and putting it into practice. Around 150 UNHCR staff received training or participated in external courses –developed in collaboration with the UNSSC, the World Bank-FCDO "Building evidence on forced displacement" initiative, and the ILO International Training Centre.

The Social Protection Inter-agency Coordination Board (SPIAC-B) Working Group on Linking Humanitarian Assistance and Social Protection, of which UNHCR is a member, endorsed a set of "Common principles", including on "Extending social protection to forcibly displaced people". UNHCR co-led the development of tipsheets to put the principles into practice. UNHCR's participation in the "Forum on social protection in fragility and conflict" led to the recognition of forced displacement as both a driver and a consequence of fragility.

The impact of underfunding and other constraints

Insufficient funding and heavy reliance on donor support significantly hinder the ability of governments to maintain social assistance programmes, often prioritizing citizens over forcibly displaced and stateless individuals. Many countries also face challenges in implementing policies effectively due to delays and inconsistent application at the local level. Forcibly displaced people frequently struggle to obtain valid proof of their legal identity, which is required for social protection and property rights. Bureaucratic hurdles obstruct access to health care and education services, while legal status and documentation requirements limit employment opportunities, pushing many into informal and precarious work. Language barriers and lack of awareness about available programmes also slow down the integration process.

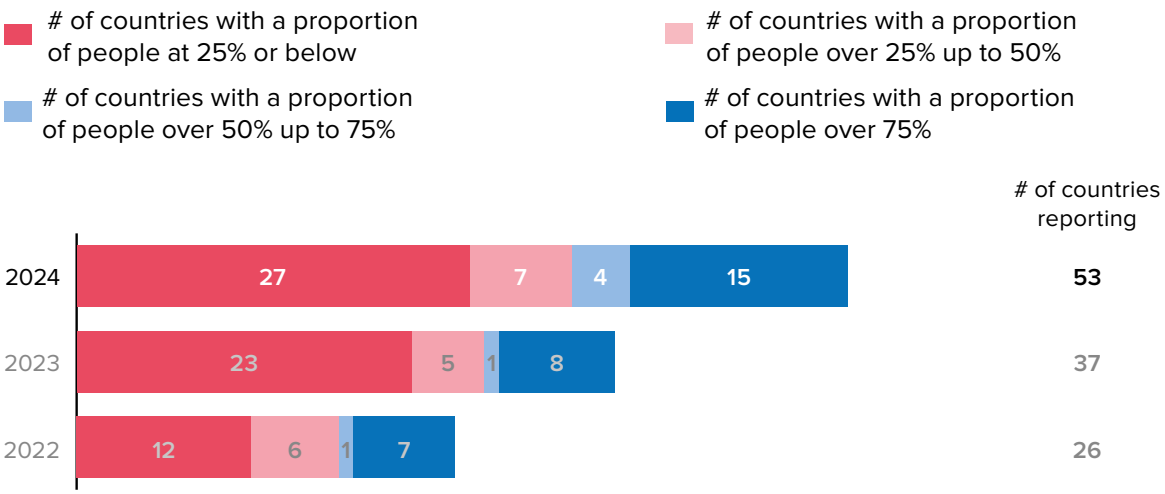
Core Output indicator

Local integration and local solutions

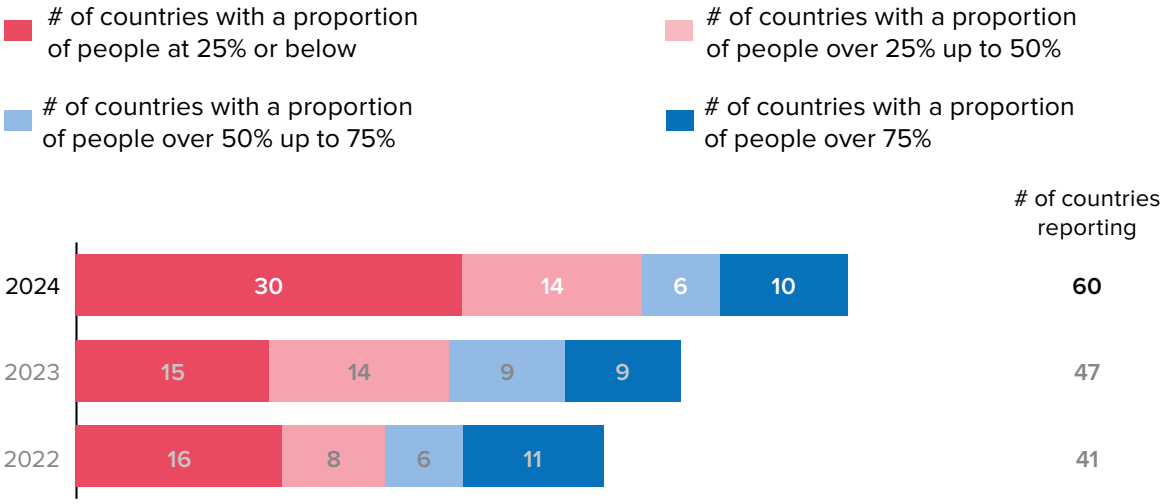
115,600 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures (**67** countries reporting)

Core Outcome Area indicators

16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land (Refugees and asylum-seekers)



16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems (refugees and asylum-seekers)



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ANTA Group and LIV Golf harness the power of sports in refugee integration

Sports can play a crucial role in addressing the challenges of forced displacement by enhancing the well-being and social development of young refugees and their host communities. Recognizing this, UNHCR's partners are stepping up their game, integrating sports in their humanitarian efforts. ANTA Group's three-year "Moving for Change" partnership with UNHCR, with a total commitment of at least 1.2 million items of clothing and $1.5 million over three years, supported displaced children and youths in Burundi, Ethiopia, and Kenya, constructing school facilities and supplying sports equipment. In 2024 alone, ANTA Group donated 431,289 pieces of sportswear to vulnerable groups, including unaccompanied children in Burundi and Kenya.

UNHCR also partnered with LIV Golf, which committed $10 million over three years to create a safe and enabling environment where sport and play can contribute to improved psychosocial wellbeing and socially cohesive communities. The partnership aims to increase access to sport and facilitate life skills development for refugee youth and their host peers across Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, while also contributing to essential protection services.

