



## THE REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLANS:

Ten years of coordinated action in support of refugees

## **Contents**

Deputy High Commissioner	3
SECTION 1: 10 years of RRPs A Global Overview	6
At a glance	8
Evolution of the RRPs	9
Better outcomes for refugees and the communities that host them	10
Support to host governments and national plans	15
Greater diversity in partnerships	17
Insufficient financial support	22
A vital coordination and advocacy tool for the years ahead	24
Summary of the Refugee Response Plans	28

SECTION 2: The Plans in more detail	29
The Syria RRP (2012 – 2014) and The Syria 3RP since 2015: Co-leadership with UNDP	30
The Venezuela RMRP for refugees and migrants from Venezuela: Addressing mixed movements with co-lead IOM since 2019	33
The Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis: Tailored Coordination since 2018	36
South Sudan RRP: since 2014	39
The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) RRP: since 2018	42
Burundi RRP: 2015 – 2021	45
Nigeria RRP: 2014 – 2020	47
Europe RMRP: 2016 & 2017	49
Central African Republic (CAR) RRP: 2014 – 2016	51
Yemen RMRP: 2015 & 2016 co-led by IOM and UNHCR	53
The Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plans The Ethiopia Situation (Tigray): November 2020 – June 2021	55
The Afghanistan Situation:	
since July 2021	56



UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner, Kelly T Clements, meets with Ukrainian refugees at a former university dormitory in Chisinau, Moldova.

## A word from the Deputy High Commissioner

This year, we mark the tenth anniversary of the Refugee Response Plans (RRPs). In that time, more than 3,000 partners have been engaged in 12 regional refugee situations covering 50 countries worldwide to provide protection, humanitarian aid and solutions to those most in need.

Through these efforts more than 83 million refugees and 65 million hosts, were identified for assistance. This would not have been possible without the continued engagement and collaboration of partners and support from our donors. Thanks to their support, the Plans have raised US\$36 billion to support refugees and host communities.

Introduced in 2012, the main aim of the Regional Refugee Response Plans is to ensure host governments, partners and donors have a clear overview of the response and budgetary needs.

The RRPs do not address UNHCR's programmes alone, but provide an overview of how UN agencies, NGO partners and local actors seek to assist the refugees and the communities that host them. Further modified to operationalize the "whole-of-society" approach of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), today's RRPs also include development partners, faith-based actors, sports organizations, as well as refugees themselves. Based on a protection and solutions strategy, the overarching vision in the Plans is to support host governments and the people we serve. In line with the Compact, they have evolved beyond short-term

plans and now embrace medium to long-term planning to help resilience and durable solutions efforts from the start of a response.

During the past few years – with a massive growth in humanitarian needs due to increasing conflicts, the climate crisis, and the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic – the crucial role of the RRPs in facilitating a coherent and collaborative approach to refugee situations has become more critical than ever.

Over the last 18 months we have collectively responded to the Afghan and Ukraine situations. During my trips to the countries neighbouring Ukraine as well as to Pakistan earlier this year, I witnessed the incredible support to Afghan and Ukrainian refugees. While Pakistan and Iran have hosted Afghan refugees for several decades, the changing situation in Afghanistan in 2021 demanded a renewed vision to ensure sustained international support. The Ukraine Regional Refugee Response Plan, which was launched a few days after the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, has shown what can be achieved when funds are there, partners are engaged, and host governments have the support and tools needed to coordinate. Despite huge numbers of Ukrainian refugees in neighboring countries, children have continued their education, families have housing and hundreds of thousands have received cash assistance to meet basic needs.

While UNHCR fulfills its role under the Global Compact, we have also counted on co-leadership with other UN Agencies. The first joint leadership approach was put into action in 2015 with UNDP through the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (Syria 3RP). This has brought a stronger resilience

and development approach to the Syria situation response. In contexts of mixed movements, IOM and UNHCR have come together to co-lead regional responses for refugees and migrants, such as through the Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (RMRP). The refugee response model is flexible and can adapt to different leadership models, according to the context. We are proud of the work we have done together and look forward to continuing our partnerships with all actors to ensure we provide the best possible responses for the people we serve.

Despite gains made over the last ten years, together we face a daunting challenge. Earlier this year, for the first time, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide passed 100 million. This astounding number of people should serve as a wake-up call to resolve and prevent conflicts, end persecution and address the underlying causes that force people to flee. Instead, we are faced with increasingly challenging operational contexts; reduced access to people in need; growing non-compliance with international law; and an increasing gap between identified needs and the financial support available.

As we collectively reflect on the state of the world, we call on donors and stakeholders to continue their support – none of our lifesaving efforts are possible without you. The inspiring work of our partners, not least refugees and the forcibly displaced, are reminders of what can be achieved when we work together. Together we can better serve refugees and host communities and help ensure they have access to their rights and to aid for more prosperous futures.

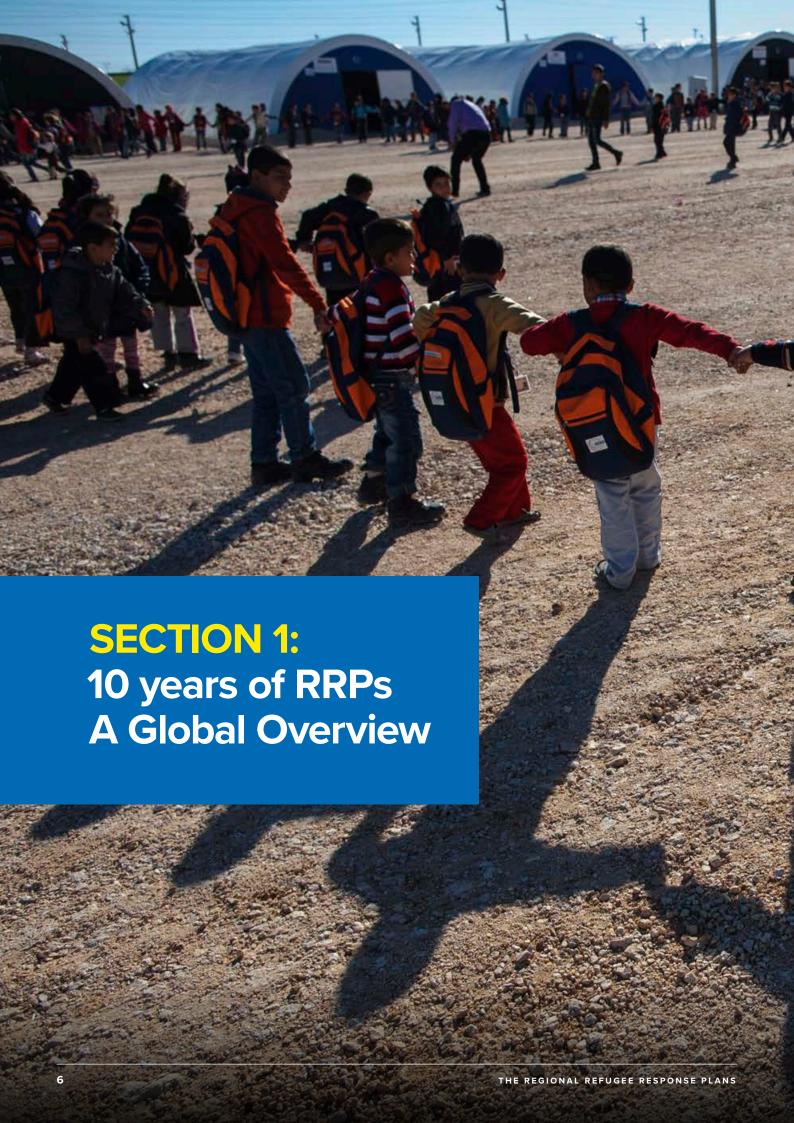
- Kelly T Clements
UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner

### **ACRONYMS**

BRAC Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee  CRP Country Refugee Response Plan  CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework  FAO Food and Agriculture Organization  FBOs Faith-based Organizations  GBV Gender-Based Violence  GRF Global Refugee Forum  IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum  RFT Refugee Funding Tracker
CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework FAO Food and Agriculture Organization FBOs Faith-based Organizations GBV Gender-Based Violence GRF Global Refugee Forum IOM International Organization for Migration JRRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan NGOs Non-governmental organizations R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela RCF Refugee Coordination Forum RCM Refugee Coordination Model REF Refugee Engagement Forum
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization  FBOs Faith-based Organizations  GBV Gender-Based Violence  GRF Global Refugee Forum  IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
FBOs Faith-based Organizations  GBV Gender-Based Violence  GRF Global Refugee Forum  IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
GBV Gender-Based Violence  GRF Global Refugee Forum  IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
GRF IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
IOM International Organization for Migration  JRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
JRRRP Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan  NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
NGOs Non-governmental organizations  R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
R4V Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
Venezuela  RCF Refugee Coordination Forum  RCM Refugee Coordination Model  REF Refugee Engagement Forum
RCM Refugee Coordination Model REF Refugee Engagement Forum
REF Refugee Engagement Forum
RET Refugee Funding Tracker
Kerugee Funding Tracker
RRP Refugee Response Plan/ Regional Refugee Response Plan
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
WFP World Food Programme
WHO World Health Organization

### **Specific response plans**

Bangladesh JRP	Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis
Syria 3RP	The Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan
Yemen RMRP	Yemen Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan
Venezuela RMRP	Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for refugees and migrants from
	Venezuela





## At a glance

## Better outcomes for refugees and the communities that host them

RRPs have enabled UNHCR and its partners to better coordinate large and complex refugee responses by providing an overarching vision and coherent engagement of RRP partners. This has led to better results, increased impact and improvement in the lives and opportunities of refugees and the communities that host them.

#### 2 Support to host governments and national plans

States have the primary responsibility to protect refugees. The strategy outlined in the RRPs reinforces the implementation of national refugee response plans by articulating prioritized multistakeholder responses for the benefit of refugees and host communities, as identified with governments and partners.

#### 3 Greater diversity in partnerships

In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), by increasing the number and diversity of partners included in the regional plans, more accessible and inclusive refugee responses have been designed that better meet the needs of people UNHCR and its partners serve. While the partnership landscape is expanding, there is now an important opportunity to extend the engagement of partners, with a particular focus on the inclusion of development and "nontraditional" humanitarian actors, as well as local and national actors.

#### Insufficient financial support

Refugee needs have massively increased.

Conflict and climate change are forcing more people to flee, which has been compounded by the effects of COVID-19. While funding for the Plans has risen in the last ten years, this has not been commensurate with the needs, leaving many refugee situations underfunded.

