

# Annual Results Report

**2024**

**Iraq**

## Acknowledgements

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### **Note:**

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

By the end of 2024, Iraq hosted around 338,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, including 304,000 Syrians mostly of Kurdish ethnicity. Iraq also has over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), with 109,000 living in 21 IDP camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The fall of the Syrian Government in late 2024 marked a significant geopolitical shift, but Syrian refugees in Iraq remain cautious about returning. A UNHCR survey in January 2025 found that only 12 per cent of Syrian refugees in Iraq plan to return within the next year.

In late 2024, Iraq received Lebanese refugees due to regional hostilities. The Government led the response, with religious shrines in Karbala and Najaf providing shelter and assistance. By the end of 2024, most Lebanese refugees had returned following the implementation of a ceasefire agreement.

In January 2024, the Council of Ministers announced the closure of IDP camps by July 2024. Several measures accompanied this decision, including increasing the settlement grant for IDPs departing the camps. As the deadline passed, in August 2024, the Government established a new High Committee to develop a joint solution plan, and recommendations were presented to the Prime Minister. Three additional committees were then formed to address security, reconstruction, and judicial matters affecting IDPs.

Elections in the Kurdistan Region on 20 October 2024 were peaceful, but the formation of the new regional government was still ongoing by year's end. In November 2024, Iraq carried out its first population census in almost three decades, encompassing all regions of the country and including refugee and displaced populations. Preliminary results revealed a population of 46.1 million people.

Iraq worked towards commitments made at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, focusing on the inclusion of refugees in national systems. The UN Country Team developed the new UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2025-2029, which remained pending signature by year end. UNHCR's multi-year strategy 2025-2029 complements this wider framework and aligns with the broader transition in Iraq to development approaches.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By 2024, forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Iraq will be able to enjoy a safe protection environment (rights to asylum, documentation, and identity, and access to inclusive protection services)**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.08%	87.12%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	0.00%

UNHCR supported Iraqi authorities in strengthening their asylum policies and legal frameworks at both the federal level and within the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. UNHCR provided technical support to the Ministry of Interior's drafting committee on the fourth draft version of a new refugee law, aiming to set the foundation for establishing a quality asylum system.

Additionally, UNHCR offered technical assistance on the development of Administrative Instructions (AIs) to regulate the management of asylum affairs, which were adopted in July in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, and in December by the Federal Ministry of Interior. The AIs are landmark achievements towards establishing a legal and procedural framework to standardize asylum procedures, incorporating key principles such as non-refoulement and non-discriminatory access to asylum procedures.

UNHCR continued registering refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq, recording a total of 44,431 new asylum-seekers and issuing UNHCR certificates. Registration and documentation by UNHCR remained key tools to facilitate access to protection and essential public services in the country.

The UNHCR certificate enabled refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain or renew government-issued residency documents. With UNHCR's technical support, the Federal Ministry of Interior issued 5,041 PC-MOI cards, increasing Government-registered population to 34 per cent of UNHCR-registered refugees and asylum-seekers residing in Central, South, Kirkuk and Ninewa Governorates.

Furthermore, UNHCR advocacy contributed to lifting restrictions on access to registration and documentation for specific categories of asylum-seekers by the Permanent Committee on Asylum Affairs, in particular for asylum-seekers of Syrian nationality. In cases where refugees or asylum-seekers were arrested and detained due to residency law violations, UNHCR intervened to prevent deportation.

Finally, UNHCR provided protection services to vulnerable refugees, including children at risk and survivors of violence. At the same time, UNHCR focused on supporting refugee inclusion in public social services.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**By 2024, the people we serve are able to access quality services in Iraq that meet their basic needs and reduce their vulnerability.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.44%	69.44%
<b>2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

In 2024, UNHCR supported the management of nine refugee camps across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, housing approximately 27 per cent of the refugee population, through its partnership with the Ministry of Interior of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre.

In Dohuk Governorate, UNHCR worked closely with the Dutch Union of Municipalities (VNG International) on a Camp Transformation Initiative, supporting local authorities in taking over service provision in the refugee camps from the humanitarian community. Similar collaboration with local authorities in providing services in refugee camps also took place in Erbil and Sulaymaniyah Governorates. The economic inclusion of refugees remained a priority.

UNHCR supported the government to manage 23 IDP camps operational at the start of 2024, housing approximately 150,000 IDPs. By the end of 2024, two IDP camps in Sulaymaniyah were officially closed, reducing the IDP camp population to 109,000 people. UNHCR continued to advocate for dignified, durable solutions for all IDPs. Successful collaboration with WFP also resulted in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs undertaking an assessment across all IDP camps to determine eligibility for Iraq's social safety net with 9,000 IDPs successfully enrolled.

In healthcare, UNHCR constructed two primary healthcare centres near refugee camps and integrated the remaining camp-based centres into the public health system in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, ensuring 100 per cent refugee access to health services.

In 2024, some 56,000 socio-economically vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers received cash assistance from UNHCR, including single mothers, people with disabilities, and survivors of violence. This cash helped them pay for rent and food and address other basic needs.

At a Government level, analysis continued to establish a new poverty line for Iraq based on the 2024 Iraq Household and Socio-Economic Survey, coordinated with the World Bank. UNHCR agreed with the World Bank and Federal and Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office to conduct a standalone refugee household socio-economic assessment in 2025, which will support advocacy for refugee-inclusive policies and budgeting for sustainable services at a local level. The survey will produce comparable poverty data for refugees and nationals in Iraq.

Following commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum in 2023 and UNHCR's sustained advocacy, the Government of Iraq included refugees and stateless persons in the national population census undertaken in 2024. Based on the commitment of the UN Country Team to the UN Common Pledge, UNHCR successfully advocated for key refugee indicators within the upcoming UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2025-2029.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**By 2024, the people we serve are actively engaged in decision-making processes that affect and shape their lives.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	55.00%	83.10%
<b>3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.89%	84.63%
<b>3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31.14%	45.49%
<b>3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.33%	98.33%

In 2024, UNHCR worked to improve access to education and employment opportunities for refugees and asylum-seekers.

