

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

OVERVIEW OF UNHCR WASH PROGRAMMES 2024

30 COUNTRIES
delivering UNHCR WASH programmes

104 SETTLEMENTS
in 17 countries hosting over 3.2 million refugees reporting to the Technical Information Management System (TIMS)



18

Litres of water per person per day



24

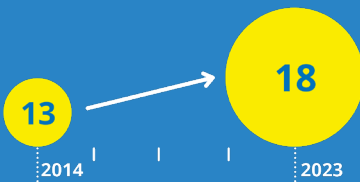
Persons per toilet



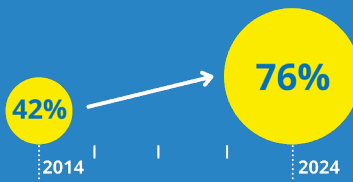
10

Operations with Smart Water Sensors

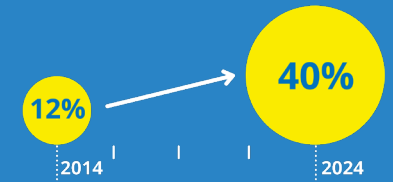
Access to water
(litres per person per day)



Access to soap
(% of households with soap)



Access to sanitation
(% of households with HH toilets)



51% of UNHCR's boreholes solarized, with up to 37,000 tons of CO₂ mitigated per year



Project Flow initiated procurement to **solarize 21 water systems and 4 health facilities**

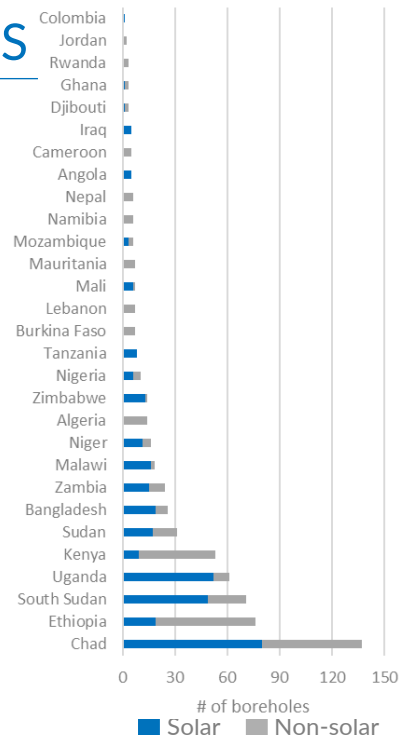
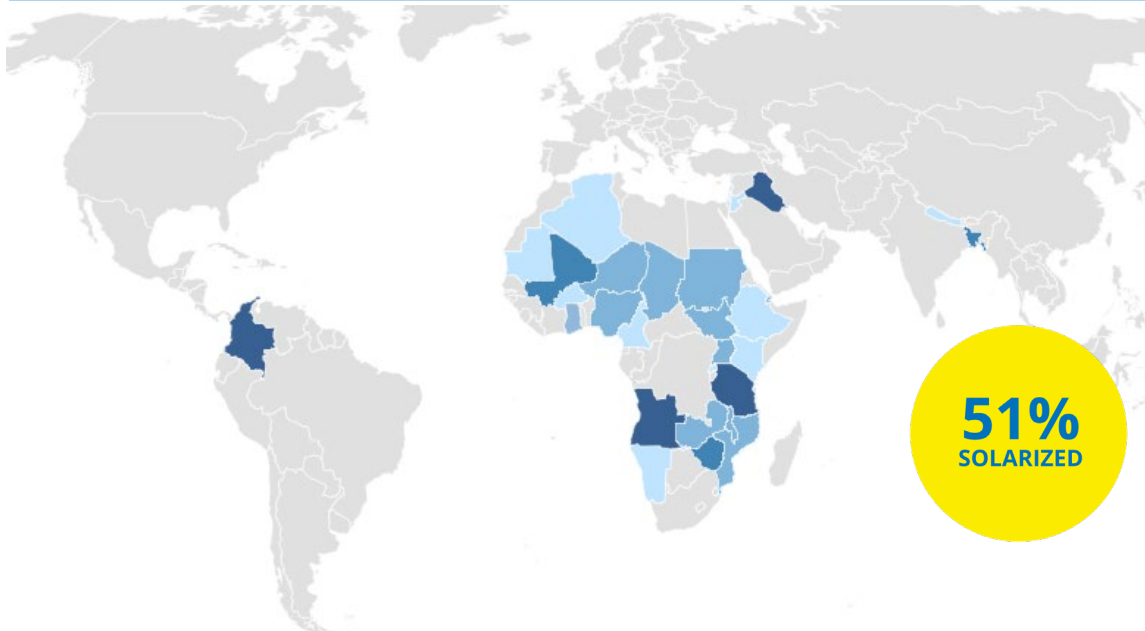


