

GLOBAL REPORT 2025



A guide to UNHCR's Global Report 2025



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The Global Report reviews UNHCR's activities, results and funding in 2025. It shows how we were funded and tells the story of how forced displacement and statelessness developed during the year, how UNHCR acted in response and what challenges we faced. The Global Report 2025 includes the following elements:

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih attends an English class at The Big Heart Foundation Secondary School in Kalobeyei during his inaugural visit to Kenya. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

High Commissioner's foreword

2025 was an extraordinarily difficult year for international protection. It was a year that exposed the widening gap between global commitments and collective action. As displacement continued to rise and humanitarian resources came under unprecedented strain, it also highlighted a reality that has become increasingly difficult to ignore: the nature of displacement has evolved, but the international response has struggled to keep pace. Too many displaced people spend years, and often decades, in situations of uncertainty, unable to rebuild their lives or realize their potential. Addressing the realities of displacement today requires not only protection and assistance, but a renewed focus on solutions.

Conflict, violence, and persecution continued to uproot millions. Climate shocks, economic instability, and political fragility intensified displacement pressures across regions. At the same time, the political space for asylum narrowed in many parts of the world, even as needs reached historic highs. These pressures were felt acutely across the humanitarian system, as global displacement continued to rise. The number of people under UNHCR's mandate has almost doubled over the past decade, from 63.9 million to 129.4 million, yet humanitarian financing moved sharply in the opposite direction.

In 2025, severe and sudden cuts to aid placed the international protection system under unprecedented strain. UNHCR's funding fell to \$3.9 billion, a decrease of \$1.2 billion, or 24%, compared to 2024. The global funding gap widened to 63%, leaving \$6.7 billion of assessed needs unmet. These are not abstract budgetary shortfalls. For displaced families, funding cuts are never abstract. They mean less access to education, healthcare, protection, and support at a time when needs are greatest.

Even while prioritizing life-saving activities, UNHCR's ability to respond was sharply constrained. In 2025, we assisted 30.7 million people, 16% fewer than the year before. Our workforce was reduced by more than a third, to just under 13,200 personnel, and our operational footprint contracted from 137 countries and territories to 122.

Yet UNHCR remained a field-based organization: 88% of our staff continued to serve outside headquarters, with 36% deployed in hardship locations, standing shoulder to shoulder with refugees, internally displaced, and stateless people in the most difficult environments. This presence is not incidental; it is a statement of commitment to proximity, protection, and accountability.

The operational environment remained extremely demanding. UNHCR managed 24 active emergencies across 16 countries, including 10 new crises and 14 protracted emergencies carried over from 2024. Seven were classified as Level 3, the highest emergency designation, underscoring the severity and persistence of major crises, notably the conflict in Sudan and its regional spillover, as well as large-scale displacement linked to hostilities in Lebanon and Syria.

Africa remained the epicenter of displacement dynamics, with emergencies in 12 countries driven by conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Sudan. In Asia, new shocks compounded long-standing fragility: in Myanmar, a powerful earthquake deepened the suffering of people already displaced by conflict; in Afghanistan, mass forced returns converged with another devastating earthquake, further escalating humanitarian needs. These crises demonstrate that displacement cannot be addressed through humanitarian action alone, but requires political engagement, development investment, and international cooperation.

Despite these challenges, 2025 demonstrated that durable solutions remain achievable when there is sustained commitment and responsibility-sharing. Compared to 2024, 4.8 million more people accessed durable solutions. Nearly 14.7 million forcibly displaced people returned home, including 4.4 million refugees and 10.3 million internally displaced people. Some 82,000 refugees were resettled to third countries — down 57% compared to 2024 — and more than 93,000 people acquired nationality in their countries of asylum.

These achievements were significant, but they also highlight a broader challenge. Too many displaced people continue to spend years, and often decades, in situations of uncertainty. Humanitarian assistance remains indispensable, but it cannot be the endpoint of our response. As displacement becomes increasingly protracted, we must place greater emphasis on helping people rebuild their lives through education, livelihoods, inclusion in national systems, and access to legal pathways. This requires recognizing displaced and stateless people not only as recipients of

protection and assistance, but as individuals with skills, aspirations, and the capacity to contribute to the communities and societies in which they live. Advancing solutions is not only a matter of dignity and rights; it is essential to reducing dependency and strengthening communities.

While this Global Report reflects a year under my predecessor's leadership, it also reflects the continuity of UNHCR's mandate and the enduring commitment of colleagues, partners, and States across the world. The challenges, achievements and lessons it captures will continue to shape our work in the years ahead.

As we look ahead, it is clear that the global displacement crisis will not resolve itself. Our collective response must be firmly anchored in international law and principled protection. But it must also reflect the realities of displacement today. Protecting people forced to flee means not only ensuring their safety but also expanding opportunities for them to rebuild their lives with dignity, self-reliance, and hope.

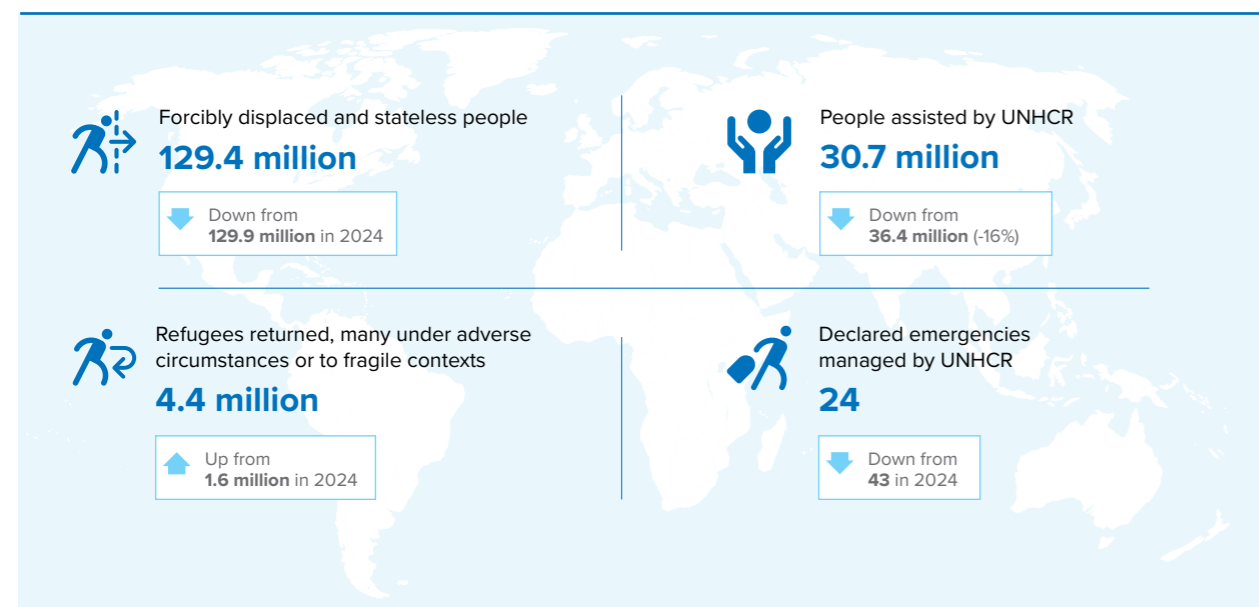
Ultimately, the future of international protection will depend not only on our ability to respond to crises, but also on our ability to help displaced people pursue lasting solutions. Ensuring protection while advancing solutions remains one of the defining responsibilities of our time.

Thank you for your support and partnership.

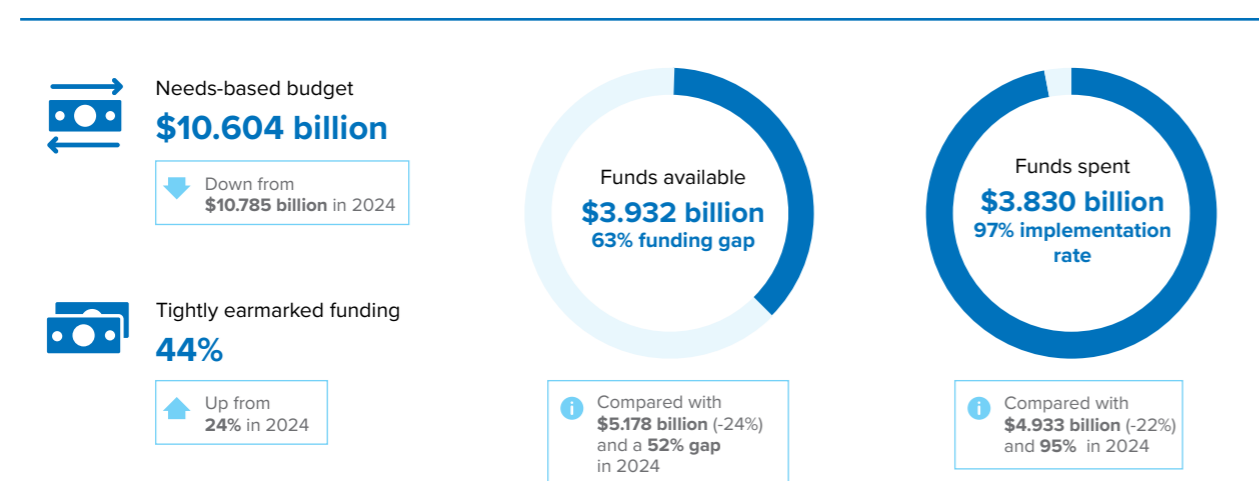
Barham Salih
UNHCR High Commissioner

UNHCR in 2025: Key facts and figures

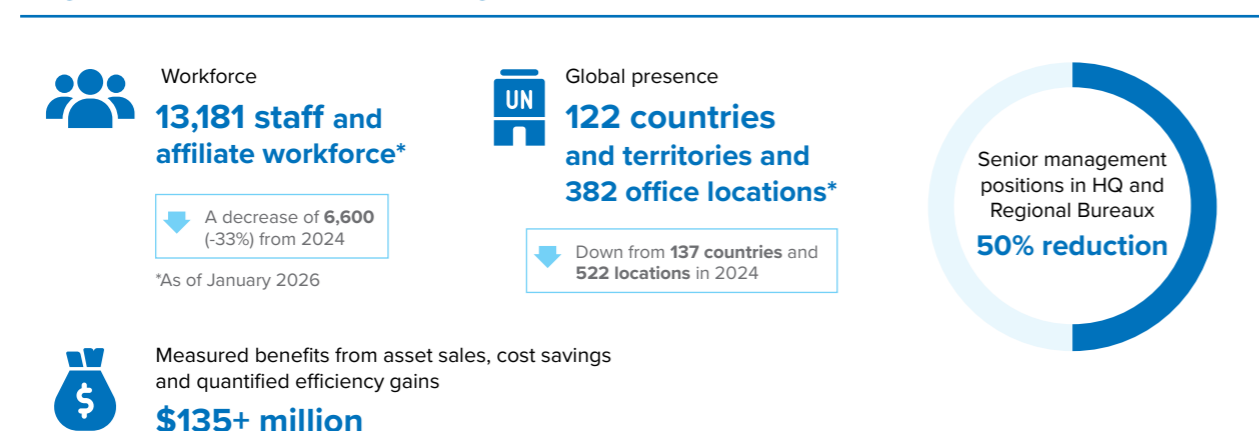
People assisted and protected



Needs and resources



Organizational restructuring



Core output indicators

Reporting period: 1 January - 31 December 2025

PROTECT		Attaining favourable protection environments
Protection	16.5 million people received protection services in 137 countries -10% vs 2024	
Access to territory, registration and documentation	2.1 million people registered on an individual basis in 88 countries -39% vs 2024 3.1 million people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation in 89 countries -33% vs 2024	
Gender-based violence	1.6 million people benefited from specialized GBV programmes in 77 countries -7% vs 2024	
Child protection	1.4 million children and caregivers received child protection services in 69 countries -4% vs 2024	
Safety and access to justice	1.4 million people received legal assistance in 99 countries +3% vs 2024	
EMPOWER		Empowering communities and achieving gender equality
Community engagement and women's empowerment	217,100 people consulted through participatory assessments in 107 countries -18% vs 2024 4.4 million people used UNHCR-supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/concerns/feedback in 130 countries +2% vs 2024	
Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods	425,600 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 85 countries -9% vs 2024	



RESPOND

Realizing rights in safe environments

4.8 million people received cash assistance in 101 countries
-10% vs 2024



Well-being and basic needs

6.8 million people received non-food items in 59 countries
+14% vs 2024

1.2 million people supported with improved cooking options in 19 countries
+16% vs 2024



Sustainable housing and settlements

2.1 million people received shelter and housing assistance in 57 countries
-21% vs 2024



Healthy lives

12.9 million individual consultations in UNHCR-supported health care services in 59 countries
-17% vs 2024

1.1 million consultations in UNHCR-supported mental health and psychosocial support services in 80 countries
-13% vs 2024



Education

2.0 million people benefited from education programming in 68 countries
-4% vs 2024



Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

7.3 million people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services in 25 countries
-6% vs 2024



SOLVE

Securing solutions



Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

1.1 million people received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation in 66 countries
+207% vs 2024



Local integration and local solutions

82,100 people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures in 55 countries
-29% vs 2024



OVERVIEW OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE

"My white pigeon, Nouri, means a lot to me, especially because my father bought it for me. Pigeons are beautiful birds; they remind me of spreading joy and peace" says Abdulkarim Farhan, 11, a Syrian refugee in Zaatari camp, Jordan.
© UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfoush

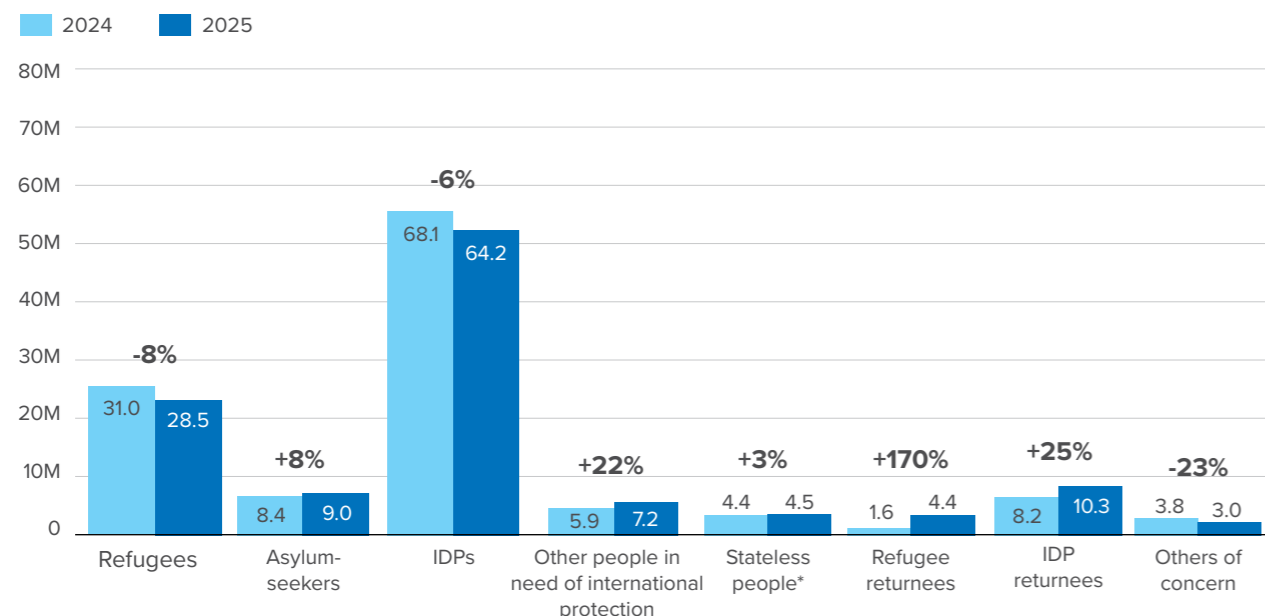
Overview of forcibly displaced and stateless people

This chapter focuses on the overall displacement and protection context in 2025. It highlights relevant data on cross-border movements of people in need of international protection, their access to rights in countries of asylum and progress towards durable solutions. It also describes the situations of stateless and internally displaced people (IDPs).

By the end of 2025, UNHCR had recorded 129.4 million refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless people, returnees and IDPs – nearly double the figure of a decade earlier. This reflects the cumulative impact of new emergencies, protracted crises and limited availability of durable solutions.

Forcibly displaced and stateless population by type | 2024-2025

129.4 million people protected or assisted by UNHCR | -0.4% in 2025 compared to 2024



* Includes all known stateless people, including 1,601,827 people who are also displaced and counted under other population categories.

Several major new and ongoing crises drove displacement in 2025. In January, renewed fighting in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) triggered large-scale displacement within the country and across borders. In February, escalating violence and insecurity in South Sudan forced more people to flee their homes. Meanwhile, the conflict in neighbouring Sudan, which began in April 2023, remained the world's largest displacement crisis.

In Myanmar, a powerful earthquake in March caused secondary displacement among populations already displaced by ongoing conflict. Later in the year, attacks on industrial facilities and security forces deepened instability in southern Mali, already under pressure from refugee arrivals from Burkina Faso. The war in Ukraine continued, with rising civilian casualties and targeted attacks on energy infrastructure causing widespread power outages, severely disrupting heating and water supplies, and driving a continued rise in Ukrainian refugees worldwide. Together, these crises illustrate how sudden shocks, unresolved conflicts and fragile protection environments continued to drive forced displacement.

By the end of 2025, 4.4 million refugee returns had been recorded worldwide, a sharp increase from previous years. However, many returns took place in adverse circumstances. Afghans returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other countries, often after return orders or deportation. Refugees also returned to Sudan, mainly from Egypt and South Sudan, as conditions worsened in countries of asylum. Many people who returned from neighbouring countries to the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) arrived in communities that had not yet been fully rebuilt.

IDP returns also rose, reaching 10.3 million. The highest numbers were recorded in the DRC, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine.

Finally, the number of stateless people was 4.5 million across 98 countries, though the actual figure is thought to be much higher.



After fleeing violence in Sudan with her children, Fatima Sulaiman found safety in Chad following a month-long journey. Now living in Iridimi, she cares for her family and has taken in Mohamed, a separated child, whom she raises as her own. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

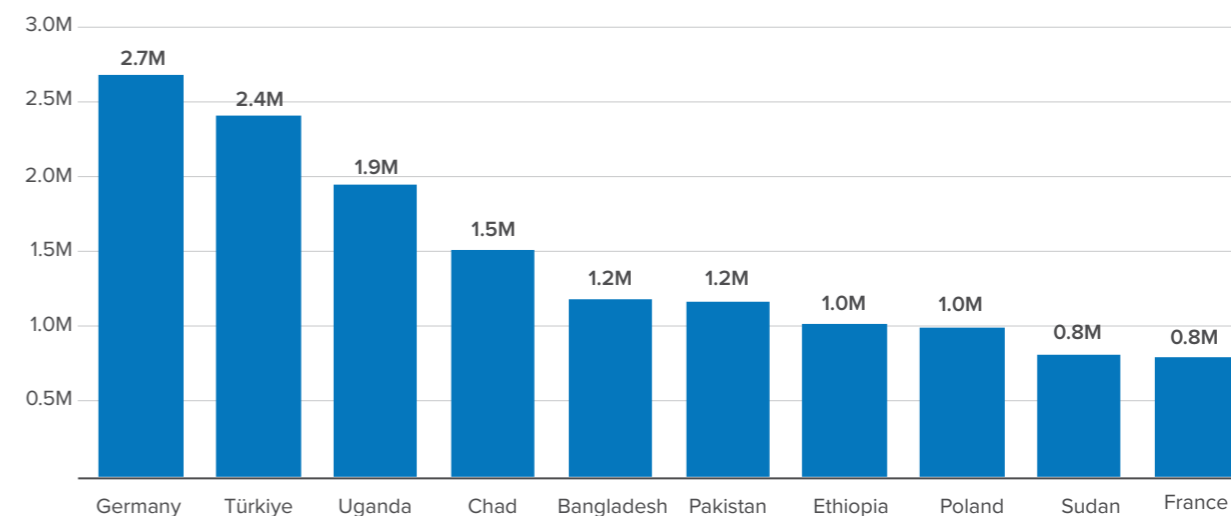
Refugees and asylum-seekers: searching for safety across borders

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers declined slightly in 2025, reaching 37.5 million, compared with 39.3 million in 2024. Women and girls made up an estimated half of all refugees, while children accounted for 41%.

Many refugees and asylum-seekers struggled to reach safety, claim their rights, regain stability and self-reliance, access support through overstretched national systems, and find durable solutions.

Top 10 countries hosting refugees

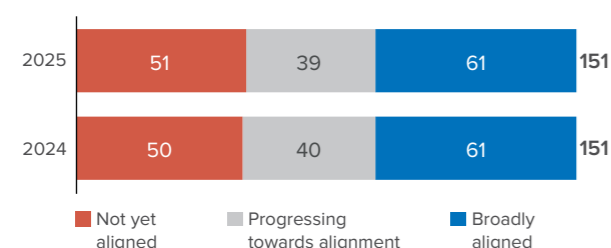
These countries hosted 51% or 14.4 million of the 28.5 million refugees worldwide.



Seeking and finding asylum

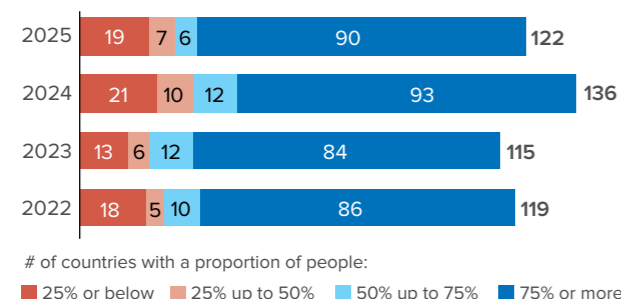
In 61 countries, national asylum frameworks were fully aligned with the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and/or the 1967 Protocol. Although this figure did not change from 2024, 11 States introduced restrictive policies and stricter control measures, marking a regression. At the same time, 13 States improved their legal frameworks by consolidating existing asylum frameworks, strengthening coherence between law and practice, and applying international refugee protection standards more consistently.

Number of countries where the national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol



People fleeing conflict or persecution often have no choice but to cross borders to find safety and seek asylum. In 2025, access to asylum procedures remained broadly stable: in 90 of 122 reporting countries, more than 75% of people seeking international protection could access these procedures. This included several major refugee-hosting countries, such as Chad, Türkiye and Uganda.

Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures



Globally, the number of asylum-seekers awaiting decisions on their claims reached 9 million, with 2.8 million new applications in 2025. Large-scale arrivals and existing backlogs strained asylum systems in many contexts, although average first-instance processing times fell slightly, from 369 days in 2024 to 364 days in 2025. Targeted interventions helped reduce processing times in some countries, including Colombia and Kenya.

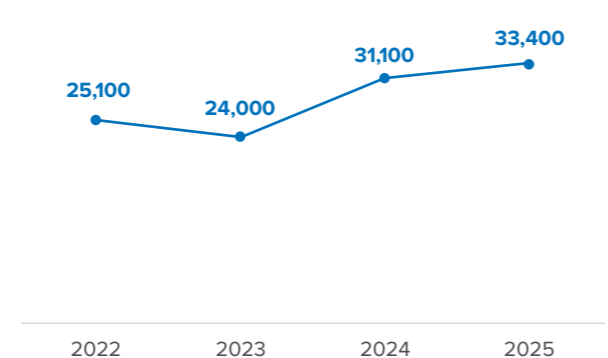
Protection risks also intensified. Based on available information, UNHCR operations reported that more than 241,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were refouled in 2025, although the actual number is likely to be far higher.

Living in countries of asylum

Refugees need secure legal status in countries of asylum so they can stay safe and access services. In 2025, 7.2 million refugees were granted residency status, down from 9.7 million in 2024. The largest numbers were recorded in Brazil, Egypt, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Romania, South Sudan and Uganda.

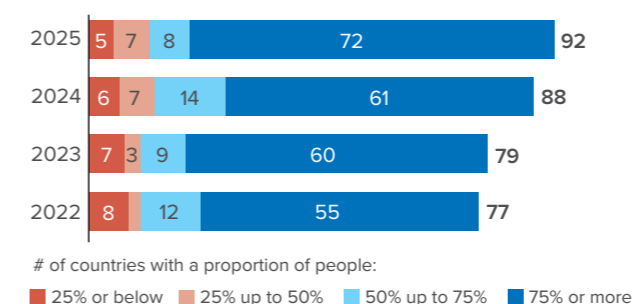
At the same time, detention linked to immigration control or legal status increased. UNHCR operations reported more than 33,000 refugees and asylum-seekers arrested or detained, continuing an upward trend since 2023. This increase was most pronounced where States suspended asylum registration, or where refugees and asylum-seekers lacked documentation.