At the start of the 2024-2025 academic year, 85 per cent of Syrian refugee children were enrolled in primary schools (grades one to six), and 45 per cent were enrolled in secondary school, increasing refugee enrolment rates compared to 2023. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UNHCR supported the Ministry of Education in extending the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP), covering grades up to six and supporting 700 working refugee teachers within the national education system. Public schools welcoming refugee children grew from 1,500 in October 2023 to 2,000 in October 2024.

Refugees and asylum-seekers can access the labour market in Iraq, but unemployment among refugees remains very high. Most refugees are employed informally in the private sector, leaving them at risk of low wages, poor working conditions, and beyond the coverage of relevant social protection mechanisms, including social insurance. UNHCR continued to work with partners to support inclusive policy changes, promoting access to decent work, including engagement with GiZ and the Ministry of Labour and Social Services on the Inclusive Employment Platform and collaboration with ILO for inclusive social protection mechanisms and comprehensive financial inclusion, promoting greater socio-economic equity and building resilience. UNHCR and the International Trade Centre (ITC) worked to establish an aggregation hub in Dohuk, supporting refugee farmers with access to essential skills and connecting them to agricultural produce markets, promoting inclusive access to economic activities.

UNHCR also transitioned its community-based protection programme from delivering services only targeting refugees to a more holistic model linked to the wider host community. Furthermore, UNHCR consolidated refugee community committees to streamline support structures and enhance refugee self-reliance. Throughout the year, UNHCR and partners operated complaint and feedback mechanisms and enhanced two-way communications with refugee communities.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

**By 2024, forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to secure sustainable and adequate solutions that guarantee their rights and allow them to realize their potential.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,338	2,749
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,243	1,082
<b>4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	165	267

4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	17,673

In 2024, refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq continued to receive government-issued residency documents, namely the card issued by the Permanent Committee on Asylum Affairs (PC-MOI cards) and the Personal Identification Card issued in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. By the end of the year, most refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq were granted legal residency status through the issuance of the Personal Identification Card. In Central-South, Kirkuk and Ninewa governorates, some 5,041 asylum-seekers and refugees received PC-MOI cards, doubling the number of such documentation issued in 2023.

Through its advocacy, UNHCR addressed arrest and detention issues, securing the release of most asylum-seekers arrested for alleged violations of Iraq’s residency law. Policy changes, including removing limitations related to the mode of entry, nationalities, and dates of entry, have expanded eligibility for residency documents, allowing a greater number of refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain legal residency status.

In addition, during the year, 1,082 refugees departed Iraq on resettlement, and 267 individuals departed through complementary pathways, mainly family reunification.

Regarding returns, 2,749 Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR voluntarily returned home in 2024 through the Peshkhabour border crossing point. UNHCR continued to provide counselling on returns, mainly at the Derabon return centre in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

In 2024, regarding the statelessness portfolio in Iraq, UNHCR focused on providing legal assistance and advocating for access to core civil documents, particularly the National Unified ID.

### 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

While significant progress has been made in aligning asylum procedures in Iraq with international standards through the adoption of Administrative Instructions, some asylum-seekers have still been denied access to registration. The absence of a refugee law remained a challenge in ensuring protection in line with international standards.

Differences in approaches across Iraq complicated efforts to harmonize standards and procedures. Limited issuance of PC-MOI residency cards left many persons seeking protection without documentation, impeding their access to public services and putting them at risk of arrest, detention, and deportation. Even those with residency documents faced movement restrictions between the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and Center and South as well as Kirkuk and Ninewah Governorates. Refugees continued to work primarily in the informal sector facing job insecurity, low wages, and limited protection. Labour mobility within Iraq remained a challenge for refugees given the differences in residency rules between the regions that restrict access to employment opportunities. Additionally, complex registration requirements and restrictions continued to constitute challenges for refugees to open bank accounts and access credit. UNHCR focused on the inclusion of refugees in government services. Refugees can access many basic public services (including health care and education). However, their access to other social services remained more limited, given the limited availability and capacity of services in different locations, such as services for child protection, mental health, survivors of violence, and people with disabilities.

Progress in advancing durable solutions for IDPs in camps remained slower than anticipated during 2024



## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

During 2024, UNHCR invested in key strategic partnerships, including strong engagement in the development of the new UN Sustainable Cooperation Framework 2025-2029, which incorporates the inclusion of refugees in national systems and services as an important aspect of Iraq's long-term developmental plans. Supporting the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR strengthened collaboration across the UN in Iraq focusing on the UN Common Pledge 2.0 on Refugee Inclusion, UNHCR also increased its engagement with the Government of Iraq, specifically in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where the majority of refugees and asylum-seekers live. Collaboration with the Ministry of Planning, including the Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office, was strengthened to support evidence-based inclusive planning that will support sustainable access to services for refugees, alongside engaging with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs on access to employment and social protection coverage. In addition, in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, UNHCR continued coordinating with the Ministry of Education to support the inclusion of refugees in grades 1 to 6 of the public education system in line with the Refugee Education Integration Policy. In addition, UNHCR efforts to collaborate with the WB and both the Federal and Kurdistan national statistics offices in generating comparable poverty for refugees in Iraq with nationals takes an important step in fulfilling our commitment to sustainable responses and supporting the government of Iraq in fulfilling the UNCT Multi-stakeholder pledge on national statistics inclusion. Further, generating comparable poverty data is a critical component of the UNHCR Iraq strategy to support the Government of Iraq in including refugees into national systems as we will use the data to align UNHCR targeting of assistance to that of the Government of Iraq's largest social safety net program for Iraqi's- the SSN- and thus prepare for eventual inclusion.

UNHCR remained an active member of the Durable Solution Coordination Mechanism in Iraq, advocating for the specific needs of camp-based IDPs and supporting IDPs in identifying and implementing durable solutions that are best suited to their individual situation.