The largest UNHCR WASH responses are in **Ethiopia, Chad, Sudan and Bangladesh**



17 country operations report into the UNHCR Technical Information Management System

SOLARIZED BOREHOLES IN UNHCR OPERATIONS



Proportion of boreholes solarized: ■ 100% ■ 75 – 99% ■ 50 – 74% ■ <50%

Information based on data submitted to UNHCR's Technical Information Management System (TIMS). Data changes on regular basis as more data is reported in the system. Note: Due to the transition from the previous WASH Monitoring System to TIMS, there may be some impact on data coherence in comparison with previous WASH Annual Reports.

The report provides an overview of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service provision in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) operations. It highlights key achievements in UNHCR's global efforts to ensure lifesaving access to water, sanitation and hygiene services to refugees and the surrounding communities.

Introduction

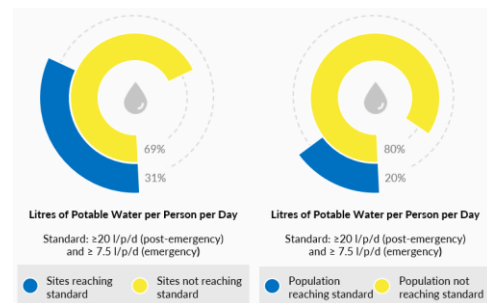
UNHCR, alongside partners and host governments, remained committed to providing essential WASH services to refugees and host communities amongst ongoing challenges such as new refugee influxes, disease outbreaks, and the impacts of extreme weather events. The report highlights key achievements in UNHCR's global efforts to ensure lifesaving access to water, sanitation and hygiene services that are environmentally sustainable to refugees and the surrounding communities.

Access to Water

In 2024, critical water services were sustained for displaced populations and their hosting communities, achieving a global average of 18 liters per person per day (l/p/d). This figure is consistent with 2023. While this met the emergency minimum standard¹, the post-emergency minimum remained a target for ongoing improvement. For public health reasons as well as peaceful coexistence and in line with Sustainable Responses, UNHCR is committed to meet minimum humanitarian standards which are not higher than the national ones. Nonetheless, many refugees remain severely underserved. In 69% of UNHCR sites, water provision is falling below the minimum set standards. Most severe situations are seen for refugees trapped in conflict zones. For instance, in

Dabat Bosin in Sudan, where the latest reports indicated a mere 4 l/p/d. Such situations underscore the urgent need for continued efforts to ensure lifesaving water access in all refugee operations.

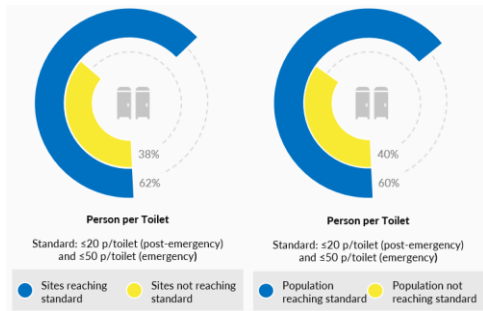
UNHCR cash-based assistance offers an important mechanism to meet the WASH needs of many families in a dignified way, whilst supporting the local economy. According to [2024 Cash Based Assistance Post Distribution Monitoring](#), amongst people who received cash assistance in 2024, 13% of people surveyed used it for water and 11% used it for utilities and bills (which may include household water connections).