#### A vital coordination and advocacy tool for the years ahead

In 2022, with record numbers of forcibly displaced around the world, the need for coordinated responses that are effective and coherent in addressing people's needs is more important than ever. With rising needs in conjunction with new challenges, such as disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change, UNHCR and its partners will have to adapt RRPs, ensuring that life-saving assistance still reaches those most in need.

### **Evolution of the RRPs**

Since its creation in 1950, UNHCR has exercised its mandate to provide international protection to refugees and support the efforts of host governments by seeking funding for, and coordinating the international assistance provided by the different stakeholders involved.

Nevertheless, as the number of humanitarian and development actors grew in refugee situations, it was recognized that more needed to be done to ensure better strategic coherence and complementarity between the diverse range of actors. At the outset of the Syria crisis, it was determined that UNHCR needed to enhance coordination among different stakeholders and put in place a structured inter-agency plan to better exercise its mandate and to assist actors to maximize efficiencies and avoid duplication. In 2012, the first Refugee Response Plan (RRP) was developed. These tenets were subsequently reflected in the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), which was introduced in 2013 and updated in 2019. The RCM was designed to ensure accountable, inclusive, predictable and transparent leadership and coordination in responding to refugee situations.1

Since then, the Plans were formalized as a tool of the RCM and have allowed UNHCR and partners to:

- plan and coordinate refugee responses in multiple contexts<sup>2</sup>;
- raise the profile of refugee assistance;
- mobilize international solidarity and resources for partners; and
- provide an overarching vision and coherent engagement in refugee responses in alignment with host government strategies.

To guide the overarching vision and coherent engagement of all actors in the Plans, where possible a UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator, or Joint Coordinator in the case of a joint-led plan, has been designated to lead the RRP development. The Coordinator ensures that the Plan is developed through a complementary approach, verifying that the finished product and implementation plan is in line with host government refugee policies and provides an overview of the refugee landscape in the region. With its regional vision, the Plan provides an overview of who-is-doing-what and where in the pursuit of protection and solutions for refugees, their host communities, and other affected populations.

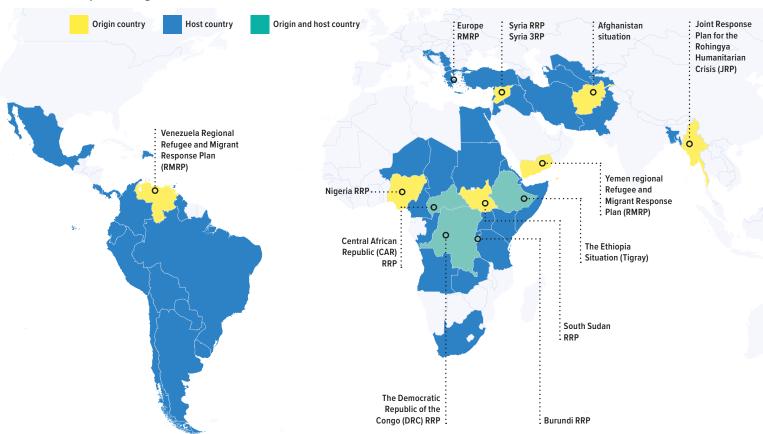
<sup>1</sup> For more information see the <u>Update Refugee Coordination Guidance Note – April 2019</u>.

<sup>2</sup> In response to the many challenges inherent in identifying and protecting refugees within broader movements of persons, an expanded version of an RRP, such as Refugee and Migrant Response Plans (RMRP) can also be developed with IOM for mixed refugee-migrant situations.

# Better outcomes for refugees and the communities that host them

Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) have enabled UNHCR and inter-agency partners to jointly plan, coordinate and fundraise for large and complex refugee situations across the world, providing protection, life-saving assistance and solutions to refugees and host communities.

#### Map showing the RRPs from 2012 to 20213



<sup>3</sup> Unless otherwise stated, throughout the report all figures that refer to the identified refugee population (for assistance) include:

<sup>-</sup> The projected end-of-year refugee population identified for assistance.

<sup>-</sup> Both refugees and migrants under the categories of targeted Venezuelans in country of destination, Pendular and Returnees (predominantly Colombians and Guyanese) in the Venezuela RMRP.

<sup>-</sup> Figures on returnees when provided, such as in the Nigeria RRP 2015, Burundi RRP 2018 – 2021, South Sudan RRP 2020 and the Syria 3RP 2016 – 2021.

#### In the last ten years (2012 – 2021), Regional Refugee Response Plans have:



#### **\$36 BILLION**

Raised \$36 billion for RRP partners to protect, assist and find solutions for refugees, host communities and other populations we serve.



#### 83 MILLION

Identified more than 83 million refugees and migrants for assistance in over 50 countries worldwide.



#### **65 MILLION**

Identified more than 65 million host community members for assistance.



#### **3000 PARTNERS**

Included more than 3,000 partners.



#### **52 PUBLICATIONS**

Showcased needs and solutions in 52 publications (and launch events).



#### 12 SITUATIONS

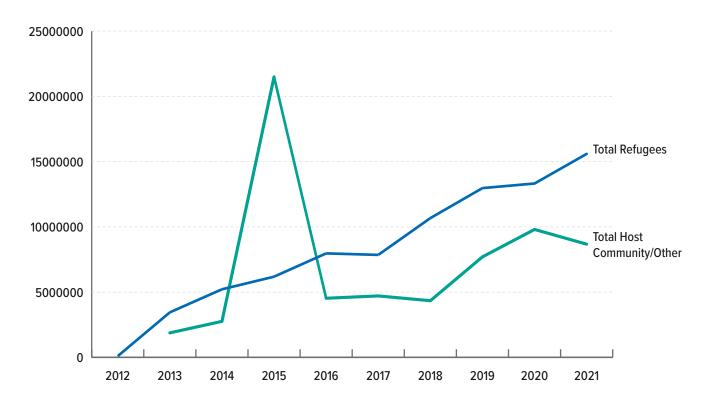
Been rolled out in 12 refugee situations.

In the Venezuela RMRP, refugees and migrants in-transit to other countries are not included in the regional totals as they can be – by definition – recipients of services in more than one country. However, the total budget and sector specific requirements in the Venezuela RMRP include activities targeting refugees and migrants in-transit in their respective countries.

2021 data includes The Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plans for the Ethiopia Situation (Tigray) November 2020 – June 2021 and The Afghanistan Situation which started in July 2021.

Funding figures for the Syria 3RP comes from the 3RP Secretariat; for the Venezuelan RMRP and Bangladesh JRP from the <u>Financial Tracking Service</u> and all other plans from the <u>Refugee Funding Tracker</u>.

#### Total population figures 2012 - 20214



Over the last ten years, the Plans have identified more than 83 million refugees and migrants and more than 65 million host community members for assistance across 50 countries.

Starting out with just one regional plan in 2012 for the Syria crisis, by 2021 that number had increased to 8 as the Plans diversified to cover protracted as well as emergency crises across the world. In total, the RRPs have been rolled out in 12 refugee situations since 2012, with the Syria 3RP being the longest running while others, such as the Plans for the Central African Republic, Europe, the Tigray situation in northern Ethiopia, and Yemen were developed over shorter periods, between one and two years, depending on the needs in those contexts. They have involved more than 3,000 partners over the years.

"The IRC has used the RRPs for advocacy as it continues to provide a good overview of the refugee situation and needs in the region. The RRP has been particularly useful in presenting a unified perspective on the numerous distinct but related displacement crises in the region. It has also been particularly useful for demonstrating similarities and disparities with other regions in the world, which is key to advocating for equal response."

International Rescue Committee (IRC), INGO partner in the South Sudan RRP.

<sup>4</sup> The large jump in the number of host community members in 2015 is due to a change in recording method in the Syria 3RP. The recording method was reviewed and readjusted again in 2016.

#### A "why not cash approach" to assistance

In collaboration with partners, the Regional Refugee Response Plans have helped coordinate the shift to the systematic and efficient use of cash-based interventions (CBI) – a "why not cash approach" where cash takes priority over in-kind assistance. Through providing cash to meet basic needs and protection of refugees, this approach allows displaced people to choose how to meet their own needs. Since the Syria crisis in 2012, UNHCR has helped to coordinate cash-based

interventions in refugee situations and following the Grand Bargain Cash Caucus in March 2022, is accountable for cash coordination in refugee settings. The regional plans have placed strong emphasis on CBI, which has been implemented through collaborative and coordinated approaches. A significant amount requested from every regional plan is reserved for cash, which is also broken down by sector (where appropriate).

5 Policy on Cash-Based Interventions 2022 - 2026

The Plans have also proved to be crucial in raising funds for refugee situations across the globe, by presenting clear financial requests to respond to specific emergency situations and by providing a platform to track funding received.

Thanks to the Plans and the donor community, \$36 billion have been raised in the last ten years for Regional RRP partners, ensuring that lifesaving assistance has continued to reach the world's refugees and the communities that host them. This has been achieved because an RRP provides donors with a transparent and coherent picture of the refugee, host community and other needs, and represents a vetted single strategic response plan, coordinated with host governments, making it easier for them to identify where their crucial funds are needed and how they will be used. To track progress, improve transparency and flag funding gaps, in 2019 the Refugee Funding Tracker (RFT) was developed by UNHCR and rolled out as a "one-stop shop" platform, compiling all financial data related to refugee programmes and regional plans.

#### 2021 RRPs at a Glance:



#### **Cash-Based Interventions:**

Afghanistan RRP partners helped provide **3,297** individuals with cash assistance for protection outcomes.



**Shelter: 88**% of Rohingya households benefitted from durable shelter materials (treated bamboo, steel shelters, reinforced concrete posts).



Food assistance: 99% or 236,900
Burundians who needed food assistance received support from Burundi RRP partners.



**Livelihoods:** Syria 3RP partners ensured that nearly **30,000** refugees and host community members accessed decent jobs and other forms of sustainable livelihood's opportunities.



**Health:** As part of the Venezuela RMRP, **1.25 million** Venezuelan refugees and migrants were reached with health assistance.



**NFI:** In response to the Afghanistan situation, **164,540** items were prepositioned for new arrivals including tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, sleeping mats, energy kits, reduced mobility kits, NFI kits, children's kits, thanks to RRP partners.



**Protection:** As part of the Venezuela RMRP **852,000** Venezuelan refugees and migrants were reached with protection assistance.



**Wash:** As part of the JRP for the Rohingya situation, **1,012,995** people in the camps and targeted host community reported having enough water to meet all domestic needs.