In 2024, UNHCR had 19 partnership agreements with six international and nine national NGOs, and four Government partners. Notably, 51 per cent of the overall partner budget was allocated to national actors. The number of partners in 2024 decreased compared to 2023 as UNHCR adjusted its programming in Iraq to focus on integrating refugees into public services. As part of its localization strategy, UNHCR has aimed to transition from international to national partners whenever possible. This shift is reflected in the reduction of international partners from 11 in 2022 to 6 in 2024.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoy non-discriminatory access to effective protection in Iraq, including through identification, quality registration, and timely issuance of documentation.**

##### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.82%	100.00%	96.34%
<b>1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	83.22%	90.00%	88.31%
<b>1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.73%	100.00%	88.60%

##### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44,431
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>	
IDPs	27,281

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR registered 44,431 individuals in Iraq, providing them with UNHCR certificates that facilitate identification and offer a level of protection against arbitrary arrest, detention, and refoulement. The majority, 87.28 per cent, were Syrians (38,778), followed by Afghans (1,398), Iranians (972), Palestinians (788), Turkish nationals (502), and a smaller number from other countries (1,993). UNHCR also renewed the registration for 174,788 individuals, verifying their data and issuing new certificates. Of the new UNHCR certificates issued, 71 per cent were valid for two years and 29 per cent for one year.

The UNHCR certificate provided through the registration process enabled refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain or renew government-issued residency documents, namely the card issued by the Permanent Committee on Asylum Affairs (PC-MOI Card) and the Personal Identification Card (PIC) issued in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.

UNHCR continued its partnership with the Ministry of Interior's Permanent Committee for Refugees (PC-

MOI) to issue this documentation. The issuance of new PC-MOI ID cards was carried out for refugees and asylum-seekers of all nationalities. UNHCR's technical support contributed to PC-MOI issuing ID documents for 5,041 refugees and asylum-seekers across Iraq.

UNHCR also worked with its legal partners to provide legal counselling and representation to refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq and facilitated legal awareness sessions on their rights and different legal procedures related to their status in Iraq. In 2024, over 16,500 asylum-seekers and refugees benefited from legal aid from UNHCR and its partners.

The trend of increased arrests of refugees and asylum-seekers by authorities, particularly in Center South, Ninewa and Kirkuk Governorates, on immigration-related charges (alleged violations of the Residency Law), continued throughout 2024. During the year, UNHCR and partners were made aware of the arrest and detention of 2,677 refugees and asylum-seekers on such charges, mostly Syrians. In response, UNHCR and partners provided targeted legal assistance and engaged with relevant authorities to advocate for their release and to prevent refoulement. As a result, 1,968 of detained refugees and asylum-seekers were released upon UNHCR and partners' interventions. Throughout 2024, UNHCR was made aware of 28 incidents of possible refoulement, affecting 289 individuals across Iraq. However, due to the advocacy and legal support provided by UNHCR and its legal partners, interventions in 1,835 cases in which there was a risk of refoulement were successful. In 2024, UNHCR designed and implemented protection monitoring for registered refugees and asylum-seekers across Iraq. Data collected during the exercise provided a critical evidence base for designing the operation's protection programming for 2025 and beyond.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Government is supported to promote and develop inclusive policies, legislation, and mechanisms that are in line with international standards, ensuring protection and social protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.**

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Not yet aligned	Broadly aligned	Not yet aligned
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Not yet aligned	Broadly aligned	Not yet aligned

#### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>03.1.1 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</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In July 2024, Administrative Instructions to regulate the management of asylum affairs were signed in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, entering into force on 24 September 2024. The Administrative Instructions for Federal Iraq were published and entered into force in the Official Gazette on 16 December.

The Administrative Instructions signed by federal authorities clarify roles and responsibilities of the Permanent Committee on Asylum Affairs of the Ministry of Interior and detail the procedures for asylum applications. The Administrative Instructions uphold the non-refoulement principle and expand the fundamental rights afforded to refugees.

The Administrative Instructions in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq serve as a model for harmonizing and standardizing asylum procedures across the region, regulating access to documentation and enhancing the protection and access of asylum-seekers to public services and livelihood opportunities. The Administrative Instructions are largely aligned with international law, as demonstrated in its explicit reference to the non-refoulement principle for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR supported the relevant authorities of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq with two workshops on the implementation of the Administrative Instructions in 2024 and discussed the development of operational guidelines with them to support implementation.

Following the third draft of the refugee law in 2023, UNHCR continued to provide technical assistance and to engage with the Drafting Committee on the fourth draft version of the law in 2024. This process was supported by a workshop in April 2024, and a study visit to Sweden for members of the Drafting Committee in October 2024.

To reduce instances of detention and refoulement of asylum-seekers and refugees, UNHCR organized a judicial engagement workshop in November 2024. This workshop aimed to raise awareness among judges and legal stakeholders on international principles and standards, including the non-penalization of irregular entry for asylum-seekers and the implementation of the non-refoulement principle in accordance with Iraq's international obligations.

As of the third quarter of 2024, the Permanent Committee on Asylum Affairs started registering Syrians in their database, irrespective of their arrival date, and issued them temporary three-month ID cards or a one-year Personal Identification Card. This expanded access to government registration for Syrian asylum-seekers is an important improvement in the protection space in Iraq.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Gender-sensitive and inclusive protection including gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response services, are progressively expanded and improved to address needs of the people we serve.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services</b>			
IDPs	63.50%	85.00%	63.50%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.66%	88.00%	70.66%
<b>4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women</b>			
IDPs	89.05%	85.00%	89.05%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	93.23%	92.00%	93.23%
<b>4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.21%	88.00%	98.97%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,294

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued work to prevent, mitigate the risk and respond to violence. In total, UNHCR and partners supported over 4,500 survivors (children, women and men) with specialized services, exceeding the set target. These services included counselling sessions, follow-up and safety plans tailored to the needs of individuals, and referrals to other services, including mental health and psychosocial support, legal assistance, and livelihood opportunities.

UNHCR also conducted a range of awareness-raising initiatives to mitigate the risk and prevent sexual violence within refugee and Iraqi communities. In total, 8,753 individuals were reached through outreach programmes, which significantly enhanced community knowledge about the impact of such violence and the availability of support services. Sessions included information on the women's legal rights and where survivors can go to get support.

Moreover, UNHCR and partners provided training on prevention, risk mitigation, and response to violence to over 500 government staff and service providers. This included training sessions conducted for community leaders (mukhtars) from across Iraq in recognition of their role as the first point of contact within local communities. These trainings enhanced their understanding of the different forms of violence and its impact on communities, as well as equipped them with skills to create an environment where survivors feel safe to disclose their experience and knowledge about where to refer those seeking help for further support. This initiative is part of UNHCR's broader efforts to empower local community members in identifying and addressing protection risks, effectively connecting those in need with existing protection service providers.

