

Annual Results Report

2025

Democratic Republic of the Congo

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Note:

The baseline values presented in this document reflect previous year's progress when available. If such data is not available, strategy baseline values are used instead.

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The security environment remained highly volatile. The M23 continued to occupy key areas, while clashes involving ADF, CODECO, and other groups drove displacement and protection risks. The MONUSCO drawdown created security gaps, further constraining humanitarian access. Risks of conflict expansion toward Kalemie, Kisangani, and Bunia remained high. Urban insecurity increased in Goma, Bukavu, and Kinshasa. Despite regional initiatives such as the Doha Agreement and Washington Peace Accord, implementation challenges persisted. UNHCR maintained strong security management through risk assessments, contingency planning, and coordination with UNDSS, ensuring operational continuity. The outlook remains negative, with continued conflict and access constraints.

The protection context remained fragile, with 45,538 incidents recorded. Civilians faced GBV, child protection risks, forced recruitment, and HLP violations. Overcrowding and pressure on services increased vulnerabilities, while inflation and limited livelihoods deepened socio-economic stress. Public health risks, including cholera, compounded challenges. Despite this, the Government maintained a favorable protection framework, supporting asylum and solutions pathways. However, implementation gaps at decentralized levels persisted due to capacity and security constraints.

Flooding and environmental shocks triggered displacement and destroyed livelihoods, particularly in eastern provinces. Economic deterioration, including rising food prices and unemployment, increased reliance on aid and strained host communities. Insecurity and repeated displacement disrupted programming and increased costs, forcing prioritization of emergency response over resilience-building. Funding shortfalls further limited impact. UNHCR adapted through strengthened coordination, remote monitoring, and area-based approaches to balance immediate needs with longer-term resilience objectives.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

Refugees and Asylum - Seekers, IDPs, Returnees, Stateless Persons, and Host Communities live in peace and security, and enjoy their rights without discrimination

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, stateless persons, and host communities continue to face a complex protection environment. Since 2022, UNHCR and its partners have worked steadily to ensure that these populations can live in peace and security, access their rights without discrimination, and receive the support needed to rebuild their lives. By 2024, significant progress had been made: legal protection, documentation, and safety were greatly enhanced through the adoption of biometric registration, mobile registration units, and targeted outreach initiatives. Legal reforms strengthened civil status rights and personal data protection, while training programs for lawmakers and judicial bodies improved access to justice. These combined efforts fostered social inclusion, resilience, and greater visibility for displaced populations.

The year 2025, however, brought new challenges. Large-scale influxes of displaced persons—45,000 at the South Sudanese border and 65,000 in western DRC—overwhelmed existing registration capacities. As a result, only a fraction of these individuals were formally registered as asylum-seekers, limiting their access to formal protection procedures. Despite these gaps, the DRC maintained a generally favorable protection environment: the principle of non-refoulement was upheld, and freedom of movement for refugees and asylum-seekers remained fully respected. Institutional collaboration continued to strengthen, with the Ministry of Justice advancing legal reforms, the Ministry of the Interior and the National Commission for Refugees (CNR) supporting registration and documentation, and partners such as UNDP, the UN Country Team, and the World Bank providing critical technical and financial support.

Throughout 2025, UNHCR's protection interventions reached thousands of vulnerable people across the country. In Ituri and Haut Uele, 2,563 displaced persons were safely relocated, and 2,539 were registered, ensuring legal visibility and reducing the risk of statelessness. Hundreds of birth certificates were issued, and seven civil registry offices were supported. Protection monitoring covered hundreds of pre-judicial incidents, detention cases, and sites, reinforcing safeguards and early warning systems. Gender-based violence (GBV) prevention reached over 8,000 people, with survivors referred to specialized services, while community protection committees were established or revitalized, engaging over 2,900 individuals and increasing women's participation in local governance.

In the north and west of the country, undocumented children and vulnerable adults gained access to essential documentation and protection services. Child protection mechanisms supported hundreds of at-risk children with cash assistance, nutrition, and psychosocial care, while GBV prevention programs engaged tens of thousands across North and South Ubangi and Bas Uele. In North and South Kivu, thousands received identity documents, refugee cards, and biometric registration, while asylum applications were processed, and authorities trained to improve protection outcomes. In Tanganyika, Kananga, and urban Kinshasa, displaced and returning populations received integrated support, including legal recognition, housing, skills training, and child protection services, reinforcing social cohesion and community accountability.

Indeed between 2022 and 2024, access to asylum procedures steadily improved, reaching a peak as registration systems and legal frameworks became more efficient. In 2025, despite this strong foundation, large-scale displacement and resource constraints slowed progress. Yet, the protection system's resilience is evident: freedom of movement was maintained, legal reforms advanced, and protection services expanded in scale and scope. Across all regions, UNHCR and partners ensured that displaced and vulnerable populations could access legal identity, psychosocial and GBV support, and community-based protection mechanisms, strengthening the foundation for longer-term peace, inclusion, and resilience.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Refugees and Asylum - Seekers, IDPs, Returnees, Stateless Persons and Host Communities have effective and equitable access to goods, services, and income, to enable them to lead a dignified life.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.10%	21.69%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	81.40%	97.00%

Aligned with the DRC National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP 2024–2028), UNHCR has worked since 2022 to ensure that refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, returnees, stateless persons, and host communities can access essential goods, services, and income opportunities necessary for dignified and self-reliant lives.

By 2024, major progress was achieved through the expansion of cash-based interventions (CBIs), which provided flexible and dignified assistance, strengthened household decision-making, improved food security, and facilitated access to shelter, health, and education. Complementary non-food item (NFI) assistance—such as blankets, hygiene kits, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and solar lamps—improved protection, health, and living conditions. Shelter support, including transitional and durable solutions, further enhanced safety, stability, and community integration.

In 2025, despite macroeconomic pressures, large-scale displacement, and funding constraints, UNHCR maintained critical access to essential services. CBIs remained central, reaching tens of thousands of vulnerable individuals and supporting local markets and resilience, although structural poverty and limited infrastructure continued to constrain sustainable livelihoods. Health services remained robust through integration into national systems and partnerships with WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, and government counterparts. NFI, shelter, and WASH interventions addressed urgent needs, while education, vocational training, and social services strengthened pathways toward self-reliance.

In Ituri and Haut-Uele, over 470 individuals and 563 IDP households benefited from shelter and infrastructure support, including classrooms, bridges, and water points. Sensitization activities reached 7,000 people, while 563 solar lamps and solar system maintenance strengthened environmental resilience. Health services ensured near-universal assisted deliveries, HIV testing, ART follow-up, and treatment for acute malnutrition. Education initiatives trained teachers, reached over 1,200 learners through digital learning, and expanded vocational training, while WASH interventions revitalized water committees and reached 14,000 people through hygiene promotion.

In North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, over 100,000 people accessed health services, including maternal care, vaccination, mental health support, and ART treatment. Education programs benefited tens of thousands of learners through trained teachers and expanded digital learning. Cash assistance reached 48,337 beneficiaries, strengthening household resilience. In North and South Kivu, tens of thousands received emergency shelter, cash-for-rent, NFI kits, and WASH services, alongside health, education, and financial literacy support. In Tanganyika and Kinshasa, returnees, IDPs, and vulnerable households benefited from durable housing solutions, vocational training, healthcare, and education services, improving

livelihoods and reintegration outcomes.

Overall, UNHCR's 2025 response consolidated gains in service delivery and resilience-building, reinforcing dignity, inclusion, and social cohesion in line with the NSDP (2024–2028). However, persistent macroeconomic pressures, displacement dynamics, and funding gaps underscore the need for sustained investment to expand equitable access to essential services and strengthen long-term self-reliance.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

Refugees and Asylum - Seekers, IDPs, Returnees, Stateless Persons and Host Communities play an active role in their own protection.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.00%	100.00%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.41%	50.14%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	50.90%

Since 2022, UNHCR has consolidated a strategic shift from direct service delivery toward a structured, community-led protection and self-reliance model aligned with national systems and sustained donor engagement. Despite insecurity, funding constraints, and operational disruptions, this approach has strengthened accountability, social cohesion, and livelihoods, while positioning forcibly displaced populations as active contributors to protection governance, conflict prevention, and local economic development.

Feedback and response mechanisms have been institutionalized, and community-based protection structures reinforced. Over the past four years, more than 814,000 individuals have used feedback systems to inform programming and durable solutions planning. In parallel, 341,000 individuals have been sensitized on peaceful coexistence, and 1,273 community conflicts have been resolved through structured mediation. These results reflect a maturing accountability ecosystem that strengthens local governance and reduces tensions between displaced and host communities.

Economic inclusion remains central to self-reliance. While legal access to work is ensured, 2024 assessments highlighted persistent barriers to decent employment. In response, targeted livelihood investments supported over 32,000 individuals over four years, resulting in expanded productive assets and skills development. This enabled the cultivation of more than 17,700 hectares and the production of 2,059 metric tons of agricultural output, generating approximately USD 1,249,000 in household income. These gains have strengthened food security, reduced aid dependency, and promoted economic interaction between refugees and host communities.

Gender-responsive governance has been strengthened through increased women's participation in community committees, targeted sensitization, and support to women-led initiatives and Village Savings and Loan Associations, embedding gender equality within local protection systems and decision-making structures.

UNHCR has also demonstrated adaptive programming in complex displacement and return contexts. Participatory systems remained functional despite insecurity and population movements, including after site

closures. In return areas, logistical constraints affecting housing reconstruction were addressed through corrective measures and skills transfer to local workers, strengthening reintegration and community ownership.

However, structural challenges persist. Perceptions of safety have stagnated, indicating evolving protection risks, while limited labour market absorption continues to constrain large-scale economic integration. These gaps underscore the need for predictable multi-year financing, stronger private sector engagement, and closer alignment with development financing mechanisms.

