



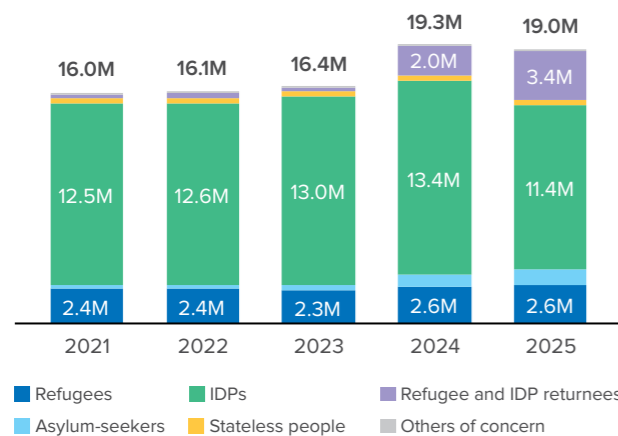
REGIONAL SUMMARY

After more than 12 years in displacement in Türkiye, the Sayadi family crosses the Bab Al Hawa border crossing to return to Syria, where returning refugees face damaged homes and limited access to basic services. © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

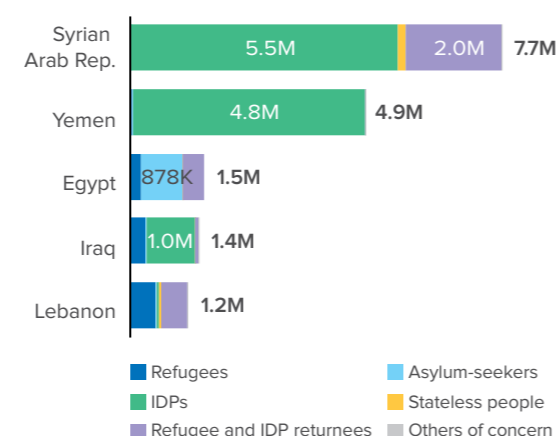
Middle East and North Africa

UNHCR covers **14 operations**¹ across 19 countries and territories in the region. In 2025, the region hosted nearly **19 million** forcibly displaced and stateless people, a **2%** decrease from 2024.

Population trend | 2021-2025



Top 5 countries by population



¹ Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Saudi Arabia multi-country office, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Western Sahara, Yemen.

Context

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region faced overlapping political, security and socioeconomic pressures, deepening humanitarian needs and reshaping operating conditions. Armed conflict, fragile governance, inflation and economic contraction heightened vulnerability among refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless people. Humanitarian space narrowed further. Across the region, these dynamics contributed to a deterioration of the protection environment.

Displacement increased sharply. By the end of 2025, more than 3.7 million refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted across MENA – up from 3.4 million in 2024 – while the number of internally displaced people stood at 11.4 million. Movements were driven by both new emergencies and protracted crises. The conflict in Sudan pushed large numbers of people into neighbouring countries, particularly Egypt and Libya, where Sudanese nationals represented the majority of newly registered asylum-seekers. Mauritania was affected by the instability in Mali and hosts sizeable Malian refugee populations. Yemen’s protracted conflict continued to drive humanitarian needs and displacement.

Political changes in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) in late 2024 prompted 1.3 million refugees and 1.9 million IDPs to return to their areas of origin. These returns took place under fragile conditions, including massive infrastructure damage, limited public services, explosive ordnance contamination and few livelihood opportunities. Protection risks for returnees remained acute, and the sustainability of returns depended on access to documentation, services and safe housing. To guide principled and structured support, UNHCR launched the [Operational Framework for the Voluntary Return of Syrian Refugees and IDPs](#), outlining approaches to counselling, protection monitoring, transportation and reintegration. In areas of return, documentation needs were especially urgent.

Forcibly displaced and stateless people faced significant risks across the region. Along mixed movement routes in North Africa, people were exposed to trafficking, exploitation, extortion and family separation.

Worsening economic conditions and declining purchasing power deepened vulnerabilities, while strained national systems limited access to education, health care and livelihoods.

Results and achievements

Despite these challenges, UNHCR and partners delivered critical interventions.

In Jordan, UNHCR provided financial aid to more than 223,000 refugees, helping them meet basic needs, manage emergencies and support with voluntary return. Post-distribution monitoring showed that 95% of refugees preferred cash to other forms of assistance, and 91% reported improved well-being.

In Egypt, 1 million refugees were registered by UNHCR, enabling their access to national services. UNHCR’s online resettlement portal allowed thousands of refugees to securely access information about their cases.

In Syria, more than 100,000 IDPs and returnees received protection services; 30,000 returnees and IDPs received shelter support; and 115,000 refugee returnees received a one-time reintegration grant. In host countries, 81,500 Syrians received a grant to pay for transport ahead of their return.