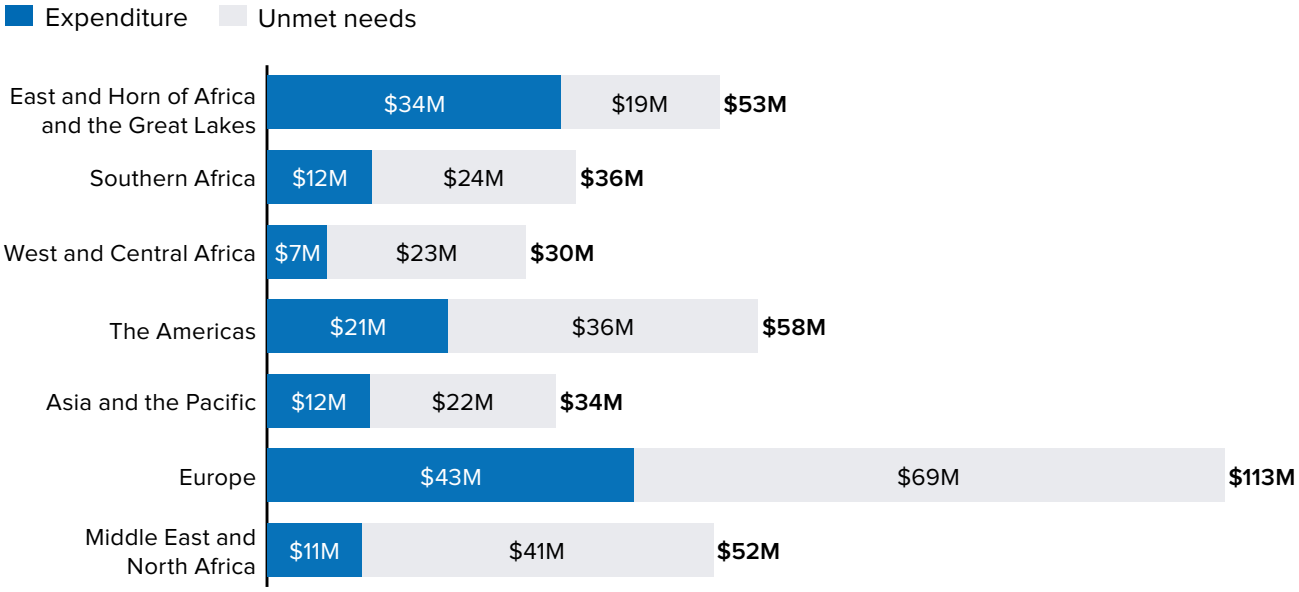
These collaborations underline the importance of sports in strengthening social cohesion and improving the well-being of both refugees and host communities.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Local integration and other local solutions

With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **$141 million** towards budgeted needs of **$376 million**. **$235 million** of unmet needs or **62%** of the budget.

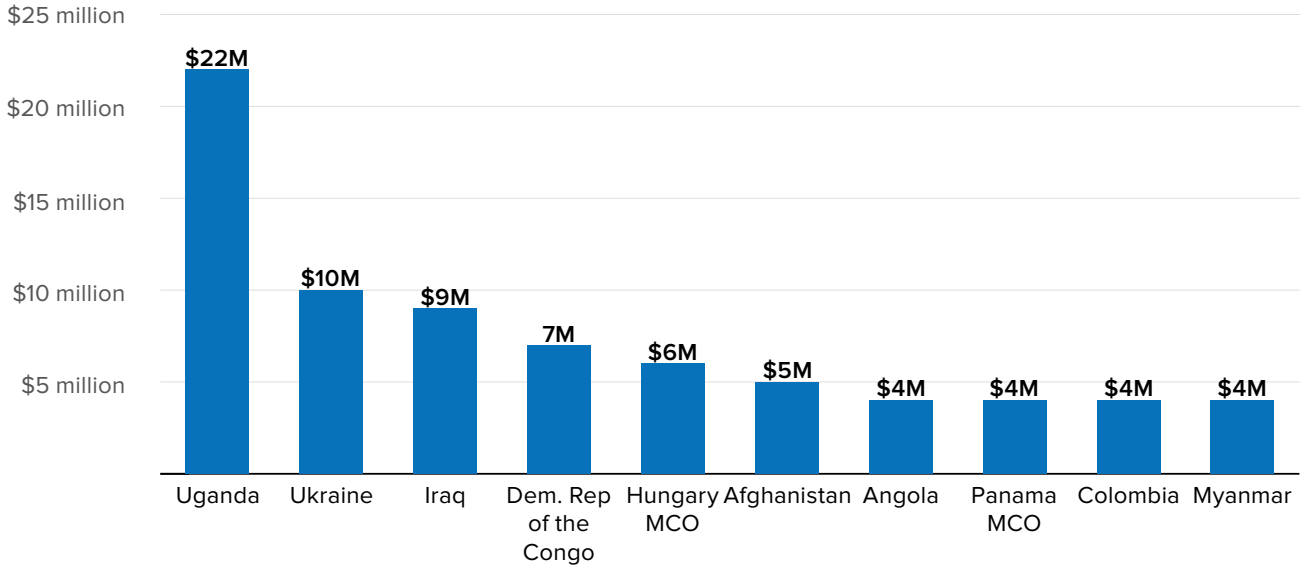
Regional expenditure and unmet needs for Local integration and other local solutions



The total appearing at the end of each bar represents the budget amount.

Local integration and other local solutions: top ten operations by expenditure

These ten operations accounted for **54%** of **$141 million** global expenditure in 2024.



MCO = Multi-country office

Yohanna, a Salvadoran asylum-seeker in Belize, has just received her permanent residency card. While still an asylum-seeker, Yohanna was able to open a small business with the help of UNHCR and partner Help for Progress. Now, she is able to register her business, open a bank account, and apply for a social security card. She has many local customers, as the one pictured in her seat, and continues practising her English with them. © UNHCR/Aida Escobar

As fighting spreads across the north-west of the Syrian Arab Republic, UNHCR and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) race to deliver emergency relief items.
© UNHCR/Emad Kabbas

Enabling Areas

This section covers work undertaken in 2024 to improve the running of UNHCR, ensuring that staffing, technology and systems enabled the Agency to fulfil its mandate in an effective, efficient and accountable way. The following pages show a set of core indicators that were piloted in 2024 to track progress against key organizational objectives, as well as other relevant indicators.

