

Annual Results Report

2025

South Sudan

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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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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

South Sudan faces multiple, overlapping crises rooted in protracted political fragility, economic collapse, and recurrent insecurity. The postponement of national elections from December 2024 to late 2026 extended the transitional period, contributing to heightened tensions, political fragmentation, and erosion of trust between key stakeholders. Intercommunal violence escalated in Eastern and Western Equatoria, Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap, and Unity states, driven by cattle raiding, abductions, and underlying ethnic and political tensions. Disputes over land, access to resources, and local governance continue to trigger localized conflict and displacement. Armed clashes along border regions and spillover from the ongoing crisis in Sudan were key concerns, with Renk, Jamjang and Maban particularly affected by new refugee arrivals and returning South Sudanese in dire humanitarian need.

These dynamics unfolded against the backdrop of a national economic downturn. Conflict in Sudan worsened supply chain access, leading to significant price increases for basic goods. At the same time, severe budget cuts since early 2025 led to widespread programmatic scale-downs by UN agencies, international NGOs, and national partners. Essential services including protection, health, education, and food assistance, and livelihoods support were reduced or suspended in multiple locations leaving growing numbers of people without access to basic assistance. The reduction in humanitarian presence has widened service gaps in these areas, increased pressure on host communities, and contributed to rising tensions over limited resources. In addition, the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) drawdown, which started in August 2025, reshaped how international engagement in key humanitarian hotspots was organized.

At the same time, humanitarian needs rose in 2025. Since April 2023, around 428,000 refugees entered South Sudan due to the conflict in Sudan, and nearly 1.3 million South Sudanese returned. This includes more than 8,000 reported as being deported to areas with little to no basic infrastructure or essential services, further compounding already significant protection and reintegration challenges. The civilian character of displacement sites, particularly near conflict-affected border areas, is increasingly at risk. Pendular movements were observed across the border with Sudan, and some Sudanese refugees returned to their country. In addition, more than 1.9 million internally displaced persons were in precarious conditions. Recurring floods and droughts affected over 1.3 million people, disrupted agriculture and damaged homes, leading to highly uneven humanitarian access. Access to justice remained severely constrained.

Despite these pressures, the Government maintains an open-door policy toward refugees and asylum-seekers. Opportunities remain for inclusion of forcibly displaced populations and returnees into national systems, scale up identity and civil registration, and leverage the National Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action to bridge humanitarian delivery with sustainable, government-led services and area-based recovery.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2026, forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoy more favourable rights to access territory and documentation.

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	77.45%	70.13%
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%
Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

In 2025, South Sudan operated in a context marked by regional conflict, cross-border displacement, economic decline, climate shocks, and constrained humanitarian financing. Despite these pressures, the protection environment remained broadly favorable for refugees and stateless people. The Office prioritized documentation, and legal protection while promoting maintaining access to territory, inclusion in national systems and gradual transition toward more sustainable responses.

South Sudan maintains its open-door policy for individuals seeking international protection. The legal framework remains aligned with the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention, as reflected in the Refugee Act 2012. The majority of Sudanese refugees benefit from prima facie recognition.

Access to asylum procedures improved compared to the baseline of 50.6 per cent, reaching 70.1 per cent in 2025 (92,500 out of 131,800 individuals). This reflects strengthened admission practices and continued support to national asylum procedures, although capacity constraints persist.

Freedom of movement remained upheld in law and practice. In 2025, 100 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers (605,062 individuals) and 100 per cent of stateless persons (100 individuals) were able to move freely within the country of habitual residence. No cases of refoulement were reported, reinforcing compliance with the principle of non-refoulement.

UNHCR supported the Commission for Refugee Affairs and relevant authorities to strengthen registration, documentation, and border monitoring. Collaboration with the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, UN partners, and development actors supported preparedness, stabilization of border areas, and inclusion of forcibly displaced and stateless persons in national systems.

Progress toward more favorable protection environments in 2025 reflected sustained government commitment, legal safeguards, and coordinated inter-agency efforts, despite economic and operational constraints.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Affected populations are increasingly resistant to shocks.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
IDPs	0%	81.43%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88.00%	100.00%
Returnees	0%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.80%	96.48%

Access to safe and secure settlements with basic facilities remained high in 2025. All refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees residing in targeted settlements had access to basic services (100 per cent), while 81 per cent of internally displaced people (IDPs) reported similar access, reflecting sustained investment in site management, infrastructure and area-based coordination despite rising population pressures. These gains contributed directly to improving living conditions and reducing exposure to protection risks.

Access to health services remained robust, with 96 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers able to access health care within South Sudan. Progress toward inclusive service delivery was reinforced through the transition of 13 health facilities across six refugee camps to the Government-led Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP), strengthening sustainability, national ownership, and alignment with public systems. To address critical service gaps, UNHCR continued to provide essential medicines, medical supplies, and ambulances for health referrals. These interventions benefit both refugee and host communities, reinforcing equitable access and supporting the broader objective of integrated, inclusive public service delivery.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2026, communities achieve greater self-reliance and gender equality.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2025)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
IDPs	85.36%	8.54%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	46.50%	37.58%
Returnees	74.73%	74.73%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
IDPs	20.48%	20.48%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.67%	10.49%
Returnees	20.22%	20.22%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
IDPs	57.56%	81.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	55.00%
Returnees	15.00%	48.00%

In 2025, progress toward self-reliance and gender equality remained uneven amid economic decline, funding reductions and continued arrivals from Sudan. Legal access to decent work remained guaranteed for 100 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, providing a critical foundation for self-reliance, although income opportunities were constrained by market limitations and reduced programming.

Education outcomes reflected system pressures. Refugee primary enrolment declined to 37.58 percent (from 46.50 per cent in 2024 and 68.29 per cent in 2023), while secondary enrolment fell to 10.49 per cent (from 13.67 per cent in 2024 and 20.48 per cent in 2023). This decline was driven by funding shortfalls, increased school-age populations, food insecurity and rising household poverty. However, core services were sustained, preventing deeper regression. Enrolment remained comparatively higher among returnees (74.73 per cent primary) and IDPs (85.36 per cent primary), reflecting continued integration into national systems.

Safety perceptions remained mixed: 55 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, 48 per cent of returnees and 81 per cent of IDPs reported feeling safe walking alone at night, indicating localized protection gains where community-based interventions and coordination with authorities were maintained.

Despite a challenging operating environment, joint efforts to prevent, mitigate and respond to gender-based violence made a tangible difference for survivors and at-risk communities. More survivors were able to access timely, quality services, while community-based prevention initiatives strengthened awareness and protective networks at local level. At the same time, institutional accountability mechanisms were reinforced to ensure that responses were more coordinated, survivor-centred and responsive to emerging risks.

Despite funding cuts, UNHCR prioritized community-based protection, women's economic participation and social cohesion. Targeted livelihood and financial inclusion support strengthened women's resilience and decision-making capacity. Community feedback mechanisms guided reprioritization, ensuring limited resources addressed critical needs.

While economic shocks and funding constraints limited measurable gains in some areas, the operation preserved essential protection, education and livelihood systems, preventing more severe deterioration and sustaining progress toward self-reliance and gender equality under challenging conditions.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons can freely choose amongst durable solutions pathways.

