

# Annual Results Report

**2024**

**South Sudan**

## 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

In 2024, South Sudan faced a complex humanitarian landscape marked by conflict, economic instability, and climate shocks. The country received 196,000 refugees/asylum-seekers and 422,000 returnees. Further, over 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) remained in precarious conditions.

The economic crisis deepened due to disruptions in oil exports, which account for over 80 per cent of government revenue. Inflation soared, the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) depreciated by over 100 per cent, and public sector salaries remained unpaid for the majority of the year. Soaring food prices worsened food insecurity, disproportionately affecting displaced populations. Flooding in 44 counties displaced 379,000 people, compounding vulnerabilities. Political uncertainty persisted, with elections postponed to 2026, heightening tensions. Armed conflict and intercommunal violence, particularly in Upper Nile and Unity states, led to further displacement and restricted humanitarian access. Protection risks escalated, especially for unaccompanied children, women at risk, and persons with disabilities, as reception and case management systems struggled to meet increasing needs.

Despite these challenges, South Sudan maintained an open-door policy for refugees, with UNHCR supporting the government in implementing its Global Refugee Forum (GRF) commitments on education, livelihoods, protection, and durable solutions.

As of December 2024, South Sudan was hosting 517,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Sudan (94 per cent), with 79 per cent being women and children. UNHCR facilitated relocations from Renk to Maban, Jamjang, and Aweil, providing emergency support while advocating for sustainable solutions. However, gaps in legal frameworks and asylum procedures continue to hinder access to protection, requiring urgent policy reforms and strengthened humanitarian coordination.

In response to the increasing influx of refugees and returnees from Sudan due to the ongoing conflict, UNHCR invited IOM and the Government of South Sudan to establish joint border monitoring and strengthen data collection. This initiative provides real-time information on the number, conditions, and immediate protection needs of returnees, supporting partners' response efforts. This collaboration has led to the development of a joint dashboard offering live updates on inflows and returnee intentions. The data informs the identification of protection, rehabilitation, reintegration, and early recovery needs, guiding efforts to provide targeted assistance. Moreover, it is critical for shaping reintegration programming within national, regional, and local development frameworks.

Additionally, in South Sudan, UNHCR and the consultancy Samuel Hall, with support from the European Union, partnered to develop a new approach to measuring the reintegration of refugee returnees and the absorption capacity of services in areas receiving them. In 2024, UNHCR released the South Sudan Forced Displacement Survey, providing detailed insights into the living conditions of refugees and host communities. For instance, the survey reveals that the majority of registered refugees aged 15 and older possess at least one identity document. In the North, 95% of refugees have a refugee identity card, compared to 85% in the South. Additionally, just over half of refugees have access to clean drinking water nearby, and less than half have private toilets. However, a positive finding shows that 95% of refugees who required healthcare were able to access it. Surveys of health and education facilities and water points helped assess the availability and quality of services, identifying areas in need of investment – key to area-based responses.

In November 2024, South Sudan took a significant step toward addressing statelessness by acceding to the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. This milestone demonstrated the government's commitment to preventing statelessness and ensuring legal protections for affected individuals.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoy more favourable rights to access territory and documentation.**

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	77.45%
<b>1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

In 2024, South Sudan maintained a favourable political and social environment for refugee protection, continuing to admit individuals in need of international protection, regardless of nationality. The country’s refugee protection system remained aligned with international standards, including the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention), 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, and the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, (OAU Refugee Convention). These legal frameworks were embedded in the Refugee Act, 2012 and the Refugee Status and Eligibility Regulations, 2017, which guarantee refugees’ freedom of movement, residence, economic activity, the right to work, property rights, and access to social services.

The ongoing conflict in Sudan continued to drive large-scale displacement into South Sudan, particularly from active conflict zones in Khartoum, Darfur, and Kordofan. By the end of 2024, Sudanese refugees accounted for over 94 per cent of recognized cases, admitted under prima facie status. The proportion of individuals seeking international protection who accessed asylum procedures stood at 100 per cent, reflecting UNHCR’s support to the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) in implementing the Refugee Status Determination (RSD) backlog eradication strategy.

Resettlement efforts prioritized refugees from Burundi, CAR, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen, addressing urgent protection risks, medical needs (5 per cent of cases), and the absence of durable solutions in South Sudan. Field offices in Yambio, Maban, and Jamjang played a pivotal role in case identification and preparation, with continuous capacity-building support from the Regional Bureau.

Despite progress, challenges remained in addressing the continued demand for asylum processing, such delays in Refugee Status Determination (RSD) processing persist due to the lack of CRA caseworkers in key field locations such as Aweil, Maban, Jamjang, and Yambio, where the demand for asylum processing remains high. High turnover and capacity gaps among CRA staff further slow decision-making, as newly assigned officers require extensive training before they can effectively adjudicate cases. The delayed reconstitution of the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) meant that rejected asylum-seekers did not have formal avenue for appeal, prolonging uncertainty and legal limbo. Additionally, high no-show rates among scheduled applicants further hinder progress, leading to inefficiencies and increasing the backlog of pending cases. Meanwhile, 100 per cent of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons retained their right to freedom of movement within South Sudan. The CRA, in collaboration with UNHCR and national actors, led preparedness efforts to manage new refugee inflows, stabilize border areas, provide life-saving assistance, and strengthen partnerships with state authorities, host communities, and humanitarian and development actors to foster peaceful coexistence and resilience.

Since the outbreak of violence in Sudan on 15 April 2023, South Sudan has received over 987,000 new arrivals, with a sharp increase in the last quarter of 2024. Sudanese refugees remained the largest population group, all admitted under prima facie recognition. The sustained influx increased pressure on an

already fragile humanitarian landscape, further stretching available resources and response capacities.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Affected populations are increasingly resistant to shocks.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	88.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.80%	95.80%

In 2024, UNHCR focused on ensuring displaced communities had access to basic services and realized their rights through emergency response, protection system strengthening, and durable solutions. Protection monitoring was intensified across borders and within communities to identify risks and expedite responses. The inter-agency protection referral mechanism was improved with a tracking system for better follow-up. As a result, over 283,000 refugees and asylum-seekers received protection services, including psychosocial support, legal representation, responses to gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), child protection, and documentation to secure their rights.

Despite these efforts, major challenges remained. Ninety per cent of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and IDPs lived below the national poverty line, highlighting their ongoing vulnerability. Access to health care was inadequate, with only 95 per cent of refugees, 55 per cent of returnees, 50 per cent of IDPs, and 44 per cent of host communities able to access services. Dissatisfaction with health services remained high, reflecting an urgent need for further investment.

UNHCR worked with the government and partners to uphold the civilian character of asylum, strengthen law enforcement, and enhance resilience through skills-building and livelihoods support. While these initiatives contributed to progress, gaps persisted in ensuring safety, secure settlements, and essential services. Although the Refugee Act, 2012 guarantees rights such as freedom of movement and access to services, infrastructure constraints and systemic challenges hindered its full implementation.

The Government of South Sudan maintained an open-door policy, granting prima facie asylum to Sudanese refugees, who accounted for 94 per cent of recognized cases. Since April 2023, South Sudan received over 987,000 new arrivals, with numbers surging in late 2024. A major milestone was reached in November 2024 when the government acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, reinforcing its commitment to reducing statelessness and strengthening protections.

While challenges remained, UNHCR’s focus on emergency response, protection systems, and resilience-building laid a strong foundation for safeguarding refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities in South Sudan.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2025, communities achieve greater self-reliance and gender equality.

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	50.00%
<b>3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education</b>		
IDPs	85.36%	85.36%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.29%	46.50%
Returnees	74.73%	74.73%
<b>3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education</b>		
IDPs	20.48%	20.48%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.35%	13.67%
Returnees	20.22%	20.22%
<b>3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark</b>		
IDPs	48.61%	57.56%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	68.92%	30.00%
Returnees	54.76%	15.00%

In 2024, UNHCR implemented targeted protection strategies to address the needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and IDPs. These efforts prioritized community engagement, enabling displaced populations to identify protection challenges, set priorities, and participate in designing solutions. Participatory assessments informed protection responses, while communication mechanisms were strengthened to ensure that vulnerable groups, particularly women and girls, were aware of the services and reporting pathways.

The Sudan crisis increased the number of school-age refugee children (3–24 years) by 42 per cent (over 91,500), further straining an already fragile education system marked by overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of qualified teachers, and inadequate learning materials. Enrolment rates declined among refugee and increased for IDPs populations groups. Among refugees, primary school enrolment fell from 68 per cent to 47 per cent, while secondary enrolment dropped from 18 per cent to 14 per cent. For returnees, primary enrolment increased from 39 per cent to 75 per cent, and secondary enrolment reduced from 40 per cent to 20 per cent. IDPs saw primary enrolment increase from 66 per cent to 85 per cent, while secondary enrolment increased from 9 per cent to 20.5 per cent. In response, UNHCR worked with the Ministry of General Education and Instruction to integrate displaced students and teachers into South Sudan's national education system through newly developed school placement guidelines.

