



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

GLOBAL APPEAL

2021 update



FINANCIAL | OPERATIONAL | STATISTICAL

GLOBAL
APPEAL
2021 update

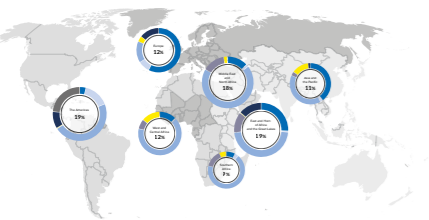
This Global Appeal provides updated information for governments, private donors, partners and other readers interested in UNHCR’s priorities and budgeted activities for 2021 to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of people of concern—refugees, returnees, internally displaced people, stateless persons and others of concern. It highlights the challenges faced by UNHCR and its partners in responding to multiple life-threatening crises and ever-growing humanitarian needs.

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OVERVIEW OF 2021

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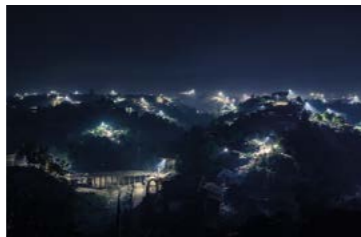


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REGIONAL SUMMARIES

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The Global Focus website—<https://reporting.unhcr.org>—is UNHCR’s main operational reporting platform for donors. Regularly updated, it complements and augments information in the Global Appeal with greater detail on UNHCR operations, data on key operational themes and objectives including the 2021 Global Strategic Priorities, and in-depth information on UNHCR’s budgets, funding and expenditure. It also contains a glossary of technical terms used throughout this publication.





The High Commissioner's Foreword

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Filippo Grandi visits Syrian families struggling amid the COVID-19 lockdown in Lebanon.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone throughout the world, threatening people's health and livelihoods while compounding challenges for the most vulnerable. While COVID-19 is an unprecedented health crisis, it has also led to a protection crisis and produced a pandemic of poverty, deepening a sense of despair amongst many of the world's forcibly displaced, severely straining their coping mechanisms and exacerbating challenges to mental health.

The pandemic has necessitated a humanitarian response unlike any before, with every UNHCR office in every country where we work impacted. UNHCR colleagues, alongside our humanitarian partners—and in many places, with refugees and other forcibly displaced

people themselves, many of whom stepped up their engagement and commitment to their communities, contributing across the range of the response—stayed and delivered for people of concern, as well as their host communities. We increased our health, water and sanitation responses, developed new and innovative approaches to support education, expanded our cash assistance programmes to mitigate the worst of the socioeconomic impact, and communicated with the vulnerable to ensure they had access to the most up-to-date information on the virus.

As this tumultuous year comes to a close, we look ahead at how to address the challenges of 2021 and beyond. UNHCR will continue to stand up its emergency response to the pandemic and will also

address other related obstacles to refugee protection. We will work with States to find principled and pragmatic solutions to provide international protection and uphold international human rights obligations, including to ensure that any restrictions on movement intended to prevent the spread of the virus imposed on refugees and other displaced populations are temporary and non-discriminatory.

We will expand our efforts to shield refugees and IDPs from the perils of poverty. When employed, the displaced are already more likely to be in informal wage work and in lower quality jobs with little or no access to social safety nets. This has made them more vulnerable to losing their livelihoods during lockdowns and we have seen their already meagre savings quickly wiped out. Levels of extreme poverty amongst refugees have grown, increasing amongst those in Lebanon, for example, from some 55% before the pandemic to 88%. Tens of thousands of other refugees have returned to their countries of origin not out of choice, but rather out of desperation as opportunities to make ends meet in countries of asylum vanished.

Pandemic-related poverty has a particular impact on women and girls. We have seen an increase in gender-based violence, including domestic violence and so-called negative coping strategies like sexual exploitation or early and forced marriage. I thank Special Envoy Angelina Jolie for her efforts to shine a spotlight on girls' education in particular and appeal to all to do more to ensure that resources are available for refugee children to have access and means to study.

UNHCR is distributing cash to the neediest to counter some of these terrible consequences and will continue to do so, but it is clear that humanitarians alone will not be able to meet the growing needs.

We must, therefore, work to ensure that refugees, IDPs and stateless persons are also included in the financial stimulus packages being developed by States with the support of international financial institutions and regional development banks. We have already seen great strides to include refugees in national programmes and systems, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the pledges of support made at the Global Refugee Forum. But much more is needed to sustain the displaced and their hosts and prevent not only much greater humanitarian suffering, but also instability and further displacement.

The COVID-19 pandemic is yet another crisis on top of multiple layers of crisis already faced by the 80 million people forcibly displaced in the world today. As conflict, persecution, and the climate emergency persist, the number of those displaced is set to increase. More than 650,000 people have been displaced in the central Sahel this year alone, most within their own countries. Hundreds of thousands have been forced from their homes by violence in northern Mozambique. Nicaraguans continue to flee a grave situation. Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh continues to affect civilians. And other crises, such as those in Afghanistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, and that facing the Rohingya, remain protracted. These men, women and children cannot be forgotten and we cannot allow the pandemic to distract from meeting their other needs while searching for solutions to their plight.

We will also seek to make progress in other areas, including strengthening our response to situations of internal displacement, eradicating statelessness, and preventing, mitigating and responding to climate-related displacement—an area where UNHCR has stepped up its important work using the

latest technologies including artificial intelligence and predictive analytics to improve humanitarian and development responses.

Despite the global challenges, UNHCR continues to press for solutions to forced exile. We are working with countries to develop and implement tripartite arrangements for voluntary, safe and dignified returns when possible; encouraging local integration where relevant; and pressing for an increase in resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries for those in need. The support platforms envisaged in the Global Compact on Refugees have been key in helping facilitate regional approaches to refugee crises in support of countries of asylum, as well as in helping build conditions and absorption capacity for returnees in countries of origin.

To this end, we welcome the decision by the Governments of South Sudan and Sudan, along with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and UNHCR and with the support of the European Commission, to develop and implement an initiative to find solutions for the nearly 7 million uprooted Sudanese and South Sudanese. This will be a major area of focus for UNHCR in 2021 and beyond and the two countries have our full support in bringing an end to the protracted plight of their citizens. Other support platforms, such as in Latin America and for Afghan refugees, also deserve full support.

COVID-19 brought new challenges and opportunities to the environment in which States, UNHCR and its partners operate, but has also accelerated thinking or initiatives already underway. UNHCR's transformation and reforms will continue and regionalization and decentralization have already proved their worth in enabling the response to the pandemic. Reforming our

results-based management system remains a key priority, as is the simplification of business processes and delegating relevant authority to those best placed to deliver.

After 70 years on the front lines of all major displacement crises, one thing is clear to UNHCR. No matter the strength of our emergency response, our support to the displaced and their host communities, and our solutions work, unless the international community overcomes its differences and makes peace rather than fomenting further conflict, the number of displaced will not diminish significantly. I therefore appeal, yet again, to all UN Member States—especially those with the heavy responsibility that membership on the Security Council entails—to do more to prevent and end conflicts.

In the meantime, I appeal in the strongest terms for those with means to continue to support the humanitarian response around the world. COVID-19 has put enormous pressure on all stakeholders' budgets, but now is not the time for donor retrenchment. Resources are needed to continue to prevent and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for the most vulnerable, including those of concern to UNHCR. Now is the time to demonstrate international solidarity, to maintain social cohesion, to save lives, reduce suffering, improve conditions and expand opportunities for refugees, IDPs, stateless persons and their hosts, so that they can realize their potential.



—Filippo Grandi
UNHCR High Commissioner



Message from the Special Envoy

Angelina Jolie, the UNHCR Special Envoy, shares the pride of Hassan in his 10-year-old daughter, Sora. Despite the difficulties of living in the ruins of Mosul, Iraq, Sora is top of her class.

© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

There have been many attempts to put a price on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. But the damage caused to children's education is almost impossible to quantify.

In my years with UNHCR, I have met shocking numbers of children whose education suffered because of conflict. Children who lost the little reading and writing skills they had. Whose education went into reverse. Whose dreams got progressively smaller.

Depriving a child of their education strips them of their most effective protection against poverty, inequality, early forced marriage, violence and mistreatment. If you were a refugee child before the pandemic, you were already twice as likely to be out of school than other children.

COVID-19 has had an impact on education equivalent in some respects to the impact of war, exposing many children to significant danger, including the danger of physical abuse in the home. We know from previous pandemics that many children—particularly girls—fall out of education altogether. There is a significant risk that half of all girls currently enrolled in secondary school will never go back to school at all.

There is no more important measure we can take to protect children globally during the pandemic than to protect their education and help them return to the classroom.

There is no one solution that will fit all settings. There are amazing new technologies available to support distance learning. Yet many children do not have access to television or radio, let alone a laptop or an internet connection. There is a very real digital divide within, as well as between, countries.

We also have to consider the needs of children with disabilities or with other protection concerns; the part that hunger plays in damaging children's ability to learn; the need to support teachers and strengthen curricula; and many, many other issues.

If we choose not to give this support, this will inflict harm on the most vulnerable and important members of our societies and our world. Failing to act deprives children of their right to an education and the chance to develop their personalities, their minds and their talents.

For as much as I began by describing the tragic consequences of a loss of education through force of circumstances, I have also seen the opposite: children who succeed in their studies taking their classes in the open air, without a schoolroom, and with little more than a single schoolbook between them; and refugees who go on to achieve extraordinary success in every walk of life, including those serving as doctors and nurses in the frontline of the COVID-19 response today.

COVID-19 is proving to be an incredible catalyst for science, discovery and innovation. If we could do the same for education, this would be one of the greatest single inoculations imaginable against poverty and the denial of rights worldwide.

For children whose education and future lies in the balance at this time, our job is to do everything we can to tip the balance decisively in their favour. There is no better investment we can make.



—Angelina Jolie
UNHCR's Special Envoy

UNHCR in 2021

COVID-19 has demonstrated that pandemics, like the climate emergency, poverty and inequality, and conflicts and forced displacement, require a collective effort to respond and to support those affected.

UNHCR remains on the ground, working on behalf of people of concern around the world.

But despite decades of experience, the coronavirus emergency has been unlike any seen throughout UNHCR's 70-year history. Never has every UNHCR office and operation faced a crisis of this magnitude—all at the same time.

Mission

The High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. As of October 2020, 149 States are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or to its 1967 Protocol.

UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

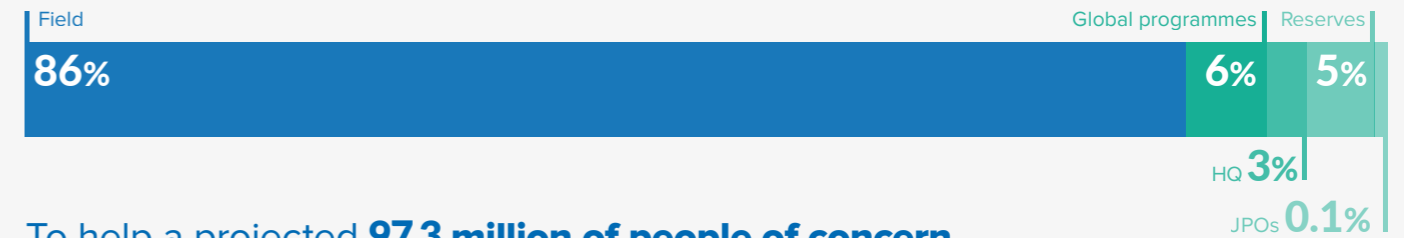
UNHCR's Executive Committee (106 Member States as of October 2020) and the UN General Assembly have authorized involvement with other groups. These include former refugees who have returned to their homeland, internally displaced people, and persons

who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed. As of October 2020, 94 States are parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 75 to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

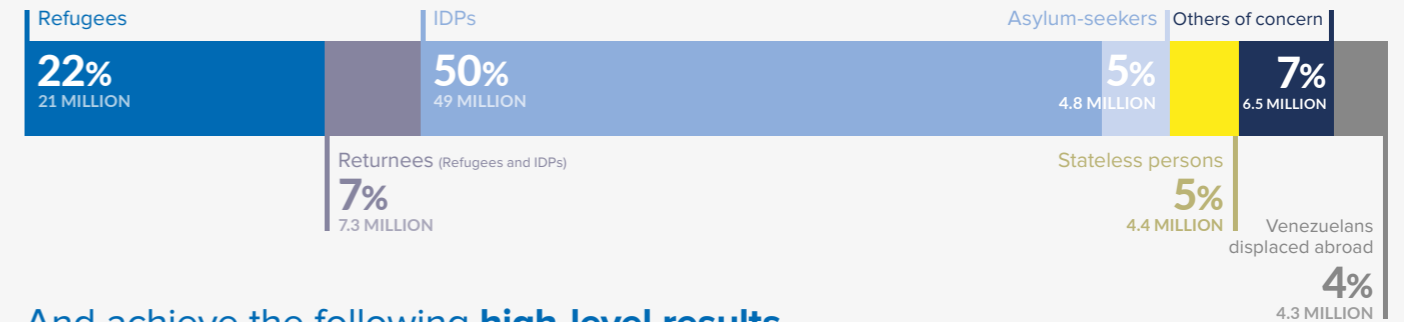
The Office seeks to reduce situations of forced displacement by encouraging States and other institutions to create conditions which are conducive to the protection of human rights and the peaceful resolution of disputes. In all of its activities, it pays particular attention to the needs of children and seeks to promote the equal rights of women and girls.

