



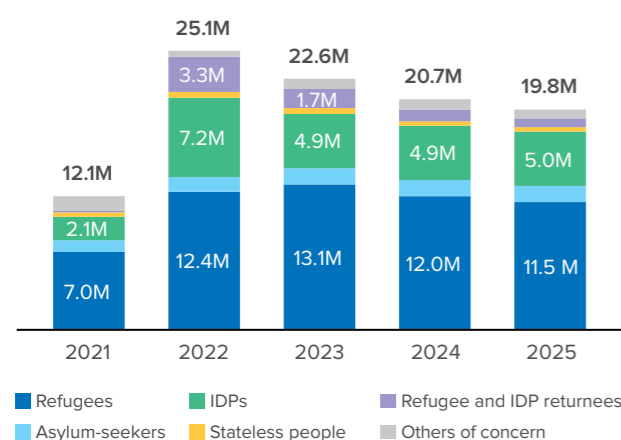
REGIONAL SUMMARY

Valentyna, a mother displaced twice by the conflict in Ukraine, now supports other families to raise children with disabilities through a community-based organization she co-founded in Kyiv, demonstrating resilience and solidarity amid prolonged displacement. © UNHCR/Iryna Tymchyshyn

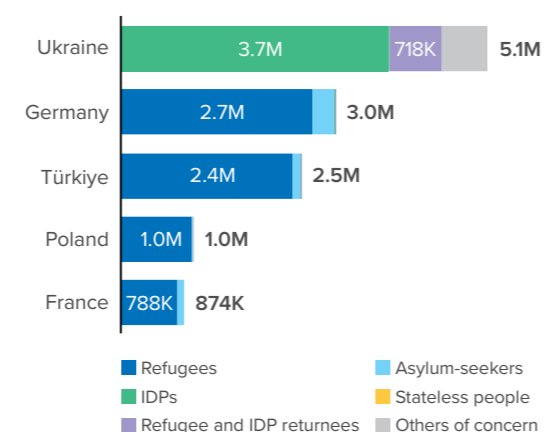
Europe

UNHCR covers **30 operations**¹ across 52 countries and territories in the region. In 2025, the region hosted **19.8 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people, a **4% decrease** from 2024.

Population trend | 2021-2025



Top 5 countries by population



¹ Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium multi-country office, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary multi-country office, Italy multi-country office, Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)), Malta, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, North Macedonia, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden multi-country office, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and Other operations in Europe.

Context

Europe had some of the highest numbers of forcibly displaced and stateless people globally in 2025, hosting more than 19.8 million people.

The war in Ukraine entered its fourth year, which proved the deadliest for civilians since the full-scale invasion. Increased attacks on energy infrastructure across the country caused widespread power outages and compounded humanitarian needs ahead of winter. By year-end, 3.7 million people were internally displaced and 5.9 million were refugees, over 5 million of whom found safety in Europe.

Around 560,000 Syrians voluntarily returned to the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) from Türkiye during 2025, bringing the total return since 2016 to 1.3 million. Türkiye remained among the top refugee-hosting countries globally, with 2.5 million refugees and asylum-seekers.

In 2025, there were 154,500 sea arrivals to Europe, a 22% decrease from 2024, with 2,950 people dying or reported missing along Mediterranean and north-west African maritime routes. Decreased arrivals do not indicate a reduction in protection needs and may reflect stricter departure controls, increased dangers along routes or shifts to longer and more perilous journeys.

Results and achievements

In Ukraine, UNHCR prioritized life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection of people living in frontline areas, while supporting vulnerable people living in situations of protracted displacement and advancing the ability of displaced people and returnees to achieve durable solutions. It scaled up mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), working with civil society partners to provide counselling and social work support to people affected by trauma, displacement and continued hostilities. UNHCR maintained its leadership of the Protection and Emergency Shelter/NFI clusters and supported government-led durable solutions.

UNHCR worked closely with government and humanitarian partners to deliver multi-sectoral assistance and protection in a volatile security

environment. UNHCR provided services to more than 1.2 million displaced and war-affected people, 63% women and girls. Over 333,000 people received cash assistance – including emergency support following attacks and winter cash to cover increased energy needs – and more than 203,000 benefited from emergency shelter and housing assistance.

Outside Ukraine, UNHCR led and coordinated the inter-agency [Regional Refugee Response Plan](#) (RRP), engaging 195 partners across 10 countries in 2025, 80% of them local organizations. UNHCR and partners strengthened access to education, livelihoods, disability inclusion and community-based protection, emphasizing the transition from emergency modalities toward nationally-led, inclusive systems. UNHCR and partners provided protection information, legal counselling, case management, psychological support and referrals to specialized services through a network of community centres, protection hubs and safe spaces. These facilities formed key entry points for refugees to access rights and information. MHPSS remained a core component of the response, with adults and children accessing counselling, group support and child-friendly services in RRP countries.