UNHCR's livelihoods programs helped sustain economic resilience, ensuring 50 per cent refugees and asylum-seekers had access to work opportunities. Vocational training, small business support, and income-generating activities played a crucial role in fostering self-reliance. Perceptions of safety varied. Among refugees, the proportion of those feeling safe walking alone declined from 69 per cent to 55 per cent, underscoring security concerns. However, returnees reported improved safety perceptions, rising from 55 per cent to 69 per cent, while IDP safety perceptions remained unchanged, potentially due to enhanced security measures in areas of return, reintegration programs, and increased presence of local authorities. UNHCR and partners have supported these efforts through community-based protection initiatives, border monitoring, and engagement with law enforcement to strengthen security for displaced populations.

UNHCR and partners supported host communities through education, healthcare, and infrastructure interventions, strengthening social cohesion and equitable resource-sharing. Local leaders and customary courts facilitated peaceful coexistence and dispute resolution. Through these multi-sectoral interventions, UNHCR reinforced the protection environment while promoting resilience and self-reliance. Despite persistent challenges, South Sudan's commitment to durable solutions remained a priority.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

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

Population Type	Indicator	
	Baseline	Actual (2024)
<b>4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	14,655	0
<b>4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4	34
<b>4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6	3
<b>4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed</b>		
Stateless Persons	0	19,911
<b>4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed</b>		
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	514,795

The operation's vision for 2023–2025 focused on life-saving humanitarian response and protection activities while advancing development-focused, peace-reinforcing, and climate-adapted solutions. It recognized refugees, IDPs, returnees, and stateless populations as key contributors to peace and stability. In 2024, progress was made toward defined impact targets for forcibly displaced and stateless populations. No refugees voluntarily returned to their countries of origin during the year. For third-country solutions, 34 refugees departed for resettlement in 2024, and seven more accessed complementary pathways for admission to third countries (comprehensive data is unavailable to UNHCR). Despite progress, challenges remain, including the lack of machine-readable conventional travel documents (MRCTDs), which limits refugees' mobility and access to solutions. Advocacy for issuing MRCTDs remains a priority. Collaboration with resettlement countries, development actors, and host government counterparts will be crucial to sustaining momentum, expanding complementary pathways, and enhancing protection mechanisms for vulnerable refugees. A significant milestone was achieved for stateless populations, with 19,600 individuals granted or confirmed nationality. However, no refugees received residency status in either year, highlighting ongoing legal protection gaps.

UNHCR strengthened collaboration between humanitarian, peace, and development actors to advance solutions, promote peaceful coexistence, and enhance resilience. Despite these efforts, challenges persisted. Poverty remained high, with 90 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers living below the national poverty line. Health service access remained constrained, with only 50 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, 55 per cent of returnees, 50 per cent of IDPs, and 44 per cent of host community members able to access services, despite reported needs exceeding 79 per cent across all groups. Poverty levels also remained high, with 90 per cent of refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and IDPs living below the national poverty line. Access to physically safe and secure settlements with basic facilities varied, with 90 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers reporting access, while returnees and IDPs had no recorded access. Meanwhile, health service coverage for refugees and asylum-seekers stood at 96 per cent, based on 163,000 individuals out of a total 170,000, according to the Forced Display Survey 2023. These figures underscore the continued challenges in service provision and the urgent need for strengthened support across all population groups.

The Revised National Development Strategy 2021–2024 and the South Sudan National Social Protection Policy Framework guided social protection and economic empowerment efforts through safety net programmes, which are social protection measures designed to support vulnerable populations. These commitments were reaffirmed at the second GRF in December 2023, where South Sudan broadened its pledges to include sustainable returns, peacebuilding, and inclusive reintegration. A key achievement was



the adoption of the National Durable Solutions Strategy in October 2024, strengthening local government capacities and engaging development actors such as the EU, AfDB, and the World Bank in funding long-term solutions.

Solutions for returnees included lifesaving humanitarian assistance at border and transit areas, continued support upon arrival at return locations, and reintegration assistance through access to services and economic empowerment. For refugees, efforts focused on self-reliance, third-country opportunities, and education and skills development to reduce aid dependency. While progress was achieved in advancing durable solutions, gaps remained in securing residency status and expanding access to essential services.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Achieving the intended impacts in South Sudan remains challenging due to political instability, economic deterioration, security concerns, and resource constraints. The lack of harmonization between refugee legislation and national policies limits refugee rights, particularly in access to legal identity, land, and economic inclusion. While South Sudan maintains an open-door policy, weaknesses in asylum processing and border management create procedural delays, hindering access to protection and durable solutions. Limited resources within the Commission for Refugee Affairs continue to impact refugee status determination and documentation.

Service provision remains underfunded, leading to gaps in healthcare, education, and livelihoods. The economic crisis, marked by high inflation, currency depreciation, and declining oil revenues, has weakened the government's ability to deliver services to displaced populations and host communities. Humanitarian actors have struggled to fill education gaps, as overcrowding, a shortage of qualified teachers, and poor infrastructure contribute to declining enrolment and learning outcomes. Despite integration efforts, women and girls continue to face barriers such as early marriage, school dropouts, and limited vocational training.

Protection risks remain high, particularly in IDP settlements and border areas, where insecurity, intercommunal violence, and organized crime expose refugees, returnees, and host communities to harm. The non-civilian nature of some refugee camps, coupled with weak law enforcement, has increased exposure to gender-based violence and child protection risks. Limited legal aid further weakens the protection environment. The shift from humanitarian assistance to self-reliance remains slow due to limited funding for livelihoods programs and economic empowerment initiatives. Refugees, returnees, and IDPs struggle with market integration due to economic instability and job scarcity. The lack of access to credit and business development support further hinders progress toward sustainable solutions.

Despite these barriers, opportunities exist. The government's commitment to the GRF pledges and adoption of the National Durable Solutions Strategy provide avenues for policy reforms. Expanding private sector and financial partnerships could improve access to livelihoods and economic inclusion, while investing in local governance and peacebuilding could enhance social cohesion. Strengthening humanitarian-development cooperation is key to overcoming systemic challenges and ensuring long-term solutions for displaced populations and host communities in South Sudan.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR South Sudan made progress in strengthening partnerships to support displaced populations. These collaborations included with United Nations (UN) agencies such as International Organization for Migration (IOM), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and UN-Habitat, as well as development

actors such as the European Union (EU), Mastercard Foundation (MF), the World Bank (WB), and the African Development Bank (AfDB). UNHCR also worked closely with refugee-led organizations (RLOs) and local community groups to ensure a coordinated response. A key partnership in 2024 was UNHCR's collaboration with IOM on the Sudan crisis, leading emergency responses, strengthening border monitoring, and supporting new arrivals. EU-funded projects at regional and national levels improved access to services, youth peacebuilding, and national documentation, aligning with the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR).

UNHCR partnered with the EU and, Mastercard foundation to enhance education access for displaced children and youth through the Albert Einstein Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarships and to promote livelihood opportunities for self-reliance. Discussions with the EU and MF focused on advocating for policies that foster social cohesion and refugee integration. These efforts contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Similarly, the WB, EU, and AfDB supported socio-economic empowerment in key locations, expanding vocational training for returnees, IDPs, refugees, and host communities. This aligned with UNHCR's focus on self-sufficiency under the GCR and contributed to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). UNHCR engaged with stakeholders under the GRF to advance pledges on education, livelihoods, and protection. Coordination with the National Technical Committees on Durable Solutions, led by the Commission for Refugee Affairs (CRA) and the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, supported policy development with development actors.

The Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), led by the CRA and UNHCR, ensured a coordinated approach. Sectoral coordination mechanisms strengthened multi-sectoral interventions in protection, health, education, livelihoods, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). UNHCR integrated refugee responses within national humanitarian architecture, maintaining coordination with the cluster system and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT). UNHCR also led humanitarian coordination in Renk, supporting both returnees and refugees. Despite progress, challenges persisted, including inadequate infrastructure and an increasing number of returnees from Sudan. Limited government resources also strained service delivery, requiring sustained donor support and innovative approaches.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

**Forcibly displaced and stateless persons exercise their rights and duties associated with access to territory and possession of documents.**

##### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28.33%	100.00%	99.97%
<b>1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority</b>			
IDPs	50.51%	70.00%	50.51%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.01%	95.00%	38.47%
Returnees	53.78%	70.00%	53.78%
<b>1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials</b>			
IDPs	28.97%	70.00%	28.97%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
Stateless Persons	13.30%	30.00%	68.85%

##### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>01.1.1 Number of people registered on an individual basis</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	149,490
<b>01.2.1 Number of people supported to obtain civil status, identity or legal status documentation</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	149,490
Stateless Persons	19,561

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

South Sudan's refugee response operation made progress in strengthening registration, protection, and humanitarian assistance efforts. Since the outbreak of the Sudan conflict in 2023, over 987,000 individuals have crossed into South Sudan, adding pressure to an already complex displacement situation. The influx comprised 70 per cent of South Sudanese returnees, 29 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, and less than 1 per cent of third-country nationalities (TCN). An average of 1,400 individuals arrived daily in 2024, underscoring the urgent humanitarian needs in shelter, food, health, and education. In 2024, UNHCR registered 133,000 refugees and asylum-seekers on an individual basis, ensuring access to protection and

assistance.