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers arrested or detained related to immigration control or legal status



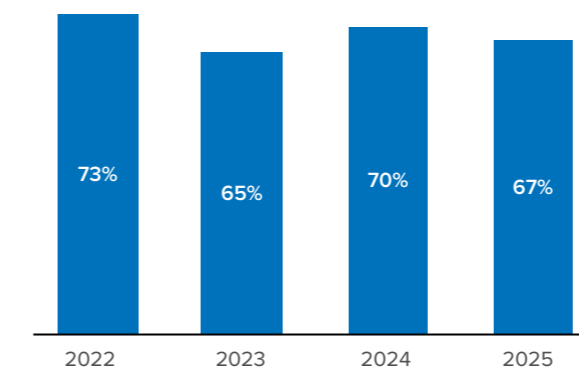
Refugees and asylum-seekers had better access to legal documentation in 2025. In 72 of 92 reporting countries, more than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers held legally recognized identity documents, up from 61 of 88 in 2024. The countries reporting this level of access included Jordan and Uganda.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with legally recognized identity documents or credentials



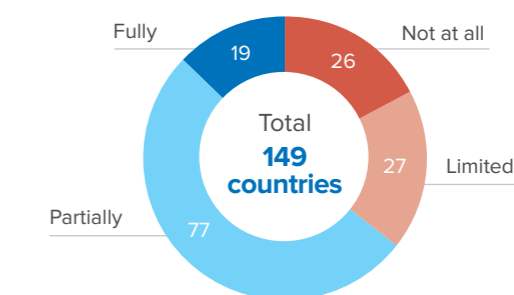
Civil documentation remained critical for securing children's futures. In 2025, 67% of refugee and asylum-seeking children under five had their births registered, a slight decrease from 2024. In Bangladesh, Jordan and Türkiye, most births of refugee and asylum-seeking children were registered, but registration rates remained low in several other countries of asylum. Children without birth registration faced heightened risks of statelessness and exclusion from public services, including education.

Proportion of refugee and asylum-seeker children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority



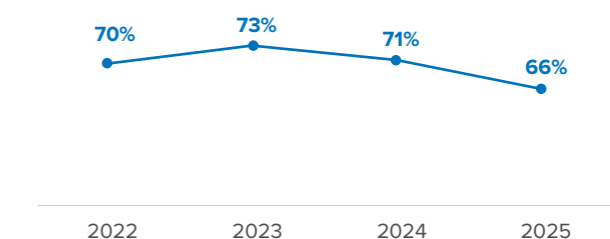
In 2025, more refugees were included in national social protection systems, supported by policy reforms, stronger institutional cooperation, and better linkages between humanitarian assistance and government programmes. Of 149 reporting countries, 96 reported full or partial inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national social protection systems, 21 more than in 2024. The remaining 53 reported limited or no inclusion, citing persistent structural, legal and financial barriers.

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



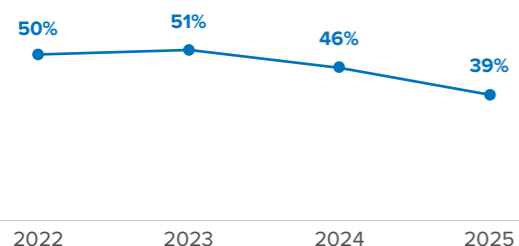
Education remained a vital source of stability for refugee and asylum-seeking children, but access deteriorated. Primary enrolment fell from 71% in 2024 to 66% in 2025, as administrative barriers, overcrowded schools and financial pressures limited opportunities to learn.

Proportion of children and young refugees and asylum-seekers enrolled in primary education



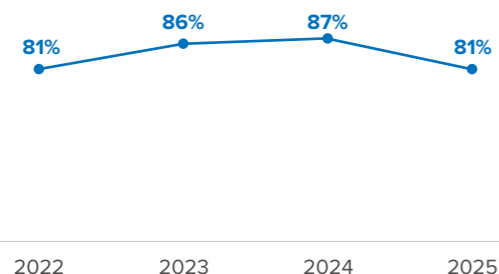
The proportion of refugee and asylum-seeking children and young people studying in national education systems also declined, from 46% in 2024 to 39% in 2025. However, enrolment in national education systems improved in some countries, including Algeria, Jordan and Mali.

Proportion of children and young refugees and asylum-seekers enrolled in the national education system



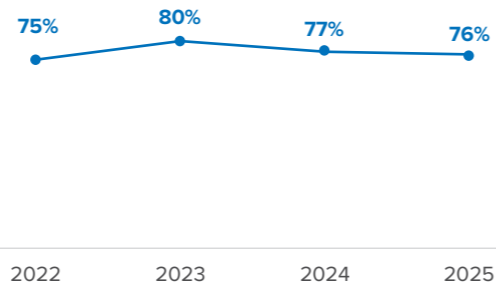
In 2025, 81% of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to health services across 92 countries, down from 87% in 2024. Some large refugee-hosting countries, including Ethiopia, reported improvements. In others, funding gaps and service disruptions led to significant deterioration. Measles vaccination coverage also declined. The share of countries reaching the global target of 95% coverage among children aged nine months to five years fell from 36% in 2024 to 33% in 2025. Almost 70% of the 44 reporting countries met the global target of having skilled health personnel attend at least 90% of births.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with access to health services



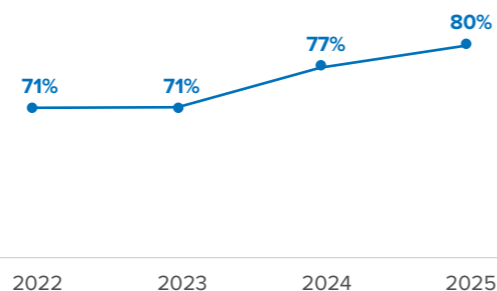
Rights are the foundation for self-reliance. When refugees can move freely, they have a better chance of finding work, accessing services and contributing to their host communities. In 110 countries, 76% of refugees and asylum-seekers had freedom of movement, with little change from previous years. Major host countries such as Chad, Sudan and Uganda largely upheld this right, allowing nearly all refugees and asylum-seekers to move freely.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence



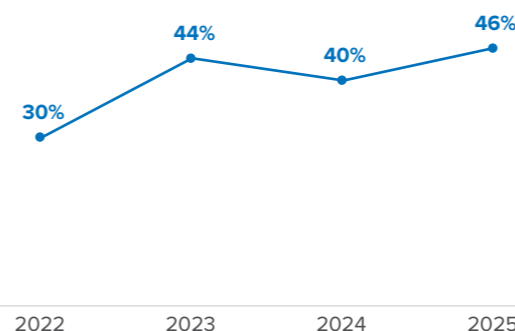
In 2025, 80% of refugees and asylum-seekers had the right to decent work across 101 reporting countries, continuing the upward trend of recent years. In Thailand, more than 80,000 refugees from Myanmar gained the right to work, expanding access to formal employment. In Burkina Faso, access to decent work also increased markedly, improving household stability, despite overarching economic pressures.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers who have the right to decent work



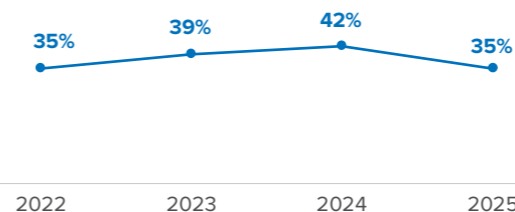
Practical barriers limited refugees' participation in local economies, including complex work permit procedures and restrictions on movement and labour market access. Across 64 reporting countries, less than half of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to a bank or mobile money account.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider



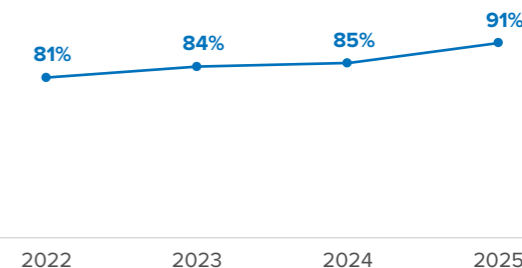
Many refugees struggled to meet their basic needs. In Cameroon, an estimated 73% of refugees and asylum-seekers lived below the national poverty line. Across 34 reporting countries, only 35% of refugees lived in adequate and affordable housing, down from 42% in 2024.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers living in habitable and affordable housing



Access to drinking water was higher, reaching 91% of people across 32 countries, but remained below 50% in three countries.

Proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers using at least basic drinking water services



Finding durable solutions

Durable solutions remained available for some refugees in 2025, but overall opportunities narrowed, in both numbers and conditions.

Despite this contraction, returns and voluntary repatriation increased significantly from 1.6 million in 2024 to around 4.4 million in 2025. Most returns were to Afghanistan (1.9 million), Syria (1.3 million) and Sudan (650,000). Many returnees faced volatile security conditions, insufficient services and economic fragility. Too many refugees returned in adverse circumstances because insecurity, inadequate conditions and treatment, and lack of access to protection and rights made staying in countries of asylum untenable. In some cases, returns amounted to refoulement.

In 2025, 24 States received 81,800 refugees through resettlement and sponsorship pathways, a 56% decrease from 2024. This sharp reduction left many people with urgent needs without access to durable solutions or opportunities to rebuild their lives. Complementary pathways offered other safe routes to third countries through education, labour mobility, community sponsorship and family reunification.

Local integration advanced in a limited number of States in 2025, such as Armenia and Brazil. Progress was particularly evident for refugees born in countries of asylum, who could now receive delayed birth certificates through late birth registration mechanisms. In Chile and Colombia, legal and administrative reforms enabled children of refugee parents born in those countries to acquire host-country nationality at birth. This removed previous barriers to local integration and opened pathways to long-term residence and future naturalization for their parents.

Chad, Ethiopia and Rwanda, and more recently Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia, introduced government-mandated identification systems with unique lifelong identifiers. Such initiatives support refugees' inclusion in national systems and help achieve durable solutions.

Looking ahead

Many countries admitted people seeking safety, provided access to asylum procedures and granted international protection, despite a challenging global context. There were also important gains in legal documentation, inclusion in social protection systems and access to decent work where legal frameworks, institutional capacity and political commitment were in place.

At the same time, refugees are facing a more restrictive protection environment, with rising reports of refoulement and detention, and

reduced access to asylum, education, health care and adequate housing. These trends reflect restrictive policies, funding gaps and growing pressure on host-country systems. Addressing these challenges will require renewed investment in asylum systems, legal and policy reforms, and providing greater opportunities for refugees to participate in socio-economic life, and greater support for host communities. The outlook for durable solutions remains constrained. The increase in returns in 2025 did not necessarily reflect improved conditions in countries of origin but rather deteriorating conditions and reduced protection space in countries of asylum. This underscores the need to reinforce the principles of voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity as an informed voluntary choice. Resettlement and sponsorship pathways declined sharply, leaving fewer options for most refugees with specific needs. Although local integration remained open to some, most refugees continued to live in protracted displacement with limited prospects for long-term solutions.

Stronger global responsibility-sharing will require sustained support for asylum systems and host communities, greater investment in countries of origin, and additional resettlement places, complementary pathways and opportunities for local integration. Ending conflicts and violence remains essential to reducing the number of refugees and asylum-seekers and enabling voluntary returns in safety and dignity.



Mayor Lukman Ingatun of TipoTipo hands newly issued birth certificates to Sama Bajau families, as part of a UNHCR-led initiative promoting birth registration to prevent statelessness in Mindanao, Philippines. © UNHCR/Gia Luga

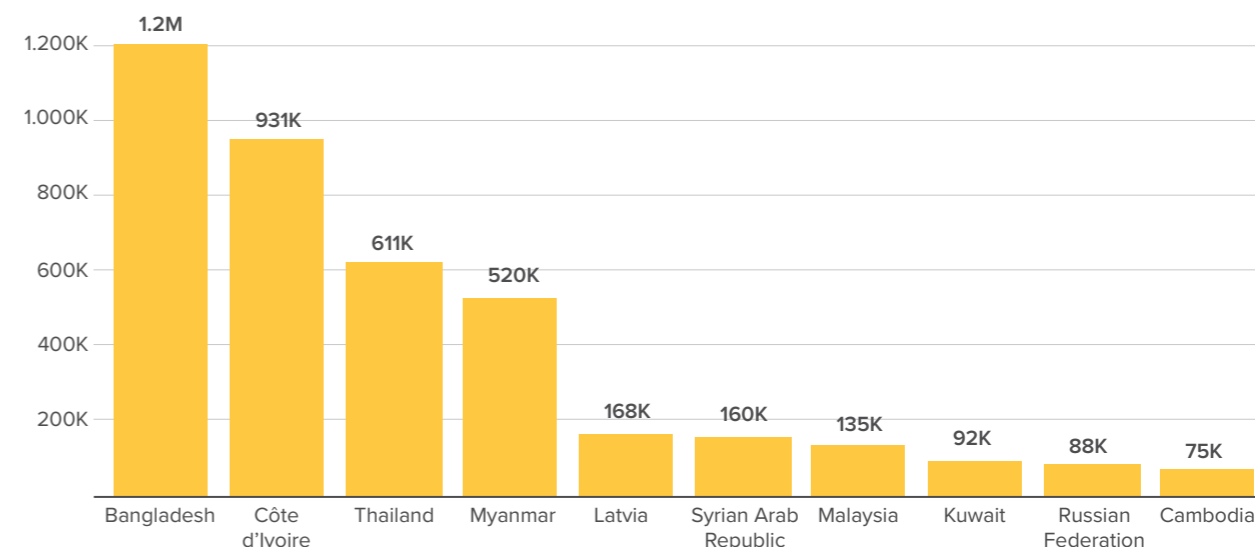
Stateless people: living without a nationality

An estimated 4.5 million individuals across 98 countries had no nationality or were of undetermined nationality, up from 4.4 million in 2024. The slight increase was mainly due to an

increase in the reported number of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh. Women and girls made up just over half of stateless people, while children accounted for 46%.

Top 10 countries with the largest known population of stateless people

These countries hosted 88% or nearly 4 million of the global stateless population (displaced and non displaced).

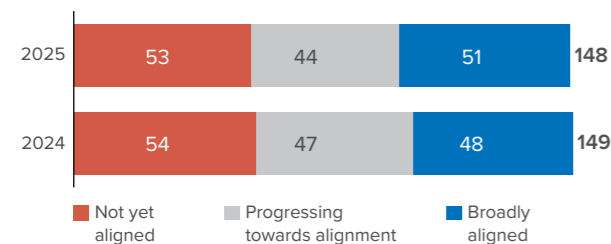


Preventing and reducing statelessness

In 2025, three more States aligned their nationality laws with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. Since 2024, 12 countries have progressed towards alignment with the 1961 Convention, and stateless people have benefited from clearer procedures to obtain documentation.

In Thailand, a 2024 Cabinet Resolution enabled more than 13,000 stateless people to secure Thai nationality and some 91,000 to obtain permanent residence, providing a pathway to nationality after five years and expanding their rights. Burkina Faso's new Code of Persons and the Family introduced a statelessness determination procedure, facilitated naturalization and strengthened civil registration.

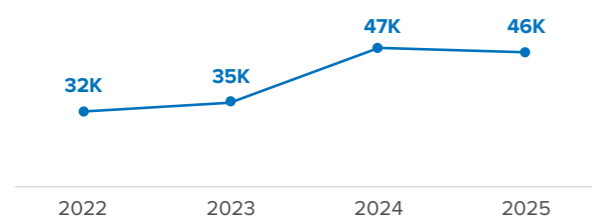
Number of countries where the national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness



Without valid identity documents, stateless people face restricted movement, stalled administrative procedures and a higher risk of exploitation. In 2025, more than 1,100 stateless people were reportedly arrested or detained.

Despite persistent challenges, 2025 brought meaningful progress that reduced the risk of statelessness being passed on to future generations. States confirmed or granted nationality to 46,000 stateless people or people of undetermined nationality, building on efforts in earlier years.

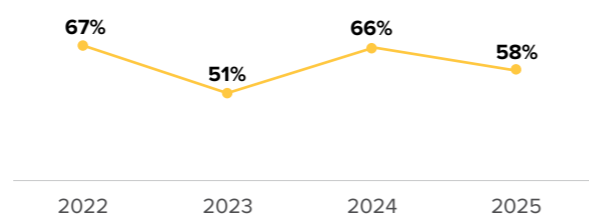
Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed



Prevention measures remained critical to reducing the risk of statelessness. In 10 of 15 countries, more than 75% of stateless children under five were registered at birth, a similar rate to 2024. In contexts with high and persistent risks, safeguards such as timely birth registration, stronger civil registration and easier access to naturalization must be put in place.

Across 28 countries, 58% of stateless people had the right to decent work, down from 66% in 2024. Barriers to employment increased the risk of negative coping mechanisms and limited prospects for self-reliance.

Proportion of stateless persons who have the right to decent work



Alongside national reforms, regional and global cooperation also advanced. In 2025, the [Global Alliance to End Statelessness](#) expanded to 180 members, with Albania, Italy, Peru, Slovenia, Spain and Uruguay joining alongside UNFPA, civil society groups, organizations led by stateless persons and academic institutions. Bringing together 28 governments, five UN agencies and 12 regional intergovernmental bodies, the alliance advanced work across three priorities: preventing childhood statelessness, eliminating gender discrimination in nationality laws and protecting the rights of stateless persons.

Looking ahead

Efforts to address statelessness advanced through legal reform, the granting of nationality, stronger statelessness determination procedures and improved civil registration systems. Further progress will depend on sustained implementation of these measures and deeper operational engagement, including expanded legal aid to help stateless people acquire nationality, continued advocacy with governments and technical guidance.



Through UNHCR's community-based approach, a displaced woman makes straw brooms, helping build her self-reliance and support other displaced people in Tigray, Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Hayelom Baro

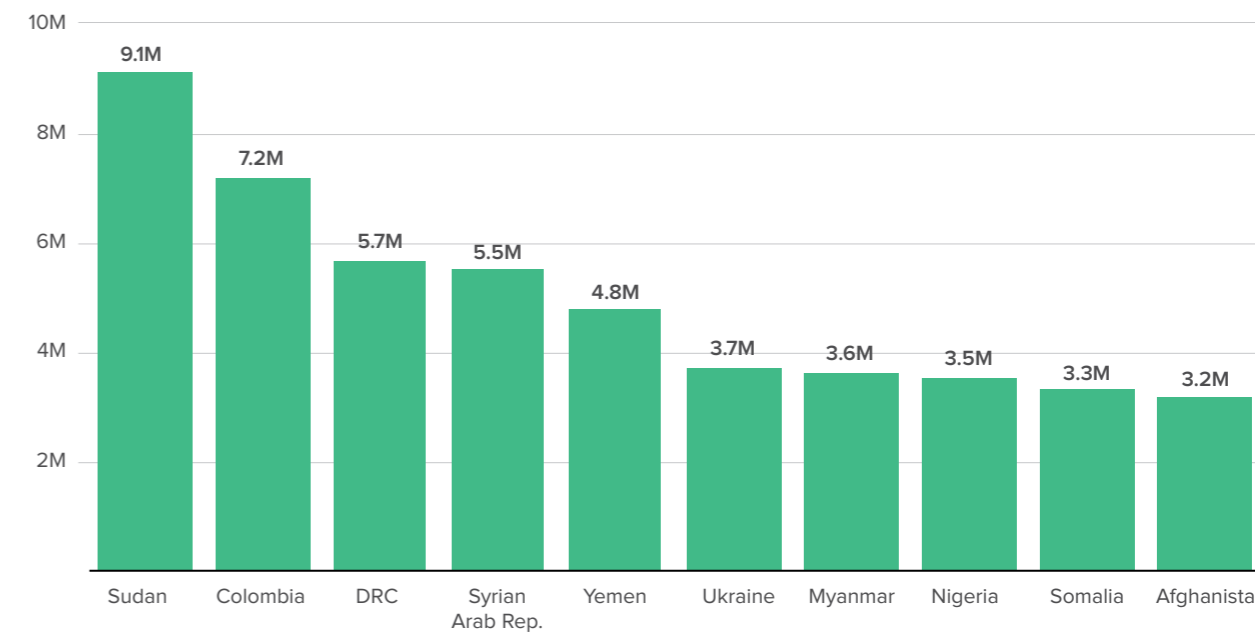
Internally displaced people: seeking safety within national borders

More than 64.2 million people were displaced within their own countries, down from 68.1 million in 2024 but far above the 40.5 million recorded a decade ago. Women and girls made up just over half of IDPs, while children accounted for 42%.

Many had been uprooted more than once, often fleeing again as violence escalated suddenly, intensifying their protection risks. Large-scale crises in the DRC, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Yemen drove some of the world's most acute internal displacement situations.

Top 10 countries with the largest internally displaced populations in 2025

These countries hosted **49.7 million** internally displaced people, representing **77%** of the global total.



Environmental degradation, drought and recurrent climate-driven hazards also added to displacement and compounded the challenges for those already displaced.

Sustaining protection

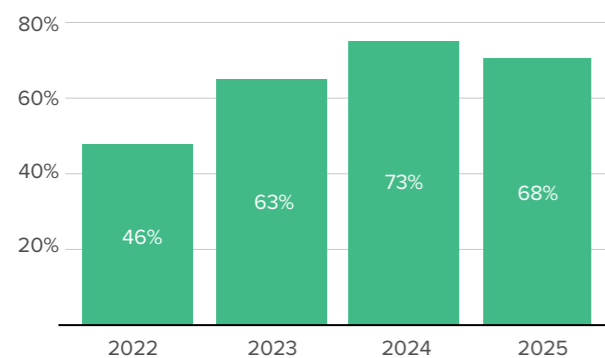
IDPs often faced greater risks during displacement and in the places where they sought safety. These included family separation, gender-based violence, disputes over housing, land and property, barriers to civil documentation, reduced access to justice and legal remedies, poor living conditions and loss of livelihoods.

Many fled with little chance to secure personal documents, property records or other proof of their legal identity and rights. Without these documents, they often struggled to claim their rights, gain legal recognition, or access assistance and services. In seven of 14 countries reporting data, fewer than 75% of IDPs had legally recognized documents.

In 2025, 68% of internally displaced children under five had their births registered with a civil authority across 11 countries, down from 73% in 2024.

Birth registration remains a critical safeguard for protecting internally displaced children, giving them legal proof of identity and supporting their access to rights and services.

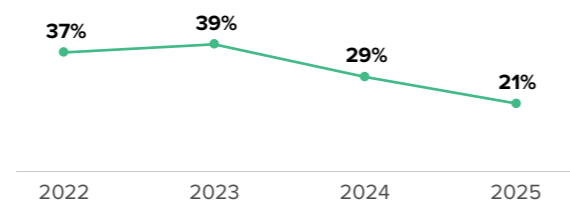
Proportion of IDP children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority



Living conditions remained difficult for IDPs. Across 17 reporting countries, only 21% of IDPs lived in habitable and affordable housing, continuing a decline seen in recent years. Many lived in makeshift shelters, unfinished buildings, informal settlements or with host families already under strain. Overcrowding, poor sanitation and limited access to safe water heightened health and protection risks.

For example, in Sudan, where more than 9.1 million people were internally displaced, only 9% reportedly lived in physically safe and secure settlements. In Ukraine, 3.7 million IDPs faced damaged infrastructure and disrupted services as the war neared its fourth year.

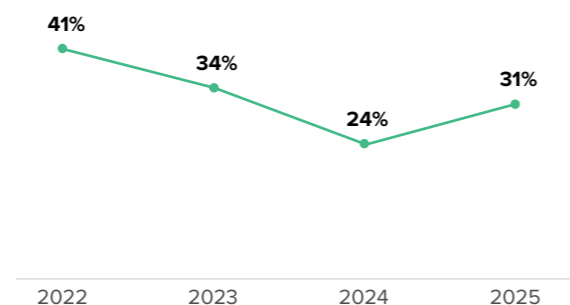
Proportion of IDPs living in habitable and affordable housing



The loss of assets and livelihoods during displacement often resulted in poor living conditions and limited IDPs' ability to secure adequate housing and meet basic needs. In Honduras, an estimated 65% of IDPs lived below the national poverty line.

Access to financial services also remained limited. Across 15 reporting countries, only 31% of IDPs had access to a bank account or mobile money service, although this marked an improvement from 2024.

Proportion of IDPs with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider



Navigating return, integration and recovery

Over 10.3 million IDPs returned to their areas of origin across 16 countries, 25% more than in 2024. However, not all returns were fully voluntary or took place in conditions that allowed people to return in safety and dignity. Returns were concentrated in the DRC, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine, often to areas with destroyed houses, damaged infrastructure, fragile services and ongoing insecurity.

Several countries strengthened policy and governance frameworks to support protection and solutions for IDPs. In Colombia, the adoption of CONPES 4180, the national policy on solutions for IDPs, marked a significant shift towards a 10-year, area-based approach. The policy addresses land, housing, livelihoods and social cohesion, including through the legalization of informal settlements and land-titling initiatives. In Nigeria, presidential assent was granted in November 2025 to legislation domesticating the Kampala Convention, and Benue State adopted its Durable Solutions Action Plan.

Looking ahead

Several countries strengthened policies and governance systems to protect IDPs and support solutions. At the same time, deteriorating conditions often offset these gains. Many IDPs faced reduced access to birth registration and civil documentation, worsening shelter and living conditions, and continued insecurity.

