

Annual Results Report

2024

Malawi

Acknowledgements

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Note:

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

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Malawi continued to face complex displacement challenges in 2024, exacerbated by political, economic, and social pressures. The congestion and the continuous arrival of new asylum seekers in Dzaleka refugees camp placed a strain on limited resources, at the same time, deteriorating economic situation, aggravated by the sharp currency devaluation in late 2023, heightened food insecurity for both refugees and host communities. Financial constraints hindered the government's response, and humanitarian access faced funding and logistical challenges. Despite these obstacles, UNHCR worked to provide assistance, coordinate with partners, and seek international support to uphold protection and essential services.

As of 31 December 2024, the refugee population in Malawi stood at 56,681, including 35,518 refugees, 21,159 asylum seekers, and four individuals of other concerns across 15,778 households. The majority originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (36,777), followed by Burundi (12,413), Rwanda (7,056), and smaller groups of 435 from Somalia (173), Ethiopia (185), and other countries (77). Throughout the year 2024, we registered a total of 5,113 individuals, which includes 3,216 new arrivals, 133 in situ cases, and 1,764 newborns, compared to 4,251 individuals registered in 2023. (2,441 new arrivals, 1,799 newborns, and 11 individuals designated as In Situ). At the end of 2023, the refugee population was 52,910. By the end of 2024, we registered a rise in population to 56,681 representing a 7.1% increase.

The camp also became a hotspot for human trafficking, prompting security operations that rescued the refugee population from criminal networks. Meanwhile, mixed migration movements continued, with economic migrants and asylum seekers using the same routes, leading to increased onward movements as refugees sought better opportunities beyond Malawi's borders. To mitigate the overcrowding in the camp, the government identified a new site in the Chitipa district, the northern part of Malawi, to establish a new settlement for refugees.

UNHCR conducted a Participatory Assessment with 606 refugees, asylum seekers, and host community members, applying an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach to identify challenges in access to healthcare, education, livelihoods, mental health, documentation, GBV, as well as youth protection, and explore proposed solutions by the refugee community. These findings strengthened Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) and Community-Based Protection (CBP), guiding resource allocation and programming. Looking ahead to 2025, sustained efforts will be required to ensure refugee inclusion, enhance resilience, and foster peaceful coexistence between displaced populations and host communities. The participatory assessment findings will play a central role in guiding UNHCR and partner programming and the redesign of projects in 2025.

By capturing the voices, needs, and priorities of refugees, and host communities, these findings ensure that interventions are community-driven and context-specific. They will help identify critical gaps, such as access to education, protection risks, or livelihood opportunities, enabling targeted programming that addresses these challenges effectively. Existing projects will be redesigned to better align with community feedback, ensuring they are more inclusive, responsive, and impactful. The findings will also inform evidence-based resource allocation, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups and promoting equity. Ultimately, this approach will enhance accountability, build trust, and empower communities, while supporting both immediate needs and long-term goals like self-reliance and resilience.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2026, forcibly displaced people in Malawi enjoy a conducive protection environment through improved access to durable solutions and alternative pathways.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	0.88%

In 2024, Malawi achieved notable progress in enhancing the protection environment for forcibly displaced individuals, thereby improving access to durable solutions and alternative pathways. The ongoing review of the Refugee Act aims to redefine the rights of refugees, promoting greater freedom in employment, movement, and access to essential services, while ensuring that national policies are consistent with international human rights standards.

UNHCR played a pivotal role in facilitating the voluntary repatriation of 98 individuals, exceeding the goal of 85 returnees to Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia. Despite facing logistical challenges, efforts to facilitate repatriation continued, backed by required travel arrangements and reintegration support.

In the area of resettlement, UNHCR Malawi referred a total of 2,431 individuals, predominantly to the United States, which accepted 2,137 referrals. Additionally, 1,770 individuals successfully departed for resettlement in Australia, Canada, and Norway, while 71 departures were made possible through complementary pathways, signifying a doubling of 2023 year's figures.

Community engagement initiatives aimed at combating gender-based violence intensified, resulting in improved reporting and active participation. UNHCR provided survivor-centered services to 98 individuals and successfully integrated them into sustainable livelihood programs. Youth initiatives centered on sexual and reproductive health and rights engaged 13,474 young people, contributing to a 47% reduction in the rates of HIV, sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancies.

Significant advancements in child protection were realized, with 80 best-interest determinations completed for unaccompanied minors and survivors of GBV. This has ensured that decisions made about the child is in their best interest, prioritizing their safety and well-being by placing them in safe and nurturing environments for their optimum care and support. The participation of forcibly displaced individuals in leadership roles saw an increase, with 293 individuals comprising 73 women actively involved in key positions, as evidenced by participation scores rising from 70 in 2023 to 93 in 2024.

Maternal and child health outcomes demonstrated improvement, with 1,009 normal deliveries at Dzaleka Health Center attended by qualified health professionals. Antenatal care services reached a record high of 5,740 visits, with 98% of mothers receiving at least four checkups. These developments reflect substantial progress toward fostering a safer and more inclusive environment for forcibly displaced individuals in Malawi.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2026, forcibly displaced people enjoy legal and social protection to realize their rights.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		83.60%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		36.62%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.00%	40.23%

In 2024, significant advancements were made in the legal and social protection of forcibly displaced persons (FDPs) in Malawi, enhancing the realization of their rights. FDP participation in leadership roles increased, with 293 individuals, including 73 women (25%), engaging in community structures. Decision-making engagement improved, with involvement scores rising from 70 in 2023 to 93 in 2024.

Notable improvements in safety and protection mechanisms were observed in Dzaleka Refugee Camp. The percentage of individuals feeling safe walking alone at night rose to 40%, supported by enhanced community policing efforts, volunteer recruitment, and additional resources for the Dzaleka Police Unit.