Health: As part of the regional response to the DRC situation, 614,269 persons accessed basic health services in health facilities supported by RRP partners, including prevention and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases; curative care for common diseases; and maternity and reproductive health services. Inpatient care, minor surgery, mental health and psychosocial support were also available in some locations.



**Durable solutions:** Syria 3RP partners ensured that over **1,000** dedicated local initiatives to foster social cohesion were implemented, reaching nearly **460,000** individuals from refugee and host communities.



Child protection: 50,574 South
Sudanese refugee children with specific needs received individual case management through work by South Sudan RRP partners.



Maternal health: In the countries covered by the Burundi RRP, 16,501 refugee women delivered babies with assistance from qualified health personnel thanks to RRP partners.



**GBV:** As part of the South Sudan RRP, **4,004** identified GBV survivors were assisted with appropriate support.



**Education:** As part of the regional response to the DRC situation, **198,501** children were enrolled in educational programming, including **31,938** early childhood education, **146,702** in primary school, and **19,861** in secondary school.



Burundian Morning Stars football team touch hands before a game at Lusenda refugee camp, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Support to host governments and national plans

States have the primary responsibility to protect refugees. Placing host governments centre stage of a refugee situation is vital to ensuring a sustainable response.

Throughout their development, RRPs strive to ensure participation at all levels, from governments (including line ministries and local authorities) to refugees and refugee-led organizations, and host communities. The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) recognizes the primary role of national and regional organizations in coordinating refugee responses. Some refugeehosting governments have local and national plans setting out policy priorities, institutional and operational arrangements, requirements for

support from the international community — such as investment, financing, material and technical assistance, and solutions. In these contexts, RRPs support the implementation of national refugee plans, and a number of Regional RRPs also support and help operationalize the regional support platforms, such as the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework ("MIRPS"). and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).



Sabuni Francoise Chikunda, Nansen Regional Award winner 2020 and Congolese refugee with the founders of the Heriyetu Foundation at Nakivale settlement in Uganda.

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

## The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) RRP

In the DRC RRP, the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) has guided the work of Plan partners and governments toward refugee inclusion, self-reliance, and resilience. Notable progress has been made in this regard, particularly in countries where governments have committed to working within the scope of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

Governments in the region have also made pledges at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), which provide for improved conditions of asylum, enhanced protection, livelihood and economic opportunities, access to services and inclusion into national planning, among others. For example, in Uganda, in line with CRRF objectives, refugees are integrated into Uganda's national

development plan. Comprehensive sector response plans have been developed and are being implemented under the leadership of government ministries for education, health, water and environment, and jobs and livelihoods.

In Rwanda, the Government made nine pledges at the GRF focusing on education, energy, environment, health, livelihoods, and protection. Good progress has been made in supporting the implementation of the pledges, including developing thematic action plans per pledge, putting in place a joint road map for their implementation, and ensuring all operational responses are in line with this inclusive protection and solutions approach.

## **Greater diversity in partnerships**

Over the last ten years, the number and range of partners in the Plans have been constantly increasing.

Including a diversity of partners in the RRPs is crucial for ensuring a more comprehensive approach to a refugee situation, as each partner brings its area of expertise, skills and knowledge. The inclusion of actors from across the humanitarian, development and, where relevant, peace sector ensures that the Plans address emergency needs while building in a sustainable approach that can address the needs of refugees and host communities long after the onset of an emergency situation. Partnering with other UN agencies is also crucial, as they bring with them valuable experience and sectoral expertise. International NGOs continue to be the largest category of partners included in the Plan, ranging from 53 per cent in 2012 to 45 per cent in 2021. More importantly since 2012, the diversity in the type of partners included in the regional plans has expanded to involve more local NGOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and refugeeled and women-led organizations.

The percentage of national NGOs has risen from 18 to 24 per cent, and the percentage of FBOs from 9 to 15 per cent. NGOs and other UN agencies have also increasingly become sector co-chairs, leveraging their areas of expertise and capacity to support coordination efforts.

Community-based and local organizations are often the first responders in emergencies and are therefore at the heart of any humanitarian response. They provide invaluable understanding of local challenges and potential humanitarian responses; they can mobilize local networks and offer support and services to affected populations in areas where UNHCR and partners have limited or no access. Given their ability to provide local knowledge, implement context-specific programmes and provide culturally sensitive services based on their understanding of the challenges and needs of refugees, local organizations play a key role in delivering

#### Collaboration and cooperation: co-leadership of the Plans

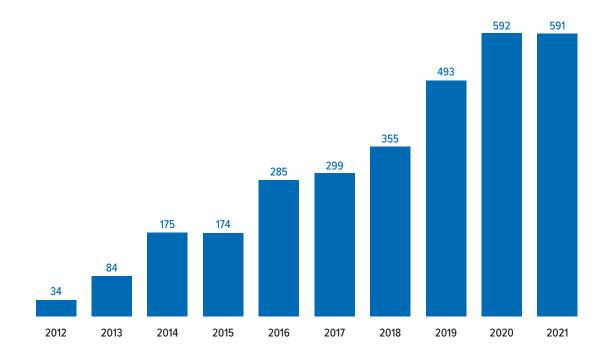
Depending on the context, a plan can share leadership with another UN agency. This can happen in situations of mixed refugee-migrant displacement or in cases of protracted displacement, which have been identified as requiring a stronger humanitarian-development nexus approach. This joint leadership approach was first tried in 2015 when UNDP, the UN Development Programme, became the joint lead in the Syria RRP which was renamed the Syria 3RP – The Syria Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.

In the last ten years, there have also been several plans which are jointly led by IOM in response to mixed movements, including the Yemen Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (Yemen RMRP) in 2015 and 2016; the Europe RMRP in 2016 and 2017; and most recently the Venezuela RMRP, which has continued since 2019. To respond to the unique situation of the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis was created in 2017, focusing solely on the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.

protection and assistance. Their inclusion in refugee coordination planning tools, such as the RRPs, is also a positive step towards the incorporation of a developmental approach to refugee responses, as support to communities enhances community development and promotes

sustainability. It is therefore crucial that these organizations are increasingly included as appealing partners, to ensure that they take advantage of the coordination, advocacy and resource mobilization benefits of being involved in a regional RRP.

#### Total number of regional partners across all plans<sup>6</sup> | 2012-2021



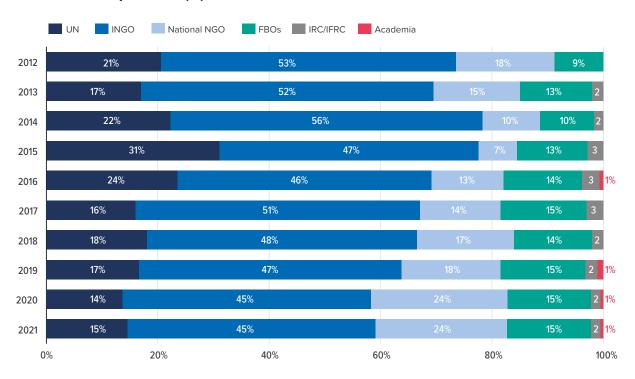
Efforts should always be made to involve refugee-led and local organizations, refugees themselves as well as host communities in the planning process of a regional response plan. Refugees and host communities provide valuable feedback and insights about what works and what doesn't work in specific humanitarian contexts. Their knowledge and experience is crucial to improving humanitarian operations and their involvement ensures humanitarian organizations remain accountable to the populations they serve.<sup>7</sup>

By including them in the Plans, the RRPs are designed in a more appropriate, accessible and inclusive way, which benefits millions of refugees around the world.

<sup>6</sup> Regional partners are published partner numbers and verified figures from the Regional Bureaux (to the extent possible).
Partners are counted once regardless of how many countries they may be present in but will be counted multiple times if they are included in different RRPs and in multiple years of the Plans.

<sup>7</sup> For more info see Operational Guidance on Accountability to Affected People (AAP)

#### Breakdown of partners (%) across the Plans | 2012-2021



What is more, the collaboration involved in the Plans has helped to increase information sharing among partners and stakeholders. One benefit is that data is better collated across regions, ensuring easier comparability as well as the possibility to identify best practices, gaps or

limitations in policy areas that need addressing. With this information, partners can better support government leadership and coordination of a refugee situation, as well as build on each actor's comparative advantage.

"The team at Transcultural Psychosocial
Organization (TPO) have always participated in
data collection activities to compile information for
the regional response plans, with this information
contributing towards reporting on active
databases like Activity-Info and the Uganda
Refugee Response Monitoring System (URRMS).
The organization has also been an active
participant in the different sector and refugee
working groups, for example, the Protection,
Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS),
child protection, livelihoods and the Feedback,
Referral and Resolution Mechanism (FRRM)
working group among others.

Our insights and reports, which are shared with the various actors and specifically with UNHCR, have also been incorporated into the Plans. In turn the data and information in the Plans are used to inform our programming by aligning our interventions to the highlighted priorities. Finally, they provide us with a platform to measure our contribution to the refugee response interventions."

Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) Uganda, rights-based NGO and partner in the South Sudan RRP.

While the number and diversity of partners has steadily increased in the last ten years in line with the whole-of-society approach outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)<sup>8</sup>, there is an important opportunity to extend the engagement of partners in the Plans, with a particular focus on the inclusion of development and "non-traditional" humanitarian actors, such as sports organizations and the private sector.



Artolution is bringing an innovative approach to Cox's Bazar despite the challenging living conditions for the Rohingya refugees. With the aim of empowering people through art, the organization has worked with Rohingya and Bangladeshi residents of Cox's Bazar to create 200 vibrant murals that adorn buildings around the settlement. For those who have witnessed violence, art has given them a voice to express the unspeakable and to share collective memories of life back in Myanmar. The murals not only provide an avenue of self-expression for the artists, but also convey important messages to the community about COVID-19, safe hygiene practices, neonatal care, the dangers of domestic violence and other public health concerns. Muralists who have decorated the camp are then trained to become teachers to run art workshops for children, passing on the joy of painting to the next generation.

In Cox's Bazar, students, local people and Rohingya refugees from Myanmar team up with the help of Artolution to decorate one of the five college buses donated to local schools by UNHCR.

<sup>8</sup> The Global Compact on Refugees, United Nations, New York, 2018



Matthew Lubari from South Sudan (centre), volunteers at the Community Technology Empowerment Network centre at Rhino Camp Settlement, Uganda, teaching digital skills to fellow refugees and locals.

