



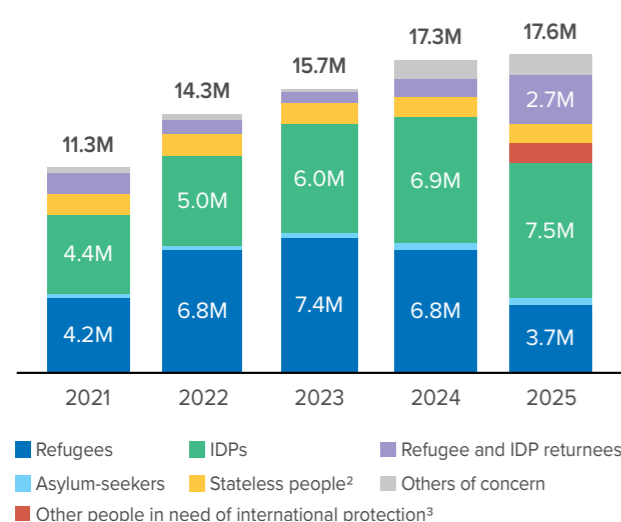
REGIONAL SUMMARY

Refugee children from Myanmar participate in classes at a JREC learning centre in Malaysia, where community-based schools supported by UNHCR partner help uphold children's right to education. © UNHCR/Azwan Rahim

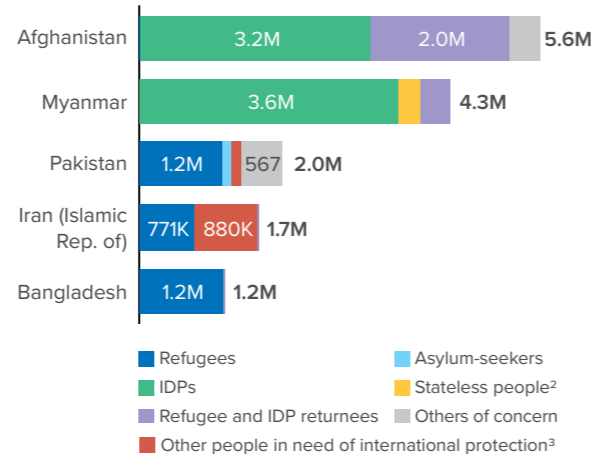
Asia and the Pacific

UNHCR covers **16 operations**¹ across 38 countries and territories in the region. In 2025, the region hosted **17.6 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people, a **2% increase** from 2024.

Population trend | 2021-2025



Top 5 operations by population in 2025



¹ Afghanistan, Australia multi-country office, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan multi-country office, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand multi-country office.
² Stateless figures do not include stateless persons who are also displaced to avoid double-counting. The total stateless population in Asia was 2,628,844 people.
³ Includes mainly Afghans previously reported in a refugee-like situation or as others of concern. For more details, see Global Trends footnote [here](#).

Context

The humanitarian landscape across Asia and the Pacific grew more fragile and uneven in 2025, shaped by escalating conflicts, increasingly restrictive asylum policies, growing xenophobia and declining funding. By the end of the year, a record 17.6 million forcibly displaced and stateless people were hosted across the region. As needs rose and resources shrank, UNHCR was forced to prioritize the most critical life-saving interventions, limiting the scope of protection and assistance.

In Afghanistan, overlapping humanitarian, economic and human rights crises were compounded by widespread poverty, weakened public services and persistent insecurity. These were further exacerbated by devastating earthquakes in August and November, which caused significant loss of life, damaged infrastructure and eroded coping capacities. New restrictions on women and girls by the de facto authorities – including on education, freedom of movement and participation in public life – constrained protection space and programme delivery.

Policy shifts in the Islamic Republics of Iran and Pakistan triggered large-scale deportations and returns of Afghans, often under adverse circumstances. This included Iran's return and regularization scheme and Pakistan's requirement that Proof of Registration card holders, Afghan Citizen Card holders and undocumented Afghans return. Together, these measures resulted in the return of [nearly 3 million people](#), with UNHCR continuing to [underscore](#) that many Afghans require international protection and should not be forcibly returned, particularly women and girls and those with specific risk profiles.

In Myanmar, ongoing conflict drove further displacement and intensified humanitarian needs and protection risks. A [major earthquake](#) in March compounded these pressures, causing extensive damage and further displacement. In Rakhine State, civilians faced active fighting, heightened intercommunal tensions and food insecurity. Rohingya communities – the majority of whom are stateless – remained subject to movement restrictions and continued to face significant protection risks, including limited access to documentation, livelihoods and basic services, as well as risks of forced recruitment, forced labour and arbitrary detention.

Against this backdrop, constrained access to safe and regular pathways continued to drive dangerous onward movements. Around [6,200 people](#) undertook perilous journeys by sea, with a 153% increase in the first half of the year and a decline in the second half. Women and children accounted for 60% of those on the move.

Results and achievements

Despite funding and operational constraints, UNHCR and partners delivered targeted protection and life-saving assistance in Afghanistan, including shelter, core relief items (CRIs), health care and financial aid. Some 1.9 million people benefited from activities in the priority areas of return and reintegration, while 692,300 Afghan returnees received protection assistance. Nearly 500,000 returnees received financial aid to meet immediate needs upon arrival and more than 220,000 received CRIs.