Overall, sustained support has enabled the institutionalization of community-led protection systems, strengthened social cohesion and conflict mitigation, enhanced gender-inclusive governance, and generated measurable household-level economic gains. Refugees and host communities are increasingly active contributors to protection and resilience-building efforts. While challenges remain, the operation has moved beyond pilot approaches toward system-level integration, demonstrating a clear pathway linking humanitarian action with sustainable development and self-reliance. Continued predictable, multi-year investment remains essential to consolidate gains and fully realize durable solutions.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Refugees and Asylum - Seekers, IDPs, Returnees, and Stateless Persons have progressive access to durable solutions

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13,464	18,128
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	462	7
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	518,454	219

Since 2022, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Government of the DRC, donors, and partners, has progressively expanded access to durable solutions through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and local integration. Despite persistent operational and contextual constraints, sustained coordination, information sharing, and reintegration support have strengthened protection outcomes for refugees, returnees, and internally displaced persons (IDPs), in line with national priorities.

From 2022 to 2024, collective efforts enabled the voluntary repatriation of 30,946 refugees and the return of 13,564 Congolese nationals, demonstrating the effectiveness of multi-year reintegration programming. In 2025, an additional 18,128 refugees returned voluntarily, bringing the cumulative total since 2022 to 49,074 safe and dignified returns. In addition, approximately 780 Congolese nationals returned from neighbouring countries, including Zambia, Angola, and South Africa.

Resettlement remained a critical protection pathway for the most vulnerable. Between 2022 and 2024, 629 individuals were submitted and 480 were successfully resettled. In 2025, 22 additional refugees departed for resettlement despite operational constraints, including limited staffing, remote locations, and logistical barriers. However, the absence of complementary pathways in 2025 highlights a key gap requiring renewed attention. UNHCR continues to strengthen data systems and operational efficiency to expand access to resettlement opportunities.

Local integration progressed more gradually due to legal and administrative constraints. From 2022 to

2024, no naturalization or formal nationality pathways were facilitated, underscoring the need for stronger policy engagement. Nevertheless, important gains were achieved in tenure security and land access for returnees and IDPs, reducing secondary displacement risks. Structured settlement approaches, including villagization, improved access to services, infrastructure, and livelihoods, while strengthening social cohesion and economic stability.

Reintegration support for 14,344 returnees included permanent housing, livelihood and self-reliance assistance, education grants, and the establishment of returnee villages—particularly in Kananga—facilitating access to services, agricultural production, and income-generating activities. These interventions strengthened household recovery and community reintegration.

Durable solutions for IDPs were initiated in 2023 with the relocation of 1,500 individuals in Bunia. In 2024, 750 IDPs were relocated or returned to areas of origin, and in 2025 approximately 2,000 benefited from similar support. These efforts improved safety, access to services, and community resilience, demonstrating the value of coordinated relocation and reintegration frameworks.

Overall, between 2022 and 2025, voluntary repatriation recorded the strongest progress, resettlement pathways were maintained for the most vulnerable, and local integration advanced incrementally. IDP solutions expanded through structured relocation and reintegration support, particularly in Kananga and Bunia, translating returns into more sustainable outcomes. However, gaps in legal integration and complementary pathways remain and require continued advocacy and investment. The overall trajectory reflects steady progress toward durable, self-reliant solutions through coordinated multi-partner engagement in a complex displacement context.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Impact Area 1 – PROTECT

Refugees, IDPs, returnees, stateless persons, and host communities continue to face persistent protection risks linked to insecurity, limited access to justice, and weak institutional presence in displacement and return areas. Armed group activity, unexploded ordnance, and intercommunal tensions—particularly in North Kivu, Beni, and South Kivu—undermine safety and restrict freedom of movement. Limited awareness of refugee rights among local authorities, security services, and communities further weakens protection and increases risks of discrimination and abuse.

Protection systems are constrained by weak coordination, irregular site management, and insufficiently capacitated community-based mechanisms. Gaps in civil registration and documentation persist, with delays in birth registration and refugee documentation in sites such as Zapay, Meri, and Lusenda. GBV and child protection risks remain widespread, compounded by underfunding, slow judicial processes, limited survivor-centered services, and harmful social norms.

Despite these challenges, opportunities exist. Strengthened community-based protection systems, functional feedback mechanisms, and revitalized committees can improve early risk identification and participation. The national legal framework for refugee protection provides a solid basis for rights implementation. Collaboration with local authorities, UN partners, and civil registration services can improve access to justice and documentation, while targeted sensitization can reduce harmful practices and strengthen rights awareness.

Impact Area 2 – ASSIST

Access to essential services and livelihoods remains constrained by structural, logistical, and financial barriers. Cash-based interventions are affected by bank closures, limited mobile money services, and liquidity constraints, particularly in South Kivu and North Kivu. Poor infrastructure and remote locations further complicate delivery. In some areas such as Zapay and Sud Ubangi, access to safe water remains limited.

Health systems are overstretched, facing medicine stockouts, weak referral systems, and limited

infrastructure. Education systems suffer from overcrowding, teacher shortages, and insufficient learning materials, contributing to poor outcomes and high dropout rates. Livelihoods are constrained by limited land access, inputs, and financial services, while climate shocks and aid dependency undermine resilience.

Nonetheless, prospects for improvement are strong. Predictable multi-year funding and stronger partnerships can enhance service delivery and sustainability. Digital tools for registration, monitoring, and early warning can improve efficiency and coordination. Investment in vocational training, agriculture, and local markets can expand livelihoods and reduce dependency, including in hard-to-reach areas.

Impact Area 3 – EMPOWER

Community-led protection and self-reliance are constrained by weak institutions and uneven participation. Women and marginalized groups remain underrepresented in community structures. Collaboration between committees and state services in water, health, and education remains limited. Reduced funding for community initiatives and capacity-building further affects sustainability and local ownership.

Coordination gaps among actors and delays in formalizing partnerships reduce the effectiveness of participatory approaches. In some contexts, social norms and limited trust in committees weaken accountability and cohesion.

However, opportunities exist to strengthen empowerment. Expanding women’s leadership, formalizing committees, and reinforcing links with state services can improve accountability and conflict mitigation. Successful livelihood initiatives provide scalable models for inclusion. Participatory planning, supported by Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approaches, ensures communities shape interventions aligned with their needs.

Impact Area 4 – SOLVE

Durable solutions are constrained by logistical, institutional, and political bottlenecks. Voluntary repatriation is affected by suspended convoys, high transport costs, and weak reintegration monitoring. Limited land tenure security, poor access to services, and weak economic opportunities reduce sustainability of returns. Funding gaps and administrative delays further slow implementation.

Coordination challenges between governments, humanitarian, and development actors limit scale-up of solutions. Weak alignment between humanitarian and development planning reduces long-term impact.

Despite this, progress is possible. Tripartite agreements, stronger reintegration frameworks, and community engagement can support voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement. Investment in housing, land access, and infrastructure enhances stability. Engagement with private sector and development actors can strengthen the humanitarian-development nexus and expand livelihoods.

Conclusion

Barriers across all impact areas remain largely structural, financial, and logistical, compounded by insecurity and limited state capacity. However, strong legal frameworks, community engagement, partnerships, and predictable multi-year funding offer viable pathways forward. With adaptive programming and stronger humanitarian-development linkages, the operation can progressively transition from crisis response toward durable, community-led solutions that strengthen protection, self-reliance, and social cohesion.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2025, UNHCR strengthened strategic collaborations with national and provincial authorities, local communities, UN agencies, international organizations, and development actors, advancing inclusion, protection, and durable solutions for refugees, IDPs, returnees, stateless persons, and host communities. Engagement with the Central Government was particularly effective, exemplified by the integration of over 2,800 displaced persons into the national statistics through the ECVI survey and strategic agreements with the INPP, enabling 158 individuals to complete vocational training and access start-up resources. Strengthened relationships with provincial governments and host communities facilitated land security for 981 displaced households, ensured access to public services, and fostered social cohesion.

UNHCR leveraged technical and financial expertise from key partners including the World Bank, EU INT'PA, FAO, SIDA, USAID, JICA, and the Mastercard Foundation. Collaborative results included the construction of three schools serving over 1,000 children, WASH and livelihood support for thousands of households, and economic empowerment initiatives benefiting 960 refugee households in North Ubangi. Potential partnerships with Equity Bank were explored to expand financial inclusion and access to banking services, while joint interventions with WFP reinforced food security and livelihood opportunities through a shared strategic framework. Malteser International continued to provide water and sanitation services to 55,000 South Sudanese refugees, demonstrating the impact of operational coordination.

Multi-sectoral interventions—combining cash-based assistance, NFIs, shelter, WASH, health, education, and livelihoods—supported tens of thousands of individuals, enabling them to meet immediate needs while fostering long-term resilience and self-reliance. UNHCR's engagement with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) ensured that interventions were aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, Sustainable Development Goals, and UNHCR Strategic Directions. These collaborations not only enhanced service delivery and community empowerment but also strengthened local capacities, reinforced social cohesion, and created sustainable pathways for forcibly displaced populations.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

By 2026, refugees, returnees, IDPs and people at risk of statelessness have valid identity documents

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.00%	80.00%	12.64%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
IDPs	72.77%	30.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.24%	78.00%	80.30%
Returnees	81.45%	100.00%	59.98%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.10%	100.00%	63.68%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
IDPs	116,021
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10,793
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
IDPs	0
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31,129
Returnees	2,399

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since 2022, UNHCR's operation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has steadily strengthened access to legal identity, protection, and essential services for refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and returnees. In 2022 and 2023, foundational efforts focused on establishing mass registration systems, expanding civil status and identity documentation, and strengthening coordination with national and local authorities. These initiatives laid the groundwork for more systematic and inclusive coverage, enabling displaced populations to assert rights, access services, and reduce statelessness risks.