Resettlement opportunities expanded significantly, with 2,431 individuals referred for resettlement; the U.S. accepted 2,137 cases, while 1,770 individuals resettled in Australia, Canada, and Norway. Complementary pathways facilitated 71 additional departures, doubling the figures from 2023.

As regard to housing, 40 sustainable, climate-adapted shelters were installed in the newly allocated site in Woodlot, using locally sourced materials designed to withstand extreme weather. The shelters feature improved ventilation, lighting, and sanitation, enhancing health and community resilience. Design features include solid cement bases for stability, clay blocks for better insulation, and iron sheets to resist strong winds and heavy rain. This pilot site provides long-term protection against climate impacts for 40 families of 235 individuals. UNHCR provided shelters materials while UBUNTU was supporting workforces. Thanks to our operational partner UBUNTU "Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras" 16 more sustainable houses were developed to accommodate the most vulnerable families inside the camp giving shelters to an additional 16 families of 76 individuals bring to 311 individuals who benefited from climate-adapted shelters.

On the other hand, due to limited funding, in the other new site "Katuza" 20 slabs to install family tents including latrines were developed to facilitate the installation of the 20 families comprised of 102 new arrivals to decongest the transit center while the reception center was renovated and 80 slabs installed to increase the capacity up to 600-700 new arrival.

Access to essential services improved, with over 56,000 refugees gaining access to safe, chlorinated drinking water. Household latrine coverage reached 84.5%, and 56 WASH promoters were recruited, meeting UNHCR post-emergency standards. Despite water supply challenges, production was sustained at 14.4 liters per person per day.

Livelihood opportunities also expanded, with improved access to vocational training and income-generating activities in agriculture, tailoring, and entrepreneurship, promoting self-reliance. Partnerships with local businesses enabled microfinance access, empowering FDPs to establish sustainable livelihoods. The integration of three refugee-hosting schools into the national education system was also key. Following a 2023 Memorandum of Understanding, 43 of 131 teachers were placed on the government payroll, and a task force was formed to include refugees in national education planning, ensuring sustainability.

Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Population Type	Baseline	Actual(2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.51%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	100.00%
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	135
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	1,770
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	73
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed			
Malawi	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	56,681

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

One of the primary challenges refugees encounter in Malawi pertains to the existing legal framework, which encompasses reservations that restrict their rights, particularly concerning employment and movement. The process of reviewing this legislation is inherently complex and protracted, potentially hindering the timely implementation of the revised Refugee Act, which is crucial for enhancing the protection and integration of refugees.

Another significant obstacle is the absence of nationally representative data concerning refugees. In 2024, the UNHCR advocated for and supported the inclusion of refugees in the Malawi Demographic and Health Survey (MDHS) and the Integrated Household Survey (IHS). Data obtained from these surveys will facilitate evidence-based programming and ensure the integration of refugees into the national agenda.

Limited funding for the UNHCR and its partner organizations continues to restrict initiatives aimed at providing essential services such as legal aid, education, and livelihood programs. This financial limitation has often resulted in a reduction of activities, ultimately undermining the overall impact on the community. Furthermore, the high population of refugees, coupled with a steady influx of new arrivals, exacerbates the difficulty of effectively addressing their evolving needs.

Addressing these challenges requires strategic approaches, starting with prioritizing advocacy for legislative reforms. Engaging key stakeholders, including government officials and civil society, and strengthening partnerships with local organizations can enhance resource mobilization and support for refugees.

Finally, diversifying funding sources, including leveraging partnerships with the private sector, can alleviate resource constraints and broaden the range of services available. Such measures will contribute to the sustainability of initiatives aimed at ensuring a lasting impact for forcibly displaced and stateless individuals in Malawi.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR has made significant strides towards enhancing the protection environment for forcibly displaced individuals in Malawi through robust collaborations and partnerships with a variety of national and local stakeholders. Key partners include the Government of Malawi, specifically the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Homeland Security, Ministry of Agriculture, and Malawi National Statistics Office (NSO), which have played a crucial role in ensuring refugee inclusion in the national systems.

Partnerships with UN agencies like UNICEF were signaled by the signing of a letter of understanding between the two organizations. These collaborations align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education), and Goal 6 (Water and Sanitation), Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) ensuring that refugees can access essential educational resources and water and sanitation and health. They also align with SDG 16.2 (Protect Children from Abuse, Exploitation, Trafficking, and Violence) and SDG 16.9 ensuring that refugee children are protected and are provided with legal identity and are registered at birth. It is anticipated that the National Action Plan to End Statelessness that was adopted by stakeholders in 2023 will receive cabinet approval in 2025.

The operation also partnered with the World Bank and NSO in the inclusion of refugees in nationally representative surveys, the Malawi Demographic Health Survey (MDHS) and the Malawi Integrated Household Survey (IHS). This collaboration aligns with SDG 1 (No poverty) because refugees are part of national data, which allows for better policy design to address economic vulnerabilities. It also contributes to SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) because these surveys help target food security interventions, food assistance, and nutritional programmes. It also contributes to SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Collaborating with local NGOs, particularly refugee-led organizations, has fostered grassroots responsiveness, allowing displaced persons to play an active role in decision-making processes. The operation has facilitated access to resources for these organizations and their inclusion in refugee response initiatives in Malawi.