### Refugee-Led Organizations in the Plans

The Community Technology Empowerment Network (CTEN) is one of the 140 partners that contribute to the Uganda Refugee Response Plan.9 CTEN is a refugee-led organization that was founded by South Sudanese refugees in 2016 as a community-based initiative in Rhino Camp, a refugee settlement in the West Nile region of Uganda. The organization, which employs both refugee and host community members, is an RRP partner in the livelihood and resilience sector and a UNHCR-funded partner for peaceful coexistence and community mobilization. CTEN's mission is to share community knowledge in digital technology and eventually build digital skills for employability, resulting in livelihoods resilience. CTEN's strength lies in the fact that it's comprised mostly of refugees who understand refugee dynamics. CTEN has established good working relations with the Ugandan Government

at both district and county level, Refugee Welfare Councils (RWCs), youth groups and other partner agencies in the refugee response.

The Refugee Engagement Forum (REF) is a novel national refugee platform that brings together refugee leaders from all settlements and Kampala. This platform represents the refugee voice in Uganda, ensuring that refugees play a central and vital role in the refugee response. The REF is held quarterly before every CRRF Steering Group, which includes two elected members of the REF who represent the refugee voice. This representation ensures that issues and decisions affecting refugees are brought directly to the attention of the CRRF Steering Group in a timely manner. Under the umbrella of the CRRF, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR lead the coordination of refugee interventions.

<sup>9</sup> The Uganda Refugee Response Plan, as well as other Country Refugee Response Plans (CRPs) are an inter-agency planning tool to address all refugee populations hosted in one country. These plans are then adapted and form the basis of the country chapter in the regional response plans. Uganda is included in the South Sudan RRP and DRC RRP, and historically in the Burundi RRP.

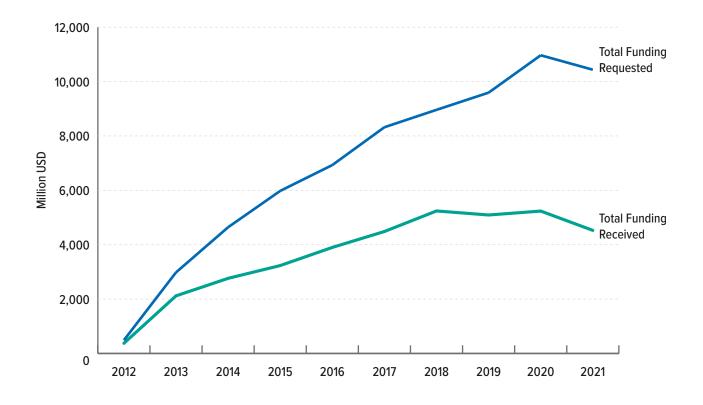
## Insufficient financial support

Refugee needs have massively increased over the last ten years due to increased conflict, and the dual impacts of COVID-19 and climate change. Since 2012, as the number of RRPs has grown, the total funding requested has increased over 20-fold, from \$487 million to \$10.4 billion.

While the Plans have seen an increase in the received amount, from \$370 million in 2012 to \$4.5 billion in 2021, **this has not been commensurate with the needs**, leaving many refugee situations underfunded. In recent years, due to the widening gap between refugee needs and resources available — in part caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and multiplying crises, including the climate emergency — the regional plans have seen a drop in their funding received.

In 2021, the regional plans received \$4.5 billion, out of the \$10.4 billion needed, leaving a 67 per cent funding gap, the largest seen since the Plans began, despite the population identified for assistance reaching close to 25 million. To adequately address the most basic needs of the people UNHCR is mandated to care for around the world, the Regional Refugee Response Plans need to be appropriately funded.

#### Funding requested and received | 2012-2021



Funding and capacity development opportunities for local and national humanitarian organizations should be significantly increased. The RRPs provide a platform to showcase local organizations' contributions and resources needed, but to ensure that these organizations can assist communities in hard-to-reach areas, they need to continue to receive funding.

Despite efforts of the international humanitarian system to empower local and national humanitarian organizations and increase resources available to them (through the Grand Bargain for example) <sup>10</sup>, more progress needs to

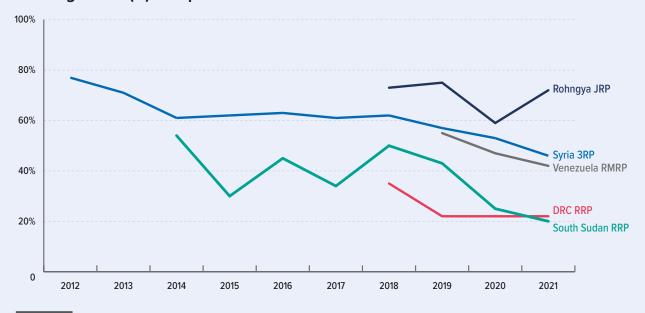
be made in this area. Funding opportunities for localized humanitarian action needs to be increased, and local and national humanitarian organizations should be able to access direct and flexible multi-year funding. Given the limitations of the current system, which has been in use for many decades, hard questions need to be asked as to what we can do to create new and innovative solutions for persistent and recurrent issues, such as insufficient humanitarian funding in comparison to development investments, highlighting a need for ambitious change to secure more resources for local and national partners.

#### **Unequal funding**

The Rohingya Joint Response Plan (JRP) has consistently seen a high funding level, securing on average 71 per cent of its requested amount on a yearly basis. The Syria 3RP has also received a consistently high funding level, but this has seen a gradual decline since 2012 from 77 per cent to 46 per cent in 2021. On the other hand, the Plans issued for responses located in the Africa region

are consistently underfunded. While the South Sudan RRP has seen fluctuations in its funding level over the years, in 2021 this sunk to its lowest level of only 20 per cent. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has consistently been the worst funded plan despite the acute needs of DRC refugees in neighbouring countries, with the funding level not reaching above 35 per cent.

#### Funding Levels (%) Compared Across the Plans



<sup>10</sup> The Grand Bargain was launched during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016. It is a unique agreement between some of the largest donors and humanitarian organizations who have committed to closing the humanitarian financing gap and ensuring more means go into the hands of people in need. Read more on the Grand Bargain here:

https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain



Afghan refugee Besmellah drives his daughters to school for the first time in Isfahan, Iran.

## A vital coordination and advocacy tool for the years ahead

In 2022, with record numbers of forcibly displaced around the world, the need for coordinated responses that are effective and coherent in addressing people's needs are more important than ever.

Numerous regional plans produced in the last ten years continue to be needed to ensure a coordinated delivery of humanitarian responses, such as the Afghanistan RRP, the Bangladesh JRP, the Democratic Republic of the Congo RRP, the South Sudan RRP, the Syria 3RP, and the Venezuela RMRP. In 2022, the Ukraine RRP was introduced, as people fled due to the international armed conflict in the country.

In 2022, the RRPs are requesting \$13 billion to meet the needs of 27.8 million refugees and migrants, and 9.3 million host community members.

PLAN NAME (Type)	REQUESTED (Total)	REFUGEES IDENTIFIED FOR ASSISTANCE	IDENTIFIED HOST COMMUNITY POPULATION	PARTNERS
SYRIA 3RP	\$ <b>6.08</b> B	7.2M <sup>a</sup>	4.26M	221
VENEZUELA RMRP	\$ <b>1.79</b> B	3M <sup>b</sup>	824K	192
BANGLADESH JRP	\$ <b>881</b> M	919K	541K	61
SOUTH SUDAN RRP	\$ <b>1.19</b> B	2.33M	1.31M	102
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO RRP	\$650м	801K	583K	71
AFGHANISTAN RRP	\$ <b>623</b> M	3.9M <sup>c</sup>	1.8M	40
UKRAINE RRP <sup>d</sup>	\$ <b>1.79</b> B	9.65M		142

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Includes figure for returnee population

In the future, as the humanitarian consequences of these protracted crises will continue to affect people's lives, it will be necessary to focus efforts on building community resilience and promoting sustainable development.

The 2022 plans have shown the importance of placing greater emphasis on impact, highlighting the life-saving protection and development work that partners have accomplished in the previous year, as well as what they intend to do in the year to come. The incorporation of development partners in the regional plans, which began a few years ago, will continue in the new decade as we look to strengthen the nexus between humanitarian and development work, as a means of achieving sustainable peace. To help develop this further some plans will become multiannual, such as the Venezuela RMRP in 2023.

2022 records the largest number of partners ever included in the regional plans. Of the 823 appealing partners across the 7 plans, 36 per cent of which are national NGOs and 40 per cent are international NGOs. The Afghanistan situation, in particular, has seen a significant increase in the number of partners since the 2021 emergency and preparedness plan, from 11 to 40 (14 UN agencies and 26 NGOs).<sup>11</sup>

This positive trend towards greater inclusion of national actors highlights the growing importance of community-based and local organizations in developing Refugee Response Plans. Their role in the coming years will be crucial in ensuring the regional plans promote the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, as their impact often spans across the different sectors. As the Plans do more to include local actors, increased attention should be given to ensure flexible multi-year funding is channeled directly to community-based and local organizations for both their humanitarian and development work.

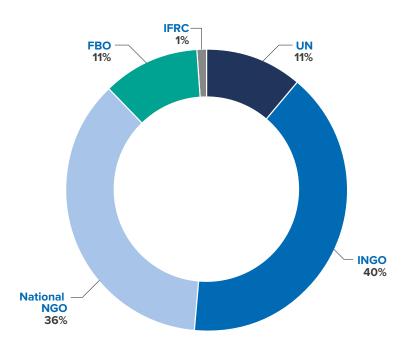
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Includes figures on returnee refugees and migrants, as well as those in pendular movements

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Includes 2.5m targeted Afghan refugees and 1.4m targeted undocumented Afghans and Afghans of other status

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Figures from the recalibration exercise in September 2022

<sup>11</sup> The Ukraine situation also saw a rise from 12 partners in the Emergency Appeal to over 140 in the Ukraine RRP.

#### The breakdown of partners in the 2022 Refugee Response Plans



Disasters and the adverse impacts of climate change will increasingly drive displacement in all regions of the world. In the years to come, UNHCR and partners will have to face a new set of challenges, related to the adverse impacts of climate change — such as increased temperatures, more frequent and intense weather-related events (floods, storms, hurricanes, etc.), increased drought and rising sea levels — which are already forcing people to leave their homes, their communities and, in some cases, their countries.

Faced with these great challenges, the next ten years will be a critical period in which the Plans are adapted and improved to better address the needs and considerations of the individuals and communities UNHCR is mandated to serve. It is also an opportune moment to reflect on areas of improvement, such as the need for more accountability in the Plans to better monitor and evaluate the projects involved in them. It is also a moment to consider what can be done to develop a more accessible and agile RRP platform that can be used by all types of stakeholders, especially local and refugee-led organizations.