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	0	0
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34	124
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3	27
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed		
Stateless Persons	19,911	17,700
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	514,795	605,062

UNHCR strengthened local solutions through area-based interventions targeting displaced and host populations to support peace, stabilization and recovery, with a focus on states where UNHCR is designated as the lead for Area-Based Coordination. In line with the global strategic shift, the operation increased national responsibility and supported initiatives that empower internally displaced people (IDPs) and returnees to play an active role in programme implementation. UNHCR fostered collaboration between

humanitarian, peace and development actors to advance solutions pathways, strengthen peaceful co-existence and support transition toward resilience and development.

In 2025, progress toward durable solutions remained shaped by regional instability, limited funding and continued displacement. Despite these constraints, UNHCR advanced access to third-country solutions and made substantial progress on nationality confirmation, while voluntary return opportunities remained limited due to insecurity and non-return advisories in countries of origin.

Resettlement departures increased significantly, reaching 124 refugees in 2025, reflecting strengthened identification, submission and coordination with resettlement States, prioritizing highly vulnerable cases. Complementary pathways supported 27 departures, demonstrating continued though limited access to alternative legal pathways. Progress in addressing statelessness was substantial, with 17,700 stateless people having nationality granted or confirmed in 2025, reflecting strengthened collaboration with national authorities following accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions and continued advocacy for documentation and nationality procedures.

The National Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action (adopted October 2024) and the South Sudan National Social Protection Policy Framework provided enabling foundation for solutions, social protection and economic empowerment through safety net programmes. UNHCR built and strengthened partnerships with development actors, including the EU, AfDB and the World Bank, to support solutions, expanding opportunities for forcibly displaced and stateless persons to pursue viable durable solutions pathways.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2025, UNHCR South Sudan's multi-year strategy was implemented in an operating environment characterized by declining and unpredictable global funding, affecting both humanitarian delivery and longer-term resilience objectives. Evolving political and security dynamics further reshaped the humanitarian landscape, with localized conflicts triggering new displacement, constraining humanitarian access and weakening the enabling environment for durable solutions. The ongoing conflict in Sudan generated large-scale refugee arrivals and returnee movements into already fragile border areas, intensifying pressure on basic services, protection systems and social cohesion. Recurrent flooding and climate-related shocks further eroded livelihoods, exacerbated food insecurity and drove cyclical displacement, highlighting the structural vulnerabilities facing affected populations.

Within this context, declining and unpredictable funding had a direct and substantive impact on strategic prioritization. Resource shortfalls required recalibration toward life-saving protection and core mandate activities, including registration, protection monitoring, emergency response and essential services.

While UNHCR maintained its protection leadership and lifesaving presence, compounded crises slowed progress toward durable solutions, self-reliance, resilience-building and institutional strengthening objectives envisaged under the multi-year strategy. The constrained resource environment limited expansion of nationally anchored systems, climate adaptation measures and inclusive development linkages necessary to consolidate gains across impact areas.

Looking ahead, strengthening partnerships with government and development actors, expanding flexible funding and reinforcing area-based approaches will be critical to overcoming these barriers and restoring momentum toward sustainable impact.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2025, UNHCR's progress toward expected impacts was driven by strong collaboration with national authorities, local actors, and humanitarian and development partners. The Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRC) remained central to protection leadership, access to territory, and policy coordination, including contributions to the National Durable Solutions Strategy. UNHCR also supported the development of the Maban and Jamjang Transition Strategies (2026–

2028), guiding a shift from camp-based assistance toward settlement-based approaches aligned with government policy.

In 2025, UNHCR expanded work with refugee-led and women-led organizations to enhance localized protection, community outreach, and accountability to affected populations.

UNHCR maintained close cooperation with UN partners, including IOM, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, UN-Habitat, and UNDP. UNHCR also coordinated with 47 partners the implementation of the 2025 South Sudan Country Refugee Response Plan, with a total budget requirement of \$385M. Joint border and reception management with IOM remained essential in Renk and other high-pressure border entry points. Coordination within the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and cluster system ensured coherence between refugee and IDP responses. Collaboration with UN-Habitat has enabled the finalization of the design of the Settlement Plan for Hai Matar in Malakal, and the start of a broader urban integration plan.

Engagement with development actors, including the EU, World Bank, African Development Bank, and Mastercard Foundation, advanced access to services, socio-economic inclusion, vocational training, and youth education. Work on climate adaptation has been strengthened through new partnerships within the framework of the Green Climate Fund and with the support of the Government of Japan. In the framework of these projects, collaborations were initiated with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, as well as with the Ministry of Water and Rural Irrigation. UNHCR, with support from the Joint Data Centre, also assisted the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in including refugees in the 2025 National Household Budget Survey. These partnerships supported progress on Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges related to education, clean energy, self-reliance, inclusion in statistics and protection, and contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Finally, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator (HC/RC) appointed UNHCR to lead newly established Area-Based Coordination (ABC) structures in Upper Nile and Northern Bahr el Ghazal States, as well as Renk, Maban and Jamjang at sub-state level, positioning UNHCR to facilitate the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in high-impact locations.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons exercise their rights and duties associated with access to territory and possession of 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	99.97%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
IDPs	50.51%	70.00%	50.51%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.47%	100.00%	57.55%
Returnees	53.78%	70.00%	53.78%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
IDPs	28.97%	70.00%	28.97%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	95.39%
Stateless Persons	68.85%	35.00%	68.85%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92,457
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	88,199
Stateless Persons	17,700

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to territory, registration and documentation remained a foundational protection safeguard, enabling forcibly displaced and stateless persons to exercise their rights, access services and reduce exposure to protection risks.

Individual registration coverage for refugees and asylum-seekers was sustained at 100 per cent, ensuring that all individuals were registered on an individual basis and included in national and operational protection frameworks.

Comprehensive biometric registration and continuous data verification strengthened the integrity of population data, reduced duplication risks and enhanced accountability in assistance delivery. Reliable registration systems also enabled evidence-based planning and coordination with government counterparts and partners, reinforcing institutional capacity in managing displacement.

Civil documentation outcomes demonstrated measurable progress. The proportion of refugee and asylum-seeker children under five years whose births were registered with a civil authority reached 57.5 per cent, representing continued improvement from the baseline. While below the annual target, this reflects strengthened collaboration with civil registry authorities, integration of birth notification within registration processes and sustained advocacy for access to civil documentation. Birth registration remains a critical safeguard against future statelessness, child protection risks and exclusion from essential services.

Access to legally recognized identity documents also improved. Ninety-five per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers held valid documentation, reinforcing legal stay, access to services, mobility and protection against arrest or exploitation linked to lack of status. Among stateless people, 68.85 per cent possessed legally recognized identity documents or credentials, reflecting ongoing engagement with national authorities to facilitate nationality confirmation and documentation pathways. Documentation coverage among internally displaced people (IDPs) remained more limited, underscoring structural and administrative barriers affecting civil documentation access in displacement contexts.