These partnerships have enriched UNHCR's Strategic Directions by enhancing operational effectiveness, broadening capacities, and ensuring that the voices of forcibly displaced individuals inform policy and programs. Further, this has contributed towards sustainable responses to refugee management and programming in Malawi. Continued advocacy and collaboration will further ensure that integration and access to durable solutions remain prioritized within national development agendas.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

Forcibly displaced and Stateless people have access to registration and civil status documentation processes that conform to international standards.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.90%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.77%	30.00%	35.35%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.84%	90.00%	40.26%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5,155
01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11,252

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR Malawi made significant progress in advocating for and improving access to territory, registration, and documentation for forcibly displaced populations, including asylum seekers and stateless individuals. This marked a notable shift from the challenges faced in 2023 when access to Malawi was restricted due to government policy measures. Recognizing that access to territory, registration, and documentation are fundamental first steps in providing international protection, UNHCR strengthens its engagement and collaboration with the Malawian government to address these issues. The proactive support and cooperation of the Malawian government were instrumental in these efforts. These collaborative efforts yielded positive results, as new asylum seekers were cleared by Malawi immigration authorities and transported directly to Dzaleka Refugee Camp, the country's main refugee settlement. Throughout the year, 3,359 individuals arrived through the country's borders, including 2,534 who entered through Chitipa and Karonga and passed through the Karonga transit shelter. By the end of 2024, no new asylum seekers were left waiting for registration, reflecting a streamlined and efficient process that ensured timely access to protection and assistance.

The Ministry of Homeland Security, through the Department for Refugees, registered 3,216 new arrivals in 2024. Malawi made significant strides in strengthening the documentation and registration of refugees and asylum seekers, ensuring their access to essential services and protection. A key achievement was the issuance of Family Composition Documents (Fact Sheets) to all 15,776 households registered in ProGres, UNHCR's digital registration system. These documents serve as proof of registration, enabling families to access critical services such as healthcare, education, and humanitarian assistance. Additionally, 18,831 ID cards were issued and distributed to individuals aged 16 and above, further enhancing their ability to exercise their rights and move freely within the country. These efforts not only improved the protection environment for refugees but also reinforced their dignity and self-reliance by providing them with recognized legal documents, ensuring their well-being and security.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Forcibly displaced people have access to quality status determination procedures.

National legislative framework for the protection of PoCs follows international standards

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Not yet aligned
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness			
None	Not yet aligned	Progressing toward alignment	Not yet aligned

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
03.1.1 UNHCR has engaged in legislative and judicial processes to strengthen laws and policies for the protection of refugees, IDPs, returnees and stateless people and/or the reduction and prevention of statelessness	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In January 2024, with intensive advocacy from UNHCR, the Malawi Government started the review of the Refugees Act. A Special Law Commission for the Review of the Refugees Act was empaneled by the Law Commission to undertake the technical phase of the review. The Law Commission is a constitutional body mandated to review laws. The technical phase of the review is expected to come to completion in December 2025, after which the Refugee Bill shall wait for adoption by Parliament.

The Refugees Act, enacted in 1989 at the peak of a refugee influx during the Mozambican civil war that saw Malawi hosting over a million Mozambican refugees, is silent on all rights of refugees stipulated in the 1951 Convention, thus lacking alignment with international standards. Further, Malawi's national legislative framework fails to align with international standards in view of the reservations it made to the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees. Therefore, it is expected that once the review and adoption

of the would-be Refugees Bill is completed, not only will the rights of refugees be part of, but more importantly, some, if not all, reservations will have been lifted, thereby aligning national legislation with international standards.

UNHCR has wholly supported the law reform process financially. The agency has also provided technical support through the submission of written recommendations and by appearing before the Special Law Commission to present a case for aligning national law with international standards.

Other stakeholders have also contributed to the process, though such contributions have only been technical. The Malawi Human Rights Commission, apart from being a member of the Special Law Commission, also carried out independent stakeholder consultations in support of the process and in favour of aligning the Act to international standards.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Forcibly displaced and stateless people experience reduced cases of GBV and improved child protection.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.32%	92.00%	73.44%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	78.78%	90.00%	75.87%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	74.39%	75.00%	67.65%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37,000

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress in preventing and responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to be obstructed by deeply entrenched barriers, including societal norms that discourage disclosure and promote survivor-blaming. These norms fuel the underreporting of GBV, a significant issue in our efforts. Girls who experience GBV often encounter stigma and are viewed as undesirable for marriage. Additionally, survivors may fear that reporting the violence could jeopardize their chances of resettlement, causing them to remain silent.

Many individuals express a lack of trust in public services, including law enforcement, which fosters a perception that justice will not be delivered, consequently contributing to a climate of impunity. The issue is further complicated by delayed reporting, particularly in cases of sexual violence. Survivors often refrain from immediate reporting due to feelings of fear, shame, or external pressure, which limits their access to crucial support services and diminishes the effectiveness of interventions. This situation is exacerbated by

poverty, which is intensified by reduced food rations, rendering women and girls increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse. Although some livelihood programs are in place, they remain insufficient, leaving the majority of women and girls financially dependent and thus at a heightened risk. Moreover, the limited participation of partners in gender-based violence coordination meetings adversely affect collaboration, with many citing understaffing as a barrier to consistent engagement.

Despite the challenges encountered, there exist significant opportunities to enhance the response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Community engagement, awareness campaigns, and improved coordination have begun to clarify case management processes, promote reporting, and ensure that survivors receive the necessary support. However, the need for improved coordination is urgent and cannot be overstated. It's a key factor in making our collective efforts more effective. Enhancing coordination requires a systematic approach. An annual calendar of events may facilitate the planning and promotion of participation in GBV meetings. Engaging Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs) can help address service gaps and ensure culturally relevant responses. Furthermore, more vigorous advocacy for policy and funding support is essential. Collaborating with donors, governmental bodies, and partners can secure additional funding to scale up GBV prevention and response initiatives, ultimately fostering a more effective and survivor-centered protection environment.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Persons with specific needs have access to services

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	190

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to justice has improved through enhanced legal support and institutional access. For example, women seeking divorce due to domestic violence have been able to file civil GBV cases in court, ensuring their rights and protection. Survivors of sexual violence have gained access to legal redress through the Dowa Court Registry, although challenges remain due to the prolonged absence of a magistrate court. The use of mobile courts has helped reduce the burden on survivors and witnesses by minimizing the need to travel to the Dowa district court for hearings. This also provided a more familiar and comfortable environment, enabling survivors to testify more easily and confidently.