Conversations of this nature have already begun; as we step into the new decade, it will be the time to turn the outcomes of those dialogues into action.



Liubov Suhai, 80 from Ukraine, is now living with her daughter in Poland and registered for UNHCR Cash Assistance in March.

#### **SPOTLIGHT**

### The Ukraine RRP

As the international armed conflict in Ukraine broke out in late February 2022, UNHCR coordinated the development of an initial Ukraine RRP in early March to support government-led efforts to provide protection and reception, as well as cash assistance for Ukrainians who fled to escape the conflict. An expanded version of the RRP extending through December 2022 was published in April, bringing together the joint efforts of 142 partners in Hungary, Poland, Romania, The Republic of Moldova and Slovakia, as well as Belarus, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. The RRP underwent a recalibration exercise in September, to adjust for winter-related needs and other emerging priorities. Given the size and scale of the Ukraine situation, the Plan predicated that there will be 9.65 million refugees from Ukraine by December 2022 requiring \$1.79 billion in assistance.

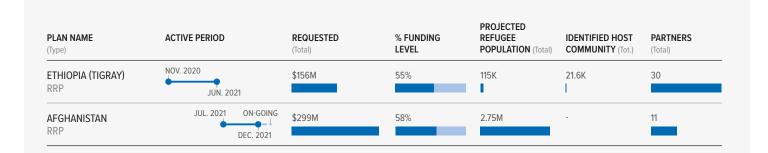
Since its publication, Inter-agency Refugee Coordination Forums (RCFs), led by UNHCR and specific sectoral groups, have been established at country level in Belarus, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia to support the efforts of the concerned governments. For the first time the RRP was published in coordination with the Humanitarian Flash Appeal for Ukraine by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), which covered the needs of populations that remained inside Ukraine.

## **Summary of the Refugee Response Plans**



alncludes the population figure 'Other' when available. Other includes the returnee figures in the Syria 3RP, South Sudan RRP, Burundi RRP and Nigeria RRP

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Includes figures on returnee refugees and migrants, as well as those in pendular movements



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Average taken from the years host community figures are included





Ziney Ibrahim from Iraq and a graduate of from WFP's EMPACT programme takes this photo of her family and wins the Pink Lady Food Photography Competition

# The Syria RRP (2012 – 2014) and The Syria 3RP since 2015: Co-leadership with UNDP

In March 2012, under the leadership of UNHCR, a regional RRP for the Syria crisis was developed to coordinate the inter-agency response to the Syrian refugee crisis in the neighbouring countries. Given the protracted nature of the crisis and the unique challenges host communities and countries were facing, the international community instituted the Regional Refugee and Resilience

Plan (3RP) in 2015. The 3RP, under the coleadership of UNHCR and UNDP, has brought together the national plans and priorities of the major hosting countries that receive Syrian refugees: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Türkiye to ensure protection and humanitarian assistance, and to strengthen the resilience of impacted host communities and institutions.



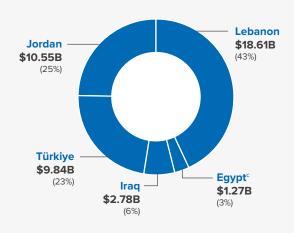
**FIND OUT MORE** 

The 3RP represents a paradigm shift in the Syria crisis by combining humanitarian and development responses and putting innovation at the forefront. It strives to promote resilience for all through achieving four strategic directions:

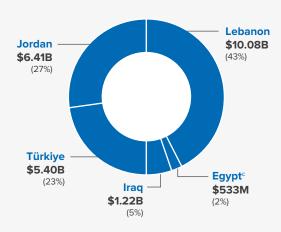
- 1. Protecting people;
- 2. Pursuing Durable Solutions;
- 3. Supporting Dignified Lives; and
- 4. Enhancing National & Local Capacities.

Seven years into 3RP planning, the proportion of the inter-agency appeal dedicated to the resilience component has increased from 28 percent in 2015 to 43 percent in 2021, with promising signs that future plans will continue in this direction. The 3RP has successfully mobilized more than \$21 billion since its inception in 2015 and more than \$26 billion since 2012, bringing over 270 partners from humanitarian and development organizations together across the five countries, making it the largest regional refugee response plan globally in terms of funding and population figures.

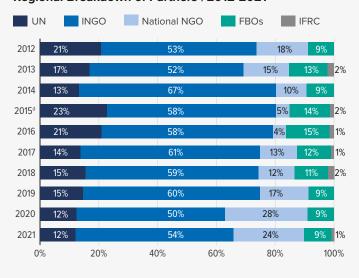
#### Total Funding Requesteda | 2012-2021 | \$43.05B



#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2012-2021 | \$23.64B



#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2012-2021



COUNTRY	AVERAGE FUNDING LEVEL %	IDENTIFIED REFUGEE POPULATION® (Avg.)	IDENTIFIED HOST COMMUNITY POPULATION <sup>f</sup> (Avg.)
TÜRKIYE	50%	2.35M	2.27M
LEBANON	59%	976K	1.27M
JORDAN	62%	632K	822K
IRAQ	42%	253K	414K
EGYPT <sup>c</sup>	43%	138K	1.36M

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level

Egypt added in 2013

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup>Figures on partners before 2015 are taken from the Syria RRP before it became the Syria 3RP.

elncludes returnee population (when included)

fAverage taken from the years included in the plan



#### **3RP partners in focus**

### Opportunities for persons with disabilities

The crisis in Lebanon is even harder on persons with disabilities, especially in the world of work. With support from Germany through the KfW Development Bank, 3RP co-lead UNDP is working on equal work opportunities for all. Opportunities to work in Lebanon, especially in these difficult times, are few and far between for persons with disabilities given that resources to provide physical or verbal access are almost non-existent.

The scheme improves livelihoods and economic self-reliance of disabled people by providing job opportunities to work on the rehabilitation of irrigation canals in Lebanon. The maintenance and rehabilitation of the canals also enhances development in the region by providing farmers with a sustainable flow and minimal wastage of water for crop production.



Displaced Venezuelan family earns a living through art in Ecuador.

## The Venezuela RMRP for refugees and migrants from Venezuela:

## Addressing mixed movements with co-lead IOM since 2019

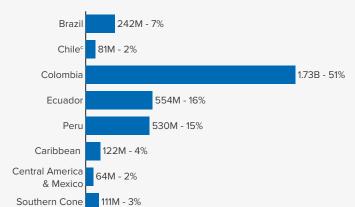
In 2018, the UN Secretary-General directed UNHCR and IOM to co-lead an inter-agency response to the situation of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result, the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants

from Venezuela (R4V) was established, which is the forum through which the annual RMRPs are developed, coordinated, monitored and reported against. Since its first iteration in 2019, the RMRP for refugees and migrants from Venezuela has sought to address the needs of these population groups, with an understanding that Venezuelans – the majority of whom according to UNHCR may

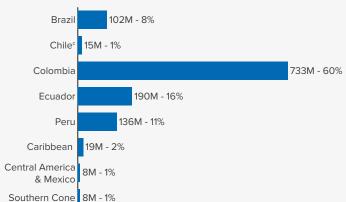


**FIND OUT MORE** 

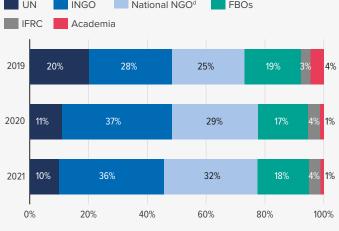
#### Total Funding Requested<sup>a</sup> | 2019-2021 | \$3.43B



#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2019-2021 | \$1.21B



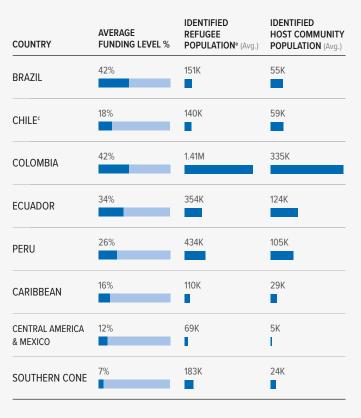






<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level <sup>c</sup>Chile included under Southern Cone in 2019

<sup>°</sup>Figures for refugees and migrants in-transit to other countries are included in the country totals where applicable.



have international protection needs<sup>12</sup> – may be classified under a variety of different legal regimes by host governments. Meawhile partners continue to strengthen continuing to strengthen national

capacities to cope with the protection, humanitarian and socio-economic integration needs of refugees and migrants without forgetting about the resulting needs of affected host communities.<sup>13</sup>

dNational NGO also includes civil society organizations

<sup>12</sup> According to UNHCR's May 2019 Guidance Note on International Protection Considerations for Venezuelans: "UNHCR considers that the majority of Venezuelan nationals, or stateless persons who were habitually resident in Venezuela, are in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration on the basis of threats to their lives, security or freedom resulting from the events that are currently seriously disturbing public order in Venezuela". https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/5cd1950f4.pdf

<sup>13</sup> RMRP countries (and successive government administrations) have varied in their policies towards the admission and treatment of refugees and migrants from Venezuela, including in the types of legal pathways available for them, such as access to asylum or migratory regularization. This has resulted in the need for response organizations, including UNHCR, to understand the potential for Venezuelans with a variety of statuses – including those viewed as migrants by their host governments, as well as those registered as asylum-seekers or recognized as refugees, and those in an irregular situation, to be in need of international protection, and to provide assistance to them irrespective of their legal status.

The Venezuela RMRP is an ambitious plan that covers a vast geographic area, including 17 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (more countries than any other RRP in the world). It covers multiple middle-income countries, but with some of the most severe levels of inequality in the world, where refugees and migrants often occupy the bottom rungs of the social and economic hierarchy. In this context, RMRP partners have focused both on strengthening States' capacities to welcome, absorb and integrate refugees and migrants from Venezuela and on directly providing much-needed humanitarian assistance to those

without access to social protection services, as well as specialized protection systems to support victims of human trafficking, separated and unaccompanied children and victims of sexual exploitation and other forms of gender-based violence. Overall, the RMRP has one of the largest and most diverse partner bases of all the RRPs, boasting on average 132 partners per year. In 2021, nearly a third of partners were national NGOs and civil society organizations, an increase of 7% since 2019 when the Plan began.