To improve registration processes, UNHCR introduced Individual Emergency Registration (IER) and biometric registration in key locations such as Renk and Abyei. These measures enhanced data accuracy, reduced fraud risks, and expedited protection services. Mobile registration teams extended coverage to hard-to-reach areas, ensuring a more inclusive process. By the end of 2024, 100 per cent of registered refugees and asylum-seekers had received identity documents, facilitating their access to essential services. A key milestone was the adoption of the 2024 Civil Registration and National ID Regulations by the Ministry of the Interior, strengthening the legal framework for refugee documentation. This will lead to positive outcomes, as it will facilitate inclusion into national systems.

However, gaps remain in implementation, requiring continued advocacy and capacity-building efforts. The Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) system in South Sudan is currently facing significant challenges and slow progress. However, two years ago, the Department of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passports, and Immigration (DCRNPI) initiated a project to revamp various departments and ensure that registration of vital events is conducted in real time for all nationals. While the project has made some strides, funding constraints have hindered full implementation. Currently, the system relies on birth notifications issued in hospitals and, for home births, through local chiefs to facilitate the registration of newborns. Additionally, the EU-INPTA National Civil Documentation Project has been pivotal in facilitating the issuance of Nationality certificates to vulnerable refugee returnees and IDPs.

Joint border monitoring with IOM enabled efficient population tracking and targeted protection interventions. The open-border policy remained in place, facilitating refugee access. In collaboration with IOM and the Government, UNHCR implemented a real-time displacement tracking system, providing live updates on inflows, outflows, and returnee intentions. This system helped identify protection risks and reintegration needs, allowing for targeted humanitarian interventions. UNHCR's border monitoring covered 79 entry points (42 official and 37 unofficial crossings), including 37 along the Sudan border and others at crossings with the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda. 149,236 border interviews were conducted, generating critical data for response planning.

Additionally, 673 community assessments were conducted, including 289 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and 384 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). These provided a comprehensive understanding of displacement patterns, facilitating data-driven response planning. UNHCR trained border monitors from partner organizations and the Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRC) to strengthen monitoring capabilities in Torit, Kajo-Keji, Yei, Yambio, Akobo, Nasir, Jikmir, Renk, Maban, Bentiu, Aweil, Wau, Nimule, and Jamjang. Despite significant progress, gaps persist in service delivery and legal protection, particularly for populations in remote areas. Strengthening cross-border coordination and expanding service coverage remain critical priorities for 2025.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

**Asylum seekers have access to fair and efficient national Refugee Status Determination procedures.**

## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.00	60.00	90.00
<b>2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
<b>2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>02.1.1 UNHCR has provided capacity development support to strengthen the national status determination system(s), in accordance with international standards</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Yes

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, South Sudan's Refugee Status Determination (RSD) process continued to adapt to the evolving refugee influx, with CRA leading the efforts. Despite facing challenges such as a growing caseload, particularly from Eritrean and Ethiopian asylum-seekers, and limitations in field presence, notable progress was made in addressing the RSD backlog. A focused initiative launched in early 2024 aimed at clearing 100 per cent of the backlog managed to reduce it by 71 per cent, clearing over 2,200 cases by the end of the year.

As of 31 December 2024, a total of 2,680 new asylum-seekers were recorded along with 5,562 cases from the previous year's RSD backlog. Of these, 3,077 cases were inactivated due to non-compliance with the RSD interview requirements, reflecting the ongoing challenge of tracking and verifying asylum-seekers' status, especially from high-volume countries such as Eritrea. Out of the processed 1,906 asylum cases, 1,862 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status while 44 cases were rejected. Eritrean asylum-seekers constituted the largest group of recognitions (930 individuals), followed by those from Burundi (633) and Ethiopia (289). The inactivation of cases due to non-engagement highlights the complexity of maintaining an accurate asylum process.

The CRA recruited additional personnel, including 15 RSD caseworkers and 13 interpreters, to enhance processing capacity and support the RSD backlog eradication strategy. Mobile RSD teams were deployed to remote areas, ensuring that registration and case processing reached as many individuals as possible. The CRA's Reception Centre in Juba served as the focal point for these efforts, with a dedicated team of nine caseworkers and additional support from UNHCR. Each caseworker was tasked with, and processed, approximately 15 cases per week as part of a six-month initiative in 2024 to enhance efficiency.

UNHCR through CRA advocated for the prima facie consideration of Ethiopian asylum-seekers, driven by the ongoing conflicts in Ethiopia. In as much as CRA brought the advocacy to the attention of the Minister of Interior, progress on such had not yet been received despite the good political will. Additionally, the Refugee Appeals Board (RAB) was operationalized in October 2024 through the reconstitution of the membership; a key development aligned with the Refugee Act, 2012. UNHCR worked closely with the CRA

to support the RAB, ensuring it was equipped to handle appeals efficiently and transparently. Furthermore, updating Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the CRA and Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC) and developing Rules of Procedures for the RAB marked an important step in strengthening South Sudan's legal protection framework for refugees.

As part of ongoing capacity-building activities, UNHCR facilitated a study visit to Kenya for representatives from the South Sudan Refugee Eligibility Committee, Refugee Appeals Board, and Commission of Refugees Affairs. This visit served as a platform for sharing experiences between the South Sudanese delegation, their Kenyan counterparts, and UNHCR experts on international protection and asylum systems.

Looking ahead, both the CRA and UNHCR remain committed to continuing efforts to clear the RSD backlog, enhance case processing efficiency, and ensure the protection and rights of refugees. The progress made in 2024 is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of refugee management in South Sudan.

### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

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

#### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol</b>			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment
<b>3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness</b>			
None	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment	Progressing toward alignment

#### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>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</b>	
IDPs	Yes
Returnees	Yes
Stateless Persons	Yes

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

South Sudan's national legal framework for refugee protection remains robust and is aligned with international instruments such as the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 OAU Convention. These frameworks create a conducive environment for the protection of refugees, asylum-seekers, and returnees, ensuring that refugees can access essential rights and services upon arrival. In 2024, UNHCR worked in close collaboration with the South Sudanese government to strengthen the implementation of these frameworks, focusing on improving border management and enhancing the monitoring of asylum-seekers. Notably, this contributed to a more streamlined process for receiving individuals fleeing conflict,

ensuring their safety and dignity during the asylum process.

A critical milestone in addressing statelessness was achieved with South Sudan's deposition of the instruments of accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR played a pivotal role in supporting the government to operationalize the instruments at the country level, offering legal advice on the Nationality Act of 2011, contributing to drafting the Civil Registry Regulations (2024) under the Civil Registry Act of 2018, and conducting capacity-building activities for officials engaged in nationality and documentation. This collaboration helped to shape a legal environment more conducive to the protection of stateless persons. In July 2024, South Sudan drafted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Bill (2024) which aims at prohibiting, preventing and combating trafficking in person in South Sudan and protect and assist the victims.

On 10 October, the South Sudan government launched the South Sudan Durable Solutions strategy and the South Sudan Action Plan on Return, Integration and Recovery (2024 – 2028). The strategy and the Action Plan Development process, supported under The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Support Platform on Forcible Displacement, seeks to mobilize a stronger collective response to support durable solutions for over 7 million South Sudanese and Sudanese refugees, returnees, IDPs, and their host communities.

UNHCR's contributions were instrumental in these advancements, particularly in providing technical support and facilitating dialogue between the government and relevant stakeholders. As part of its continued support, UNHCR supported initiatives to develop refugee ID cards and machine-readable Convention Travel Documents to align with the pledges made by South Sudan at the second GRF, where the government committed to enhancing its protection capacity through strengthening asylum management systems, which are expected to significantly improve the efficiency of the documentation processes. Other stakeholders, such as IOM, local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and international partners, complemented UNHCR's work through capacity-building, supporting community outreach, and providing resources that have helped enhance South Sudan's overall protection capacity. These combined efforts have registered progress toward strengthening protection systems, documentation, and reduction of statelessness.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services</b>			
IDPs	72.30%	90.00%	75.78%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.20%	50.00%	80.20%
Returnees	75.78%	30.00%	75.78%
<b>4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women</b>			
IDPs	35.70%	35.00%	75.78%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37.47%	35.00%	37.47%
Returnees	42.31%	30.00%	42.31%
<b>4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89.29%	30.00%	89.29%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>04.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes</b>	



IDPs	50,254
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	143,898
Returnees	567

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To assess the risks of GBV, concrete recommendations emanating from the field missions in Renk, Aweil, Maban, Jamjang, Gorom, were shared to mitigate GBV risks through the provision of dignity kits, solar public lights, gender-disaggregated latrines, hiring of more female police officers, and introduction of new Women and Girls Safe Spaces, etc. Safety audit training was conducted in field offices in 2024 and safety audits have been completed in Renk and Jamjang, Gorm and Maban while the other refugee locations have planned to conduct safety audits for the first half of 2025. To support newly arrived women and girls, UNHCR also secured SftS funding and implemented three Girl Shine projects in Maban and Juba benefitting some 8,727 women and girls.

