



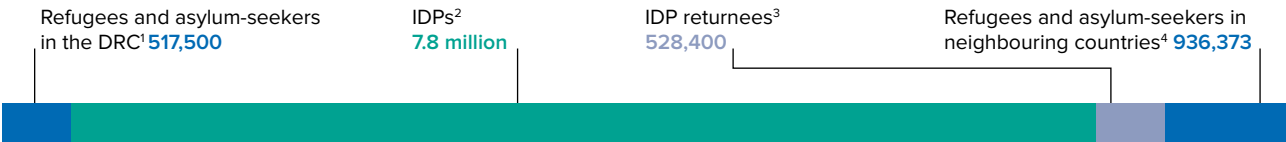
Global Report 2024 - Situation overview

Mwamini Sebuho and her five children fled from their home in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and walked more than 90 km to reach the Bushagara site for internally displaced people near Goma in North Kivu province. "I feel safe here, but I'm tired and I can't find enough food for me and the children," she says. UNHCR is providing temporary shelter, survival kits and legal assistance to displaced people. © UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo situation

UNHCR country operations: Angola, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Congo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia.

2024 year-end population figures



¹ By country of origin: Central African Republic: 206,254; Rwanda: 204,359; South Sudan: 55,559; Burundi: 50,878; Republic of the Congo: 428.

² Total IDPs: 7.8 million - conflict-induced IDPs: 6.9 million; disaster-induced IDPs: 869,900. New IDPs in 2024: 1.3 million.

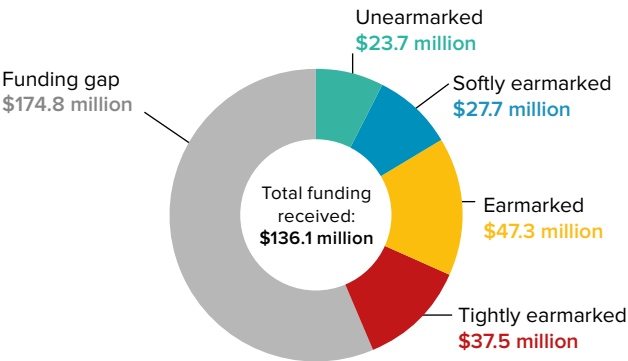
³ Total IDP returnees (including 528,400 returned in 2024): 2.4 million.

⁴ Total refugees and asylum-seekers new arrivals in 2024: 52,900.

2024 financial overview

Funding received (USD)

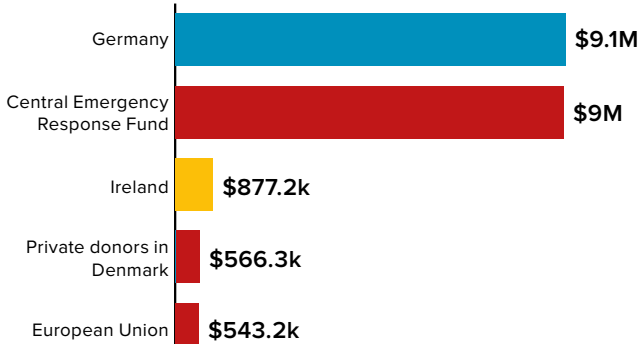
In 2024, UNHCR required a total of **\$310.9 million** to address the emergency situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and received only **44%** of the needed amount.



The percentage funded (44%) and total funding amount (\$136,125,605) are indicative. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$174,816,293 representing 56% of the financial requirements.

Top 5 Contributions (USD)

Unearmarked Softly earmarked Earmarked Tightly earmarked



The scale and severity of the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remained immense in 2024. For decades, Congolese citizens have fled from armed conflict and widespread human rights violations, and forced displacement continued in 2024, amid frequent flooding, acute food insecurity and high-impact epidemics.

In February 2024, [UNHCR decried](#) the escalating use of heavy artillery and reports of bombs falling on civilian locations. In April, the Principals of the [Inter-Agency Standing Committee \(IASC\)](#) warned that the conflict in eastern DRC was already driving record levels of sexual violence. [UNHCR cited alarming data](#) showing a significant rise in reports of rape, as well as women and girls being forced to sell sex to survive. By the end of the year, UNHCR was hearing countless [stories of families who had fled](#) from the violence, ending up in crowded sites where they faced persistent security threats, with limited aid and soaring food prices.

The number of internally displaced Congolese broke through the 7 million mark for the first time in UNHCR's records, having risen past 6 million for the first time a year before. This increase, from 6.2 million at the end of 2023 to 7.8 million at the end of 2024, followed a significant escalation of hostilities in eastern DRC, with the vast majority of new displacement recorded in the three eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri. The lack of a proper civil registration system put many at risk of statelessness.

A total of 52,673 people fleeing out of the country sought refuge in Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Zambia and the United Republic of Tanzania. By the end of 2024 these five countries were hosting a combined 883,0231 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC.