Systems and processes

Smarter planning, clearer direction.

With **96%** of entities implementing multi-year strategic plans and policy volume cut nearly in half, UNHCR streamlined decision-making and strengthened planning for long-term results.

Core indicators

86% of **official guidance** reviewed within 5 years of issuance
2023 result: 81%

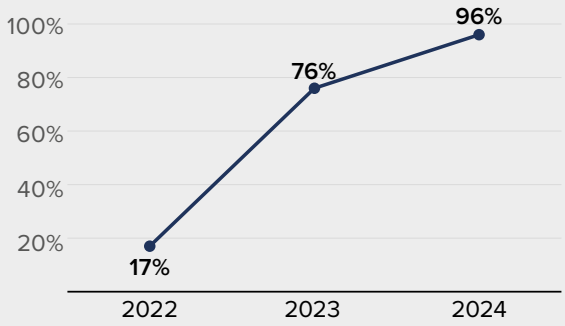
96% of operations, Bureaux and entities were implementing **multi-year strategic plans**
2023 result: 76%

Programme budget preparation and approval were managed in a timely manner

100% of **annual risk reviews** were completed
2023 result: 100%

Secure IT systems and processes were in place and regularly maintained

Operations* implementing multi-year strategies | 2022-2024



*All UNHCR operations, including countries, multi-country offices, regional bureaux, HQ Divisions and entities, and other operations (e.g. regional activities).

Policy review

- UNHCR reduced the overall volume of regulatory documents to **230**, down from 405 in 2020.
- UNHCR revamped its law and policy database Refworld and launched a Rights Mapping and Analysis Platform, including a "Refugee treaty and legislation dashboard" and an "IDP law and policy dashboard".
- UNHCR introduced a generative AI policy assistant to retrieve and analyse policies, freeing up staff time for more strategic tasks.

Risk management

- UNHCR maintained **100%** compliance with the annual risk review for the sixth year in a row, demonstrating a strong and consistent risk management culture. We note a positive trend with colleagues identifying not just risks, but also opportunities to improve results and maximize impact – in **11%** of cases.
- **2,500** staff took part in a global webinar series during International Fraud Awareness Week, enhancing UNHCR's ability to combat fraud risks.
- **64** UNHCR staff were certified in advanced operational risk management, bringing the total to 214.
- The risk management toolkit was expanded to **14** tools, including two new and three updated tools, on themes ranging from asylum systems to managing risks related to funded partnerships.

Systems

- **PRIMES Interoperability Gateway** (the PING data-sharing platform) was launched and deployed in Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Norway.
- The implementation of the Project, Reporting, Oversight and Monitoring Solution (**PROMS)** in late 2023 transformed the management of **1,800+ partnership agreements** worth $1.2 billion in 2024. This digital shift has improved visibility, oversight, and result tracking, streamlining partnership management despite complex system integrations.

Financial and administrative efficiencies

- UNHCR introduced the AskFinance chatbot, powered by GenAI, to **automate support for staff globally** and improve efficiency in financial and administrative tasks.
- Automation of travel processes saved **$1.4 million** in 2024.
- Optimization of UNHCR's vehicle fleet saved **$5.7 million** in 2024.
- Ride-sharing was rolled out to 188 locations, with annual savings of up to **$1.5 million.**

Better systems, faster support.

Efficiency and innovation saved over **$8.6 million** in 2024, freeing up time and funds for frontline delivery.

Operational support and supply chain

When emergencies hit, we move fast.

In 2024, **43** emergency declarations across **25** countries were met with **255** emergency deployments and approximately **$46M** in emergency supplies — keeping assistance life-saving and fast.

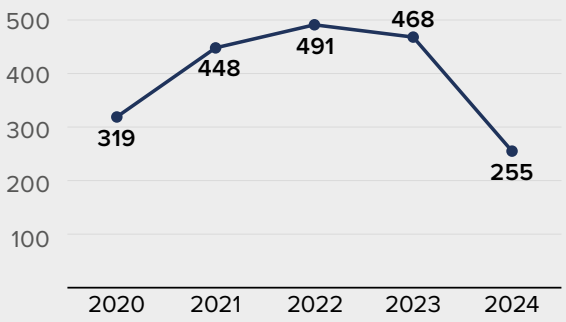
Core indicators

255 emergency deployments in 2024
2023 result: 468

Core relief items pre-positioned in UNHCR's global stockpiles were sufficient to assist up to **1 million** people in an emergency

36 critical security incidents were managed. 20 were security-related (e.g. crime), 16 were safety incidents (e.g road accidents).
2023 result : 20 critical security incidents