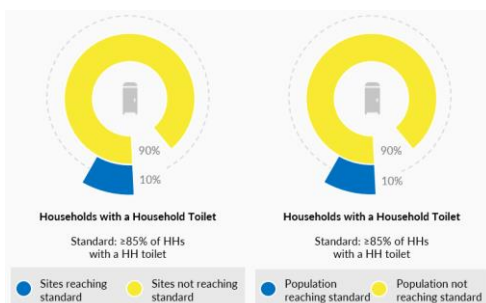
Access to Sanitation

UNHCR continued to facilitate construction of household, shared-family, and communal sanitation facilities for refugee populations. Globally, an average of 24 refugees shared a single toilet, which fell short of UNHCR post-emergency standard, and reflected a decrease in sanitation access compared to 2023. This was likely influenced by secondary displacement

¹ <https://emergency.unhcr.org/emergency-assistance/water-sanitation-and-hygiene/wash-emergencies#3>



and increased settlement occupancy such as those reported in Sudan and Malawi. Similar to access to water, significant variations persisted across sites, with Basirma in Iraq achieving a ratio of five persons per toilet, while Ayorou in Niger and Khor Al Waral in Sudan experienced ratios of 600 and 197 respectively, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions in severely under-resourced locations. Furthermore, household toilet coverage reached 40% globally, marking a slight increase from 36% in 2023 but remaining significantly below the UNHCR post-emergency target of 85%. While locations like Arbat in Iraq and Awserd in Algeria achieved near-universal household toilet coverage (100% and 97% respectively), other locations, including sites in Sudan, reported drastically lower figures (4%), demonstrating the uneven distribution of sanitation infrastructure. These disparities underscore the ongoing challenge of ensuring equitable and adequate sanitation access for all refugees, necessitating sustained and focused efforts to bridge the gap



between current realities and established standards.

Access to Hygiene

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice (KAP) site-level WASH surveys at the household level revealed that 76% of refugee households possessed soap at the time of the survey. This figure, while indicating a substantial level of access, fell short of the UNHCR post-emergency minimum standard of 85%. It's important to acknowledge that these figures represent "snapshot" averages, potentially influenced by the timing of non-food item distributions, including soap, which could have impacted the collected data in certain surveyed sites.

Consistent with observed variations in water availability and toilet coverage, access to soap also exhibited significant disparities across different sites and countries, notably in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (ROC), and Sudan. This variability underscores the need for context-specific interventions and targeted strategies to ensure consistent and equitable access to hygiene essentials, ultimately aiming to achieve the UNHCR's post-emergency standards.

Amongst people who received cash assistance in 2024, **23%** of people

Global indicators in this report are generated from UNHCR's **Technical Information Management System (TIMS)**, a new data platform for UNHCR and partners. Launched in 2024, TIMS encompasses data from technical sectors, including WASH, climate and environment activities. TIMS enables users to input, visualize and analyse data and explore relevant GIS databases for monitoring, reporting and communication. For further information on TIMS refer to tims.unhcr.org or email hqtimes@unhcr.org

surveyed used it for **hygiene items**, which was the fourth highest use of cash assistance.

WASH in Refugee Emergencies

In 2024, UNHCR responded to multiple refugee emergencies across nine countries, supporting over 1.5 million refugees with WASH interventions strategically tailored to the specific needs of each context. These interventions improved the lives of refugee populations, achieved significant coverage and contributed to improved health, dignity and reduced protection risks. In **Chad**, the massive influx of more than 239,000 Sudanese refugees triggered a large-scale response, with the major deployment of emergency water supply systems to achieve water provision of nearly 13 l/p/d, 80% toilet usage and 71% soap access. This contributed to more dignified living conditions and reduced potential for waterborne diseases. Within days of arrival in **Indonesia**, all of the new arrivals and existing Rohingya refugees in Aceh and North Sumatra