The combined effect of sustained individual registration expanded birth registration coverage and strengthened access to legal documentation contributed to greater legal inclusion and protection stability. Even amid funding constraints and rising displacement pressures, registration and documentation systems remained operational, inclusive and aligned with national processes, reinforcing the ability of affected populations to claim and exercise their rights in practice.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to fair and efficient 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	90.00	60.00	0.00
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	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	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

Access to fair and efficient national Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures remained a critical protection safeguard. The Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) convened 25 sessions during the year, reviewing 2,987 cases and maintaining continuity in first-instance decision-making despite operational pressures. The majority of cases (87 per cent) were recognized as refugees, reflecting continued application of protection standards. However, the average processing time from registration to first-instance decision increased to 217 days, exceeding the target of 60 days and the baseline of 62 days. The extended timeframe was influenced by increased caseloads, capacity constraints and evolving regional displacement dynamics.

During the year, ongoing voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in the region, linked to perceived favourable conditions, influenced government policy. As a result, the REC rejected most new asylum claims submitted by Burundian nationals. This reflects shifts in country-of-origin assessments and underscores the importance of maintaining procedural safeguards and individual case review.

Despite delays, due process guarantees were upheld. All individuals undergoing asylum procedures (100 per cent) had access to legal representation, ensuring fairness and transparency. In addition, 100 per cent of applicants whose claims were rejected at first instance had access to an effective appeal mechanism. The Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) convened seven sessions and reviewed 58 appeal cases, reinforcing oversight and accountability within the asylum system.

Supervisory and technical support remained central to preserving system integrity. Advocacy promoted simplified RSD processing for specific caseloads, including Ethiopian asylum-seekers pending prima facie consideration, helping to streamline procedures while maintaining protection standards. UNHCR also engaged with national authorities to ensure that individuals with specific protection needs, including those at risk of discrimination or persecution on sensitive grounds, were registered and processed under non-discriminatory procedures.

Support to the Commission for Refugee Affairs, including mobilization of IGAD funding, enabled implementation of a capacity-building program for protection staff and RSD caseworkers, strengthening national ownership and technical quality of status determination processes. While processing times increased, the asylum system remained functional, accessible and rights-based, with full legal representation and appeal safeguards maintained.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2026, national policy supports a more favourable protection environment for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Core Outcome Indicators

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

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

National policy and legal frameworks supported a favourable protection environment for forcibly displaced and stateless persons. The overall assessment of “Broadly aligned” with the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, reflects sustained legislative consistency with international standards and continued operationalization of refugee rights in practice.

The 2012 Refugee Act and its 2017 Regulations incorporate the international refugee definition, prohibit refoulement, and recognize UNHCR’s supervisory role. Domestic law provides for individual registration, lawful stay, issuance of identity documentation, access to courts, and protection against arbitrary arrest and detention. Refugees lawfully residing in the country are accorded rights broadly comparable to nationals across key areas, including primary and secondary education, wage-earning employment and self-employment, social security, public relief, health care, housing, freedom of movement, and access to justice. These provisions collectively reinforce legal certainty and reduce exposure to protection risks linked to irregular status.

Progress during the year further consolidated this alignment. Ministerial Order 003/2025 reaffirmed protection safeguards by prohibiting harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention of asylum-seekers and refugees, while reinforcing the primacy of the Refugee Act in protection matters. Ministerial Order 004/2025 operationalized biometric Refugee Identity Cards and Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents, strengthening documentation integrity, facilitating freedom of movement, and enhancing access to services and financial systems.

South Sudan maintained an open asylum policy, including the continued application of prima facie recognition for certain groups, enabling rapid access to protection and documentation. The government also advanced broader inclusion through policy frameworks such as the South Sudan Development Plan (2026–2036) and the National Social Protection Policy Framework, which emphasize integration of refugees and vulnerable populations into national systems and social safety nets.

While implementation capacity and resource constraints continue to influence the pace and depth of operationalization, the legal and policy architecture remains substantively aligned with international standards. The consolidation of documentation systems, reaffirmation of non-refoulement, and recognition of refugees’ socio-economic rights collectively contribute to a stable and predictable protection environment. These developments provide a durable foundation for inclusion, resilience and long-term solutions, reinforcing national ownership of refugee protection within a challenging regional context.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

National authorities and communities are able to strengthen gender equality and respond to/prevent GBV.

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	75.78%	90.00%	75.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.20%	60.00%	81.00%
Returnees	75.78%	35.00%	73.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
IDPs	75.78%	40.00%	75.78%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.47%	40.00%	37.47%
Returnees	42.31%	35.00%	42.31%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.29%	40.00%	100.00%
Returnees	20.00%	67.00%	100.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
IDPs	56,154
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	142,431
Returnees	8,083

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR, together with national authorities, communities and key stakeholders, strengthened prevention of and response to gender-based violence (GBV) despite significant funding constraints. Awareness of available GBV services increased across all population groups. Among refugees and asylum-seekers, 81 per cent reported knowing where to access GBV services, exceeding the 60 per cent target. Knowledge levels also rose among returnees (73 per cent) and internally displaced people (IDPs) (73 per cent), reflecting sustained community outreach, strengthened referral pathways and the continued operation of safe spaces. Increased awareness contributed to earlier reporting and improved access to life-saving support.

Attitudinal change remained gradual but measurable. According to 2023 Results Monitoring Survey (RMS) data, 37.47 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, 42.31 per cent of returnees and 75.78 per cent of IDPs reported not accepting violence against women. Community-led prevention initiatives, including Engaging Men through Accountable Practice to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls (EMAP) sessions, anti-child marriage activities, radio campaigns and awareness sessions reaching over 88,000

individuals, contributed to challenging harmful norms and promoting gender equality at community level.

Survivor-centred response systems remained operational and effective. Satisfaction with GBV case management services reached 100 per cent among refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees accessing support, demonstrating quality case management, confidentiality and effective referrals. A network of 24 operational Women and Girls Safe Spaces supported 56,914 refugees, returnees and IDPs with case management, legal aid and psychosocial services, while 31 survivors accessed shelter support.

Risk mitigation and economic empowerment complemented response efforts. UNHCR distributed dignity kits to 1,065 women and girls, and provided 300 at-risk women and girls with targeted economic assistance, reducing exposure to negative coping mechanisms. Engagement with police, community security structures and the GBV court strengthened access to justice and case adjudication.

UNHCR reinforced institutional capacity through training of 104 GBV frontline staff, 10 Girl Shine mentors, and 92 partner and UNHCR personnel. The finalization of the GBV Mainstreaming Action Plan and South Sudan's Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) standard operating procedures (SOPs), alongside training of 140 frontline personnel on PSEA, strengthened accountability and prevention frameworks. Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) capacity-building improved data quality and coordination with national counterparts.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Youth and children protection systems are established to ensure their well being.

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	70.01%	100.00%	14.93%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
IDPs	18.00%	25.00%	18.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	69.98%	40.00%	69.98%
Returnees	25.00%	35.00%	25.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.19%	50.00%	40.19%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2025)
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	48,979

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR reinforced child protection systems to better identify, prevent and respond to risks affecting refugee and asylum-seeker children, who represent more than half of the population. Individualized protection

responses remained central, with 48,979 children receiving case management services during the year. The operation applied formal including Best Interests Procedures completing 443 Best Interests Assessments and 46 Best Interests Determinations across key locations. The proportion of children at heightened risk supported through a Best Interests Procedure reached 15 per cent, reflecting prioritization of the most vulnerable children amidst operational constraints.