GBV risk mitigation efforts focused on raising awareness, providing community-based support, provision of dignity kits and strengthening legal frameworks to protect survivors. Collaborative efforts also involved empowering local actors (WLOs and WRLOs), ensuring safe spaces, and improving access to services for those at risk.

UNHCR and Plan international delivered an integrated interagency training on child marriage and child protection and gender-based violence case management services. The aim of the training was to strengthen the capacity of essential and lifesaving services for ever married girls and unmarried girls at-risk of child marriage in forced displacement settings.

Awareness of GBV services remained high among refugees and asylum-seekers (80 per cent) and returnees (76 per cent), but lower for IDPs (72 per cent), and particularly for stateless individuals and host communities (30 per cent), highlighting the need for more targeted outreach efforts. Progress was made in reducing the acceptance of violence against women, especially among refugees (38 per cent) and returnees (42 per cent). However, social norms remained difficult to shift among IDPs and host communities. Satisfaction rates for GBV case management were high among refugees (89 per cent), though lower among returnees (60 per cent) and IDPs (68 per cent), indicating areas for service improvements. Addressing these gaps requires stronger community engagement and systematic feedback mechanisms.

In 2024, UNHCR assisted 260,000, identified GBV survivors with specialized support, including the provision of dignity kits, life-saving services, psychosocial support, case management, and referrals to specialized services. A total of 21,900 GBV survivors and at-risk individuals received targeted assistance. To strengthen prevention and awareness efforts, 160,700 individuals were reached through community-based GBV awareness activities, while 66,900 individuals participated in specialized prevention programmes aimed at reducing risks and promoting safer environments.

Recognizing the importance of survivor-centred care, UNHCR trained over 1,200 frontline workers in GBV prevention and response, equipping them with skills to provide safe, confidential, and effective support. Women-led organizations played a critical role in service delivery, particularly through initiatives such as the Girl Shine project, implemented in urban Juba and rolled out in Maban to be delivered in 2025 by two Women Refugee-led Organizations (WRLOs) currently being supported to establish their organization in drafting their membership ToR and vision / mission to enable their registration with local authorities. This project, supported by the Safe from the Start fund, trained 154 women and girls as mentors and facilitators and established safe spaces for women and girls. Meanwhile, the SASA! Approach, which promotes behavioral change and violence prevention, was piloted in Maban, Juba, and Jamjang, reaching 8,727 individuals and challenging harmful social norms. Through EMAP, men were engaged in accountability practices that involved fostering their active participation in promoting gender equality and preventing harmful behaviors, this approach is essential for shifting societal norms and building sustainable, positive change.

To enhance data coordination and protection strategies, UNHCR integrated the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) into operations, enabling eight organizations to strengthen data-driven decision-making and response coordination. Additionally, the GBV Sub-Working Group finalized



SOPs to standardize protection frameworks for refugee settings and to strengthen overall response mechanisms. To improve safety for women and girls, UNHCR conducted safety audits in Torit, Renk, Yei, Bentiu, Jamjang, and Bor, identifying barriers to service access and informing targeted programming. These efforts contributed to a more coordinated, survivor-centred approach to GBV prevention and response across refugee-hosting areas in South Sudan.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.64%	100.00%	70.01%
<b>5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes</b>			
IDPs	7.38%	25.00%	18.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.80%	40.00%	69.98%
Returnees	7.94%	35.00%	25.00%
<b>5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.19%	35.00%	40.19%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
<b>05.1.1 Number of children and caregivers who received child protection services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7,000

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR's child protection response focused on improving access to quality child protection services and investing in prevention and response strategies to enhance the resilience of refugee children and their caregivers. Child protection was mainstreamed across multiple sectors, particularly education, livelihoods, and basic needs, ensuring a comprehensive approach to children's safety and well-being. Child participation and child-friendly communication were prioritized to foster accountability and amplify children's voices in the response. Additionally, psychosocial support was strengthened to build resilience among children and caregivers.

To provide an integrated response to at-risk children, child protection actors worked closely with the GBV sub-sector and other protection sectors, emphasizing the identification of children at risk, the implementation of the Best Interests Procedure (BIP), and family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). UNHCR and its partner, Plan International collaborated to combat child marriage, raising awareness among humanitarian actors and expanding targeted prevention programmes. Inclusive child protection systems were strengthened to improve referrals to multisectoral services, while support was extended to government actors, humanitarian partners, families, and

communities to help prevent and respond to child protection risks.

A total of 7,000 children received case management services, with 106 placed in alternative foster care, and 10 UASC reunited with their biological families. A total of 1,113 UASC were supported, and ProGres - a centralized UNHCR database used for refugee registration, case management, and protection monitoring - was leveraged to improve case management efficiency. The BIP remained a priority, with 443 Best Interests Assessments (BIAs) conducted and 46 cases reviewed by Best Interests Determination (BID) panels in Juba, Yambio, Jamjang, and Maban.

Holistic case management addressed child protection concerns by coordinating required assistance in line with the best interests of the child. This included identification, documentation, and response. A total of 70 per cent of children at heightened risk were supported by a BIP, as compared to the target of 100 per cent. Additionally, 70 per cent of refugee and asylum-seeker children participated in community-based child protection programs, surpassing the target of 40 per cent.

Following the mid-2024 food targeting exercise, child protection actors collaborated with livelihoods partners to support cash-based interventions benefiting 2,050 foster families and 2,078 children. Child protection SOPs for case management, BIP, and alternative care were reviewed and updated. Awareness-raising campaigns reached 8,349 community members, equipping them with knowledge on identifying and referring child protection concerns. Additionally, child rights clubs actively engaged in advocacy efforts across refugee-hosting areas.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

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

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>06.1.1 Number of people who received legal assistance</b>	
IDPs	305
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53,256
Returnees	392

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR's legal response in 2024 strategically focused on strengthening access to justice for IDPs, returnees, refugees, and asylum-seekers. This was achieved through advocacy, coordination, capacity-building, and operational responses in partnership with the Judiciary, the CRA, United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), and humanitarian partners.

Key activities included identifying legal cases, mapping justice actors, and enhancing coordination on legal interventions. The operation prioritized detention monitoring and systematically engaged with the CRA, the Judiciary, prosecution departments, and police to address legal and physical security issues. These included cases of physical violence, assault, murder, GBV, and theft. With UNHCR's support, the CRA ensured the presence of police in refugee camps and settlements to prevent and respond effectively to rights violations. UNHCR achieved progress in establishing formal justice structures in refugee-hosting areas, supported by mobility resources, equipment, mobile courts, and training initiatives.

Access-to-justice training was provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, and IDPs; and extended to host communities. In 2024, a total of 54,000 cases received legal interventions, including court representation for 136 cases.

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

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.</b>			
IDPs		Extensive	Extensive
Refugees and Asylum-seekers		Extensive	Extensive
Returnees		Extensive	Extensive
<b>7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms</b>			
IDPs	22.00%	60.00%	61.99%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.00%	100.00%	97.00%
Returnees	13.00%	40.00%	75.00%
<b>7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures</b>			
IDPs	35.00%	30.00%	35.00%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	50.00%	40.00%
Returnees	35.00%	30.00%	35.00%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>07.1.1 Number of people consulted through Participatory Assessments</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,553
Returnees	1,296
<b>07.2.1 Number of people who used UNHCR- supported feedback &amp; response mechanisms to voice their needs/ concerns/feedback</b>	
IDPs	181
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8,816
Returnees	2,028
<b>07.3.1 Number of people who received protection services</b>	
IDPs	10,123
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	274,524
Returnees	124,686

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR's community-based protection interventions in 2024 prioritized participation and empowerment, ensuring that displaced individuals and communities were able to actively exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities. Community-based structures played a key role in identifying protection concerns, disseminating information about services, and facilitating referrals to specialized service providers. Through systematic engagement with these structures, UNHCR ensured that displaced populations were actively involved in decision-making processes.

To strengthen community feedback mechanisms, focal points were identified and trained on standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling complaints, with an emphasis on confidentiality and safety. Regular consultations and dialogues were conducted to assess community needs and protection priorities, shaping responses accordingly. Community empowerment initiatives focused on strengthening participation and resilience, leveraging strategic partnerships and community-driven approaches. UNHCR supported community outreach volunteers, self-managed women and youth committees, peace committees, and camp management groups, reinforcing their role in protection and social cohesion. Additionally, men and boys were engaged to enhance GBV prevention efforts, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive response in line with the UNHCR Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) Policy.