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

Forcibly displaced people can participate in decision making.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Extensive	Extensive
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.00%	100.00%	84.09%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.96%	50.00%	24.91%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	537
07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback & response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	3,176
07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56,677

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Out of 88 individuals consulted in the participatory assessment, 74 (84%) stated they generally feel safe using feedback mechanisms to provide feedback, make complaints, or seek assistance from organizations operating in the camp. A total of 12,075 individuals accessed feedback and received responses during protection reception days across 5 of the 11 zones (10,389 individuals) through protection consultations (600 individuals) and resettlement consultations (1,086 individuals). Additionally, 20 community awareness sessions were conducted, reaching over 30,000 individuals. The reception days have enhanced FDPs' access to UNHCR staff for feedback and response/referral, decreasing the number of letters and messages received through the complaint box and protection hotline, respectively.

Furthermore, the total score for 2024 is 93, indicating significant participation from displaced people, in contrast to the score of 70 for 2023. A voluntary repatriation intent survey, GBV assessment, and participatory assessment were carried out during the year. Through focus group discussions, surveys, and key informant interviews, these surveys targeted six distinct groups of individuals across various ages, genders, and diversities. Representatives of forcibly displaced people participated in workshops and discussions regarding GBV and child protection strategies and SOPs. The outcomes of the survey and GBV assessment shaped programmatic decisions.

Community leaders, zone leaders, religious leaders, and other community structures—including women's networks, organizations led by persons with disabilities, organizations led by forcibly displaced people, and youth representatives—were engaged through town hall meetings to keep them informed of new developments and to gather their feedback for implementing additional activities. A total of 111 forcibly displaced persons involved in various community structures took part in capacity building to ensure effective program implementation, providing support within their communities. Four refugee-led organizations (RLOs) received support through grant agreements (three from the Safe from the Start funds and one from the

Refugee-led Innovation funds).

Reports referenced the work of RLOs and community committees across different thematic areas, with some RLOs participating in interagency meetings while some forcibly displaced persons engaged in sectoral review meetings and workshops for SOPs and strategies. Currently, there are 293 forcibly displaced persons in leadership roles, of which 73 (25%) are women serving as community leaders (7 out of 14), zone leaders (27 out of 79), members of the peace and reconciliation committee (20 out of 100), and in the community policing forum (19 out of 81).

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy a peaceful and safe environment.

Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy food security.

Forcibly displaced people have access to sufficient basic and domestic items.

Protection monitoring for IDPs, Documentation procedures and systems function effectively

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.83%	99.00%	100.00%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.82%	10.00%	13.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	785
08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47,663
08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In response to ongoing food security challenges, the World Food Programme (WFP) continued its food assistance program in Dzaleka Camp. From July 2023, WFP implemented a 50% blanket feeding strategy, which remained in place until July 2024. However, recognizing the continued food insecurity among forcibly displaced persons (FDPs), WFP increased rations to 75% in August 2024. While this adjustment provided some relief, the community still faced significant hardships.

Through sustained engagement with stakeholders, including the government, WFP, and refugee leadership,

UNHCR effectively communicated the challenges of securing adequate funding for food aid. Despite these constraints, the refugee community demonstrated remarkable solidarity in supporting each other. Additionally, targeted assistance was provided to vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, new arrivals, and those returning from urban areas due to disrupted livelihoods.

Given the scarcity of Non-Food Items (NFIs), UNHCR and its partners prioritized assistance to the most vulnerable populations.

2,483 households with inadequate shelter conditions received tarpaulins to improve their living conditions. Additional tarpaulin support was provided to facilitate privacy and protection at reception, isolation, and quarantine centers. To enhance dignity and well-being, clothing was distributed to 26,260 men, 23,292 women, 4,118 adolescent boys, and 2,558 adolescent girls. Additionally, 37 children with special needs in respite care received pairs of shoes.

At the reception, quarantine, and isolation centers, 2,708 individuals received core relief items packages, including essential household items such as sleeping mats, blankets, cooking stoves, jerry cans, and basins. Moreover, 515 women and girls received disposable sanitary pads to improve menstrual hygiene. These beneficiaries were also trained on proper disposal methods, and incinerators were installed to manage waste effectively.

UNHCR, through Plan International Malawi, trained 15 staff members and 12 community-based caseworkers in delivering parenting and adolescent life skills to enhance adolescents' psychosocial well-being, health, and safety. In preparation for its full implementation in 2025, the project engaged 58 caregivers and 50 children in dialogue sessions to identify key challenges and inform participant selection.

To enhance student safety and well-being, four school safety personnel were assigned to assist children during classes and breaks at the primary school, increasing security staff from 3 to 4. A garden, run by two volunteers, and new activities like yoga and football coaching were introduced for holistic development. Key improvements included distributing clothing and shoes in December, kitchen renovations to switch from firewood to biochar, and ongoing sink updates. Each child also received two bars of soap monthly for personal hygiene. Additionally, five children with physical disabilities were integrated into Ubuntu School with strong support for their inclusion.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

Forcibly displaced and stateless people live in a decongested camp and have access to shelter that meets UNHCR's minimum standards.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.51%	27.00%	88.21%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	61.56%	50.00%	56.00%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	350

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To alleviate congestion at the Dzaleka refugee camp, UNHCR continued to develop the extension areas by supplying shelter kits and materials for the foundation, roofs, doors, and windows. With the support of UBUNTU" Fraternidade Sem Fronteiras" assisting with the labor forces, bricks, double sand, mastic, hinges, paraffin and padlocks, 40 sustainable, climate-adapted shelters were installed in the new allocated site in Woodlot, developed as a pilot site with structures that provide durable, climate-resilient housing that reduces the need for frequent rebuilding, enabling refugees to better manage environmental, social, and economic challenges.