Future progress will depend on creating the conditions for sustainable returns, local integration or relocation to another part of the country. This will require increased investment in national and local systems, including civil documentation, housing, land and property rights, basic infrastructure, livelihoods and access to justice. Stronger and more coherent national protection systems can reduce risks, support recovery and help IDPs rebuild their lives in safety and dignity.



UNHCR's IMPACT

A Proliska psychosocial support worker assists people evacuated from frontline areas at a transit centre in Donetsk oblast, highlighting the life-saving protection provided by the Ukrainian organization, the 2025 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winner for Europe. © UNHCR/Nikola Ivanovski

How UNHCR made a difference

In 2025, UNHCR operations adapted to a more complex displacement landscape and tighter funding environment. By January 2026, UNHCR was present in 122 countries and territories, with offices in 382 locations — down from 137 countries and 522 locations in 2024.

UNHCR responded to 24 emergency declarations across 16 countries, including 10 new emergencies and 14 ongoing crises from 2024, often deploying teams within days. Support to operations included strengthening presence at borders, protection monitoring and working with affected communities, delivering life-saving assistance and protection services for individuals at risk, prioritizing cash assistance, and disseminating essential information on procedures and available services.

At the same time, many displaced people faced little prospect of solutions, leaving them in protracted displacement. Host communities continued to share their resources, but many displaced people had no choice but to rely on humanitarian assistance as global aid fell sharply.

Only 37% of the \$10.604 billion operational budget was funded, resulting in a global funding shortfall of \$6.7 billion — the biggest in UNHCR's recent history. Reduced funding limited the capacity of humanitarian actors and left fewer resources to support already stretched national services and communities affected by displacement.

UNHCR **assisted 30.7 million people** in 2025, a 16% decrease compared with 2024. This included 17.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, and 7.9 million internally displaced people (IDPs).

UNHCR continued to call for greater international responsibility-sharing and used its catalytic role to help improve conditions in countries of origin and asylum to find durable solutions. To promote self-reliance and inclusion in national systems, UNHCR worked with national authorities, development actors, municipalities, civil society, the private sector, and forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Protect

In 2025, UNHCR supported access to international protection, fundamental rights and fair asylum procedures for refugees and asylum-seekers, addressed protection risks facing IDPs, and advanced efforts to end statelessness. UNHCR's work was anchored in an age, gender and diversity approach, ensuring that the different needs, risks and capacities of forcibly displaced and stateless people are recognized and addressed in all aspects of protection and assistance.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR fulfilled its supervisory role in international refugee law, working closely with States and other partners. In 130 countries, UNHCR supported national authorities to strengthen laws and policies, contributing to more predictable, rights-based refugee and asylum legislation, an increase from 123 countries in 2024.

Central to UNHCR's protection work was the strengthening of national asylum systems in 104 countries in 2025, up from 100 countries in 2024, and the processing of 33,900 individual asylum applications under its mandate in situations where authorities requested UNHCR to do so. However, many asylum systems remained constrained by limited institutional capacity, staffing gaps and funding shortages, requiring more work to resolve persistent backlogs and overcome restrictive policies and enforcement-led approaches.

UNHCR monitored population movements at borders and engaged with refugees and asylum-seekers to identify risks of refoulement, barriers to entry or movement and other protection needs. This information helped UNHCR target its engagement with local authorities and support evidence-based advocacy at the national level. Along key routes used by refugees and migrants in mixed movements, UNHCR reinforced its route-based monitoring and analysis to track protection risks, safeguard access to asylum and prevent refoulement and detention. In Mali, UNHCR helped identify nearly 18,000 people in mixed population movements who needed international protection and supported referrals to ensure timely access to asylum and other services.

Early and reliable registration of refugees and asylum-seekers is fundamental to prevent refoulement, facilitate freedom of movement, and mitigate risks of arbitrary detention and exclusion from assistance and services. UNHCR worked with authorities and supported the registration of 1.9 million refugees and asylum-seekers across 88 countries, down from 2.7 million in 2024. The majority were in Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, Türkiye and Uganda. By the end of the year, States or UNHCR had registered an estimated 86% of all refugees and asylum-seekers individually; only when faced with large and sudden arrivals, initial registration took place by family or group. In Ethiopia, UNHCR supported authorities in conducting rapid registration of new refugee arrivals from Sudan within 45 days.

UNHCR aimed to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks, and to help people access their rights and assistance by providing protection services to 10.6 million refugees and asylum-seekers, a 4% decrease from 2024. Priority areas included documentation, legal assistance, community-based protection, child protection and gender-based violence response.

In 2025, UNHCR supported nearly 2.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers to obtain civil, identity or legal status documentation across 83 countries, including Bangladesh, Chad, Egypt and Uganda — 36% fewer than in 2024. In Jordan, UNHCR introduced 10 self-service kiosks in registration centres and refugee camps, enabling specific categories of refugees to renew documents using biometric verification.

UNHCR provided legal assistance to more than 811,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 94 countries, comparable to 2024. This support helped them resolve issues related to documentation, legal stay, detention, housing and family unity. In Pakistan, UNHCR assisted over 106,000 refugees and asylum-seekers through 10 legal aid centres, providing individual legal advice and case-based interventions at police stations, detention sites and courts.

UNHCR's child protection services reached nearly 1.2 million refugee and asylum-seeking children and caregivers in 67 countries. Under-resourced national systems and funding constraints resulted in a lack of social workers and case management capacity, especially where caseloads were large.

UNHCR's specialized gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation and response programmes reached nearly 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 74 countries. Activities focused on survivor-centred case management, provision of critical health and psychosocial support, community-based programming to prevent violence against women and girls, and advocacy to support inclusion into national systems. Refugee survivors of conflict-related sexual violence saw their access to lifesaving GBV services dramatically reduced with the closure of hundreds of Women and Girls' Safe Spaces and emergency shelters, and reduced support to women-led organizations. In 2025, 41 of 52 reporting countries indicated that at least 75% of GBV survivors were satisfied with the case management services they received, with improvements in large operations including Lebanon, Libya, Pakistan, South Sudan and Uganda.

Despite funding constraints and growing needs, UNHCR prioritized protection support for refugees and asylum-seekers and reinforced national protection and asylum systems. In 2025, funding shortfalls and reduced staffing limited the scale of several activities, including registration, documentation, protection services, child protection and gender-based violence support. Investments made in previous years in national asylum systems, registration infrastructure, legal aid and community-based protection capacities helped sustain support in some areas. However, there is a real risk of further reduction and narrowing of protection support in the coming years.

Stateless persons

UNHCR supported stateless people through advocacy, technical support to governments, documentation and legal assistance. In 23 countries, UNHCR helped strengthen national capacity for statelessness determination procedures. UNHCR also engaged with national authorities in 55 countries to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness.

UNHCR supported:

- 194,000 stateless persons with protection services in 18 countries;
- 84,000 stateless persons in obtaining civil, identity or legal status documentation in 21 countries;
- 20,000 stateless persons with legal assistance in 23 countries.

Addressing and reducing statelessness remained a core priority for UNHCR in 2025. The organization will continue to engage consistently on the issue across its operations in the future.

Returnees

UNHCR worked with national authorities to strengthen laws and policies protecting returnees. With 2.7 million more refugee returns in 2025 than in 2024, **UNHCR also expanded its assistance, reaching:**

- 2 million returnees with protection services, 62% more than in 2024;
- 50,000 returnees in obtaining civil, identity or legal status documentation, similar to 2024;
- 130,000 returnees with specialized gender-based violence prevention and response programmes, up from 124,000 in 2024;
- 129,000 returnee children and caregivers with child protection services, up from 109,000 in 2024;
- 360,000 returnees with legal assistance, up from 233,000 in 2024.

In return areas, UNHCR monitored protection risks and worked with national and local authorities to address them. For example, in the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), UNHCR documented insecurity and disputes to inform programming and help people make informed decisions about return.

Internally displaced people

UNHCR played the protection-cluster leadership role under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) arrangements in 21 countries. Where UNHCR engaged with IDPs, it supported States to uphold their rights by strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, supporting national systems, providing protection services and coordinating responses to internal displacement.

In 2025, UNHCR worked with national authorities in 20 countries to strengthen laws and policies protecting IDPs. Notable developments included the adoption by the State of Oaxaca in Mexico of the first law on internal displacement in the Americas, addressing all causes of displacement, including disasters and the adverse effects of climate change. In Somalia, UNHCR provided technical support for the adoption of the national IDP Bill, contributing to a more coordinated government-led approach to internal displacement. In Ukraine, UNHCR supported the development of a national strategy on internal displacement and provided legal assistance to help IDPs secure and restore housing, land and property rights, access social protection and obtain personal documentation. Through these efforts, UNHCR supported legislative development, ensured the participation of displaced communities and monitored implementation to promote effective protection outcomes.

UNHCR used protection analysis to strengthen advocacy and ensure that responses for IDPs addressed protection risks across all sectors. In 2025, the UNHCR-led Global Protection Cluster prepared 25 protection analysis updates to inform planning, coordination and decision-making.



Twilio reduces digital barriers for people forced to flee



© UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

Through the Twilio.org Impact Fund, Twilio deepened its commitment to improving access to services, information and inclusion for refugees by scaling UNHCR's [Digital Gateway](#). The platform provides a single place for refugees to pre-register for protection and services, schedule appointments, find trusted information and track case status remotely. Moving these services online reduces the need for in-person visits and long waits. In 2025, the Danish Design Award recognized the project for its social impact, accessibility, user-centered testing and iterative design. After successful pilots that reached more than 140,000 people in Egypt, India, Indonesia and Iraq, the Digital Gateway is set to expand to more than 10 countries in 2026.

These updates were shared with States, UN Resident Coordinators, UN country teams and IDPs. UNHCR also advocated for the inclusion of IDPs in national statistical systems, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guatemala and Ukraine, in close coordination with the Expert Group on Refugee, IDP and Statelessness Statistics, under the mandate of the United Nations Statistical Commission.

UNHCR supported:

- 3.4 million IDPs with protection services in 27 countries, 41% fewer than in 2024;
- 143,000 IDPs in obtaining identity documentation in 12 countries, 7% fewer than in 2024;
- 218,000 IDPs with legal assistance in 20 countries, down from 262,000 in 2024;
- 400,000 IDPs with gender-based violence prevention and response in 22 countries, 22% fewer than in 2024;
- 105,000 internally displaced children and caregivers with child protection services in 13 countries, down from 125,000 in 2024;
- 108,000 IDPs with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultations in seven countries, down from 184,000 in 2024.

UNHCR's support helped deliver concrete protection results in multiple contexts. In Ukraine, nearly 84,000 people, 73% of them women, received legal aid for housing, social protection and documentation issues. In Ethiopia, 50,000 IDPs received national identification cards. In Yemen, more than 12,000 IDPs and returnees received legal assistance to obtain documentation and secure housing, land and property rights. In Syria, community-based interventions reached over 1.2 million people by strengthening local capacity in MHPSS, gender-based violence prevention and response, child protection, legal aid and education support. In Somalia, around 4,000 IDPs gained secure land tenure after sustained UNHCR advocacy with local authorities.

Funding reductions forced UNHCR to scale back or stop critical protection and solutions-related activities for IDPs in many countries. These included community-based interventions, gender-based violence response, legal aid and mobile outreach. Further cuts could halt or reverse progress made through stronger legal frameworks and field-level protection work, leaving IDPs more exposed to violence, exploitation and other protection risks.



UNHCR financial assistance helps a Syrian refugee family in Lebanon meet essential needs, supporting vulnerable households facing economic hardship and caregiving responsibilities amid displacement. © UNHCR/Amine Abou Ghanem

Respond

UNHCR provided emergency support to refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees and IDPs, including assistance for basic needs, housing, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and health care. It worked through national systems where possible, strengthening existing services and filling gaps rather than creating parallel structures, to help reduce long-term aid dependency.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

Basic needs assistance did not adequately meet requirements in 2025, reflecting both growing demand and reduced coverage. Only 11 of 80 reporting countries indicated that more than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers received cash transfers and/or non-food items. In more than two-thirds of countries, UNHCR recorded a decrease in basic needs assistance compared to 2024.

Cash assistance remained central to UNHCR's response and was the preferred modality to deliver basic needs support. It helped refugees and asylum-seekers meet urgent needs with dignity while contributing to local markets. However, the total amount of cash disbursed fell sharply, from \$650 million in 2024 to \$424 million in 2025, while the number of recipients declined only slightly.

With lower levels of support per household, 71% of cash recipients reported that they could meet only half or less of their basic needs, indicating a deterioration compared with 2024.

UNHCR provided cash assistance to 2.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 99 countries, down from 2.9 million in 2024. The largest numbers of recipients were in Chad, Egypt, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon and Uganda. Women accounted for 53% of cash recipients, reflecting efforts to prioritize women as the main recipients on behalf of their households.

Alongside cash assistance, UNHCR provided non-food items to 3.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, similar to 2024. However, support reached 51 countries, down from 56 in 2024, reflecting a contraction in geographic coverage. The highest volumes of assistance were delivered in Bangladesh, Chad, Ethiopia, Lebanon and the United Republic of Tanzania.

UNHCR's shelter and housing assistance reached 1.3 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 50 countries in 2025, up from 1.2 million in 2024. UNHCR concentrated its efforts in large operations with camps or settlements, including in Bangladesh, Lebanon, Pakistan and Uganda.

Assistance ranged from emergency shelter in acute crises to progressively improved housing solutions in protracted situations. In camps, UNHCR provided tents, communal shelters and emergency shelter kits. In urban and out-of-camp settings, it helped repair damaged homes and provided rental support. For example, UNHCR supported emergency and environmentally sustainable shelter in Ethiopia, and provided cash for rent assistance to vulnerable households in Lebanon.

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene remained critical for public health, especially in camps and settlements. In 2025, UNHCR supported 6.8 million refugees and asylum-seekers with access to water and/or sanitation services in 25 countries, down from 7.2 million in 30 countries in 2024. Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda accounted for three-quarters of these services. In Kenya, water systems were expanded and maintained in Kakuma and Dadaab camps, and in Uganda, 10% of refugee water systems were transferred to national utilities.

UNHCR also supported 1.2 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 19 countries with improved cooking options, up from 1 million in 2024, with nearly half of this support provided in Bangladesh.

UNHCR intensified efforts to include refugees in national health systems, including MHPSS services, and continued to deliver essential health and nutrition services where gaps remained. UNHCR-supported health facilities provided 12.2 million individual health consultations for refugees and asylum-seekers in 58 countries, down from 14.7 million in 2024. Some 880,000 MHPSS consultations took place in 80 countries, up from 850,000 in 2024.

UNHCR and partners screened a total of 2.4 million people for acute malnutrition, down from 2.6 million in 2024. This led to treatment for 198,000 children, including 55,000 with severe acute malnutrition, alongside 37,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women. Fewer refugee-hosting locations met targets for global acute malnutrition (from 65% to 59%), stunting (23% to 20%) and child anaemia (4% to 2%).

UNHCR supported government-led efforts to include refugees and asylum-seekers in national services, with continued support from international partners. In social protection, this meant adapting eligibility rules, aligning humanitarian cash assistance with social assistance programmes, strengthening links to social care services, and improving data collection, targeting and interoperability. In Kenya, UNHCR supported the adoption of the 2025 Social Protection Act, creating a refugee-inclusive framework for national social protection systems. More than 110,000 refugee households — around 95% of those in the Kakuma and Dadaab camps — were registered in the Enhanced Single Registry, giving them a gateway to social protection programmes and national schemes, including health insurance and contributory social security programmes such as *Haba Haba*.

Despite funding constraints and growing needs, UNHCR prioritized assistance for millions of refugees and asylum-seekers in 2025, especially where no other actors could provide support. UNHCR delivered cash assistance, essential supplies, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene services, and health and nutrition support. However, assistance levels were insufficient to meet needs. Health consultations, WASH coverage and malnutrition screening declined, reflecting the growing pressure on humanitarian resources.

Returnees

In 2025, UNHCR established Operational Guidelines on reintegration, creating an organization-wide framework for predictable, protection-centred engagement in return contexts. The guidelines promote stronger prioritization, harmonized targeting and sequenced assistance, reinforced collaboration with national authorities and complementarity with development and peace actors.

UNHCR supported returned refugees individually and through area-based programming, helping address immediate needs, including when return was forced or a result of adverse circumstances in hosting countries. UNHCR invested in direct assistance and catalytic efforts to support the reintegration of returnees, often amidst challenging conditions.

UNHCR provided:

- 930,000 returnees in 17 countries with cash assistance, up 35% from 2024;
- 967,000 returnees with relief items, mainly in Afghanistan and Syria, up from 280,000 in 2024;
- 62,000 returnees with shelter and housing assistance, half of them in Syria.

Assistance to returnees reflected UNHCR's increased prioritization of return and reintegration in key operations such as Afghanistan and Syria, with expanded cash and in-kind assistance. However, shelter support remained limited and largely small-scale, even where return movements increased, including in Afghanistan, Sudan and Syria. UNHCR also maintained area-based programming and supported national authorities to provide shelter, issue trusted identity documents, broaden access to justice and other services.

Internally displaced people

Under its IASC responsibilities for protection, shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) in 2025, UNHCR provided cash, relief items and shelter to IDPs in addition to protection services, although the coverage remained constrained by insecurity, access challenges and the scale of needs.

UNHCR provided:

- 751,000 IDPs in 22 countries with cash assistance, down from 1.5 million in 2024;
- 2.1 million IDPs in 21 countries with relief items, up from 1.9 million in 2024, with around half in Myanmar and Syria;
- 459,000 IDPs in 21 countries with shelter and housing assistance, down from 842,000 in 2024.

IDPs were severely affected by funding reductions in 2025. Cash and shelter support declined, as funding shortages, access constraints in insecure areas and a shift away from non-emergency interventions limited assistance. By contrast, in-kind assistance increased, reflecting expanded emergency deliveries in high-intensity displacement contexts such as Myanmar, Sudan and Syria.

UNHCR implemented area-based approaches to support IDPs and address the needs of different populations living in the same geographic area through coordinated, inter-agency and multi-sectoral responses. In Chad, an area-based solutions project reorganized 240 sites hosting 225,000 IDPs into 11 convergence zones, strengthening access to essential services for displaced and host communities. It also contributed to the authorities' decision to assess whether some sites could become formal villages, signalling a shift towards more permanent arrangements.



Grundfos Foundation enables swift responses to acute crises



© UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

A new partnership with the Grundfos Foundation helped UNHCR respond to emergencies through flexible funding at just 24 hours' notice. This trust-based, unearmarked support allowed UNHCR to act quickly and allocate resources where needs were greatest, including in underfunded crises outside the media spotlight. In 2025, this partnership enabled UNHCR to provide lifesaving support to thousands of forcibly displaced people in Afghanistan, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Girls in Herat, Afghanistan, take part in the Code4Fun project, funded by JICA and facilitated by UNHCR, gaining digital skills in graphic design and web development to support future livelihood opportunities. © UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production.

Empower

UNHCR's empowerment and inclusion efforts focused on increasing participation of forcibly displaced and stateless people across all phases of programming. UNHCR engaged with diverse groups to identify needs and preferences in rapidly changing operational contexts and uneven national system capacity, impacted by shrinking aid and resources. Women and girls played vital roles in community-based protection and feedback mechanisms, helping to shape more inclusive and accountable responses. However, progress remained constrained by persistent gender norms, exclusion of marginalized groups and funding cuts that reduced outreach, safe spaces and community engagement.

UNHCR strengthened partnerships with local actors. As available funds decreased in 2025, the number of partnership agreements reduced by

14% compared to 2024. However, the proportion of local and national partners – including local NGOs, as well as refugee-, IDP- and women-led organizations – remained at 87%.

About 20% of funded partners were women-led organizations. In Bangladesh, Colombia and Uganda, sustained partnerships with these organizations strengthened women's leadership, increased their role in community decision-making and helped maintain and expand protection services.

UNHCR supported community-based protection structures and initiatives led by women, youth, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups. These structures served as critical protection mechanisms and created safe spaces, reaching more than 8.2 million people across UNHCR operations, including in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Nigeria, Syria and Ukraine.

Globally, an advisory board of 17 organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless people helped shape UNHCR's approach to localization. It promoted meaningful participation and showed how funding cuts disproportionately affected refugee-led organizations. At the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, 260 displaced and stateless people, 55% of them women, and organizations they lead presented community priorities and protection gaps. The Refugee Advisory Group to the annual Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways informed policy decision-making on third-country solutions. Similar regional mechanisms helped embed meaningful participation in decision-making, contributing to more inclusive and responsive outcomes.

Participatory assessments reached over 217,000 people in 107 countries, down from 260,000 in 2024. More than half of those consulted were refugees and asylum-seekers. This ensured that UNHCR's programming was anchored in accountability to affected people. UNHCR also worked with national and local authorities to support the inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless people in national systems and development plans.

Refugees and asylum-seekers

Education helps children and youth build safer, more stable futures. UNHCR supported 2 million refugee and asylum-seeking children in 66 countries through education programmes, from early childhood to primary, secondary and non-formal education. Operations prioritized including refugee children in national education systems where capacity existed. Where it did not, they expanded classrooms, trained teachers and provided learning materials and language support. In Bangladesh, UNHCR supported early childhood, primary and secondary education in camps and expanded structured learning, higher education preparation pathways for adolescents and youth, and tertiary education opportunities. Despite these efforts, refugee children's primary school enrolment has declined in recent years.

UNHCR supported 355,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in 82 countries through livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions, down from 378,000 in 89 countries in 2024. UNHCR helped refugees access jobs and financial services by building partnerships with employers, chambers of commerce, financial institutions and national authorities. In Brazil, for example, the Companies with Refugees Forum helped 17,000 refugees find jobs.

UNHCR integrated community-based approaches, ensuring that protection and solutions strategies are built on the capacities of refugees, asylum-seekers and host communities, promoting sustainable and culturally appropriate responses, and contributing to social cohesion. In South Sudan, community structures – including protection networks, women's and youth groups, and camp committees – helped identify protection risks, share information and refer people for support. In Bangladesh, community centres provided safe spaces for social interaction, learning and psychosocial support, reaching 630,000 people. In Lebanon, 440 outreach volunteers reached 243,000 people with information, 63% of them women and girls, and referred over 16,000 people for additional support.

UNHCR strengthened safe feedback and response mechanisms to ensure accessible, confidential and trusted channels for refugees and asylum-seekers to raise concerns and obtain information. Some 4 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 128 countries used UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms, up from 3.7 million people in 2024. In 49 of 74 reporting countries, more than 75% of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to safe feedback and response mechanisms provided by organizations working in the areas where they live. In Pakistan, UNHCR's helpline responded to more than 130,000 calls, and together with more than 5,000 outreach volunteers, it disseminated information, received concerns and identified protection needs.

Stateless persons

UNHCR worked directly with affected communities, for example, through consultations on nationality law reform with stateless communities in Kenya, collaboration with civil society networks supporting stateless persons in the Philippines, and workshops to strengthen protection mechanisms in the Republic of Moldova. Through the Global Alliance to End Statelessness, UNHCR partnered with stateless-led organizations on joint advocacy at regional and global events and initiatives.

Internally displaced people

UNHCR used community-based protection to help IDPs participate in decisions, access services and strengthen local support networks. Engagement with community groups allowed IDPs to voice their needs and work together, while locally led initiatives strengthened participation, social cohesion and safe spaces.

In Yemen, UNHCR-supported community-based protection networks improved access to services for IDPs. In Burkina Faso, UNHCR worked with local authorities to establish 110 mixed community committees and 10 women's committees, strengthening inclusive community governance. In Afghanistan, community outreach volunteers reached 82,000 IDPs and 65,000 host community members with information and services.

At the global level, UNHCR supported the IDP Advisory Group, composed of 12 IDPs from around the world, advising on global interagency processes related to internal displacement.

According to the Global Annual Inclusion Survey, from 2021 to 2025 UNHCR reported 21 examples of work that contributed to the statistical inclusion of IDPs and the implementation of the International Recommendations on IDP Statistics. UNHCR was also named as a partner in 42 other examples.



UNHCR staff welcome refugees arriving at Rome Fiumicino Airport through the ReadyForIT labour mobility programme, enabling refugees trained in IT in Uganda to access employment opportunities in Italy and rebuild their lives, including IT roles at Accenture's Naples office. © UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

Spain's private sector partnerships bridge the gap between school and higher education



© UNHCR/Eric Didier Karinganire

Partnerships with Mango and ProFuturo Foundation supported refugee education.

In 2025, ProFuturo – Telefónica Foundation and “la Caixa” Foundation’s education programme – continued its vital support to UNHCR, contributing more than \$1 million to the partnership. Together, they expanded digital education for refugee and host community children in Nigeria, Rwanda and Zimbabwe, reaching 24,000 students and 600 teachers across 26 schools. The partnership also helped deliver inclusive, high-quality education for the most vulnerable children.