UNHCR also supported capacity development through partners in 2024. A total of 199 government staff (139 men and 60 women) were trained in identifying and responding to incidents of violence, guiding survivors through available support services, ensuring safe and confidential referrals, and providing appropriate follow-up. In close coordination with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and the Directorate of Combatting Violence against Women and Family (DCVAW), in 2024, UNHCR facilitated referrals of complex cases to government services, where all referrals were documented, capturing good practices, and gaps for improvement.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

**The children we serve are protected from violence, abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, have access to child-friendly procedures and services, and their social-emotional well-being is promoted.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.69%	65.00%	15.63%

5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.62%	30.00%	8.30%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.27%	65.00%	69.11%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14,117

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR and partners provided a range of child protection services to refugee children at risk. In total, UNHCR conducted Best Interest Procedures for 4,059 refugee children during the year. Additionally, 1,120 parents and caregivers attended sessions to help them create safe and nurturing environments for their children, underscoring their important role in child protection.

Furthermore, UNHCR trained 946 government staff, child protection actors and community members on child protection responses as part of UNHCR's broader effort to help strengthen the capacity of Iraq's public institutions and systems to deliver inclusive and quality protection-related services, including to refugees. As a result, it contributed to national service providers improving child protection services, enhanced referral pathways to support services for children, and established a sustainable foundation for government-led protection efforts.

Psychosocial support programmes provided vital assistance to refugee children and youth. Structured sessions promoted resilience and emotional well-being, while non-structured activities, offered through child-friendly spaces and community events, engaged thousands of children, providing safe outlets for expression and recovery. A total of 8,938 children participated in such programmes.

In addition, 4,965 individuals were reached through awareness-raising sessions on child protection, covering key topics identified by the community, such as child labour, child abuse, neglect, early marriage and the right to education.

Since June 2024, UNHCR also initiated strategic adjustments to create a more streamlined and sustainable child protection approach. Moving forward, UNHCR will integrate these themes into wider community awareness sessions instead of delivering standalone awareness campaigns on child protection. Similarly, recreational activities will be incorporated into broader community-based activities or discontinued where integration is not feasible.

Standalone child-friendly centres managed by UNHCR and partners in refugee camps or hosting locations have largely closed with services shifting to Community Support Centres. Although some child-friendly spaces remain operational, this transition process will continue in 2025. This shift aims to embed child protection within broader community-based mechanisms, making services more sustainable and accessible to both refugee and host community children while aligning with national protection structures. One example of this is the integration of community volunteers who were previously operating within humanitarian programmes into official national systems such as those led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. UNHCR has observed that it contributed to improved referral pathways for children at risk and increased government ownership of child protection services.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

**Community-based mechanisms promoting increased inclusive engagement and participation in leadership and decision-making are supported.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
<b>7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	95.00%	55.31%
<b>7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.75%	40.00%	46.08%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2024)
Population Type		
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		14,492
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services		
IDPs		27,281
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		299,605

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR further strengthened collaboration with diverse community-based outreach structures, including Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs), community representation, and refugee committees. There were 267 community outreach volunteers, including over 50 per cent women, who played an important role in fostering two-way communication, disseminating information on child protection, awareness on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, fraud, and peaceful coexistence initiatives. Collectively, they engaged with a total of 143,802 individuals, raising awareness on relevant topics.

UNHCR engaged with refugee communities to reflect the voices of refugees and asylum-seekers in planning and programming through over 200 series of community assessments and consultations targeting 6,255 women, men, girls and boys. UNHCR engaged with parents, teachers, and parent-teacher association in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq on different topics, including, for example, school transportation, which led to the establishment of a community-driven school transportation system.

UNHCR maintained a Feedback, Complaint and Response Mechanism whereby refugees, asylum-seekers and other displaced populations could provide feedback and complaints to UNHCR and receive a response. A total of 14,492 individuals used the mechanism – an increase of 12 per cent from 2023. Linked to this, UNHCR responded to 3,051 written feedback and complaints, and 9,903 in-person consultations also took place to address individuals' concerns. In addition, UNHCR's legal partners continued to run dedicated emergency hotlines providing means for refugees to contact services to help in emergencies, such as those related to detention cases. UNHCR expanded its use of the Refugee Assistant Information System which systematically traced 9,150 enquiries from refugees ensuring that they received feedback from UNHCR and



partners, which resulted in a 99 per cent closure of the feedback loop. Of the concerns raised through RAIS, 62 per cent were related to cash assistance and 11 per cent were requests for registration services. Notably, 40 incidents of misconduct were also reported and referred through Integrity reporting avenues, including the UNHCR Inspector General's Office.

UNHCR initiated the transformation of its community-based protection programme from being delivered by NGO partners to being owned by the refugee community - orienting it toward a more sustainable response. UNHCR supported 15 community support centres to advance community participation, respond to basic priority needs and offer protection services. UNHCR transformed 12 Community Service Centres into one-stop-centres benefiting displaced persons, asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR strengthened collaboration with host authorities by formally handing over the Zakho Community Support Centre to the Directorate of Labor and Social Affairs, expanding access by refugees to government services in a shared space.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**The people we serve, particularly the most vulnerable, have improved access to dignified, quality, integrated, shock-sensitive, and inclusive social protection systems and services meeting their basic needs.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54.78%	50.00%	46.91%
<b>8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.96%	100.00%	98.96%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75,020

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued providing multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to assist the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers in Iraq to meet their basic needs, such as paying rent, buying food, and meeting other essential household expenses. A total of 15,697 households (74,702 individuals) received MPCA per month, with amounts ranging from IQD 120,000 to 325,000 (approximately \$90-250) based on the family size. Around 26 per cent of the recipients were female-headed households. In addition to MPCA, some 174 families received emergency cash assistance – with ad hoc payment that enabled them to resolve emergency situations and mitigate risks of serious harm.

In the last quarter of 2024, UNHCR rolled out a new targeting approach for its cash assistance programme, which integrates socioeconomic vulnerability with specific protection needs (such as persons with disabilities, female-headed households, children at risk and survivors of or refugees at risk of gender-based violence). In addition, based on the new approach, the amount of cash assistance per household is determined based on family size and composition rather than the same amount for all families as per the



previous approach.

The new targeting approach and transfer value methodologies are aligned with the model used by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the Social Safety Net (SSN) programme and is expected to pave the way for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the SSN.