#### **Innovative tools for collaboration**

### Response for Venezuelans "R4V"

Since its establishment in 2018, the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, also known as Response for Venezuelans "R4V", has acted as an inclusive and accountable forum that steers and monitors the operational response under the RMRP. Drawing on experiences from other mixed refugee-migrant situations around the world, and under the directions of the UN Secretary-General, it is convened by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and brings together the 192 appealing organizations in the RMRP 2022, over 100 of which being national NGOs, civil society, refugee led-organizations or faith-based organizations.

Across the region, more than 80 refugee- and migrant-led organizations are represented by umbrella organizations, such as the "Coalición por Venezuela" or the "Pan-american and Caribbean Union for Human Rights", which maintain a high profile at R4V events, including the 2021 International Donors' Conference. Some 32 refugee- and migrant-led organizations, many of which belonging to such regional umbrella organizations, are part of the RMRP, at national, sub-regional and regional levels, providing valued contributions in the development of the planning assumptions and strategy, as well as operational contributions. A particular beacon of success has been the inclusion of organizations that unite medical professionals from Venezuela and help integrate fellow Venezuelans into the national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside their host communities.

<sup>14</sup> See, for example, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Panama, all of which have Gini coefficients over 48 (global average is 35). https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country

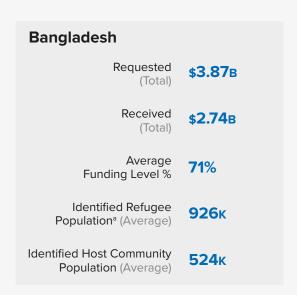


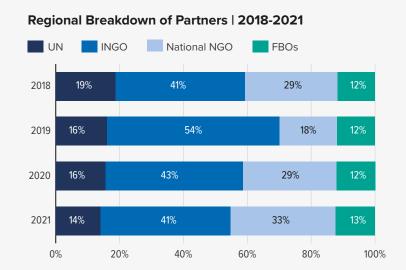
During the COVID-19 pandemic, tele-learning helped students to learn remotely, ensuring a continuation of their education.

# The Joint Response Plan (JRP) for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis: Tailored Coordination since 2018

Bangladesh has generously provided safety to Rohingya refugees from Myanmar for several decades. However, since August 2017, needs have skyrocketed as tens of thousands of Rohingya fled to Bangladesh in the aftermath of events in Myanmar. The Government of Bangladesh and the humanitarian community provide critical support to over 900,000 Rohingya refugees residing in 33 congested camps within Cox's Bazar District and on the island of Bhasan Char. At its inception, JRP partners almost exclusively focused on addressing the urgent needs of the Rohingya that

entered Bangladesh. This was challenging due to the vast numbers, as well as the severity of needs, such as hunger, severe malnutrition amongst children and trauma caused by gender-based violence. The congested living conditions have also increased the risk of disease outbreaks and fires. The recurrent threat of the monsoon season, which can cause flooding and landslides, is also a pressing concern in the JRP response, with partners implementing projects focused on addressing the fragility of the local environment.





<sup>a</sup>Includes contingency refugee figures in 2018

While voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation constitutes the main durable solution, return in significant numbers in the immediate future is highly unlikely due to the ongoing developments following the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021. As policies currently do not allow for refugees to integrate into Bangladeshi society, the JRP prepares for the sustainable return and reintegration of the refugees by fostering resilience and promoting capacity-building initiatives.

More recently, JRPs have included objectives to support local communities living in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas (Cox's Bazar), helping to promote equitable access to services and peaceful coexistence between Rohingya refugees and host communities through the Cox's Bazar District Development and Growth Plan (DDGP).

"The JRP has helped BRAC and national and international organizations to form effective partnerships. These partnerships are a testament to the necessity of a coordinated approach to large-scale humanitarian responses. It has helped build a space for sharing knowledge and highlighting good practices with the wider humanitarian community. In addition, through the JRP we have expanded partnerships with donors and governments. Predictable funding with key partners has helped us and local organizations to build that trusting relationship with donors. Also,

these partnerships are helping pilot new models of response and scale them globally. For example, BRAC initiated the Humanitarian Play Lab model to support the early childhood development of the refugees living in the camps in Cox's Bazar. This model has been refined and now, with the support from one of the donors, the Lego Foundation, it has been contextualized and replicated in several countries where BRAC operates."

Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), national NGO partner in the JRP



Community group volunteer Tahere Bibi works in Cox's Bazar providing support to camp residents.

### JRP Partners in Focus

# Community group volunteers support camp residents

Tahera Bibi (28) is a volunteer from the Rohingya community, who protects the safety and needs of women and girls, as well as other people with specific needs living in the Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar. For two years, Tahera has been part of the 'Community Group' initiated by the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) with the support of UNHCR. She identifies, prioritizes, and addresses protection risks within her surroundings and finds ways to improve the situation with technical support from BRAC. Some of her projects include maternity pillow making,

menstrual hygiene kits distribution, vegetable cultivation and distribution to pregnant and elderly people, drain cleaning and sewing clothes for newborns. Over 1,400 women, men, and youth volunteers from the Rohingya community are engaged in community-based protection services by the BRAC Humanitarian Crisis Management Programme, which not only contributes to creating a sense of ownership, but also helps them to build resilience for a better future.



Denis, a South Sudanese refugee living in Bidibidi settlement, Uganda, aspires to be journalist. He takes a picture with this camera given to him by his uncle.

## South Sudan RRP: since 2014

Two years after South Sudan seceded from Sudan to form a new country, conflict broke out in December 2013, leading to a complex and dangerous situation of armed violence, economic decline, disease and hunger. The conflict forced millions to flee and many more were displaced inside the country. In response to the massive increase in the number of refugees seeking refuge in the region, UNHCR and partner agencies launched an initial Inter-Agency Appeal for the South Sudanese Refugee Emergency for January to December 2014 to cover the needs of refugees in the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda.

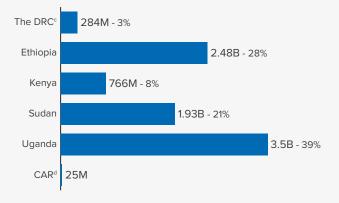
The conflict grew to cause the largest refugee crisis on the continent of Africa, after fresh clashes in 2016 saw up to 7,000 new arrivals into Uganda each day. The South Sudanese refugee situation later expanded to include the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), as confrontations spread to new areas of the country. CAR was later removed in the 2020/2021 plan due to the reducing numbers of South Sudanese refugees in the country.

From 2014 through 2021, multiple crises have gripped the region and continued to blight the general well-being of its people. Some of the large-impact crises have included famine, flooding, economic contraction, protracted conflict, climate-related disasters and the spread of COVID-19. These crises are compounded by the RRP recording its lowest funding level in 2021, only securing 20 per cent of its budget. This happened despite increasing numbers of people being

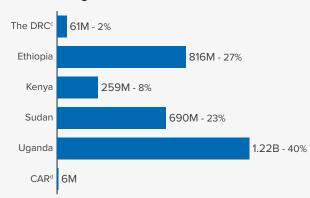
identified for assistance, soaring to 4 million in 2021 from 2.3 million in 2020 and 715,000 in 2014.

The Plan was able to highlight the South Sudan refugee situation as a "children's crisis", with up to 63 per cent of the refugee population under the age of 18. A number of RRP partners came together in a Regional Child Protection Network to develop the South Sudan Regional Child Protection Framework, which mapped child

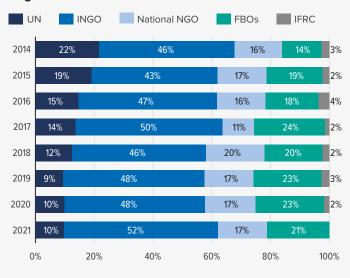
#### Total Funding Requested<sup>a</sup> | 2014-2021 | \$8.99B



#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2014-2021 | \$3.05B



#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2014-2021



COUNTRY	AVERAGE FUNDING LEVEL %	IDENTIFIED REFUGEE POPULATION <sup>e</sup> (Avg.)	IDENTIFIED HOST COMMUNITY POPULATION (Avg.)
THE DRC <sup>d</sup>	21%	86K	51K
ETHIOPIA	33%	382K	35K
KENYA	34%	115K	63K ■
SUDAN	36%	560K	216K
UGANDA	35%	695K	1.8M
CAR <sup>c</sup>	25%	8K 	-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>The DRC was added in 2016

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm d}\text{CAR}$  was included between 2016 and 2018

elncludes returnee population (when included)

protection needs and developed a regional child protection strategy during the most acute stage of the refugee movement and emergency response, between 2015 and 2019. Based on data and information on the large number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), up to 65,000 by December 2017, the number of refugee children out of school, and the increase of harmful traditional practices like child marriage in resource scarce settings, the Framework

supported a coordinated and predictable response for refugee children across the region and promoted the harmonization of activities and implementation of child protection minimum standards. Despite the Framework, the interagency response for child protection and education was consistently undermined by low levels of funding.

### **Complementarity in action**

# The Solutions Initiative for Sudan's and South Sudan's forcibly displaced

The Solutions Initiative for Sudan's and South Sudan's forcibly displaced was launched in October 2020, as a flagship activity of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Support Platform with the support of UNHCR. Complementing the peace processes and economic reforms in Sudan and South Sudan, it aims to galvanize a stronger collective response to create enabling conditions for durable solutions (voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement/complementary pathways), and strengthen asylum by addressing the humanitarian, development and peace-related needs of over seven million refugees and internally displaced persons, as well as millions of displacement-affected communities in and from Sudan and South Sudan.

The Solutions Initiative is a dual-track process, which involves generating and sustaining the political commitments for solutions, while pursuing a comprehensive and government-led approach to the operationalization of these commitments. The Solutions Initiative supports the implementation of the South Sudan RRP by mobilizing investments for medium- and long-term interventions in refugee-hosting areas in countries of asylum, while concurrently working on creating conditions conducive to safe and sustainable return of refugees to South Sudan.



DRC refugee, Antoinette, also known as "Mama Antho", uses her expertise to create a farming community in and outside Lôvua settlement in Angola's Lunda Norte province.