The Office carries out its work in collaboration with many partners, including governments, regional organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the Office's activities should be consulted over decisions which affect their lives.

To fulfill its mandated responsibilities, UNHCR needs **\$8.616 billion**



To help a projected **97.3 million of people of concern**



And achieve the following **high-level results**

Safeguard fundamental rights



Registration

19 million individual records will be registered in UNHCR's population registration and identity management ecosystem (PRIMES).



Child protection

70% or more of unaccompanied or separated children will have a best interests process initiated or completed.



Statelessness

90,000 stateless persons will be supported to acquire a nationality, or have it confirmed.



Community-based protection

85% of UNHCR operations will have functioning complaints and feedback mechanisms in place, including in the context of responses to COVID-19.

Respond with life-saving support



Health

(including mental health and psychosocial support)

40% of refugee-hosting countries with national health insurance schemes will include refugees on the same basis as nationals.

180,000 consultations will be provided for mental, neurological and substance use conditions in refugee health facilities.



Cash assistance

\$700 million in cash assistance will be provided to people of concern across 95 operations.



Shelter and settlement

An estimated 4.75 million people of concern will be targeted with shelter assistance in 2021.



Water, hygiene and sanitation

45% of people of concern will have access to at least 20 litres of safe water per day.

Build better futures



Education

2 million children will be enrolled in primary education.

500,000 refugee children and youth will be supported with distance or home-based learning in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Resettlement

80,000 refugees will be resettled through UNHCR.



Energy and environmental protection

2.9 million refugees and other people of concern will have access to sustainable sources of electricity.

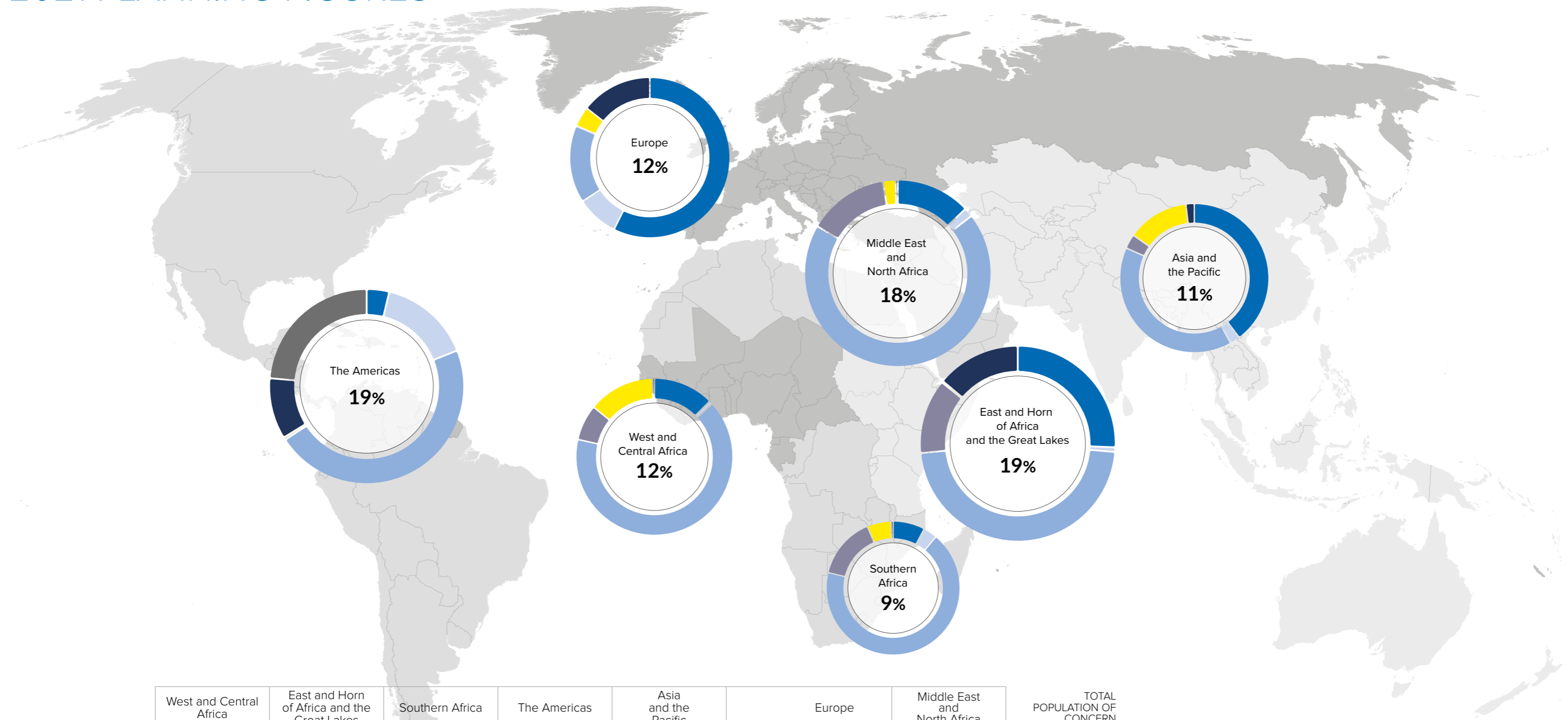


Livelihoods and economic inclusion

50% of people of concern aged 15 or older will hold a basic financial account (a mobile money account or an account with a financial institution).

POPULATIONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

2021 PLANNING FIGURES



	West and Central Africa	East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	Southern Africa	The Americas	Asia and the Pacific	Europe	Middle East and North Africa	TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN
Refugees	1,430,020	4,771,199	662,325	673,748	4,265,133	6,956,151	2,233,744	20,992,320
Asylum-seekers	80,031	127,729	290,829	2,788,922	225,972	1,020,625	262,878	4,796,986
Returned refugees	131,000	669,760	100,816	50,100	65,900	250	250,000	1,267,826
IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR	7,542,225	8,791,254	5,904,430	8,603,590	4,273,630	1,883,926	12,011,618	49,010,673
Returned IDPs	710,000	1,628,689	1,200,000	-	262,450	1,300	2,184,000	5,986,439
Stateless persons	1,574,615	30,399	503,000	417	1,438,943*	483,000	369,745	4,400,119
Others of concern	36,257	2,591,465*	34,447	1,850,718	186,048	1,741,130	51,810	6,491,875
Venezuelans displaced abroad	-	-	-	4,336,912*	-	-	-	4,336,912
TOTAL	11,504,148	18,610,495	8,695,847	18,304,407	10,718,076	12,086,382	17,363,795	97,283,150

- Refugees
- Asylum-seekers
- Internally displaced people (IDPs)
- Returnees (refugees and IDPs)
- Stateless persons
- Others of concern
- Venezuelans displaced abroad

* See footnotes on the maps in the regional summaries.

UNHCR's 2021 Financial Requirements

This chapter provides details on the financial resources UNHCR will require in 2021 to provide people of concern—refugees, returnees, stateless persons, internally displaced people, as well as others of concern—with protection, assistance and solutions. It also provides an overview of the planning process, and the priorities for mobilizing resources from government and private sector donors.

More detailed information on UNHCR's programmes and priorities is available in the "Biennial programme budget 2020-2021 (revised)", which was adopted at the 71st session of the Executive Committee.

This Global Appeal presents the proposed budgets for the 2020-2021 (revised) biennium—\$9.131 billion and \$8.616 billion for 2020 and 2021 respectively. The budgets were based on the original appropriations for 2020-2021 approved by the Executive Committee and adjusted to new needs through the means available under UNHCR financial rules, such as transfers from reserves, other budget reallocations and supplementary budgets.

The requirements in the 2021 budget are to respond to the needs of a planned 97.3 million people of concern. While the figures for 2019 reflect verified statistics, those for 2020 and beyond are projections based on the anticipated evolution of situations during the planning year, and taking into account the current population size, the average population growth, any expected movements, as well as changes in the status of people of concern to UNHCR.

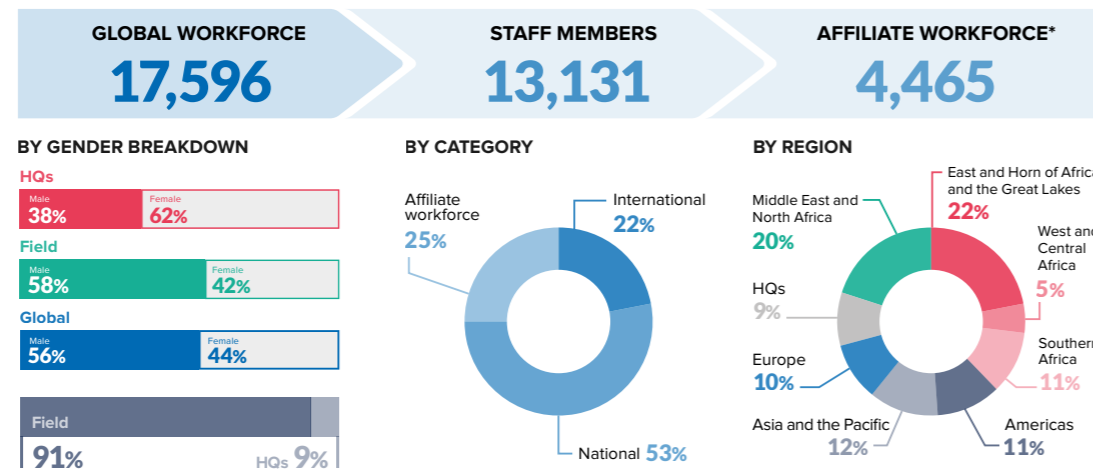
When compared to 2019, the total number of people of concern is anticipated to increase by approximately 10.8 million people, or 12%, by 2021. An increase is expected in the number of IDPs (by 5.5 million or 13%), Venezuelans displaced abroad (by 754,700 or 21%), stateless persons (by 0.24 million or 6%), asylum-seekers (by 0.64 million or 16%), refugees (by 0.53 million or 3%), returnees (by 1 million or 300%), returned IDPs (by 0.64 million or 12%) and others of concern (by 0.35 million or 6%).

The revised biennial programme budget 2020-2021



Global presence (as of 1 October 2020)

UNHCR is present in 130 countries and territories with offices in 518 locations



* Includes UNVs, individual contractors and consultants hired through UNOPS or directly, deployees, secondees and interns.