In Libya, more than 1,600 vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers were evacuated or relocated through humanitarian corridors, the Emergency Transit Mechanism and resettlement pathways.

UNHCR also strengthened the participation of forcibly displaced and stateless people in decisions affecting them. In Lebanon, more than 83,000 refugees, 75% of whom were women and girls, took part in programme activities as volunteers, group members or survey participants.

Risks of statelessness – particularly for children born in displacement – increased where civil registration systems were weak or difficult to access. UNHCR scaled support for legal aid, birth registration and documentation across the region, recognizing that civil registration remained essential to long-term protection and solutions.

Host countries advanced inclusion despite the severe strain on national systems. Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania and Morocco strengthened refugee access to national health, education and social protection systems. UNHCR supported these efforts through policy dialogue, technical advice and capacity building.

Durable solutions progressed with voluntary returns of Syrian refugees and IDPs supported through strengthened area-based approaches that made return communities safer and more sustainable. Along major mixed movement routes in North Africa, UNHCR improved screening, referral and response services, with the route-based approach remaining central to cooperation among states and partners.

Challenges

Humanitarian access varied across the region and was restricted in several operations. In Syria, explosive ordnance contamination and insecurity impeded access to areas of return. In Yemen, conflict, fragmented governance and shifting frontlines constrained humanitarian operations. In Libya, fluctuating security conditions and militia control affected mobility and access to people

on the move. In Mauritania, instability along the Mali border limited continuous presence and monitoring. These constraints collectively hampered the consistency of protection monitoring and complicated the delivery of assistance.

Funding shortfall was a defining challenge. Reduced resources forced UNHCR and partners to scale down or discontinue several core protection and assistance activities. Coverage decreased across community-based protection, outreach, basic needs assistance, shelter and services for people with specific needs. Many operations had to prioritize lifesaving interventions, leaving significant other needs unmet. In contexts of large-scale displacement or returns, needs outpaced available resources and protection risks increased.

In 2026, humanitarian and protection needs across MENA region will be substantial. UNHCR will prioritize strengthening protection along mixed movement routes, deepening area-based support for Syrian returnees and host communities and working with governments to expand inclusion and self-reliance opportunities. Continued delivery of essential services will, however, depend on timely, flexible and predictable funding.

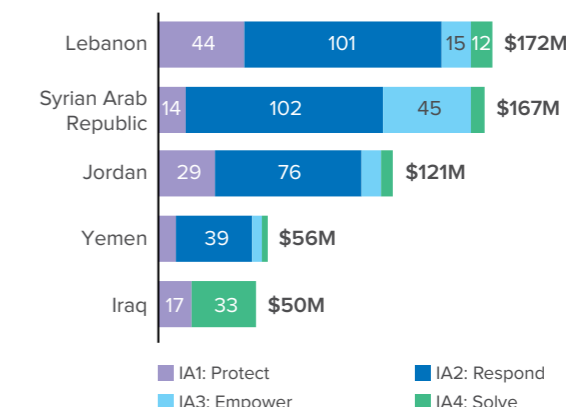
Financial overview

Regional expenditure and budget in 2025

- With funds available, UNHCR could spend **\$734 million** towards budgeted needs of **\$2.489 billion**
- **33%** decrease in expenditure compared with 2024
- **\$1.755 billion** of unmet needs or **71%** of the budget
- **25%** of total expenditure in the region or **\$182 million** was funded by flexible funding, including **\$108 million** of unearmarked funding.

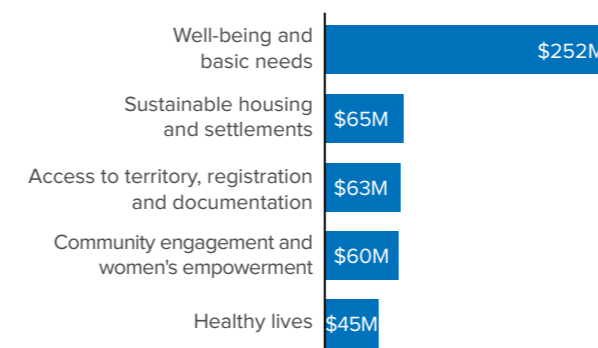
Operations with the highest expenditure

These 5 operations accounted for **\$565 million** or **77%** of total regional expenditure



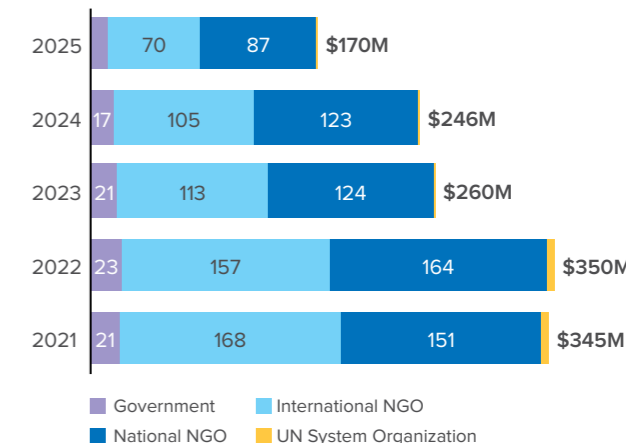
Top 5 areas of expenditure in 2025

These 5 areas accounted for **\$485 million** or **66%** of total regional expenditure



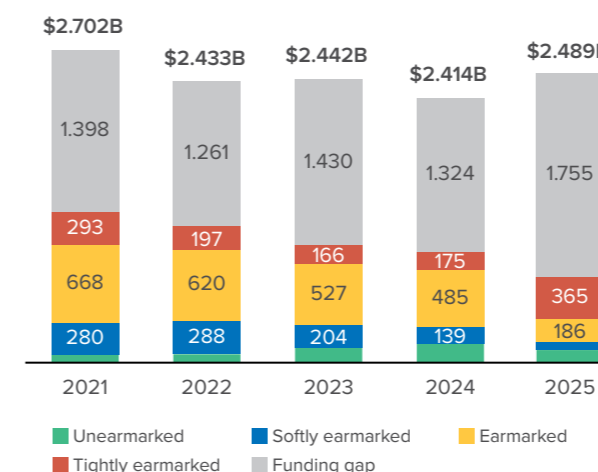
Expenditure via partners | 2021-2025

\$170 million (-31% from 2024) spent via **195 partners** (+1%) in 2025.



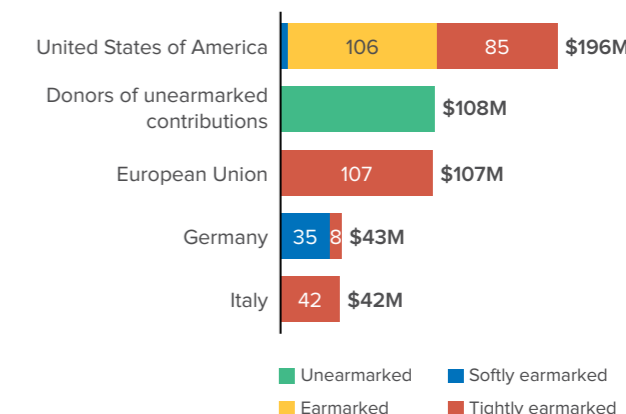
Regional funding and earmarking | 2021-2025

\$734 million funds available (**29%**) in 2025 out of the **\$2.489 billion** required



Top 5 donors of voluntary contributions | 2025

These 5 donors provided **\$496 million** or **68%** of the funds available for the region



Eid Charity and UNHCR addressing critical needs of displaced and vulnerable populations in MENA









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Sheikh Eid Bin Muhammad Al Thani Charitable Foundation, known as Eid Charity, signed two agreements of more than \$2.5 million with UNHCR to support more than 31,000 forcibly displaced people in the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, with shelter and cash assistance.










Since 2018, Eid Charity has been a UNHCR strategic partner supporting some 300,000 refugees and internally displaced people in Bangladesh, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, through Islamic philanthropy with contributions exceeding \$9 million.

Core output indicators in the Middle East and North Africa

Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025

 Attaining favourable protection environments PROTECT		
	Protection	3.5 million people received protection services in 15 countries -18% vs 2024
	Access to territory, registration and documentation	427,800 people registered on an individual basis in 14 countries -32% vs 2024
	Gender-based violence	169,500 people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 11 countries -17% vs 2024
	Child protection	203,300 children and caregivers received child protection services in 11 countries -33% vs 2024
	Safety and access to justice	558,800 people received legal assistance in 12 countries +10% vs 2024

 Empowering communities and achieving gender equality EMPOWER		
	Community engagement and women's empowerment	24,600 people consulted through participatory assessments in 11 countries +11% vs 2024
	Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	24,400 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 8 countries -15% vs 2024

 Realizing rights in safe environments RESPOND		
	Well-being and basic needs	1.8 million people received cash assistance in 12 countries -20% vs 2024
	Sustainable housing and settlements	1.9 million people received non-food items in 8 countries +37% vs 2024
	Healthy lives	256,300 people supported with improved cooking options in 3 countries +60% vs 2024
	Education	382,200 people received shelter and housing assistance in 10 countries -28% vs 2024
	Clean water, sanitation and hygiene	804,600 individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 11 countries -36% vs 2024
	Securing solutions	157,400 consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 11 countries -32% vs 2024
	Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	238,400 people benefited from education programming in 11 countries -9% vs 2024
	Local integration and local solutions	311,000 people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services in 3 countries -3% vs 2024

 Securing solutions SOLVE		
	Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration	207,600 people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 14 countries +755% vs 2024
	Local integration and local solutions	352 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 3 countries -23% vs 2024