# The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) RRP: since 2018

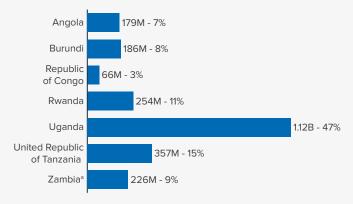
Since 2018, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has seen large numbers of people fleeing to Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia, as well as to other parts of Southern Africa, as the unstable security situation and cycles of conflict have worsened along with an unpredictable political climate. The movement of refugees from the DRC has grown in number since

2018 and adds to an already significant amount of historically displaced people who have been living in the surrounding countries for many years. Despite the needs, the DRC RRP has consistently suffered from poor financial support, at best reaching a 35 per cent funding level in 2018 and on average only achieving 24 per cent of the requested funds, often due to being overshadowed by larger and more internationally

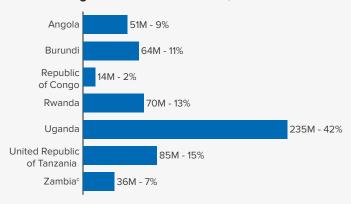
known situations. In fact, the DRC RRP continues to be the least funded plan of all RRPs. In the DRC RRP, some countries are piloting the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).15 This framework emphasizes a 'whole-ofsociety' approach to the refugee response with

strategic partnerships established between developments actors, such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, bilateral donors and the UN Development Agency, as well as civil society, local NGOs and the private sector.

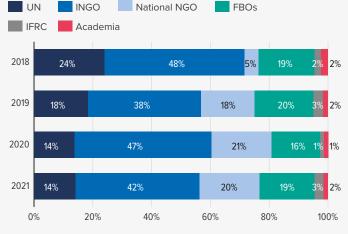
#### Total Funding Requesteda | 2018-2021 | \$2.40B

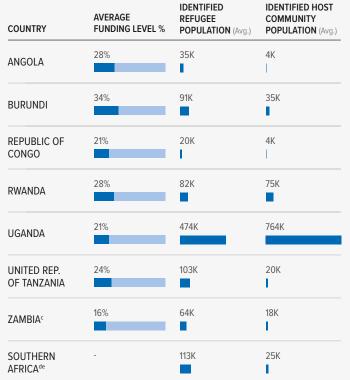


#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2018-2021 | \$555M









<sup>15</sup> For more information on the CRRF see here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level <sup>c</sup>Zambia funding levels include from 2019 - 2021, population figures included from 2018 - 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>d</sup> Only population figures included

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup> Southern Africa includes Botswana, Indian Ocean islands, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe



Congolese refugees and host community members improve their livelihoods thanks to the Misizi marshland project in Rwanda.

### Strengthening social cohesion

## The Misizi Marshland Project

Supported by the IKEA Foundation and co-implemented by UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda, WFP, and FAO, the Misizi Marshland Project was an innovative project in Rwanda, where 55 hectares of land were cultivated for an agricultural project benefitting a cooperative of 300 refugee households and 1,127 host community farmers.

Market linkages were created with a food production factory, which purchased from the farmers. The Misizi Marshland Project model proved successful in enabling refugees and host communities to work together for improved income, food security and peaceful coexistence. The project encouraged other refugee-hosting districts to follow a similar approach from 2021 onward.



Women and children walk at sunset on a road near Uvira, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), one of the main transit points for Burundian refugees crossing the border.

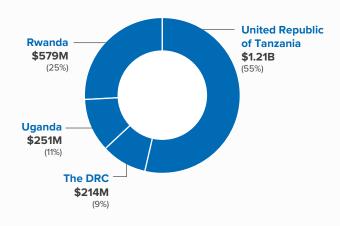
## **Burundi RRP:** 2015 – 2021

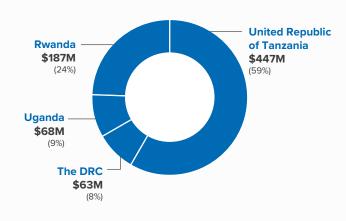
The Burundi RRP was first launched in May 2015 after Burundians began seeking asylum in neighbouring countries due to rising sociopolitical tensions in Burundi, ahead of the general elections. The first plan focused on the response in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. By July 2015 the number of refugees had exceeded 177,000 in just three months and, as a result, the Plan was extended. In 2018, Uganda was added to the Plan as smaller numbers of Burundians also fled there, as well as to countries in Southern Africa. In all the five years of inter-agency planning for Burundi refugees, the RRP was chronically underfunded, and the Burundi situation was consistently one of the least funded in the world. In 2017, when the needs were the greatest, RRP partners only received 20 per cent of the requested funding.

Despite being underfunded, in 2018 RRP partners strongly advocated for the inclusion of Burundian refugees in national social service systems in Rwanda and Uganda. By the end of the same year, some Burundian refugees began expressing the desire to return to their home country or returned home spontaneously. Their return and reintegration were planned for in the 2019, 2020 and 2021 Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plans (JRRRP) that were jointly published alongside the Burundi situation Regional RRPs. By the end of 2021, some 180,000 Burundians had been voluntarily repatriated. In 2021, with the declining number of Burundian refugees in the region due to relative stability in Burundi, the Burundi Regional RRP was marked for phasing out at the end of 2021. UNHCR continues to work with Regional RRP partners and periodically convenes regional protection discussions, reports on the Burundi refugee population, and assists in coordinating voluntary repatriation.

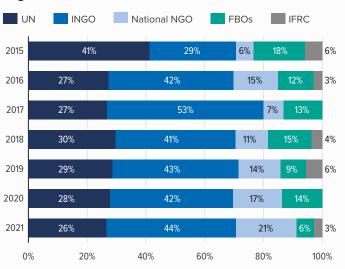
#### Total Funding Requested<sup>a</sup> | 2015-2021 | \$2.25B

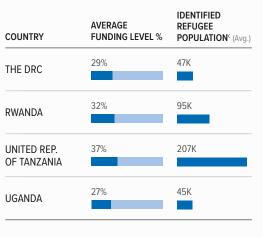
### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2015-2021 | \$765M





#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2015-2021





<sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level <sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level <sup>c</sup>Includes returnee population

FAO contributed to the Regional RRPs within its mandated areas of work, such as food security, livelihoods, energy and environment, not only to address the immediate life-saving needs in emergency situations, but also in the protracted crisis operations to assist the forcibly displaced population in the hosting countries. In 2021, FAO was a partner in the Regional RRP for the Burundi situation responding to the needs of refugees in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo

and Rwanda with the financial requirements of US\$ 4.1 million under the livelihoods, energy and environment sectors. FAO continues to support reintegration in the agricultural livelihoods sector through its involvement in the Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan for the Burundi situation.

FAO, partner in the Burundi Regional RRP



Mariama fled Nigeria in 2020 and was relocated by UNHCR to Chadakori "village of opportunity" near Maradi.

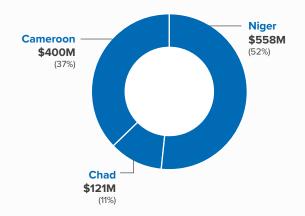
# Nigeria RRP: 2014 – 2020

The Nigeria RRP was created in response to the large movements of people fleeing north east Nigeria due to armed conflict between the Nigerian army and non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram. Despite heavy offenses to control the insurgent group, brutal attacks and kidnappings continued displacing thousands, with many seeking refuge in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. These countries were also affected by ongoing crossborder violence, causing citizens to flee and seek refuge in other countries.

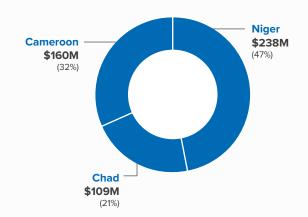
In such a challenging context, RRP partners were particularly concerned about child protection because serious violations of child rights, including forced recruitment into armed groups, attacks on schools and hospitals, and gender-based violence had been reported in Nigeria. In 2019, as the

situation became protracted, the Nigeria RRP expanded its focus to include a more comprehensive approach that integrated humanitarian, development and peace interventions. To reflect this, the 2019 and 2020 RRPs were signed jointly by UNHCR and UNDP to enhance the resilience and nexus in the overall regional strategy which placed emphasis on strengthened access to quality education, encouragement of self-reliance, and environmental protection. Due to the increasingly complex and mixed situations in the Lake Chad Basin, and the further deterioration in North-West Nigeria, a shift from the Nigeria RRP to a more area-based approach addressing IDPs, refugees and host communities was taken after 2020, with specific refugee response strategies at country level.

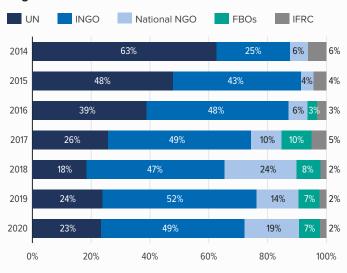
#### Total Funding Requesteda | 2014-2020 | \$1.08B

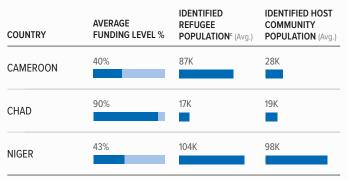


#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2014-2020 | \$507M



#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2014-2020





<sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level <sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level <sup>c</sup>Returnee figures included in 2015 in Niger.

### **Easing pressure on host communities**

## **Villages of Opportunity**

Under the Nigeria RRP in 2020, UNHCR along with the Government of Niger and other partners on the ground, facilitated the relocation of Nigerian refugees to 'Villages of Opportunity', located away from the border and more inland in Niger. The villages ensure the safety of refugees, help to ease the pressure on host communities in the border area and contribute to the development of rural areas, by being located next to existing villages that lack basic infrastructure.

RRP partners were present in the villages, setting up education programmes for refugees and host community children, as well as conducting information campaigns on COVID-19, child protection and gender-based violence. The villages also address environmental sustainability, with partners APBE planting 800 moringa trees around one village to provide nutritional benefits and shelter from strong winds.



Syrian refugee Hadidga, 72, sits outside her makeshift shelter in Vial on the Greek island of Chios.

## **Europe RMRP:** 2016 & 2017

In the wake of insecurity and conflict in the Middle East, eastern European countries found themselves faced with large movements of mostly Syrians, Iraqis and Afghans, trying to make their way to Western Europe. To help coordinate the response, in 2016, UNHCR and IOM set up and co-led the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe covered Croatia, Northern Macedonia<sup>16</sup>, Greece, Serbia, Slovenia, and Türkiye<sup>17</sup>. It focused on the protection needs of refugees and migrants in transit, as well as of those that found themselves stranded

in cross-border areas. In 2017, the Plan was reduced to Greece, Italy and Spain, as routes to western Europe remained barred, while large numbers of refugees and migrants continued to arrive without the ability to move westward. The focus was therefore turned towards the static populations in these countries.