were able access to clean water via boreholes and life-saving emergency water provision. Coupled with safe sanitation, this response directly contributed to preventing outbreaks. The response in **Malawi** to the displacement of approximately 2,500 households from Mozambique included the immediate provision of essential hygiene items, 96 cubic meters of emergency water per day and construction of 176 toilets, to address access to basic needs. **Niger** supported safe water access for 4,000 new asylum seekers from Burkina Faso by constructing two water points and providing water storage containers. In order to facilitate safe, private and dignified access to sanitation, especially for women and girls and people with specific needs, 600 families were supported with materials for construction of toilets. In **Nigeria**, hygiene promotion, sanitation and household water treatment activities supported 71,000 Cameroonian refugees to foster sustainable hygiene



UNHCR scales up support in Burundi for more than 60,000 refugees fleeing from DRC. ©UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

practices and prevent disease outbreak. **South Sudan** addressed the critical needs of more than 510,000 new arrivals from Sudan through targeted interventions across key settlement areas: in Maban, the development of water infrastructure (three new wells) and sanitation facilities (14 VIP, 368 emergency toilets) directly improved access to essential services, with hygiene promotion supported by the provision of hygiene materials. In Jamjang, extensions of the existing water pipeline and distribution points were undertaken. Sanitation access was improved with the construction of emergency toilets (19) and household toilets (100) to reduce protection risks. In Wedweil, the establishment of two new water sources and distribution pipelines provided sustainable access to clean water for up to 24,000 individuals. **Sudan** addressed secondary displacements of South Sudanese with crucial water supply, soap distribution, and 80 new toilets. In **Syria**, at the peak of the Lebanon influx emergency in September 2024, recognizing the strain on existing infrastructure, UNHCR proactively engaged UNICEF and ICRC to advocate for a coordinated expansion of WASH services at border crossings to support the over 500,000 affected individuals. While advocating for broader partner involvement in sanitation, water access, and waste disposal, UNHCR swiftly deployed portable toilets and initiated daily sanitation services to address the immediate needs at border crossing points.

WASH Response to Disease Outbreaks

UNHCR's WASH interventions served as a critical defence for over 1.3 million refugees and asylum seekers across 11 countries, mitigating and containing the impact of multiple disease outbreaks, including cholera, Mpox, Hepatitis E, scabies, and dengue. Recognizing the acute vulnerability of displaced populations, a proactive and multi-layered approach was implemented, focusing on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures to limit and contain the risk of disease transmission.

For example, in **Angola**, the deployment of handwashing facilities, coupled with targeted hygiene sensitization created a crucial barrier against potential Mpox and cholera outbreaks in the Lovua settlement. Similarly, in **Bangladesh**, faced with ongoing water shortages and challenges in wastewater management which contribute to water-related diseases, IPC measures such as improved sanitation activities and cleaning campaigns successfully contained outbreaks of cholera, scabies, and dengue. These robust multi-sectoral responses, including the vaccination of more than 500 sanitation volunteers, helped to safeguard both the refugee population and essential service providers. Faced with an acute Hepatitis E outbreak affecting over 1,500 people in **Chad**, UNHCR intervened with increased emergency water provision and accelerated sanitation infrastructure improvements, directly impacting the outbreak's trajectory. Similarly, in the **DRC**, despite cholera and Mpox cases, a comprehensive WASH response, including the establishment of chlorination points and hygiene