The Government of Malawi and Plan International Malawi, aided in plot allocation and the distribution of shelter materials to refugees and asylum seekers. Furthermore, in new Katuma, 20 family tents including 20 latrines were installed to facilitate the installation of the new arrivals and decongest the transit center.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy medical services including nutrition and have optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	76.22%	92.00%	64.01%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.17%	27.00%	93.86%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40,180
10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,007

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, the UNHCR Public Health Unit in Malawi continued its commitment to providing essential primary healthcare services to forcibly displaced individuals in the Dzaleka refugee camp. The Dzaleka Health Centre delivered 40,180 primary healthcare consultations, addressing a wide range of medical needs, including treatment for communicable diseases, management of chronic illnesses, and emergency care.

Maternal and child health was one of the year's significant achievements. The health center conducted 1,009 normal deliveries, 94% of which were attended by skilled birth attendants, contributing to Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) 3.2.1. The antenatal care program saw 5,740 visits, with 98% of expectant mothers receiving at least four antenatal care checkups, significantly enhancing maternal health outcomes.

The health center provided 8,967 individuals with access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, including family planning, prenatal care, and counselling. Family planning services reached 4,215 women, offering various contraceptive methods to support reproductive health choices. HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment efforts led to 10,400 individuals undergoing HIV testing, 697 of whom received antiretroviral therapy (ART), and 3,663 pregnant women being tested for HIV. The Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) program tested 3,663 pregnant women, and 11 women diagnosed as HIV positive were promptly placed on ART.

Immunization efforts included 1,635 children receiving the measles vaccine and 3,890 children under five receiving routine immunizations. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services were provided to 1,007 refugees and asylum seekers, addressing trauma, stress, and emotional distress. Community awareness sessions on mental health reached 2,560 individuals, enhancing knowledge of coping mechanisms and access to available services.

Integration into the Malawi National Demographic Health Survey and the Integrated Household Survey promoted social cohesion by assessing refugees and host communities within the same national frameworks. Capacity building and training included community sensitization on SRH and HIV, healthcare staff training, community-based HIV support networks, sexual and reproductive health awareness among youth, and non-communicable disease management training.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Forcibly displaced and stateless people have access to education

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.97%	10.00%	8.40%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	22.25%	60.00%	37.85%

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,015

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

During the reporting year, 7,015 individuals accessed education at pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels with support from UNHCR and its partners. Additionally, non-funded partners and the refugee community assisted another 8,906 individuals, bringing the total to 15,921 beneficiaries, which represents 50.8% of the school-age population (ages 3–24). Other NGOs, faith-based organizations, and refugee-led

organizations contributed by offering alternative private schooling, teacher capacity building, scholarships for secondary and tertiary studies, and access to post-secondary, TVET, and tertiary opportunities at various centers in the camp.

UNHCR collaborated closely with the Ministry of Education (MoE) and funded partners to ensure that beneficiaries received quality education aligned with government standards. Private community initiatives were encouraged to enhance service delivery and comply with MoE guidelines, ensuring that every child enjoys an education comparable to that of national students. To support this goal, UNHCR facilitated engagement between the MoE and private initiatives, which initiated registration and licensing processes.

A key achievement was the operationalization of the 2023 MOU among UNHCR, the MoE, and the Ministry of Homeland Security. Consequently, three refugee-hosting schools (two primary and one secondary) were integrated into the national system. This integration enabled teacher deployments, with 43 out of 131 teachers in these schools added to the government payroll in 2024. Furthermore, a dedicated task force was established to promote the inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in national education planning and to advocate for the sustainability of inclusion initiatives. UNHCR actively facilitated and funded stakeholder and community engagements to build consensus and support.

At the tertiary level, 61 students received support through the UNHCR DAFI scholarship, and additional efforts from non-funded partners enabled more qualifying students to access tertiary opportunities within and beyond Malawi, contributing to a total tertiary access figure of 762.

Throughout all interventions, special efforts were made to ensure that girls and other vulnerable groups were supported and encouraged to access education. However, limited funding meant that children with special education needs did not receive adequate support, highlighting a gap that requires urgent attention for full inclusion.

The education unit collaborated with other sectors to ensure learners received mental health support and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse through trained personnel at school level and the provision of feedback mechanisms.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Forcibly displaced people have access to sufficient water supply and minimum sanitation and hygiene standards are met.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6.50%	90.00%	100.00%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	65.16%	92.00%	84.50%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56,681

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR ensured that over 56,000 refugees and asylum-seekers had access to safe, chlorinated drinking water, while approximately 84.5% of households had access to household latrines, including the recruitment of 56 WASH promoters (100% meeting UNHCR post-emergency standards of one promoter per 1,000 people) to enhance hygiene promotion. UNHCR managed to maintain the provision of 14.4 liters of water per person per day, which is below the 20 L/P/D UNHCR post-emergency standard; however, with the continuous increase in the Dzaleka population and limited funding, the operation at least managed to sustain water supply production. Through the WASH implementing partner Welthungerhilfe (WHH), UNHCR maintained and upgraded the existing water supply systems in the Dzaleka refugee camp to continuously provide safe water to the community. Furthermore, UNHCR (with in-house technical skills) successfully re-designed the entire reticulated water systems for the Dzaleka refugee camp using hydraulic modeling software (EPANET) to improve water distribution pressures to the existing water kiosks, which had long presented a challenge due to low water pressures.