Family-based care solutions were strengthened. A total of 126 children were placed in alternative care arrangements, and 21 unaccompanied and separated children were reunified with their families through coordinated efforts with relevant authorities and partners. UNHCR supported 451 unaccompanied and separated children with improved case tracking through the integration of Child Protection Information management system (CPIMS+) enhancing accountability and follow-up.

Preventive and community-based mechanisms expanded protective environments. Community child protection programmes engaged 160,338 refugee children, representing 70 per cent participation according to 2023 Results Monitoring Survey (RMS)() data. Participation among returnees and IDPs stood at 25 per cent and 18 per cent respectively, highlighting areas requiring further scale-up. Parenting programmes reached 4,575 caregivers, reinforcing family-level prevention and resilience. Child Protection Committees and Child Rights Clubs remained active, supporting early identification and referral of cases at community level.

UNHCR strengthened psychosocial well-being through services reaching 13,332 children, while 41,251 children participated in structured recreational activities in child-friendly spaces, contributing to recovery, social cohesion and resilience. Awareness activities reached 8,349 individuals, and 12,480 adolescents benefited from skills-building initiatives promoting self-reliance.

System strengthening remained a priority, including training 24 government and humanitarian personnel on Best Interests Procedures and engagement in national policy processes supporting the Child Protection Policy Framework. These efforts collectively strengthened prevention, improved case management quality and reinforced family- and community-based protection systems in a challenging operating environment.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to justice by 2026.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
IDPs	198
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14,121
Returnees	294

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR reinforced access to justice for forcibly displaced and stateless persons through strengthened legal safeguards, institutional coordination and expanded justice outreach in refugee-hosting areas. The number of refugees and asylum-seekers arrested or detained in relation to immigration control or legal status decreased to 81 compared to 335 in 2024, reflecting improved documentation, legal awareness and engagement with law enforcement authorities. This reduction indicates progress in safeguarding due process and reinforcing the civilian character of asylum.

Coordination with the Judiciary, Commission for Refugee Affairs, Prosecution, police and humanitarian actors enhanced responsiveness to protection risks including violence, gender-based violence (GBV) and theft. Support to formal justice structures, including mobility resources, equipment and mobile courts, brought services closer to affected communities and reduced physical and financial barriers to accessing legal remedies.

Legal awareness efforts reached 61,907 individuals, strengthening understanding of access to justice, GBV, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and housing, land and property rights. UNHCR supported over 200 legal representation cases, enabling affected individuals to pursue remedies and assert their rights within formal systems. Collaboration with the Judiciary aligned with its Strategic Plan (2025-2029), including strengthened Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms and engagement with traditional justice actors to promote consistency with national legal standards.

Finally, detention monitoring remained central to protection oversight. Systematic follow-up was conducted on 1,289 detention cases to promote humane treatment and fair trial rights. With UNMISS support, mobile courts contributed to reducing case backlogs, including adjudication of 52 long-pending cases in Renk and additional cases in Jamjang and Yei. These measures improved timeliness of proceedings and reduced prolonged detention.

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

Community based structures are strengthened to enable community inclusion, empowerment and resilience.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
IDPs	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
Returnees	Extensive	Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
IDPs	61.99%	60.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Returnees	75.00%	40.00%	100.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
IDPs	35.00%	40.00%	35.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	50.00%	40.00%
Returnees	35.00%	40.00%	35.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	245

Returnees	8,363
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
IDPs	12,104
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	118,297
Returnees	35,275
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
IDPs	6,179
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	155,346
Returnees	186,634

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Community engagement was a defining feature of the UNHCR's protection approach in South Sudan, with extensive participation of forcibly displaced and stateless persons across programme phases. Engagement was not limited to consultation, but embedded throughout planning, implementation and review processes, ensuring that programmes reflected community-identified priorities and risks.

Safe feedback and response mechanisms were accessible to 100 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees, and IDPs. Community-based complaint channels, protection desks, hotlines, suggestion boxes and regular community meetings enabled two-way communication and timely referrals. The rollout of the Community-Based Protection Activity Reporting and Feedback and Referral System strengthened tracking of concerns and improved accountability to affected populations. By year-end, community platforms were actively used for raising protection issues and facilitating referrals for legal, medical, cash and psychosocial support.

Participation in programme cycles was reinforced through structured consultations and representation in coordination forums. Community networks, refugee-led organizations, women-led organizations, youth groups, committees of persons with disabilities, faith leaders and peace committees played an active role in information dissemination, identification of persons at heightened risk, conflict mitigation and monitoring of service delivery. UNHCR engaged displaced and stateless persons in the annual report, including validation discussions and workshops with refugee-led networks in 2025, reinforcing transparency and ownership.

Women's leadership and empowerment advanced through targeted engagement in management and community structures. While participation rates among refugees, returnees and IDPs remained at 40 per cent and 35 per cent respectively, sustained efforts focused on strengthening meaningful representation rather than symbolic inclusion. Women- and girl-friendly spaces and community centers supported limited livelihoods initiatives and skills-building activities, enhancing economic resilience and voice in decision-making processes.

Protection outreach reached tens of thousands through focus group discussions, town halls, awareness sessions and mobile outreach. Peaceful coexistence initiatives addressed land disputes, resource-related tensions and social cohesion challenges between displaced and host communities. Age, gender and diversity considerations guided all interventions, ensuring inclusion of children, older persons, persons with disabilities and minority groups.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Urgent humanitarian needs are addressed for all forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
IDPs	5.48%	25.00%	100.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	59.51%	80.00%	10.20%
Returnees	15.20%	25.00%	10.79%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
IDPs	1.26%	5.00%	1.26%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.01%	10.00%	0.01%
Returnees	0.38%	10.00%	0.38%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Host Community	1,553
IDPs	4,175
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23,455
Returnees	4,363
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
IDPs	43,060
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38,249
Returnees	29,650

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

A total of 33,546 individuals received cash assistance during the reporting period. Of these, 23,455 were refugees, 4,363 returnees, 4,175 IDPs and 1,553 host community members. Cash transfers directly strengthened household purchasing power, reduced negative coping mechanisms, and enabled families to prioritize food, shelter, health and education expenditures according to their most urgent needs. UNHCR ensured a transparent, accountable and efficient delivery of cash assistance through the Individual Protection Assistance (IPA) and multipurpose cash modalities, including via the PRIMES-integrated CashAssist platform. In camp and urban contexts alike, cash support contributed to improved school attendance, reduced exposure to exploitation linked to financial distress, and supported local market functionality.

Relief items complemented cash interventions by addressing immediate material gaps affecting safety and dignity. UNHCR provided emergency items to 38,249 refugees and asylum-seekers, including kitchen sets, dignity kits, clothing, jerry cans, plastic sheeting and solar lamps. In addition, the Office also provided relief items to 29,650 returnees and 43,060 IDPs. These interventions stabilized living conditions during new

displacement and return movements, reduced health and protection risks, and supported safer reintegration in areas affected by conflict and climatic shocks.

