



OUTCOME AREA 16

A Venezuelan child forced to flee receives a residency card in Lima, Peru, with UNHCR support, enabling access to essential public services such as health care, education and social protection as part of long-term local integration efforts. © UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Local integration and other local solutions

Many refugees remain displaced for years, sometimes decades, making local integration a critical pathway to durable solutions and to rebuilding their lives in the country where they have found safety. When refugees have access to rights, basic services and opportunities on an equal footing with nationals, they can contribute meaningfully to their host communities.

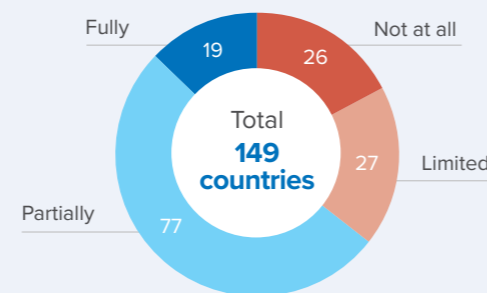
Despite a 20% funding decrease, UNHCR prioritized advocacy, policy and legal engagement, partnerships, and targeted support through national and community-based systems. This included helping refugees secure citizenship, permanent residency or another secure legal status. For stateless persons, acquiring nationality is a lasting solution that enables rights, access to services and full participation in society.

Core output indicators

UNHCR assisted over **82,000** individuals in obtaining nationality, permanent residency or accessing naturalization procedures across 55 countries, 29% less than in 2024. Among them, 45% were refugees and asylum-seekers and 28% were stateless people.

19 of 149 countries reported full inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in government social protection systems, nine more than in 2024.

Number of countries where government social protection system is inclusive of refugees and asylum-seekers



Key results

More people were included in national social protection systems as humanitarian assistance was better aligned with government-led frameworks, supported by policy reform and institutional cooperation:

- In Iraq, eligible IDPs were enrolled in the national [Social Safety Net programme](#). After years of engagement by UNHCR and partners, the programme also resumed in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, where it had been suspended since 2014, providing cash transfers to 3,200 vulnerable households.
- In Kenya, UNHCR's advocacy and collaboration with national and county authorities enabled the government expand refugees' inclusion in the national system and improve their access to social protection, including by adding 110,000 refugee households in the Enhanced Single Registry.
- In Mauritania, nearly 180,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were included in the *Registre Social* and national programmes. More than 48,000 refugees now benefit from cash transfers through *Tekavoul*, reflecting steady progress supported by ongoing registry expansion and a government roadmap on refugee inclusion in social protection.
- In Angola, UNHCR supported the government's ongoing registration and documentation processes for refugees, which are essential for accessing national systems, formal work opportunities and legal pathways to more secure legal status.
- In Uganda, UNHCR's ongoing efforts focused on integrating protection services into national and subnational systems, including gradual incorporation of protection case management, referral pathways, child protection and GBV services into district systems.
- In Costa Rica, UNHCR contributed through coordination, referral pathways and partnership management, prioritizing access to national systems, private-sector opportunities and existing labour market mechanisms for refugees.
- In Czechia, UNHCR supported a state-funded programme that provides grants to municipalities for activities facilitating the integration of Ukrainian refugees at the local level.

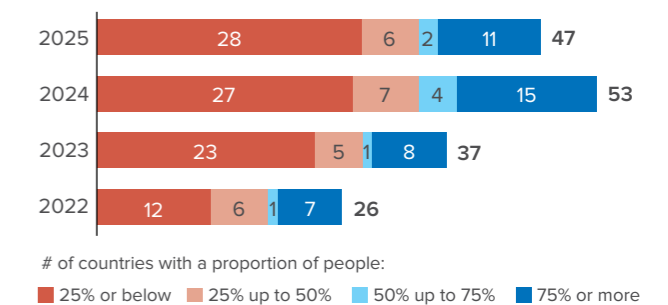
- In Zambia, UNHCR's engagement with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, alongside UN partners' and World Bank support to the Social Registry, provided a pathway to future inclusion and local integration.

Challenges

Complex and restrictive domestic legal and administrative frameworks continue to limit access to residency and nationality. Many forcibly displaced people also remain unable to access social protection and basic services, even where national policies formally allow for their inclusion. These challenges are compounded by limited institutional capacity, weak data systems, funding shortfalls, unresolved land and housing issues, broader socioeconomic fragility and recent policy and funding shifts that have further reduced effective access to services that support local integration.

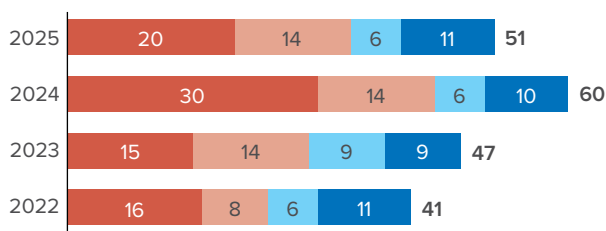
Core outcome indicators

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land



11 of 47 reporting countries (23%) indicated that more than 75% of refugees and asylum seekers had secure tenure rights to housing and/or land, a slight decline from 15 of 53 countries (28%) in 2024. A positive shift was observed in several countries, including Albania, Brazil, Chad, Hungary, Panama and the Republic of Moldova.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers covered by national social protection systems



of countries with a proportion of people:
 ■ 25% or below ■ 25% up to 50% ■ 50% up to 75% ■ 75% or more

11 of 51 reporting countries (22%) had more than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers covered by national social protection systems, in line with 2024 data.

Financial overview

Global expenditure and budget for Local integration and other local solutions

- With the funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$113 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$426 million**.
- **20% decrease** in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$314 million** of unmet needs or **74%** of the budget.
- **60%** of total expenditure under this outcome area, or **\$67 million**, was funded by flexible funding, including almost **\$44 million** of unearmarked funding.

Local integration and other local solutions: largest operations by expenditure

These operations accounted for **\$58 million** or **51%** of global expenditure for this area in 2025