Using its funds, the WASH implementing partner WHH upgraded one of the Afridev hand pumps to a motorized system (solarization), including replacing some of the existing old pipes following the redesign of the water systems. Lastly, the WASH implementing partner constructed 12 household latrines in Dzaleka Hills and three disability-friendly communal latrines in the old camp.

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

Forcibly displaced people have access to livelihood opportunities and are self-reliant.

Core Outcome Indicators

Indicator			
Population Type	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.60%	90.00%	51.23%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.96%	64.00%	18.23%

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,724

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In total, 1,829 refugees, asylum seekers, and host community households at Dzaleka camp were supported in livelihood activities in 2024, representing 6.2% of the total household population. During this implementation period, the main activities included livestock farming, rainfed farming support, irrigation farming, business enterprises, insect farming, and access to financial loans.

Under rainfed and irrigation farming, the project focused on enhancing the adoption of climate-smart agriculture techniques to help farmers adapt to climate change while mitigating its impacts and increasing productivity. A total of 1,460 households were supported with inputs under irrigation and rainfed support. Within rainfed farming, 635 households received inputs for the production of high-value crops (beans, soybean, sunflower) and maize for consumption, promoting both food security and income generation. Additionally, 402 households were provided with sweet potato vines as a drought-tolerant crop to help mitigate the impact of climate change, and 423 households were supported in irrigation farming through the four established irrigation schemes.

To ensure access to extension support, in coordination with the government Agriculture office for the Dowa district, 25 lead farmers were identified within the refugee and host community and trained in climate-smart agriculture techniques, including agroforestry, intercropping, and the production and use of organic manure. They were supported in cascading the information and monitoring fellow farmers. To promote environmental conservation and restore degraded land, the project planted 2,000 varieties of tree seedlings and 1,000 giant bamboos in the identified hotspots within the project catchment area.

The project also supported 208 households from the camp (51 males, 157 females) in the production of broilers, layers, and pig production to help them achieve economic empowerment. In the first cycle of broiler production, a 31-member group earned a gross income of \$6,845.50, with a net profit of \$1,246.40.

The project emphasized income diversification and economic empowerment by strengthening peanut butter processing, tailoring, and insect farming enterprises through the provision of technical expertise to 56 participants (16 males and 40 females). Furthermore, the Village Savings and Loans methodology was promoted and integrated into the established processing enterprises. The project participated in the 43rd National Agricultural Fair to enhance market linkages, where four enterprises—namely peanut butter, tailoring, insect farming, and irrigation farming products—were displayed. To ensure access to financial services, five groups consisting of a total of 105 individuals were supported in accessing group loans from Centenary Bank, valued at \$8,570.

In 2024, the operation received a parametric insurance payout of \$407,000 from the African Risk Capacity due to the effects of El Niño in the 2023/2024 agricultural season. The payout benefited 3,673 households, including 2,203 refugees and 1,470 host community members. Each selected household received \$100. The initiative aimed to provide timely assistance to those affected by the extreme weather conditions caused by El Niño.

14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

The forcibly displaced persons have adequate information to return in a manner that upholds their security and dignity.

Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	200

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR Malawi made significant progress in achieving Voluntary Repatriation as a durable solution, assisting 98 individuals in returning to their countries of origin: Burundi, Rwanda, and Somalia.

This accomplishment exceeded the original target of 85 individuals, demonstrating UNHCR's commitment to facilitating safe and dignified returns. However, the process encountered several challenges, including the lack of flights during the last quarter of the year, which disrupted repatriation plans and delayed the return of some refugees. Despite these logistical hurdles, UNHCR worked diligently to ensure that returnees received essential support, including travel arrangements and reintegration assistance, to help them rebuild their lives in their home countries.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

Forcibly displaced people have increased resettlement opportunities.

Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,769	3,000	2,430

Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Overall, a total of 2,431 individuals were referred to the USA (2,137), Canada (63), Australia (214), and New Zealand (16), with one individual under an unallocated quota. As of December 31, 2024, 1,770 individuals departed from Malawi for resettlement in Australia, Canada, the USA, and Norway. In total, 71 individuals left Malawi on complementary pathways for family reunification, private sponsorship, and education pathways. By the end of 2024, the durable solutions unit conducted 1,086 resettlement consultations and provided feedback to applicants regarding their cases.

UNHCR Malawi referred the largest number of refugees for resettlement in the Southern Africa region in 2024, with nearly 90% of the submission quota allocated to the USA. Compared to 2023, UNHCR Malawi's departures doubled in 2024. UNHCR Malawi successfully managed the deferral backlog, keeping it in check throughout 2024.

Other Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Baseline	Target(2024)	Actual(2024)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	730.00	365.00	365.00

2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.77%	3.00%	71.32%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.46%	50.00%	40.92%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.70%	70.00%	26.58%

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes
05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	12,251
16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not at all

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

The participatory and GBV assessments conducted in 2024 included 136 girls, 116 boys, 340 women, 280 men, and individuals with specific needs, such as 68 (31F, 37M) elderly individuals, 19 (11F, 8M) persons living with disabilities, and 12 individuals representing diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions (SOGIE) who participated in both focus group discussions and individual surveys. The assessments also included 37 females and 32 males from the host community.

The voluntary repatriation intention survey and GBV assessment findings informed programmatic decisions in their respective areas. The insights gained from the evaluations will be utilized to adjust sectoral activities, strategies, and country operational plans for 2025-2026.