Despite these efforts, needs continued to outpace available resources. Around 10 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, 11 per cent of returnees, and 2 per cent of IDPs received cash transfers and/or relief items against significantly higher targets. Reliance on clean cooking fuels and technologies remained limited at 0.01 per cent for refugees and asylum-seekers, 0.38 per cent for returnees, and 1.26 per cent for IDPs, underscoring persistent environmental and protection risks linked to unsafe energy practices.

Combined cash and relief items interventions nonetheless generated tangible gains in dignity, safety and resilience. By enabling households to meet immediate needs while preserving choice and agency, UNHCR mitigated acute vulnerability, strengthened coping capacity, and contributed to short-term stabilization within a highly constrained operational and funding environment.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

By 2026, forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to sustainable solutions.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
IDPs	0.77%	88.00%	0.36%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.78%
Returnees	5.32%	45.00%	1.65%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
IDPs	21.50%	20.00%	21.50%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.77%	25.00%	63.77%
Returnees	20.96%	13.00%	20.96%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
IDPs	7,100
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23,269
Returnees	5,205

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to habitable and affordable housing improved significantly for refugees and asylum-seekers, with 418,900 individuals living in adequate housing conditions, representing 99.7 per cent. This near-universal coverage reflects sustained investment in shelter upgrades, maintenance, and settlement planning in camp settings, ensuring improved safety, privacy, and protection from climatic hazards. Stable housing conditions contributed directly to enhanced dignity, reduced exposure to protection risks, and stronger community resilience.

Progress was more constrained for returnees and internally displaced people (IDPs). A total of 5,205

returnees (1.65 per cent) and 7,100 IDPs (0.36 per cent) were living in habitable and affordable housing. While targeted shelter assistance improved living conditions for households reached, the scale of displacement and limited resources significantly restricted scaling interventions. These figures underscore the magnitude of unmet shelter needs outside established refugee settlements, particularly in urban and hard-to-reach areas where informal housing and overcrowding remain prevalent.

Energy access showed mixed but meaningful gains. Among refugees and asylum-seekers, 207,378 individuals (63.77 per cent) had access to energy for lighting, supporting safety, mobility at night, access to services, and household productivity. Access among returnees reached 160,899 individuals (20.96 per cent), and among IDPs 448,400 individuals (21.50 per cent). Although still below targets, these improvements contributed to reduced protection risks linked to darkness, enhanced community security, and strengthened social and economic participation.

Beyond household-level support, settlement-level investments reinforced sustainability. Construction of 11.8 km of new roads, rehabilitation of 156.6 km of roads, and development of 7.1 km of drainage systems enhanced mobility, market access, and continuity of humanitarian assistance. Improved drainage reduced flood-related risks, protecting shelters and assets while promoting safer living environments.

Strategic coordination, technical oversight, and strengthened monitoring improved the quality, consistency, and durability of construction interventions. Continuous supervision ensured compliance with approved drawings and BoQs, enabling early identification and correction of issues such as poor concrete mixes, inadequate curing, substandard materials, and design deviations, reducing risks of failure and rework. Monitoring was enhanced through regular site visits and geo-referenced evidence, including joint monitoring with partners and government engineers. Findings and lessons learnt were shared through Shelter/NFI Cluster coordination promoted harmonized standards. Engagement with the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and Relief and Rehabilitation Commission (RRS) ensured alignment with national priorities and supported integrated, area-based approaches.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to healthcare by 2026.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	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	95.05%	90.00%	96.48%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.98%	95.00%	94.81%

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	361,272
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,272

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to primary and secondary health care was supported with 95 per cent of the refugees and asylum-seekers having access to essential health services. Over 325,000 individual consultations were reported in UNHCR supported health facilities. Of these, 30,476 consultations (12 per cent) were provided to host communities. A major milestone toward health systems strengthening and sustainability was the transition of 13 out of 15 UNHCR supported health facilities to the Ministry of Health-led Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP). Funded by the World Bank, through the HSTP, health facilities received a standardized package of staffing, medicines and operational support, serving over 400,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Upper Nile and Ruweng Administrative Area. This transition marked significant progress toward inclusion of refugees in national health systems, reduced parallel service delivery structures, and strengthened government leadership in delivering integrated services to both refugees and host communities. However, HSTP did not adequately reflect the scale, complexity and emergency profile of refugee health needs, including higher burdens of communicable diseases and chronic conditions. This left gaps in service coverage, longer waiting times and unmet needs for both primary and referral health care, for which UNHCR had to step in with very limited resources to avoid preventable deaths.

In reproductive health, complete antenatal care (ANC) coverage reached 72 per cent, while 90 per cent of pregnant women attending ANC were tested for HIV, contributing to prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Skilled birth attendance was 95 per cent among the reported births.

Nutrition outcomes were supported through integrated community and facility-based management of acute malnutrition. A total of 14,100 children under five years were admitted for treatment to the therapeutic feeding program, alongside 3,800 pregnant and lactating women with moderate acute malnutrition. These interventions contributed to mitigating morbidity and mortality risks among the most vulnerable, including new arrivals. Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) was provided to children under two years, pregnant and breast-feeding women for prevention of malnutrition reaching over 16,000 under two and 3,000 women.

Besides covering critical gaps, UNHCR was engaged in advocacy and coordination with authorities and partners to ensure continuity of services, quality assurance, and alignment with national standards. The operation prioritized integration into the government led systems to enhance sustainability.

UNFPA and UNDP ensured the supply of reproductive health commodities and HIV medicines while WFP and UNICEF provided nutrition supplies supporting management of acute malnutrition across refugee camps. The national, state and county level Ministry of Health provided monitoring supervision of health facilities in the refugee camps. This collective approach strengthened service continuity despite operational and funding constraints and reinforced progress toward inclusive, nationally aligned health service delivery.

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2026, children and youth have enhanced access to education opportunities.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.60%	3.00%	0.43%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.63%	65.00%	1.10%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66,099

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Total education enrolment experienced a substantial 17.6 per cent decline, falling from 77,500 students in 2024 to 63,900 in 2025. This downturn was driven by a 9% per cent decrease in primary school enrolment (57,300 learners) and a corresponding 9 per cent drop in secondary school enrolment (6,600 learners).

However, in 2025, UNHCR and its partners, in collaboration with South Sudan's Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) and other line ministries, advanced educational access for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), and stateless youth through improving the learning environment. UNHCR and partners rehabilitated 89 classrooms and constructed 12 gender-segregated latrine stances. With African Development Bank (AfDB) support, several infrastructure projects are underway, at Kaya Secondary School in the Maban refugee camps, the conversion of existing spaces into a science laboratory and library was completed, alongside the addition of two latrine blocks and a teachers' office. Additionally, through the EU SCAR project, the construction of a kitchen and a new classroom, as well as the rehabilitation of an existing two-classroom block, were completed at Lologo Nursery/Primary Community School in Juba. Beyond infrastructure, support for adolescent girls was strengthened, with 732 girls receiving dignity kits for menstrual hygiene management.

Teacher and staff development remained a central focus, with 777 teachers recruited and provided with continuous professional development. To support classroom learning, 56,116 students received essential materials, including exercise books and pens.