Following every distribution, UNHCR and its partner REACH, conducted a post-monitoring distribution (PDM) with a randomly selected sample of recipients to monitor performance and gauge the efficiency of cash delivery, impact of cash assistance on refugee families, and utilization of cash for basic needs and coping strategies. In the last PDM survey, about 13 per cent of respondents reported being able to meet all of their basic needs, while 72 per cent of surveyed households reported being able to meet half of their basic needs. The cash assistance helped reduce stress among refugee families (72 per cent) and improved their living conditions (79 per cent). Also, 100 per cent of recipients indicated being satisfied with the process of receiving cash assistance. Almost all of the households reported being able to find desirable quality items and/or services in the markets with the cash amount they receive. Some 22 per cent of the surveyed recipients reported being able to access livelihoods and productive assets due to the cash assistance. The top spending priorities continued to be rent, food, and healthcare, followed by utilities and debt repayment.

During 2024, UNHCR also provided core relief items (CRI) in a targeted manner to address the needs of refugee and IDP households in the camps, primarily in response to fire and flood incidents. A total of 66 households (57 IDP and 9 Refugee families) were provided with CRI kits, largely in response to fire incidents. UNHCR also maintained a contingency stock of CRI kits. In addition to CRI kits, UNHCR also conducted quarterly distribution of hygiene and sanitary materials for refugee women and girls. In 2024, 5,569 women and 1,202 girls received sanitary materials. Following advocacy from UNHCR, in collaboration with WFP, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs agreed to include IDPs living in camps in the federal Social Safety Nets programme (SSN). After its assessment of IDPs across the camps in the Kurdistan Region, some 9,000 eligible IDPs in the SSN have started to receive cash assistance to meet their basic needs.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**The people we serve in camps are supported in accessing safe, secure, and sustainable settlements with basic service provision.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing</b>			
IDPs	30.36%	40.00%	30.36%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.12%	90.00%	41.12%
<b>9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting</b>			
IDPs	98.64%	90.00%	98.64%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.76%	100.00%	96.76%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Kurdistan Regional Government, supported camp management for 23 IDP camps (reduced to 21 camps following the closing of IDP camps in Sulaymaniyah governorate), hosting about 109,000 IDPs (reduced from 150,000 at the start of 2024), and nine refugee camps, with 91,000 refugees. UNHCR continued its collaboration with the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre (JCCC) of

the Ministry of Interior, and local authorities to advance the integration of service delivery in refugee camps under public services for a more sustainable response.

In Dohuk governorate, UNHCR worked closely with the Dutch Union of Municipalities (VNG) on their camp transformation initiative, including supporting the development of technical assessments on solid waste management, water systems and wastewater management for the refugee camps in Dohuk. UNHCR also engaged in discussions with local authorities on identifying key gaps and recommendations for sustainable service delivery. In addition, UNHCR mapped nine refugee camps in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and identified those with the potential for accelerated efforts on camp transformation. A pilot initiative for 2025 is being discussed with the JCCC to further advance the camp to neighbourhood approach.

In parallel, UNHCR completed a total of 49 infrastructure projects. The overall objective of these projects was to continue to strengthen the capacity of the Government public services to support the inclusion of refugees in public services.

A total of eight projects under the Area-based Programming for Protection and Solutions approach were completed in 2024 near Domiz, Kawergosk and Qushtapa refugee camps as well as return areas for IDPs. The interventions included health clinics, communal infrastructure, solid waste management, and solar energy. They increased access to livelihoods, healthcare services, electricity, and improved solid waste management. Approximately 100,000 people, including from host communities, benefitted from these interventions.

In addition, UNHCR implemented 41 infrastructure projects to strengthen education, health, water supply and registration services, including 25 education-related construction projects to support the Kurdistan Regional Government in implementing the Refugee Education Integration Policy. Construction of two Primary Health Centres was completed in 2024. This accumulates to a total of 4 new PHCs constructed by UNHCR to support the inclusion of refugees into national health systems.

Moreover, additional water real time monitoring systems (RTM) were installed in all the refugee camps and surrounding host communities to further the efficient use of water in Arbat refugee camp and host communities in the surrounding areas. The handover of the RTM equipment to government is in process and expected to be completed by mid of 2025.

UNHCR and partner conducted a feasibility study on improving the sewage system of the Arbat refugee camp and the surrounding host communities. The findings of the study were presented to the Government authorities, and the final report will be handed over to the Government in early 2025.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**Public Health services, including Mental and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), at national and local levels, are supported to protect and promote psychosocial well-being, as well as, treat and prevent diseases/disorders, deliver accessible, equitable, and comprehensive universal health coverage to all, including the refugees and asylum seekers**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.07%	98.00%	99.35%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	125,239

**10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services**

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15,359
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## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, Syrian refugees and asylum-seekers continued enjoying free access to primary healthcare services through camp-based and public primary healthcare centres (PHCs) near refugee camps supported by UNHCR and other UN agencies. A total of 125,239 individual medical consultations were provided for refugees and asylum-seekers living in camps. The health service utilization rate, which measures the rate at which new visits are made to health facilities in a year, stood at 1.6, within the expected range of 1 to 4.

In line with joint plans with the Directorates of Health (DoHs) and UN agencies, in 2024, UNHCR completed the construction of two new public primary healthcare centres (PHCs) in Domiz and Qushtapa, each expected to provide health services to up to 20,000 refugees, IDPs and members of local communities in neighbouring areas. With this, UNHCR successfully phased out parallel healthcare services in refugee camps and completed the integration of the five remaining camp-based PHCs, namely Darashakran, Domiz 1, Domiz 2, Gawilan and Qushtapa, in the public health system in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Moving forward, refugees will receive healthcare services exclusively through public health facilities.

In addition, UNHCR delivered medicines and medical supplies to the public PHCs near refugee camps. This included installing over 23 intensive care unit equipment sets in public hospitals in Anbar, Diyala, Salah al-Din, and Ninewa governorates. Moreover, UNHCR, in collaboration with DoHs in Dohuk and Erbil, provided training for 516 staff working in public PHCs near refugee camps and hospitals to strengthen their capacity to manage common communicable diseases, respond to outbreaks, deliver first aid, and conduct emergency referrals.