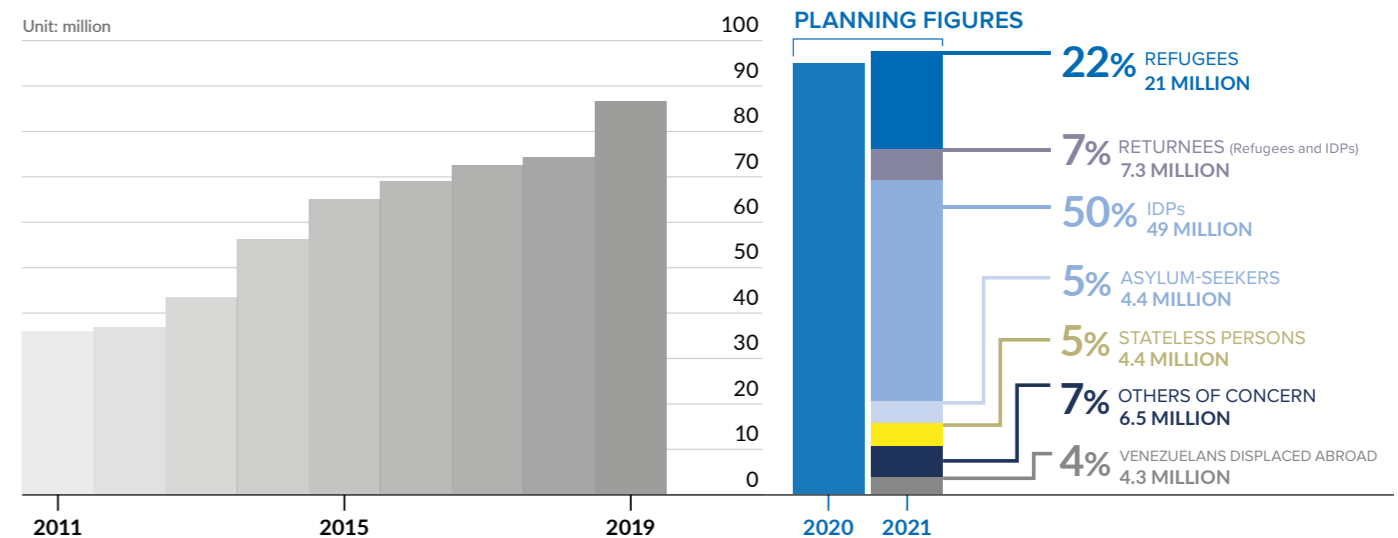
TABLE 1 | UNHCR's FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS 2020-2021 | USD

REGION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	1,901,991,872	1,389,102,452	7,565,114	147,128,025	162,289,812	1,706,085,402
Southern Africa	324,448,549	250,448,994	10,146,922	8,400,637	76,004,454	345,001,006
West and Central Africa	665,007,421	483,478,381	15,819,268	52,984,349	136,902,108	689,184,106
SUBTOTAL AFRICA	2,891,447,841	2,123,029,827	33,531,303	208,513,010	375,196,374	2,740,270,515
The Americas	611,838,373	514,927,857	6,530,500	-	52,344,120	573,802,476
Asia and the Pacific	806,248,775	584,232,736	33,689,630	95,166,506	42,080,418	755,169,290
Europe	827,593,003	673,881,295	9,348,798	236,860	25,875,193	709,342,146
Middle East and North Africa	2,828,365,419	1,509,057,878	1,493,622	317,833,049	819,409,400	2,647,793,949
SUBTOTAL FIELD	7,965,493,411	5,405,129,593	84,593,853	621,749,425	1,314,905,505	7,426,378,376
Global programmes	540,601,394	519,218,224	-	-	-	519,218,224
Headquarters¹	209,729,314	220,253,424	-	-	-	220,253,424
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES	8,715,824,119	6,144,601,241	84,593,853	621,749,425	1,314,905,505	8,165,850,024
Operational Reserve	400,977,410	417,984,590	-	-	-	417,984,590
"New or additional activities - mandate-related" Reserve	2,546,876	20,000,000	-	-	-	20,000,000
Junior Professional Officers	12,000,000	12,000,000	-	-	-	12,000,000
TOTAL	9,131,348,405	6,594,585,831	84,593,853	621,749,425	1,314,905,505	8,615,834,614

¹ The Annual Programme Budget includes allocations from the UN Regular Budget as follows: \$40.1 million for 2020 and an estimated \$40.1 million for 2021. The values for 2021 are provisional, subject to approval of final United Nations Programme Budget and subsequent recosting.

² Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

2021 Planning figures: 97.3 million of people of concern



OVERVIEW OF 2020 BUDGET AND FUNDING

At its 70th session in October 2019, the Executive Committee approved the original programme budget for 2020 of \$8.668. As of 15 June, the 2020 budget stood at \$9.131 billion, including two supplementary budgets established to address the unforeseen needs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (\$404 million) and the refugee and displacement crisis in the central Sahel region (\$59.7 million).

As outlined elsewhere in this Global Appeal, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on UNHCR's plans in 2020. Mitigation and response measures will extend into 2021 and the revised budget has been realigned in some of its components, for example through redeployments to the regions from the reserves, compared to the original budget approved in 2019, in order to support such measures in 2021.

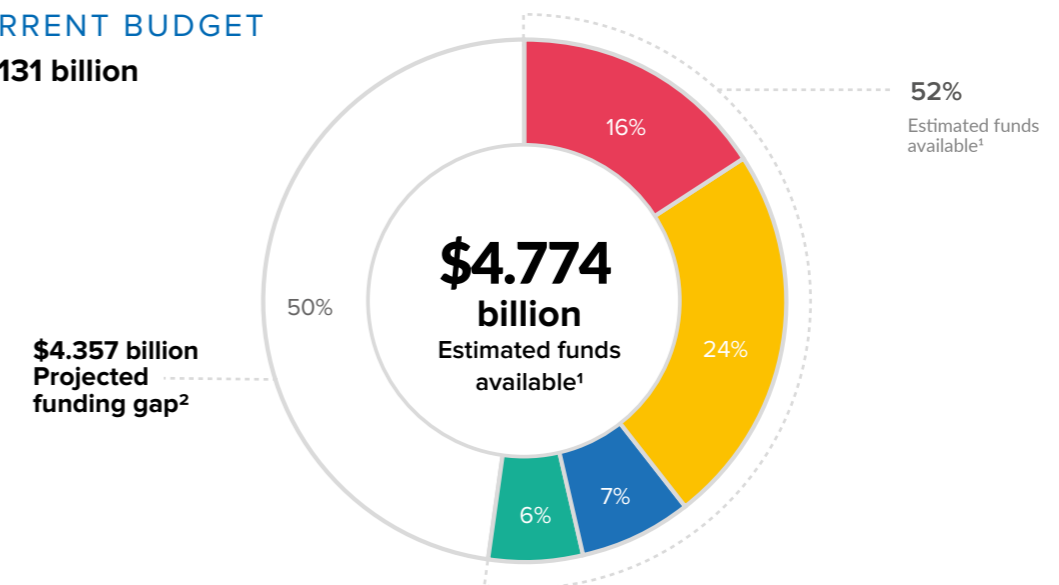
As UNHCR resolved to stay and deliver for refugees and other people of concern despite the COVID-19 pandemic, so too did its donors; as of the beginning of October, available funds totaled \$4.774 billion, of which \$4.193 billion were voluntary contributions. Of that, 12% (\$504 million) was unearmarked, along with 14% (\$594 million) in softly earmarked funding, bringing flexible funding to 26% of voluntary contributions, continuing the trend of a dramatic 26% drop in flexible funding since 2012.

UNHCR was also able to draw from \$576 million in multi-year funds in 2020, the highest-ever amount of multi-year funding available to it.

As of October 2020, UNHCR's donor base in 2020 included 69 donor governments, and over 2.5 million private contributors—foundations, corporations, and individuals who give generously in support of people forced to flee. However, the Office remained dependent on governmental donors for the majority of its income. The top ten donors—exclusively governments and the European Union—provided nearly 80% of UNHCR's 2020 voluntary contributions, with the top five—the United States, Germany, Japan, Sweden, and the European Union—providing 70%. The Government of the United States remained the top donor to UNHCR, contributing a record \$1.95 billion. Two governments—Ireland and Spain—increased their funding and joined the group of top donors who have contributed at least \$20 million to UNHCR. The top five donors of unearmarked funding were Sweden, España con ACNUR, Norway, the Netherlands, and Denmark. The level of voluntary contributions, however, tracked with an overall increase in global needs, as, at 52%, available funding remained at just over half of requirements.

FIGURE 1 | OVERVIEW OF 2020 FUNDING (as of 1 October 2020)

CURRENT BUDGET \$9.131 billion

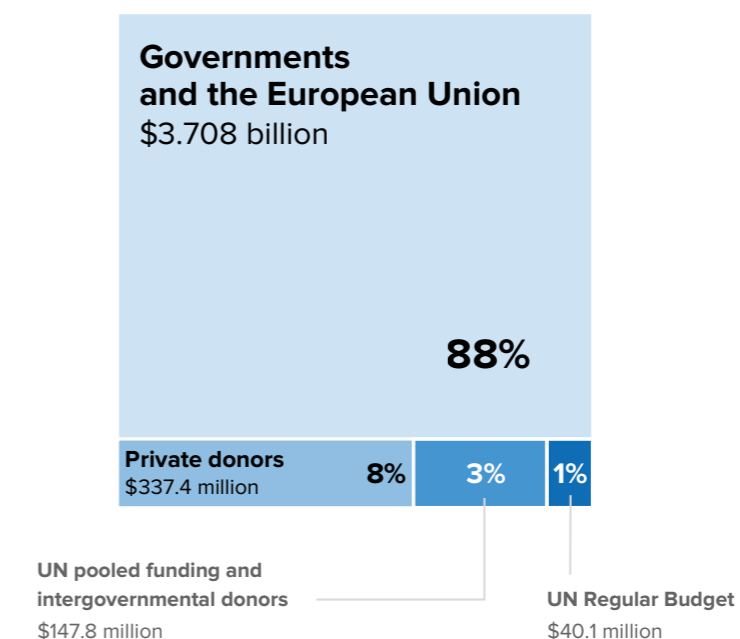


VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS in 2020 | USD



¹ Funds available: contributions (voluntary contributions and UN Regular Budget); carry-over; other income and adjustments.
² Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

DONORS



2021 PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES

In 2021, compared to 2020, UNHCR's total budget of \$8.616 billion is a decrease of \$516 million (6%), mainly attributable to the supplementary budgets established in 2020. If the supplementary budgets are discounted, the reduction between 2020 and 2021 is \$51.8 million, the same variance shown in the approved original budgets.

Programmed activities are \$8.165 billion with a net decrease of \$549.9 million, or 6% compared to 2020. Programmed activities are field operations; global programmes, which are technical activities undertaken by Headquarters, but which are of direct benefit to field operations; and the work of Headquarters to provide leadership and management, policy guidance, administrative support, and managerial and programmatic assistance to the field.

The majority of UNHCR's budget (86%) is geared towards activities in the field. The largest single budget will be for the Middle East and North Africa with 31% of the field budget. However, the combined total of the three new Africa regions comes to 32% of the field budget, reflecting continued and wide-scale needs. All other regions fall within the 7% to 9% range. The requirements for global programmes and Headquarters are, respectively, 6% and 3%.

The current level of the reserves—the Operational Reserve and the NAM (“New or additional activities—mandate-related”) reserve—reflect the transfers made to operations from 1 January to 15 June 2020 to meet priority needs in the Sahel crisis, the deterioration of the north of Central

America and Venezuela situations, and the COVID-19 response.

Pillar 1's requirements of \$6.145 billion for programmed activities—which excludes requirements for the reserves and JPOs—constitute 75% of the requirements of the four pillars combined. Geographically, the three regions in Africa account for the largest component of the Pillar 1 budget at 35%, with the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region alone accounting for 23% of all Pillar 1's requirements for programmed activities. However, the region with the largest Pillar 1 budget is the Middle East and North Africa, at 25%. In descending order of the size of the budget, the largest refugee operations are in Lebanon and Jordan for the Middle East and North Africa; Uganda, Ethiopia and Sudan for Africa; Bangladesh in Asia and the Pacific; and Turkey and Greece in Europe.