Significant strides were made integrating refugees into the national education system. Under the World Bank-funded Building Skills for Human Capital Development (BSHCD) project, the Ministry of General Education and Instruction (MoGEI) trained 103 teachers across 40 schools in refugee-hosting areas. These teachers facilitated the 2025 National Education Census, ensuring that refugee data is now officially captured in the National EMIS Dashboard.

Furthermore, MoGEI strengthened this inclusion by providing core textbooks (including Arabic, Islamic Religious Education, and Christian Religious Education) to refugee schools. The National Examination Council (NEC) also granted a 50 per cent registration fee waiver, benefiting 1,714 Primary (CPE) and 1,076 Secondary (CSE) refugee candidates.

Following an Inter-ministerial Policy Dialogue between the Ministry of Higher Education and MoGEI, a country-led roadmap was developed to improve tertiary access for the forcibly displaced persons. This dialogue included a comprehensive review of the current policy environment, addressing barriers to admission and recognition of prior learning.

Access to tertiary education was sustained for 359 scholars through the DAFI, Mastercard, and MoGEI (in partnership with Finn Church Aid) scholarship programs. Notably, 79 scholars graduated and transitioned into the labor market, the highest number of successful transitions since the DAFI program's inception in 2016. Additionally, five refugees secured third-country scholarships, with four students enrolling at USIU-Africa in Nairobi, Kenya, and one at Ashesi University in Ghana.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to WASH services by 2026.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.50%	100.00%	100.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.62%	70.00%	65.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	350,241

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR expanded access to safe and reliable water and sanitation services across refugee camps and settlements through the extension of water pipeline networks to newly established settlement areas and the construction of communal, institutional, and household latrines. Water service quality and reliability were further strengthened through increased water storage capacity, routine chlorination, and continuous operation and maintenance of water systems. As a result, over 389,000 refugees and asylum-seekers were supported with access to water services and around 65 per cent of households had access to household latrines. The construction of household, communal, and institutional latrines contributed to enhanced sanitation coverage and a reduction in public health risks for refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR played a central coordination and facilitation role by prioritizing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) service expansion in areas hosting newly arrived refugees. Through partnerships, UNHCR supported the extension and rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, including the drilling of five new boreholes, bringing the total number of functional motorized boreholes to 79 in the new and old supported areas hosting refugees in the country. Of these, 94 per cent are solarized, promoting sustainable, cost-effective, and reliable water pumping. UNHCR's technical oversight, monitoring, and resource mobilization ensured that interventions remained aligned with WASH standards and were responsive to evolving needs as new arrivals continued throughout the year.

Implementing partners were instrumental in delivering WASH services at community level, including the construction of water and sanitation infrastructure, operation and maintenance of water systems, and day-to-day service provision. Partners supported the construction of household latrines, establishment of water management committees, and active involvement of refugees in the management of water distribution systems. The African Development Bank (AfDB) provided critical funding support for the construction and solarization of new boreholes. Collectively, these efforts strengthened service delivery, enhanced sustainability, and ensured improved and sustained access to safe water and sanitation services for refugees.

South Sudan experienced a widespread cholera outbreak in 2025, with 79,576 cases reported nationally, including 2,919 cases among refugees, predominantly among newly arrived people. With the support from donors, UNHCR trained more than 300 community hygiene and health workers on cholera prevention and

risk reduction, conducted community cholera awareness, renovated cholera isolation centers, and constructed 6 blocks of ventilated improved pit latrines in response to the cholera outbreak. Through these efforts, no major cholera outbreaks were recorded in established refugee camps and settlements. The presence of functional and sustained WASH systems including reliable access to safe water, routine chlorination, improved sanitation coverage, and ongoing operation and maintenance contributed to mitigating transmission risks and protecting refugees. This demonstrated the effectiveness of WASH investments in preventing large scale disease outbreaks under emergency conditions.

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

The majority of forcibly displaced and stateless persons gain access to sustainable livelihoods by 2026.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	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			
IDPs	8.33%	20.00%	8.33%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.94%	20.00%	11.95%
Returnees	11.95%	20.00%	11.95%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
IDPs	9.16%	30.00%	9.16%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.71%	65.00%	66.75%
Returnees	5.60%	32.00%	5.60%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,657
Returnees	2,322

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Across the operation, 14,600 forcibly displaced and stateless people (8,600 women and 6,300 men) enhanced their access to sustainable livelihoods. In Ruweng Administrative Area, Maban, Yambio, Yei, Aweil, and Malakal, 7,000 households (50 per cent of them female) received agricultural kits and land tillage support, enabling cultivation of over 8,000 feddans. This directly strengthened food security, reduced negative coping mechanisms, and increased household income generation capacity.

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In Malakal, Maban, Yambio, and Wau, 344 cooperative members (147 women and 197 men) benefited from agricultural extension and value addition support, including inputs, irrigation assistance, and training in climate-smart land management and agribusiness. In Yambio, four refugee cooperatives were supported to engage the private sector through contract farming arrangements, benefiting 3,161 individuals (1,560 female and 1,601 male). In Maban, 44 cooperatives were assisted with business registration, enhancing formal market participation and business sustainability.

Livelihood diversification advanced through vocational training, with 1,357 youth graduates (713 female and 644 male) completing market-relevant courses in Jamjang, Maban, Wau, and Juba. Additionally, 5,632 individuals (4,066 women and 1,862 men) received micro- and small-enterprise development support, including capital grants, entrepreneurship training, and coaching. Microcredit and asset transfers in Maban, Juba, Yambio, Wau, Malakal, Yei, Torit, and Jamjang stimulated agro-enterprise and climate-smart initiatives, strengthening livestock and agricultural value chains.

Financial inclusion deepened through capitalization grants to 1,606 members (1,223 women and 383 men) across 86 Village Savings and Loans Associations in Maban, Jamjang, Torit, and Wau, promoting savings, credit access, and small enterprise growth. Digital mobile cash transfers further expanded access to financial services, reaching over 900 female-headed households.

These interventions translated into measurable outcome-level gains. The proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers with an account at a bank or mobile-money provider reached 12 per cent (2025 LIS), while 67 per cent reported positive changes in income compared to the previous year. Among refugees and asylum-seekers of working age, unemployment stood at 20 per cent (2025 LIS), reflecting persistent labour market constraints but also gradual integration into income-generating activities.

Implementation was anchored in strategic partnerships with government counterparts, NGOs, refugee-led organizations, and host communities, ensuring locally relevant, inclusive, and market-oriented approaches. Joint economic activities and mixed community groups reinforced social cohesion while expanding sustainable livelihood pathways across diverse population groups.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

More deserving and vulnerable refugees have access to third country solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2025)	Actual (2025)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	714	100	359
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	15	27

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2025)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, access to third-country solutions was sustained and expanded despite significant operational and policy constraints. Against a target of 300 submissions for resettlement, 359 refugees were submitted, exceeding the planned figure and demonstrating focused prioritization of highly vulnerable cases, including survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), persons with legal and physical protection risks, and individuals with heightened medical and socio-economic needs.

Processing environments remained complex. The temporary closure of the Juba processing centre in March due to funding limitations, suspended missions to Gorom refugee settlement, and the broader impact of shifting global resettlement policies affected timelines and case progression. Nonetheless, casework continued through adapted modalities, strengthened counselling, and close coordination with resettlement countries to ensure continuity and quality of submissions.