In June 2024, the operation with the support of the Regional Bureau-Nairobi launched and rolled out a new Community Based Protection (CBP) and Complaints, Feedback, Referral, Tracking Mechanism (CFRTM) Tool. The tool was designed to streamline and enhance the operation's ability to track and manage complaints, feedback, and referrals, document CBP activities hence improving service delivery and response across South Sudan. Towards the end of the year, the operation had initiated efforts to implement a fully-fledged automated Feedback and Referral System.

In 2024, UNHCR and its partners facilitated opportunities for self-reliance through activities conducted in community centres and women and girl-friendly spaces, including skills training in tailoring, bakery, and vegetable gardening. Through collaboration with UNHCR partner Inkomoko, refugee and IDP groups received funding to support economic empowerment, focusing on long-term sustainable livelihood approaches that enhance preparedness for durable solutions.

Support was also extended to vulnerable host populations through community-based interventions addressing medical, educational, and infrastructure needs, particularly in areas where host communities coexisted with refugees. Social cohesion campaigns targeted host communities, IDPs, and refugee structures, promoting peaceful conflict resolution and coexistence. Both formal and informal mechanisms, including local leaders and customary courts, were utilized to manage disputes.

The EU-funded project played a key role in fostering community engagement, ensuring active participation throughout design, implementation, and monitoring. The project focused on strengthening local ownership for sustainability by reinforcing existing community structures, including task forces, land committees, peace committees, women's groups, youth associations, and traditional leadership structures such as chiefs and local authorities. These efforts contributed to meaningful participation and long-term impact, reinforcing harmonious relations between host and refugee communities.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

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

## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items</b>			
IDPs	8.71%	20.00%	5.48%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.06%	70.00%	59.51%
Returnees	5.29%	20.00%	15.20%
<b>8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology</b>			
IDPs	1.26%	4.00%	1.26%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.01%	8.00%	0.01%
Returnees	0.38%	8.00%	0.38%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>08.1.1 Number of people who received cash assistance</b>	
IDPs	72,959
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	254,215
Returnees	23,957
<b>08.2.1 Number of people who received non-food items</b>	
Host Community	25,975
IDPs	28,228
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	53,739
Returnees	39,901
<b>08.3.1 Number of people supported with improved cooking options</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	560

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, 352,000 individuals received cash assistance, addressing urgent financial needs and fostering resilience. Among these individuals, over 254,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, 72,959 IDPs, and 23,957 returnees and 905 host community members benefited, with regard to supporting their basic needs, livelihood recovery, and reintegration. UNHCR partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide critical food assistance to refugees in camps, community settlements, and transit centres. Between January and August, 50 per cent blanket food assistance was provided by WFP, transitioning to targeted food aid from September to December, prioritizing vulnerable individuals. As a result, 35 per cent of refugees in Maban and 40 per cent in Jamjang received food aid. Additionally, high-energy biscuits and general food distributions at Renk and Panakuach entry points helped prevent hunger and malnutrition, particularly among children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.

In regions severely impacted by flooding, Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) played a crucial role in helping beneficiaries adapt to climate shocks, UNHCR provided unconditional MPC to enable individuals to secure essential items such as food, shelter, and healthcare, thereby enhancing their capacity to cope with

immediate needs.

Essential non-food items (NFIs) were distributed to 53,700 refugees and asylum-seekers, enhancing hygiene, safety, and living conditions. Key NFIs—including kitchen sets, dignity kits, clothing, jerry cans, plastic sheets, and solar lamps—enabled displaced families to meet basic survival needs. Additionally, 39,900 returnees, 26,000 host community members, and 28,200 IDPs benefited from NFIs throughout the year. Protection monitoring efforts were strengthened, improving case management, legal aid, cash assistance, and medical referrals. UNHCR expanded community-based protection outreach to persons with specific needs, conducting household-level vulnerability screenings to refine targeted assistance and update case management (ProGres) data for effective tracking. WASH interventions and hygiene campaigns reduced cholera risks, while improved maternal and child health care strengthened emergency response.

Over 100 ECOCA solar cookstoves were distributed, and 560 women were trained in briquette fuel production, thereby promoting clean energy solutions and facilitating economic empowerment. UNHCR's coordinated, data-driven approach reinforced education and skills development, social cohesion initiatives, and inter-agency collaboration, strengthening resilience and well-being for displaced populations across South Sudan.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing</b>			
IDPs	0.77%	88.00%	0.77%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.80%	100.00%	100.00%
Returnees	5.32%	45.00%	5.32%
<b>9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting</b>			
IDPs	21.50%	15.00%	21.50%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63.77%	22.00%	63.77%
Returnees	20.96%	13.00%	20.96%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>09.1.1 Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance</b>	
IDPs	65,068
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94,632
Returnees	155,174

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, South Sudan hosted 517,000 refugees and asylum-seekers across 129,200 households, with shelter assistance targeting 420,000 returnees. A total of 8,733 shelters were constructed, benefiting 85,000 refugees and 75,800 returnees, while 3,497 families received key shelter kits. Transit centres were expanded with additional blocks, roads, streetlights, fencing, and 122 communal shelters, benefiting 159,900 individuals. Emergency shelters were provided for Sudanese arrivals in Jamjang, Maban, and Aweil (Wedwil camp), though urban refugee settlements continue to present integration challenges. Only 1,564 shelters were upgraded to semi-permanent structures, highlighting the urgent need for additional investment.

To address Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) issues for returnees, UNHCR conducted an HLP assessment with IOM in Malakal, resolving 301 land ownership cases. Additionally, UNHCR facilitated land allocation for 725 displaced families in Manyo County, demarcated 185 plots in Hai Matar, and supported land registration for 120 families in Eastern Equatoria. In collaboration with IOM and UNMISS, UNHCR reinforced 20 kilometres of dykes in Rubkona and Bentiu, securing infrastructure for 60,000 households (300,000 individuals) in Guit, Rubkona, and IDP sites in Bentiu town. Critical flood prevention measures in Leer, Mayendit, and Payinjar (Ganyliel and Nyal) mitigated floodwater inflow, benefiting 7,027 households, including 2,699 IDP families (13,495 individuals).

UNHCR supported the establishment of Camp Management Committees (CMC) in 23 IDP and transit sites, improving communication, governance, and service coordination. Capacity-building initiatives strengthened Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) management skills in Renk Transit Centre, equipping partners and community representatives with advocacy tools for durable solutions. UNHCR implemented CCCM activities in the Malakal transit/reception centre and roving response activities in spontaneous IDP sites in Nasir, Ulang and Fangak counties. A total of 89,052 new arrivals (79,400 returnees, 9,607 refugees) was reached through site management support activities in the Bulukat transit centre in Malakal while in Ulang, Nasir and New Fangak UNHCR reached 62,400 IDPs with CCCM Services, most of whom were displaced by floods and inter-communal violence. Community engagement and peaceful coexistence remain key priorities. Monthly partner and community meetings have reduced tensions and strengthened dialogue between IDPs and host communities. UNHCR continues to ensure the inclusion of host communities in all activities while exploring sustainable solutions for displaced populations. Access to energy was higher among Refugees and Asylum Seekers (63.77 per cent), while IDP and Returnees reported less accessed in 21.50 per cent and 20.96 per cent respectively.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	95.04%	80.00%	95.05%
<b>10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.98%	95.00%	94.98%



## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>10.1.1 Number of individual consultations in UNHCR supported health care services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	845,999
<b>10.2.1 Number of consultations in UNHCR supported mental health and psychosocial support services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	6,541

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, access to health care for refugees and asylum-seekers in South Sudan continued in refugee camps with support from various partners providing primary and secondary health care. Over 95 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers had access to health services with 735,62600 individual consultations for refugees and asylum-seekers being made in the 18 UNHCR-supported health facilities – a consultation rate of 49 consultations/clinician/day. A total of 114,000 (14 per cent) individual consultations in the UNHCR-supported health facilities were for the host community.

The year witnessed notable progress in maternal and child health, driven by efforts to enhance safe motherhood services and address malnutrition. Nearly 117,000 doses of vaccines were administered, including measles and polio. Comprehensive reproductive health services were offered, with a complete antenatal care coverage of 72 per cent, skilled birth attendance coverage of 93 per cent, and complete postnatal care coverage of 56 per cent. In addition, UNHCR strengthened its efforts to combat malnutrition, treating nearly 4,584 pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition. Furthermore, collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led to the provision of family planning services to 31,100 with family planning prevalence rate standing at 27 per cent. For HIV screening and testing, over 5,698 women received the human immunodeficiency viruses (HIV) prevention and control services in order to reduce HIV transmission.