Over 50 partners supported the response in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan under the [Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Afghanistan Situation \(2024-2025\)](#). These efforts were reinforced by collective engagement through the [Support Platform of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees](#).

In Myanmar, UNHCR and partners delivered protection and assistance where access allowed, working with civil society partners to reach nearly 882,500 people through protection monitoring and targeted support, including for survivors of violence and exploitation.

Across Myanmar and key asylum countries – including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand – 1.6 million people received protection support, including legal counselling and case management. More than 333,000 people obtained civil documentation or legal status and nearly 295,000 received mental health and psychosocial support. These operational efforts were complemented by renewed international engagement, including a [high-level United Nations General Assembly conference](#) and a [stakeholders' dialogue in Cox's Bazar](#), where Bangladesh announced a seven-step action plan for voluntary return to Rakhine State.

Progress on solutions remained limited, although important steps were taken. Nearly 8,000 refugees were resettled in 2025 – a 56% decrease from 2024. Complementary pathways provided more opportunities, with almost 4,000 refugees departing to third countries, including the first Rohingya education pathway departure to the Philippines and a new pathway to Australia.

At the same time, efforts to address statelessness advanced, particularly in Thailand where 14,000 stateless persons were granted citizenship and 90,000 received lawful permanent residence, creating pathways to nationality after five years. A [new landmark policy](#) enabled long-staying refugees from Myanmar the right to work legally, reducing aid dependency and supporting economic participation.

UNHCR also focused on advocating for humane treatment, strengthening regional cooperation in search and rescue at sea, promoting predictable arrangements for safe disembarkation, and advancing a coordinated [route-based approach](#).

Alongside these efforts, development partners supported longer-term responses to displacement.

The World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank contributed analytical work, financing and policy dialogue in Bangladesh to enhance livelihoods, access to services and economic opportunities for Rohingya refugees and host communities.

Challenges

In a year marked by shrinking protection space, protracted displacement and deepening vulnerability, significant unmet needs remained. Forcibly displaced and stateless people continued to face limited access to protection, basic services and durable solutions, leaving the most vulnerable at risk of being left behind.

UNHCR's capacity to respond became increasingly constrained by funding that was limited in scope and flexibility. This required adjustments to its operational footprint, including reduced presence in some locations and the closure or consolidation of selected offices. Sustained progress will depend on more predictable, flexible funding and coherent approaches to address humanitarian needs and support longer-term solutions.

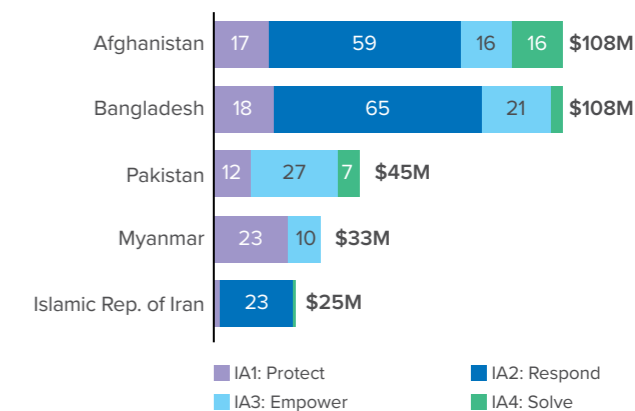
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget in 2025

- With funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$397 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$958 million**
- **17%** decrease in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$561 million** of unmet needs or **59%** of the budget
- **34%** of total expenditure in the region or **\$133 million** was funded by flexible funding, including **\$95 million** of unearmarked funding.

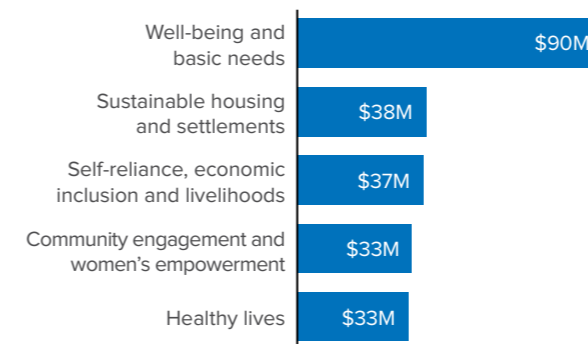
Operations with the highest expenditure

These 5 operations accounted for **\$319 million** or **80%** of total regional expenditure



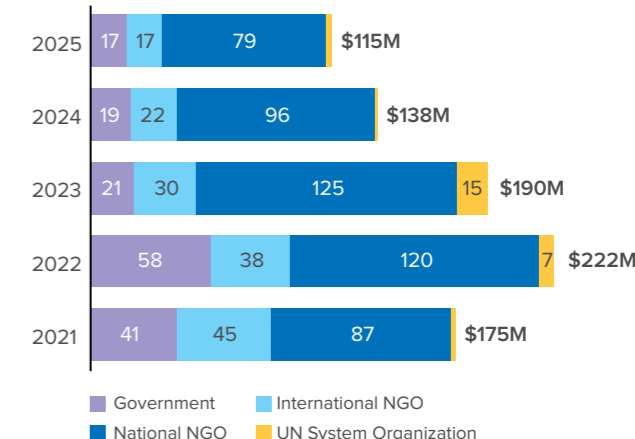
Top 5 areas of expenditure in 2025

These 5 areas accounted for **\$231 million** or **58%** of total regional expenditure