Emergency deployments | 2020-2024



Emergencies

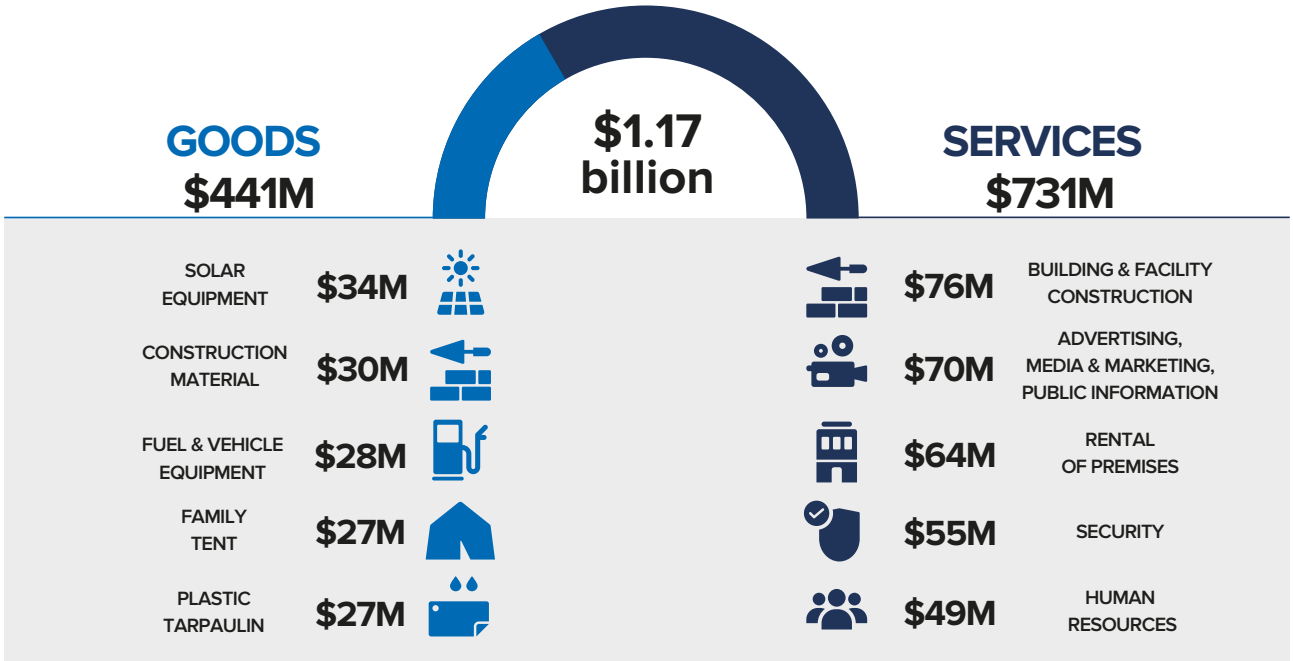
- UNHCR responded to **43** active emergency declarations across **25** countries in 2024.
- **7** countries were involved in new Level 3 emergencies, the highest level, up from 4 in 2023.
- **26** of the 43 emergencies were newly declared and 17 were ongoing declarations from 2023.
- Africa accounted for 65% of new emergencies, Middle East & North Africa 23%, the Americas 12%.
- UNHCR coordinated **255** emergency deployments from centrally managed rosters, with **137** facilitated through emergency Standby Partners.
- In 2024, in-kind contributions from Standby Partners were valued at **$9.4 million.**
- Nearly 30% of emergency deployments addressed the Sudan crisis, followed by Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Central Sahel situation.
- UNHCR's six-member emergency surge team dedicated nearly **500 days** to emergency missions in 2024.

Supplies

- **$45.8 million** of emergency supplies delivered from global stockpiles in 2024, of which:
  - **267** tonnes delivered by air.
  - **4,890** tonnes delivered by road.
  - **4,534** tonnes delivered by sea.
- **6** emergency airlifts including 5 free-of-charge airlifts organized by UNHCR from its Dubai emergency warehouse to Chad, Lebanon and Sudan.
- **13** air shipments including 7 free-of-charge air shipments facilitated to Lebanon and one to Chile.

Top 5 Goods and Services purchased in 2024

Based on their value in USD



N.B.: Data provided as per current reporting methodology, UNOPS services, Cash Based Interventions, individual consultants and contractors procurement conducted by UNHCR implementing partners are excluded here.

Security

- **523** security incidents were reported and managed in 2024 (up 12.2% from 2023), including 253 with impact on UNHCR personnel. 104 additional UNHCR personnel were affected by gender-based security incidents and provided with support, advice and security assistance.
- **540** women were provided with Women's Security Awareness training in 8 countries to gain essential practical knowledge, skills, and attitudes to address specific threats and associated risks.
- **26** new UN women security trainers, from across the UN Security Management System, were trained to facilitate Women's Security Awareness Training in remote contexts.
- **85** security personnel were trained to ensure security risk management integrates a person-centred approach.

Emergency training

- UNHCR launched an eCentre for Africa which trained **64** African humanitarians over 4-6 months. They then shared their knowledge with over 630 other emergency responders in their countries.
- UNHCR's Emergency Handbook attracted **70,000** visits per month, and launched an offline version.

© UNHCR/Eyor Nemat

LONGi brings solar power to UNHCR's emergency stockpile

In 2024, **LONGi Green Technology Co Ltd** provided solar solutions and expertise to install solar power at UNHCR's global emergency stockpile hub in Termez, Uzbekistan. The newly built 700kW solar power plant will generate almost 1 million kWh of electricity annually, reducing carbon emissions by 495 metric tons per year. This results in significant electricity savings, reducing the facility's reliance on the local grid and allowing for reinvestment in sustainable initiatives. This is a milestone in UNHCR's climate efforts that sets a precedent for future renewable energy projects. By investing in renewable energy, UNHCR and **LONGi** are reducing emissions, building resilience, and ensuring a sustainable future for refugees and internally displaced people.

People and culture

Global workforce, local impact.

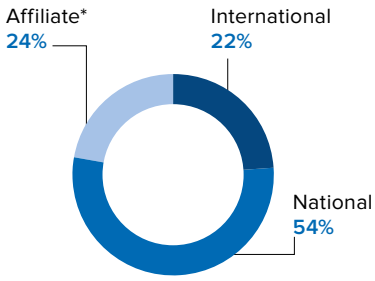
With operations in **137** countries and a workforce of almost **20,000** including more than **7,400** based in hardship locations, UNHCR sustains a presence where protection matters most — even in hard-to-reach and high-risk areas.

Global presence (as of 31 December 2024)

UNHCR was present in **137** countries and territories with offices in **522** locations

STAFF MEMBERS	AFFILIATE WORKFORCE*	GLOBAL WORKFORCE
15,151	4,678	19,829

Global workforce by category



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

Global workforce by location

38% of the field workforce were posted in hardship locations.

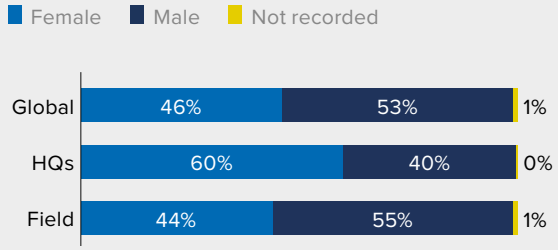
- Average time* to fill a vacant position in international category: **124** working days in 2024 compared to 131 days in 2023.

  * This includes the period from the application deadline through shortlisting, selection review, Joint Review Board (JRB) review, and ends with final approval by the High Commissioner or delegated authority.

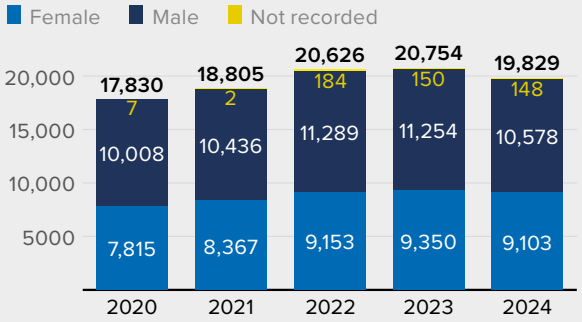
- **10,679** integrity clearances made in 2024 compared to 10,987 in 2023.

