



OUTCOME AREA 4

Fabiola Romero, a Venezuelan psychologist and women's rights advocate in Peru, stands before a mural in Lima honouring a woman killed by her former partner. Through APPV, a UNHCR partner led by Venezuelan women, Fabiola helps refugee women rebuild confidence, understand their rights and access support as survivors of gender-based violence. © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Gender-based violence



Conflict, displacement and insecurity dramatically increase the risk of violence against women and girls.

Forcibly displaced women and girls are among the most at risk – yet they can be powerful agents of change when given the right support. Addressing gender-based violence (GBV) is therefore a core protection priority for UNHCR and central to ensuring safety, dignity and recovery in humanitarian settings.

Core output indicator

1.6 million people benefitted from UNHCR and partners' specialized GBV programmes in 77 countries, a 7% decrease from 2024. Among them 64% were refugees and asylum-seekers, 26% IDPs, 8% returnees and 2% others.

Key results

- UNHCR enhanced its partnerships with women-led organizations, including refugee women led organizations, to strengthen their core structures and deliver GBV prevention and response services in countries like Chile, Malaysia, Niger, Peru, South Sudan and Uganda.
- Over 200 Women and Girls' Safe Spaces offered psychosocial support, case management, legal aid, empowerment activities, emergency cash assistance and referrals – contributing to improved well-being and reduced risk of further harm. In South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic, thanks to investments in capacity strengthening, survivors' satisfaction with GBV case management services reached 100%. UNHCR also supported safe shelters, helping to prevent 98 femicides in Colombia alone.

- 11 GBV specialist deployments strengthened GBV response from the onset of crises, improving access to lifesaving services for more than 10,000 people, including in Burundi, Chad, Ethiopia, Uganda and Ukraine.
- In Sudan, training for protection and health responders increased participant knowledge from 16% to 73%, significantly strengthening survivor-centred service delivery.
- Integrated livelihoods and GBV programming reached nearly 20,700 women and older adolescent girls at risk, including in Bangladesh and Sudan, increasing income and autonomy to decrease exposure to violence.
- Global advocacy and awareness – including the 16 Days of Activism – reached more than 860,000 women, girls, men and boys, strengthening knowledge of GBV risks and services.
- Prevention programmes reached 481,000 forcibly displaced people, promoting positive social norms and strengthening protective factors against violence, including more than 58,000 community members and local leaders in Afghanistan.
- Programmes engaging men in Chad increased rejection of attitudes that justify violence against refugee women by 78%.
- In Bangladesh, 1,745 refugee adolescent girls completed a tailored empowerment curriculum, with 98% reporting stronger social support networks, a key factor to enhance well-being and prevent violence.

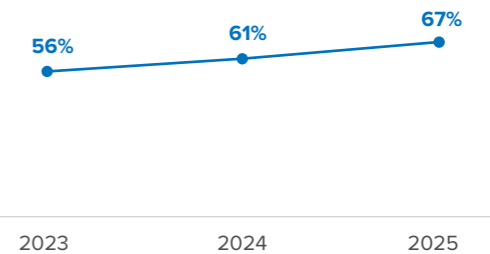
Challenges

Funding cuts meant that refugee survivors of GBV, including conflict-related sexual violence, from Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine saw access to lifesaving GBV services dramatically reduced, with only 18% of funding requirements met under the six Regional Refugee Response Plans.

At least 171 Women and Girls' Safe Spaces and over 20 emergency shelters, including in DRC, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen were closed throughout the year. Funding shortages also forced the suspension of low-cost, high-impact prevention programmes led by refugee women and the closure of 53 women-led and refugee women-led organizations.

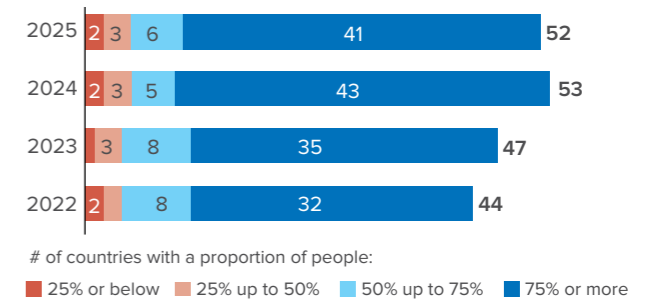
Core outcome indicators

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers who know where to access available GBV services



67% of refugees and asylum-seekers know where to access GBV services, showing steady improvements since 2023. Awareness increased in Burkina Faso, DRC, Jordan, Niger, Pakistan and Sudan through intensified awareness interventions led by forcibly displaced persons, primarily refugee women themselves.

Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services



In 2025, 41 of 52 reporting countries indicated that at least 75% of refugee and asylum-seeker GBV survivors were satisfied with the GBV case management services they received, similar to 43 of 53 countries in 2024. Several of the largest refugee and asylum-seeker hosting countries reported improvements, including Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Gender-based violence

- With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$95 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$324 million**.
- **31% decrease** in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$229 million** of unmet needs or **71%** of the budget.
- **41%** of total expenditure under this outcome area, or **\$39 million**, was funded by flexible funding, including **\$23 million** of unearmarked funding.

Gender-based violence: largest operations by expenditure

These operations accounted for **\$37 million** or **39%** of global expenditure for this area in 2025