A total of 10,400 malnourished children under five years were admitted into therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes that ensured greater than 95 per cent cure rate. 7956 children under-five years benefited from the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) to prevent malnutrition. From the SENS conducted in Maban camps; The prevalence of GAM among children 6-59 months across all Maban camps remained of high public health concern at 13.7 per cent particularly in Doro camp (17.3 per cent). Stunting also remained high with overall prevalence of 26.8 per cent closed to the threshold or critical level of 30 per cent. Anaemia prevalence among children aged 6-59 months remained a medium public health concern with overall prevalence 34.8 per cent. Children 6-23 months were most affected with anaemia prevalence of 53.5 per cent above WHO threshold of 40 per cent thus indicating a major public health problem. In 2024, through collaborative efforts of UNICEF, the World Bank and the Ministry of Health, 11 refugee camp facilities in Upper Nile and Ruweng were included in the Health Sector Transformation Project (HSTP). Through this new development, the facilities were able to receive medicine and medical supplies filling the gaps in the provision of medical supplies.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

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



## Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.76%	3.00%	0.60%
<b>11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.37%	65.00%	0.63%

## Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>11.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from education programming</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86,259

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, South Sudan's education sector faced significant challenges, with primary school enrolment among refugees dropping from 57 per cent to 47 per cent and secondary enrolment declining from 18 per cent to 14 per cent. The Sudan crisis led to a 42 per cent increase in the school-age refugee population (over 91,800 refugees between 3-24 years) further straining an already fragile system (for instance the government has been unable to pay civil servants. Including teachers, for the past 15 months). Overcrowded classrooms, a shortage of qualified teachers, and insufficient learning materials severely limited access to education.

Despite these challenges, UNHCR and partners enrolled 61,597 refugee children in primary school and 7,263 in secondary school across camps and settlements. Education facilities in Maban, Jamjang, Wedwil, and Gorom were expanded, while teacher training and student attendance programs strengthened governance. Intensive English training supported curriculum transitions, and mental health and psychosocial support aided students' well-being. Cash-based interventions encouraged exam participation, and scholarships supported secondary students. WFP's school feeding program and the Girls' Education South Sudan Project provided cash transfers to promote attendance.

Tertiary education was also impacted by the Sudan crisis, with a 66 per cent increase in tertiary-aged refugees (18-24 years). Enrolment fell from 0.76 per cent to 0.60 per cent. The Mastercard Foundation and DAFI Programme provided scholarships to 84 DAFI scholars (49 male and 35 female) and 82 Mastercard Foundation scholars (37 male and 45 female). The DAFI graduation rate improved, with 62 scholars (44 male and 18 female) graduating, compared to 36 in 2023. Additionally, 10 DAFI scholars entered the workforce through the Instant Network Schools (INS) connected learning programme, which expanded to four centres with support from UNHCR HQ and Vodafone.

Despite the political willingness of supporting refugee inclusion, funding shortages remained a major barrier, leaving many educational needs unmet with UNHCR and humanitarian partners covering all costs for refugee education. A total 54 per cent of primary school-aged refugee children (6-13 years) remained out of school, exacerbated by food insecurity due to WFP's consistent food cuts since 2021 and ongoing climate shocks. Gender-related protection issues, including early marriages, further restricted girls' access to education. Urgent funding remains critical to addressing these barriers, ensuring access to quality education, and supporting long-term solutions for refugee students in South Sudan.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	57.50%	95.00%	57.50%
<b>12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet</b>			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.62%	70.00%	45.62%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>12.1.1 Number of people supported with access to water and/or sanitation services</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	368,331

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, the WASH sector faced significant challenges, including financial constraints, high water delivery costs, fuel inflation, power interruptions, and shortage of spare parts. Despite these obstacles, UNHCR and its partners made notable progress in expanding access to safe water, sanitation, and hygiene services for refugees, returnees, IDPs, and host communities.

Access to basic drinking water services remained high, reaching 368 persons, 83 per cent of refugees and returnees as well as 90 per cent of IDPs. However, further efforts are still needed to increase potable water supply beyond 95 per cent coverage. To address water supply challenges, interventions included drilling new boreholes, repairing tap stands and pipelines, and installing solar systems in 50 per cent of boreholes to ensure sustainable water delivery. Additionally, regular water quality monitoring and the excavation of water ponds for host communities strengthened access to clean water.

Sanitation and hygiene efforts also yielded positive outcomes, though access to safe household toilets remained low, particularly among IDPs (35 per cent) compared to the target met for refugees/returnees (50 per cent). Efforts focused on latrine construction and distribution, community engagement, and reducing the practice of open defecation. Hygiene promotion activities reached over 283,7006 people, improving hygiene behaviours and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks. Soap distribution, hygiene awareness campaigns, and a unified community health programme helped mitigate public health risks. To further strengthen local capacity in water management, 60 WASH incentive workers were trained. Despite funding limitations and external crises, UNHCR's coordination with partners and local authorities led to improved WASH services, contributing to the health and well-being of displaced populations.

During the reporting period, UNHCR and its WASH partners facilitated key water and sanitation services, including the drilling of five new boreholes in Aweil and Jamjang and the maintenance of 20 boreholes in Maban and Gorom camps. Additionally, continuous water quality monitoring and a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey were conducted, confirming that residual chlorine levels were consistently maintained at 0.5 milligrams per litre (mg/l) across all locations, ensuring water safety.

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

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider</b>			
IDPs	8.33%	20.00%	8.33%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1.94%	20.00%	1.94%
Returnees	11.62%	20.00%	11.95%
<b>13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year</b>			
IDPs	9.16%	30.00%	9.16%
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.71%	60.00%	8.71%
Returnees	5.60%	30.00%	5.60%

### Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Indicator
	Actual (2024)
<b>13.1.1 Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8,731
Returnees	3,891

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR and its partners empowered 12,60022 forcibly displaced individuals (8,731 refugees, 2,010 returnees, and 1,881 IDPs) through targeted livelihood interventions aligned with the 2023-2025 Country Strategy and Global Appeal. These efforts focused on sustainable agriculture, business development, skills training, and environmental sustainability to strengthen self-reliance. In sustainable agriculture, 7,848 individuals (5,280 refugees, 1,008 returnees, and 1,560 IDPs) – 62 per cent of whom were women – received training and agricultural inputs, reaching 77 per cent of the target. The programme introduced insect farming, distributed 2,001 Kuroiler chickens and 5,000 tilapia fingerlings, and facilitated access to over 600 feddans of farmland. More than 30 metric tons of seeds and 200 tools were distributed to enhance food production. The government's pledge to provide up to 50,000 acres of agricultural land for refugees offers an opportunity to expand and increase agricultural productivity with the adoption of improved climate-smart technologies, which advance the potential to address food insecurity but also enable refugees to earn income for their livelihoods.

Business development initiatives supported 3,267 individuals, of whom 73 per cent were women. UNHCR facilitated the opening of bank accounts for 415 refugees and 105 IDPs, improving financial inclusion. Additionally, 1,561 people (86 per cent women) participated in 65 village savings and loan associations. A livelihood graduation pilot targeted 100 vulnerable urban refugees (70 per cent female) with financial empowerment activities. A total 1,191 youth- and women-led businesses received business development grants, benefiting 244 refugees, 887 returnees, and 60 IDPs. Skills development programmes trained 943

youth (60 per cent women) in ICT, catering, plumbing, hairdressing, English, carpentry, soap-making, embroidery, garment-making, and welding, promoting skill-based employment. This benefited 636 refugees, 115 returnees, and 156 IDPs.

UNHCR's environmental sustainability efforts included installing two 14 KWP solar systems at vocational training centres, distributing solar cookers and briquette fuel to 495 households, and planting 70,000 fruit and shade trees to enhance climate resilience. To address flooding impacts, UNHCR and partners supported 79,200 households with multipurpose cash assistance, early warning information, and flood protection measures. This included 56,100 refugee households and 22,200 IDP/returnee households, demonstrating a broad impact. UNHCR also promoted localization and refugee leadership, with eight RLOs implementing projects that benefited 835 individuals (67 per cent women) across Yei, Juba, Torit, Renk, and Ikotos. These projects enhanced self-reliance, gender equality, and community-led humanitarian response.