Building on this foundation, 2024 marked a major step forward in scale and quality. UNHCR registered 128,209 refugees and asylum-seekers and at least 403,431 IDPs, a significant increase compared to previous years. The use of biometric registration, mobile units, expanded field teams, and targeted outreach enabled access to remote and high-need areas. In parallel, 24,492 refugees and asylum-seekers and 6,516 returnees received civil status and legal documentation, including identity cards, birth, marriage and death certificates, family composition records, and asylum attestations. These interventions strengthened legal recognition and improved access to education, health care, social protection, and livelihoods, reinforcing inclusion and resilience.

In 2025, the operation transitioned from large-scale coverage to targeted, high-impact interventions in complex security environments. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, 2,563 people were safely relocated and 2,539 registered, while protection monitoring, PSEA prevention, and statelessness risk mitigation were maintained. Birth registration expanded, with support to seven civil registry offices through training and capacity-building.

In North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, 1,749 displaced children were documented (99.7% of target), supported by outreach reaching over 35,000 people. In North and South Kivu, more than 2,500 identity documents were issued and 1,996 IDPs were biometrically registered. Voluntary repatriation support facilitated the safe return of 3,663 Burundians and 7,179 Rwandans. In South Kivu, strengthened civil documentation included 1,887 identity cards, 1,717 birth certificates, 148 death certificates, 177 burial permits, 17 marriage records, 224 family composition slips, and 596 refugee attestations. In Tanganyika, 3,150 IDPs were registered despite operational constraints. Nationally, 7,300 previously unregistered children in Beni and Bunia were documented, reinforcing inclusion and rights protection.

Across all provinces, these efforts were supported by strong community engagement, coordination with authorities, and targeted capacity-building for registration systems and civil registry offices. From 2022 to 2025, the trajectory is clear: foundational system-building (2022–2023), rapid scale-up (2024), and targeted, high-impact consolidation (2025).

Overall, these achievements have strengthened legal identity, reduced statelessness risks, enhanced protection, and improved access to essential services, enabling displaced populations in the DRC to rebuild their lives with greater dignity, safety, and inclusion.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

By 2026, asylum-seekers can access effective and cost-free national refugee status determination procedures.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.49	180.00	1.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.02%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since the launch of UNHCR's five-year strategy in 2022, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has progressively strengthened its refugee and statelessness determination system, improving access to effective and cost-free national Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures. Building on the 1951 Geneva Convention, the 1969 OAU Convention, and national law 02/2002, UNHCR has supported the Government in reinforcing legal recognition and protection for asylum-seekers.

In 2024, the operation achieved key milestones. UNHCR engaged parliamentarians to advocate for legislative and operational reforms, complementing earlier legal support. Technical missions, including the Central African Asylum Capacity Support (CEAC–RSD) mission, provided actionable recommendations that were progressively integrated into the national asylum system. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for RSD were developed, ensuring clear guidance for Eligibility and Appeals Committees. Infrastructure was also strengthened through the construction of two large reception facilities and four additional offices for CNR protection staff, enabling one-stop service delivery for asylum-seekers. Capacity-building reached 30 committee members and secretariat staff, improving understanding of asylum principles, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and procedural fairness.

In 2025, these investments translated into operational gains across multiple provinces. In North Kivu, 248 asylum applications were processed, while 280 authorities and stakeholders were trained, strengthening transparency, fairness, and efficiency of RSD procedures. Pre-registration and dossier preparation for 1,645 asylum-seekers improved timely access to protection, while monitoring systems reduced risks for families in transit. In Tanganyika, protection services reached 3,827 refugees (172% of target) and 11,018 IDPs (242% of target), providing case management, legal assistance, and procedural guidance to support access to rights and reduce vulnerability.

In Kasai, 238 Congolese returnees from Angola were integrated into housing and skills programmes, with age, gender, and diversity considerations embedded to support tailored reintegration and autonomy. At national level in Kinshasa, new asylum arrivals from South Sudan led to seven Eligibility Committee sessions, resulting in recognition of 319 refugees. Continued capacity-building for committee members and authorities strengthened procedural integrity, although challenges remained, including irregular ministerial decrees, resource constraints, and limitations within the Appeals Commission. Technical cooperation with foreign asylum authorities and simplified recognition approaches helped maintain continuity and fairness in RSD processing.

Overall, UNHCR's support—combining technical assistance, infrastructure development, capacity-building, and procedural standardization—has significantly improved access to effective and cost-free RSD in the DRC. Government leadership, together with collaboration from national authorities, committees, and international partners, has been central to translating reforms into tangible protection outcomes, advancing progress toward the 2026 outcome statement.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2026, the Government will accede to, ratify and domesticate the 1954 Convention relating to the status of stateless persons, and the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness and the AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned	Broadly aligned

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
IDPs	Yes
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since 2022, UNHCR DRC has worked closely with government authorities, judicial bodies, and key stakeholders to strengthen legal protections for displaced populations, including refugees, IDPs, returnees, and stateless persons. The overarching objective is that, by 2026, the Government will have acceded to, ratified, and domesticated the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and the African Union Kampala Convention on IDPs.

In 2024, UNHCR's engagement focused on legislative reform, judicial strengthening, and capacity-building. Technical guidance supported amendments to two key legal frameworks: the Family Code (Law No. 16/008 of 2016, amending Law No. 87-010 of 1987) and Ordinance-Law No. 23/010 of 2023 on the Digital Code, reinforcing civil registration systems, legal identity protections, and data protection for refugees and asylum-seekers. Parallel advocacy advanced progress toward accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. Through the National Commission for Refugees (CNR), UNHCR supported legal representation for refugees in judicial proceedings, ensuring fair treatment and recognition of rights. For IDPs, efforts prioritized integration of the Kampala Convention into national legislation to strengthen protection frameworks. Capacity-building for provincial deputies, the National Eligibility Commission, the Appeals Commission, and judicial authorities enhanced expertise in asylum, statelessness, and displacement law, while engagement with local authorities strengthened institutional coordination.

In 2025, policy engagement translated into concrete operational and political gains. In Tanganyika, sustained advocacy following the suspension of a repatriation convoy of 346 individuals from Zambia contributed to lifting restrictions, enabling the resumption of organized, safe, and dignified returns planned for 2026. This reduced uncertainty for affected populations and reinforced confidence in humanitarian and government systems.

At national level in Kinshasa, UNHCR advanced legislative and regulatory reforms, including momentum toward accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions. High-level engagement—including communications from the Prime Minister to the Minister of Justice and three formal inter-ministerial meetings—combined with technical support to the national office for nationality and statelessness (CTLA), strengthened political commitment toward a more coherent legal framework. However, challenges persist, including institutional instability within the justice sector and politicization of statelessness issues.

Overall, these coordinated efforts have strengthened the legal and policy environment for displaced populations, improved social inclusion, reduced vulnerabilities, and empowered refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons to better claim their rights. They contribute to a more protective, predictable, and sustainable legal framework in the DRC, advancing progress toward the 2026 outcome statement.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

By 2026 GBV response services are available for all GBV survivors in all PoC sites and follow clear standard operating procedures.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
IDPs	18.37%	75.00%	90.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.75%	95.00%	70.30%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
IDPs	31.69%	73.00%	63.50%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46.93%	70.00%	66.50%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
IDPs	21.39%	88.00%	82.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.86%	92.00%	82.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
IDPs	83,393
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48,414
Returnees	1,530

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

By 2024, significant progress had been made in expanding both prevention and response services for GBV survivors across displacement sites. Prevention efforts increasingly addressed root causes of violence, notably through the Engaging Men through Accountable Practice (EMAP) approach implemented in multiple

sub-delegations and in Kinshasa. During the 16 Days of Activism, participating men demonstrated positive behavioural change, with families reporting improved household relations and reduced tensions.

A total of 232,368 individuals were reached through GBV awareness activities—representing a 71% increase compared to 2023—reflecting expanded outreach, stronger community engagement, and improved reporting mechanisms. Over 75% of empowerment beneficiaries were women, strengthening resilience and reducing reliance on harmful coping strategies, including survival sex.

On the response side, 82.15% of survivors accessed psychosocial support services, a 4.45% increase from the previous year. While overall medical response increased by 10.13%, timely treatment of rape cases within 72 hours declined by 6.38%, highlighting persistent challenges in access, referral systems, and geographical barriers. Cash assistance further supported survivors' access to healthcare and livelihoods, reinforcing recovery, autonomy, and dignity.

In 2025, GBV prevention and response systems continued to expand across provinces. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, 31 frontline agents were trained, 8,181 individuals were sensitized, and 57 cases were identified, with 43 survivors referred for services. Coordination meetings strengthened joint case management and timely response. In North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, 67,728 people were reached through awareness activities; 364 survivors received psychosocial care, 221 medical referrals, and 250 legal assistance, while adolescent survivors accessed vocational training and financial education to strengthen resilience.

In North Kivu, 62,640 individuals were reached, 2,873 received specialized services, and 1,513 accessed psychosocial support; SAFE and PSEA trainings reinforced accountability and adherence to SOPs. In Kalemie, GBV services were fully mainstreamed into protection systems, achieving 172% refugee and 242% IDP coverage, improving access and referral efficiency. In Kinshasa, GBV and PSEA committees were established within convergence hubs, strengthening structured reporting and follow-up. In South Kivu, 1,519 people accessed services, 275 survivors received direct support, and 1,011 at-risk individuals received cash assistance (USD 300 each), alongside training in entrepreneurship (226 participants) and SAFE energy approaches (160 participants), with 200 survivors receiving additional financial support to reinforce autonomy.