Pillar 4 is the second-largest budgeted pillar at \$1.314 billion, or 16%. The region with the highest regional percentages under Pillar 4's budget is the Middle East and North Africa, at 62%, reflecting the extensive IDP emergencies in places such as Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. Pillars 2 and 3 represent 1% and 8% of programmed activities respectively. For Pillar 2, the highest budget is for Asia and the Pacific at 40%, with the largest stateless operation being in Myanmar. For Pillar 3, the highest percentage will be spent in the Middle East and North Africa at 51%, with the largest operations planned in Afghanistan, Somalia, and the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Global Strategic Priorities represent areas where UNHCR is making targeted efforts to strengthen the protection of refugees and other people of concern.

2021 Global Strategic Priorities



2019 progress report



GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AND HEADQUARTERS

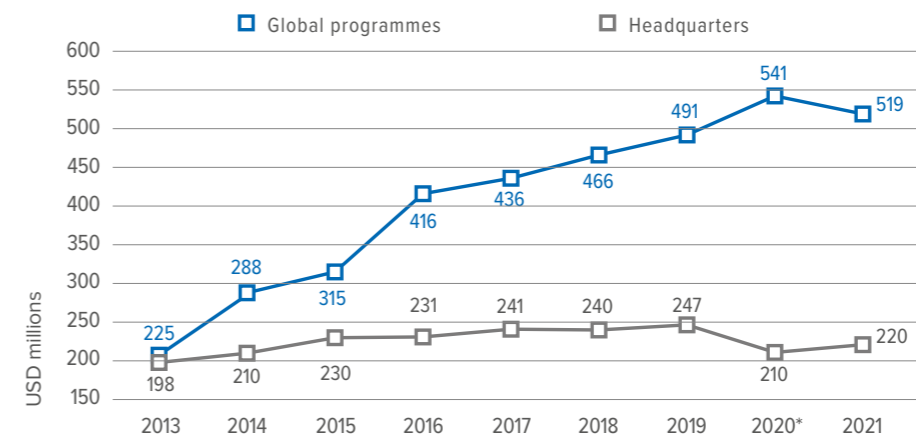
UNHCR undertakes activities of a global nature that are managed by divisions at Headquarters. They coordinate and support field operations both operationally and through policy development. The total budget for global programmes comprises both a programme component of operational activities carried out at the field level and a programme support component mainly at Headquarters and the Global Service Centres.

The budget for global programmes (See Table 2) is \$519.2 million, a decrease from 2020 of \$21.4 million or 4%, due to some global programmed activities having been taken over by the regional bureaux. Key areas of investment in 2021 are planned in the Division of External Relations (DER) in Geneva and in the DER branch in the Copenhagen Global Service Centre, to do with private sector partnerships under the programme component. Other investments in the Copenhagen Global Service Centre, also for programmed activities, relate to registration, data and knowledge management.

Headquarters costs fall into the categories of programme support and management and administration. Programme support comprises the costs of developing, formulating and evaluating programmes by functional Headquarters units that provide technical and administrative support to field operations. Management and administration comprise costs required to maintain the direction and leadership of the organization, such as executive direction and management, oversight, external relations, information technology (IT) and administration.

The budget for Headquarters (See Table 3) is \$220.3 million, a \$10.5 million increase on 2020. Key investments are in cyber-security, managed IT services to clients and investments in digital workforce; enhanced capacity in donor relations and resource mobilization; and in executive direction and management to further support governance services, the Inspector General's Office and integrity functions.

FIGURE 2 | BUDGETS FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMMES AND HEADQUARTERS (PILLAR 1) | 2013-2021



* As of 30 June 2020

UNHCR's 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS* (ALL PILLARS)

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES	
Regional Bureau	16,873,879
Regional activities	2,500,000
Other operations in Africa	2,700,000
Burundi	46,424,596
Djibouti	16,925,482
Eritrea	6,165,291
Ethiopia	303,013,846
Kenya	145,451,594
Rwanda	79,999,999
Somalia	154,076,049
South Sudan	201,097,427
Sudan	295,192,240
Uganda	320,665,000
United Republic of Tanzania	115,000,000
SUBTOTAL	1,706,085,402

SOUTHERN AFRICA	
Regional Bureau	10,437,597
Regional activities	4,000,000
Angola	27,314,543
Congo	27,615,833
Democratic Republic of the Congo	188,141,176
Malawi	17,549,902
Mozambique	14,483,709
South Africa Multi-Country Office ¹	27,953,810
Zambia	19,800,193
Zimbabwe	7,704,244
SUBTOTAL	345,001,006

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA	
Regional Bureau	14,477,736
Regional activities	4,000,000
Burkina Faso	82,880,594
Cameroon Multi-Country Office ¹	92,202,575
Central African Republic	43,211,428
Chad	139,464,509
Côte d'Ivoire	18,044,035
Ghana	7,249,894
Liberia	10,250,535
Mali	54,740,031
Niger	106,879,464
Nigeria	96,395,375
Senegal Multi-Country Office	19,387,931
SUBTOTAL	689,184,106

THE AMERICAS	
Regional Bureau	21,988,058
Regional activities	8,149,211
Argentina Multi-Country Office	35,000,000

Brazil	33,000,000
Canada	2,204,019
Colombia	83,737,550
Costa Rica	27,000,000
Ecuador	58,470,744
Guatemala	33,725,655
Honduras	19,273,913
Mexico	61,481,693
Panama Multi-Country Office	44,333,629
Peru	55,000,000
United States of America Multi-Country Office	40,193,556
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	50,244,449
SUBTOTAL	573,802,476

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	
Regional Bureau	10,358,563
Regional activities	2,850,000
Afghanistan	118,120,607
Australia Multi-Country Office	3,466,511
Bangladesh	288,940,721
China	3,900,000
India	9,531,841
Indonesia	7,348,455
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	98,221,684
Japan	3,477,108
Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office	2,859,492
Kyrgyzstan	700,000
Malaysia	25,136,435
Myanmar	45,340,359
Nepal	2,575,164
Pakistan	99,763,396
Philippines	3,658,017
Republic of Korea	2,902,610
Sri Lanka	3,781,408
Tajikistan	2,020,702
Thailand Multi-Country Office	20,216,218
SUBTOTAL	755,169,290

EUROPE	
Regional Bureau	13,049,253
Regional activities	12,215,002
Other operations in Europe	4,590,785
Albania	3,218,806
Armenia	3,634,242
Azerbaijan	3,682,976
Belarus	1,940,000
Belgium Multi-Country Office	12,505,068
Bosnia and Herzegovina	9,985,137
Cyprus	2,887,066
France	3,714,342
Georgia	6,132,232

Germany	2,155,805
Greece	214,789,264
Hungary Regional Office	13,045,000
Italy Multi-Country Office	18,176,476
Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))	3,474,422
Malta	1,319,082
Montenegro	2,112,427
North Macedonia	4,271,677
Russian Federation	6,182,130
Serbia	8,359,506
Spain Multi-Country Office	5,588,613
Sweden Multi-Country Office	5,328,745
Turkey	315,826,143
Ukraine	28,365,173
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2,792,775
SUBTOTAL	709,342,146

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	
Regional Bureau	19,000,000
Regional activities	48,421,052
Other operations in the Middle East	18,000,000
Algeria	37,118,500
Egypt	117,518,805
Iraq	510,425,000
Israel	6,000,000
Jordan	370,557,449
Lebanon	488,429,155
Libya	90,568,384
Mauritania	27,131,658
Morocco	8,000,000
Saudi Arabia Multi-Country Office	11,462,853
Syrian Arab Republic	612,382,693
Tunisia	7,778,402
Western Sahara - Confidence-building measures	4,000,000
Yemen	270,999,999
SUBTOTAL	2,647,793,949

SUBTOTAL FIELD	7,426,378,376
Global programmes	519,218,224
Headquarters ¹	220,253,424
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES	8,165,850,024
Operational Reserve	417,984,590
"New or additional activities - mandate-related" Reserve	20,000,000
Junior Professional Officers	12,000,000
TOTAL	8,615,834,614

UNHCR's 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS BY PILLAR AND REGION USD MILLIONS

THE AMERICAS

Pillar 1	\$515	90%
Pillar 2	\$7	1%
Pillar 3	\$0	0%
Pillar 4	\$52	9%
Total	\$574 million	

7% of global requirements

EUROPE

Pillar 1	\$674	95%
Pillar 2	\$9	1%
Pillar 3	\$0	0%
Pillar 4	\$26	4%
Total	\$709 million	

8% of global requirements

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

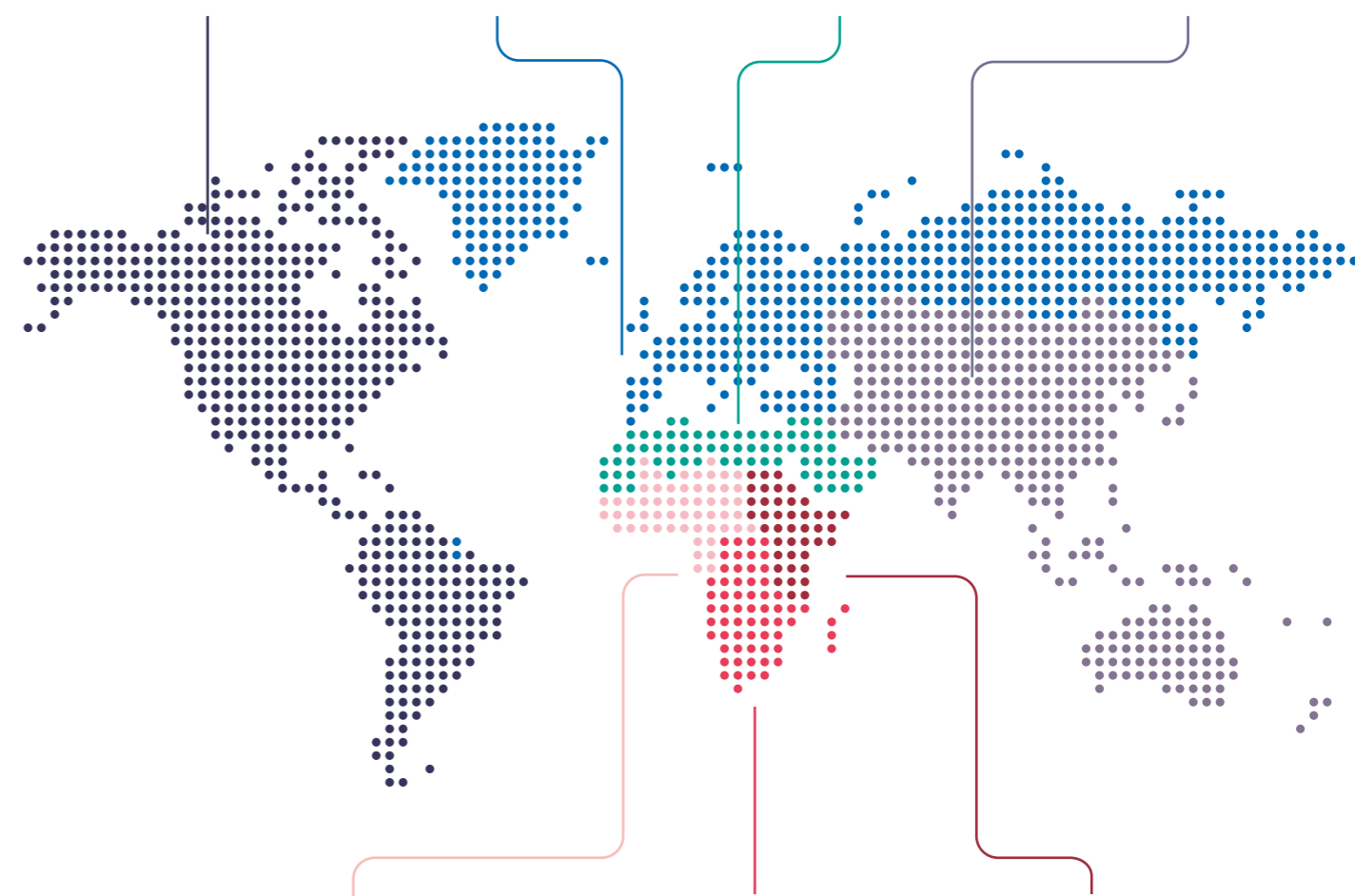
Pillar 1	\$1,509	57%
Pillar 2	\$1	0%
Pillar 3	\$318	12%
Pillar 4	\$819	31%
Total	\$2,648 billion	

31% of global requirements

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Pillar 1	\$584	77%
Pillar 2	\$34	4%
Pillar 3	\$95	13%
Pillar 4	\$42	6%
Total	\$755 million	

9% of global requirements



WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Pillar 1	\$483	70%
Pillar 2	\$16	2%
Pillar 3	\$53	8%
Pillar 4	\$137	20%
Total	\$689 million	

8% of global requirements

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Pillar 1	\$250	73%
Pillar 2	\$10	3%
Pillar 3	\$8	2%
Pillar 4	\$76	22%
Total	\$345 million	

4% of global requirements

EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES

Pillar 1	\$1,389	81%
Pillar 2	\$8	0%
Pillar 3	\$147	9%
Pillar 4	\$162	10%
Total	\$1,706 billion	

20% of global requirements

¹ The Annual Programme Budget includes an allocation from the UN Regular Budget of \$40.1 million estimated for 2021. The values for 2021 are provisional, subject to approval of final United Nations Programme Budget and subsequent recosting.

² Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

Resource mobilization in 2021

RAISING FUNDS FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Needs are expected to rise in 2021, as the number of people of concern to UNHCR increases, and as the economic aftershocks of COVID-19 exacerbate the vulnerability of those with the least means. Looking to 2021 and beyond, official development assistance budgets of donor governments may be affected as economies contract in the wake of the pandemic. This further intensifies the

urgency to diversify UNHCR’s funding base and reduce operating costs wherever possible.

In 2020, voluntary contributions to UNHCR increased appreciably from 2019, thanks to the support of governments and other key donors, both public and private. Part of the increase in 2020 was due to contributions for UNHCR’s COVID-19 response, which generated \$460 million as of 1 October 2020.

FIGURE 3 | UNHCR’s ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS vs VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS 2014-2021 | USD millions



*Contributions recorded as of 1 October 2020

Key funding indicators: quality and flexibility, timeliness and predictability

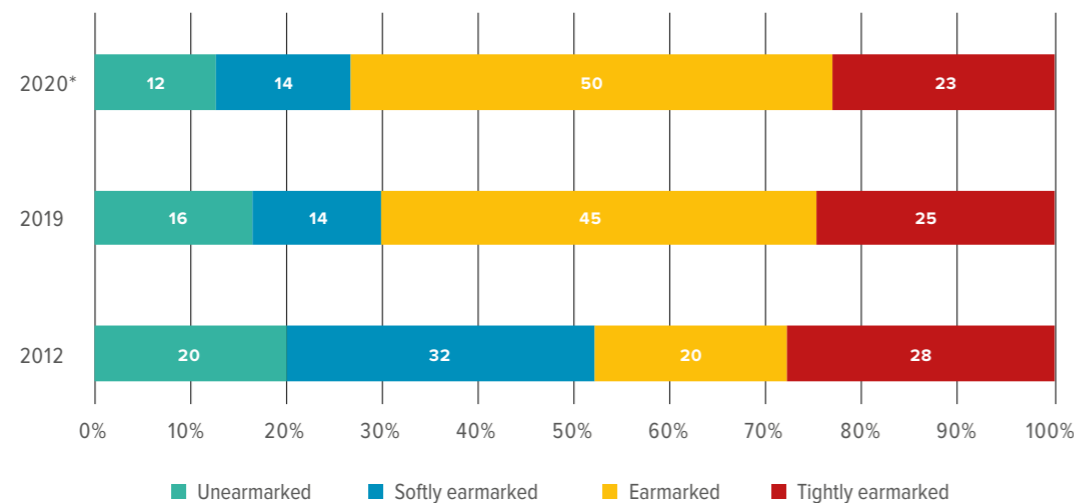
When speaking of the quality of funding, it is the type of funding which matters. The funding that UNHCR most needs is flexible funding—unearmarked or softly earmarked, and multi-year whenever possible. Flexible funding is one of the most important resources at UNHCR’s disposal. It is key in enabling UNHCR to fulfil its mandate and is a lifeline for underfunded or under-resourced operations and organizational priorities. For example, the High Commissioner has delegated authority from the Executive Committee to extend budget authorities without necessarily having earmarked funding on hand, thus allowing rapid response in emergencies; this is only possible if UNHCR can count on using unearmarked resources.

These resources help jump-start emergency response, and ensure predictability for services provided to refugees, particularly those implemented via partnership agreements with national and local NGOs. Flexible funding, particularly unearmarked funding, was key in enabling UNHCR to scale up, and then stay and deliver during the COVID-19 crisis. Unearmarked funding permitted UNHCR to quickly initiate measures to limit the spread of the coronavirus, including procurement of personal protective equipment.

Flexible funding was also key in widening the response in the Sahel where, amid COVID-19-related restrictions on access, UNHCR provided emergency shelter, treated survivors of gender-based violence, ran mobile clinics and helped provide health care and schooling to hundreds of thousands of people. Flexible funding also supports global programmes which strengthen field operations and ensure equity, access, inclusion, meaningful community participation and community empowerment; for example, efforts to promote best practices in preventing sexual exploitation and abuse.

Despite its evident value, however, UNHCR has over the last decade seen the share of flexible funding reduce by half (see Figure 4). To reverse the trend toward increased earmarking, and in acknowledgement that unearmarked funds in particular reduce the burden of donor funding restrictions and reporting requirements, UNHCR has excluded unearmarked contributions from application of its indirect support cost rate (now 6.5%), ensuring maximum impact for refugees and other people of concern. The growth of private sector funding has enabled UNHCR to minimize the impact of increased earmarking among other sources of funding.

FIGURE 4 | LEVELS OF EARMARKING | 2012-2020

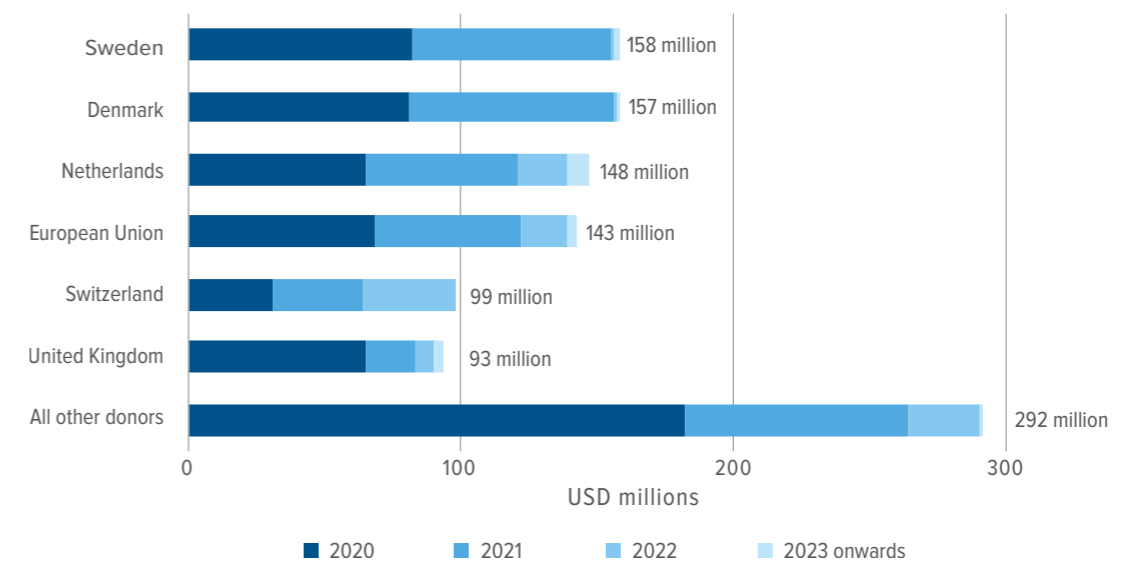


*As of 1 October 2020

Timeliness of funding is critical. Early receipt of contributions allows UNHCR to provide continuity of services, maintain capacity to respond quickly in emergencies, and to secure agreements with partners faster and more efficiently. By the start of 2020, UNHCR had received \$883 million in contributions and pledges toward its \$9.131 billion budget, or nearly 10% of requirements, comparable to levels received by January in 2018 and 2019. Donors were quick to respond to UNHCR’s COVID-19 appeal, with the majority of funding arriving in the four months following UNHCR’s initial appeal in March. As of 1 October, funding for UNHCR’s COVID-19 appeal was over \$460 million, or 62% of requirements. Thanks to this timely support, UNHCR was able to carry out a range of urgent interventions. By August, for example, UNHCR had provided cash assistance to 3 million people (1.3 million as a result of COVID-19 activities), reducing the impact of lockdowns and the inability to access work.

For predictability, multi-year funding allows UNHCR to plan ahead and ensure the continuity of vital protection and assistance, particularly in protracted situations. This support also enables UNHCR to build multi-year, multi-partner strategies promoting the inclusion of refugees and other people of concern in national systems, as envisioned in the Global Compact for Refugees. The situation of refugees in Costa Rica is one such example; multi-year funding permitted UNHCR to extend support to asylum authorities to address existing backlogs and strengthen partners’ legal assistance programmes, ultimately increasing refugee recognition rates from 13% to 21% by the end of 2019, and expanding provision of legal assistance from 4,175 people of concern to 8,453. The top donors of multi-year funding pledged for 2020-2023 are Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, the European Union, Switzerland and the United Kingdom (See Figure 5).

FIGURE 5 | MULTI-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS | 2020-2023



Diversification: How wide is the donor base?

UNHCR continues to strengthen and diversify its donor base, including from new donors, from innovative financing, and from the private sector. This includes the commitment across the Office, from the High Commissioner down, to engage proactively with donors and to make the case for their investment in UNHCR and its work.

However, COVID-19—and the decision by some traditionally-reliable donors, given domestic concerns, to repurpose, halt or frontload humanitarian assistance funds—has had and will very likely continue to have an impact on UNHCR’s traditional donor base. Given the deteriorating financial forecast globally, prudence and caution will be watchwords for 2021 planning as discussions continue with key donors around securing early indications of strong support for UNHCR next year.

Pooled funding is also a source of diversification, with strengthened guidance issued to UNHCR field offices on how to engage more proactively and productively with CERF and country-based pooled funds. Income from CERF increased in 2020 compared to 2019, with income from country-based pooled funds holding steady.

This means the key area for diversification remains the private sector, which is now UNHCR’s third largest source of income (behind governmental donors and the European Union) and the second largest source of unearmarked funds for UNHCR.

Innovative financing

Innovative financing refers to financial arrangements to support UNHCR's work that are not traditional donor-funded grants. It provides a toolkit that helps UNHCR bring more sustainable, efficient, and effective resources for the benefit of people of concern. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, innovative financing seeks to bring in a wider range of stakeholders and their financial and other capabilities.

Innovative financing mechanisms can include investments, impact bonds, swaps, funds, guarantees, blended finance and other vehicles, depending on the specific priority being supported. A key principle of UNHCR's innovative financing work is that the financial tools used in every project are designed to meet the specific needs of the country operation and/or sectoral need in question; hence, every project is designed in a bespoke way with strong internal and external participation.

UNHCR's innovative financing work is centred on four pillars. Working with partners (development banks, investors, donors and implementing partners), UNHCR seeks to utilize innovative financing mechanisms to:

- Scale up impactful programming by going beyond 100% grant funding to a blend of grants and other funding sources.
- Build longer-term, higher-quality infrastructure, such as financing better and more cost-efficient water, energy, and sanitation systems over the medium- and long-term.
- Lower costs to free up funding for refugees, including switching to more efficient arrangements with the private sector to lower costs and operational burdens.
- Invest in productive capacities of refugees and host communities, such as channeling social impact investments to spur local economic development.

One flagship project is the Green Fund, a sustainable financing mechanism to transition UNHCR's deep field compounds that currently run on diesel fuel to solar power via shared investment and risk arrangements with the private sector. This project has been capitalized with an initial contribution from the Swedish Development Agency (see the section on *Strengthening UNHCR's engagement in climate action*).