In 2025, North Macedonia became the first country in Europe to resolve all known cases of statelessness linked to the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia caseload, with 317 individuals gaining citizenship through sustained efforts by national authorities, supported by UNHCR.

UNHCR also partnered with the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the High Commissioner on National Minorities to launch [“Opening Doors for Children: Prevention of Childhood Statelessness. Good Practices in the OSCE Area”](#). Informed by direct consultations with stateless people, the publication encourages OSCE participating States to adopt good practices to address and prevent childhood statelessness, ensure universal birth registration and strengthen protection for stateless children.

In Türkiye, UNHCR monitored around 420,000 returns to verify their voluntariness and ensure informed decision-making. In partnership with the Government,

UNHCR launched a three-year EU-funded initiative to strengthen national mechanisms for voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly returns to Syria.

UNHCR welcomed the adoption of the European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum as an opportunity to strengthen the management of mixed movements, if accompanied by appropriate safeguards. UNHCR provided technical assistance to support the implementation of the pact before the new rules enter into force in June 2026. It also engaged with states on lawful policy options to address mixed movements and advocated for a whole-of-route approach to expand regular pathways and address the root causes of irregular movement.

Challenges

Funding constraints limited the scale and continuity of services, underscoring the continued need for predictable, flexible funding to sustain life-saving

protection efforts, strengthening social cohesion, advancing inclusion outcomes and maintaining regional stability. Underfunding constrained support for the most vulnerable, including those with specific needs, inadequate income or barriers to essential services. The global funding shortfall had a major impact on UNHCR and its operations, including a workforce reduction of more than 40%, with only 45% of UNHCR's financial requirements for Europe met in 2025.

As the war in Ukraine continues, humanitarian needs inside the country remain acute and are expected to persist. Mixed movements along Mediterranean, Atlantic, and land routes also continued, despite an overall decrease in arrivals. Forcibly displaced people on those routes faced restrictions on access to territory and asylum, pushbacks at sea and land borders, expulsions, mistreatment, deterrence and efforts by some states to instrumentalize population movements against the core principles of refugee protection.

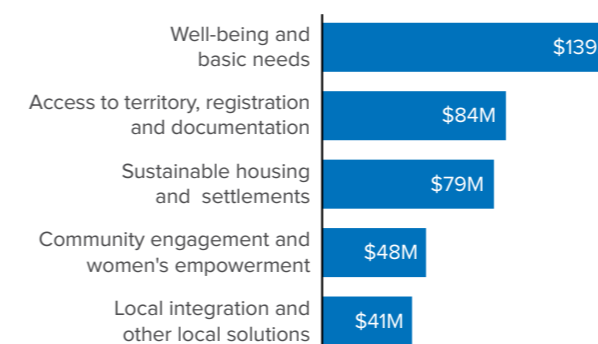
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget in 2025

- With funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$558 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$1.247 billion**
- **24%** decrease in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$690 million** of unmet needs or **55%** of the budget
- **34%** of total expenditure in the region or **\$188 million** was funded by flexible funding, including **\$93 million** of unearmarked funding.

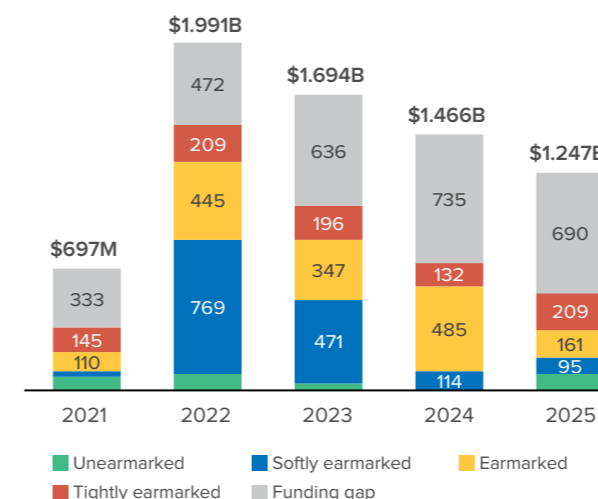
Top 5 areas of expenditure in 2025

These 5 areas accounted for **\$391 million** or **70%** of total regional expenditure



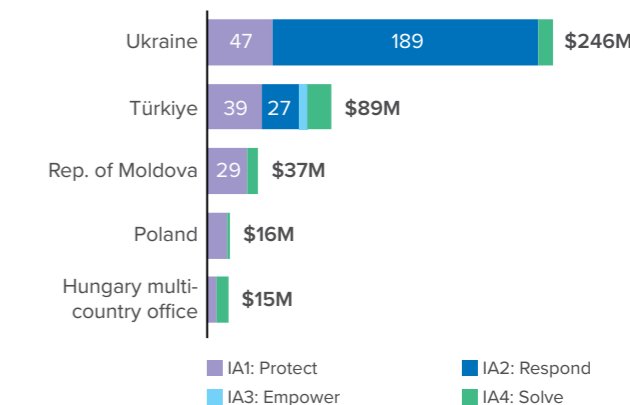
Regional funding and earmarking | 2021-2025