UNHCR provided technical leadership through SOP development, capacity-building for state and community actors, coordination of referral pathways, and integration of GBV services into broader protection systems. Cash assistance, livelihoods, and community engagement reinforced survivor-centred approaches and accountability mechanisms.

This progress was achieved through close collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, UNFPA, UNICEF, local authorities, women-led organizations, implementing partners, and donors, with community committees playing a key role in prevention, identification, and referral.

Overall, expanded prevention, strengthened response services, improved referral systems, and reinforced community accountability demonstrate measurable progress toward accessible, standardized GBV services across displacement sites, advancing the 2026 outcome.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

By 2026, the risks related to violence, exploitation and abuse of children are identified and adequately addressed.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5.27%	20.00%	19.72%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9.15%	9.00%	3.25%

5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.19%	25.00%	56.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		429
Returnees		0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Between 2022 and 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) made significant strides in strengthening child protection systems across host communities, refugee sites, and returnee settlements. In 2024, UNHCR conducted capacity-building sessions for 35 state service members and protection partner staff, ensuring child protection principles and the Best Interests of the Child (BIC) framework were effectively integrated into service delivery. These efforts directly benefited 141 at-risk children (72 girls and 69 boys) through tailored interventions.

Family tracing and reunification systems were strengthened, leading to the successful reunification of 50 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) with their families, reflecting improved case management and coordination. In parallel, 2,231 children at risk were monitored, including 2,090 separated children placed in temporary alternative care pending reunification. While returnee children were more easily reached, refugees in host community settings continued to face access and logistical challenges.

Community-based child protection initiatives expanded significantly. In 2024, 13,048 children (999 girls and 12,043 boys) participated in recreational and psychosocial activities, representing a substantial increase from the previous year. These safe spaces strengthened resilience, social cohesion, and holistic child development outcomes.

In 2025, progress continued across provinces. In North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, 245 children at risk (118 girls and 127 boys) received targeted support, including nutrition, protection, and family care services. Cash assistance and nutritional support were provided to vulnerable children, while foster families hosting UASC received guidance to ensure safe and protective care arrangements. Best Interests of the Child assessments guided decisions on long-term protection, stability, and development pathways.

In North Kivu, 154 children (70 girls and 84 boys) with protection needs were identified and referred to appropriate services. Three BIC panels facilitated the reunification of five sibling groups, while 26 individual assessments informed durable care solutions. Capacity-building for 25 actors from DIVAS, PNC, and social services strengthened local child protection systems.

In Kalemie, 348 refugee children (174% of target) and 353 IDPs (35% of target) participated in structured consultations, ensuring age, gender, and diversity considerations were reflected in programming despite resource constraints. In Kasai, 454 children were accommodated in child-centred housing with their families, supporting integrated developmental, educational, and social needs. Participatory consultations ensured these arrangements remained safe and conducive to reintegration. In Kinshasa, strengthened BIC processes supported reunifications and staff training, while in South Kivu, 154 at-risk children were identified and three BIC panel meetings ensured protection-centred decision-making.

UNHCR played a central role through technical leadership in operationalizing the BIC principle, supporting

family tracing and reunification, and strengthening alternative care systems. Participatory approaches ensured children’s voices informed protection decisions, while community-based mechanisms reinforced early identification and referral.

Key partners—including UNICEF, ICRC, local NGOs, community child protection networks, and state services—contributed to case identification, service delivery, and community trust-building, ensuring comprehensive and context-appropriate responses.

Overall, strengthened systems, expanded community-based initiatives, and targeted interventions significantly improved identification, protection, and response for vulnerable children, laying a strong foundation for a sustainable child protection framework aligned with the 2026 outcome.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

By 2026, effects of conflict on the protection environment are diminished.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
IDPs	30
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	773
Returnees	131

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

From 2024 to 2025, significant progress was made towards reducing the effects of conflict on the protection environment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In 2024, UNHCR provided legal assistance to 1,270 refugees and asylum-seekers, 165 returnees, and 1,266 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The apparent decline in returnee support reflects a reduced caseload (563 returnees in 2024 compared to over 13,000 in 2022–2023), rather than a reduction in service provision. Overall, expanded legal assistance strengthened access to documentation, legal representation, and protection against arbitrary detention, eviction, and discrimination, enabling displaced populations to assert rights and advance reintegration and durable solutions.

Community-based protection and justice mechanisms were reinforced across multiple locations. Committees were established or renewed in Adumi, Meri, and Biringi, with strong participation of women and vulnerable groups. Over 2,900 people were sensitized, including 2,117 relocated individuals, while regular monitoring and profiling of high-risk sites improved early identification of protection concerns. This approach helped prevent violations, reduce tensions between host and displaced communities, and strengthen trust between authorities, communities, and humanitarian actors, making community structures central to sustainable protection and data collection.

Regional results further demonstrate progress. In North Ubangi, South Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, community-based protection and legal assistance improved access to justice and strengthened social cohesion. Survivors of SGBV and other protection incidents received legal support, reinforcing accountability and rule of law, while peacebuilding initiatives supported constructive conflict resolution. In North Kivu, protection monitoring and referral systems addressed 30,788 reported incidents, exceeding targets, with referrals for at-risk persons reaching 162% of annual objectives. The rapid deployment of cash-based protection

assistance through CERF M23 funding enabled timely responses despite access constraints. In Kalemie, strengthened case management and coordination with justice actors improved referral pathways and reinforced confidence in protection systems.

UNHCR played a central role in expanding legal assistance, supporting community protection committees, strengthening coordination with authorities to improve access to justice, and deploying rapid protection interventions. These efforts were complemented by government institutions, UNDP, and civil society organizations, which supported operationalization of committees, strengthened social cohesion, and ensured services reached vulnerable populations, including those in remote areas.

Overall, these coordinated efforts enhanced safety, accountability, and social cohesion, contributing to a measurable reduction in the effects of conflict on the protection environment. Continued investment in legal assistance, community-based protection, and rapid response mechanisms will further strengthen resilience among displaced and host communities, advancing progress toward the 2026 outcome.

7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

By 2026, persons of concern and host communities enjoy greater social cohesion, have effective, participatory, and balanced management structures in terms of age, gender and diversity and take part in development planning.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
IDPs	Limited	Moderate	Limited
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Limited	Extensive	Moderate
Returnees	Limited	Moderate	Limited
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
IDPs	68.28%	80.00%	87.92%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.98%	80.00%	33.80%
Returnees	93.78%	100.00%	84.33%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
IDPs	51.14%	50.00%	34.55%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	58.37%	50.00%	53.70%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
IDPs	4,576
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,337
Returnees	264
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
IDPs	11,430
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,802
Returnees	3,873

07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
IDPs	24,744
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,203
Returnees	7,062

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since 2022, UNHCR's five-year strategy (2022–2026) has aimed to strengthen social cohesion, inclusive community management, and participatory development among persons of concern and host communities. By the end of 2025, substantial progress has been achieved in consolidating these efforts and establishing a stronger foundation for sustainable community empowerment.

In 2024, UNHCR intensified outreach and feedback mechanisms while advancing community self-management, building on gains from 2022–2023. Participatory assessments engaged 3,655 refugees and asylum-seekers, 1,642 returnees, and 6,823 internally displaced persons (IDPs), reflecting sustained engagement in decision-making processes. Feedback and response mechanisms reached over 530,000 people across all population groups, while protection services extended to more than 1.2 million refugees, returnees, and IDPs, underscoring the expanded operational reach since the start of the strategy. Women's participation in community structures increased to 51% (up from 50% in 2023), while women represented over 75% of livelihood programme participants, reinforcing a consistent trend toward gender inclusion. In 2025, progress deepened across multiple provinces. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, strengthened community leadership and decision-making structures prioritized gender equality through targeted dialogues, protection-focused assessments, and joint training with security actors. In Nord Ubangi, Sud Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, community engagement initiatives verified persons with specific needs, strengthened community spaces, and sensitized over 64,000 people on peaceful coexistence, consolidating governance mechanisms established in earlier years. In North Kivu and Tanganyika, interventions advanced women's empowerment, social cohesion, and participatory protection, reaching tens of thousands through Quick Impact Projects, feedback systems, and reinforced community-based structures. In Kinshasa, newly established community committees enhanced oversight, transparency, and local accountability, reflecting a sustained trajectory of inclusive governance since 2022.

UNHCR's multi-year approach, implemented in close collaboration with authorities, civil society, and host communities, has progressively institutionalized participatory decision-making, inclusive management, and social cohesion. The cumulative results from 2022 to 2025 demonstrate a clear strategic shift: communities are increasingly empowered to shape decisions affecting them, women's leadership is being consolidated, and accountability and protection mechanisms are becoming more durable and structured.

These achievements position UNHCR and its partners to enter 2026—the final year of the strategy—well-placed to consolidate gains, strengthen sustainability, and ensure that persons of concern and host communities play a central role in shaping their own protection, governance, and development outcomes.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

By 2026, 100% of all persons of concern with specific needs (based on a participatory vulnerability assessment), and new arrivals, have access to adequate, secure, environmentally friendly and low cost shelter, and are provided with adequate Non-Food Items.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
IDPs	63.78%	35.00%	72.80%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	96.35%	100.00%	76.51%
Returnees	80.56%	100.00%	100.00%

8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
IDPs	1.00%	10.00%	0.90%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20.00%	27.00%	0.73%
Returnees	10.00%	19.00%	0.60%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator		Actual (2025)
Population Type		
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance		
IDPs		43,743
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		3,156
Returnees		2,310
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items		
IDPs		563
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Since 2022, UNHCR has worked in close partnership with the Government of the DRC, provincial and local authorities, development actors, and humanitarian partners to advance toward the 2026 outcome that 100% of forcibly displaced people with specific needs and new arrivals have access to adequate, secure, environmentally friendly, and low-cost shelter, as well as essential core relief items (CRIs). As the operation enters the final year of the 2022–2026 strategy at the end of 2025, a clear upward trajectory is evident in the scale, quality, and sustainability of shelter and basic needs interventions.