Core indicators

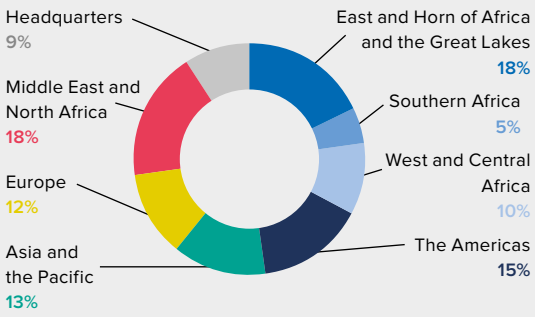
% distribution of UNHCR **workforce by gender** (female/male)



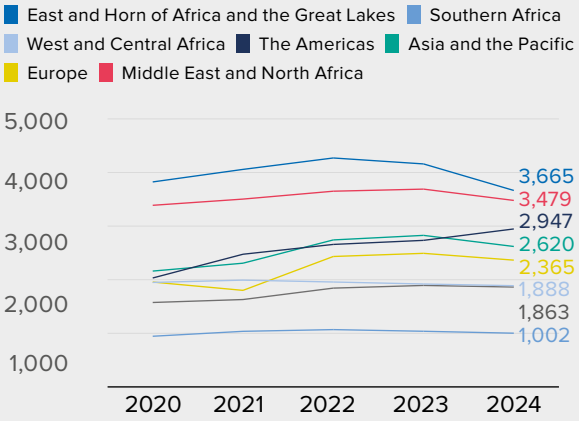
Global workforce by gender | 2020-2024



% distribution of **UNHCR workforce by region**



Global workforce by region | 2020-2024

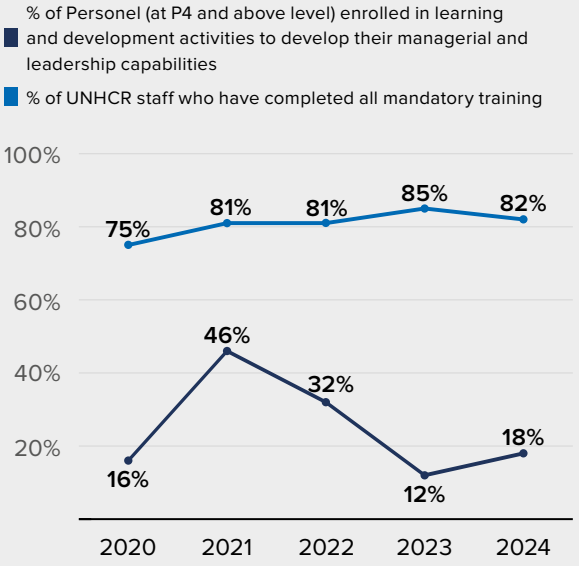


18% of personnel (at P4 level and above) enrolled in learning and development activities to develop their **managerial and leadership** capabilities

82% of UNHCR staff have completed all **mandatory training**

58% of **incidents of sexual harassment** were brought to the attention of the Victim Care Officer where the victim chose to engage in a resolution

Management and all staff training | 2020-2024



External engagement and resource mobilization

Partnerships that deliver.

Over **2,600** partner staff trained in 64 webinars, backed by a growing global network of local trainers — strengthening grassroots delivery and shared accountability.

Core indicators

$4.829 billion total **voluntary contributions** including **$4.199 billion** raised from public sector and **$630 million** from private sector donors

2023 result: $4.835 billion

Funding gap of **52%** or **$5.608 billion** in the UNHCR Global Budget

2023 result: 48% or $5.213 billion

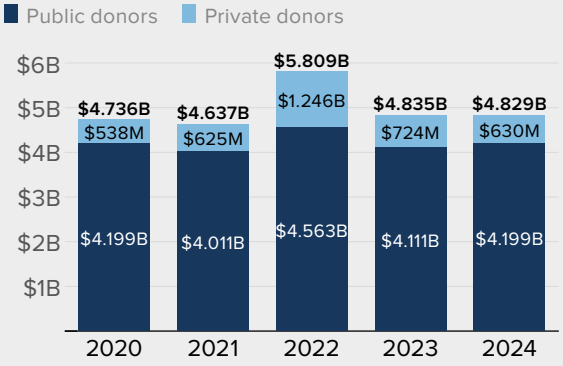
1.04 million views on UNHCR's **Global Focus** website (+159%)

2023 result: 401,610 views

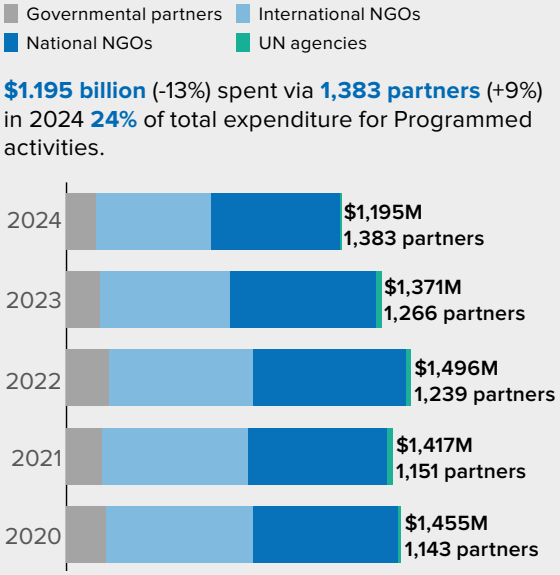
24% of total annual expenditure spent on **implementing partners** (including local & national partners)

2023 result : 27%

Contributions from public and private donors | 2020-2024



Expenditure via partners | 2020-2024



$1.195 billion (-13%) spent via **1,383 partners** (+9%) in 2024 **24%** of total expenditure for Programmed activities.

Partnerships

- UNHCR held **64** multilingual training webinars for **2,600** partner staff and established a network of 350 in-country trainers on PROMS key guidance and UNHCR Programme Handbook for partners.
- Non-standard agreement templates for Partnerships were reduced from 9 to **6**.