These multi-sector interventions reinforced UNHCR's commitment to the GCR, particularly in promoting self-reliance and reducing pressure on host communities and mobilised matching finance for the Government of South Sudan GRF pledges on climate action, Jobs and livelihoods. The high female participation rate (with a range of 60-94 per cent for the livelihoods interventions) underscores UNHCR's focus on gender equality and women's empowerment, aligning with the Global Appeal priorities. By integrating livelihoods and environmental sustainability, UNHCR demonstrated the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, by adopting the settlement approach that fostering long-term resilience and peaceful coexistence and integration of displaced populations with the host community. With additional development funding, these programmes could expand their impact, ensuring more displaced individuals and host communities achieve self-reliance and economic stability. UNHCR, expanded, broader operational partnerships including with Inkomoko, to support refugee entrepreneurship, and FAO for communities empowerment through agriculture-based livelihoods. Key partner-funded programs include the Mastercard Foundation, to expanding access to education and employment, the EU INTPA for building economic stability for refugees and host communities, the African Development Bank, funding the refugee crisis response. UNHCR facilitated a strategic partnership with the World Bank, which enhances socio-economic foundations through government-supported projects like the Integrated Community Resilience Project and the social SafetyNet project towards fostering sustainable livelihoods and economic stability for displaced populations.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement			
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87	60	714

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
15.1.1 Country issues machine-readable travel documents	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	No

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, South Sudan ensured resettlement opportunities for refugees despite initial constraints in staffing and infrastructure submitting 714 refugees for resettlement to Australia, Canada, Finland, Norway and the United States, making use of allocated and unallocated quotas. This effort was facilitated through strong international support, expert deployments, and an emergency response team, enabling efficient case processing.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

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

### Core Outcome Indicators

Population Type	Indicator		
	Baseline	Target (2024)	Actual (2024)
<b>16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land</b>			
IDPs	3.25%	25.00%	3.25%
Returnees	11.09%	15.00%	11.09%

### Core Output Indicators

Indicator	
Population Type	Actual (2024)
<b>16.1.1. Government Social protection system is inclusive of forcibly displaced and stateless people</b>	
IDPs	Partially
Stateless Persons	Partially
<b>16.2.1 Number of people supported by UNHCR to acquire nationality, permanent residency status or to access naturalization procedures</b>	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2024, UNHCR made notable progress in advancing HLP rights. A key milestone was the launch of the South Sudan Durable Solutions Strategy and Plan of Action in October 2024, providing a strategic framework for solutions, including local integration. Through targeted interventions, 657 individuals secured vital ownership documents such as national identity cards and land certificates in Torit, Magwi, Yei, Wau, and Juba. This included 391 refugee returnees and 266 host community members who received land documentation, including lease agreements and customary land certificates. Refugees and asylum-seekers in settlements and camps were allocated land, with kitchen gardens provided in locations with sufficient space, such as Wedweil.

A key development in 2024 was the Hai Matar site re-establishment in Malakal, supported by EU development funding under the Roadmap for Durable Solutions in Upper Nile State. Displacement following conflicts in 2013 and 2016 left many residents unable to reclaim their land. However, decreasing tensions and expressed willingness to return have prompted the government, UNMISS, and humanitarian partners to

initiate land demarcation, mine clearance, police postconstruction, and shelter development. Humanitarian partners are constructing an initial 185 shelters, while the Ministry of Housing, Land, and Public Utilities has verified land entitlements. Water points and sanitation facilities are also being established to support returning populations.

UNHCR prioritized housing support for Persons with Special Needs (PSNs), assisting 283 individuals with constructing or renovating their homes. 811 individuals gained secure tenure rights to housing and land in 2024. Community Land Committees (CLCs) comprising 459 community leaders were empowered to address land disputes through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms to strengthen community-led dispute resolution. Legal support also expanded, with 1,732 individuals receiving legal counseling, including 319 critical cases receiving legal representation, court fee coverage, and transportation assistance. Awareness efforts reached over 4,000 PSNs through information sessions on HLP rights and available legal remedies.

At the national level, the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development endorsed a strategic shift towards securing tenure in emergency response areas. This aligns with the 2015 National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF), but its full implementation remains constrained by funding gaps. Key interventions, such as disability and old-age grants, have yet to be enacted. Refugee inclusion in national social protection systems remains limited, with data sharing discussions ongoing in refugee-hosting areas. While the WB financed South Sudan Productive Safety The South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP), implemented from 2020 to 2023, provided temporary income opportunities to nearly 430,000 individuals across ten counties. Its successor, the Productive Safety Net for Socioeconomic Opportunities Project (SNSOP), also known as Shabaka Meisha, is a four-year, \$129 million initiative funded by the World Bank, targeting over 96,000 vulnerable households in 15 counties through cash transfers and livelihood support. These programs, implemented with the support of UNOPS, seek to enhance resilience and economic inclusion. Meanwhile, efforts to develop a national social registry are ongoing to improve the targeting of vulnerable groups, though its coverage remains limited. Discussions on the inclusion of persons of concern (PoCs), such as refugees and asylum-seekers, are still underway, with UNHCR actively advocating for their integration into evolving safety net mechanisms. While the SNSOP presents opportunities for broader inclusion, its integration is still in the early implementation phases, requiring sustained coordination and advocacy efforts.

Other Core Output Indicators

Population Type	Actual (2024)
14.1.1 Number of people who received counselling and/or information on voluntary repatriation	
Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,232

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2024, UNHCR strengthened its Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach, ensuring equal rights and meaningful participation for all persons of concern in South Sudan. This commitment was reflected in key initiatives aimed at enhancing protection, participation, and empowerment of vulnerable groups. A significant milestone was the engagement of 5,529 individuals—including 1,831 refugees and 3,698 IDPs—in FGDs and participatory assessments. These sessions were inclusive, reaching 2,973 females, 2,456 males, and 100 persons with disabilities, ensuring diverse voices informed decision-making.

UNHCR prioritized communication with displaced individuals, strengthening participatory assessments and feedback mechanisms to ensure protection interventions aligned with identified risks, needs, and priorities. Measures were implemented to prevent, respond to, and mitigate gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse. Additionally, an Information Sharing Protocol was established to ensure the safe

and ethical exchange of data between partner organizations. In promoting gender equality, UNHCR focused on empowering women and girls by enhancing participation, skills training, and livelihood opportunities. Targeted interventions helped at-risk women access assistance and protection services, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to their rights and well-being.

As a result, positive progress was recorded in the 2023 South Sudan countrywide AGD self-assessment, which confirmed that data collection now includes disaggregation by ability, age, ethnicity, health status, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, and skills. Despite these advancements, challenges persist. The refugee and asylum-seeker population in South Sudan faces several key vulnerabilities, as demonstrated by the data. Older persons represent a significant portion of the vulnerable population, with 16,128 individuals aged 60 and above, comprising 8,796 females and 7,332 males. This group faces particular challenges, including difficulty accessing health care, social protection, and other essential services, highlighting the urgent need for targeted support. In terms of Disability and Other Specific Needs, 12,800 individuals are recorded as having disabilities. Other critical categories of vulnerability include women at risk (10,500), children at risk (10,300), and older persons at risk (8,196). Additionally, 7,841 individuals require support due to serious medical conditions, and 6,257 individuals face challenges related to single parenthood. These groups require specialized care, protection services, and psychosocial support to address their specific needs. Gender and children are also prominent in terms of vulnerability. Women account for 56 per cent of the total refugee and asylum-seeker population, and 57 per cent of the population is aged 0–17 years. These groups face distinct challenges, with children often depending on caregivers for protection, education, and health services, which underscores the importance of focused interventions for these age groups. Finally, socioeconomic challenges significantly exacerbate the vulnerability of many refugees. Despite holding secondary education credentials, many refugees are engaged in subsistence farming or field labor, reflecting their limited employment opportunities. High rates of unemployment and single parenthood further contribute to their socioeconomic struggles, emphasizing the need for comprehensive livelihood support and social safety nets to help refugees achieve greater self-sufficiency and improve their overall well-being.



## Section 3: Resources

### 3.1 Financial Data

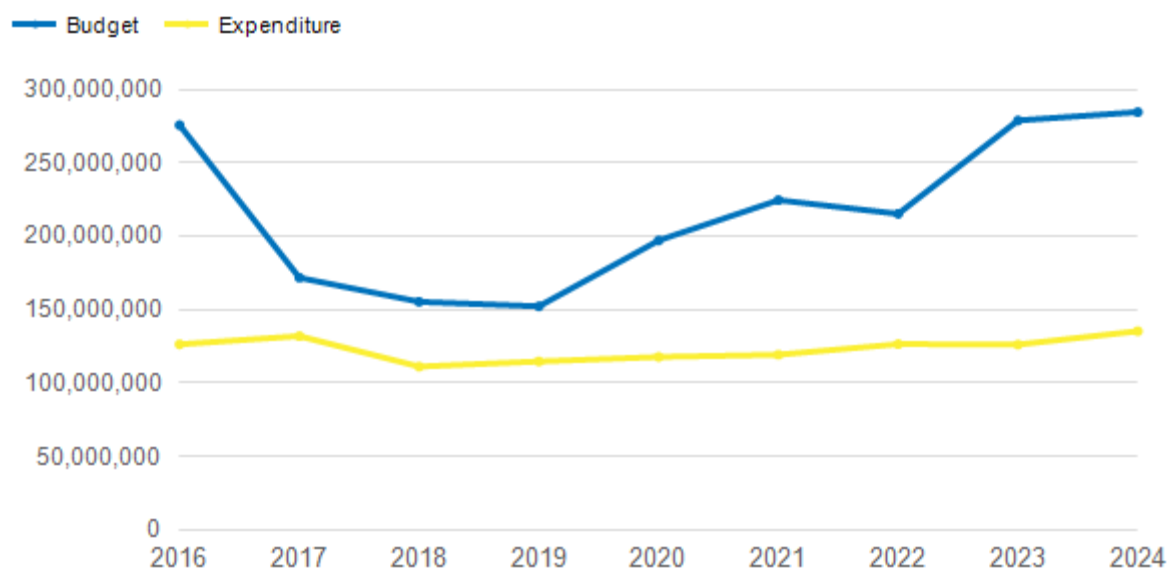
(Financial figures in USD)

Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	68,772,115	24,704,755	35.92%	24,704,755	100.00%
IA2: Assist	130,086,686	60,294,012	46.35%	59,871,477	99.30%
IA3: Empower	74,448,987	43,522,484	58.46%	43,522,484	100.00%
IA4: Solve	11,182,126	7,123,536	63.70%	7,123,536	100.00%
All Impact Areas		479,166			
<b>Total</b>	<b>284,489,913</b>	<b>136,123,954</b>	<b>47.85%</b>	<b>135,222,252</b>	<b>99.34%</b>

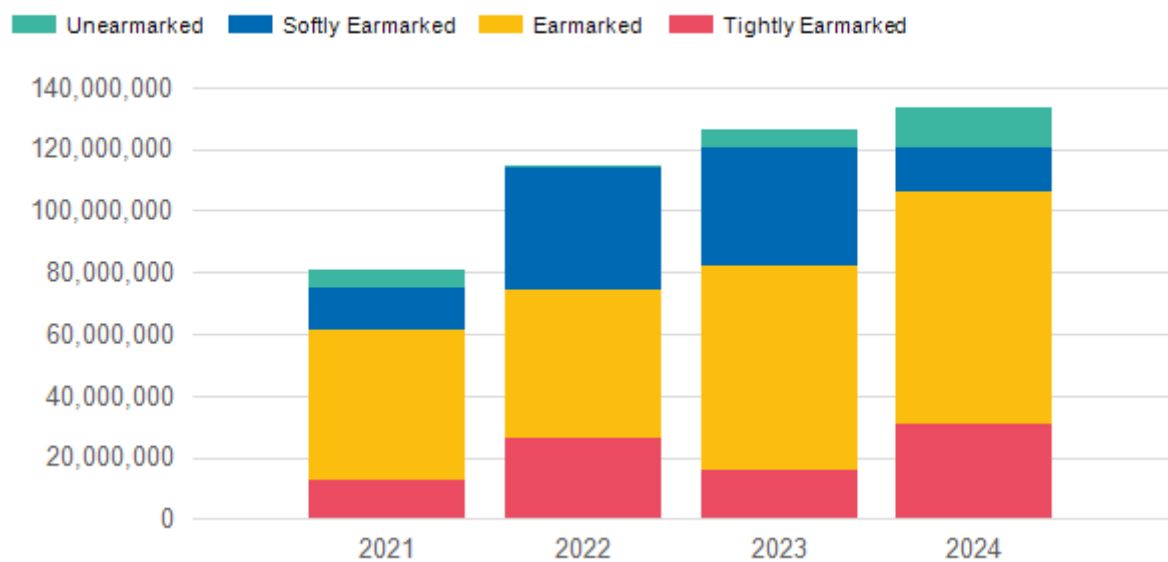
Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	29,396,732	13,886,042	47.24%	13,886,042	100.00%
OA2: Status	150,553	1,727,923	1,147.72%	1,727,923	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	5,363,591	3,493,177	65.13%	3,493,177	100.00%
OA4: GBV	12,173,616	4,618,430	37.94%	4,618,430	100.00%
OA5: Children	4,744,145	3,407,046	71.82%	3,407,046	100.00%
OA6: Justice	39,074,277	8,667,030	22.18%	8,667,030	100.00%
OA7: Community	23,892,907	9,073,262	37.97%	9,073,262	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	52,924,928	16,421,673	31.03%	16,421,673	100.00%
OA9: Housing	25,096,667	16,868,066	67.21%	16,868,066	100.00%
OA10: Health	26,294,799	9,264,324	35.23%	8,841,789	95.44%
OA11: Education	4,131,602	6,365,604	154.07%	6,365,604	100.00%
OA12: WASH	11,457,672	7,232,195	63.12%	7,232,195	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	4,410,050	3,190,076	72.34%	3,190,076	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	150,553	423,760	281.47%	423,760	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	5,818,535	3,630,359	62.39%	3,630,359	100.00%
EA18: Support	39,409,286	27,375,820	69.47%	27,375,820	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		479,166			
<b>Total</b>	<b>284,489,913</b>	<b>136,123,954</b>	<b>47.85%</b>	<b>135,222,252</b>	<b>99.34%</b>



Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



### 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2024, the operation responded to the unprecedented influx from Sudan and faced critical resource constraints amidst the emergency that affected the entire border area with Sudan and extended into the capital. As a result of a structural review, UNHCR realigned staffing and presence with operational priorities, decentralized offices, and officially opened three new field offices in Renk, Abyei, and Aweil. The Juba Field Team was converted into a Field Unit, while two offices were nationalized. Offices were grouped under geographical or thematic priorities, enhancing coordination and efficiency. These revisions resulted in a Representation Office in Juba, two Sub-Offices, six Field Offices, and five Field Units.

The Sudan crisis persisted throughout the year, driving a major influx of Sudanese refugees and steady returns of South Sudanese nationals. The Level 3 (L3) emergency for the Sudan situation was extended, impacting South Sudan as a neighboring country. UNHCR leveraged available resources, supplemented by additional funding from the Regional Bureau, Headquarters, and country-based pooled funds. Traditional donor contributions were secured through proposals targeting UNHCR's key response areas. Flexible donor funding allowed resources to be allocated to urgent needs, including cholera response, flood mitigation, and reception and onward movement of returnees. UNHCR also collaborated with the Private Sector Partnerships (PSP) Service to engage the private sector, securing some contributions. By year-end, returnees reached 1.62 M drastically amplifying the costs associated with transit and logistical constraints during the rainy season.

To respond effectively, the operation prioritized life-saving interventions, access to territory, shelter, and basic needs, followed by community support and justice. Funding gaps persisted across multiple sectors, with shelter and health being the most underfunded. The Sudan emergency heightened shelter needs while straining health services. UNHCR remained committed to humanitarian response for forcibly displaced and stateless persons while contributing to the overall response for IDPs. The overall needs of the South Sudan operation were set at \$284 million, a 2 per cent increase from 2023, reflecting the worsening crisis. The forcibly displaced population grew from 3.67 million at the end of 2023 to nearly 3.98 million by the end of 2024.

Despite donor support, funding at the beginning of 2024 covered only 32 per cent of needs, increasing to 47 per cent by year-end due to continuous fundraising and advocacy. Given rising humanitarian needs, the operation prioritized emergency response and life-saving Interventions, protection and community empowerment, and solutions and socioeconomic inclusion. Of the available budget, 63 per cent was allocated to 25 partners, 16 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), six national NGOs, three government partners, and eight refugee-led organizations, while 37 per cent was directly implemented, including cash assistance. Despite the deteriorating situation, the operation achieved a 100 per cent implementation rate by the end of 2024.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The operation's lessons learned in 2024 underscored the need to engage local structures at the field level to improve coordination, particularly in solutions programming, as coordination remains strong at higher levels. Experience from Renk reinforced the importance of supporting a transit-based response rather than creating an aid-dependent camp setting. The operation also observed the multiplier effect of cash assistance, benefiting both transit centre residents and the wider community. Assessments are needed to better understand the coping mechanisms of new arrivals, including those in urban areas. Solutions planning should be integrated from the outset of emergencies, linking humanitarian response to long-term solutions. Engagement with the private sector for funding was utilized in 2024 but must be further expanded amid ongoing funding constraints.

With reduced funding anticipated in 2025, UNHCR, as part of its 2026 strategy and beyond will prioritize life-saving activities and ensure minimum essential services for IDPs, refugees, and returnees, while keeping communities at the center through sustainable programming. Following consultations with stakeholders and communities, the focus will remain on emergency response, solutions, and protection system strengthening. Localization, coordination, and complementarity with key actors will ensure integration into national systems and protection mainstreaming across responses. Community engagement will remain central, with an emphasis on conflict-sensitive programming, feedback mechanisms, and accountability.

Aligned with the GCR, localization efforts will strengthen the leadership and participation of local actors. Area-based approaches will tailor interventions to specific contexts, integrating basic social services—including healthcare, GBV and SEA response, MHPSS, education, livelihoods, and housing—into broader development plans. Infrastructure investment and service integration will foster peaceful coexistence between refugees, returnees, and host communities. Strategic engagement with development actors such as AfDB, the World Bank, EU and Inkomoko will be expanded.

Community-based approaches will be strengthened to enhance protection analysis, build community response capacity, and improve accountability. Accountability to Affected People (AAP) will remain central, ensuring participatory, rights-based programming, timely communication, and referral mechanisms. The operation will prioritize inclusion, non-discrimination, and gender equality, particularly in empowering women and girls. UNHCR will maintain protection leadership within the Humanitarian, Development, and Peace (HDP) nexus through advocacy, coordination, and optimizing human resource allocation. Strengthening the Protection Information Ecosystem (PIE), enhancing registration systems, and improving data-sharing protocols—including GBVIMS, inter-agency case management, and route-based protection monitoring—will remain key priorities.



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