Building on foundations laid in 2022–2023, UNHCR significantly expanded cash-based interventions (CBIs) and non-food item (NFI) distributions in 2024, in coordination with national and provincial authorities. Cash assistance reached 30,313 refugees and asylum-seekers (up from 21,143 in 2023), 2,927 returnees (nearly doubling from 1,806), and 43,263 internally displaced persons (IDPs). Overall, 76,503 individuals benefited from cash support in 2024 compared to 72,719 in 2023. This scale-up was enabled through strengthened collaboration with key donors—including CERF, the European Union, and PRM—alongside improved vulnerability-based targeting and streamlined delivery systems developed with local authorities and community leaders. Cash assistance strengthened household resilience by enabling prioritization of shelter, food, health, and education needs while supporting local markets and socio-economic recovery.

In parallel, NFI distributions remained central to improving living conditions and reducing protection risks. In 2024, 58,282 refugees and 53,710 IDPs received essential items such as blankets, hygiene kits, and cooking utensils, reflecting stronger coordination with provincial authorities and cluster partners. These interventions enhanced dignity, reduced exposure to exploitation and negative coping mechanisms, and strengthened emergency preparedness. The introduction of improved cooking solutions for 9,514 refugees and 750 returnees, in collaboration with technical partners and local structures, marked a shift toward environmentally responsible and cost-effective shelter responses, reducing health risks, deforestation, and protection risks for women and girls.

In 2025, progress continued across provinces. In North and South Kivu, 3,032 households (16,260 individuals), including refugees and returning IDPs, received in-kind and cash assistance packages, including dignity kits for women of reproductive age. In Tanganyika, return assistance supported organized, dignified reintegration despite logistical constraints. In Kananga, 689 vulnerable individuals received durable

housing—exceeding targets—demonstrating strengthened collaboration with local authorities on resilient shelter solutions. In Kinshasa, community committees were established to oversee housing, water, and environmental management, reinforcing accountability, sustainability, and participatory governance of shelter interventions.

Throughout 2022–2025, UNHCR’s approach has prioritized coordinated planning with government counterparts, vulnerability-based targeting, resource mobilization, and the integration of environmental and protection considerations into shelter responses. Government leadership facilitated land allocation, regulatory alignment, and integration into national frameworks, while partners ensured effective implementation and community oversight. Donor contributions enabled both scale and innovation, progressively narrowing critical gaps in shelter and CRI coverage.

As 2026 begins, cumulative results demonstrate measurable progress toward expanded coverage for persons with specific needs and new arrivals. Despite persistent funding constraints and evolving displacement dynamics, strengthened partnerships, improved targeting systems, environmentally conscious programming, and participatory governance mechanisms now provide a solid foundation to consolidate gains and advance toward the 2026 objective.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

By 2026, IDPs targeted by the Shelter Cluster and refugees and returnees have access to adequate, secure, environmentally friendly, and affordable shelter.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
IDPs	23.20%	50.00%	0.20%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.10%	85.00%	9.40%
Returnees	1.01%	8.00%	1.00%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.90%	51.00%	73.90%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
IDPs	39,924
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,709
Returnees	352

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress toward achieving the outcome advanced significantly between 2024 and 2025. In 2024, shelter assistance scaled up considerably. The number of refugees and asylum-seekers receiving shelter support increased from 250 in 2023 to 2,360 in 2024, reflecting improved targeting of persons with specific needs, stronger coordination, and increased resource allocation. Support to internally displaced persons (IDPs)

rose sharply from 15,450 beneficiaries in 2023 to 107,826 in 2024. This expansion included emergency shelter kits, transitional housing, and rehabilitation support, reducing overcrowding, improving safety, and enhancing access to essential services such as healthcare and education. Assistance to returnees declined to 394 individuals in 2024, largely due to reduced return movements and constrained reintegration resources; however, overall gains for refugees and IDPs demonstrate substantial progress toward the intended outcome.

In 2025, interventions increasingly emphasized durability, environmental sustainability, and community ownership. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, permanent adobe brick houses were constructed for refugees, while IDP households benefited from structured settlement support, infrastructure rehabilitation, and water source development. These interventions improved living conditions, mobility, service access, and social cohesion. In North and South Kivu, more than 39,000 displaced individuals received transitional shelters, hangars, rehabilitation kits, and cash-for-rent assistance, ensuring safer and more dignified living conditions. In Tanganyika, over 11,000 IDPs benefited from integrated Shelter-NFI and CCCM support, improving safety and coordination in emergency settings. Durable housing in Kananga and Kinshasa further strengthened protection and dignity, with beneficiaries noting improved ecological design and living standards. Environmental considerations were reinforced through solar system maintenance in operational facilities and the distribution of solar lamps, reducing reliance on polluting energy sources and strengthening environmental resilience.

UNHCR played a central role in achieving these results by leading and coordinating the Shelter and CCCM Clusters, strengthening needs-based targeting, mobilizing resources, and promoting environmentally responsible construction approaches. Protection principles—including GBV risk mitigation, PSEA, and accountability to affected populations—were systematically integrated into shelter programming, ensuring that housing interventions supported not only physical safety but also dignity and rights. Community participation in construction and the use of local labour further reinforced ownership, sustainability, and local economic empowerment.

Key partners made essential contributions. IOM, NRC, and DRC supported large-scale emergency and transitional shelter delivery through technical expertise, construction supervision, and settlement planning. FAO, Mercy Corps, UNDP, and WFP complemented shelter interventions with livelihoods, recovery, governance, and food security support, strengthening overall household resilience. Local authorities and community leaders facilitated land access, coordination, and community dialogue, enabling more sustainable settlement solutions.

Overall, progress toward the 2026 outcome is strong for refugees and IDPs, with clear gains in scale, quality, environmental sustainability, and protection integration. However, the decline in assistance to returnees underscores the need to reinforce reintegration-focused shelter support to ensure that durable solutions remain inclusive, balanced, and sustainable for all populations of concern.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

By 2026, refugees and returnees are integrated in national and community healthcare systems.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	67.00%	95.00%	88.20%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.69%	100.00%	97.03%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	202,772
Returnees	176
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	243

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress was made from 2022 to 2025 towards integrating refugees and returnees into national and community health systems. Collaborative efforts between UNHCR, government health institutions, local providers, and humanitarian partners strengthened both access and quality of healthcare for displaced populations. Through support to the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR advanced inclusion of refugees in public health systems in partnership with WHO, UNICEF, WFP, UNFPA, the Global Fund, and NGOs including MSF, AIDES, ADSSE, and AFPDE. These partnerships expanded service availability, reinforced health infrastructure, and strengthened the capacity of community and national health workers. From 2022–2024, UNHCR-supported facilities delivered 169 medical consultations for returnees (above the target of 35) and provided care to 216,878 refugees, demonstrating meaningful system integration. Key results included the construction of six health facilities, support to 200 community health workers, and expanded access to national insurance schemes and referral pathways, improving continuity and sustainability of care.

Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) was also significantly scaled up, with 3,552 consultations delivered (89% of target). Expanded mobile and remote services improved coverage, while MHPSS integration into national policies, training curricula, and health budgets strengthened long-term sustainability. UNHCR also supported emergency health preparedness and response, including Mpox and cholera outbreaks. In 2024, 93 local leaders in Aru, Goma, and Bukavu were trained on prevention and response, while WASH interventions and surveillance systems prevented cholera cases at the Mulongwe site and strengthened outbreak resilience.

In 2025, provincial health outcomes demonstrated high coverage and system strengthening. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, assisted deliveries reached 99.4%, ANC4 completion 26.2%, HIV testing among pregnant women 78.6%, and community testing reached 407 individuals (1.47% prevalence). ART follow-up achieved 90%, GBV case management addressed 21 cases with 47.6% resolved within 72 hours, and MAM/SAM recovery reached 100%. Thirty Community ART Centres (CACs) remained functional, reinforcing integrated HIV and nutrition care. Solar systems in health facilities and the distribution of 563 solar lamps supported environmentally sustainable service delivery.

In Nord Ubangi, Sud Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, 102,654 primary health consultations were delivered, alongside mental health support for 1,429 individuals. Vaccination campaigns protected 1,511 children against measles, while nutrition support reached 699 children aged 0–59 months. Sexual and reproductive health services supported 3,333 women, and 188 people living with HIV received ART, with skilled birth attendance for 3,333 mothers improving maternal outcomes.

In North and South Kivu, 56,206 consultations covered chronic diseases, mental health, child nutrition, and communicable diseases. A total of 3,128 urban refugees were enrolled in health insurance, and 1,175 vulnerable individuals received partial medical coverage. In Tanganyika, integrated health and protection referrals ensured access to services despite limited infrastructure. In Kananga, resource constraints temporarily affected medical supply availability, underscoring the need for timely replenishment. In

Kinshasa, maternal and child health coverage reached 100%, with zero maternal or neonatal deaths, while 1,253 people accessed health services and 232 were referred for specialized care.

Overall, UNHCR's leadership in service delivery, system integration, capacity-building, and emergency response—together with government, UN agencies, and NGO partners—has significantly advanced inclusion of refugees and returnees in national health systems, laying a strong foundation for a more resilient and inclusive health sector by 2026.