Advocacy, Media and Communications

More reach, more resources.

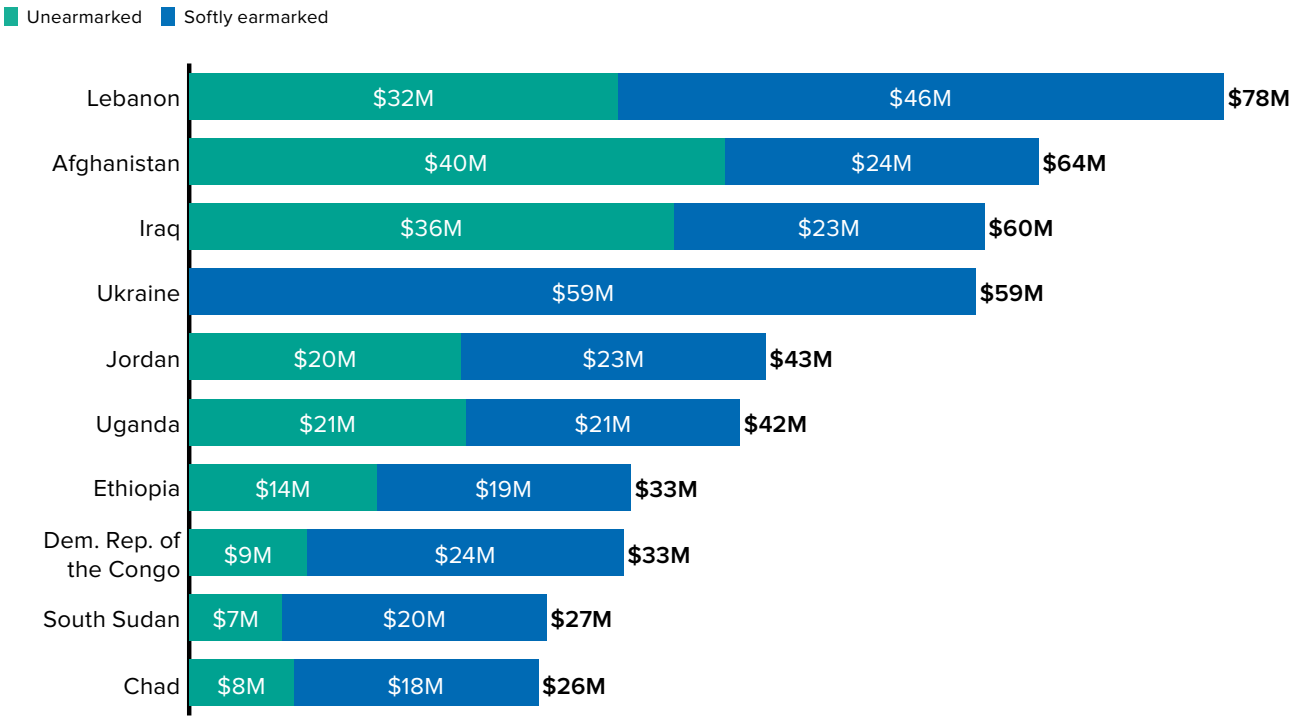
UNHCR engaged over **15 million** supporters online and raised billions from public and private donors, with **24%** of expenditure channeled through partners, including local actors. Although only a third of all resources available, flexible funding had an outsize role enabling UNHCR to kickstart emergency responses in places like Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

- **1st place** in media coverage to UNHCR's share of voice on the Sudan emergency among peer agencies.
- **70,000** pieces of media coverage mentioning the Paris 2024 Refugee Olympic/Paralympic Team.
- **156 million** audience reached through social media collaboration pieces on the Paris 2024 Olympic/Paralympic Games.
- **$2.9 million** raised from individual donors through content featuring UNHCR's Goodwill Ambassadors, High Profile Supporters and influencers.
- **15.6 million** followers across all UNHCR's social media.
- **627 million** in total reach through UNHCR global social media content.
- **759 million** views of UNHCR's videos on social media.
- **1.2 million** page views of UNHCR's web content.

Resource mobilization

- **$1.498 billion** was pledged by Governments and National Partners at the December 2024 pledging conference to cover anticipated needs for 2025 (vs $1.383 billion a year earlier).
- **$1.641 billion** of flexible funding was received including **$770 million** of unearmarked funding, enabling UNHCR to tackle emergencies and meet neglected needs.

Top 10 operations receiving allocations of flexible funding in 2024



Leadership and governance

Core indicators

72% of **evaluations** were completed annually on time as per rolling evaluation work plan: 6 centralized evaluations out of 6 planned (100%); 2 decentralized evaluations out of 5 planned (40%)

2023 result: 23 evaluations

Median time taken by the Inspector General's Office to **assess complaints** in 2024: **15 days** on average to assess over 2,100 misconduct complaints

2024 target: 8 weeks

28 governance meetings organized during the year in a timely manner

2023 result: 41 meetings (including GCR)

Evaluations

Evaluations that drive results.

Independent evaluations — including major responses such as Ukraine, and UNHCR's decentralization and regionalization — kept UNHCR accountable and aligned with global performance standards (as confirmed by MOPAN).

- The Evaluation Office commissioned an independent evaluation of UNHCR's decentralization and regionalization reform to assess its design, implementation, and outcomes.
- The evaluation of UNHCR's L3 Response to the crisis in Ukraine analysed the extent to which UNHCR provided a relevant, timely and effective response to the crisis in Ukraine.
- **3** country strategy evaluations were completed by the Evaluation Office in 2024: on Mali, Tajikistan and Peru.
- Decentralized evaluations commissioned by UNHCR's country offices included themes like health, education, livelihoods, climate resilience and sustainable energy solutions for people forced to flee.
- A MOPAN assessment of UNHCR, using, over **200** distinct performance standards, shows a significant improvement since the last assessment in 2018.

For more details on evaluations, see the Evaluations section in this report.

Oversight and investigations

Oversight that matters.

UNHCR handled over **2,100** misconduct complaints with median response times of just 15 days, reinforcing integrity and trust.

- The Inspector General's Office finalized **172** misconduct investigations (up 3% from 2023), completing almost half within six months.
- In **51%** of cases, IGO found that the allegations of misconduct were substantiated.
- **63** investigation reports were transmitted to the Division of Human Resources for possible disciplinary or administrative action.
- The IGO convened **8** coordination meetings of all oversight providers.