Meanwhile, UNHCR partners provided 15,359 MHPSS consultations (7,561 women, 2,755 men, 2,823 girls, and 2,220 boys), including psychiatric care, individual counselling, and group support. Services were delivered in both camp and urban settings. Medication support was provided for refugees living in camps, and individuals requiring advanced psychiatric intervention were referred to psychiatric hospitals through an established mechanism.

Through various assessments, refugees showed significant improvements, including higher self-esteem, better coping, reduced distress, and trauma symptoms. In some cases, it prevented self-harm or suicide. These outcomes underscore the essential role of MHPSS in restoring hope, resilience, and the daily functioning of refugees in a protracted displacement context.

UNHCR and partners trained 240 MHPSS service providers, including 24 government staff (12 from Dohuk and 12 from Erbil) on scalable interventions, specifically the Problem Management Plus (PM+), and 15 others on the Mental Health Gap Action Programme for 5 PHC health staff in Duhok. UNHCR also contributed technical expertise to the nationwide multi-year MHPSS strategy, which is under development. MHPSS was embedded within other sectors, such as child protection and education, to help humanitarian and development actors mainstream MHPSS services. This expanded access to mental health support across sectors.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

**Refugees and asylum seekers have access to quality, integrated, and inclusive education services on a non-discriminatory basis at national and local levels.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.27%	2.00%	1.42%
<b>11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system</b>			

Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.78%	67.00%	69.62%
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## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58,131

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

With UNHCR's continued advocacy and support to the Kurdistan Regional Government Ministry of Education, the inclusion of refugees in the public education system under the Refugee Education Integration Programme (REIP) was extended to Grade 6, and some public schools started enrolling Syrian refugee children in Grades 7 and above. This extension resulted in an 11 per cent increase in the enrolment of Syrian refugee children in public schools from 49,000 in October 2023 to nearly 55,000 in October 2024. The number of public schools that accept refugee children increased from 1,500 in October 2023 to 2,000 in October 2024.

In another milestone under the REIP, the Ministry of Education recruited 307 additional Syrian refugees as lecturers in 2024, bringing the total number of refugee teachers under the Kurdistan Regional Government payroll to 700. This provides refugees with livelihood opportunities and further strengthens social cohesion.

UNHCR constructed eight new public schools, rehabilitated eight others (including WASH facilities) and built 37 additional new classrooms in existing schools in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. The projects enhance the capacity of the public education system to absorb over 6,800 children from refugee and host communities and improve the learning environment for all children. Some 2,155 teaching and non-teaching staff of the Directorates of Education were trained on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, mental health and psychosocial support, and child protection to create a safe learning environment for all children. UNHCR provided the Ministry of Education with 68,000 textbooks, 17,000 student desks, 200 whiteboards, 51 pieces of equipment (laptops, tablets, and printers), and 1,887 teaching materials to improve education outcomes.

UNHCR supported 6,442 refugees (287 teachers, 903 parents, 5,252 children) with Kurdish language courses. Some 130 Parent-Teacher Associations were trained to enhance community engagement and collaboration on protection of children at school and improvement of learning outcomes. Additionally, 5,770 refugee children (including 243 children with disabilities) accessed non-formal education (catch-up, remedial, numeracy and literacy classes), helping them remain on track in their studies. UNHCR and partners supported 656 refugee youths to participate in adolescent girls' and boys' clubs for youth-led extracurricular activities, promoting social cohesion and providing opportunities for skill development.

UNHCR supported 117 refugees across Iraq to access higher education through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship. The DAFI Club's initiatives were supported to organize activities on health, education, and climate change.

Following years of advocacy by UNHCR, the Federal Government Ministry of Education in Baghdad granted authorization for refugee children to temporarily enrol in public schools with their UNHCR asylum-seeker certificate until their legal status is determined and they are issued documentation by the PC-MOI. This decision significantly improves the access of refugee children to education services in central and southern governorates.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

The most vulnerable refugees with needs that cannot be addressed in all of Iraq are able to access durable solutions through resettlement or complementary pathways to third countries.

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,803	2,550	1,512

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
<b>15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR was allocated a quota of 1,375 individuals from resettlement countries: Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Following UNHCR's advocacy, the United Kingdom resumed its resettlement activities in Iraq in 2024. The allocated resettlement quota was much lower than the number of refugees estimated to be in need of resettlement in 2024, which stood at 39,420 individuals. Given the low resettlement quota, UNHCR had to adjust the identification process.

Nonetheless, UNHCR successfully met its objective and submitted 392 cases of 1,512 individuals for resettlement, exceeding the allocated quota for 2024. About 3 per cent of the cases submitted were on an emergency priority basis, out of which six cases (13 individuals) departed to the respective resettlement countries. Some 32 per cent of the cases were processed on an urgent basis, and the remaining 65 per cent were submitted on normal priority basis. Nearly 38 per cent of resettlement cases were submitted under the category of legal and physical protection needs, followed by 29 per cent submitted under the category of women and girls at risk.

Additionally, UNHCR successfully managed to prevent the refoulement of several asylum-seekers through the processing their cases for resettlement. UNHCR also observed an increase in the number of cases with certain profiles in need of resettlement, which is primarily attributed to changes in the protection environment in Iraq.

In 2024, a total of 802 individuals were assisted with counselling and information to access and pursue complementary pathway, namely family reunification (637); sponsorship (89); humanitarian visas (19); labour mobility (28), education (3), and other pathways (26).

UNHCR continued to collaborate with Duolingo to support candidates who had previously departed Iraq under the university admission pilot initiative.

Moreover, UNHCR honed its focus on revising training materials on different pathways and strengthening identification mechanisms. This led to the referral of seven cases in the third quarter of 2024 alone, compared to only three cases in 2023. In addition, updated material enabled a shift towards online training sessions which expand that target audiences and allow the complementary pathway trainings to be held more frequently.