promotion reaching over 40,000 people, prevented further spread. Even with limited resources in **Mozambique**, WASH and health volunteers conducted over 2,500 house visits and awareness campaigns reaching more than 34,000 people. This contributed to preventing any cholera cases in Maratane camp, demonstrating the power of community engagement. In the **Republic of Congo**, targeted awareness campaigns reaching more than 17,000 individuals, and the provision of IPC kits to nine health posts bolstered the capacity to respond effectively to reported Mpox cases. Despite significant logistics challenges and availability of materials to ensure the ongoing operation of WASH systems, **Sudan's** extensive WASH response to cholera outbreaks in eastern and White Nile settlements included hygiene awareness campaigns reaching over 585,000 people, the distribution of two million soap bars to 275,000 individuals, and enhanced water treatment. In parallel, significant sanitation improvements were undertaken benefiting over 709,300 people through the construction, rehabilitation, and desludging of toilet facilities to help reduce the risk of water-related diseases. In **South Sudan** in response to a cholera outbreak in Renk, UNHCR WASH teams supported national task forces to strengthen IPC measures with increased water provision and latrine coverage, WASH facilities at treatment centers, handwashing stations with soap, water quality testing, and repositioning supplies. In **Zimbabwe**, the implementation of enhanced hygiene messaging for 16,500 refugees in Tongogara served as a critical preparedness measure, contributing to

the prevention of Mpox cases within the settlement.

Collectively, these country-level interventions underscore UNHCR's strategic and impactful WASH programming in safeguarding the health and dignity of refugee populations across diverse and challenging operational environments.

Enhancing Resilience of WASH Systems

UNHCR continued to strengthen the resilience of WASH systems against extreme weather events, aligning with the [Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability 2022-2025](#) and the [Focus Area Strategic Plan for Climate Action 2024-2030](#). Resilience is enhanced by, amongst several other measures, mitigating the impact of WASH system on the natural environment (largely by reducing the carbon footprint) and protecting WASH systems (including water resources and infrastructure) against extreme weather events.

A key achievement in 2024 was the solarization of 41 boreholes, bringing the total of solar-powered pumps to 51% across UNHCR operations. The solarization of these additional 41 boreholes mitigates up to an estimated 4,500 tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions annually, the equivalent of up to 1.6 million liters of fuel and USD 2 million saved each year, while simultaneously lowering operational costs and reducing reliance on fuel deliveries in remote field locations. This enhanced cost-efficiency and reduced logistics relative to traditional energy systems ensures more reliable and sustainable access to essential WASH



A solar-powered borehole built by UNHCR and partners in Chad to provide water to newly arrived Sudanese refugee families. ©UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

services for refugees. Complementing this momentum, [Project Flow](#) signed agreements with **Ethiopia, Mauritania, Rwanda, and Sudan**, initiating procurement to solarize 21 water systems and four health facilities serving approximately 1.2 million people. This is projected to mitigate around 1,400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually. Based on the solar designs for these systems, the project is expected to generate USD 0.9 million cost savings and reduce fuel usage by 500,000 litres each year. To similarly improve water access and mitigate the impacts of climate change, solarization of water supplies was undertaken in **Bangladesh, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria** and **Sudan**. In **Bangladesh**, solar-powered compost screeners were also installed, with the additional benefit of reducing the compost production time by one third.

Several country operations undertook context-specific, resilient WASH solutions to proactively protect against increasing extreme weather events. In

Bangladesh, a strategic partnership between UNHCR, the Department of Public Health Engineering, and the Asian Development Bank focused on bolstering the resilience of refugee settlement against extreme weather conditions. This collaboration resulted in the expansion and upgrading of water reservoirs and treatment systems, the promotion of water conservation practices among refugees, and support for the establishment of a desalination plant. These comprehensive efforts directly addressed the challenges of reduced daily water supply and significantly enhanced the long-term resilience of the settlements to future climate-induced water scarcity. Also in **Bangladesh**, nature-based solutions through Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation (SuLMER) projects, including riparian plantations and live fencing, improved water catchment management and provided cash-for-work opportunities, benefitting nearly 11,000 refugees. Targeting improvements in overall water