By the end of the year, 124 refugees departed, including 68 to Australia and 56 to Canada, with additional departures scheduled into early 2026. These departures represented concrete protection outcomes for individuals facing acute risks and reflected strengthened pipeline management, documentation support, and follow-up with receiving States.

Complementary pathways also expanded beyond planned levels. Against a target of 15 individuals admitted through complementary pathways, 27 people accessed such opportunities, including beneficiaries of third-country scholarships and privately sponsored arrangements. Thirteen refugees (8 women and 5 men) benefitted from third-country scholarships, including three who completed studies at the African Leadership University. Logistical support facilitated travel for 14 privately sponsored refugees, while engagement with national authorities supported documentation and alignment with updated complementary pathways standard operating procedures (SOPs) issued in October.

Finally, community engagement and counselling were scaled up to ensure informed decision-making. In Gorom, 421 individuals received individual case updates, while 18 individuals were supported in Maban-Bunj. Six town-hall meetings reached approximately 300 refugees, strengthening transparency and mitigating misinformation related to resettlement and other third-country opportunities.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2026, forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to solutions.

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			
IDPs	3.25%	30.00%	27.00%
Returnees	11.09%	17.00%	58.00%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
IDPs	Partially
Stateless Persons	Partially

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2025, UNHCR made considerable progress in advancing documentation, Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights for refugee's returnees and forcibly displaced persons across some locations in South Sudan. Key locations for these activities included Torit, Magwi, Yei, Wau, and Juba. A total of 34,508 individuals supported with HLP related services which includes 9,199 persons of concerns/returnees supported with emergency shelters, 82 returnees supported with transitional shelters, 1732 individuals received legal counseling on HLP, including 319 critical cases that had land related issues were provided with legal representation, court fee coverage, and transportation assistance.

4,000 PSNs participated in information sharing to increase their awareness of HLP rights and available legal options. 18,000 returnees supported acquiring land ownership documents facilitating their tenure security. Capacity building training provided to 519 Community Land Committees (CLCs) involved in addressing land disputes. Among these, 391 refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as 266 host community members, received land documentation, including lease agreements and customary land certificates to support them obtain Land Housing and Properties rights.

Interventions focused on strengthening Housing, Land and Property (HLP) systems and community-based dispute resolution mechanisms. Community Land Committees and alternative dispute resolution structures were reinforced to address land conflicts, boundary disputes, and competing claims. Legal counselling and representation services improved access to remedies, particularly for vulnerable households.

Progress on coverage by national social protection systems could not be measured due to data limitations. However, coordination with national and local authorities continued to promote inclusion of displaced populations in policy and service frameworks.

While gains among returnees were substantial, lower coverage among IDPs reflects persistent structural constraints, unresolved ownership disputes, and institutional capacity gaps. Sustained investment in HLP governance, legal aid, and community mediation remains critical to consolidating tenure security and advancing durable local solutions

Other Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Baseline	Target(2025)	Actual(2025)
14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Returnees	3.80%	15.00%	6.11%

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2025, UNHCR advanced community-based protection (CBP) in South Sudan by strengthening participation, inclusion, and accountability amid persistent conflict, economic instability, and climate-related displacement. Community structures, including protection networks, women's and youth groups, and camp management committees, played a central role in identifying protection risks, disseminating critical information, and facilitating referrals, ensuring that refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, and host communities contributed to decision-making processes in line with the Accountability to Affected People (AAP) commitments.

UNHCR improved accountability systems through enhanced complaints and feedback mechanisms.

Trained focal points applied survivor-centered standard operating procedures (SOPs), while regular consultations and protection dialogues enabled early detection of emerging concerns such as violence, land disputes, child protection risks, and climate-driven displacement. These engagements informed adaptive programming and strengthened community trust in protection services.

The rollout of the CBP and Community Feedback and Response Tracking Mechanism CFRTM digital tools improved real-time monitoring of incidents, referrals, and community feedback, strengthening data-driven coordination and accelerating response times. Efforts to further automate these systems advanced operational transparency and contributed to more consistent service delivery across field locations.

To enhance resilience amid reduced funding and economic pressures, UNHCR expanded self-reliance and climate-adaptive livelihood initiatives. Through community centers and women-friendly spaces, displaced and host populations accessed vocational skills, financial literacy, and market-based opportunities in partnership with private-sector actors. These interventions supported income generation and preparedness for durable solutions. Social cohesion remained a priority, particularly in areas experiencing intercommunal tensions and land disputes. Peace dialogues, conflict-mitigation forums, and engagement with formal and traditional justice mechanisms promoted non-violent dispute resolution and strengthened coexistence.

Section 3: Resources

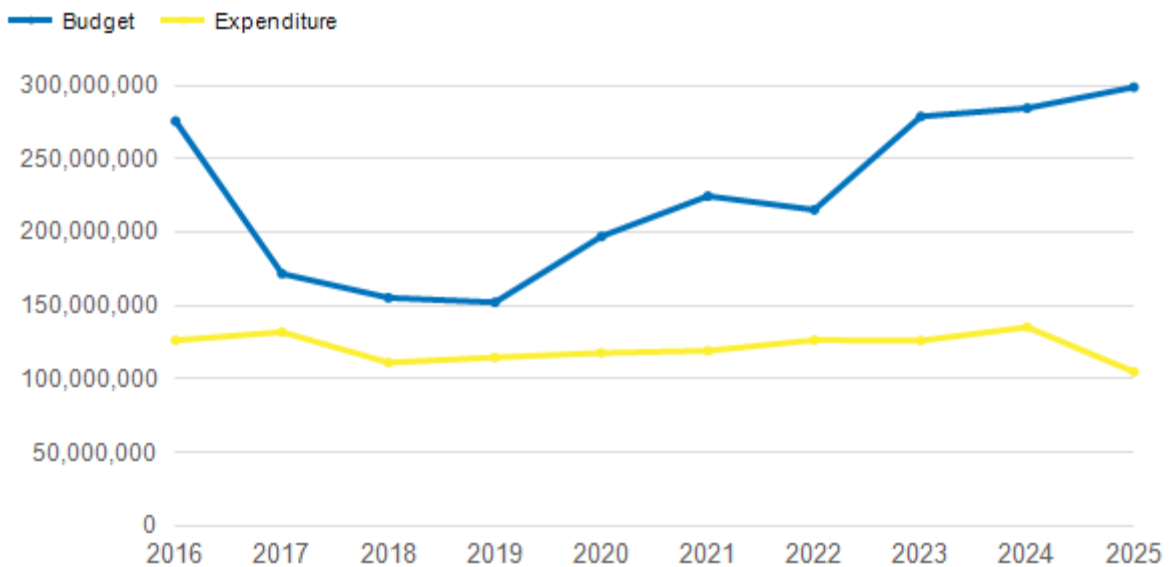
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