Another is creating a digitally-enabled credit reporting system for financial inclusion of people of concern as, amongst the many barriers they face to financial inclusion, refugees and IDPs are likely to either have no credit history to begin with or to have lost it in the process of forced displacement. UNHCR is exploring ways to support refugees' inclusion in credit reporting systems by leveraging a technological solution developed by the international non-profit organization Kiva, known as the Kiva Protocol. The Protocol is an open-source decentralized identity platform designed to remove the systemic barriers to financial inclusion by making e-Know Your Customer compliant digital identities and credit histories available to everyone, regardless of their status as refugees. When any lender (Kiva partner or not) makes a loan, this will send the borrower a signed verifiable claim with the details of that loan. The borrower accepts the verifiable claim and posts it to their private credit ledger in their digital Kiva wallet. The same happens with a repayment: when a borrower makes a repayment, the lender sends a verifiable claim that the borrower approves and posts to their ledger. This enables all credit events to be captured in a single ledger, with access to the digital wallet controlled by the individual. A trusted digital identification linked to a credit history would facilitate refugees and other displaced populations' financial inclusion in national systems and could also help with integration in the context of resettlement or return.

RAISING FUNDS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR

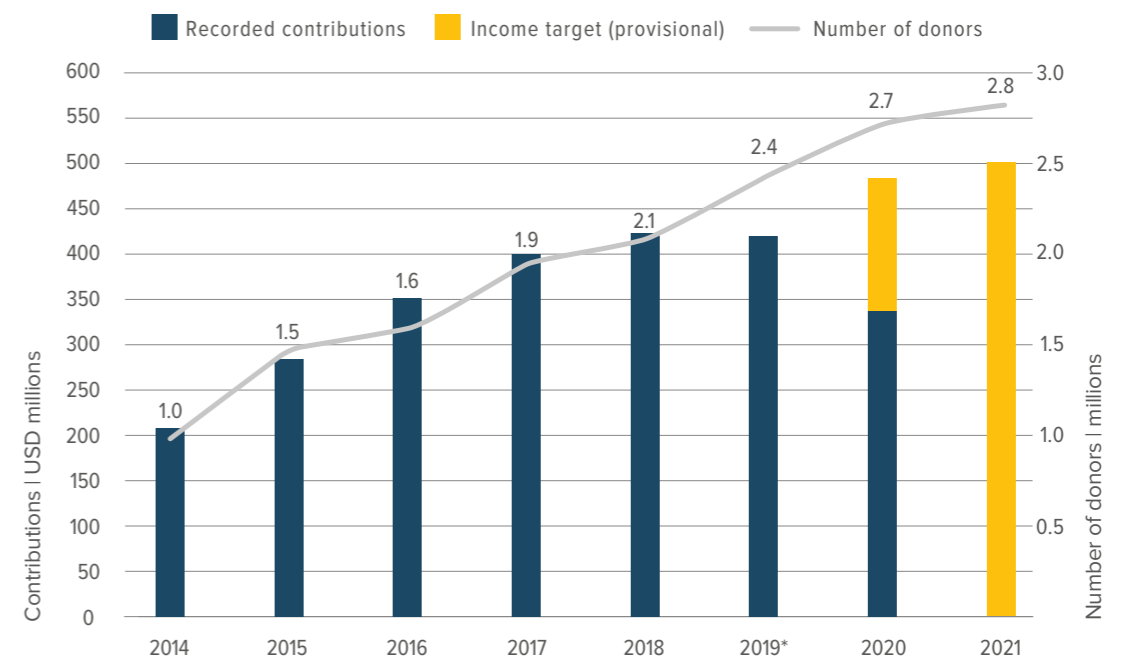
UNHCR is working towards raising \$1 billion annually from the private sector, with 70% coming from individual donors and 30% from corporations, private philanthropists and foundations. This ambitious, long-term objective reflects the need to diversify its income, particularly flexible funding, and the importance of the private sector in contributing to resolve humanitarian issues and its willingness to engage with UNHCR in support of the refugee cause.

As recognized in the Global Compact on Refugees, finding sustainable solutions to refugee situations rests on strong and lasting partnerships. These include partnerships with the private sector as an active contributor that can support through funding and in-kind donations of goods

and services, as well as through advocacy and expertise in terms of technology, employment, skills, renewable energy and other areas. UNHCR will continue to invest in developing these partnerships, and in establishing new ones, looking increasingly at managing relationships with private donors locally.

After a challenging year in 2019, UNHCR's private sector income returned to strong growth in 2020, largely driven by a swift response to emergencies, and is on track to reach the milestone of raising over \$500 million in a single year (see [Figure 6](#)) which makes it the fastest growing organization in private sector fundraising over the last five years.

FIGURE 6 | CONTRIBUTIONS AND NUMBER OF DONORS FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR | 2014-2021



*Recorded contributions as of 1 October 2020

Private sector partnerships and emergencies in 2020

Private sector fundraising and partnerships are fundamental in supporting UNHCR's timely response to new and protracted emergencies, contributing critical funds, services and expertise, including airlifts, logistics, supply and communications.

In 2020, a year dominated by numerous and unprecedented crises, private sector support was more important than ever. Private donors supported UNHCR to deliver life-saving aid to millions of forcibly displaced people in the province of Idlib in the Syrian Arab Republic, in the Sahel and Yemen, as well as to thousands made homeless by the Beirut blast and the fires at Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Private donors' support for UNHCR's COVID-19 appeal raised over \$55 million in confirmed contributions and pledges, making this one of UNHCR's most

successful private donor emergency appeals. Over 84% of COVID-19 private income was provided by companies, foundations and philanthropists, with the rest coming from individual donors. The largest financial contributions came from the WHO-UN Foundation COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund (\$10 million), Qatar Charity (\$3.5 million) and Sony Corporation (\$2.9 million).

In addition, the COVID-19 appeal led to the largest in-kind donations ever received by UNHCR. Unilever donated hygiene products to over 50 country operations and fashion retailers Inditex and GAP made clothing donations to operations in Rwanda and Burkina Faso, respectively. Partners such as UPS and Qatar Airways supported operations through airlifts and logistics, while Microsoft, WeTransfer and H&M contributed by amplifying UNHCR's messages through their platforms.

For 2021, UNHCR has set a target of consolidating the growth achieved in 2020 with the private sector and defined the following priorities:

- **Strategically invest resources** in priority countries, global partnerships, and fundraising programmes delivering loyal donors and the highest long-term net income growth.
- **Embrace the general public** as a key stakeholder and scale up communication,

public engagement activities and campaigns in support of refugees. For example, the international expansion of the Ramadan campaign beyond the Middle East and North Africa region, including appealing for zakat funds, will scale up in 2021 after a successful pilot. The aim will be to increase Islamic philanthropic funds from individuals, as well as corporates and foundations.

- **Develop partnerships** with corporations, foundations and private philanthropists, nurturing existing relationships while targeting new actors in the philanthropic sphere and offering innovative forms of collaboration. The goal is to have a strong portfolio of long-term, impact-driven and mutually beneficial relationships providing financial and other forms of support to UNHCR and people of concern. Of the overall private sector income to UNHCR, approximately 30% is expected to come from corporations, private philanthropists and foundations.
- **Strengthen efforts** to mobilize private donors to support UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response, leveraging private sector expertise, and providing protection and assistance in both new and ongoing emergencies.

UNHCR's vision is to become the private sector's partner of choice on the issue of forced displacement. Reaching the goal of raising \$1 billion annually from

private donors will require investment in a range of key areas such as improving the experience of supporters and maximizing donor engagement to increase the amount of donations; growing Islamic philanthropy, with UNHCR's eligibility to receive zakat funds providing a competitive advantage; expanding opportunities for in-kind donations; developing relationships with high-net-worth individuals and foundations; growing in the legacy marketing and gifts-in-wills space; and developing multi-country campaigns and emergency readiness mechanisms to drive income, engagement and brand recognition.

In order to broaden its private sector donor base, UNHCR is expanding its fundraising networks. New National Partners have been established in Argentina, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, joining the six which already exist in Australia, Germany, Japan, Spain, Sweden and the United States of America.



Islamic philanthropy in focus

UNHCR launched the Refugee Zakat Fund in 2019, an effective and trusted distributor meeting zakat regulations. Harnessing the power of zakat—a form of charitable contribution—the Fund enables UNHCR to assist the most vulnerable refugees and IDPs including in Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan and Yemen, with the ambition to expand to other relevant UNHCR operations. As of October 2020, UNHCR had received \$46 million in zakat funds, thanks to another generous contribution of \$38 million from the Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund, as well as \$5.8 million from individuals and through the Fund's digital platform. UNHCR's goal is to establish long-term partnerships that channel zakat funds in support of more than one million beneficiaries, which was the impact of the Fund in 2019. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to diversify partnerships with various zakat organizations and Islamic financial institutions, maximizing their impact on the lives of most vulnerable people of concern.



TABLE 2 | BUDGETS FOR GLOBAL PROGRAMMES 2010-2021 | USD

ACTIVITIES	2020	2021
	Budget	Proposed budget
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES		
Cash-based interventions	110,000	160,000
Durable solutions	4,288,445	4,769,000
Education-related projects	40,945,017	41,641,815
Emergency-related projects	90,959,445	71,550,000
Global clusters	250,000	-
Innovation project	2,352,419	3,500,000
Private sector partnerships	141,652,542	160,000,000
Protection-related projects	4,847,508	3,341,054
Public information and media projects	8,775,493	9,191,012
Refugee women, children and adolescents	1,044,874	638,000
Registration, data and knowledge management	5,772,076	8,900,000
Research, evaluation and documentation	7,873,589	11,250,000
Resettlement	11,756,810	9,448,360
Shelter-related projects	14,145,137	13,000,000
Training-related projects	789,500	747,500
Miscellaneous	1,237,456	924,456
SUBTOTAL OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES	336,800,311	339,061,197
PROGRAMME SUPPORT (BY DIVISION)		
Executive Direction and Management	15,801,973	12,763,994
Division of External Relations	30,021,889	28,880,452
Division of International Protection	6,602,154	2,826,971
Division of Emergency, Security and Supply	19,058,081	18,961,864
Division of Resilience and Solutions	28,375,420	24,455,852
Division of Strategic Planning and Results	4,200,000	4,200,000
Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications	38,177,952	31,821,059
Division of Human Resources	32,387,436	30,980,335
Division of Financial and Administrative Management	705,163	705,163
BUDAPEST GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER		
Division of Emergency, Security and Supply	2,189,532	1,820,936
COPENHAGEN GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER		
Division of External Relations	9,987,377	8,937,934
Division of International Protection	478,164	217,688
Global Data Service	14,178,032	12,096,324
Division of Information Systems and Telecommunications	1,637,911	1,488,456
SUBTOTAL PROGRAMME SUPPORT	203,801,083	180,157,027
TOTAL	540,601,394	519,218,224

TABLE 3 | BUDGETS FOR HEADQUARTERS¹ 2020-2021 | USD

DIVISIONS/DEPARTMENTS	2020	2021
	Budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Proposed budget
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT		
Executive Office	5,926,315	5,660,662
New York Liaison Office	4,740,998	5,415,292
Inspector General's Office, including audit services	11,017,879	11,077,879
Legal Affairs Service	4,932,819	4,945,505
Office of the Ombudsman	650,433	628,752
Ethics Office	3,205,968	3,416,817
Enterprise Risk Management	1,473,463	1,479,310
Evaluation Service	3,010,129	3,064,398
Transformation and Change Service	2,996,315	2,996,315
Governance Service	2,361,975	2,898,654
SUBTOTAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT	40,316,296	41,583,583
DIVISIONS		
DIVISION OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS	26,862,694	28,971,667
DIVISION OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION	16,254,543	16,050,778
DIVISION OF RESILIENCE AND SOLUTIONS	2,957,946	3,149,235
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY, SECURITY AND SUPPLY	1,721,082	1,713,737
DIVISION OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND RESULTS	17,446,242	17,624,252
DIVISION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS	25,525,241	33,710,268
DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES	16,071,859	15,349,813
DIVISION OF FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT	23,348,934	23,082,941
SUBTOTAL DIVISIONS	130,188,541	139,652,691
BUDAPEST GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER		
Management Unit	4,208,329	4,247,878
Specialized sections and services	29,580,506	29,412,653
SUBTOTAL BUDAPEST GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER	33,788,834	33,660,531
COPENHAGEN GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER		
Management Unit	4,711,156	4,479,559
SUBTOTAL COPENHAGEN GLOBAL SERVICE CENTER	4,711,156	4,479,559
Staff Council	724,487	877,060
TOTAL	209,729,314	220,253,424

¹ The Annual Programme Budget includes allocations from the UN Regular Budget as follows: \$40.1 million for 2020 and an estimated \$40.1 million for 2021. The values for 2021 are provisional, subject to approval of final United Nations Programme Budget and subsequent recosting.