Mango’s partnership with UNHCR is another example of support for refugee women’s access to higher education through DAFI scholarships. Running to 2027, the alliance will fund 96 university scholarships, empowering displaced women to build autonomy and expand their long-term opportunities.

Solve

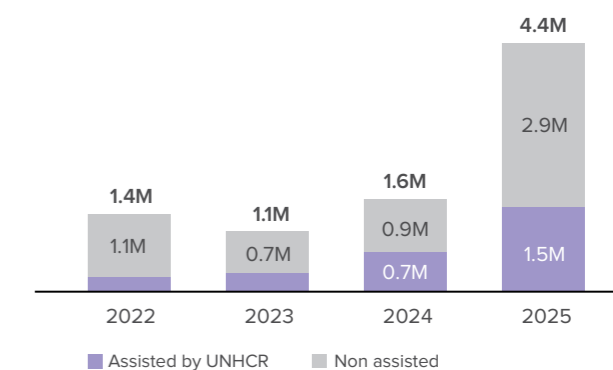
UNHCR played its mandated role in supporting durable solutions for refugees through voluntary repatriation and reintegration, resettlement, complementary pathways and local integration. It also prioritized efforts to reduce and prevent statelessness and advance solutions for IDPs.

Refugees and refugee returnees

In 2025, 4.4 million refugees returned from 48 countries of asylum to their countries of origin, 170% more than in 2024. UNHCR assisted 1.5 million of these returnees in 22 countries, including in contexts where returns occurred under adverse conditions. UNHCR facilitated organized return movements through border coordination, transport assistance, reception support and referrals to services. In the Central African Republic (CAR), UNHCR supported returning refugees with financial assistance, transport, hot meals, reception services and temporary accommodation in transit centres.

UNHCR also supported tripartite and high-level ministerial meetings on voluntary repatriation of Congolese and Rwandan refugees.

Number of refugees who returned to their country of origin | 2022-2025



In 2025, UNHCR provided counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation to more than 1 million refugees and asylum-seekers in 66 countries.

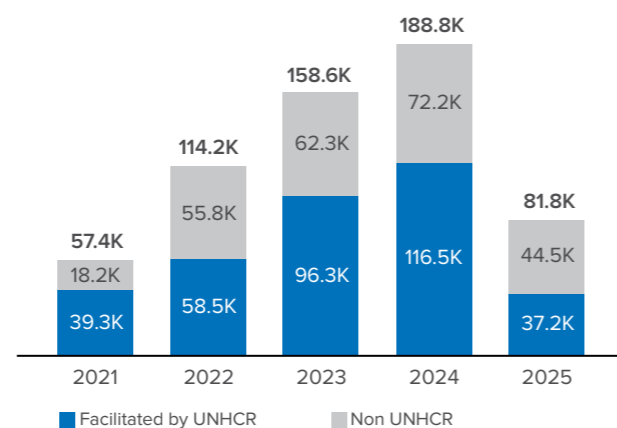
This included information on conditions in areas of return, available services and procedures, helping refugees make informed decisions. In Lebanon, UNHCR supported the repatriation of Syrian refugees with return information, counselling and cash assistance. In Türkiye, UNHCR provided Syrian refugees with counselling on voluntary repatriation and expanded border monitoring for voluntary and informed returns. In Syria, UNHCR assisted over 31,000 returnees at crossing points from Lebanon and Türkiye, providing transport, protection support and referrals to facilitate safe and dignified returns.

UNHCR advocated for returnees to be included in national services, development plans and livelihood opportunities. It worked with national authorities, local communities, the private sector, and development and peace actors, recognizing that sustainable return and reintegration require broader development investment. In Syria, UNHCR linked reintegration planning and programming for returnees to national recovery and development frameworks, supporting a shift towards more sustainable, development-oriented reintegration.

UNHCR also advocated for third-country solutions for refugees who lacked viable options in countries of asylum, but these opportunities declined sharply in 2025. UNHCR submitted 34,900 refugees for resettlement in 74 countries, an 83% decrease from 2024. Submissions were mainly from large refugee-hosting countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Lebanon, Pakistan and Türkiye.

UNHCR supported 37,248 resettlement departures, a 68% decline from 2024. The highest resettlement departures were from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Lebanon and Türkiye. The overall reduction reflected reduced global resettlement quotas, programme suspensions and severe funding cuts. Nevertheless, UNHCR focused on upholding quality, safeguards and efficiency standards in resettlement processing.

Number of people who departed on resettlement | 2021-2025



Complementary pathways provided regulated opportunities for a smaller number of refugees to access education, labour mobility, community sponsorship and family reunification. In Bangladesh, UNHCR supported refugees' access to family reunification, sponsorship and education pathways. In Jordan, UNHCR advanced third-country labour mobility, enabling initial departures and supporting refugees through targeted English language test preparation to access skills-based pathways.

Local integration remained a solution for very few refugees. UNHCR supported 37,000 refugees to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or access naturalization procedures in 43 countries, compared to 99,000 in 2024.

Refugees who found durable solutions represented only a fraction of those who have remained displaced over the past decade. As many live in protracted situations, protecting their rights during displacement remains crucial, alongside efforts to expand opportunities for voluntary return, third-country solutions and local integration.

Stateless persons

UNHCR supported more than 23,000 stateless persons to acquire or confirm nationality through legal counselling, technical assistance and community-based identification, up from 16,000 in 2024.

In Canada, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Peru and Viet Nam, legislative amendments and court rulings advanced safeguards against childhood statelessness, restored or facilitated access to nationality, and ensured more inclusive nationality provisions, in line with UNHCR's advocacy.

With UNHCR's support, North Macedonia resolved all known cases of statelessness linked to the dissolution of the former Yugoslavia.

In the Dominican Republic, UNHCR's advocacy enabled hundreds of previously naturalized people to obtain birth certificates and identity cards as proof of their Dominican nationality.

In Niger, UNHCR supported authorities through capacity development and policy dialogue to address legal and administrative gaps linked to statelessness risks.

Internally displaced people

UNHCR advanced its work on solutions for IDPs in close partnership with IOM and UNDP, acting jointly under the new solutions architecture established following the closure of the Office of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the Global Solutions Hub. Across the 21 countries affected by internal displacement that took part in the data collection, progress was measurable but uneven: 20% of countries reported significant progress towards solutions, 30% reported moderate progress, and 50% indicated that efforts remained at an early stage.

In 2025, 16.8 million IDPs were included in government-endorsed solutions strategies or frameworks, compared to 11.7 million in 2024. Joint advocacy efforts produced results in 16 countries, where solutions were incorporated into national or sub-national development plans.

UNHCR implemented joint projects financed through the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund in CAR, Colombia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen, to strengthen national ownership of solutions processes and catalyze development financing.

UNHCR focused on reinforcing national legislative and policy frameworks to safeguard the rights of IDPs, supporting local capacities by enhancing the self-organization and agency of displaced populations, promoting their inclusion in national systems and services, and integrating protection risk analysis into solutions planning and implementation. In Colombia, UNHCR's technical support helped the Government adopt a new national policy on solutions for IDPs, setting out coordinated, area-based actions to address long-standing challenges related to land, housing, livelihoods, health, education and social cohesion.



FUNDING UNHCR'S PROGRAMMES

Left to right: Ekyoci Vanuelle and Charlotte Feza, refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, take part in women's food business groups at an EU-funded FAO food processing hub in Kalobeyei, Kenya. The hub provides a safe, hygienic workspace and the equipment needed to help refugee women earn an income. © UNHCR/Eric Bakuli

Funding UNHCR's programmes

Overview

This chapter provides an overview of UNHCR's budgeted requirements, income and expenditure in 2025. More detailed information at regional and operational levels is available on UNHCR's [Planning, funding and results](#) page.

UNHCR's final **budget for 2025** amounted to **\$10.604 billion**, having increased from the 2025 original budget of **\$10.248 billion**.

Requirements for programmed activities totalled **\$10.132 billion**, a decrease of **\$208 million** compared to 2024.

Supplementary budgets totalling **\$357 million** were established to support responses in the Middle East (**\$104 million**) and the Syrian refugee returns situation (**\$253 million**).

Funds available amounted to **\$3.932 billion**, leaving an overall funding gap of 63%, compared to 52% in 2024. Funds available included transfers from funds other than the Annual Programme of **\$117 million**, in response to the funding crisis.

Expenditure totalled **\$3.830 billion**, representing a 22% decrease compared to 2024. The implementation rate – defined as expenditure over total funds available – was 97% in 2025, up from 95% in 2024.

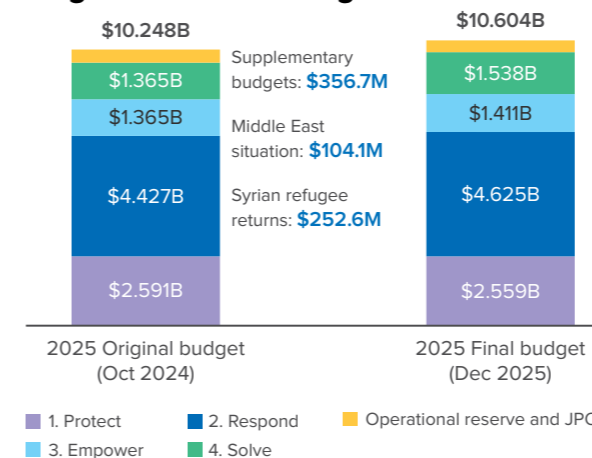
Budget and expenditure overview (USD)

REGION		1. Protect				2. Respond				3. Empower				4. Solve				TOTAL	% of Global	% of programmed activities
		Attaining Favorable Protection Environments	Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality	Securing Solutions	Attaining Favorable Protection Environments	Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality	Securing Solutions	Attaining Favorable Protection Environments	Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality	Securing Solutions	Attaining Favorable Protection Environments	Realizing Basic Rights in Safe Environments	Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality	Securing Solutions			
EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES	Budget	511,965,190	1,109,975,895	356,814,651	205,965,376	2,184,721,111	21%	22%												
	Expenditure	177,833,161	363,124,121	107,149,605	44,518,028	692,624,915	18%	18%												
SOUTHERN AFRICA	Budget	138,663,520	125,667,967	89,716,389	97,238,286	451,286,161	4%	4%												
	Expenditure	39,326,006	57,714,082	32,558,139	28,384,018	157,982,245	4%	4%												
WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Budget	319,206,651	438,733,340	263,544,335	169,582,910	1,191,067,236	11%	12%												
	Expenditure	122,705,992	160,683,138	72,862,531	32,908,514	389,160,175	10%	10%												
THE AMERICAS	Budget	324,487,906	142,091,667	94,312,578	254,280,299	815,172,450	8%	8%												
	Expenditure	115,841,065	34,663,112	21,699,067	58,655,806	230,859,050	6%	6%												
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	Budget	232,833,790	434,625,762	196,244,700	94,242,854	957,947,106	9%	9%												
	Expenditure	109,121,170	164,833,037	83,238,044	39,627,604	396,819,855	10%	10%												
EUROPE	Budget	430,404,646	453,649,458	51,298,003	311,772,125	1,247,124,232	12%	12%												
	Expenditure	233,139,287	226,617,818	14,664,570	83,182,313	557,603,989	15%	15%												
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	Budget	418,036,197	1,518,345,203	258,322,068	294,331,841	2,489,035,309	23%	25%												
	Expenditure	183,545,481	378,873,943	101,756,293	69,661,241	733,836,958	19%	19%												
Country Operational Technical Support	Budget	24,549,010	103,223,513	13,539,921	14,750,641	156,063,084	1%	2%												
	Expenditure	21,834,720	65,676,122	9,653,168	7,940,432	105,104,441	3%	3%												
SUBTOTAL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES	Budget	2,400,146,910	4,326,312,803	1,323,792,645	1,442,164,331	9,492,416,689	90%	94%												
	Expenditure	1,003,346,882	1,452,185,373	443,581,417	364,877,956	3,263,991,628	85%	85%												
Global programmes	Budget	96,760,898	175,376,731	53,368,135	58,140,239	383,646,004	4%	4%												
	Expenditure	96,257,239	140,891,550	42,555,494	35,004,987	314,709,269	8%	8%												
Headquarters	Budget	61,987,734	122,880,982	34,189,118	37,246,261	256,304,094	2%	3%												
	Expenditure	71,230,681	114,526,729	31,491,209	25,903,808	243,152,428	6%	6%												
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES	Budget	2,558,895,541	4,624,570,516	1,411,349,898	1,537,550,832	10,132,366,788	96%	100%												
	Expenditure	1,170,834,802	1,707,603,652	517,628,120	425,786,751	3,821,853,325	100%	100%												
Operational Reserve	Budget	-	-	-	-	459,832,921	4%	-												
	Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-												
JPO	Budget	-	-	-	-	12,000,000	-	-												
	Expenditure	-	-	-	-	8,602,562	-	-												
TOTAL	Budget	2,558,895,541	4,624,570,516	1,411,349,898	1,537,550,832	10,604,199,709	100%	100%												
	Expenditure	1,170,834,802	1,707,603,652	517,628,120	425,786,751	3,830,455,887	100%	100%												

For a full set of downloadable financial tables, please refer to the funding tables [annex](#).

Budgeted requirements

Original and final budget | 2025



By Impact Area

Impact Area 1 – Attaining favourable protection environments – accounted for the second-largest allocation with a budget of **\$2.559 billion**, representing 25% of programmed activities. The highest requirements were for Uganda, Egypt, Lebanon, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Impact Area 2 – Realizing basic rights in safe environments – accounted for the largest share of the required budget, totalling **\$4.625 billion**, or 46% of programmed activities. Of these, the highest requirements were for Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Ethiopia and Sudan.

Impact Area 3 – Empowering communities and achieving gender equality – accounted for the smallest share of the budget, at \$1.411 billion, or 14% of programmed activities. The highest requirements were for South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, Chad and Ethiopia.

requirements were for Iraq, Ukraine, Türkiye, Lebanon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

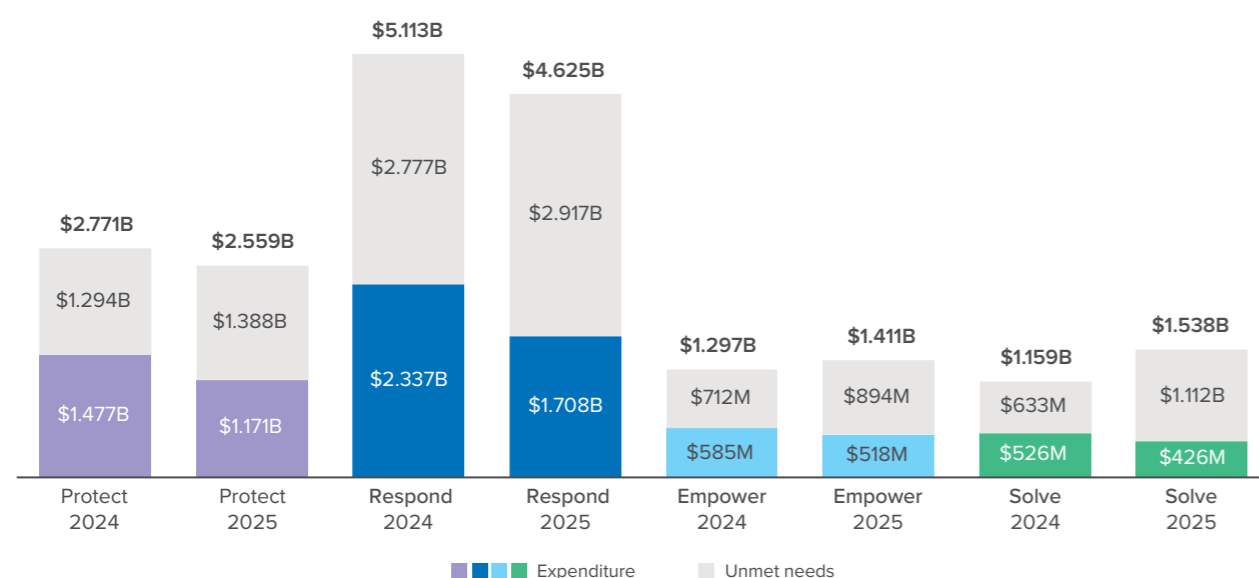
Regionally, the largest budgetary requirements were in the Middle East and North Africa, totalling \$2.489 billion, or 25% of the total requirements for programmed activities, followed by East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, with requirements of \$2.185 billion or 22% of the total.

Impact Area 4 – Securing solutions – ranked third, with budgeted requirements of \$1.538 billion, or 15% of programmed activities. The highest

Expenditure

By Impact Area

Budget and expenditure by Impact area | 2024-2025



Under Impact Area 1, expenditure amounted to \$1.171 billion, representing 31% of total expenditure. This reflects a decrease of \$306 million (21%) compared to \$1.477 billion in 2024. The budget shortfall for Impact Area 1 in 2025 was \$1.388 billion.

Under Impact Area 3, expenditure amounted to \$518 million, representing 14% of total expenditure. This marks a decrease of \$67 million (12%) compared to \$585 million in 2024. The budget shortfall for Impact Area 3 in 2025 was \$894 million.

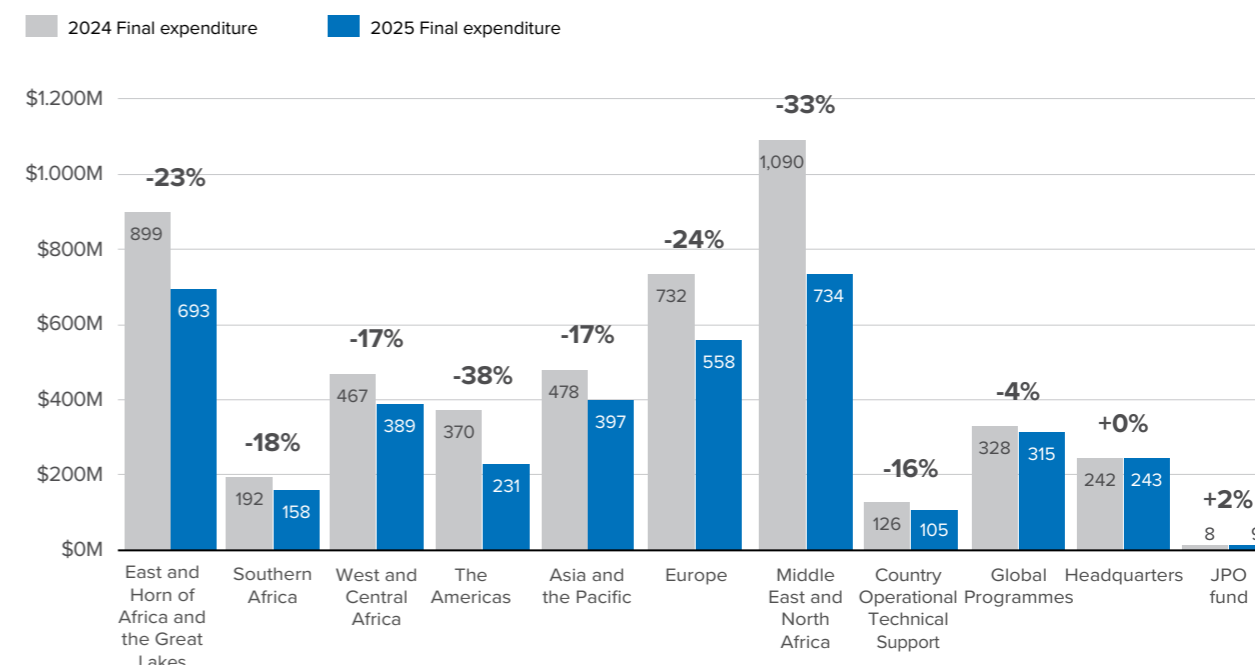
Under Impact Area 2, expenditure totalled \$1.708 billion, accounting for 45% of overall expenditure. This represents a decrease of \$629 million (27%) compared to \$2.337 billion in 2024. The budget shortfall for Impact Area 2 in 2025 was \$2.917 billion.

Under Impact Area 4, expenditure amounted to \$426 million, accounting for 11% of total expenditure. This reflects a decrease of \$100 million (19%) compared to \$526 million in 2024. The budget shortfall for Impact Area 4 in 2025 was \$1.112 billion.

By region

2024-2025 Expenditure across the regions | USD millions

Global expenditure* decreased by 22% (\$1.102B) compared to 2024



In the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, expenditure totalled \$693 million, representing a decrease of \$207 million (23%) compared to \$899 million in 2024.

In the Middle East and North Africa, expenditure amounted to \$734 million, representing a decrease of \$356 million (33%) compared to \$1.090 billion in 2024.

In Southern Africa, expenditure amounted to \$158 million, reflecting a decrease of \$34 million (18%) compared to \$192 million in 2024. Effective 1 October 2025, the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa was closed, and its operations were moved to the regional bureaux for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes and for West and Central Africa.

Country operational technical support (COTS) expenditure

Country operational technical support (COTS) comprises centrally managed activities that directly support country operations in achieving their intended results. These activities include emergency preparedness and response, information and communication technology, security services, education and resettlement, as well as innovation- and environment-related projects.

In West and Central Africa, expenditure amounted to \$389 million, representing a decrease of \$78 million (17%) compared to \$467 million in 2024.

COTS expenditure totalled \$105 million, representing a decrease of \$21 million (16%) compared to \$126 million in 2024. This reduction reflects a scaling back of activities under the Green Financing Facility innovation project, global stock management services and resettlement programmes.

In the Americas, expenditure totalled \$231 million, a decrease of \$139 million (38%) compared to \$370 million in 2024.

Global programmes

Global programmes consist of centrally managed activities that benefit the organization as a whole and support field operations beyond geographic

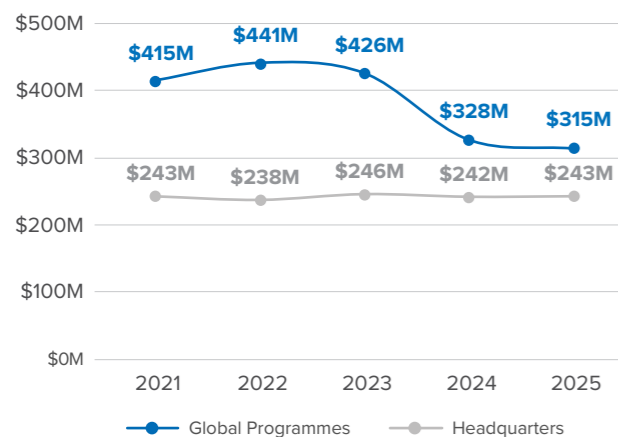
In Asia and the Pacific, expenditure totalled \$397 million, a decrease of \$81 million (17%) compared to \$478 million in 2024.

In Europe, expenditure amounted to \$558 million, a decrease of \$174 million (24%) compared to \$732 million in 2024.

boundaries. Budgeted and managed at headquarters, they provide technical leadership, policy direction and operational support, while strengthening advocacy and resource mobilization across all UNHCR operations. These programmes enhance UNHCR's capacity to deliver protection and solutions more efficiently and effectively.

Expenditure on global programmes amounted to \$315 million, representing a decrease of \$13 million (4%) compared to \$328 million in 2024. Global programmes were affected by reduced funding levels, resulting in expenditure decreases in the Global Learning Development Center; in registration, data and knowledge management, particularly global data services; and in research, evaluation, and documentation-related activities. These reductions were partially offset by continued targeted investments in private sector partnerships, which reached \$193 million in 2025, up from \$188 million in 2024, reflecting an expanded capacity for resource mobilization and the diversification of funding.

Expenditure for Global programmes and Headquarters | 2021-2025



Expenditure via partners

Partner type	Number of Partners	Number of Partnerships	Expenditure (USD)	% of exp
Government	203	216	\$103,835,953	12%
International NGO	135	401	\$351,725,185	40%
National NGO *	862	949	\$416,923,788	48%
UN Organizations	20	24	\$4,440,214	1%
Total	1,220	1,590	\$876,925,140	100%

* National NGO included 38 Community-based Organization (CBO) and 216 Grant Agreement Partners which spent respectively a total of \$5.8 million and \$1.8 million.

Headquarters

Headquarters expenditure increased by \$1 million, to \$243 million. HQ divisions and entities significantly reduced operating costs in 2025. However, these savings were offset by additional costs linked to structural changes made in response to the funding crisis.

While the Global Report 2025 aligns with the organizational structures approved in the 2025 budget, headquarters underwent restructuring, including the rationalization and regrouping of functional responsibilities across divisions, alongside workforce reductions.