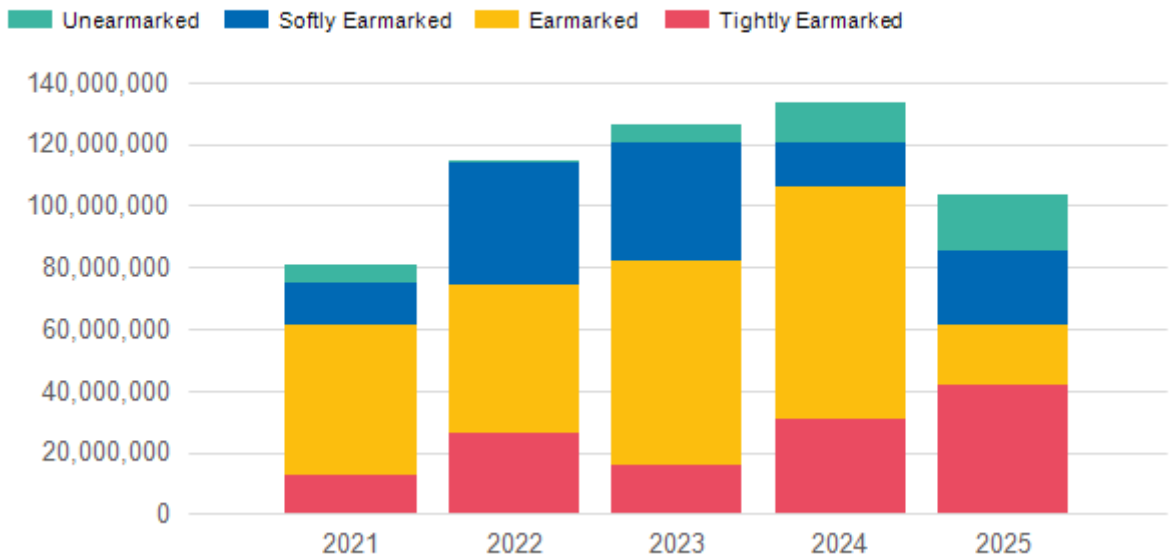
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	67,900,034	20,927,621	30.82%	20,927,621	100.00%
IA2: Respond	91,544,137	39,231,408	42.86%	38,584,497	98.35%
IA3: Empower	115,557,806	41,186,864	35.64%	39,474,097	95.84%
IA4: Solve	23,712,432	6,019,476	25.39%	5,967,676	99.14%
All Impact Areas		74,800			
Total	298,714,409	107,440,169	35.97%	104,953,891	97.69%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	34,015,751	11,654,581	34.26%	11,654,581	100.00%
OA2: Status	883,452	1,517,902	171.81%	1,517,902	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	7,075,986	3,496,033	49.41%	3,496,033	100.00%
OA4: GBV	16,388,061	4,868,360	29.71%	4,864,827	99.93%
OA5: Children	11,488,893	2,236,543	19.47%	2,236,543	100.00%
OA6: Justice	33,000,831	7,502,474	22.73%	7,502,474	100.00%
OA7: Community	39,114,667	8,499,167	21.73%	7,941,283	93.44%
OA8: Wellbeing	35,306,916	6,868,278	19.45%	6,457,632	94.02%
OA9: Housing	22,368,986	11,851,271	52.98%	11,219,576	94.67%
OA10: Health	12,595,472	6,247,782	49.60%	6,247,782	100.00%
OA11: Education	8,322,043	6,418,537	77.13%	6,101,181	95.06%
OA12: WASH	10,393,038	4,127,383	39.71%	3,891,118	94.28%
OA13: Livelihood	17,875,156	7,312,986	40.91%	7,110,687	97.23%
OA15: Resettle		252,665		252,665	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	16,636,446	2,523,443	15.17%	2,471,643	97.95%
EA18: Support	33,248,711	21,987,965	66.13%	21,987,965	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		74,800			
Total	298,714,409	107,440,169	35.97%	104,953,891	97.69%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

In 2025, the South Sudan operation operated in an exceptionally constrained global financial environment marked by funding uncertainty, liquidity pressures, and reduced humanitarian envelopes. Humanitarian needs remained high amid sustained displacement dynamics and continued arrivals and returns linked to the Sudan crisis. However, available funding covered only a limited proportion of requirements, requiring strict prioritization and adaptive management throughout the year.

To manage the funding gap, the operation implemented comprehensive cost-containment measures. Three offices were closed and two were nationalized to reduce overheads while maintaining core field presence. The programme fleet was reduced from 159 to 100 vehicles and administration staff from 135 to 83. At the

beginning of the year, the total workforce stood at 341 personnel; this number was reduced to 208 by the end of 2025. This sharp reduction in staffing severely constrained operational capacity and limited the implementation of key activities required to effectively support and protect persons of concern. Non-essential activities including workshops, training and missions were deferred, unless directly life-saving. These measures allowed the operation to preserve protection capacity and ensure continuity of critical services, including access to territory, protection monitoring, emergency shelter, and basic assistance. Despite reprioritization, unmet needs persisted. Shelter and health remained among the most affected sectors, limiting the transition from emergency coverage to more durable solutions. Reduced logistical capacity during peak movements and the rainy season further constrained response scale. While core protection functions were maintained, reduced resources curtailed outreach, infrastructure rehabilitation, and expansion of community-based services.

Flexible funding was instrumental in responding to the most pressing needs. It enabled rapid reallocation of resources to address emerging protection risks, sustain reception and onward transportation support, and respond to public health threats such as cholera outbreaks.

In parallel, development-oriented funding supported socioeconomic inclusion and strengthened engagement with national systems, contributing to more sustainable service delivery models. While these resources complemented humanitarian action, they did not fully offset gaps in emergency sectors.

Looking ahead, continued funding shortfalls may necessitate further prioritization of life-saving interventions and pose risks to shelter adequacy, health access, and protection coverage. The operation will continue to align resources with the most critical needs while pursuing cost-efficient, sustainable approaches within a constrained budgetary environment.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The 2025 results analysis highlighted the structural impact of severe funding contraction combined with a sharp increase in tightly earmarked contributions. A key lesson is that while resources were available in specific sectors, they were often not aligned with core protection and basic service needs. This resulted in uneven performance across outcome areas, with relatively stronger investment in self-reliance and resilience activities, while core sectors such as health and education experienced reduced coverage and declining outcomes, including lower school enrolment and constrained service delivery.

Localization remains a strategic priority but will be pursued through a calibrated and diversified partnership approach, combining national and international actors to ensure continuity, compliance and flexibility. At the same time, the role of forcibly displaced and community-based organizations will be further strengthened to enhance accountability, access and sustainability, while reinforcing community ownership of responses.

A central lesson is therefore the need to protect and ring-fence minimum essential services alongside strategic investments, ensuring that earmarking does not distort the balance between life-saving assistance and longer-term solutions. Evidence confirms that core protection functions - access to territory, registration, documentation, and community-based protection - must remain non-negotiable anchors, even in constrained environments.

Operational evidence also confirmed that solutions must be embedded from the outset, with transit-based responses and system integration proving more sustainable than parallel service delivery. However, context-specific modalities remain essential, as cash cannot substitute in-kind assistance where markets are weak or access is constrained.

These lessons will inform implementation of the multi-year strategy by prioritizing minimum essential services, strengthening risk-informed partner selection, and ensuring better alignment between funding modalities and operational priorities. The operation will further diversify partnerships, expand engagement with development actors, and apply flexible, context-driven approaches to sustain delivery in a high-risk, resource-constrained environment.



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