The Russian Federation's attack on Sumy in Ukraine on 1 September damaged an orphanage and children's rehabilitation centre as well as 350 apartments in the area, injuring civilians, including children. UNHCR's partner Proliska has been on site from the start, providing psychological support and emergency shelter materials. © Proliska

Evaluations in 2024

Evaluations of UNHCR's work highlight key achievements and lessons learned, driving improvements in our impact, effectiveness, and ability to deliver on UNHCR's mandate. The following is an overview of the evaluations carried out in 2024.

- An independent evaluation of UNHCR's decentralization and regionalization reform was commissioned by the Evaluation Office to assess the reform's design, implementation, and outcomes. The evaluation highlighted the alignment of the reform with UNHCR's Strategic Directions and with wider UN reform. It noted a strong vision but a need for a more clearly defined end state. It recommended more support for country operations in strategic prioritization, increased coherence in the structures of Regional Bureaux and classification of sub-national offices, streamlined coordination between organizational levels, increased decentralization of budget allocation and hiring procedures, strengthened workforce planning and associated data, and full alignment of roles, accountabilities and authorities with the decentralized organizational design.

- The evaluation of UNHCR's Level-3 response to the crisis in Ukraine analysed the extent to which UNHCR provided a relevant, timely and effective response to the crisis in Ukraine. It found that UNHCR was effective at delivering large-scale humanitarian assistance and protection to some of the most vulnerable populations. Factors contributing to its success included flexible funding, skilled staff, strong partnerships and UNHCR's long experience working in Ukraine. The organization's law and policy work, legal aid, protection and delivery of cash assistance proved timely and effective. The evaluation highlighted opportunities to enhance UNHCR's work, including ensuring cash assistance is routinely provided (as opposed to goods in kind), improving feedback mechanisms, and strengthening partnerships with NGOs and civil society in Ukraine. The evaluation informed the development of the 2025–2027 multi-year strategy, helping UNHCR plan for and support the transition towards medium and longer-term solutions for IDPs and the potential return of refugees. Three **country strategy evaluations** were completed by the Evaluation Office in 2024: Mali, Tajikistan and Peru. These evaluations helped to assess the strategic and operational relevance, effectiveness, coherence and efficiency of UNHCR's offices and fed into their multi-year strategies. Key themes of decentralized evaluations commissioned by UNHCR's country offices included health, education, livelihoods, climate resilience and sustainable energy solutions for people forced to flee.

- Multiple joint and inter-agency evaluations with partner UN agencies were conducted to enhance collaboration and improve the delivery of shared outcomes, especially during emergencies.

2024 also saw the publication of an assessment of UNHCR by the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network (**MOPAN**), which highlighted UNHCR's leadership in forced displacement situations, strong risk management practices and impressive emergency response, as well as a need for a shift towards a multi-year mindset and stronger use of evidence in planning and programming.

Centralized Evaluations	
Evaluation Title	**Evaluation Category**
Evaluation of UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement (2019-2023)	Global Strategic or Thematic Evaluation (GSE)
Repositioning in the field: UNHCR's decentralization and regionalization reform	Global Strategic or Thematic Evaluation (GSE)
Country Strategy Evaluation: Mali	Country Strategy Evaluation (CSE)
Country Strategy Evaluation: Tajikistan	Country Strategy Evaluation (CSE)
Country Strategy Evaluation: Peru	Country Strategy Evaluation (CSE)
Independent Evaluation of UNHCR's Level 3 Response in Ukraine	Level 3 Emergency Response Evaluation (L3E)
Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation of the response to the crisis in Afghanistan	Inter-Agency Evaluations (IAE)
Inter-agency humanitarian evaluation of the response to the crisis in northern Ethiopia	Inter-Agency Evaluations (IAE)
Decentralized Evaluations	
Evaluation Title	**Evaluation Category**
UNHCR's Support to Health, Education, and Economic Inclusion in West and Central Africa	Programme or Project (PPE)
Djibouti Declaration Evaluation	Programme or Project (PPE)
Summative evaluation of the EU global promotion of best practices for children in migration (2020-2023) programme	Programme or Project (PPE)
Mid-term Evaluation of the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Plus Programme (SAFE +2) (required by donor)	Programme or Project (PPE)
Multi-country midterm evaluation– Non-Communicable Diseases (required by donor)	Programme or Project (PPE)
Climate-smart agriculture and market development for enhancing livelihoods of refugees and their host communities endline in Rwanda (required by donor)	Programme or Project (PPE)

A delegation from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Office, accompanied by representatives from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, visits the Hanano neighbourhood bakery in Aleppo. The bakery was jointly rehabilitated by UNHCR and the World Food Programme to support the local community. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

Strategic partnerships

Forced displacement and statelessness generate a vast variety of human experiences, socioeconomic issues and individual challenges. Rather than trying to do everything in-house, it is often much more efficient and effective for UNHCR to work with others. This includes humanitarians with access to particular geographies or communities, technical experts with specialist knowledge, and companies and institutions that can transform the lives of refugees. Partnerships with governments are also central to our work, since they have the primary responsibility to ensure the protection of refugees, internally displaced people, stateless persons, and returnees. And crucially, we partner with forcibly displaced and stateless people themselves, since they have direct experience of the issues they face and are highly motivated to resolve them. Many partnerships are anchored in the **Global Compact on Refugees** and reinforced by the pledges made under the Compact at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. (Please see separate sections of this Global Report on the Global Compact and on UNHCR's partnerships with development actors.)

In its first year of implementation, the "UN Common Pledge 2.0" on refugee inclusion, co-led by UNHCR, the UN Development Coordination Office (DCO) and OCHA, saw significant efforts made by UN partners and UN country teams, led by Resident Coordinators, ensuring stronger coordination and accelerating progress towards inclusion and shared goals. This comprised, for example, the participation of refugees as both surveyors and respondents in **Morocco**'s 2024 national census, and their integration into national development plans in the **Republic of Moldova**. Alignment exercises to link government pledges, country team commitments and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks were conducted by UN country teams in **Chile, Mauritania** and **Mozambique**. In **Namibia**, a joint work plan with the Government was developed to enhance coordination.