security in **Chad**, the construction of three spreader dams aimed to distribute and slow down floodwaters in valley beds, to maximize infiltration, improve local ecosystems, and enhance groundwater recharge. In **Ethiopia**, adaptation activities included the construction of flood-retaining walls at three critical water intake sites – this helped to safeguard vital water supply systems to ensure their functionality during future extreme weather events. Similarly in **Iraq**, proactive flood prevention and sewerage improvements were implemented, effectively protecting 25,000 individuals residing in flood-prone areas from the disruptive and health-threatening impacts of annual floods, enhancing their safety and living conditions. In **Mozambique**, an innovative approach focused on developing affordable and climate-resilient toilet models, specifically designed to withstand torrential rains. The **ROC** addressed recurrent flooding at the 15 Avril refugee site through a collaborative assessment with the University of Zurich to understand and mitigate flood risks. Complementary awareness-raising initiatives empowered the refugee community with knowledge and strategies to enhance their preparedness for future flood events, fostering greater self-reliance and reducing vulnerability. **South Sudan** improved flood mitigation measures with construction of dykes and opened drainage channels in the settlements, aiming to drastically reduce the impact of severe flooding. In **Sudan**, a proactive cross-sectoral collaboration between WASH and shelter sectors led to pre-rainy season drainage improvements. This strategic

intervention demonstrably minimized infrastructure damage during the rainy season and highlighted the effectiveness of coordinated planning. **Zimbabwe** adopted sand abstraction technology as a resilient solution to complement existing borehole systems, effectively separating drinking water sources from water used for productive purposes. This innovative approach provided a buffer against the impacts of extreme weather events, ensuring a more reliable and safe supply of drinking water.

The implementation of **Smart Water Sensors (SWS)**, a digital innovation for real-time monitoring of water supply services, continued in 10 UNHCR operations (**Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Kenya, Iraq, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zimbabwe**). SWS facilitate timely identification of technical issues on water supply systems through alerts sent to designated staff, thereby improving operational efficiency and minimizing losses. Groundwater monitoring through SWS provides reliable long-term data to ensure safe extraction of the water and contributes to environmental sustainability. For example, **Iraq** enhanced water resource management by installing smart water sensors in 30 boreholes across eight refugee settlements, benefiting over 90,000 refugees and 1.2 million host community members. In 2024, remote support through online engagements with field teams resolved site-specific issues: malfunctioned gateways were reinstated in Iraq, and validation of sensors data was carried out in Bangladesh. These activities were crucial to enhance the operational knowledge

of this innovative technology. With approximately 42% of the planned SWSs installed, further effort is required to expedite installations at the various operations, which in some locations have been halted due to funding constraints.

WASH Response to the Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

In 2024, UNHCR's WASH programs also directly responded to the escalating impacts of extreme weather events across multiple refugee operations, focusing largely on immediate responses to floods. In **Djibouti**, two wells in the village of Ali Adde which had been damaged by flash floods were rehabilitated, restoring vital water services. In **Ethiopia**, following the devastating floods of late 2023, a swift response decommissioned 200 collapsed toilets and repaired 95, directly restoring essential sanitation access for affected populations. The **ROC's** response to flooding restored essential services and prevented disease

spread. The response included the rehabilitation of more than one hundred water points, construction of over 400 toilets and hygiene sensitization, reaching more than 51,000 people. In contrast, the El Niño-induced drought of the 2023-2024 rainfall season in **Zimbabwe** significantly impacted groundwater recharge for the Tongogara aquifers, presenting challenges to providing safe water. The timely repair of key water infrastructure helped to prevent leakages and loss of valuable water resources.

Across these diverse contexts, UNHCR's WASH responses complemented the proactive, preventive measures by providing immediate relief to ensure that refugee populations recovered quickly from extreme weather events.

Sustainable Responses in the WASH Sector: Inclusion of Refugees into National Water and Sanitation Services

In line with the objectives of the [Global Compact on Refugees](#), inclusion of the



Families wade through floodwaters to access clean water in northeastern Nigeria. ©UNHCR

refugee population in the national agenda and strategies of host countries and collaboration with development partners remain key priorities for UNHCR, aiming for long-term sustainability and enhanced community resilience. By 2024, 49 pledges were made under the Compact, 27 of which support the access of refugees to basic services. Notable WASH-specific pledges include that by Grundfos Foundation and the Danish and German governments on Project Flow, and the pledge of the government of Yemen for the “Equitable Access to Clean Water and Sanitation for Refugees, IDPs, and Host Communities.” A number of other pledges aim for the transition of camps into sustainable human settlements, including the integration of WASH into national systems, like **Ethiopia**, **Kenya** and **Mauritania**.