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2026, PoC school age children have improved access to equitable and quality basic education through the national system.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.20%	5.00%	0.57%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.79%	45.00%	53.99%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	39,604

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress was made between 2022 and 2025 in integrating forcibly displaced children into the national education system and expanding equitable access to quality basic education. In 2024, UNHCR-supported programs reached 47,020 refugees and asylum-seekers, compared to 50,160 beneficiaries in 2023, reflecting sustained high coverage. Strategic partnerships with UNICEF, the Ministry of Education, the World Bank, and other actors supported inclusion of refugees in accredited national curricula, ensuring access to recognized examinations and continuous learning opportunities.

Education infrastructure investments—including classroom construction and rehabilitation, provision of learning materials, and upgrades to WASH facilities—improved learning environments for refugee and host community children. Teacher training strengthened capacity in inclusive pedagogy, psychosocial support, and language integration, contributing to improved retention and learning outcomes. Tuition support and fee waivers further increased enrollment and reinforced policy-level integration into national systems.

In 2025, provincial interventions consolidated these gains. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, 145 teachers and 14 Ministry of Education staff were trained, 600 children joined French language clubs, 1,288 students accessed digital learning, and 40 youth benefited from vocational training. Digital education through Instant Network Schools (INS) expanded access to quality instruction. In Nord Ubangi, Sud Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, education programs reached 31,382 beneficiaries, including 10,056 refugees and 21,391 host community members. Structured learning supported 7,003 primary and 1,575 secondary students, while 743 teachers

were trained. Digital learning initiatives reached 23,000 learners, improving literacy, numeracy, and psychosocial stability in remote areas.

In North and South Kivu, 6,748 learners benefited (91% of target), with 96 teachers trained and 4,000 students sensitized. Digital literacy programs strengthened skills for 3,708 teachers and students, while financial education reached 1,000 households to support retention. Cash assistance enabled 180 secondary students in North Kivu and 354 in Kinshasa to remain in school, reducing dropout risks. In Tanganyika, education was integrated with protection and community engagement, ensuring continued access for vulnerable children despite operational constraints. In Kananga, vocational training under the Zaida Catalan Programme reached 220 participants (95.65% of target), equipping youth and women survivors with skills in masonry, brickmaking, and carpentry, supporting livelihoods and resilience.

UNHCR played a catalytic role by aligning refugee education support with national education strategies, investing in infrastructure rehabilitation, teacher training, digital learning through INS, and targeted financial assistance. Close collaboration with Ministries of Education promoted integration into national systems rather than parallel structures, while psychosocial support and community engagement strengthened protective learning environments.

The Ministry of Education ensured policy alignment, curriculum certification, and teacher deployment, while UNICEF and the World Bank supported system-wide improvements in infrastructure and quality. Community structures, school committees, and parents reinforced attendance and retention. NGO partners delivered frontline services, including teacher incentives, digital learning expansion, and vocational training in hard-to-reach areas.

Overall, strong progress has been made toward equitable access and quality education for displaced children. However, sustainability challenges remain due to funding constraints and rising displacement. Continued investment in system integration, digital learning, teacher capacity, and community mechanisms will be essential to achieving full inclusion and durable educational outcomes by 2026.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

By 2026, persons of concern have unfettered access to enough potable water and water for personal hygiene and have access to adequate sanitation facilities.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.60%	100.00%	96.99%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.90%	85.00%	34.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	127,045

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress has been made towards ensuring that refugees have access to sufficient potable water, water for personal hygiene, and adequate sanitation facilities. Between 2022 and 2024, UNHCR facilitated access to safe water and sanitation services for 389,730 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2024, up from 317,434 beneficiaries in 2023. This progress reflects strengthened investments in water systems, improved service delivery, and enhanced coordination with government agencies, NGOs, and development partners, ensuring that refugees, IDPs, returnees, stateless persons, and host communities benefit from improved WASH services.

UNHCR contributed through infrastructure development, including boreholes, latrines, handwashing stations, and waste management systems, complemented by hygiene promotion campaigns. Water committees were revitalized and maintenance kits distributed to strengthen local governance and ensure sustainability of services. Technical support, monitoring, and advocacy aligned interventions with national WASH strategies and reinforced responsiveness to community needs.

Key partners played a central role in advancing results. Collaboration with UNICEF, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation of Nature, Water and Forests, local water authorities, and NGOs strengthened technical capacity and coordination. Donors, including the US Government and the Government of Japan, supported infrastructure expansion and hygiene initiatives, while community-led sanitation activities reinforced ownership, behavioral change, and reduced waterborne disease risks.

In 2025, provincial WASH interventions consolidated gains, although the average water supply declined to around 10 liters per person per day, compared to 14 liters in 2024 (16 l/p/d in South Kivu, 6 l/p/d in Gbadolite, and 14 l/p/d in Bunia). In Ituri and Haut-Uele, water committees were strengthened, maintenance kits distributed, and 14,000 people sensitized, improving infrastructure management and hygiene practices while reinforcing coordination with state services.

In North and South Kivu, WASH services reached 44,113 people, achieving 100% of the annual target. Solar-powered boreholes in Mulongwe provided 12–16 liters per person per day, while five VIP communal latrines and 21 household latrines were constructed. These interventions, combined with hygiene promotion, disinfection activities, and support to community water committees, strengthened ownership, reduced waterborne disease risks, and improved public health outcomes.

In Tanganyika, WASH interventions were coordinated through cluster mechanisms, ensuring continued access to safe water and hygiene promotion despite limited quantitative reporting. Communities benefited from improved hygiene practices, reduced disease risks, and safer living conditions. In Kananga, an auxiliary well in Nkonko (4.8 m³/h) ensured reliable water supply for domestic use and brick production, with water management committees supporting maintenance and sustainability.

Overall, UNHCR, government counterparts, donors, NGOs, and communities have significantly improved access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services, contributing to healthier and more dignified living conditions for displaced populations. However, the decline in per capita water availability underscores the need to restore and sustain adequate service levels to meet humanitarian standards and ensure equitable access for all.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

By 2026, persons of concern have access to livelihoods ensuring that an increasing percentage is self-reliant and no longer dependent on humanitarian assistance

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.00%	30.00%	39.00%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.20%	16.00%	18.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,808
Returnees	604

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Significant progress has been made in ensuring that forcibly displaced people have access to livelihoods, enabling self-reliance and reducing dependence on humanitarian assistance. Between 2022 and 2024, UNHCR-supported livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives expanded substantially, reaching 19,045 refugees and asylum-seekers in 2024, up from 5,734 in 2023. Programs also supported 3,625 returnees, compared with 2,280 the previous year, reflecting strengthened reintegration and resilience-building efforts.

A key driver of progress has been the expanded use of Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs), which enabled displaced people to meet basic needs, invest in income-generating activities, and make independent economic decisions. CBIs also stimulated local markets, strengthened social cohesion, and reduced reliance on aid. Complementary support—including vocational training, financial services, and market linkages—enhanced skills development and facilitated integration into local economies.

In 2024, a total of 22,670 people benefited from livelihoods and economic inclusion programmes, supported by enhanced funding and strengthened partnerships with governments, private sector actors, financial institutions, development agencies, and NGOs. These collaborations improved access to vocational training, business support, and financial services, contributing to more sustainable income generation and community resilience.

In 2025, provincial-level interventions consolidated these gains. In Ituri and Haut-Uele, economic empowerment initiatives in Biringi, Meri, Bele, and Adumi strengthened self-reliance for 680 individuals engaged in crop and vegetable production. A total of 476 households received agricultural tools, alongside training in cultivation, storage, conservation, and agroforestry. Support included 41,881 vegetable seedlings, 1,051 citrus seedlings, and over 29,000 Acacia mangium seedlings, resulting in 359.191 tons of agricultural production and approximately USD 249,377 in income. These interventions improved food security for 527 households, strengthened social cohesion, and supported environmental restoration while reducing aid dependency. In addition, 2,000 beneficiaries cultivated 2,788.5 hectares, further expanding income opportunities and cooperation between refugees and host communities.

In North and South Kivu, livelihood programmes enhanced economic independence and resilience. In South Kivu, 1,510 agricultural households (8,760 individuals, including 4,832 women) received 2,642 kg of seeds, with 60 hectares allocated to producer associations. Tools, inputs, and training for 200 producers increased productivity, improved incomes, and strengthened collaboration between displaced and host populations.

In Tanganyika, 260 refugees benefited from intensive livelihood support—exceeding targets by over 500%—while 604 returnees received reintegration assistance, strengthening economic recovery and social cohesion. In Kananga, although large-scale programmes were cancelled, vocational training for 220 individuals in construction trades generated meaningful employment and self-employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women, contributing to local service provision and resilience.

In Kinshasa, 108 refugees (37 men, 71 women) participated in entrepreneurship and vocational training, including INPP-certified courses, women’s associations, and business support initiatives. While challenges such as limited capital, managerial capacity gaps, and high living costs affected outcomes, partnerships with financial institutions and training providers created opportunities for income generation and skills development. Strengthening microcredit linkages, financial literacy, and practical job placements remains essential to improve sustainability.

Overall, UNHCR, governments, donors, NGOs, and private sector partners have significantly advanced livelihoods and economic inclusion, strengthening self-reliance, reducing vulnerability, and building more resilient and sustainable communities for refugees, returnees, and host populations.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

By 2026, refugees and internally displaced persons have adequate information to return in dignity and security and in a sustainable manner.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Returnees	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	18,128

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Between 2022 and 2024, UNHCR provided counseling and information on voluntary repatriation to 133,343 individuals in 2024, down from 305,279 in 2023. This decline reflects evolving perceptions of return, shaped by security conditions and socio-economic realities in areas of origin. Nonetheless, sustained demand for accurate information highlights the continued importance of informed, voluntary decision-making. Engagement in repatriation counseling was supported by targeted outreach, coordinated partner efforts, and awareness campaigns. Strong collaboration with local authorities, community leaders, and

implementing partners strengthened trust and information dissemination. Between 2022 and 2024, 30,946 refugees returned to neighboring countries, including 10,174 to Burundi, 14,881 to the Central African Republic, one to the Republic of Congo, 5,887 to Rwanda, and three to South Sudan, alongside 13,564 Congolese ex-refugees returning home. In 2024, 12,898 refugees repatriated, including 2,183 to Burundi, 9,203 to CAR, and 1,512 to Rwanda, while 563 Congolese returnees were assisted.