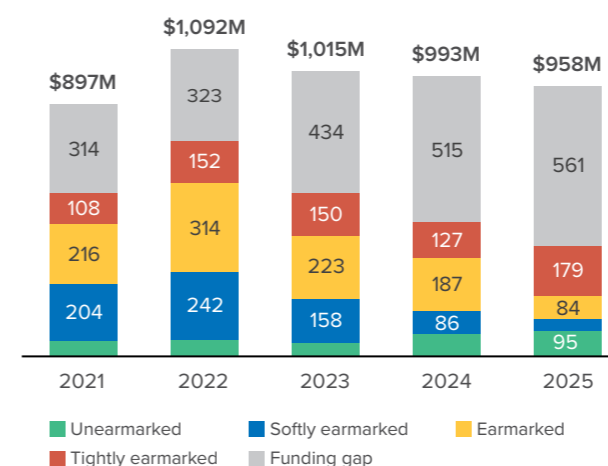
Expenditure via partners | 2021-2025

\$115 million (-17% from 2024) spent via **179 partners** (+3%) in 2025



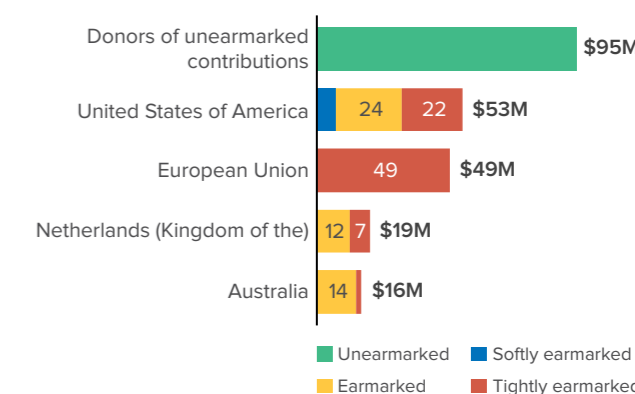
Regional funding and earmarking | 2021-2025

\$397 million of funds available (**41%**) in 2025 out of **\$958 million** required



Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2025

These 5 donors provided **\$233 million** or **59%** of the funds available for the region



Private sector leaders in Asia drive protection and solutions to forced displacement

Private sector partners and philanthropists across Asia and the Pacific have deepened their commitment to UNHCR.

Walk Free's partnership with Australia for UNHCR helped prevent human trafficking in humanitarian settings by integrating anti-trafficking approaches into protection responses, building evidence on trafficking risks and supporting advocacy and system reform through pilot projects in India and Mauritania.

Hideo Yamada, President and CEO of **Yamada Bee Farm** in Japan, provided \$2 million in unearmarked funding, giving UNHCR flexibility to respond where needs were greatest.

In Malaysia, **TNG Digital** partnered with UNHCR to connect 40,000 refugees and asylum-seekers to the country's largest e-wallet system. The initiative







enables refugees to receive and transfer funds, make payments and withdraw cash, expanding their access to financial services, livelihoods and economic participation in the local economy.











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Core output indicators in Asia and the Pacific

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025

 Attaining favourable protection environments PROTECT	
 Protection	3.8 million people received protection services in 26 countries +42% vs 2024
 Access to territory, registration and documentation	286,100 people registered on an individual basis in 17 countries +35% vs 2024 491,900 people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 15 countries -32% vs 2024
 Gender-based violence	339,400 people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 8 countries +24% vs 2024
 Child protection	648,200 children and caregivers received child protection services in 9 countries +118% vs 2024
 Safety and access to justice	271,300 people received legal assistance in 13 countries +76% vs 2024

 Empowering communities and achieving gender equality EMPOWER	
 Community engagement and women's empowerment	35,000 people consulted through participatory assessments in 18 countries +10% vs 2024 1.6 million people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback in 27 countries +85% vs 2024
 Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	81,200 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 12 countries +56% vs 2024

 Realizing rights in safe environments RESPOND	
 Well-being and basic needs	975,000 people received cash assistance in 21 countries +62% vs 2024 1.5 million people received non-food items in 6 countries +21% vs 2024 541,200 people supported with improved cooking options in 1 country +23% vs 2024
 Sustainable housing and settlements	609,900 people received shelter and housing assistance in 6 countries +81% vs 2024
 Healthy lives	3.9 million individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 11 countries -14% vs 2024 341,700 consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 11 countries -23% vs 2024
 Education	126,400 people benefited from education programming in 12 countries +13% vs 2024
 Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	295,200 people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services in 1 country -39% vs 2024

 Securing solutions SOLVE	
 Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	195,700 people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 12 countries +595% vs 2024
 Local integration and local solutions	43,900 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 9 countries +292% vs 2024