A total of 267 individuals departed (142 verified, 125 unverified) in 2024 under different pathways, compared to 156 individuals in 2023 (148 verified, 8 unverified), representing a 71 per cent increase.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to benefit from a wide range of inclusive, rights-based local solutions.**

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.51%	36.00%	19.51%
<b>16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems</b>			
IDPs	19.00%	20.00%	6.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs	Partially
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Limited

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR continued to support IDPs, IDP returnees and certain vulnerable, non-displaced Iraqi population groups (including returnees from Al-Hol and other areas in North-East Syria), including some populations that may be at risk of statelessness, with access to civil documentation. Overall, 14,683 individuals attended legal awareness sessions on civil documentation and the application processes. UNHCR and partners provided legal counselling to 27,281 individuals to obtain civil documentation, including 5,640 individuals with 'complex cases', such as those with (perceived) affiliation to Da'esh. UNHCR legal partners also provided legal representation to 10,294 individuals to obtain civil documentation, including 3,401 persons with complex cases. Additionally, UNHCR supported the Ministry of Interior and courts through the coordination of 34 mobile civil documentation and court missions across Iraq.

As a result, 40,099 civil documents were secured in 2024, and a further 12,468 applications were processed, pending physical issuance. Meanwhile, UNHCR successfully completed its disengagement from civil documentation programming in all locations except Al-Amal Centre and the East Mosul Camps by the end of 2024. Cases which were not resolved by the end of the year were securely transferred to other trusted legal actors for continued assistance.

UNHCR continued to engage with the Ministry of Interior at local and national levels to facilitate administrative and legal procedures for civil documentation for Iraqis, particularly for individuals with complex profiles.

UNHCR and UNICEF held two workshops with civil society and government actors on addressing childhood statelessness in Iraq, the first with representatives from national NGOs and the second with representatives from Iraqi ministries, including the Ministry of Interior, together with members of the judiciary and civil society discussed the recommendations for addressing gaps in Iraq's nationality legislative framework and explored sustainable solutions for ending childhood statelessness in Iraq.

Considering the increased capacity of the Government of Iraq to prevent statelessness with the country-wide rollout of the Unified ID system, the progress made to date, and its commitment to regulate the status



of the 230 remaining known cases of statelessness (from Goyan and Omarian ethnic groups), UNHCR gradually phased out its programmatic support in this area by end 2024.

In 2024, UNHCR focused on completing existing projects under the Area-Based Programming for Protection and Solutions initiative, which promotes inclusive access to service in areas with a high density of forcibly displaced populations and that will support camp-to-neighbourhood transitions. These interventions strengthened UNHCR's engagement with local government alongside promoting social cohesion across communities that continue to support refugees and IDPs.

### Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
<b>06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16,508
<b>14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,749

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Advancing gender equality remained a priority for UNHCR in 2024. UNHCR supported women in refugee leadership and management structures (68 per cent in Erbil and 44 per cent in Dohuk) to further strengthen women's participation in decision-making processes in the community. In tandem, UNHCR supported women's associations, equal representation of girls in youth groups, and girls' participation in sports activities.

The 2024 countrywide protection monitoring allowed UNHCR to review the protection situation from an age and gender perspective. The heads of household survey included approximately 32 per cent female respondents and 20 per cent among key informant interviews. Additionally, a series of community assessments conducted by UNHCR partners in key thematic areas saw a 42 per cent participation of women, girls and boys.

In parallel, UNHCR child protection services supported 471 children with disabilities (204 girls and 267 boys). UNHCR advocacy led to the inclusion of refugees, including those with disabilities, in the national census. This is expected to pave the way for the evidence-based efforts to advance the inclusion of people with disability in national social protection schemes.

## Section 3: Resources

### 3.1 Financial Data

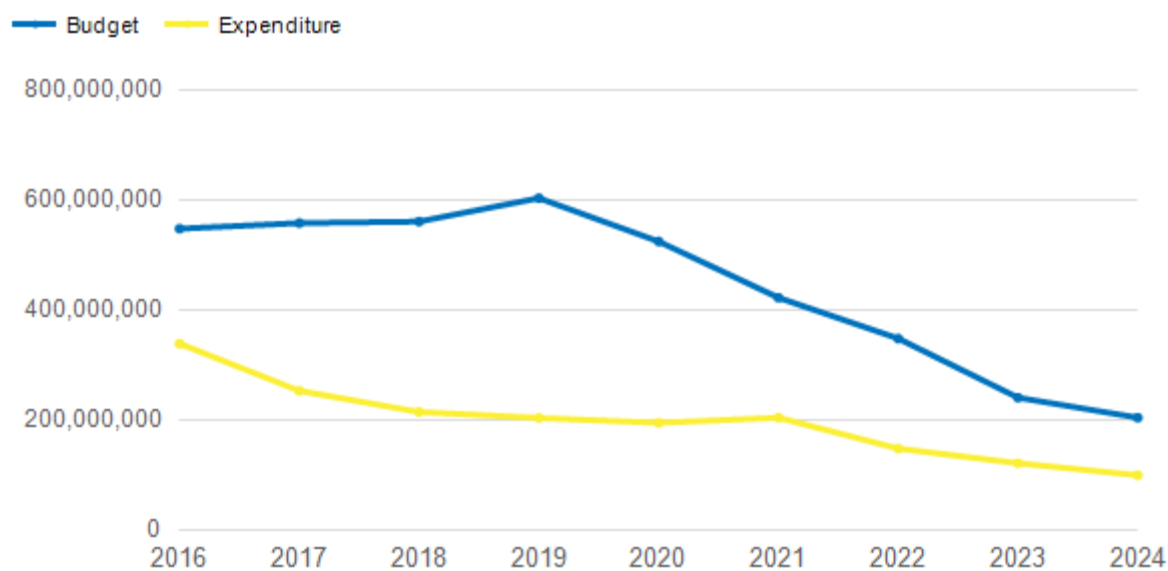
(Financial figures in USD)

Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	29,075,836	29,247,339	100.59%	29,194,505	99.82%
IA2: Assist	113,646,907	48,939,702	43.06%	48,939,702	100.00%
IA3: Empower	8,658,811	8,805,495	101.69%	8,805,495	100.00%
IA4: Solve	52,220,146	12,190,798	23.35%	12,165,098	99.79%
All Impact Areas		1,686,354			
<b>Total</b>	<b>203,601,699</b>	<b>100,869,687</b>	<b>49.54%</b>	<b>99,104,800</b>	<b>98.25%</b>

