



OUTCOME AREA 11

Central African refugee children attend a public primary school in Gado Badzéré, Cameroon, where inclusive education policies allow refugee and host community children to learn together in local schools. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

Education



Fewer than half of the world's 15 million refugee children and adolescents are enrolled in school, with access dropping sharply at secondary level. Education is a fundamental right and a critical pathway to self-reliance, offering protection from risks such as exploitation, early marriage and forced recruitment. In 2025, expenditure under this outcome area fell by 28%. UNHCR therefore prioritized access to formal education, inclusion in national systems, support to learning environments and targeted pathways for adolescents and youth, working closely with governments and partners. Progress remained limited at secondary level and among newly displaced populations.

Core output indicator

2 million people benefited from UNHCR and partners' education programming in 68 countries, a 3% decrease from 2024. Refugees and asylum-seekers accounted for 96% of those supported.

Key results

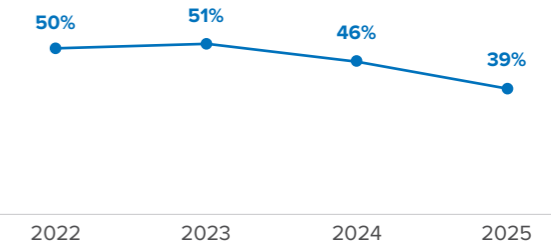
- In Uganda, UNHCR supported refugee children's access to primary and secondary education by promoting long term integration into national systems, under government leadership and promoting enrolment in public schools despite an overall decline in the number of children accessing education support due to funding cuts.
- In Kenya, UNHCR supported inclusive education for more than 167,000 refugee learners in national schools and settlement-based institutions, strengthening enrolment, examination access and learning continuity.
- In Pakistan, UNHCR supported access to education for refugee children through assistance to refugee village schools and facilitation of enrolment in public schools, while adapting education services following disruptions linked to the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan.
- In Bangladesh, UNHCR provided learning opportunities across early childhood, primary and secondary education in camps, while expanding structured learning, higher-education preparation pathways for adolescents and youth, and tertiary education opportunities.

- In Chad, UNHCR improved learning environments through classroom construction and rehabilitation, teacher training and the establishment of digital learning centres, sustaining education delivery amid large-scale refugee inflows.
- In South Sudan, UNHCR rehabilitated classrooms, constructed gender-segregated latrines and strengthened teacher capacity, sustaining access to education for displaced children and youth despite a sharp decline in overall enrolment.
- In Ethiopia, UNHCR supported 2,720 refugee youth to access universities and technical and vocational training institutions through national systems, with continued support from [DAFI scholarships](#) and development partners.
- In Türkiye, UNHCR supported refugee youth access to higher education through sustained inclusion in national universities, scholarships and higher-education cash grants, while coordinating sector-level policy and data engagement.

learning materials and post-primary pathways. In refugee-hosting areas, already stretched education systems faced teacher shortages, overcrowded classrooms and weak infrastructure, limiting both access to education and its quality. Poverty, school-related costs, child labour and early marriage pushed learners out of school, especially adolescents. In fragile and conflict-affected settings, insecurity, displacement and restrictive policies further disrupted learning and reduced retention.

Core outcome indicator

Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system



In 2025, 39% of refugee and asylum seeker children and youth were enrolled in national education systems, continuing a decline since 2023. Notable improvements were observed in several countries, including Burundi, the Central African Republic, Jordan, Lebanon and Mali.

Challenges

Progress was constrained by overlapping financial, system and contextual pressures. Funding shortfalls reduced coverage and limited support for teachers,



ANTA supports refugee children through primary education and sports



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UNHCR's Moving for Change partnership with [ANTA Group](#) helped displaced children and youth access education and sport in Burundi, Ethiopia and Kenya. Since 2023, ANTA has contributed \$1.5 million and donated 1.2 million items of sports apparel and equipment. This support has reached more than 300,000 refugee children, including children with disabilities. It has helped keep classrooms open, fund teachers, provide learning materials so children can return to school, participate in sports and continue learning. At the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review 2025, ANTA Group pledged to renew the partnership, bringing hope to children living through displacement.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Education

- With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$141 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$455 million**.
- **28% decrease** in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$314 million** of unmet needs or **69%** of the budget.
- **31%** of total expenditure under this outcome area, or **\$43 million**, was funded by flexible funding, including **\$23 million** of unearmarked funding.

Education: largest operations by expenditure

These operations accounted for **\$79 million** or **56%** of global expenditure for this area in 2025