\$558 million funds available (**45%**) in 2025 out of the **\$1.247 billion** required



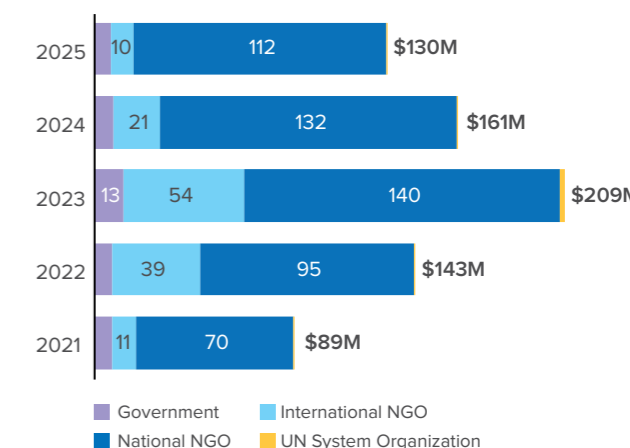
Operations with the highest expenditure

These 5 operations accounted for **\$403 million** or **72%** of total regional expenditure



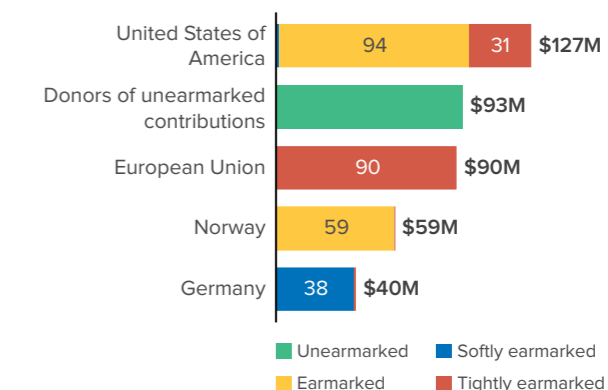
Expenditure via partners | 2021-2025

\$130 million (-19% from 2024) spent via **297 partners** (-14%) in 2025.



Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2025

These 5 donors provided **\$408 million** or **73%** of the funds available for the region



Intesa Sanpaolo per il Sociale helps refugees build their futures in Italy



© UNHCR/Marta Gazzarella





Intesa Sanpaolo, through its social initiatives arm Intesa per il Sociale, helped UNHCR operate Spazi Comuni one-stop shops in Italy, offering several key integration services for refugees under a single roof. The network operated in seven Italian cities in 2025, supporting 2,374 refugees and asylum-seekers with documentation, education access and job opportunities.








The Italian bank also supported job inclusion for marginalized youth and facilitated collaboration with Generation Italy to train and employ refugees. Through its Fondo di Beneficenza charitable section, Intesa Sanpaolo also funded UNHCR programmes for survivors of gender-based violence in Italy and primary education in Burkina Faso and Niger, demonstrating a partnership with national and international impact.

Core output indicators in Europe

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025

 Attaining favourable protection environments PROTECT		
	Protection	1.1 million people received protection services in 27 countries -34% vs 2024
	Access to territory, registration and documentation	150,600 people registered on an individual basis in 6 countries +11% vs 2024
	Gender-based violence	157,800 people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 16 countries -42% vs 2024
	Child protection	32,600 people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 13 countries -35% vs 2024
	Child protection	71,200 children and caregivers received child protection services in 12 countries -41% vs 2024
	Safety and access to justice	189,100 people received legal assistance in 27 countries -12% vs 2024

 Empowering communities and achieving gender equality EMPOWER		
	Community engagement and women's empowerment	15,200 people consulted through participatory assessments in 23 countries -22% vs 2024
	Community engagement and women's empowerment	277,300 people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback in 25 countries -66% vs 2024
	Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	106,800 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 20 countries -21% vs 2024

 Realizing rights in safe environments RESPOND		
	Well-being and basic needs	394,000 people received cash assistance in 15 countries -46% vs 2024
	Well-being and basic needs	175,500 people received non-food items in 6 countries -46% vs 2024
	Sustainable housing and settlements	204,100 people received shelter and housing assistance in 4 countries +19% vs 2024
	Healthy lives	2,300 individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 4 countries -43% vs 2024
	Healthy lives	186,200 consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 21 countries -25% vs 2024
	Education	8,900 people benefited from education programming in 11 countries -68% vs 2024

 Securing solutions SOLVE		
	Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	438,800 people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 4 countries +2,737% vs 2024
	Local integration and local solutions	19,100 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 20 countries -79% vs 2024