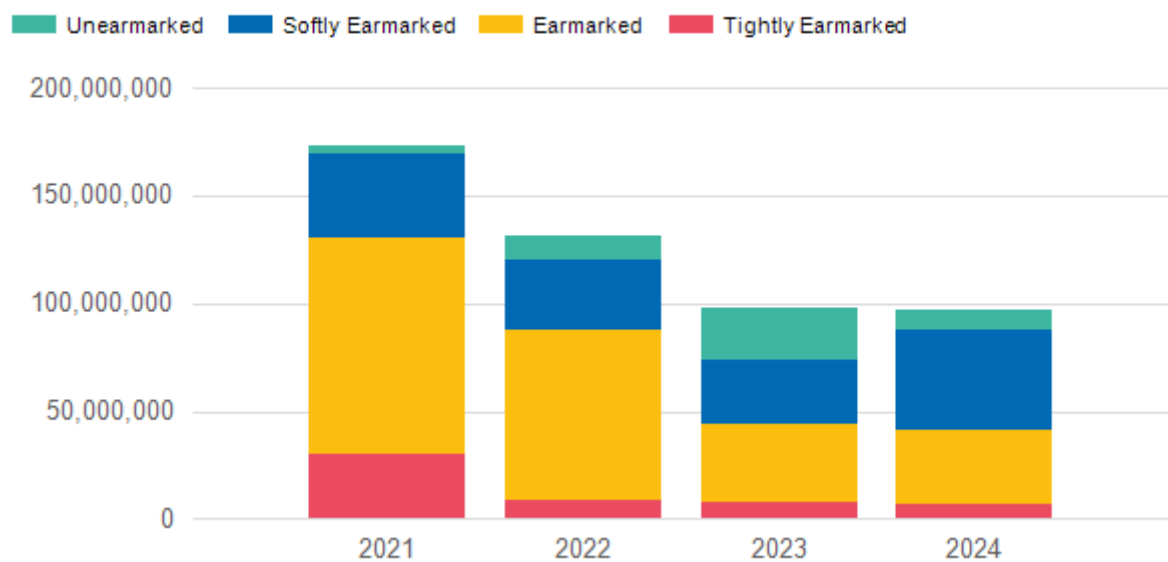
Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	17,014,550	14,999,498	88.16%	14,999,498	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	967,511	1,549,965	160.20%	1,497,132	96.59%
OA4: GBV	5,546,887	6,057,587	109.21%	6,057,587	100.00%
OA5: Children	5,546,887	6,640,288	119.71%	6,640,288	100.00%
OA7: Community	8,658,811	8,805,495	101.69%	8,805,495	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	77,555,093	26,605,122	34.30%	26,605,122	100.00%
OA9: Housing	14,435,815	5,831,797	40.40%	5,831,797	100.00%
OA10: Health	5,837,738	3,429,655	58.75%	3,429,655	100.00%
OA11: Education	15,818,260	13,073,128	82.65%	13,073,128	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	3,062,218	2,723,905	88.95%	2,723,905	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	49,157,928	9,466,893	19.26%	9,441,193	99.73%
All Outcome Areas		1,686,354			
<b>Total</b>	<b>203,601,699</b>	<b>100,869,687</b>	<b>49.54%</b>	<b>99,104,800</b>	<b>98.25%</b>



Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



### 3.2. Resources Overview

By the end of 2024, UNHCR in Iraq was 50% funded, receiving \$102 million of the \$203.6 million required. Humanitarian funding for Iraq continued to decline as donors shift towards development programmes, considering Iraq a middle-income country. This perception challenged UNHCR’s resource mobilization, as Iraq is seen as having the budgetary capacity to support its population, including IDPs and refugees.

In 2024, UNHCR relied heavily on government donors, including the USA, Italy, the Netherlands (via the PROSPECTS partnership), and EU humanitarian aid. Around 50% of funding was flexible, allowing UNHCR to allocate resources where needed most, such as cash assistance for vulnerable refugees. Education

programming also depended on flexible funds for school construction helping refugee children attend public schools.

While UNHCR did not receive direct private sector or development funding, it engaged development actors to support refugee inclusion in government and UN programmes. Key examples included the EU and World Bank on social protection, GIZ on employment, and KOICA on education. UN agencies like UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA incorporated refugees into their programmes in line with Global Refugee Forum commitments. UNHCR advocated highlighted refugee humanitarian needs through briefings, bilateral meetings, and field visits.

Following a mid-year review, UNHCR re-prioritised activities, optimising costs and phasing out services like civil documentation and camp management. These decisions were based on assessing refugee and IDP access to government services. In 2024, 36.7% of UNHCR's budget was spent through partners, half of which went to local NGOs and government entities.

To improve cost efficiency, UNHCR implemented ridesharing across six offices, reducing over 2.75 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and cutting costs. The Smart Fleet Ridesharing pilot in the Kurdistan Region gained recognition in the annual Greening the Blue report. Additionally, UNHCR auctioned 32 vehicles.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

As 2024 marked the conclusion of the 2022-2024 strategy, UNHCR incorporated strategic adjustments and recent developments into the multi-year 2025-2029 strategic plan. The current multi-year strategy 2025-2029 already benefited from critical review and analysis in 2024 and overall places emphasis on strengthening the capacity of public institutions across Iraq to fully assume the delivery of public protection-related and other social services, such as education and health, to refugees and asylum-seekers while gradually shifting away from parallel structures run or financed by humanitarian actors. This strategy aligns with the broader UN-wide transition in Iraq from a largely humanitarian response to development approaches anchored in sustainable responses. It has the sound foundation through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and Government of Iraq commitment to implement the five pledges that were announced during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). These pledges emphasize the importance of including refugees in statistical data collection for representation and inclusion, as well as supporting access to public services.

The 2023 GRF pledges supported the foundation of the 2025-2029 multi-year strategy while highlighting further the fundamental need for statistical data to advance the inclusion of refugees. In 2024, there were two key breakthroughs. Following UNHCR's advocacy, refugees were, for the first time, included in the national census and the Iraqi household socioeconomic survey (IHSES 3), which will enable the Government of Iraq to set new poverty lines and targets. Advancing the inclusion of refugees in statistical and data collection efforts is considered a key priority going forward. A more robust evidence base on refugees will also promote an inclusive UNSDCF programming for refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons in Iraq. To advance this, UNHCR will undertake a refugee annex to the IHSES 3, engaging with the World Bank and the Kurdistan Regional Statistical Office to provide an updated and comprehensive refugee data set



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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