During 2024, UNHCR played a pivotal role in scaling up the delivery of assistance and basic services to save lives, alleviate suffering, protect civilians, improve self-reliance and ultimately advance progress towards solutions.

Inside the DRC, under the framework of the DRC Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), UNHCR continued to lead the [Protection, Camp Coordination and Camp Management \(CCCM\)](#) and [Shelter](#) Clusters.

As part of a coordinated response under the HRP that prioritizes assistance to IDPs, UNHCR reached 43,200 IDPs with [cash support](#), an increase to the 13,600 IDPs assisted in 2023. In addition, 53,700 IDPs received non-food items (NFIs) and 107,800 received shelter and housing assistance. In addition, with support from UNHCR, over 400,000 IDPs were successfully registered in 2024, enabling them to obtain valid identity documents to access services, legal protection as well as social and economic opportunities. UNHCR also prioritized the provision of specialized programmes for survivors of sexual violence with 69,600 IDPs benefiting from services including psychosocial support and cash assistance to enable them to access health care.

Displaced populations faced a growing threat from an [mpox epidemic](#) centred on the DRC. UNHCR teams reinforced handwashing points in refugee camps and transit centres, enhanced soap distribution and access to diagnostic testing, strengthened disease surveillance, screening and reporting mechanisms. Training of community health workers and communication with communities were reinforced to ensure accurate and accessible information is available to combat misinformation and reduce stigma associated with the disease.

The response for refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC hosted in surrounding countries continued to be principally implemented under the [2024-2025 DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan \(RRP\)](#), which supports host governments in responding to the needs of refugees and host communities in Angola, Burundi, the Republic of Congo (RoC), Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Coordinated by UNHCR, the two-year RRP saves lives and provides a protective environment for the most vulnerable people.

It targets life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance for those in crisis situations but also aims for sustainable responses that promote inclusion in national systems, contribute to self-reliance and, ultimately, advance progress towards durable solutions.

During 2024, UNHCR and partners across these seven host countries assisted hundreds of thousands of refugees and host communities, with responses spanning the RRP's four strategic pillars. In Zambia multi-purpose cash assistance provided a lifeline to 1,689 drought-affected refugee households with specific needs (over 8,000 individuals), aiding their recovery, supporting them in overcoming barriers to access services and covering immediate needs. Likewise, in Burundi, UNHCR reached over 89,000 of the most vulnerable refugees with multi-purpose cash assistance in 2024.

Complementary to in-kind and cash-based distributions, UNHCR has also adopted sustainable responses that contribute to refugees' self-reliance and, over time, reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance. In Angola, for instance, [an agricultural initiative](#) in the Lovua settlement which hosts over 6,000 refugees from the DRC provided refugees with a regular income while producing over 100 tons of rice as well as vegetables, grains, cassava and fruits. Similarly, working in close collaboration with the Government of Uganda, UNHCR and RRP partners were able to assist some 39% of DRC refugee households (over 200,000 refugees) to access land, providing them with a crucial resource to improve their food security and generate income, an increase to the 32% of households assisted in 2023. Although conditions have not always been conducive to durable solutions, UNHCR supported 699 refugees to voluntarily return to DRC in 2024, while a further 22,615 refugees from the DRC were resettled in 2024 – the majority to the United States – primarily from countries of asylum in East Africa and the Great Lakes region, as well as Southern Africa.

Despite the progress made, underfunding of both the RRP and HRP left UNHCR and partners unable to fully deliver on their plans for 2024, leading some interventions to be scaled back and resulting in the further prioritization of which people, among the millions of those in need, receive assistance. Only 32% of the \$665 million requested under the RRP and 51% of the \$2.58 billion requested under the HRP was received for 2024.

In the DRC, underfunding of shelter interventions was combined with a drastic increase in shelter needs, leading to a further prioritization of support. Shelter and housing assistance to returnee households was particularly affected, and only 10% of returnees targeted were actually reached over the course of 2024.

In refugee-hosting countries, funding shortfalls impacted access to basic services. In Rwanda, referral services that provided refugees with access to secondary and tertiary health care were scaled back to emergency cases only. In Uganda, a 15% funding reduction contributed to a shortfall of 735 healthcare workers in public facilities supporting refugees. Similarly, funding gaps contributed to limited health care coverage in Tanzania's refugee camps, where there was only one doctor for every 10,000 refugees, 10 times higher than the WHO-recommended doctor-to-patient ratio.

Underfunding also impeded the protective environment for refugees. In Angola and the Republic of the Congo, underinvestment disrupted basic registration and documentation services which are crucial for refugees' access to services and employment opportunities. Meanwhile, over 1,000 refugees in Lovua settlement in Angola were unregistered, as well as some 3,000 refugees in the Republic of the Congo, leaving them at risk.