All data collected by the operation is disaggregated by age, sex/gender, and other diversities, including disability. The operation participated in consultation sessions in February 2024 to improve SOGIESC data collection options for specific needs codes. Currently, particular needs codes for individuals with diverse SOGIE are not recorded; however, individuals are acknowledged and have access to assistance.

The operation has eight functional feedback and response mechanisms (FRMs) established to receive complaints and feedback. It is in the process of updating its FRM standing operating procedures to create a shared (interagency) system for collecting, analyzing, responding to, and reporting all feedback received.

The operation also has six functional communication channels that effectively connect with the community, including community radio, leaders, town hall meetings, WhatsApp groups, notice boards, and print communications. One hundred forty-five (22 female, 122 male) leaders and representatives from community structures, including RLOs and WLOs, an organization led by persons with disabilities, were engaged in new developments to gather their feedback and discuss safety and security concerns in the camp.

Section 3: Resources

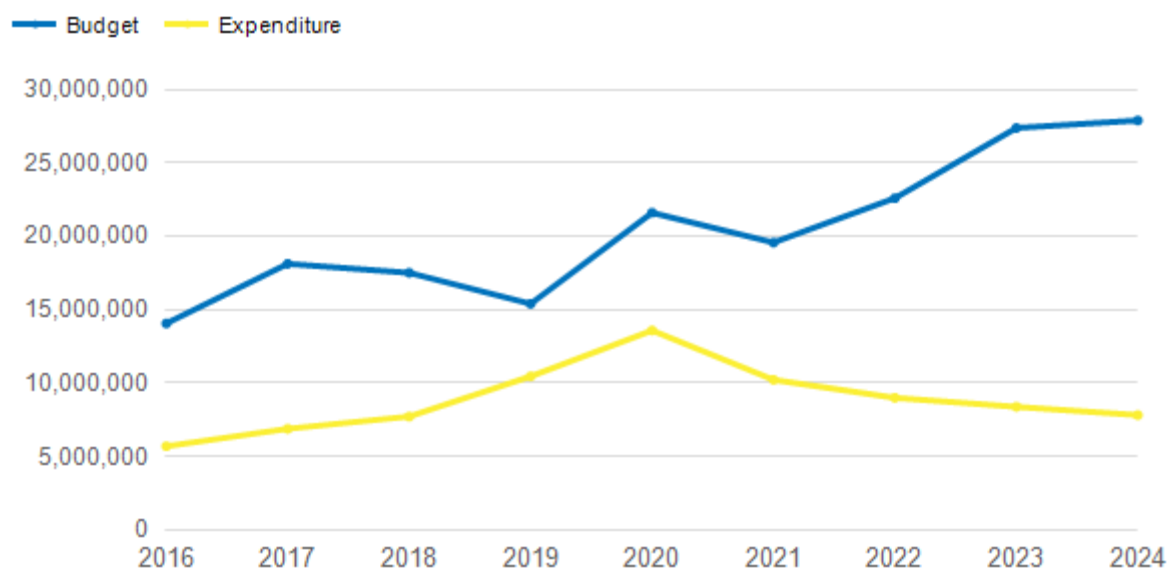
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

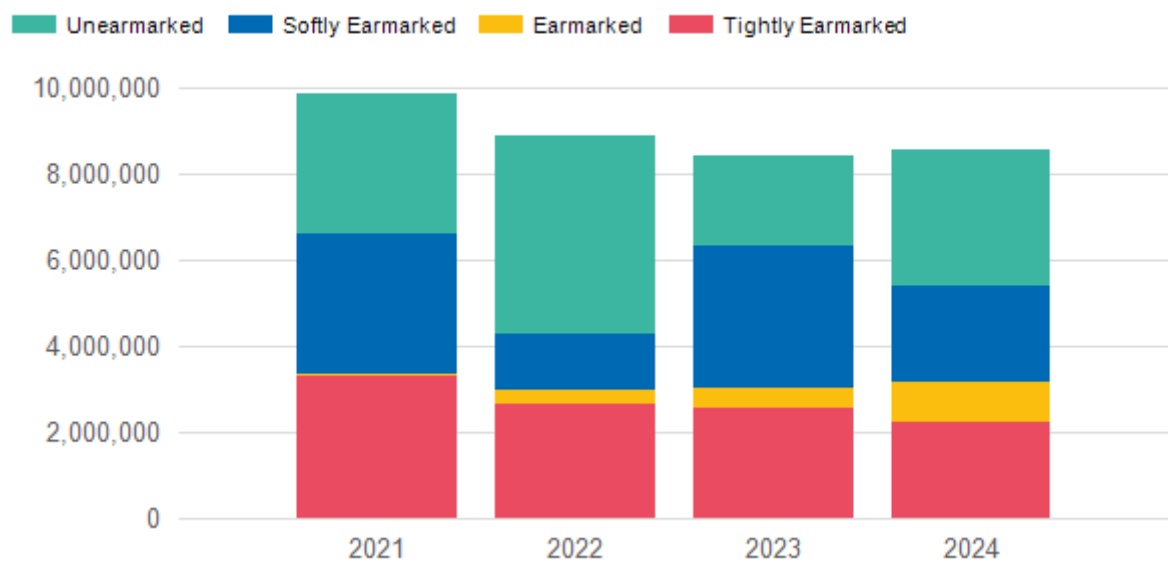
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	9,473,527	2,536,471	26.77%	2,536,471	100.00%
IA3: Empower	18,411,899	5,276,092	28.66%	5,276,092	100.00%
IA4: Solve		132,335			
All Impact Areas		453,761			
Total	27,885,426	8,398,658	30.12%	7,812,562	93.02%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,113,593	180,158	8.52%	180,158	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	724,492	469,680	64.83%	469,680	100.00%
OA4: GBV	1,053,873	161,217	15.30%	161,217	100.00%
OA6: Justice	722,386	295,399	40.89%	295,399	100.00%
OA7: Community	643,387	187,435	29.13%	187,435	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	5,010,281	455,848	9.10%	455,848	100.00%
OA9: Housing	3,656,825	219,937	6.01%	219,937	100.00%
OA10: Health	1,472,334	1,155,581	78.49%	1,155,581	100.00%
OA11: Education	2,213,179	498,727	22.53%	498,727	100.00%
OA12: WASH	2,121,307	617,721	29.12%	617,721	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,073,201	371,675	17.93%	371,675	100.00%
OA14: Return	899,703	207,451	23.06%	207,451	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	1,928,689	1,536,810	79.68%	1,404,475	91.39%
EA18: Support	2,954,864	1,486,727	50.31%	1,486,727	100.00%
EA20: External	297,313	105,973	35.64%	100,533	94.87%
All Outcome Areas		448,320			
Total	27,885,426	8,398,658	30.12%	7,812,562	93.02%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