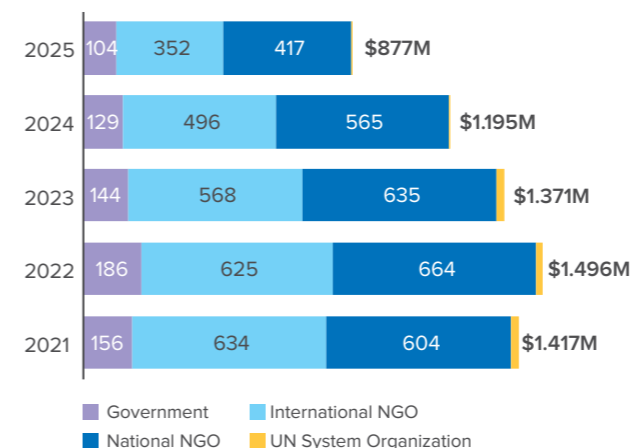
Operational reserve

Some \$28 million was transferred from the operational reserve to operations in Uganda (\$18 million) and Libya (\$10 million) in support of the emergency response to the Sudan crisis. These additional resources enabled UNHCR to sustain essential protection and emergency response capacity in key asylum countries along Sudanese displacement routes. Key protection activities included registration and documentation of refugees and asylum-seekers to facilitate access to protection and assistance, prioritize inclusion and social cohesion, and safeguard the rights and well-being of the most vulnerable.

Expenditure via partners | 2021-2025

\$877 million (-27% from 2024) spent via **1,220** partners (-12%) in 2025.

23% total expenditure



UNHCR channeled a total of \$877 million through 1,220 funded partners across 109 operations or 23% of its total expenditure. 87% of these partners were local and national entities. These local and national actors received a total of \$521 million, equivalent to 59% of all partnership funding.

UNHCR continued to expand its use of the Grant Agreement modality¹, supporting 216 partners, including 29 women-led and 20 youth-led organizations, thereby advancing inclusive and community-based engagement. Since its launch in 2021, nearly 703 grant agreements have been signed, underscoring UNHCR's commitment to localization and to providing direct support to refugee- and stateless-led initiatives.

2025 Expenditure by source of funding | USD thousands

	SOURCE OF FUNDING									TOTAL
	Carry-over from prior years		Voluntary Cash Contributions			Voluntary in-kind Contributions	Indirect support costs	United Nations Regular Budget	Other income ²	
	Earmarked	Unearmarked	Earmarked	Softly earmarked ¹	Unearmarked					
FIELD OPERATIONS										
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes		23,348		369,311	96,335	178,711	24,919			692,625
Southern Africa		1,478		68,269	26,022	61,586	628			157,982
West and Central Africa		11,084		233,373	67,568	74,736	2,400			389,160
Americas		3,435		112,342	10,488	103,602	992			230,859
Asia and the Pacific		12,488		245,373	37,967	95,229	5,763			396,820
Europe		49,596		318,114	94,962	92,668	2,264			557,604
Middle East and North Africa		32,496		500,581	73,977	108,463	18,319			733,837
Country Operational Technical Support		7,765		60,008	10,019	15,259	11,206		847	105,104
TOTAL COUNTRY AND REGIONAL PROGRAMMES		141,691	0	1,907,371	417,338	730,253	66,491	-	847	3,263,992
Global Programmes		3,388	71,503	23,128	16,970	3,244	5,006		191,471	314,709
Headquarters		4,696		8,759			13,313	149,156	50,458	243,152
Operational Reserve										0
Junior Professional Officers Fund		2,135		6,468						8,603
TOTAL		151,909	71,503	1,945,726	434,308	733,497	84,810	149,156	50,458	3,830,456
% of total expenditure		4%	2%	51%	11%	19%	2%	4%	1%	5%

¹ Includes contributions earmarked at the regional, subregional, situation or thematic level

² Includes miscellaneous income, prior year adjustments, cancellations and other internal transfers

The table above illustrates how UNHCR utilized its various sources of income to cover its expenditure of \$3.830 billion. Unearmarked income was

allocated throughout the year in line with identified priorities and operational needs, supporting the overarching objectives of ensuring a timely

¹ A Grant Agreement partner is an organization or group that were founded predominantly by individuals with direct lived experience of forced displacement or statelessness, or where individuals hold primary leadership roles, and whose stated objectives and activities focus on responding to the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless people, as well as the communities hosting them.

response to emergencies, reinforcing underfunded operations and enabling the implementation of programmes. No unearmarked funding was applied to headquarters expenditure.

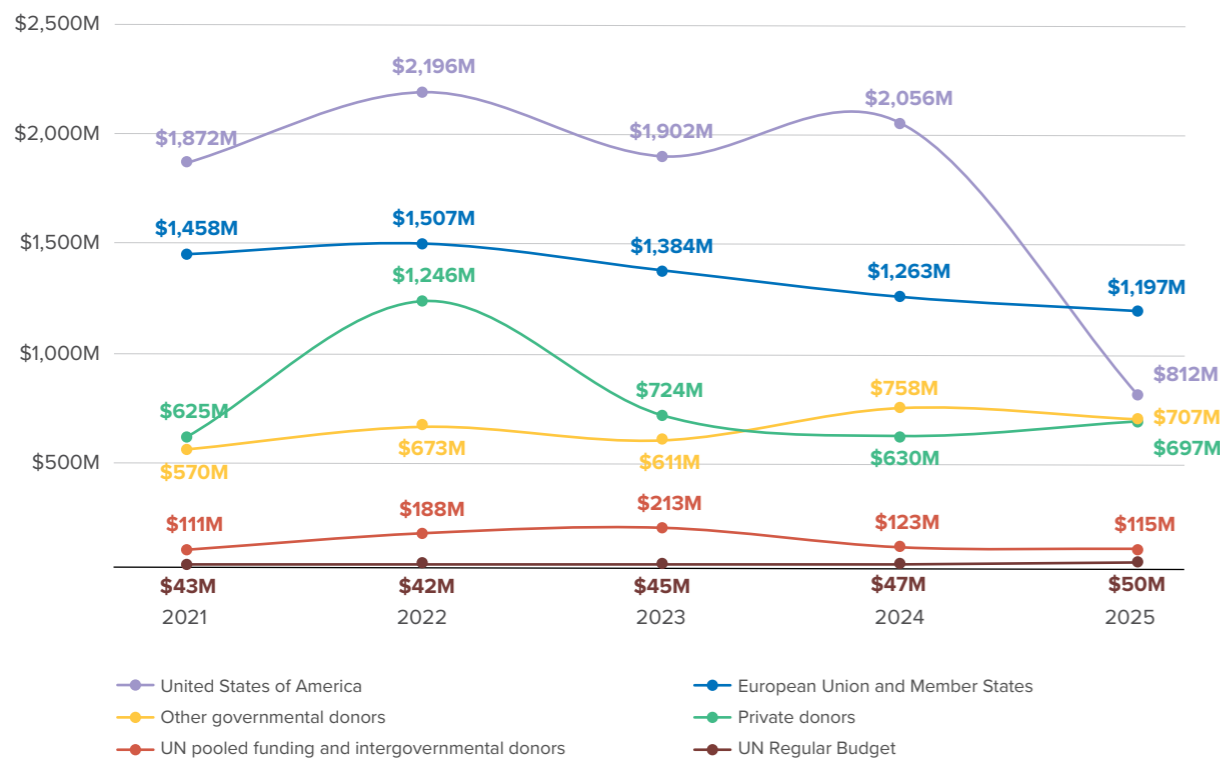
Voluntary contributions constituted the largest source of UNHCR funding. Earmarked voluntary contributions funded 51% of expenditure, followed by unearmarked contributions at 19% and softly

earmarked voluntary contributions at 11%. The largest share of expenditure covered by earmarked voluntary contributions was in the Middle East and North Africa (26%), followed by East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes (19%), and Europe (17%).

Indirect support costs accounted for \$149 million, representing 4% of total expenditure and were used to support costs incurred at headquarters.

Income

Source of income | 2021-2025



Quantity

UNHCR raised \$3.578 billion in voluntary contributions, including funds earmarked for future years. This support came from government donors, private sector partners, individual donors and other sources. The United States of America remained UNHCR's largest single donor, contributing nearly \$812 million, followed by the European Union, Germany, Sweden and Norway.

Combined, the European Union and its member states contributed more than \$1.197 billion, making them UNHCR's largest source of income in 2025. Private sector partners in the European Union contributed an additional \$289 million, bringing total support from the EU, its member states, EU-based private sector partners and individual donors to more than \$1.486 billion.

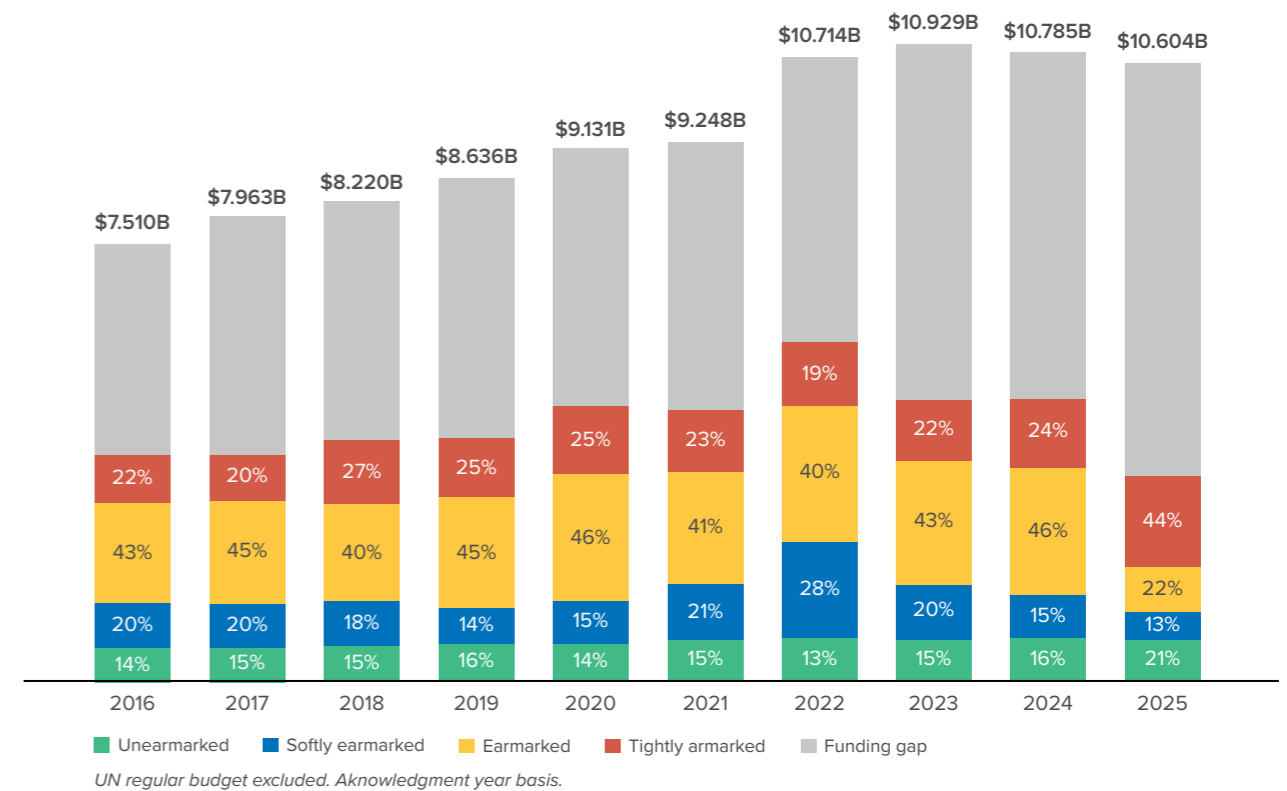
Contributions and funds available in 2025 | USD

Type of funds	Contributions received in 2025	Funds from past year and others	Total funds available in 2025
Voluntary contributions received in 2025 for implementation in 2025	3,047,106,911		3,047,106,911
Contributions for implementation in future years	480,632,795		
UN regular budget	50,466,900		50,466,900
Contributions from past years		378,902,359	378,902,359
Carry-over from past years		245,065,793	245,065,793
Other funds available, transfers and adjustments		210,292,104	210,292,104
Total	3,578,206,606	834,260,256	3,931,834,067

Available resources totalled \$3.932 billion, including carry-over, multi-year contributions, other funds and adjustments. Compared with 2024,

available resources fell by \$1.246 billion, or 24%, enough to meet only 37% of total needs, down from 48% in 2024.

Voluntary contributions vs requirements | 2016-2025



The decline was driven by a 38% drop in contributions from government donors, from \$3.805 billion in 2024 to \$2.351 billion in 2025. The largest reductions came from the United States of America, Germany, France and Japan. UN and pooled funding also fell by \$35 million,

reflecting the overall decline in contributions to these funding streams, and reducing resources available to the United Nations and its partners. This may change in 2026, as more donors have signalled support for pooled funding and localization. For the humanitarian system to

operate at scale across the response spectrum, pooled and bilateral funding must work together.

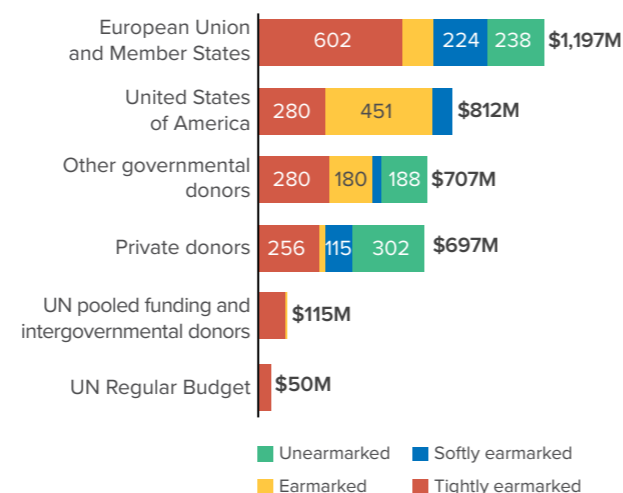
Despite a difficult financial year, UNHCR raised \$697 million from the private sector in 2025, an increase of \$67 million compared with 2024. Contributions also increased by more than \$10 million from the European Union, the African Development Bank, Canada, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

For the first time, Luxembourg joined the group of top donors that contributed more than \$20 million. Twenty-three government donors belonged to this group at year-end.

Quality, timeliness and predictability of funding

Tightly earmarked funding rose by 36% compared with 2024, from \$1.148 billion to \$1.551 billion. As a result, the share of tightly earmarked funding within UNHCR's overall funding portfolio nearly doubled, increasing from 24% in 2024 to 44% in 2025. This shift reflects a new reality for UNHCR: less flexibility to direct resources to urgent and unforeseen needs, including displacement crises outside the media spotlight or beyond donor attention. As this share is expected to rise further in 2026, UNHCR will need to adapt its funding model while maintaining a multi-year, predictable programme aligned with its mandate and strategic objectives.

Quality of income among top donors | 2025



Against this backdrop, flexible funding – especially unearmarked funding – is even more valuable, allowing UNHCR to meet the needs of the most vulnerable forcibly displaced and stateless people worldwide and continue its normative work. UNHCR raised \$1.189 billion in flexible funding, a decrease of \$281 million compared to 2024. This represented one-third of UNHCR's total income. Most of the decline was in softly earmarked funding, which fell by \$245 million from \$706 million in 2024.

Flexible Funding | 2025

DONOR	UNEARMARKED*	SOFTLY EARMARKED*	TOTAL FLEXIBLE
Germany	25,087,641	116,014,419	141,102,060
Sweden	73,649,755	24,066,408	97,716,163
Denmark	37,803,957	47,160,536	84,964,493
United States of America		81,125,000	81,125,000
España con ACNUR (National partner in Spain)	78,433,240	1,248,888	79,682,128
Norway	56,900,289	6,749,673	63,649,962
Japan for UNHCR	56,567,665	1,400,153	57,967,818
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	41,649,738	6,856,404	48,506,141
Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	40,942,183		40,942,183
UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe (National Partner in Germany)	51,702	39,791,478	39,843,179
Miscellaneous donors in the Republic of Korea	32,287,887	5,355,105	37,642,993
Switzerland	20,408,163	12,698,413	33,106,576
Sweden for UNHCR	18,900,365	11,152,331	30,052,696
Miscellaneous donors in Italy	27,978,381	1,904,885	29,883,266
Ireland	13,595,747	7,036,894	20,632,640
Canada	8,917,197	10,295,183	19,212,381
France	14,509,140	3,360,371	17,869,511
Republic of Korea	16,874,637		16,874,637
Japan	16,273,084	320,000	16,593,084
USA for UNHCR	14,816,176	1,207,419	16,023,595
All other donors	132,536,597	82,877,574	215,414,171
TOTAL	728,183,543	460,621,134	1,188,804,678

*Colour bars show the portion of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds from each donor against the total.

Unearmarked funding, provided without restrictions on its use, totalled \$728 million in 2025, down \$36 million (5%) from 2024. The main government donors of unearmarked funding were Sweden, Norway, the United Kingdom, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Japan, France, Australia, Ireland and Belgium.

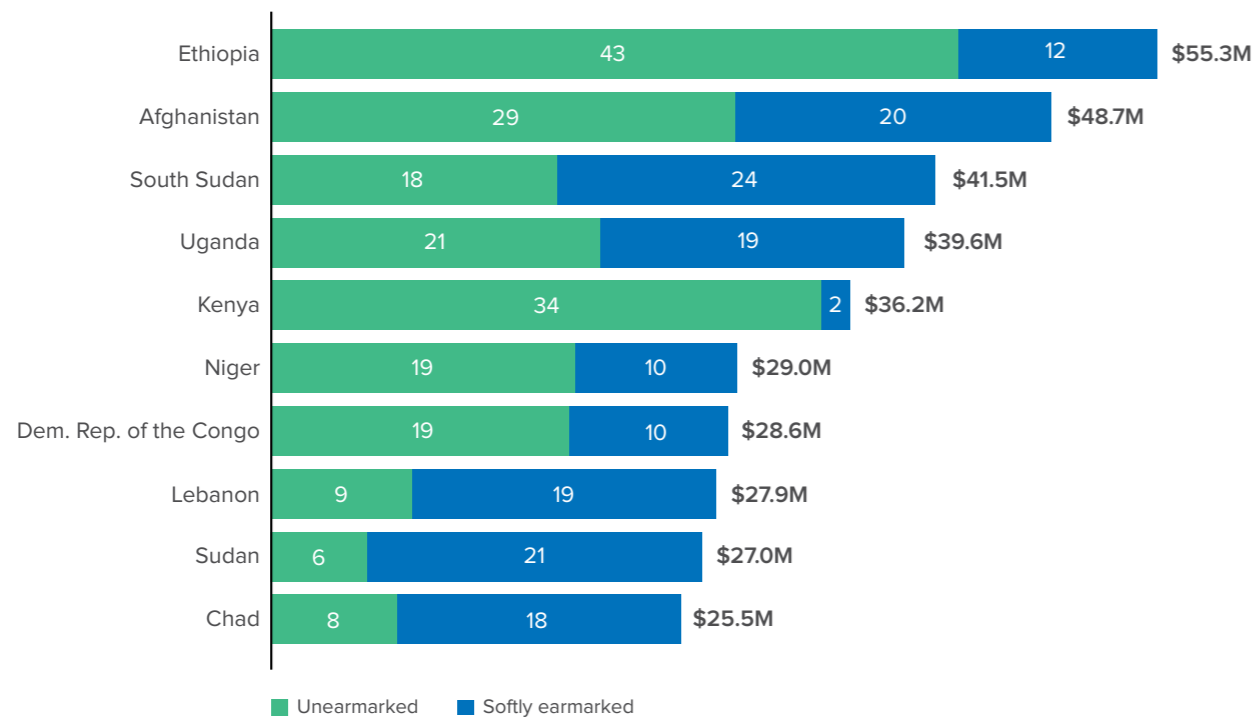
A substantial share also came from private sector partners and individual donors, who together contributed more than \$302 million. This included España con ACNUR, Japan for UNHCR, and private donors in the Republic of Korea and Italy, all of whom ranked among the top 10 donors of unearmarked funding.

Flexible funding allows UNHCR to fill gaps in priority areas, major crises and emergencies, and in underfunded country operations. Across

16 outcome areas, flexible funding accounted for 61% of total available funds for protection policy and law, 60% for local integration, 48% for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration, 46% for resettlement and complementary pathways and 45% for status determination. This shows that greater flexibility in resource allocation helps UNHCR prioritize its core protection and solutions mandate.

Flexible funding helped quickly launch and then sustain emergency responses in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. It also supported large-scale refugee returns to Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic, including from neighbouring Lebanon and Türkiye. This funding was also vital in protracted, underfunded contexts such as the Central African Republic, Kenya, Niger and Yemen, where it accounted for more than 40% of total funding.

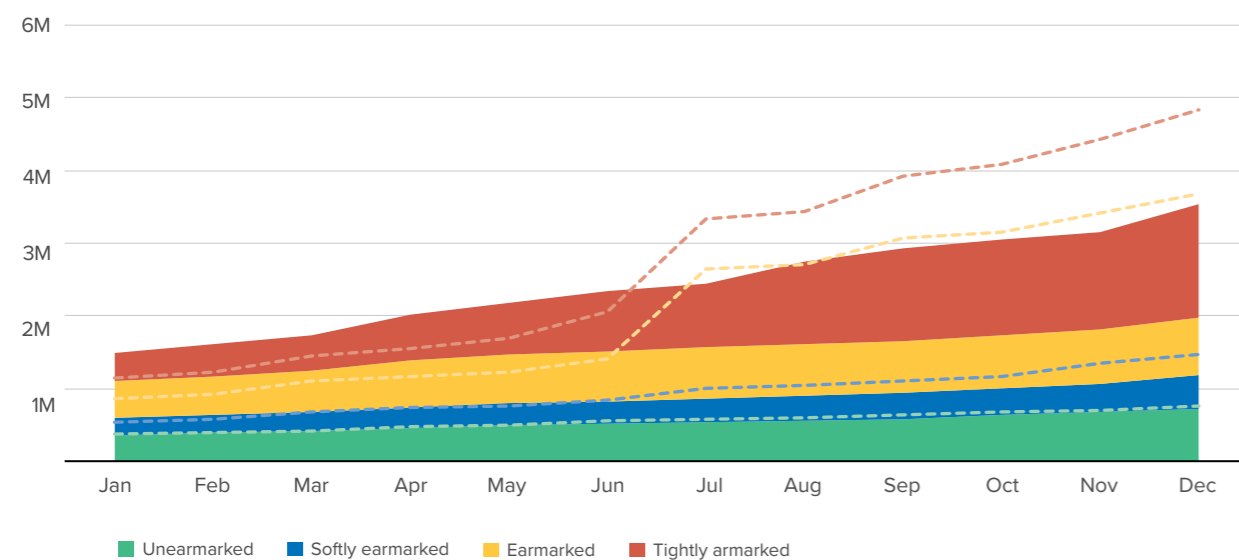
Top 10 operations receiving allocation of flexible funding | 2025



As severe funding cuts took effect in the early months of 2025, UNHCR asked donors to bring forward planned contributions to protect cash flow and liquidity. This support helped sustain critical life-saving work while UNHCR focused on internal restructuring and prioritization.

Many donors responded, including Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain and Sweden. As a result, early contributions rose sharply from 2024 levels: by May, UNHCR had received 72% of the year's available funds, compared with 47% at the same point in 2024.

Timing of pledges in 2025 vs 2024

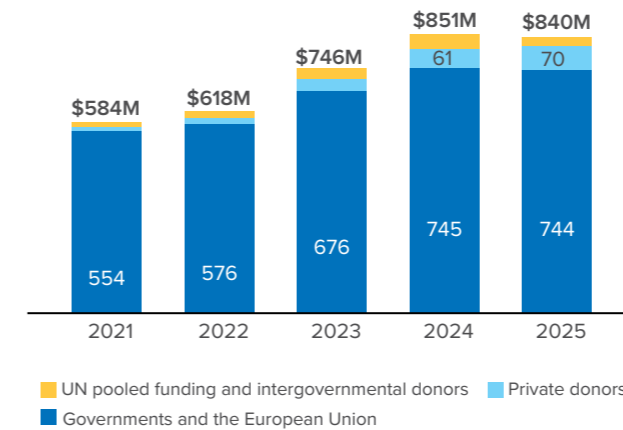


Multi-year contributions, pledged for 24 months or more, improve predictability and support more efficient resource allocation. Despite the overall decline in funding, the volume of multi-year funding held steady compared with 2024. Multi-year contributions have grown significantly over the last decade, almost doubling from \$431 million in 2015 to \$840 million in 2025.

Diversification

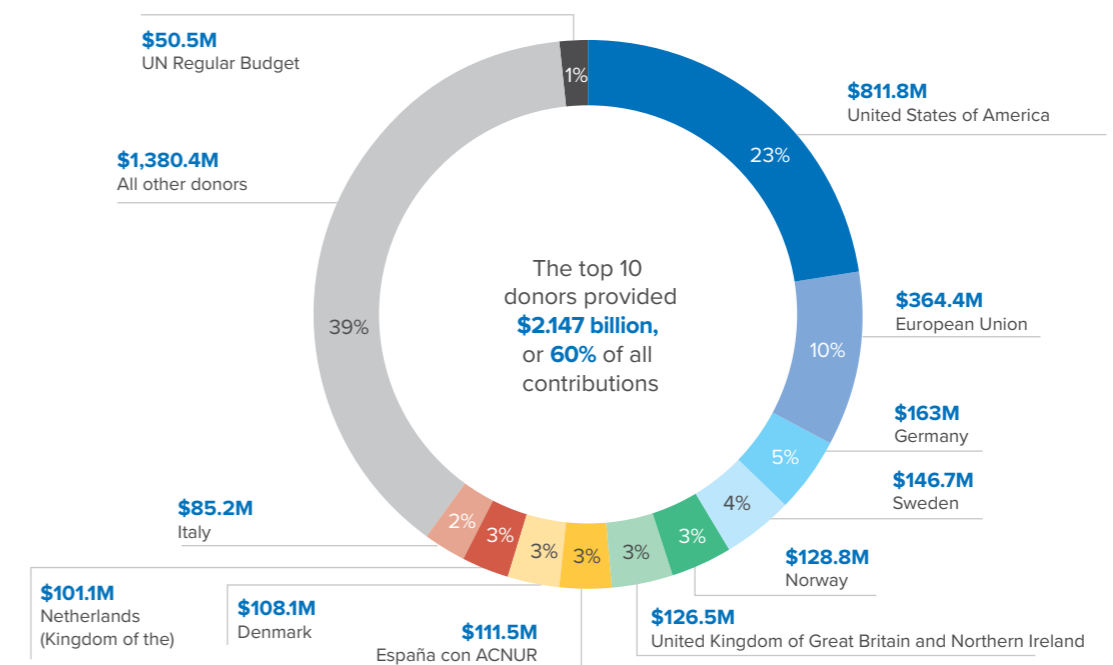
Diversifying its donor base continues to be a top priority for UNHCR. However, this became harder as many donors reduced, or signalled plans to reduce, their humanitarian and development funding. Despite limited progress over the past years, the 2025 funding crisis led to one notable shift: the share of total income provided by UNHCR's 10 largest donors fell from 73% in 2024 to 60% in 2025.

Multi-year funds | 2021-2025



Private sector contributions more than doubled over the past decade, from \$284 million in 2015 to \$697 million in 2025. The number of government donors contributing more than \$20 million a year also increased during this period, from 17 to 23.

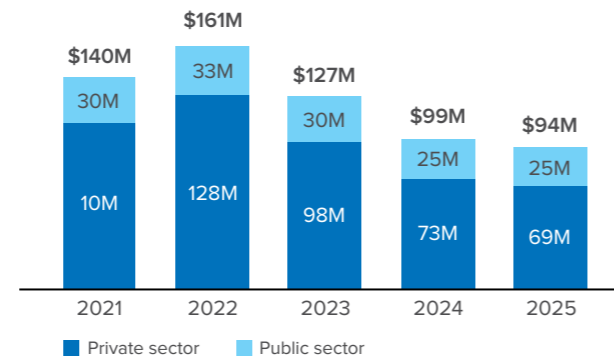
Contributions from the top 10 donors | 2025



In-kind donations

In addition to financial contributions, UNHCR received in-kind support, including goods for distribution to forcibly displaced and stateless people – such as clothing, education supplies and hygiene kits – as well as enabling services, including office premises and logistics support. In-kind support fell from \$99 million in 2024 to \$94 million, continuing a downward trend from a peak of \$161 million in 2022. More than 73% of in-kind contributions came from the private sector (see below).

In-kind contributions | 2021-2025



After years of displacement between Sudan and South Sudan, Gatluak returned home and enrolled in a six-month digital skills project at Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre in Juba, South Sudan. Supported by flexible donor funding, the project will help him gain the skills he needs to find work and provide for his family. © UNHCR/Reason Moses Runyanga

INDITEX restores comfort and dignity for displaced families



© UNHCR/Atwine Timothy

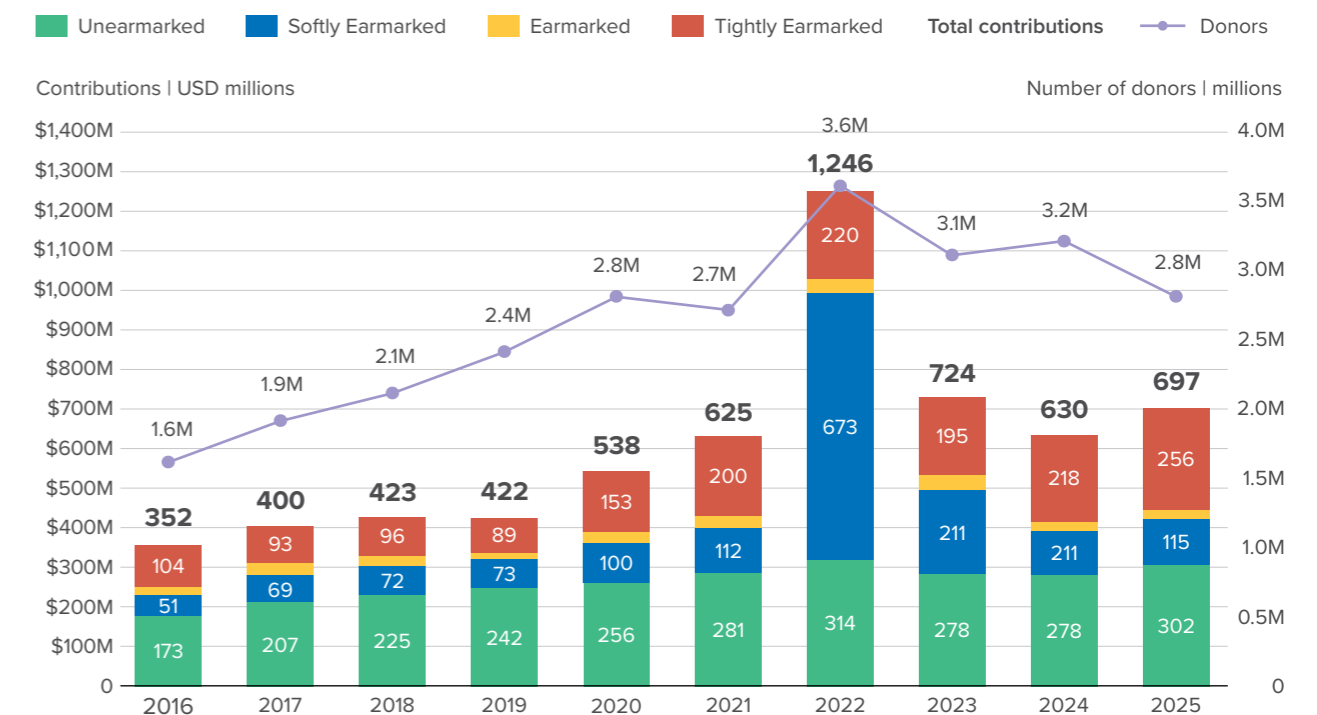
INDITEX marked its sixth year of collaboration with UNHCR by donating essential clothing and footwear. These in-kind contributions helped meet urgent protection and seasonal needs for more than 550,000 displaced people in Armenia, Spain and Uganda. The support reduced exposure to extreme weather and related health risks while helping women, men and children maintain dignity and a sense of normalcy. This partnership shows how sustained corporate support can deliver practical, high-impact interventions for displaced communities worldwide.

Attracting private sector support

Following severe funding cuts, the private sector became an indispensable source of support in 2025. Private sector income increased to \$697 million, up from \$630 million in 2024. Regionally, trends varied: income from Africa saw a substantial

rise of 203% (from \$23 million to \$71 million), while contributions from the Americas declined by 16% (from \$29 million to \$24 million) and those from the Middle East and North Africa decreased by 4% (from \$37 million to \$35 million).

Private sector contributions and donor numbers | 2016-2025



Individual donors contributed \$386 million of the private sector total, up 7% compared to \$361 million in 2024; while companies, foundations and high net-worth individuals provided \$312 million, up 16% compared to \$269 million in 2024.

The private sector was UNHCR's third-largest source of income, marking a decade of sustained growth and underlining its growing strategic importance.

Over the past decade, UNHCR's private sector income has grown by 145%. In 2025, it represented 22% of UNHCR's flexible funding and 41% of unearmarked funding, making the private sector the largest single source of unearmarked income.

This vital support is driven by a base of more than 2.8 million individual supporters across 52 countries, who collectively provided 89% of the private sector's unearmarked income.

Total income across all campaigns increased by 16% from 45 million in 2024 to 53 million in 2025. This increase was driven by significant gains in the Winter, Hardest Hit, and Ramadan campaigns, and contributions from Aiming Higher.

The largest contributor, the Winter campaign, helped forcibly displaced people insulate their homes and provided children and older people with blankets and other support to stay warm, as well as cash to buy medicines and hot food. Growth in other appeals highlights improved diversification and resilience across the campaign portfolio.

A further milestone was the announcement of a five-year strategic partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, amounting to \$300 million. This partnership aims to enable more than 500,000 refugees and displaced youth across Africa to complete their education and support 200,000 young people to transition into dignified work by 2030.

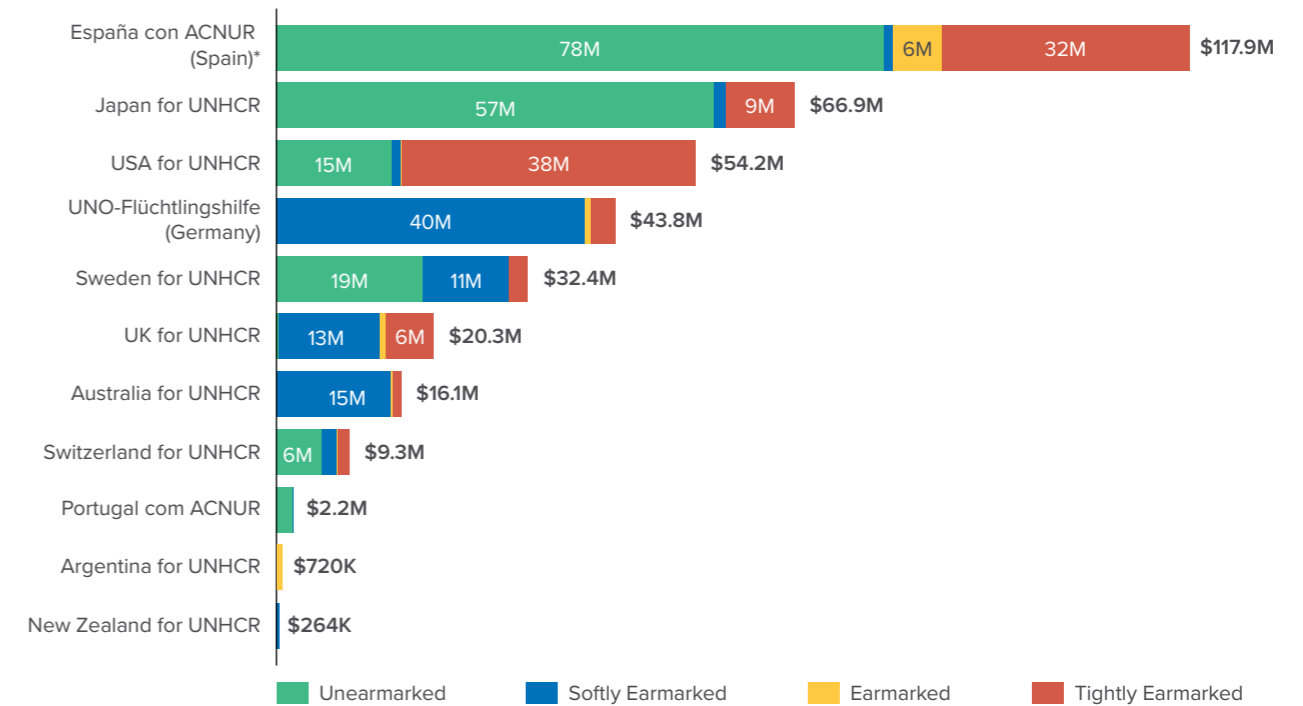
The private sector mobilized \$70 million during Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, ranging from multi-year funding to in-kind support and innovative financing, underscoring a shift toward more diverse and scalable partnerships.

National Association partners

UNHCR's 11 National Association Partners (NAPs) – independent, non-governmental organizations – raised \$364 million in 2025 and accounted for 51% of all private funds raised by UNHCR. Of this, \$262 million (72%) was provided as flexible funding. NAPs also accounted for 24% of all unearmarked income received by UNHCR, contributing \$177 million.

España con ACNUR, USA for UNHCR, Japan for UNHCR, UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe and Sweden for UNHCR ranked among both UNHCR's top 20 global donors and its largest sources of flexible funding. Behind these results are more than 1.6 million individual supporters, alongside corporates and foundations, united by a shared belief in UNHCR's mission and the difference it makes for forcibly displaced and stateless people.

National Partner contributions | 2025



Euroclear Foundation funds rapid emergency response



© UNHCR/Oleg Platonov

Euroclear Foundation enabled UNHCR to respond rapidly to humanitarian crises worldwide, turning a

transit centre in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine into a safe hub for displaced and evacuated people fleeing frontline areas. Many evacuees were vulnerable, including older people and those with limited mobility, and most arrived with very few belongings. UNHCR provided vital assistance at the transit centre, including clothing, cash for essentials, hygiene kits, legal aid and psychosocial support.

Ukraine is just one example where Euroclear support made a life-saving difference. Through a flexible contribution of more than \$520,000 for emergency support, Euroclear has enabled UNHCR to direct resources where they are most needed.

Aotearoa New Zealand for UNHCR (NZ4U)

\$264,477 transferred | 2,705 individual donors | established in 2022

NZ4U continued to grow, deepening its presence in the New Zealand market and building a broad base of partnerships and supporters to advance UNHCR's work. Behind this progress is a dedicated board of trustees whose commitment drives strategic connections and meaningful support for the world's forcibly displaced.

Australia for UNHCR (A4U)

\$16.1 million transferred | 62,222 individual donors | established in 2000

A4U delivered impactful events and appeals, including the World Refugee Day lunch and Islamic Philanthropy Iftar, while securing strong media coverage. Partnerships with artist Atong Atem and Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) boosted visibility. The Myanmar Earthquake appeal raised over \$440,000 while deepened relationships with foundation partners, multi-year gifts, and a first Giving Day drove support.

Fundación ACNUR Argentina

\$719,581 transferred | 56,619 individual donors | established in 2018

Since its founding, Fundación ACNUR has reflected and amplified the generosity of Argentinians who are among the most welcoming people in the world for those seeking refuge. A multi-channel strategy mobilized nearly 1.2 million Ponchos Azules and dozens of celebrities – with over 550 pieces of positive media coverage – boosting public engagement and expanding a largely flexible, unearmarked donor base supporting UNHCR's response to emergencies.

España con ACNUR (EcA)

\$117.9 million transferred | 516,914 individual donors | established in 1993

EcA reinforced Spain's role as a global leader in private-sector solidarity, maintaining UNHCR's largest private donor base with 454,583 active regular donors whose vital unearmarked contributions enable rapid, flexible responses worldwide. EcA also deepened strategic monetary and in-kind partnerships with Inditex, ProFuturo, Barça Foundation and Fundación "la Caixa" and welcomed Mango as a new partner.

Japan for UNHCR (J4U)

\$66.9 million transferred | 265,078 individual donors | established in 2000

J4U is sustained by a remarkably loyal base of individual donors committed for the long term, 72% giving monthly, largely through face-to-face fundraising. This trust is reflected in growing legacy giving, one of the most profound expressions of faith in an organization's mission. Institutional support is also strong, with over half of contributions from corporates, foundations, high-net-worth individuals and faith-based organizations provided as flexible income, giving UNHCR the ability to respond where the need is greatest.

Portugal com ACNUR (PACNUR)

\$2.2 million transferred | 25,157 individual donors | established in 2021

PACNUR reached a new level of maturity in 2025, with a growing donor base and deepening roots across the country. Over 17,000 people now give regularly, and engagement is spreading beyond Lisbon, with small- and medium-sized businesses from different regions supporting the organization. Employee initiatives with partners such as TAP Air Portugal and Quilaban are opening up a new way of connecting people to UNHCR's mission in the workplace.

Sweden for UNHCR

\$32.4 million transferred | 253,820 individual donors | established in 2013

The Christmas 2025 campaign raised \$8 million from Swedish donors, significantly boosted by the Akelius Foundation's matching support for the Sudan refugee response. The Akelius Foundation also contributed to UNHCR's education programmes in South Sudan and Mozambique. Key private sector partners complemented the support of monthly donors and philanthropists, including the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Essity, Marshall Group and Solvatten. Gudrun Sjöden AB supported the Ukraine response through product sales, Lindex AB led two round-up campaigns for education and Peab AB matched donations from newly recruited monthly donors.

Switzerland for UNHCR

\$9.3 million transferred | 42,305 individual donors | established in 2020

Switzerland for UNHCR's Individual Giving programme grew 23% compared to 2024, with 70% of income transferred as unearmarked. The launch of the legacy giving programme strengthened long-term flexible funding. Two new multi-year partnerships and increased contributions from high-net-worth individuals underscore strong potential for sustainable, high-value fundraising in Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Switzerland for UNHCR also received the Reimagine Fundraising Beacon Award for leadership in blockchain-driven fundraising innovation and impact-driven solutions.

United Kingdom for UNHCR

\$20.3 million transferred | 42,586 individual donors | established in 2020

United Kingdom for UNHCR supported relief operations in more than 25 countries, combining long-term investments in education and livelihoods with winter assistance, earthquake response and \$5.8 million as softly earmarked funding for emergencies. The charity also expanded partnerships, leveraging private-sector expertise in innovative finance, legal support and artificial intelligence. Public engagement – including a network of refugee storytellers from 27 countries – amplified awareness of UNHCR's work via public relations and events, generating over 1,260 media placements and a 19% increase in its UK social media audience to 94,000 followers, helping counter misinformation.

UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

\$43.8 million transferred | 229,452 individual donors | established in 1980

Germany's UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe achieved a 7% income increase compared to 2024. Strong performance by the Individual Giving team, combined with a strategic

shift towards the most effective programmes, helped drive success. Continuous public relations efforts, support for projects in Germany and broad civil society partnerships sustained high public trust. The high-profile partnership with the Berliner Philharmoniker was further expanded, boosting visibility and fundraising through concerts, international broadcasts and outreach activities, including the season finale attended by 40,000 people.

USA for UNHCR

\$54.2 million transferred | 137,297 individual donors | established in 1989

USA for UNHCR mobilized the generosity and leadership of the American public to deliver flexible, life-saving support for displaced communities worldwide through innovative digital fundraising, strong monthly giving and rapid emergency appeals. By convening corporations, philanthropists and faith-based partners across the United States, USA for UNHCR advanced both urgent response and long-term solutions for refugees. In September, the Building Better Futures campaign launched at the Concordia Annual Summit in New York with the goal of raising \$15 million to fund 1,000 university scholarships for refugee women and girls.



Barça Foundation drives social impact through sport



The Barça Foundation, together with UNHCR, supported nearly 14,900 displaced young people

across El Salvador, Malaysia, Türkiye and Uganda. This was the continuation of a partnership with España con ACNUR since 2022 that has seen the Barça Foundation use sport to strengthen protection and improve mental health and psychosocial well-being for refugee children and youth. The Foundation also drove fundraising and outreach through innovative initiatives such as the Coldplay x Spotify x FC Barcelona solidarity jersey campaign, raising around €400,000 (\$430,751) to support a climate-resilient youth leadership project in Bangladesh and advancing community-wide recycling and agroforestry solutions in Bangladesh and Uganda.



AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

A UNHCR-supported focus group brings South Sudanese refugees together to share priorities and inform inclusive, community-based responses in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

Accountability to affected people

Accountability to affected people (AAP) is fundamental to UNHCR's protection mandate and institutional identity. It reinforces the principle that forcibly displaced and stateless persons are essential partners in shaping decisions that impact their lives. Grounded in its [policy on age, gender and diversity](#), UNHCR systematically seeks to engage and collaborate with forcibly displaced and stateless persons, recognizing the diversity of their needs, capacities and priorities.

Upholding its longstanding commitment to a people-centred approach, UNHCR continued to strengthen and expand efforts to elevate the voices of women, men, girls and boys of all ages and backgrounds, enhance mutual trust and ensure that communities have a consistent and meaningful influence over the strategic and operational direction of UNHCR's work.

UNHCR supported people with lived experience of statelessness to influence advocacy and policy at global and national levels.

They contributed to Global Refugee Forum progress reviews, Global Alliance consultations on facilitated naturalization and the Alliance's Advisory Committee, where stateless-led organizations are full members. UNHCR also consulted and partnered with affected communities in Kenya, the Philippines, and the Republic of Moldova to inform nationality law reform and strengthen protection mechanisms.

Despite financial constraints, UNHCR made tangible progress in advancing AAP. **Key results include:**

- Over 4.4 million people in 130 countries used UNHCR-supported feedback and response mechanisms

- UNHCR's help websites received 10.6 million visits in 150 countries
- Over 60,000 people interacted with UNHCR's WhatsApp chatbot, sending and receiving over 1 million messages

UNHCR has digitized its Participatory Assessment Toolkit to make assessment findings easier to organize, visualize, and apply in programme design, and is using AI to simplify the analysis of those findings and improve efficiency.

To ensure alignment with [interagency standards](#), UNHCR reviewed its internal guidance and tools on complaints and feedback mechanisms to ensure consistency in the recording, categorization and analysis of community feedback for decision making and programming. The standardized tools were tested in Peru, Somalia and Uganda, contributing to more consistent approaches across operations.

[Help websites](#) – UNHCR's online platform for people seeking reliable information on services and assistance, and for providing feedback – was redesigned to improve usability, accessibility and consistency. The redesign was guided by extensive user research and testing with affected populations to ensure the platform reflects their needs and preferences. Key enhancements include full mobile responsiveness; improved accessibility features, such as text-to-speech functionality; and a standardized online contact form that streamlines how individuals

communicate with UNHCR. These improvements aim to ensure a more coherent and reliable user experience. It will be applied to all Help sites in 2026.

A new guide outlining UNHCR's approach to call centres and contact centres was developed to strengthen the organization's capacity to manage feedback and complaints. The guide provides technical direction to strengthen engagement with communities, ensuring more reliable access to accurate information and enabling timely action on concerns raised.

UNHCR developed guidance to embed accountability throughout the programme cycle, introducing key AAP actions during each phase. The guidance aims to strengthen meaningful participation and ensure systematic collection, analysis and use of community feedback.

UNHCR revived its Telling the Real Story initiative, transforming it into a community-led and route-based protection service. This shift is designed to ensure that community-based organizations, particularly those led by displaced persons, play a central role in shaping and delivering accurate and relevant messaging for people in mixed and onward movement contexts. UNHCR held consultations with community-based organizations along key migration routes to strengthen communication practices and ensure that the route-based approach is grounded in the knowledge, priorities and leadership of affected communities.



UNHCR invests in locally led innovation to improve outcomes for forcibly displaced and stateless people around the world. Since 2022, it has

supported more than 187 projects in 67 countries through its incubator and accelerator programmes, including over 50 led by refugees, with funding of more than \$15.3 million. Together, these initiatives have tested and scaled practical solutions that strengthen protection, expand digital inclusion, support self-reliance, improve sustainable housing and promote wellbeing for more than 1.8 million people. In 2025 alone, UNHCR supported 47 projects with funding of \$3.2 million, which are expected to benefit more than 370,000 displaced people and host community members. Find out more about UNHCR's innovation projects [here](#).



AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

Refugees and host community members work together at the Agro project in Farchana, eastern Chad, where a newly constructed dam supports farming by helping retain water throughout the summer. © UNHCR/Ala Kheir

Climate Action

For millions of forcibly displaced and stateless people, there is no escape from the dual threat of conflict and climate shocks. More than half of refugee settlements and IDP sites in Africa are in areas under severe ecological stress, where refugees' and host communities' access to resources is shrinking. Around half of returning refugees went back to highly climate-vulnerable countries.

Advocacy and thought leadership remain at the heart of our climate action efforts. At the COP30 climate change conference, we launched our “[No Escape II: The Way Forward](#)” report, together with 28 partners, setting out the latest data and solutions – with the voices of displaced people front and centre.

UNHCR's climate objectives are articulated in its “[Focus area strategic plan for climate action 2024-2030](#)”. In 2025, over \$70 million was mobilized to support climate-related activities – from disaster response to strengthening resilience.

UNHCR increased its efforts to secure climate financing for displaced communities and their hosts. In South Sudan, UNHCR partnered with WFP on the “[Enhancing climate resilience in flood-prone areas](#)” project, financed by the Green Climate Fund with additional support from Japan. UNHCR also signed a global memorandum of understanding with the Adaptation Fund, to promote locally-led adaptation.

Strengthening protection and inclusion through law and policy

UNHCR provided policy, technical and expert support

on applying international refugee and human rights law to protect people displaced across borders in the context of climate change and disasters. This included advice for a research project on how the OAU Refugee Convention's criterion of ‘events seriously disturbing public order’ applies in practice.

UNHCR co-developed [draft recommendations on nationality and statelessness in the context of climate change](#) and contributed to “[International protection for people displaced across borders in the context of climate change and disasters: a practical toolkit](#)”.

In Uganda, UNHCR supported Refugees International in organizing a workshop for refugee-led organizations and government officials to inform national adaptation planning.

Enhancing resilience and access to sustainable services

UNHCR scaled its innovative financing mechanisms to increase access to resilient and sustainable services for displaced people.

[Project Flow](#) – where capital costs are covered upfront and the fund later replenished through fuel savings – saw solar-powered water systems completed in Mauritania and implementation works begun in Ethiopia and Rwanda. Five solarized boreholes in Mauritania boosted water output by 35%, cut costs by 68%, and reduced CO₂ by 190 tonnes per year.

[The Refugee Environmental Protection Fund](#) – a catalytic carbon-financing initiative that links

reforestation and clean cooking programmes in refugee-hosting areas to global carbon markets – implemented pilots to restore 7,000 hectares of degraded land and provide cleaner cookstoves for 90,000 households in Rwanda and Uganda. The pilots will generate some of the first large-scale carbon credits in displacement settings.

With support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, the [Geneva Technical Hub](#) provided UNHCR and its partners with climate-focused technical support on settlement planning, water, energy and related areas.

The [Environment and Climate Action Innovation Programme](#) supported testing of 21 innovative ideas across 17 countries, ranging from clean energy access to sustainable livelihoods, and generated lessons to guide wider adoption.

Early warning systems, preparedness measures and disaster risk reduction

UNHCR and the World Meteorological Organization co-designed the [Global HydroMet Weekly Scan](#) to highlight climatic events that might impact displaced and stateless people. In collaboration with the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, UNHCR began developing a global early warning system that leverages predictive models to anticipate displacements driven by conflict and natural hazards.

UNHCR and CGIAR, a global agricultural innovation network, jointly delivered climate security and risk

assessment work and climate security training for national refugee agencies, disaster management bodies, ministries and local authorities from more than 10 countries across Africa. In Bangladesh, UNHCR and CGIAR evaluated the Sustainable Land Management and Environmental Rehabilitation programme in Cox's Bazar, demonstrating that UNHCR's ecosystem rehabilitation efforts significantly reduce disaster risks and strengthen environmental protection even in highly vulnerable contexts.

Reducing our environmental footprint

UNHCR [revised specifications for 10 relief items](#) to make them more durable, affordable and sustainable. Through the procurement of eco-friendly blankets, sleeping mats, buckets, jerrycans and tarpaulins, UNHCR reduced CO₂ emissions by 15%.

With [support from the European Union](#), UNHCR expanded efforts to procure relief items closer to the point of distribution – reducing procurement, warehousing and transportation costs, while boosting local economies and fostering social inclusion.

The [Green Financing Facility](#) had completed the transition of 11 offices across six countries to solar energy, generating 2.4 GWh of energy, reducing emissions by 55% and achieving cost savings of over \$1 million.

Fleet emissions were significantly reduced, with the Smart Fleet Ridesharing programme cutting costs and 575 tonnes of CO₂ emissions. UNHCR also implemented a policy to extend the lifespan of engine oil, avoiding the purchase, shipment and subsequent disposal of 85,000 litres of oil and 9,600 oil filters annually.



LONGi advances refugee support with clean energy



© UNHCR/Miguel Pachioni

UNHCR and LONGi turned partnership into measurable impact, solarizing three hospitals serving refugees and host communities in Pakistan. This reduced CO₂ emissions by 870 tonnes and saved nearly \$500,000 in energy costs. The partnership also brought clean power to six schools, clinics and community facilities in Brazil, improving the reliability of essential services and creating green livelihood opportunities. In Cameroon, LONGi supported the solarization of UNHCR's Douala Global Stockpile, ensuring uninterrupted power for emergency teams capable of delivering relief items to 100,000 people within 72 hours across West and Central Africa.



AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

In Monterrey, Mexico, François, a Haitian refugee, works alongside his teammates thanks to UNHCR's Local Integration Programme, demonstrating responsibility-sharing in action under the Global Compact on Refugees in partnerships with the Government, local authorities and the private sector. © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

The Global Compact on Refugees

UNHCR continued to lead efforts to advance the objectives of the [Global Compact on Refugees \(GCR\)](#), rallying states and partners and mobilizing collective action to strengthen cooperation on forced displacement, despite unprecedented challenges. Through the GCR, states and other stakeholders promoted more equitable responsibility-sharing through a whole-of-society approach. Complementing the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the GCR continued to support broader access to protection across regions and reinforced support to major refugee-hosting countries, even as global pressures intensified.

UNHCR led systematic stocktaking of [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\) pledges](#) at global, regional and country levels, sustaining dialogue and engagement among pledging entities and partners, including refugees and refugee-led organizations (RLOs), development actors, civil society, faith actors and the private sector.

These engagements set the stage for December's [Global Refugee Forum \(GRF\) Progress Review 2025](#). Co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland and co-convened with Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan and Uganda, the event reaffirmed the GCR's role as a living framework for multilateral cooperation in support of refugees and countries hosting them. The 1,500 participants included 260 people with lived experience of displacement or statelessness, embedding [meaningful refugee participation](#) in the Progress Review. They shaped preparatory processes and led discussions at the event. This growing refugee leadership is reflected in the pledge framework, where more than half of multistakeholder pledges now include refugee engagement and several are co-led by RLOs.

The Progress Review highlighted that progress is real but increasingly fragile. Drawing on the [GRF Pledge Stocktaking Report 2025](#), it assessed how [pledges](#) have translated into tangible outcomes at country, regional and global levels, and highlighted where progress remains uneven.

As of December 2025, 30% of pledges voluntarily reported by the pledging entities had been fulfilled, while 70% were in the implementation or planning phase. Persistent gaps in responsibility-sharing remain, worsened by declining financing, the strain on asylum systems, growing polarization and slow progress in protracted situations. To strengthen data integrity, UNHCR will roll out a dedicated archiving exercise to address unreported pledges.

Solidarity towards refugees remains strong, as evidenced by 36 announcements of new pledges made at the Progress Review, totaling \$1.37 billion in new and reinforced commitments. Promising shifts emerged: expanded legal access to work, greater inclusion in national education systems and growing recognition of refugees' economic contributions when supported to achieve self-reliance. Whole-of-society stakeholders engaging in the GCR have doubled since 2019, with nearly 80% of post-2019 GRF pledging entities being new, indicating that growth is being driven by the continued engagement of new actors.

Discussions reaffirmed the primacy of protection, highlighted the growing influence of nontraditional actors and underscored the role of cities and local authorities where service delivery, social inclusion and local development planning converge. Participants expressed interest in innovative financing to help

ease pressure on overstretched funding systems and reinforce nationally-led approaches. The Progress Review highlighted how UNHCR leverages GCR mechanisms – including support platforms and the multi-stakeholder pledge framework – to contribute to greater efficiency and coherence, including in the context of UN80 and the humanitarian reset.

UNHCR also launched the third edition of the [GCR Indicator Report](#) documenting strong support for refugees in low and middle-income countries up to 2023, after which funding fell and is projected to decline further, despite expanding local partnerships. The report showed progress in refugee inclusion and the expansion of complementary pathways, while also identifying persistent gaps in reintegration support, protracted situations and uneven responsibility-sharing. Although data availability continued to improve, the report warned of widening gaps in nationally produced data, particularly on inclusion, due to funding cuts.

The value of the GCR in advancing protection, inclusion and solutions through nationally-led, development-oriented responses and multi-stakeholder partnerships was reaffirmed throughout the year. The [Outcomes of the GRF Progress Review](#) capture some of these tangible gains and, together with its recommendations and follow-up actions, will inform the GRF in 2027.



Soka Gakkai advances refugee integration in Italy through vital legal assistance



© RefugeesWelcome

The Soka Gakkai Italian Buddhist Institute is a long-standing partner of the “Community Matching” programme, which brings refugees and volunteers together to facilitate integration and active

participation in the social, economic and cultural life of local communities.

Recognized as good practice in the Global Compact on Refugees, the programme is funded by the Soka Gakkai Italian Buddhist Institute from an Italian tax rule that allows 0.8% of income tax to be assigned to a recognized religious institution. Since its launch in 2021, Community Matching has supported the local integration of nearly 1,800 refugees in 14 Italian cities.

In 2025, the initiative expanded to include legal assistance for stateless people through Italian universities, helping them access status determination procedures.



AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

Students study at the new Digital Learning Centre in Iridimi, Chad, which provides online education to refugees and local youth as part of a broader effort to expand learning opportunities along the mixed movement routes. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

Route-based approach

UNHCR worked closely with IOM and partners to operationalize the Route-based approach (RteBA) along major mixed movement routes. Progress was supported by stronger data analysis; closer partnerships; targeted advocacy; engagement with governments, UN entities, civil society, communities and refugee-led organizations; and strategic resource mobilization. RteBA has become not only a programmatic framework, but a critical entry point for political dialogue on protection, responsibility-sharing and solutions.

UNHCR published [eight route-level reports](#), three of them in partnership with the Mixed Migration Centre, to generate data and analysis. With the endorsement of the European Union, UNHCR and IOM are strengthening data interoperability and harmonization of analytical frameworks in the context of mixed movements.

UNHCR strengthened partnership and coordination, holding monthly meetings with over 30 NGOs.

UNHCR and IOM organized regional workshops with states and other stakeholders for the West and Central Africa, East and Horn of Africa and Southern routes.

Progress was made on advocacy for protection and rights at global and local levels. In June, UNHCR organized – together with OHCHR and SOS Méditerranée – a side event during the UN Ocean Conference, which called for the recognition of the ocean as a humanitarian space. UNHCR also participated in dialogues on protection at sea in the Western Indian Ocean and along the West Africa Atlantic route.

UNHCR strengthened its engagement with communities by establishing a Refugee-led Organizations (RLOs) reference group under RteBA. This led to an in-person exchange with RLOs at the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, reinforcing the value of refugee leadership in shaping protection responses.

UNHCR intensified resource mobilization along mixed movement routes, securing at least \$97 million despite the global funding constraints. RteBA is uniquely positioned to explore additional sources of funding, across migration and development spectrums.

Capacity development remained central to implementing RteBA. In partnership with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in Sanremo, UNHCR trained 78 government officials and NGO representatives through the global course “Mixed movements – Protection along routes”. A [factsheet](#) on child protection was used in roll out of RteBA trainings to strengthen child protection responses in mixed movements.

As illustrated in the following cases, UNHCR also collaborated with various states across the **six pillars of the route-based approach**:

- Protection-sensitive entry and admission**
 In Morocco, cooperation with authorities advanced the Humanized Border Management system, while in Niger, UNHCR strengthened protection-sensitive entry and admission by reinforcing border monitoring and first-line protection capacities.
- Strengthening asylum-systems and rights-based migration management**
 In Brazil, group-based processing enabled over 150,000 people to be granted refugee status.
- Addressing immediate protection and assistance needs**
 In Mauritania, multi-purpose hubs delivered integrated services including for victims of trafficking, whereas in Bangladesh, UNHCR’s first workshop for coastguards on maritime response and refugee protection strengthened their ability to safeguard refugees at risk of trafficking and smuggling.
- Protection and rights-centred options**
 In Thailand, a new cabinet resolution granted some 81,000 long-staying refugees from Myanmar the right to work. In Chad, 1,500 young people from neighbouring countries were included in tertiary education through scholarship schemes.
- Safe, regular and complementary pathways**
 Uganda issued birth certificates to 151,000 refugee children and is improving interoperability between the national and refugee registers to facilitate family reunification.
- Safe and dignified returns and voluntary repatriation of refugees**
 In the Syrian Arab Republic, more than 1.2 million Syrians voluntarily returned from neighbouring countries, with UNHCR support. And in West and Central Africa, over 42,000 refugees returned, mainly to Nigeria and the Central African Republic.



AREAS OF STRATEGIC FOCUS

A refugee farmer from the Democratic Republic of the Congo tends banana plants in Mayukwayukwa refugee settlement, Zambia, where access to land and livelihood assistance helps refugees build self-reliance through agriculture. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

Sustainable responses

In 2025, sustainable responses to forced displacement continued to gain momentum as governments, development actors, the private sector and humanitarian partners advanced nationally led approaches. More refugees were included in national systems, links between humanitarian action and development financing strengthened, and pathways to solutions expanded.

The Global Refugee Forum Progress Review in December 2025 highlighted rising returns, deeper national inclusion, stronger self-reliance outcomes, expanded multi-stakeholder partnerships and growing evidence on the costs of exclusion and the benefits of inclusion.

Significant challenges remain. Low- and middle-income countries continue to host most of the world's refugees, making a major contribution to the global response. With displacement rising and official development assistance falling, sustained international engagement and stronger burden- and responsibility-sharing remain essential.

Voluntary return and reintegration

Returns increased sharply in 2025, with nearly 4.4 million refugees returning – the highest number in more than a decade. Returns took place in diverse contexts, driven by family reunification, improved conditions in areas of origin, or because of economic hardship, policy changes and reduced access to assistance in countries of asylum. Many returned to fragile areas with limited services and livelihoods, underscoring the need to ensure returns are voluntary, informed, safe and dignified, and supported by sustainable reintegration conditions.

Sustainable return depends on early investment in national systems aligned with government priorities, benefiting returnees and host communities, and underpinned by predictable development financing and peacebuilding efforts. In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNHCR supported area-based reintegration planning through service mapping at border points and early investments. In the Central African Republic, 10 development hubs were identified under the national solutions strategy, supported by the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the Islamic Development Bank's Global Islamic Fund for Refugees. In Burundi, the integration of returnee data

into national planning helped guide investments in health, education and social cohesion.

Regional initiatives further enabled solutions. Planned voluntary returns from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Rwanda are underpinned by the Washington Agreement and the Doha Framework, signed in 2025.

The Lomé Declaration committed Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo to enhanced cross-border coordination. In Sudan, where conditions did not allow facilitated returns, the Development Partners Group for the Sudan Regional Crisis supported the alignment of development financing with reintegration and recovery priorities.

Self-reliance and inclusion in countries of asylum

Refugees self-reliance reduces dependence on humanitarian assistance and benefits host economies. It requires government leadership, development financing and private-sector engagement.

In Mexico, the Government's recognition of refugees' right to work has been operationalized through a UNHCR-led relocation programme. Since 2016, the programme has partnered with over 650 companies and placed more than 160,000 refugees in jobs, with 94% securing formal employment within a month. In Kenya, years of partnership between the Government, the World Bank and private investors through the Kakuma–Kalobeyei Challenge Fund have generated over 1,500 direct and 10,000 indirect jobs.

Policy reforms expanded these models in 2025. Ethiopia issued over 48,000 residence, work and business permits under the Right to Work Directive, with analysis indicating that expanding access to legal employment could reduce annual humanitarian assistance costs by around \$200 per person.

Inclusion in national health systems has also advanced, supported by legislative reforms and the handover of services. This included the enrolment of 72,000 refugees in Kenya's health insurance scheme and the transfer of 13 health facilities to the Ministry of Health in South Sudan. Global pledges on health and mental health have more than doubled since 2019.

Education inclusion progressed through the transition from parallel to national systems, supported by policy reform, stronger data systems and improved infrastructure. Refugees accessed national education systems in Cameroon, Ecuador, Iraq, Kenya, Mauritania, Rwanda and Uganda. In the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, refugees received free national primary and secondary education, supported by catch-up and language programmes. The Global Partnership for Education invested \$1.37 billion in 21 refugee-hosting countries and mobilized \$525 million in co-financing. The United Kingdom-supported Inclusion Support Program for Refugee Education (INSPIRE) reached over 167,000 learners and helped secure nearly \$100 million in additional financing.

Social protection systems increasingly included refugees through nationally led programmes. In Mauritania, the *Tekavoul* scheme benefited more than 10,000 refugee households. In Peru, a new expenditure-based methodology helped identify displaced households at risk and improve their access to national programmes. New initiatives, including the BRIDGE facility under the PROSPECTS partnership, expanded access to social protection and economic inclusion.

Third-country solutions and regional cooperation

Resettlement remained vital for refugees facing acute risks, but opportunities fell sharply in 2025 as quotas shrank and programmes were suspended. Complementary pathways offered other routes to third countries, helping refugees rebuild their lives through family reunification, work and study mobility, sponsorship and humanitarian pathways.

In Malaysia, an IOM-UNHCR train-to-hire labour mobility project prepared refugees for jobs with Australian employers. In Uganda, a new online system for machine-readable refugee travel documents helped more than 270 refugees obtain documentation and pursue education opportunities across Africa.

Regional and global support platforms under the Global Compact on Refugees also advanced responsibility sharing. The Central African Republic Solutions Support Platform helped facilitate the highest levels of voluntary return to the country since 2017.



ENABLING RESULTS

UNHCR supports collective sites in Kropyvnytskyi, central Ukraine, by delivering beds and essential items to increase reception capacity and ensure dignified accommodation for people evacuated from frontline areas. © UNHCR/Viktoriiia Tiutiunnyk

Enabling results

Systems and processes

Core indicators

- **80%** of official guidance reviewed within 5 years of issuance (86% in 2024)
- **100%** of operations, bureaux, and entities were implementing multi-year strategic plans (96% in 2024)
- **Programme budget** preparation and approval were managed promptly
- **97%** of annual risk reviews were completed (100% in 2024)
- **Secure IT systems** and processes were in place and regularly maintained

Policies and guidance

- UNHCR adapted its regulatory framework to mitigate financial risks, introducing temporary measures to protect cash flow, manage resources and guide workforce changes. These steps helped the organization adjust its structure and operational footprint while developing longer-term reforms.
- **80%** of UNHCR policies and procedures have been reviewed in the last 5 years for relevance and alignment, helping staff access up-to-date guidance.
- UNHCR revised or retired more than **20** regulatory documents to streamline and modernize its policy framework.
- All UNHR operations transitioned to **multi-year planning**. In 2025, country operations reported 21 of the 75 core indicators as optional rather than mandatory.

Risk management

- UNHCR’s country operations maintained **100%** compliance with annual risk reviews, delivering protection and solutions with accountability. Compliance in regional bureaux and headquarters reached 88%, as restructuring delayed some reviews.
- **33** staff completed advanced operational risk management certification, bringing the total to 247. A further **531** colleagues completed UNHCR’s online course on managing risks and opportunities, bringing total completions to 1,881.
- The risk network across UNHCR and partners strengthened risk management and fraud awareness by connecting colleagues in different regions to identify emerging risks, share lessons and develop practical solutions, reaching over **8,700** people.
- The risk management toolkit was expanded to include **15** tools, with a new tool on data and information and three updated tools covering cash-based interventions, relief item management and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Cost savings and efficiencies

Over \$135 million in total measured benefits in 2025 from asset sales, cost savings and quantified efficiency gains

- **\$41 million** in estimated net revenue from the sale of more than 1,800 vehicles and other assets for UNHCR.
- **\$37 million** saved through reduced travel, and an additional **\$1.8 million** in efficiency gains from improved travel services.
- UNHCR reduced potential surplus stock by **46%**, amounting to **\$28.5 million** in cost reduction, by optimizing inventory levels, improving visibility over contingency stocks and closing **87** low-turnover warehouses.
- **\$10.2 million** in recurring annual savings from fleet reductions, and **\$2 million** in efficiency gains from a global ride-sharing and carpooling programme.
- **\$5.2 million** in cost savings on core relief items and transport services through secondary bidding, which invited suppliers with existing frame agreements to submit updated offers.
- **\$4.3 million** in treasury efficiencies enabled by modern, digital and integrated banking connectivity through the [Digital Hub of Treasury Solutions](#).
- **\$5 million** in IT cost savings through contract renegotiation, license optimization and infrastructure modernization while preserving critical services.
- **\$1 million** in cost savings from transitioning 11 offices to solar energy through the [Green Financing Facility](#) in 2024.

Systems

- Cybersecurity investments made UNHCR’s systems more resilient and helped protect sensitive refugee and operational data. In 2025, UNHCR fixed over 19,000 vulnerabilities and prevented any major security incidents.
- UNHCR’s [AI Approach](#) was adopted to improve outcomes for forcibly displaced and stateless people through responsible, inclusive and transparent use of AI in humanitarian work and operational processes. Nearly 2,000 staff use AI tools every day.

Connecting systems, improving assistance

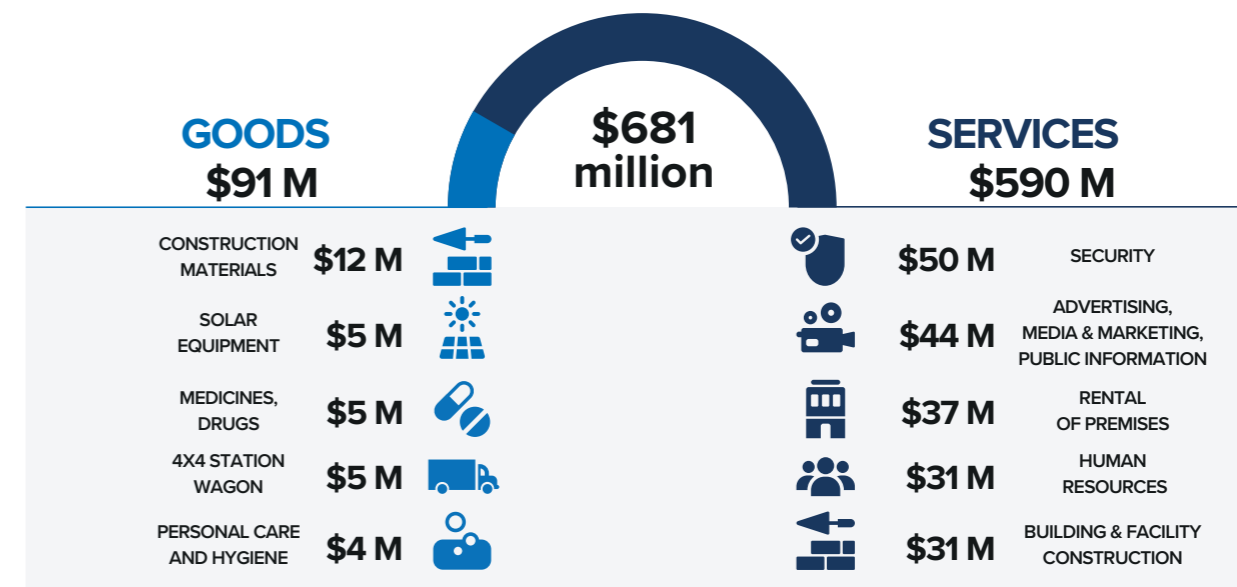
UNHCR’s work on system interoperability improved efficiency among humanitarian actors and supported the inclusion of refugees in national digital identity programmes. In 2025, UNHCR and WFP shared a caseload of more than 10 million people across 44 countries. In 16 of these countries, WFP and its partners used UNHCR’s [Global Distribution Tool](#) to strengthen the efficiency and delivery of humanitarian assistance. An increasing number of operations adopted the [PRIMES Interoperability Gateway\(PING\)](#) to enable secure beneficiary data exchange, including in Chad, Iraq and the United Republic of Tanzania. In Ethiopia, PING helped bring more than 150,000 refugees into the national digital identity programme, Fayda ID, giving refugees legal access to healthcare, education, banking, travel and work.



UNHCR partner AHA distributed 1,240 plastic sheets to families recently displaced from El Fasher, offering urgent shelter support while additional supplies are on the way. © UNHCR/Mohammed Jalal

Top 5 goods and services purchased in 2025

Based on their value in USD



N.B.: Data provided as per current reporting methodology, UNOPS services, cash-based interventions, individual consultants and contractors procurement conducted by UNHCR implementing partners are excluded here.

Operational support and supply chain

Core indicators

- **198** emergency deployments (255 in 2024)
- **Core relief items** pre-positioned in UNHCR's global stockpiles were sufficient to assist up to **1 million people** in emergencies
- **26** critical security incidents managed (36 in 2024)

- **75%** of deployments were facilitated through standby partners, amounting to in-kind contributions valued at \$8.9 million.
- HQ supported **36** high-risk country operations in risk analysis, contingency planning and emergency preparedness.

Supplies

- **\$17.9 million** of emergency supplies delivered from global stockpiles for up to **1.8 million people** in 2025, of which:
 - **282** tonnes delivered by air
 - **1,267** tonnes delivered by road
 - **2,637** tonnes delivered by sea
- UNHCR organized **3** pro bono emergency airlifts and **5** free-of-charge shipments to Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia and Myanmar.
- UNHCR worked with Arizona State University to develop an **inventory planning model** that helps place emergency supplies closer to where they are likely to be needed, speeding up deliveries, reducing stock levels and costs, and improving emergency response.

Emergencies

- UNHCR responded to **24** emergency declarations in **16** countries, with 10 new emergencies declared by UNHCR in 2025 and 14 carried over from 2024.
- 8 new emergencies were related to crises in Africa, and 2 in Asia and the Pacific.
- UNHCR coordinated **198** emergency deployments to 40 countries, with 40% of these addressing the Sudan crisis, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

Security

- UNHCR recorded **488** security incidents, down 7% from 2024. Of these, 238 affected UNHCR personnel, including 26 classified as critical, such as arrests, detentions, serious injuries and two deaths.
- Over **100** UNHCR personnel were affected by gender-based security incidents and provided with support, advice and security assistance.