In 2025, voluntary return operations strengthened further, with approximately 18,128 refugees repatriated and 780 Congolese returnees supported. In Nord Ubangi, Sud Ubangi, and Bas-Uele, 7,638 refugees expressed intention to return and 8,461 were sensitized. Ultimately, 7,184 refugees were repatriated (82.5% of the 8,700 target), supported by dignity kits for 445 individuals, cash and in-kind assistance, and transport of 148.768 tonnes of luggage for 3,429 items, ensuring dignity and continuity.

In North and South Kivu, 13,826 individuals received counseling, leading to 10,941 voluntary returns, including 7,179 Rwandans and 3,762 Burundians. Transit centers and referral hubs ensured safe, dignified movement and access to essential services. In South Kivu, 3,500 return intentions were recorded, and 963 returning IDPs received cash assistance to support transportation and urgent needs, contributing to smoother reintegration and social stability.

In Tanganyika, 131 refugees (44% of target) received return counseling, while 176 returnees (35% of target) were assisted. Over 1,000 individuals were reached through sensitization campaigns, improving awareness of rights and procedures. Although uptake of counseling remained limited in urban settings, beneficiaries who engaged received improved planning and support.

In Kananga, returnees engaged in vocational training and construction activities, contributing to local reconstruction and reintegration. Skills development strengthened livelihoods, restored dignity, and reinforced social cohesion with host communities.

In Kinshasa, 780 Congolese returnees were assisted from Angola, South Africa, Namibia, Eswatini, Nigeria, and Cameroon, alongside six urban refugees who returned voluntarily. Operational constraints included reduced resources and a decline in cash assistance (CBI reduced from USD 560 to 320), while opportunities emerged through government commitment and tripartite agreements. Key recommendations include strengthening CBI adequacy, intensifying sensitization, and improving coordination to ensure safe, dignified, and sustainable returns.

Overall, UNHCR and partners have supported safe, voluntary, and dignified return processes, strengthening informed decision-making, social cohesion, and sustainable reintegration in areas of origin.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

By 2026, opportunities for refugees in need of resettlement will have increased

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	105	300	22
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	8	22

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2026, pathways to nationality for long lasting refugees will be established and tenure and land rights of IDPs and returnees will be increasingly secured.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	19.50%	30.00%	19.50%
16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.90%	17.00%	96.49%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator	
	Actual (2025)	
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people		
IDPs	Fully	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Partially	
Returnees	Partially	
16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	319	

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress towards this outcome was mixed between 2022 and 2024. In 2024, UNHCR was unable to support any refugees or asylum-seekers in acquiring nationality, permanent residency, or accessing naturalization procedures, despite modest targets of assisting one person at both operational and organizational levels. This outcome reflects persistent legal, administrative, and political constraints affecting local integration pathways, including nationality and residency processes in the DRC, as well as limited institutional openings for formal naturalisation.

In contrast, significant progress was achieved for IDPs and returnees. In 2024, 569 returnees and 1,514 IDPs were granted tenure and land rights, strengthening legal security over land, reducing secondary displacement risks, and mitigating land-related conflicts at community level. UNHCR's villagization approach further reinforced reintegration through planned settlements with access to basic services, infrastructure, and livelihood opportunities. By integrating returnees and IDPs into structured communities, these interventions strengthened social cohesion, improved access to education and healthcare, and supported long-term stability and self-reliance. Secure land tenure also enabled households to invest in housing, agriculture, and income-generating activities, promoting sustainable reintegration and peaceful coexistence with host communities.

In 2025, interventions in Bunia for IDPs and in Kananga, Tanganyika, and Kinshasa for returning Congolese (ex-refugees) focused on shelter support, livelihoods, self-reliance, and social inclusion. Elderly persons and persons with disabilities were intentionally included in training programmes and housing selection processes, ensuring equitable access to project benefits and reinforcing an inclusive targeting approach. For these groups, inclusion enhanced visibility, recognition of rights, and access to safe housing and

livelihood opportunities. By promoting equitable participation, these efforts reduced vulnerability, strengthened dignity, and contributed to more cohesive communities where no one is left behind. Overall, the reintegration of formerly displaced persons advanced significantly in 2025. UNHCR interventions supported returnees and IDPs to rebuild their lives, access sustainable livelihoods, secure adequate housing, and engage meaningfully in community life. These efforts fostered stability, restored independence, and enabled more durable reintegration pathways while strengthening acceptance, resilience, and social cohesion within host communities across areas of return and displacement.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

Since 2022, UNHCR DRC has systematically implemented the Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Policy, embedding its core actions into programming and operational decision-making. Through participatory assessments, inclusive programming, and strengthened engagement with forcibly displaced and host communities, the operation has progressively improved protection outcomes and durable solutions.

(a) AGD-Inclusive Programming

In 2024, participatory assessments were conducted across eight provinces and 11 territories, engaging 8,188 displaced persons: refugees (42.15%), IDPs (41.22%), returnees (16%), and asylum seekers (0.03%). Child participants included 43.78% refugees, 35.12% IDPs, and 14.78% returnees. Persons with disabilities represented 24.65% of adults and 23.19% of children, while host communities accounted for 27% of participants. These findings informed 2025 planning, ensuring data-driven and inclusive interventions.

In 2025, assessments covered seven provinces, engaging 4,534 displaced persons, with representation across women (40.1%), men (36.1%), girls (11.7%), boys (11.2%), persons with disabilities (9.1%), minorities (4.6%), LGBTQI+ (0.1%), and other groups (4.6%). Although participation declined due to access constraints, particularly in South Kivu, strong emphasis remained on disaggregated data and inclusion of marginalized groups.

Key AGD interventions included disaggregated targeting for cash and NFI assistance, urban cost-of-living surveys addressing specific needs, and strengthened feedback mechanisms. In 2025, 18,173 individuals used automated feedback tools, building on 230,227 people reached in 2024 through harmonized SOPs. Consideration of SOGIESC and other diversities improved inclusion, though representation remains limited. These efforts reflect AGD core actions on inclusive design, data-driven planning, and equitable targeting.

(b) Participation and Inclusion

UNHCR strengthened the participation of displaced and stateless populations in planning, operations, and monitoring. In 2024, assessments informed 2025 programming and were complemented by workshops with refugee representatives, senior management, and urban refugees to review priorities and results. These processes enhanced community self-management and resource prioritization.

In 2025, participation expanded across seven provinces through involvement in assistance delivery panels, consultations, and community-based monitoring. Multiple communication channels—one-stop shops, complaint mechanisms, meetings with women and youth, community leadership consultations, and digital platforms—ensured transparency and responsiveness. Despite security constraints in South Kivu, progress included increasing women's representation to 51% in community structures and engaging men to address protection needs of women and girls.

(c) Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

UNHCR maintained a strong focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. In 2024, three women-led organizations addressing gender-based violence (GBV) received funding and technical support. Regular consultations with women's groups, alongside engagement with men, strengthened inclusive decision-making, contributing to 51% female representation in community structures.

In 2025, support to women-led organizations and GBV response mechanisms was further expanded. Gender-sensitive approaches were integrated across protection, assistance, and community participation.

Targeted engagement with men and boys ensured that gender considerations informed broader programming. These efforts align with AGD priorities on women's leadership, gender-responsive programming, and GBV prevention and response.

Progress 2022–2025

Over the period, UNHCR DRC has:

Expanded AGD-inclusive programming through disaggregated data, disability inclusion, and SOGIESC considerations.

Strengthened participation of displaced and host communities in decision-making, despite access constraints.

Advanced gender equality by promoting women's leadership, enhancing GBV response, and supporting inclusive community structures.

Overall, these achievements demonstrate sustained progress toward equitable, inclusive, and accountable programming, in line with AGD policy commitments and improved protection and solutions for displaced populations in the DRC.

Section 3: Resources

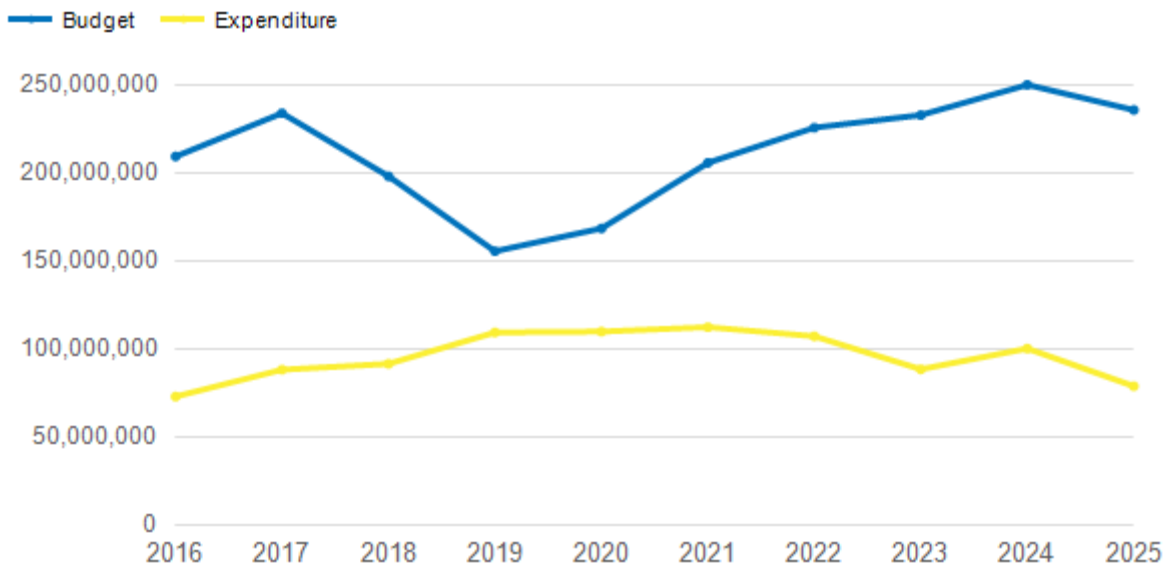
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