Throughout both years of the Plans, there was a strong focus on working with governments to improve the capacity of national systems. An added

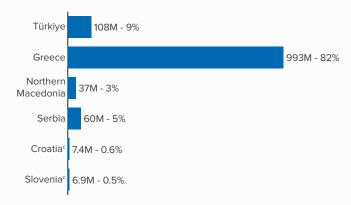
<sup>16</sup> Formerly the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

<sup>17</sup> Formerly Turkey

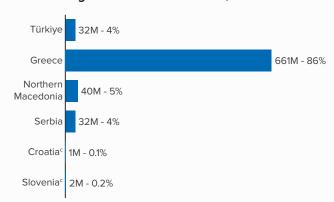
priority in 2017 was to advocate for greater solidarity for refugees and civil society, and for the compliance of commitments made to relocate refugees to western European countries. RMRP partners worked to address anti-migrant and anti-refugee sentiment through advocacy and communication efforts and by alleviating pressure on local actors. The RRP was focused on the protection needs of highly

vulnerable groups, such as unaccompanied or separated children (UASC), single women, pregnant or lactating women, the elderly, people with disabilities, as well as the sick and injured.

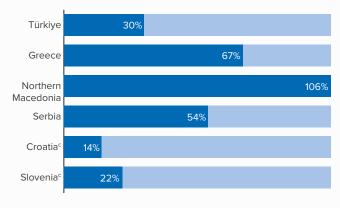
#### Total Funding Requesteda | 2016-2017 | \$1.21B



#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2016-2017 | \$768M



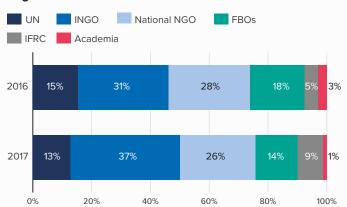
#### % Funding Level (Average)



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level

<sup>c</sup>Only included in 2016

#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2016-2017



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level



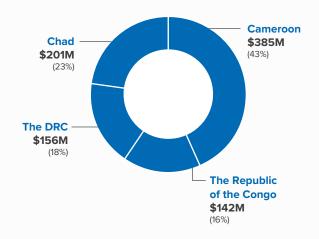
Gbiti transit site in Cameroon where Central African Republic refugees arrived to in 2014.

# Central African Republic (CAR) RRP: 2014 – 2016

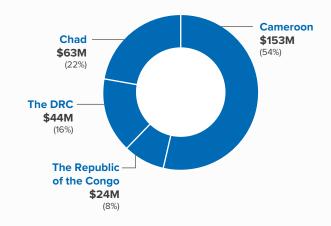
With a rise in violence and instability inside the Central African Republic (CAR) in 2014, the first RRP for the region was produced in April of the same year covering Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Congo. As an escalation of conflict pursued, a revised version was quickly produced in September of the same year, as initial estimates of the number of people leaving vastly exceeded expectations.

Among the people fleeing CAR many were Chadian citizens, some of whom were second or third generation and had settled in the country and didn't have identity papers. As some of them returned to Chad, RRP partners focused on addressing concerns over statelessness for this population.

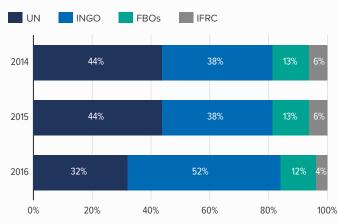
#### Total Funding Requested<sup>a</sup> | 2014-2016 | \$884M

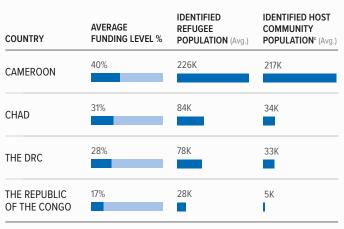


#### Total Funding Received<sup>b</sup> | 2014-2016 | \$284M



#### Regional Breakdown of Partners | 2014-2016





<sup>a</sup>Does not include funds requested at the regional level <sup>b</sup>Does not include funds received at the regional level

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup>Host community only included in 2016



Yemeni refugee and fisherman Ali, 19, takes a swim nearby the camp on the coast of Obock, Djibouti.

# Yemen RMRP: 2015 & 2016 co-led by IOM and UNHCR

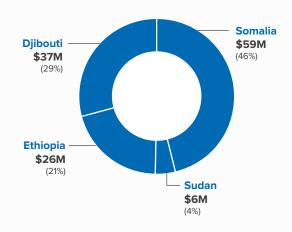
The Yemen Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP) included Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, and Sudan and was co-led by UNHCR and IOM. It was created as a refugee and migrant plan to accommodate the diversity in the target population. Among the complexities was the need to address the needs of fleeing Yemenis as

well as Somalis, who had previously claimed asylum in Yemen and then found themselves fleeing the country. In addition, migrants from Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Somalia continued to take the often perilous journey from the Horn of Africa to Yemen due to political instability and conflict in the region.

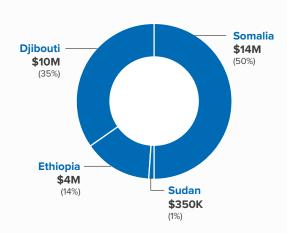
One of the many challenges for RMRP partners was to address the varying needs of these populations. Yemeni individuals going to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan arrived after many hours on the move distressed and exhausted after the sea journey and, in some instances, the land crossing, with little or no personal belongings and in urgent need of food, water, shelter and emergency healthcare. An urgent concern therefore was assisting the coast guards in Somalia and Djibouti as

large numbers of arrivals overwhelmed their capacity. To address the issue of Yemenis not registering with UNHCR or IOM, UNHCR alongside RMRP partners conducted awareness campaigns to inform Yemenis and migrants of the assistance provided by the agencies and to ensure an informed decision was taken regarding an early flight back to Yemen. From 2017 IOM continued a Migrant Respone Plan for the Horn of Africa.

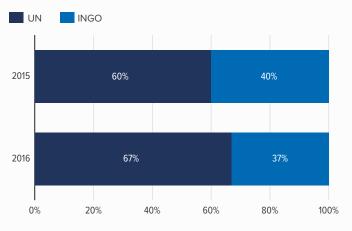
#### Total Funding Requested | 2015-2016 | \$128M

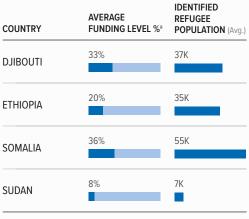


#### Total Funding Received<sup>a</sup> | 2015-2016 | \$28.4M









 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm n}\textsc{Funding}$  received only available for 2016, funding level taken from 2016.



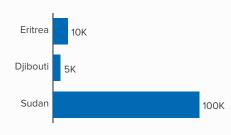
As a result of the crisis in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, a new refugee emergency appeared in the region, as thousands fled the military offensive between Ethiopian Government forces and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). A total of 57,000 Ethiopian refugees, the majority of whom had arrived towards the end of 2020, were registered in Sudan in 2021. The emergency response remained focused on providing lifesaving assistance and protection in the new refugee camps in Gedaref and Blue Nile States in Sudan, while ensuring preparedness in the event of new arrivals in Sudan and several other countries in the region. In anticipation, the Plan projected that 137,000 people would be targeted

for assistance, 115,000 refugees and 21,600 host community members. The Plan sought to support resource mobilization efforts and facilitate coordination among RRP partners to effectively address this complex emergency. Given the emergency situation, the strategic objectives of the Plan focused on supporting the Governments of Djibouti, Eritrea and Sudan to maintain and facilitate access to asylum, as well as provide life-saving assistance to new arrivals at border points and designated settlement sites. The Plan was relatively well funded, securing a 55 per cent funding level or \$85 million of the requested \$156 million.

#### Regional Breakdown of Partners Nov 2020-Jun 2021

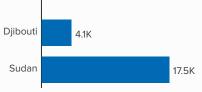


#### **Identified Refugee Population** Nov 2020-Jun 2021



#### **Identified Host Community Population** Nov 2020-Jun 2021







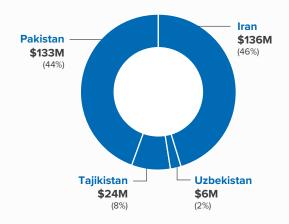
Azeem Mohamed, sells spices at his shop in Al-Asif Square market in Karachi. Afghan refugees like Azeem have recently been allowed bank accounts in Pakistan.

# The Afghanistan Situation: since July 2021

Following the events of August 2021, a Regional Refugee Preparedness and Response Plan was created to address the anticipated movements of people from Afghanistan in response to rising insecurity in the country. Ensuring alignment with contingency planning being undertaken by the UN Country Team inside Afghanistan, the inter-agency plan sought to ensure preparedness for a potential worst-case scenario of some 515,000 new Afghan refugees fleeing to the surrounding countries, namely Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. This would be in addition to the 2.2 million registered Afghan refugees and a further four million Afghans of varying status, many of whom

have been hosted in Pakistan and Iran for the last four decades. The RRP brought together UN Agencies and NGOs, either within or building upon the inter-agency coordination structures in each country, in support of government preparedness efforts. Due to its anticipatory nature, the RRP's objectives focused on ensuring the scalability partner interventions, as well as calling on States to provide continued access to asylum and protection to those who decided to seek safety in neighbouring countries.

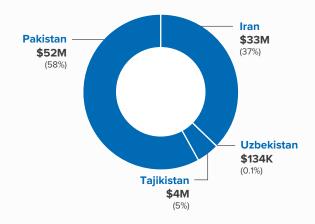
#### Total Funding Requested | 2021 | \$299M

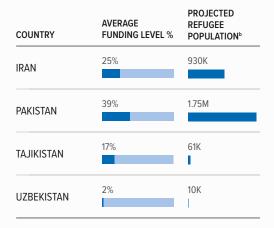


### Regional Breakdown of the Number of Partners | 2021



#### Total Funding Received | 2021 | \$89.1Ma





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> \$84.9M was also received as earmarked regional funding

#### Inter-Agency partners in the Afghanistan RRP

"The RRP is becoming an increasingly reliable tool for coordinated response among participating agencies. It has proven to be a useful forum for discussion among UN agencies and non-governmental organizations to harmonize the advocacy messages and responses." - UNICEF

"The RRP facilitated engagement of UNFPA with relevant governmental authorities including BAFIA for supporting the Afghan refugees in Iran.
The Plan also provided a platform for enhancing the collaboration of UNFPA with involved UN Agencies, INGOs, and local NGOs." - UNFPA

"WHO, as part of the health & nutrition sector, appreciated the opportunities to receive health information and updates on activities done by other partners, and to hear about their expertise in their field. Moreover, receiving updates and information from other sectors brought other challenges related to refugee movements to light." - WHO

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Figures included end-2022 projections

## unhcr.org



For more information and enquiries, please contact:

#### **UNHCR**

P.O. Box 2500 1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland