



OUTCOME AREA 1

Syrian refugees apply for or renew their UNHCR certificates at Baherka Registration Centre in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, a key step in obtaining official documentation and accessing essential services. © UNHCR/Rasheed Hussein Rasheed

Access to territory, registration and documentation



Access to territory, registration and issuance of documentation are fundamental to protection and access to rights and services. Registration and documentation are also critical in ensuring inclusion of refugees in national systems, facilitating self-reliance and solutions.

In 2025, UNHCR focused on cooperating with national authorities, strengthening protection-sensitive border and entry systems that safeguard the right to seek asylum and prevent refoulement, supporting registration in new emergencies, enhancing integrity of data systems and advancing transitions to government-led registration and civil documentation systems.

Core output indicators

- UNHCR supported the individual registration of **1.9 million** refugees and asylum-seekers in 88 countries, down from 2.7 million in 2024.
- UNHCR supported over **3 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people and people at risk of statelessness to obtain civil status, identity or legal documentation in 89 countries, down from 4.6 million in 2024.

Key results

- UNHCR in collaboration and coordination with host governments strengthened registration and documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Sudan and elsewhere by conducting individual (often biometric) registration of refugees and asylum-seekers using systems such as PRIMES and issued UNHCR or government documentation establishing identity and legal status.
- In Chad, 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers were individually registered by the end of the year, despite the significant influx of new arrivals.

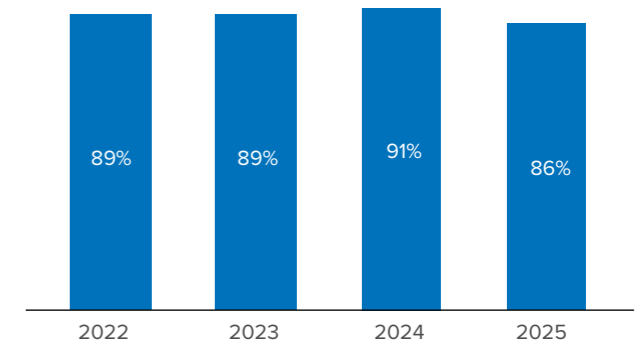
- UNHCR enhanced protection-sensitive border management and access to territory, including early identification, screening and referral of people in need of international protection to prevent refoulement, including in Chad and Niger.
- In Lebanon, UNHCR and partners provided legal aid to more than 67,000 refugees, helping them obtain civil documentation, legal residency and protection from refoulement.
- UNHCR supported national ownership and system strengthening of registration, civil documentation and legal identity frameworks, including in Chad and Ethiopia.
- UNHCR advanced birth registration as a core protection measure, reducing risks of statelessness and long-term exclusion. In Kenya, UNHCR supported civil registrars through birth registration missions in camps, complemented by training, technical guidance and operational support.
- UNHCR prevented and reduced statelessness through legal aid, outreach and policy engagement, including in Lebanon and Niger.
- UNHCR strengthened protection monitoring and access to civil documentation for IDPs and returnees, in coordination with national institutions, including in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Challenges

Funding shortfalls reduced registration capacity by almost half at a time of continued large-scale arrivals in major host countries. Verification capacity also substantially declined, reducing UNHCR's ability to confirm that refugee data was accurate and up to date. Insecurity, access restrictions and pressure on national systems further limited the reach and continuity of registration and documentation services in several high-need contexts, particularly where large-scale arrivals outpaced available capacity and financial resources. These constraints – together with restrictive policies, digital and administrative bottlenecks, and weak civil registration systems – limited timely access to legal identity and asylum procedures, increasing the risk of protection gaps for refugees and other displaced populations.

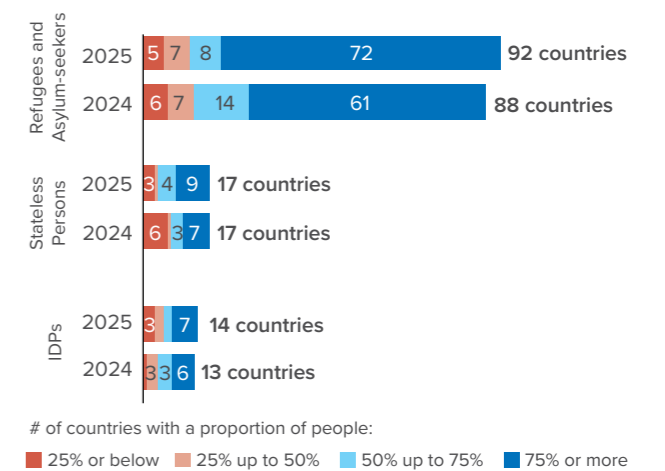
Core outcome indicators

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on an individual basis



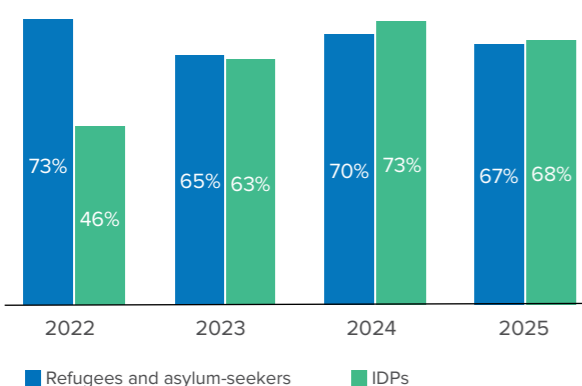
National authorities and UNHCR registered 86% of refugees and asylum-seekers on an individual basis across 105 countries, a slight decrease from 2024. Although 82 countries reported high registration coverage, the decrease reflected capacity constraints caused by funding reductions, large-scale new arrivals and access challenges.

Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials



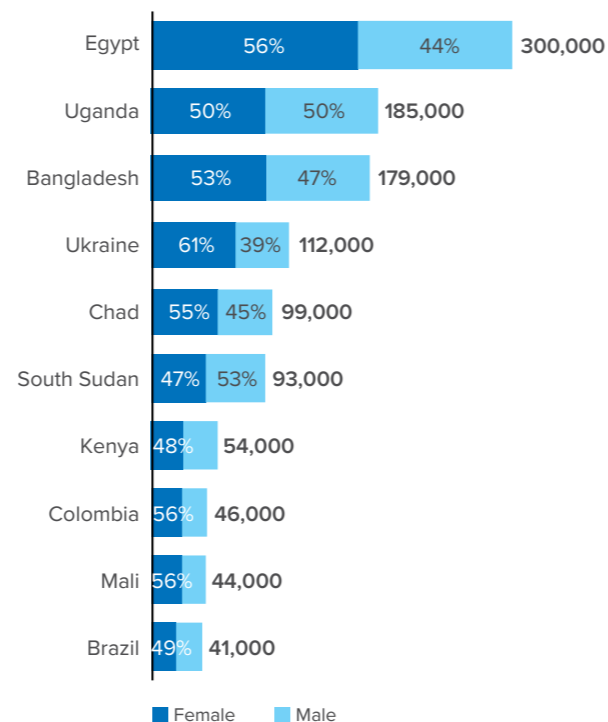
In 2025, 72 of 92 reporting countries (78%) indicated that more than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers held legally recognized identity documents, up from 61 of 88 countries (69%) in 2024. The rate also rose for stateless persons, from 7 of 17 reporting countries in 2024 to 9 countries in 2025, while remaining broadly stable for IDPs, at 7 of 14 countries, compared with 6 of 13 countries in 2024.

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



Birth registration coverage among refugee children under five remained largely stable in 2025, with 67% registered across 78 reporting countries, compared to 70% in 2024. For IDPs, this rate declined from 73% in 2024 to 68% in 2025 across 11 reporting countries.

Top 10 countries for new individual registrations in proGres, by gender | 2025



In 2025, UNHCR supported the individual registration of 1.9 million persons in proGres, of which 52% were women.

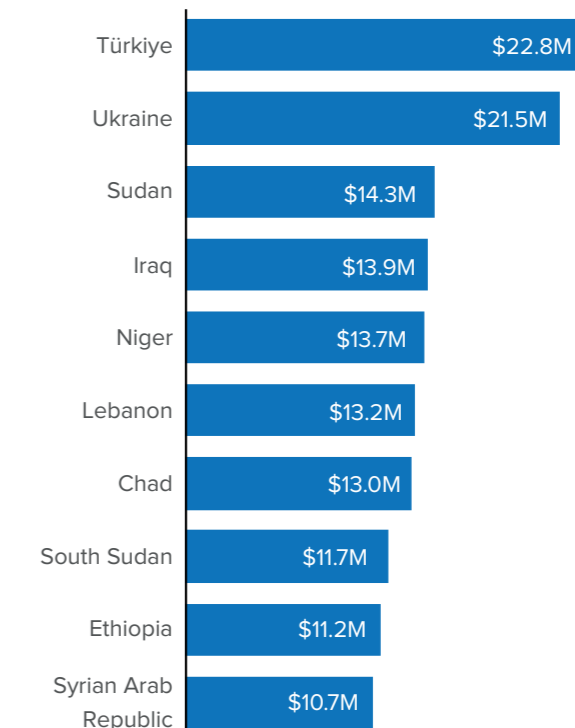
Financial overview

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

- With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$337 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$746 million**.
- **25%** decrease in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$408 million** of unmet needs or **55%** of the budget.
- **35%** of total expenditure under this outcome area, or **\$117 million**, was funded by flexible funding, including **\$76 million** of unearmarked funding.

Access to territory, registration and documentation: largest operations by expenditure

These operations accounted for **\$146 million** or **43%** of global expenditure for this area in 2025



Bloomberg Philanthropies support refugee registration to expand access to services and inform policy



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Bloomberg Philanthropies' partnership with the USA for UNHCR strengthened registration systems in Bangladesh, Indonesia and India, achieving 80,000 new refugee registrations.

The initiative expanded access to birth and death registrations, data that is fundamental in informing health policy. In Indonesia, registration ensured that newborns received access to essential services such as vaccinations, healthcare and school enrollment. In India, registration of deaths means critical mortality data is preserved.

This partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies ensures that health policy is inclusive and that refugees have dignified access to the vital health systems and medical care they deserve.