In **Angola**, more than 38,000 urban refugees in Luanda already access and pay for national water services. In 2024, mapping of government water service providers associated with Dundo was initiated, a location where UNHCR provides WASH services to over 6,600 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo in the settlement and host community. Collaboration with UNICEF was strengthened to facilitate the inclusion of the refugees. In **Botswana**, refugees and asylum seekers at Dukwi Refugee Camp receive water through networks owned and operated by the Ministry of Justice. A planned water supply improvement project, Dukwi Water Reticulation Project, aims to enhance water quality and infrastructure for the adjacent Sowa Town. These efforts highlight the

government's commitment to improving water access for refugees. The Ministry of Justice, in collaborating with UNHCR and its implementing partner, is also responsible for family toilet construction and emptying, solid waste management, and hygiene promotion. In the **DRC**, UNHCR is working with the political-administrative authorities to include refugees in the national WASH system. A roadmap has been developed and an awareness field mission conducted in 2024 laying the groundwork toward handover of WASH facilities from UNHCR management to the one of local service providers. Refugee representation in water management committees and national structures like the Community Animation Cell was also strengthened. **Ethiopia** launched a pilot initiative for a Water Utility Management Model in Buramino Refugee Camp in 2024, to transition from a humanitarian approach to a development-oriented and utility-like model. This initiative aligns with Ethiopia's commitments at the [2023 Global Refugee Forum](#) and the [Melkadida Refugee Compact](#), focusing on inclusive local development and adaptation to extreme weather events. In **Ghana**, UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board have ensured the inclusion of refugee settlements in the western region into the national water system and are actively collaborating with key stakeholders to extend this inclusion to settlements in the Upper East and Upper West regions. UNHCR currently pays for services rendered in these locations, promoting sustainable water access for refugees. In **Malawi**, engagements with government ministries and the Central Region Water

Board aim to include Dzaleka Refugee Camp in area-wide bulk water development master plans, with positive outcomes already seen in the planned expansion of the water supply network. **Mozambique** continues to advocate for refugee access to WASH services to be integrated into the national system, although the local water supply network is yet to be extended to Maratane settlement. Currently, refugees and the surrounding community benefit from subsidized WASH services supported by UNHCR and operated by INAR, the Government office managing the settlement. **Niger** achieved significant progress, with 10 out of 14 settlements accessing WASH services through the national/local system. Following a capacity assessment, a workplan developed with national water and sanitation authorities aims to integrate the remaining four settlements into the national system by the end of 2028. In **Sudan**, UNHCR advocated for equal access to water and sanitation services

for refugees in urban and out-of-settlement areas and facilitated hosting communities to access the piped water supply from the refugee settlements. A roadmap for shared water resource management, including exploring utility management systems, was also developed in Kassala State, in collaboration with UNICEF. UNHCR continued to build the capacity of Refugee Led Organizations (RLOs) to conduct hygiene and sanitation activities, particularly during cholera outbreaks. The RLOs played a crucial role in mitigating health risks through a variety of IPC measures in Wad Sharifey Camp and Kilo 26, demonstrating the effectiveness of community-led initiatives in sustainable response. In **Uganda**, under the process to transition into national systems, a revised Memorandum of Understanding for the transition of three settlements remained under review, with inclusion of the Ministry of Water and Environment, as the utility regulator.