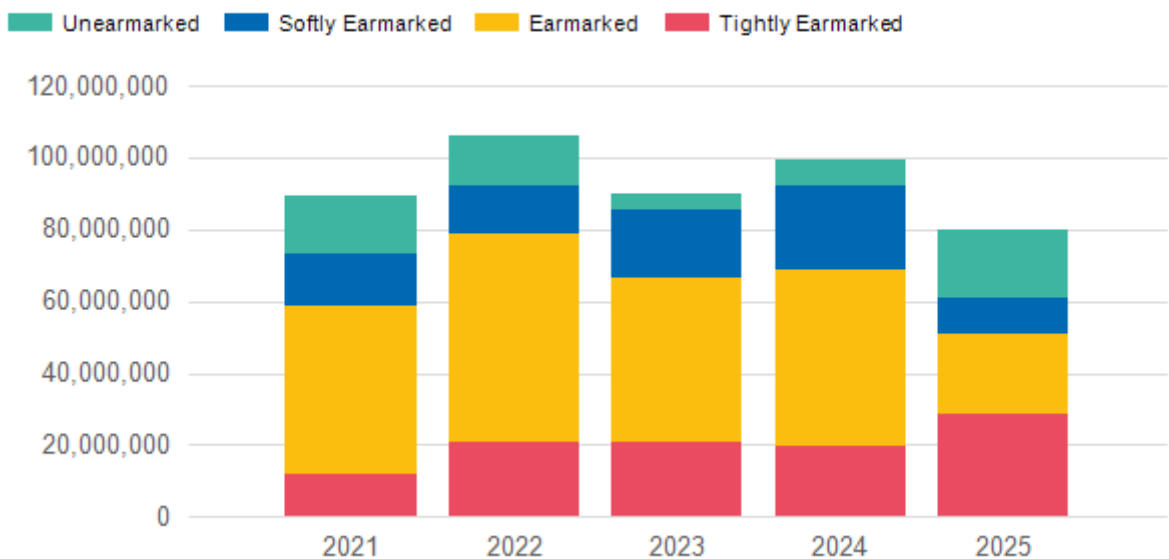
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	47,473,005	14,603,972	30.76%	14,537,602	99.55%
IA2: Respond	94,370,550	41,871,372	44.37%	41,058,948	98.06%
IA3: Empower	37,116,054	13,034,247	35.12%	12,972,917	99.53%
IA4: Solve	56,491,484	10,087,653	17.86%	10,087,653	100.00%
All Impact Areas		90,000			
Total	235,451,093	79,687,244	33.84%	78,657,120	98.71%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	17,667,660	4,386,083	24.83%	4,386,083	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,946,207	293,028	9.95%	293,028	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	4,088,493	1,297,523	31.74%	1,297,523	100.00%
OA4: GBV	11,759,792	1,948,628	16.57%	1,882,258	96.59%
OA5: Children	7,118,561	726,764	10.21%	726,765	100.00%
OA6: Justice	3,892,292	5,951,946	152.92%	5,951,946	100.00%
OA7: Community	18,260,690	11,303,273	61.90%	11,241,943	99.46%
OA8: Wellbeing	1,767,022				
OA9: Housing	27,581,022	14,203,958	51.50%	13,411,534	94.42%
OA10: Health	20,267,604	5,805,481	28.64%	5,785,481	99.66%
OA11: Education	10,287,729	2,738,492	26.62%	2,738,492	100.00%
OA12: WASH	10,672,648	2,538,863	23.79%	2,538,863	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	21,734,920	4,020,701	18.50%	4,020,701	100.00%
OA14: Return	44,683,362	9,194,270	20.58%	9,194,270	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	2,630,624	105,310	4.00%	105,310	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	9,177,498	788,073	8.59%	788,073	100.00%
EA18: Support	18,131,892	13,269,721	73.18%	13,269,721	100.00%
EA20: External	2,783,077	1,025,129	36.83%	1,025,129	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		90,000			
Total	235,451,093	79,687,244	33.84%	78,657,120	98.71%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

Operational Presence

Over the past year, UNHCR in the DRC strategically restructured its operational presence to optimize resources and enhance efficiency. Five field offices—Aru, Baraka, Tshikapa, Kananga, and Yakoma—along with the Protection office in Kinshasa, were closed as part of targeted cost-saving measures. Total staff was reduced from 415 to 191, a 57% overall decrease, with the most significant reductions in field offices, including Goma Sub-Delegation (48%), Bunia Sub-Office (50%), Gbadolite Sub-Office (63%), Kalemie Sub-

Office (73%), and Kananga Sub-Office (100%). These measures, combined with a 47% reduction in the operational budget, directly supported office closures and improved overall resource efficiency.

Sectional Resource Reductions

Staffing reductions were applied systematically across sections: Administration (50%), Clusters (53%), DIMA (50%), Executive (27%), External Relations (34%), Finance (36%), Human Resources (46%), ICT (54%), Programme (56%), Project Control (58%), Protection and Field (57%), Security (27%), and Supply (71%).

Resource Reprioritization and Resource Mobilization

Resource allocation was guided by UNHCR's strategic priorities:

Protection – Maintaining a favorable protection environment remained central. Investments strengthened national protection systems, community-based mechanisms, participation structures, and accountability systems, ensuring continuity of high-impact interventions despite staff reductions.

Emergency Preparedness and Response – Rapid response capacity was prioritized, including emergency relocations, reception arrangements, and life-saving assistance for newly displaced populations.

Community-based approaches facilitated early warning and timely, protection-centered interventions.

Durable Solutions and Resilience – Efforts focused on self-reliance, resilience-building, and inclusive programming for refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities, supported by partnerships with development actors and national systems.

Despite significant downsizing and a 47% budget reduction, the DRC operation demonstrated strong resource mobilization, strategically aligning staff and prioritizing high-impact interventions. These efforts enabled the operation to secure 100% of its approved budget, highlighting effective fundraising, strategic donor engagement, and optimal use of available resources.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

During the Strategic Moment of Reflection (SMR) held on 23 February 2026, the DRC operation and stakeholders examined the 2025 Annual Results, highlighting achievements and challenges in UNHCR's support for refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host communities. These results underscore UNHCR's commitment to effective, adaptable, and sustainable interventions across sectors such as protection, livelihoods, shelter, education, WASH, and health. Progress was realised through collaborative partnerships, community engagement, and flexible programming, despite logistical, operational, and financial constraints.

Institutional Alignment and Partnerships: Strong collaboration with government, technical services, and community structures was central to resource optimisation and long-term sustainability. Engagement with state actors improved border management, site governance, and protection oversight, while partnerships with development actors, donors, and the private sector bolstered resilience and service continuity.

Protection and Community-Based Approaches: Protection proved most effective where community-based mechanisms complemented state structures. Committees supported conflict resolution and peaceful coexistence, and integrating protection into documentation, social services, and livelihoods programming helped build trust, awareness of rights, and safety at the community level.

Durable Solutions and Reintegration: Efforts in voluntary repatriation and reintegration showed that durable solutions are achievable, even under challenging conditions. Coordinated operations enabled safe, informed returns, but reliance on costly transport, limited reintegration capacity, and unstable donor support highlighted the need to better connect return processes with socio-economic inclusion.

Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion: Vocational training, agroforestry, and cooperative initiatives helped refugees, IDPs, and returnees boost income, food security, and cohesion, though impact was limited by access to land, weak market integration, and restricted financial services. Lasting results require improved credit access, market links, and skills development tailored to local opportunities.

Community Participation and Social Cohesion: Refugee-led structures, participatory committees, and active involvement in service delivery strengthened ownership and inclusion. Enhanced interaction between displaced and host communities fostered social cohesion and stability, underlining the value of inclusive programming.

Infrastructure, Health, and WASH: Shelter improvements, solar-powered water systems, and better health services increased access and quality. Participatory management promoted sustainability, although seasonal issues, road degradation, and resource gaps threatened continuity, emphasising the need for preventive maintenance and diverse funding sources.

Operational Efficiency and Resource Management: Digital supply chain monitoring, streamlined procurement, and varied funding improved assistance delivery. Nevertheless, infrastructure bottlenecks and import restrictions occasionally disrupted operations, highlighting the importance of contingency planning and strong local supply systems.

Education, Skills, and GBV Response: Access to education rose, including higher primary enrolment and digital learning. Vocational training improved youth and women's employability. GBV prevention and response advanced through coordination, but medical supply chain disruptions and judicial gaps limited comprehensive care.

Population – Specific Insights

Refugees: Enhanced coordination frameworks, including with the National Refugee Commission, improved protection and services.

Returnees: Reintegration was aided by flexible coordination and adaptive programming in complex security settings.

IDPs and Returnees: Weak local institutional ownership continues to undermine sustainability, stressing the need for stronger governance and oversight to avoid unplanned settlements.

Key Takeaways

Lasting impact depends on robust institutional foundations, predictable multi-year funding, integrated protection and livelihoods strategies, and inclusive community participation. Flexible, adaptive programming, strong partnerships, operational resilience, and socio-economic inclusion remain essential for self-reliance, durable solutions, and long-term stability for displaced populations in the DRC.



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