- **270** women personnel from UNHCR, the UN and partner organizations received Women's Security Awareness Training, gaining practical knowledge, skills and attitudes to address specific threats and associated risks; additionally, **30** UN women security trainers were trained to facilitate this training in the field.

UPS marks 15 years of partnership to strengthen global emergency logistics



© UNHCR/Sona Dadi

UPS and the UPS Foundation's logistics and transport expertise have enabled rapid, coordinated responses to some of the world's most complex

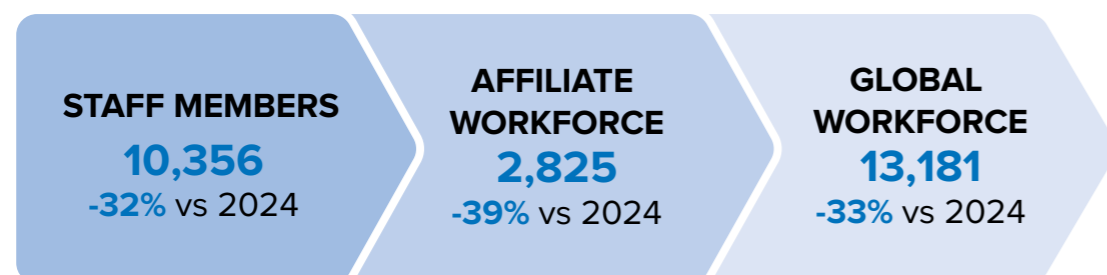
humanitarian crises for the last 15 years. This partnership has contributed nearly \$10 million to flexible emergency reserves, in-kind transport of relief items, child protection services and global stockpiles.

Despite intense pressure on supply operations in 2025, the UPS Foundation mobilized its global workforce to promote human rights-centred supply chains across Burundi, Ethiopia and the Syrian Arab Republic. With more than 90% of funding directed to emergency logistics, UPS helped optimize local supply chains and deliver essential goods to nearly 500,000 forcibly displaced people, where and when they were needed most.

People and culture

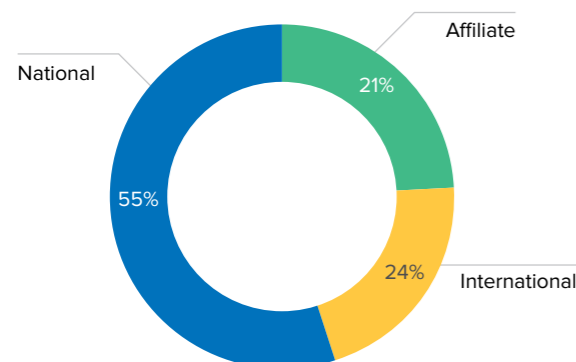
Global presence (as of January 2026)

UNHCR was present in **122 countries and territories** with offices in **382 locations**, reflecting a reduction in its presence of 15 countries and 140 locations compared to 2024.

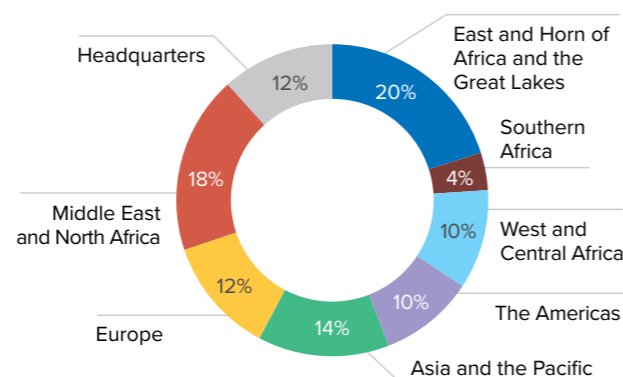


Global workforce by category

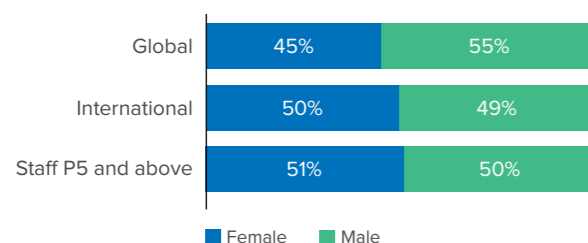
(as of January 2026)



Global workforce by region



Global workforce by gender (%)



Core indicators

- **82%** of UNHCR staff have completed all mandatory training (82% in 2024)
- **70%** of sexual harassment incidents within UNHCR were brought to the attention of the Victim Care Officer, where the victim chose to engage in a resolution (58% in 2024)

Workforce changes and restructuring

- UNHCR faced an unprecedented funding shortfall in early 2025, forcing the organization to reduce its workforce by over **33%**, about **6,600** personnel, by January 2026.
- Senior positions at headquarters and in regional bureaux were reduced by almost **50%**. As a result of the restructuring, UNHCR also streamlined and rationalized HQ's office configuration, moving from 25 HQ divisions and entities in 2024 to **21**.
- The number of regional bureaux was reduced to **six**. The Regional Bureau for Southern Africa was closed, with country operations absorbed by the Bureaux for Eastern and Southern Africa, and West and Central Africa.

- To support affected personnel, UNHCR prioritized redeployment, maintained a freeze on external recruitment and created a roster for separated colleagues to preserve essential skills and expertise. Information and support services were also expanded, along with mental health literacy programmes, career transition resources and psychosocial risk management.
- UNHCR remained a field-based organization, with **88%** of positions located outside headquarters and **36%** in hardship locations. UNHCR preserved its core protection capacity to the extent possible, with protection, solutions and operational delivery remaining its largest job categories.
- National officer positions saw the smallest reduction of any workforce category (**18%**), demonstrating UNHCR's commitment to further nationalizing its workforce.
- Despite the downsizing, UNHCR continued to reflect a diverse workforce, with **153** nationalities, **45%** women and **80%** of personnel from the Global South. Gender parity was sustained across international professional roles, senior management, and national professional categories.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

- Preventing and addressing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment remained a non-negotiable priority for UNHCR, with a focus on learning, accountability, victim assistance and partnerships with refugee-led and women-led organizations.
- **1,200** personnel joined related learning and consultation sessions, and **49%** of the workforce completed face-to-face training.
- UNHCR/ICVA's [Community Outreach and Communications Fund](#) supported locally led awareness materials and reporting channels, funding 78 projects in 40 countries since 2020, including **13** in 2025, and reaching over 2 million people.
- UNHCR also drove system-wide action by leading the development of Interagency Referral Procedures and an [updated guide for managers](#) on how to address sexual harassment.

Global Shared Services: driving efficiency to protect core delivery

In October 2025, UNHCR launched Global Shared Services (GSS) to reduce the impact of budget and workforce reductions on life-saving humanitarian work. GSS will centralize location-independent finance, human resources, supply and IT transactions under a single service model, led from Budapest and supported by teams in Amman, Dakar, Kuala Lumpur, Nairobi and Panama. Together, these teams will provide round-the-clock, multilingual support to the organization.

Through standardization, streamlined processes and increased automation, GSS is expected to reduce costs and improve the quality, compliance and consistency of enabling services.

GSS also lays the foundation for future inter-agency service models and aligns with broader UN reforms, including UN80.

External engagement and resource mobilization

Core indicators

- **\$3.578 billion** total voluntary contributions, including **\$2.881 billion** raised from public sector and **\$697 million** from private sector donors (\$4.829 billion in 2024)
- Funding gap of **63%** or **\$6.672 billion** in the UNHCR Global Budget (52% or \$5.608 billion in 2024)
- **560,000** views of UNHCR website pages on operations, funding and results²
- **23%** of total annual expenditure spent on implementing partners, including through local and national partners (24% in 2024)

- UNHCR generated **267,000** pieces of media coverage, including 21% from high-profile international outlets reaching millions of people.
- UNHCR maintained nearly 260 active relationships with [Goodwill Ambassadors](#), high-profile supporters, digital influencers and content creators across 66 countries, with a combined social media reach of more than **780 million** people.
- UNHCR developed a [Planning and Funding Dashboard](#) to show donors, partners and media how its work is planned and financed.

Resource mobilization

- **\$1.526 billion** was pledged by Governments and National Partners at the December 2025 pledging conference to cover anticipated needs for and beyond 2026 (vs \$1.498 billion in 2024).
- **\$1.189 billion** of flexible funding was received in 2025, including \$728 million in unearmarked funding enabling UNHCR to tackle emergencies and meet neglected needs.

Advocacy, media and communications

- UNHCR’s digital and social media channels generated **200 million** video views across all platforms, 5.5 million social media engagements and 17 million views on the UNHCR website.

² In June 2025, UNHCR moved its operational content from the Global Focus website to UNHCR.org.

Leadership and governance

Evaluations

- The Evaluation Office commissioned independent evaluations of UNHCR’s work on [climate action](#) and on preventing and responding to [gender-based violence](#).
- The evaluation of UNHCR’s multi-country [L3 emergency response to the Sudan situation](#) examined one of the world’s largest displacement crises across Sudan, Chad, Egypt, and South Sudan.
- In 2025, UNHCR completed 5 country strategy evaluations in [Brazil](#), [Bulgaria](#), [the Republic of Korea](#), [the Senegal multi-country office](#) and [Somalia](#).
- UNHCR evaluations completed in 2025 underwent an independent external assessment and achieved an overall quality rating of 68%, an increase from 66% in 2024.

Please refer to the [Evaluation’s Office page](#) for more information.

Core indicators

- **71%** of evaluations were completed on time as per rolling evaluation work plan: 10 centralized evaluations out of 10 planned; 7 decentralized evaluations out of 14 planned, delayed by restructuring and workforce reduction (72% in 2024)
- Median time taken by the Inspector General’s Office to assess complaints was **7 days** (15 days in 2024)
- **31** governance meetings organized during the year in a timely manner (28 in 2024)

Oversight and investigations

- UNHCR handled more than **1,800** misconduct complaints and reduced the median response time to **7** days, down from 15 days in 2024, by expanding its use of AI and technology.
- The Inspector General’s Office (IGO) completed **193** misconduct investigations, 12% more than in 2024, and closed 61% within six months.
- In **53%** of cases, IGO found allegations of misconduct to be substantiated based on evidence gathered.
- **100** investigation reports were transmitted to the Division of People Management for possible disciplinary or administrative action.

MADE51 – weaving solidarity into livelihoods and hope



© UNHCR/Pedro Costa Gomes

[MADE51](#) is UNHCR’s global initiative connecting refugee craftsmanship with international markets, creating income opportunities through the handmade sector. It operates through an ecosystem approach, bringing together local partners, designers and market actors under the MADE51 brand to connect refugee-made products with global

consumers. In 2025, it worked with more than 3,500 refugee and host community artisans, 96% of whom were women. Through targeted training, access to materials, and connection to global marketing and sales channels, MADE51 supported refugee artisan groups to strengthen their livelihoods. Based on fair trade wage standards, artisans earned a total of \$639,000 contributing to essential household needs such as food, shelter, health care and education. Their products ranged from textiles and beadwork to baskets, jewellery and accessories, preserving and adapting traditional craft skills. A notable example was the With Refugees bracelet, which called for solidarity with refugees. Backed by targeted publicity and endorsements from UNHCR Goodwill Ambassadors, it helped raise MADE51’s profile, expand market access and increase income for participating artisan groups.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION

UNHCR, together with OCHA, UNICEF and WFP partners, meet with displaced families in Mueda, Mozambique, to identify priority needs among people affected by renewed violence in the country. © UNHCR/Victor Juma

Partnerships and coordination



UNHCR increased its impact by working with UN partners, international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs), refugee-led organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral development partners, private sector partners and sports bodies. These partnerships helped us reach more people, bring in specialized expertise and connect emergency action with inclusion in national systems.

United Nations partnerships

UNHCR co-led the UN Common Pledge 2.0 on refugee inclusion with the United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The pledge drove stronger system-wide engagement by UN partners and country teams to advance shared inclusion goals. A [stocktaking report](#) found that 94% of country teams include refugees in their Common Country Analysis, while 71% include at least one refugee-specific output

in their Cooperation Framework. Country teams made measurable progress in aligning refugee responses with national development priorities and strengthening service delivery.

UN80 and Humanitarian Reset

UNHCR used its inter-agency leadership to advance the Humanitarian Reset. It supported lighter, protection-centred and locally-led coordination through simpler planning and appeals, shared services and data, and streamlined coordination in 16 mixed refugee-IDP settings. UNHCR helped drive cluster simplification – including one integrated Protection Cluster and the transition to the new Shelter, Land and Site Coordination cluster – while retaining country-level leadership where already in place. UNHCR co-chaired the Cash Advisory Group with OCHA, supporting 37 countries' transition to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee model, driving outcome-focused metrics, local capacity and faster, accountable delivery.

Under the UN80 Initiative, UNHCR contributed through the New Humanitarian Compact to accelerate coherence and efficiency that complements the reset. This included engagement in integrated supply chain efforts, shared services and the wider UN80 governance architecture.

Together, UNHCR's engagement in these reforms helped reduce duplication, strengthen local leadership and make humanitarian action more efficient and accountable.

Partnership with UNICEF deepened under the [Strategic Collaboration Framework](#) with 30 letters of understanding now signed since 2023, underpinning a shared commitment to strengthen the inclusion of refugee, returnee and asylum-seeking children in national systems as well as reinforcing joint action on eliminating childhood statelessness, enhancing data sharing and advancing durable solutions.

Partnership with WFP through the [Joint Programme Excellence and Targeting Hub](#) helped make assistance more efficient and better aligned with needs. While the hub is being phased out, ongoing collaboration will focus on cash coordination, interoperable data systems and inclusive social protection, making support more predictable and easier to access for refugees and host communities.

Civil society partnerships

UNHCR channelled \$769 million through 997 NGO partners across 109 operations. Despite the decrease from 2024 (\$1.061 billion through 1,116 NGO partners), national and community-based organizations were still prioritized.

[UNHCR Guidelines on Localization](#) provided an operational framework to embed locally-led action across programmes, and dedicated guidance on engaging organizations led by displaced and stateless persons, and women-led organizations. The [Multistakeholder Pledge on Advancing Localization](#) achieved 48 signatories pledging \$105 million and supporting more than 920 local organizations. In 2025, six new signatories joined, supporting an additional 300 local and national civil society organizations. UNHCR deepened engagement with specific civil society constituencies. Partnerships with faith-based organizations, strengthened through the Multi-Religious Council of Leaders, generated over 70 pledges during the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) and 2025 Progress Review, up from zero in 2019.

The inaugural Advisory Board of Organizations led by Forcibly Displaced and Stateless Persons completed its mandate, with measurable impact on advocacy. For the 2025 GRF Progress Review, the Advisory Board led the development and delivery of the Global Refugee Statement, co-organized the orientation day for participants with lived experience, and facilitated the HC–refugee dialogue during the closing session. A second cohort is being established for 2026–2028.

Sports partnerships

UNHCR's [More than a Game](#) sport strategy expanded its support to country operations, with 15 countries implementing multi-year sport for protection projects. Partnerships with the FIFA World Cup Qatar Legacy Fund, LIV Golf, adidas Foundation and Barça Foundation will help these projects provide safe sport opportunities to an estimated 70,000 refugees and host community members worldwide.

The Sport for Refugees Coalition – co-led by Scort and the Olympic Refuge Foundation – has supported 529,000 displaced persons to access sport and play-based programmes in over 92 countries. Since the 2023 GRF, 11,000 coaches have been trained to deliver safe and inclusive sports activities, with over 160 sports spaces created or refurbished.

UNHCR leveraged major sporting events to promote solidarity with refugees. In partnership with the FIFA Foundation, young refugees and host community members in Chile served as flag bearers at the FIFA U-20 World Cup. UNHCR also supported FIFA's Afghan Women United team to compete internationally. UEFA and UNHCR promoted football as a tool for inclusion at the Unity EURO Cup, which involved 18 mixed teams of refugees and host community players.

Development partnerships

Development engagement is critical to advancing sustainable responses, especially in a constrained funding environment. In 2025, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that official development assistance fell by more than 23%, the largest annual contraction on record. Despite these pressures, development partners deepened their engagement in displacement contexts, with a strong focus on inclusion and self-reliance.

Multilateral development banks prioritized displacement-related investments. The World Bank supported projects that help refugees and host communities access services, livelihoods and national systems through the IDA 21 Window for Host Communities and Refugees and the Global Concessional Financing Facility. The African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with UNHCR, published a [joint study on development](#)

[investment in forced displacement](#), which is informing the AfDB's operational priorities, including through facilities such as the Transition Support Facility (TSF). The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) continued to support member countries affected by forced displacement and is exploring ring-fenced financing under its new IsDB Concessional Fund.

Bilateral partners also made significant contributions. Germany is transitioning its Special Initiative Displaced Persons and Host Countries into a permanent financing instrument. The Netherlands-supported [PROSPECTS partnership](#) continued to deliver multi-year programmes on protection, education, employment and social protection. At country level, development partners increasingly helped strengthen national systems, rather than replace them, as shown by initiatives supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Burundi.

Across Africa, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and the German Development Bank (KfW), supported government-led coordination and refugee inclusion in education, social protection and economic systems. This included investments such as the Refugee Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (R-WASH) programme in Eastern Africa, and projects jointly implemented by GIZ and UNHCR in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania and Mozambique.

Joint analytical work strengthened the evidence base behind these efforts. The [World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center](#) helped mobilize \$4.7 billion in development investment and advanced refugee inclusion in national statistics in 25 countries, up from 18 in 2024.

Private sector engagement also expanded through the [International Finance Corporation-UNHCR Joint Initiative](#), including blended finance mechanisms that enabled forcibly displaced people and host communities to access formal loans. In Nigeria, a blended risk-sharing facility supported by a commercial bank, the African Development Bank and UNHCR helped small agricultural businesses to access formal lending at viable rates.

Regional Refugee Response Plans

Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) are one of UNHCR's main tools for turning solidarity into coordinated action. These inter-agency plans bring together UN agencies, international and national NGOs, refugee-led organizations and development actors around shared priorities, budgets and results.

Across eight situations covering 50 countries, RRP aligned the work of 1,599 partners to support refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, stateless people and host community members. Together, they appealed for \$12.1 billion and received \$3.1 billion. On average, plans were funded at 27%, ranging from 52% for the Joint Response Plan in Bangladesh to 10% for the Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Venezuela, which was severely affected by severe funding cuts to humanitarian aid.

RRPs helped partners protect rights, support host countries and invest in sustainable responses. They gave donors and governments a clearer picture of collective needs, priorities and gaps, helping focus limited resources where they could have the greatest impact.

In the Afghanistan situation, RRP partners in Pakistan supported at-risk adolescent girls through safe spaces and life skills training, with 439 girls enrolled in the Girl Shine programme. They also provided transportation support to 4,562 girls to improve access to secondary education and reduce protection risks. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, refugees were supported through national public systems, enabling access to health and nutrition services, including primary and secondary care, vaccination campaigns, and outreach, reaching over 5.4 million service contacts. These approaches preserved access to services while reinforcing national capacity.

In Bangladesh, coordinated protection action helped newly arrived Rohingya refugees gain access to assistance through joint government-UNHCR biometric identification, with nearly 149,000 people receiving assistance cards. The pooled fund for localization – administered by a Joint Response Plan partner – supported eight local NGO partners, and women-led organizations, to take over WASH leadership in four camps in Cox's Bazar

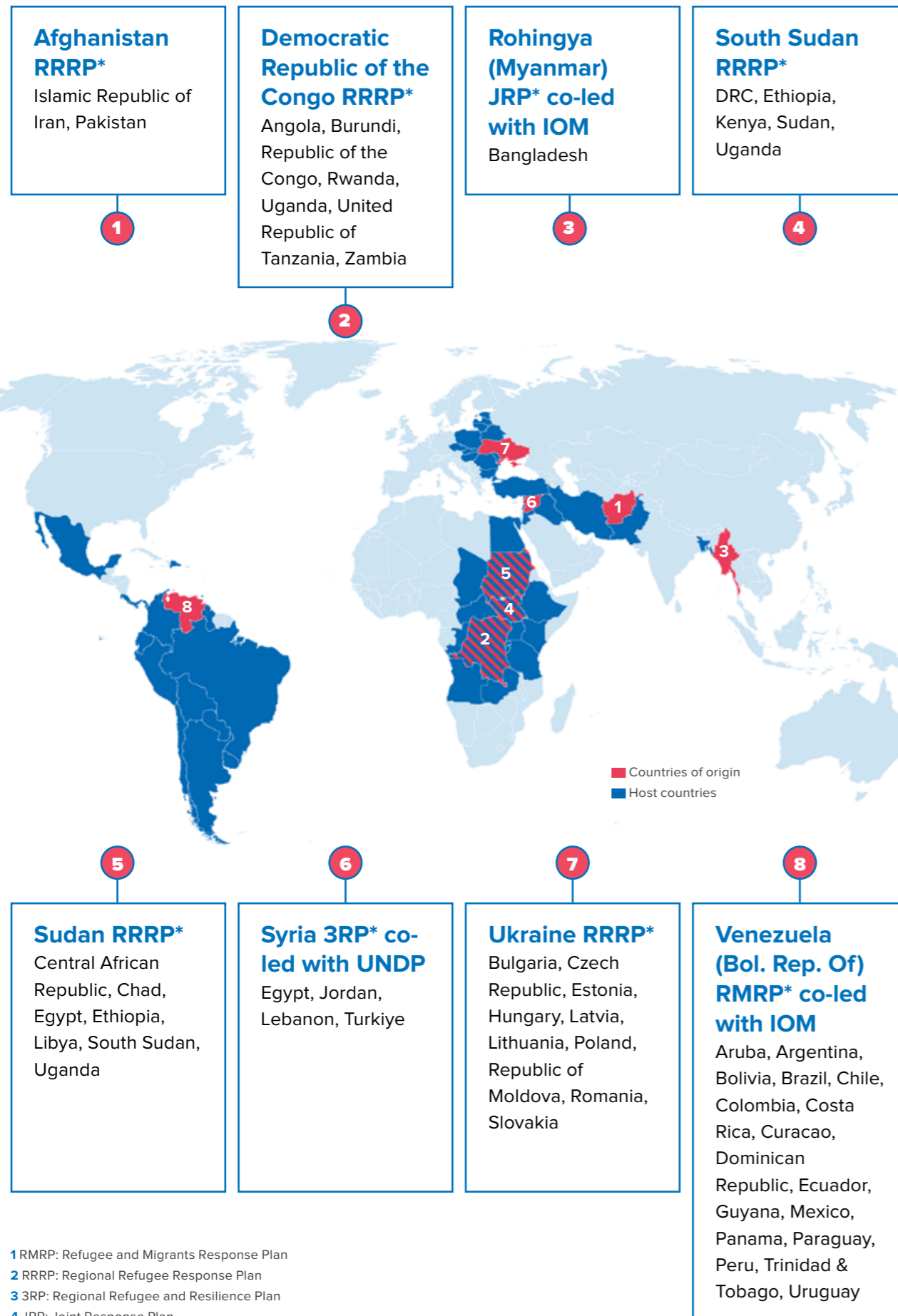
and three blocks in Bhasan Char, reaching over 84,000 Rohingya refugees. This shift strengthened local ownership and is expected to improve cost-efficiency and sustainability over time.

In the South Sudan situation, contingency planning and preparedness proved their value in a highly volatile context. As violence in South Sudan's Upper Nile State raised the risk of new displacement into neighbouring countries, partners developed a contingency plan for 303,000 potential refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees, as well as 40,000 targeted IDPs. The plan included a preparedness budget of \$36.2 million.

In the Ukraine situation, the RRP showed how inter-agency planning can deliver results while supporting a gradual transition to more nationally and locally-anchored arrangements, with partners in 11 refugee-hosting countries reaching 715,000 people. Inclusion and self-reliance improved, with employment among working-age refugees at 68%, school attendance among children at 86% and access to health care at 87%. Localization advanced, with 74% of refugee coordination structures led or co-led by local and national actors. These gains show how the RRP sustained coordinated support while laying the groundwork for the next phase of response.

These examples show the value of RRP beyond emergency coordination. In 2025, they helped bring humanitarian, development and inclusion efforts closer together. They also showed that when refugee responses are jointly planned, locally-anchored and supported through national systems, they can deliver more coherent, efficient and sustainable results.

UNHCR-led/co-led inter-agency regional response plans | 2025



1 RMRP: Refugee and Migrants Response Plan
 2 RRRP: Regional Refugee Response Plan
 3 3RP: Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
 4 JRP: Joint Response Plan

Credits

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The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of frontiers or boundaries.

Data in this report are drawn from the most recent statistics available to UNHCR, and from other United Nations agencies. For any corrigenda found subsequent to publication, please visit the Global Report page on the UNHCR.org website (<https://www.unhcr.org/publications/global-report-2025>).

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Cover photo: Joelle, a South Sudanese refugee in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, hopes education will give her son a better future, as refugee families work toward self-reliance with support from UNHCR and partners.
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