In 2024, UNHCR deepened its strategic engagement with other UN agencies. The **UNHCR-WFP Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub** served

as a key platform providing integrated support, including joint assessments and analysis to understand and address the needs of refugees. As of the end of 2024 the Hub had enhanced collaboration in 19 country operations (45% of joint presences) since its launch in 2020. It has supported the shift of 13 countries from status- to needs-based assistance, deployed surge technical teams in seven countries, funded five joint operations, conducted 20 joint assessments, and supported appeals and feedback mechanisms in seven countries.

UNHCR and UNICEF undertook joint actions in all regions to promote the inclusion of refugee children into national systems, including prevention of refugee children refoulement and increased awareness of statelessness through joint advocacy efforts. This led to the formalizing of partnerships in 19 countries by the end of 2024 by signing Letters of Understanding, with more to be concluded in 2025.

UNHCR and **IOM** formalized the "Route-based approach" to enhance the effectiveness and predictability of responses to mixed movements with a set of comprehensive, targeted and coordinated interventions to be undertaken by States, UN agencies, civil society partners, refugee organizations, and other stakeholders along key routes in countries of origin, asylum, transit and destination. (Please see the separate section of this Global Report for more on the Route-based approach.)

With **UNDP**, efforts focused on the joint implementation of the "Global collaboration framework for inclusion and solutions 2023-2025". In Mozambique, collaboration supported provincial-level planning processes around forced displacement, while in Lebanon, co-leadership of the national response plan enabled the delivery of services through national systems. Partnerships also advanced in Uganda, where joint programming reinforced local governance and area-based planning. Joint data gathering and analysis continued to play a central role in informing coordinated responses in Afghanistan, while joint mine action efforts in Ukraine further operationalized a collaborative framework for transition from humanitarian to recovery assistance. These efforts reflect growing complementarity in livelihoods, basic services, and governance support across contexts.

UNHCR, UNDP and **ILO** also published a report demonstrating that online platform work can be both viable and decent for refugees and their hosts, while offering benefits for the platforms themselves. The report, "Emerging practices to improve access and working conditions on digital labour platforms for refugees and host communities", highlighted best practices and offered guidance to governments on updating national regulations to keep pace with the evolving nature of platform work.

UNHCR advanced operational, policy and advocacy priorities at all levels together with **NGOs, civil society organizations**, including those led by forcibly displaced and stateless people. In 2024, UNHCR and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies organized the UNHCR Global Consultations on solutions, inclusion and gender equality, with over 200 participants. The number of local organizations participating doubled, and representation from organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless people, as well as those led by women, increased by nearly 40%.

The UNHCR Advisory Board to the internal Task Team on Engagement with Organizations led by Forcibly Displaced and Stateless People were consulted on the Localization Guidelines, and several members contributed to the selection of the Refugee-led Innovation Fund winners and provided statements at various high-level meetings, including the Summit of the Future and the Global Compact on Refugees informal briefings.

UNHCR's **Refugee-led Innovation Fund** disbursed $1.2 million for 26 projects in 2024.

UNHCR signed its first global partnership agreement with the **Danish Refugee Council**, outlining strategic commitments and including special provisions governing country-level funded agreements to streamline negotiations across all countries. As well as being a strategic partner of UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council is also one of the Standby Partners that UNCHR relies on for expert deployments in emergencies.

The roll-out of the UNHCR **sport strategy** "More than a game", progressed rapidly, with 20 country operations undertaking sport initiatives. The **Sport for Refugees Coalition**, 160 entities co-led by the **SCORT Foundation** and **Olympic Refuge Foundation,** reported GRF pledge implementation in 82 countries, supporting more than 2,000 clubs and sporting initiatives, reaching 445,000 forcibly displaced people. Coalition members also trained over 6,000 individuals to lead sport-based activities and created or refurbished 109 sporting spaces.

UNHCR developed new multi-year, multi-country partnerships with **LIV Golf** and the **FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 Legacy Fund**, securing significant resources for sport and core programming in 11 country operations.

UNHCR continued to leverage major sporting events to promote the refugee cause. In partnership with the **Union of European Football Associations (UEFA)**, UNHCR showcased the power of football for inclusion in fan zones at the European Football Championships in Germany and European club finals hosted in the United Kingdom and Ireland. UEFA hosted the third Unity EURO Cup, with refugees playing alongside national players from 16 countries.

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The **Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games** once again provided unparallelled opportunities for refugees to shine on the global stage. In partnership with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC), UNHCR enabled 37 refugee athletes and eight refugee para-athletes to compete in the Games, with both teams collecting their first ever medals – bronze in para-taekwondo, para-athletics, and women's boxing –crowning an incredible summer of sport. The Paralympic and Olympic Games provided an opportunity to bring the courage and resilience of refugees to the world through universally inspiring stories. UNHCR was also in the spotlight when the High Commissioner was honoured with the Olympic Laurel at the Games opening ceremony in Paris. The Games helped drive some of the largest communications successes of the year and brought one of the few moments where UNHCR and refugees had the full attention of a truly global audience. UNHCR was also nominated for the prestigious Fair Play Peace Award from the European Fairplay Movement, accepted in Brussels by the Deputy High Commissioner on behalf of UNHCR.

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Barça Foundation changes lives through sport

The Fundación Fútbol Club Barcelona (FFCB) has partnered with España con ACNUR and UNHCR globally since 2022 to raise awareness among soccer fans about the lives of refugees. The foundation has been supporting sport and socio-educational projects in Colombia, Malaysia, Türkiye, and Uganda to protect and support the emotional well-being of children and young people who have been forcibly displaced.

The Club's male and female players also wore the UNHCR/ACNUR logo on their shirts, reaching a global audience of many millions. FC Barcelona players Ilkay Gündogan, Aitana Bonmatí, and Lucy Bronze brought their personal soccer star power to UNHCR events in 2024, while Spotify, Coldplay, and FFCB teamed up to raise funds for UNHCR-Barça Foundation joint projects focused on protecting the environment and other humanitarian initiatives. This collaboration included a special edition of Coldplay logo on FC Barcelona jerseys and apparel.

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.

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Cover photo:
Syrian refugee families in Türkiye gather at the Cilvegözü–Bab Al-Hawa border crossing to begin the journey home as part of a voluntary repatriation process. Since September 2024, over 500,000 refugees have returned to the Syrian Arab Republic.
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