Refugee carrying a water container in Maban, South Sudan. ©UNHCR/Melany Markham

Collaboration and partnerships

Strategic partnerships and collaborations were instrumental in advancing WASH outcomes across UNHCR operations in 2024. Notably, the collaboration between [Geneva Technical Hub](#) (GTH, funded by [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#)) and [Eawag \(Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology\)](#) developed four technical guidelines addressing solid waste management, biogas utilization, soak-pit design, and lime treatment in emergency contexts. Furthermore, GTH extended expert technical support, encompassing both remote assistance and field-based missions to **Chad, DRC,**

Kenya, Malawi and Zimbabwe to enhance WASH service delivery in various refugee operations. This collaborative approach underscores UNHCR's commitment to leveraging diverse expertise and resources to improve the well-being of displaced populations, leveraging academic entities and experts that fill gaps in humanitarian knowledge and practice.

Collaboration with UNICEF was strengthened in several countries, including **Cameroon** where WASH service delivery in Minawao was improved through the collaboration. Joint efforts with Norwegian Refugee Council in **Djibouti** enhanced WASH access through well rehabilitation and upgrades. In **Malawi**, a Letter of Intent focused on joint advocacy and program implementation. UNHCR and UNICEF collaborated in the **ROC** for the installation of solar-powered boreholes in schools and health centers. In **Sudan**, a broader collaboration including UNICEF addressed critical water treatment and sanitation needs, through the construction of family latrines and the distribution of mobile water treatment facilities.

In **Indonesia**, UNHCR maintained strong collaborative efforts with IOM to ensure comprehensive WASH service delivery in the Rohingya refugee response. Broader collaborations with other actors such as WHO, ILO, and MSF were also vital, as seen in **Sudan** where these partners joined UNICEF and Danish Refugee Council to address critical water and sanitation needs.

Engagement with development actors yielded significant results, such as in

Ethiopia where a partnership with the World Bank-funded Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project led to the construction of two 50 m³ water storage tankers, substantially improving water supply in Bokolmayo and Buramino refugee camps. In **Rwanda**, efforts were made to engage development partners such as AfDB and JICA to advocate for the integration of WASH services in refugee settings for enhanced sustainability.

Collaboration with local ministries was key in several contexts. In **Cameroon**, strategic partnerships with municipalities and Ministry of Water Resources and Energy (Ministere de L'Eau et L'Energie, MINEE) aimed to improve service delivery and transition WASH responsibilities to national authorities. In **Sudan**, the Ministry of Health collaboration with UNHCR and other WASH partners with various water supply activities including construction and water treatment.

Collaboration with the private sector provided valuable expertise in **Chad**, from both BGC Engineering and Veolia Foundation. BGC undertook detailed groundwater assessments for the new settlements for refugees from Sudan, to identify safe water use rates. As a result, three high yielding boreholes were drilled in 2024 and an additional three sites were identified for drilling in 2025. [Veolia Foundation](#) also supported through two separate missions to ensure the best use of the water resource.

R-WASH

The Regional WASH Programme for Refugees, IDPs, and Host Communities in East Africa (R-WASH), is jointly implemented by UNHCR, UNICEF and government partners, and financed by the German Government and the private sector partner Xylem. It is a multi-year programme (2021 to 2027) supporting more than 660,000 people in Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia. Through increased and more reliable access to water services based on an integrated and sustainable utility-based supply model serving both forcibly displaced and their host communities, the programme aims to improve the well-being of the communities and ultimately contribute to social cohesion and peace in these communities.

R-WASH made significant progress in 2024 despite conflict and extreme weather events. Support to water utilities resulted in upgrading and rehabilitation of critical water infrastructure, capacity building activities and system strengthening. The development of transition road maps towards utility managed systems, including tariff setting and livelihoods support was initiated. A specific work package on climate resilient groundwater management, including managed aquifer recharge, was integrated into the programme. Complementing the long-term investments, UNHCR led work on short-term interventions in Sudan and Ethiopia, including rehabilitation of existing and installation of new water supply infrastructure, solarization of water systems, water quality testing and support to WASH committees and water systems users. The mid-term data collection for the impact evaluation, which will assess the programme's impact on social cohesion and peace between communities, will be conducted in early 2025.



WASH ANNUAL REPORT 2024

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