During the reporting period, the operation faced significant budgetary challenges due to a gap between operational needs (\$27,885,425.75) and available funds (8,006,187.93\$). The allocated budget was prioritized to support forcibly displaced and stateless populations with essential services like protection, shelter, WASH, and healthcare. However, insufficient contributions impacted UNHCR's ability to deliver essential protection and assistance services to refugees and weakens sustainable response initiatives by increasing vulnerability among displaced populations and stagnating livelihood opportunities. This lack of funding hindered efforts to build resilience among refugees and asylum seekers. To address these challenges, it's essential to enhance resource mobilization by diversifying funding sources, improving donor

engagement, and strengthening partnerships to meet ongoing and emerging needs.

The operation received funds from the Innovation Fund for Environmental Projects, which enabled the implementation of livelihood and WASH activities in the camp but also contributed to health survey for refugees' inclusion in national programmes. SONY funds were received to support health and WASH initiatives. With RBSA support the education inclusion advocacy initiative was initiated. PRM supported Repatriation and Resettlement while UNAIDS supported reproductive health/HIV services. Safe from the Start allowed to support innovative on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response interventions for 3 Refugees Led organization.

Funding sources, such as the African Risk Capacity Group's insurance payout, supported a three-month cash assistance program aimed at 4,000 households, including 2,400 refugees and 1,400 members of the host community. The program replicated Malawi's Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) to assist ultra-poor populations affected by El Niño-induced drought. and allowing achieving the operation's objectives, complementing humanitarian efforts by facilitating the implementation of long-term development projects. This approach fostered self-reliance and promoted the integration of forcibly displaced individuals within host communities.

In addition to the insurance payout, Malawi prioritized cash use in several sectors, including education and voluntary repatriation. In education, UNHCR Malawi, under the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative), provided financial support for tuition and living expenses to refugee scholars pursuing higher education in the country. This initiative included payment of tuition fees and stipends to students. UNHCR Malawi also provided eligible primary and secondary school students with cash to cover national examination fees. Additionally, UNHCR Malawi provided cash allowances to refugees who voluntarily repatriated to support their travel.

Approximately 39% of UNHCR's operational expenditure was allocated to partnerships, with a considerable portion directed towards national and local partners, 2 governments entities and 1 local NGO, including 3 refugee-led organizations. This approach not only strengthened local capacities but also ensured that interventions were contextually relevant and effectively addressed the needs of the affected populations. Overall, the focus on collaboration and flexible funding remains vital for enhancing the impact of the operation in meeting the needs of forcibly displaced and stateless individuals.

The unmet needs also impacted the operation's administrative plans. As part of the Greening the Blue initiative, the operation planned to transition from heavy diesel generators to solar power as the primary backup in its three offices. While this goal was not fully met, the operation successfully installed a backup power system in two offices, which now serves as the main power source during grid electricity outages.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The annual review highlighted several key lessons essential for the future of our operations. One significant takeaway is the need to diversify funding sources to effectively address financial gaps. As donor interests shift, particularly toward emergencies in other regions, it is crucial to establish a broader funding base to sustain essential services and programs. This diversification may involve reaching out to non-traditional donors and increasing visibility for refugee initiatives to secure consistent support.

A moment of strategic reflection underscored the importance of a whole-of-government approach, particularly evident in the integration of refugee education into the national system. This approach emphasizes the necessity of partnerships with local authorities and ministries, promoting ownership of refugee programs within national frameworks. Through this collaboration, Malawi has strengthened its relationship with the Ministry of Education, ensuring that the schools in the Dzaleka camp transition from private to public status. This effort aims to incorporate the educational needs of refugees into national and district development plans, promoting inclusivity and sustainability. Further, the operation has built collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Department of Disaster Management Affairs to ensure the inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in climate-resilient agriculture practices and climate emergency responses, respectively.

The role of funded refugee-led organizations (RLOs) emerged as a critical lesson. The three funded partnerships established with RLOs in 2024 demonstrated that these organizations have unique insights into local contexts and needs. This allows them to create tailored interventions that resonate with affected communities. Their involvement not only strengthened program delivery but also increased ownership and empowerment among refugees.

In light of these lessons, Malawi will prioritize funding diversification strategies in 2025, focusing on building partnerships with development agencies and the private sector. Additionally, the operation will emphasize incorporating a whole-of-government approach to ensure that refugee policies align with national priorities. Collaborating more extensively with refugee-led organizations will be a key strategy to ensure that programs are relevant and effectively address real needs.

Management has noted the evaluations emphasizing these lessons and will respond by reinforcing our commitment to inclusive approaches, enhancing coordination with governmental bodies, and promoting the sustainability of interventions through local partnerships. These strategies aim to create a resilient and adaptive operational framework that effectively meets the needs of forcibly displaced populations in Malawi.



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