Global initiatives in 2021

© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Djuba is a 75-year-old pastor who fled the Democratic Republic of the Congo and found safety in Kakuma refugee camp, in Kenya. With churches closed due to the COVID-19 lockdown, he used his bicycle to both preach to his parishioners and share information with them.

COVID-19: IMPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN 2021

On 30 January 2020, the WHO declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a public health emergency of international concern. By March, countries around the world were successively contending with a global pandemic that permeated rapidly into most aspects of daily life. As public health responses were ramped up, the measures taken to curb the spread of the virus had and continue to have significant socioeconomic consequences, notably affecting those who are most vulnerable, including people of concern to UNHCR such as refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless persons, and returnees.

Pandemic-related border closures affected access to asylum and territory, with many States (75 as of October 2020) providing no exceptions for those seeking international protection. Across regions, there have been spontaneous returns by refugees to their countries of origin even when conditions there are not safe, largely propelled by economic hardships in countries of asylum. The economic downturn has also meant that millions of

people of concern have lost their livelihoods and are struggling to meet their basic needs. Protection incidents, particularly those involving children as well as gender-based violence, have markedly increased. The pandemic has also deepened gender inequalities, with women and girls seeing their access to services, including for health and livelihoods, further limited while their unpaid care responsibilities have increased. Millions of children and youth remain out of school, with potential long-term implications for their development and well-being.

In collaboration with governments, partners, donors, and people of concern, UNHCR has worked to address these challenges by swiftly identifying needs and reprioritizing and reallocating resources, introducing measures to increase flexibility, and adjusting programming to mitigate the impact of the virus and ensure continuity of essential protection and assistance services. As of October 2020, \$118.7 million worth of personal protective equipment and medical items have been procured. Nearly 4 million people of concern have accessed

health services, with 265,000 individuals receiving mental health and psychosocial support in 68 countries and over 468,000 women and girls accessing sexual and reproductive health services in 46 countries. Over 9.3 million people have accessed protection services, and 3 million people of concern benefitted from cash assistance (totalling nearly \$339 million). To facilitate quarantine, physical distancing and other COVID-19 preparedness and response measures, about 8,000 refugee housing units have been distributed in 15 countries.

UNHCR's transformative initiatives, including decentralization and regionalization, modernization of business processes, and expanded use of evidence in decision-making have enabled the organization to increase efficiencies and to act with greater agility. The positioning of the bureaux in their respective regions has enhanced the support provided to operations and helped UNHCR rapidly identify and respond to requirements and needs. Through its Headquarters, UNHCR was able to ensure economies of scale, as well as to strengthen the use of data to track the spread of the pandemic. Use of technology has been critical, allowing UNHCR to stay and deliver despite 88% of the workforce being required to work remotely from home at certain periods. The pandemic has accelerated thinking and initiatives already underway in this area, focusing attention on the feasibility and efficiency of remote working as a future modality.

Building on lessons learned in 2020, in 2021 UNHCR will work to maintain the same levels of responsiveness, adaptability and flexibility, whilst strengthening resilience as staff and people of concern adjust to living and working with COVID-19 in the medium term. The Office will work to mainstream COVID-19 activities within its programmes where possible. With the World Bank predicting

the deepest global recession since the Second World War, UNHCR's 2021 planning is grounded in the understanding that specific socioeconomic and protection efforts will require long-term investment beyond UNHCR's regular programming. Indeed, all of UNHCR's work to address the COVID-19 pandemic will take place against the backdrop of ongoing conflicts, persecution, disasters and insecurity, with a record 97.3 million people projected to be of concern to the Office in 2021, all of which indicate compounding humanitarian needs globally.

In sum, UNHCR anticipates that considerable and sustained investment will be needed in 2021 to respond to the effects of the global pandemic on people of concern. Requirements in terms of needs and priorities for 2021—particularly in relation to the pandemic's lasting socioeconomic and protection impacts, including loss of livelihoods and challenges with education—are in the process of being identified, with country operations undertaking detailed planning exercises. Detailed COVID-19 requirements will be outlined in a forthcoming supplementary appeal but, broadly speaking, emerging priority areas for the coming year will include the following.

Primary and secondary health care

The pandemic will continue to require a strong public health response. Some 85% of refugees are hosted in low- and middle-income countries, where health systems are often overstretched. In 2020, however, COVID-19 transmission rates amongst refugees generally remained similar or, in some places, lower than those among host communities. This is a testament to the generous support provided by host countries, the value of facilitating inclusion of people of concern

For more details of UNHCR's response to COVID-19, see the situation page on Global Focus.



Report on UNHCR's response to COVID-19



in national health responses, as well as the importance of UNHCR and partners' risk communication and public health prevention, preparedness and response efforts. As a second wave of the pandemic is well underway across different parts of the globe, these efforts will need to continue, in addition to maintaining support for and strengthening access to routine health services, mental health and psychosocial support, and adequate water, sanitation and hygiene for people of concern. (See as well *Responding with life-saving support*.)

Protection

The pandemic has challenged fundamental principles of protection for people of concern, notably refugees and asylum-seekers. It has also exacerbated already high protection needs across regions, increasing reliance by vulnerable populations of concern on more precarious coping strategies.

In celebrating the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in 2021, UNHCR will continue to collaborate closely with States and partners to promote and monitor the implementation of international protection standards, including access to asylum and protection from refoulement, strengthen national capacities and systems, and further solutions for people of concern. Efforts to address racism and xenophobia impacting people of concern in the context of COVID-19 will be key. Additionally, UNHCR will maintain, adapt and strengthen core protection services, including to address gender-based violence and child protection risks. Building on promising practices and UNHCR's long experience in community-based protection, UNHCR will enable and be guided by the leadership of people of concern themselves in preventing and responding to existing and emerging protection needs within their

communities, not least in contexts where UNHCR and partners face difficulties in access. (See as well *Safeguarding fundamental rights*.)

Cash assistance

UNHCR has leveraged cash assistance in the global response to COVID-19, building on its longstanding knowledge and experience in this area. Cash has proven to be an efficient means of delivering support to affected people fast, providing protection, empowering families to meet their basic needs, and mitigating some of the negative socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19. UNHCR operations have adapted existing cash assistance—introducing new approaches and technology, designing new cash grants and targeting criteria to assist newly vulnerable populations, developing exit strategies, increasing the use of digital payments, adjusting systems and complaints and feedback mechanisms and, where appropriate, aligning cash assistance with government social assistance. In 2021, UNHCR will take these lessons forward and continue to invest in cash assistance as an effective modality to protect and assist. (See as well *Responding with life-saving support*.)

Livelihoods

Along with cash assistance, a redoubled emphasis on livelihood support will be needed in 2021. Displaced and stateless persons, especially those at heightened risk such as women, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, are more vulnerable to the pandemic's devastating socioeconomic consequences. UNHCR analysis of eight large refugee-hosting countries suggests that 60% of refugees work in sectors highly impacted by COVID-19, compared to only 37% of non-refugees. UNHCR monitoring carried

out since the onset of the pandemic also indicates that 74% of refugees can only meet half or less of their basic needs.

In 2021, UNHCR will prioritize investments to protect livelihoods and advance socioeconomic inclusion to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on the economic and living conditions of people of concern.

Strengthening coordination and strategic partnerships will also be key. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will intensify coordination with government authorities, local and international partners, as well as international financial institutions and development actors, to increase the capacity of national systems, promote the inclusion of people of concern in national socioeconomic responses, expand the use of evidence and bolster self-reliance. (See as well *Building better futures*.)

Education

COVID-19 has limited children's access to education around the world. Based on UNHCR data, the Malala Fund estimates that half of refugee girls at the secondary level are at risk of dropping out of school due to COVID-19. Meanwhile, as learning resumed in some parts of the world, reliance on digital modalities for remote or blended learning has disproportionately disadvantaged displaced and stateless children.

Almost 2 million refugee children and youth were out of school due to mandatory school closures as of October 2020, with many attempting to learn from home through national programmes delivered through radio, television and the internet. In 2020, UNHCR worked to ensure that families had access to these programmes, supporting more than 744,700 children and youth with distance and home-based learning. In 2021, a more focused effort on education will be needed. In collaboration

with governments and partners, including development actors, UNHCR will work to reduce the enrolment gap between refugee and host community children, and to boost enrolment and retention rates for adolescent girls in national school systems. While the pandemic has meant UNHCR has had to adapt the way it operates, ensuring that the forcibly displaced are included in national systems whenever possible will remain a guiding principle of its work. (See as well *Building better futures*.)

Way forward

COVID-19 knows no borders, and does not discriminate based on nationality or legal status. The year 2020 provided lessons in resilience and solidarity; with communities across the world displaying extraordinary levels of camaraderie to help one another through this time of uncertainty. Mutual assistance groups have proliferated, and communities and volunteers from within populations of concern stepped up across the world. Host governments by and large did not exclude people of concern from their health response. Donor governments responded generously to UNHCR's financial requirements.

The international community as a whole is being called on once again to demonstrate cooperation and collective commitment. In the spirit of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR appeals to donors and supporters to ensure burden- and responsibility-sharing with refugees and hosting countries and to step up support for UNHCR and partners to provide vital life-saving protection and assistance in 2021. There is abundant evidence that, despite the very real implications of the pandemic for lives and livelihoods, this challenge may be met and overcome through solidarity.

Coronavirus a dire threat to refugee education



STRENGTHENING UNHCR'S ENGAGEMENT IN INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT SITUATIONS



A mother and child, internally displaced from their home in Al Jawf, living in an unfinished building in Marib, Yemen.

© UNHCR/Maria-Joelle Jean-Charles

Policy on engagement in situations of internal displacement



In 2019, violence, armed conflict and human rights violations had displaced an estimated 43.5 million people, with disasters displacing a further 5.1 million. In the first half of 2020, millions more were newly displaced due to conflict and violence. The largest increases were in the Syrian Arab Republic, where nearly 1.5 million were internally displaced, the Democratic Republic of the Congo with more than 1 million displaced, and Burkina Faso with nearly 500,000. Cameroon, Mozambique, Niger and Somalia reported more new internal displacements in the first half of 2020 than in the whole of 2019. Sudden and slow-onset disasters triggered 9.8 million new internal displacements in the first half of 2020; while in Somalia and Yemen, for example, hundreds of people

moved from urban to rural areas to escape situations of poor sanitation and crowded environments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Issued in September 2019, UNHCR's IDP Policy clarifies the scope, rationale and vision for the Office's response in IDP situations. In 2020, accountabilities and responsibilities for IDP responses were further integrated into the management culture and mandated functions of the newly regionalized bureaux. In 2021, this will continue to be strengthened and guided by certain key commitments:

- **Ensure the centrality of protection through predictable and principled protection leadership across the humanitarian response to internal displacement.**

UNHCR will assist Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators and UN and humanitarian country teams (HCTs) in IDP operations to facilitate an overarching protection and solutions response and, through leadership of the Global Protection Cluster, continue to support HCTs in the development of protection strategies which mobilize the humanitarian system toward protection outcomes. As an example, in Ethiopia UNHCR supported the HCT with a flash protection analysis in mid-2020 amidst new internal displacement.

- **Prioritize actions that contribute to safe, dignified and comprehensive IDP resilience and solutions, in partnership with others.** UNHCR will continue to advocate the inclusion of IDPs in national support services, social safety nets and local and national development plans. Bilateral engagement with international financial institutions, as well as support to area-based programming, is expected to benefit local populations, IDP returnees and those who may have been unable to flee, for example in the Sahel.
- **Revitalize data and information management and analysis to support evidence-based inter-agency planning, operational delivery by UNHCR, monitoring, and advocacy.** In 2021, the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement will support collection, analysis and sharing of quality socioeconomic data on internal displacement. This will enhance the ability of stakeholders, including governments, international organizations and NGOs, to make timely and evidence-informed decisions that can improve the lives of IDPs, including at the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
- **Support inter-agency response efforts through dedicated, resourced and**

well-capacitated coordination leadership.

In 2020, UNHCR worked to reduce gaps in its cluster leadership, both at the national and subnational levels. In 2021, systematic efforts will continue and will also bolster internal synergies between global clusters under UNHCR's leadership.

- **Ensure robust operational responses.** In collaboration with relevant lead agencies, UNHCR will strengthen operational responses in internal displacement situations, ensuring community-based protection approaches to address urgent and immediate protection needs, including gender-based violence and child protection. Operational delivery in shelter will be expanded and include more comprehensive area-based approaches for settlement profiling linking to longer-term solutions, aligned with new partnerships (with UN-Habitat, for example). UNHCR will continue to roll out its preparedness package on IDP emergencies, which supports effective responses by the Office both as an operational agency and as the cluster lead in protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM).
- **Support local and national actors to meaningfully engage in operational delivery, coordination and monitoring.** UNHCR will, wherever possible, support local efforts including for the development of IDP national laws and policies, training and capacity development. Achieving this will require UNHCR to implement well-resourced multi-year, multi-partner strategies which enhance national capacity.
- **Advance communication and advocacy.** UNHCR will step up its communication and advocacy strategies to promote and highlight the situation of IDPs, especially



given the impact of COVID-19. Enhanced communication on UNHCR's work with IDPs in partnerships and through coordination leadership will support external relations and fundraising efforts, and draw attention to gaps in the humanitarian response and their impact.

- **Build up the human resource base.** UNHCR will continue to identify, train and deploy a cadre of staff with specialized skills and competencies, such as coordination and information management.
- **Support the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.** With recommendations from the panel expected during the second half of 2020, UNHCR will support its work, including by facilitating communications with affected communities and key stakeholders. UNHCR will continue to support the knowledge base through written submissions related to the panel's six workstreams.

Reinforcing partnerships for IDP protection and assistance

UNHCR continues to build strategic partnerships for IDP protection, including through the three-year, multi-stakeholder plan of action for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (GP20). Following regional exchanges in 2020 with ECOWAS, the Economic Community of West African States, and IGAD, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, UNHCR spearheaded exchanges on internal displacement in the Middle East, Americas and Asia in collaboration with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Platform on Disaster Displacement. In 2021, UNHCR will facilitate national,

regional and global consultations to foster best practices around IDP protection and solutions, and galvanize collective action and support to displacement-affected States.

UNHCR will also reinforce its strategic partnerships in response to growing protection needs in conflict settings. For example, UNHCR and ICRC have collaborated closely as protection-mandated agencies, building on regional workshops on protection in armed conflict and international humanitarian law, peer-to-peer exchanges on legal and operational issues, as well as global events on displacement in war. Following a high-level meeting in 2020, UNHCR and ICRC issued joint protection messages in the context of COVID-19 which were widely disseminated across both entities, and which will form the basis for UNHCR to strengthen field engagement and global collaboration on protection in 2021.

Global Protection Cluster (UNHCR lead)

The Global Protection Cluster (GPC) is a network of United Nations agencies, NGOs and international organizations engaged in protection work in humanitarian crises including armed conflict and disasters. The GPC ensures that protection is at the centre of the humanitarian response and that it is mainstreamed across all clusters. It works closely with UNICEF, UNFPA, UNMAS, and the Norwegian Refugee Council as the lead organizations responsible respectively for: child protection; prevention of and response to gender-based violence; mine action; and housing, land and property rights.

The GPC's work will remain guided by its strategic framework for 2020-2024,

"Protection in a climate of change". This includes, in 2021, an emphasis on effective coordination capacities, and timely and evidence-based protection analysis to support decision-making. The GPC's strategic orientation includes accountability to the affected population, support for localization, ensuring collective protection outcomes through strategic partnerships with non-protection actors, durable solutions, and adaptability to an ever-shifting operational environment including disasters, pandemics and artificial intelligence.

Global Shelter Cluster (co-lead with IFRC)

The Global Shelter Cluster (GSC) will continue to strengthen a range of critical response areas in 2021. In particular, integrated, area-based approaches are ensuring more environmentally-sensitive approaches to humanitarian shelter and settlement responses and transforming cooperation with other clusters. Collaborative approaches to housing, land and property issues have resulted in new tools and products for improved programming and response, supporting early identification of and action to address tenure security and land use issues. United Nations system-wide efforts—such as "Greening the blue"—are creating new opportunities to reduce the carbon footprint of emergency shelter and non-food item interventions, while improving local approaches and leadership.

The GSC will support country-level clusters through surge capacity and remote assistance. Further progress will be made in aligning the research efforts of academic institutions with the operational needs of GSC partners and in capturing

good practices. The GSC will also support country-level clusters to: better incorporate appropriate local construction materials and techniques; improve understanding of housing markets to provide more efficient and effective shelter responses; improve responses in urban areas; and strengthen capacity of local partners to respond and in terms of shelter coordination.

Global CCCM Cluster (co-lead with IOM)

UNHCR has over seven decades of experience in working with communities in camps, sites and urban areas, which informs its co-leadership of the Global CCCM Cluster. A new Global CCCM Cluster strategy will emphasize the connection between reinforced camp or site management capacity and protection and solutions responses. Given COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions on access, UNHCR will undertake remote management and engagement with displaced communities, where necessary. Additionally, the Global CCCM Cluster will finalize an updated camp management standards policy.

CCCM activities and UNHCR's IDP response will continue to be driven by efficient and evidence-based information management systems, grounded in sound analysis of a populations' needs, protection concerns and demographics, as well as continuous monitoring and robust analytical methodologies. The overall capacity of the cluster to respond to and address the diversity of challenges across different displacement situations will be strengthened, including through partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as academic institutions and internal UNHCR capacity-building.

Global Protection Cluster website



GP20 PREVENT PROTECT RESOLVE



Global CCCM Cluster website



Global Shelter Cluster website



STRENGTHENING UNHCR'S ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION



Solar panels bring light to Kutupalong refugee camp, Bangladesh.

The impacts of climate change disproportionately affect the world's most vulnerable people, with refugees and IDPs often hosted in “climate hotspots” or regions being rendered increasingly uninhabitable. Climate change can also drive new displacement and, in terms of solutions, create barriers to return and reintegration. The eight worst food crises in 2019—all in countries where UNHCR is operating—were linked to both climate shocks and conflict, and it is projected by the IFRC that storms, droughts, floods and wildfires could double the number of people requiring humanitarian assistance to over 200 million each year by 2050. Climate change and its effects are therefore of both legal and operational relevance to UNHCR's work, spanning preparedness, emergency response and solutions, leading the Office to step up its climate action under three strategic pillars.

The first is legal and normative. UNHCR supports States to develop and implement legal and institutional policy frameworks that prevent, respond to and facilitate

solutions for displacement in the context of climate change and disasters. This includes catalyzing international action and awareness, and developing guidance to support access to international protection for those in need, including refugees. UNHCR also provides guidance for States and other stakeholders to ensure that citizens do not become stateless as a result of climate change impacts.

In line with its IDP Policy, UNHCR will step up its operational response to ensure protection and assistance for people displaced internally by disasters during the emergency response and early recovery phase, as well as to enhance the resilience of IDPs to climate and disaster risks. This includes strengthening preparedness for engagement in disaster situations and integrating climate change and disaster risk assessments into planning. UNHCR will also increase collaboration with global, regional and national actors to ensure inclusion of displaced and stateless persons in early warning and early action mechanisms,

disaster risk reduction and management strategies, and climate adaptation plans.

As part of the second pillar of its engagement on climate action, UNHCR aims to minimize any negative environmental impacts of large displaced populations, while also enhancing their protection and well-being. In addition to increasing access to safe, clean and (when possible) renewable energy, the organization will continue to mainstream environmental sustainability across all sectors, including settlements, shelter, core relief items, water, sanitation and hygiene, food security, nutrition, livelihoods, public health and cash assistance. UNHCR will also collaborate with governments and partners to promote reforestation and sustainable agriculture in refugee-hosting areas facing deforestation.

Finally, UNHCR aims to continually “green” its operations and improve its own environmental footprint by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing damage to the environments in which it operates and upon which local populations depend for their livelihoods. Sustainability management also brings key benefits, such as efficiencies in the use of natural resources and finances. A key focus in 2021 will be implementing clean energy solutions for offices, building on the experience of teleworking and reduced travel in 2020 as well as by applying the “green box” project, which measures an

office's power consumption and helps identify alternative energy options. As of early October 2020, 124 UNHCR offices in 72 countries were participating in this initiative. (See as well *Building better futures*.)

Additional steps are planned to improve the sustainable and “climate smart” management of UNHCR's facilities, waste, water and energy usage, travel, procurement of goods and services, and fleet management systems. Based on the outcomes of the UN Development Group's BIG—the Business Innovation Strategic Results Group—UNHCR and WFP have agreed to form a joint venture to provide fleet-related services to the broader UN system. This will lay the foundation for carbon emissions measurement, management and mitigation at the inter-agency level through more efficient and effective use of global fleet assets. Another focus in 2021 will be maintaining carbon neutrality, which was achieved for the first time in 2018 through emissions offsets and reductions.

UNHCR's “Strategic framework on climate action” will be released by the end of 2020, setting parameters for the organization's response to the climate emergency. The framework will be operationalized through regional plans of action developed by UNHCR's bureaux and operations, consistent with climate adaptation policies of host countries and UN country teams.



SPOTLIGHT: Greening the blue

In the last five years, UNHCR has participated in the United Nations' “Greening the blue” initiative, progressively rolling out environmental reporting across its country operations. In 2020, 200 UNHCR field offices will report on their carbon dioxide emissions, waste production and water use. UNHCR and GIZ, the German Agency for International Cooperation, are working together to reduce the carbon footprint of selected UNHCR operations—including in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda—and to improve their access to sustainable energy, helping to meet UNHCR's climate responsibilities while providing clean and sustainable sources of energy to people of concern. With the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNHCR is establishing an innovative revolving fund to help staff in field operations to partner with the private sector to transition to clean energy, phase out fossil fuels and reduce carbon dioxide emissions (See as well *UNHCR's 2021 Financial requirements*).

THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES IN 2021



Alytor Ag Alkhalifa is a Malian refugee in Mbera camp in Mauritania, where he is training as a mason alongside fellow refugees and members of the local community at a vocational training school for construction run by UNHCR and the ILO, with the support of the European Union, Japan and the United States of America.

Compilation of GCR/ CRRF-related development partner projects and programmes



In 2020, key advances were made in the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees. Arrangements and tools to facilitate more predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing were operationalized, while progress was made towards greater inclusion of refugees in national systems and national development plans. The Compact's comprehensive response model has advanced out-of-camp approaches and enabled many refugees to access education, health care, employment and financial services (see *Building better futures*). The international community has continued to mobilize support for the achievement of the Compact's four objectives on an equal footing and, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of the 1,400 pledges made by governments and other stakeholders at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum is progressing well. While the pandemic has slowed implementation of pledges in some areas, it has accelerated it in others, including in the areas of health and

social protection, with the pledges also stimulating new partnerships and strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

The continued political commitment to the Compact in 2021 has been impressive, with the Compact's central principle of solidarity more relevant than ever. The support platforms, a new mechanism launched at the Forum for three regional refugee situations, will continue to strengthen and sustain the international community's response to the most protracted and complex refugee situations, facilitating greater responsibility-sharing and State engagement. In 2021, UNHCR will also continue to work with States and other actors who pledged financial, technical or material assistance at the Global Refugee Forum to identify how their pledges could support efforts by host countries towards inclusion and protection of refugees. The dynamic process of aligning donor and host country pledges while also



SPOTLIGHT: Socioeconomic data on refugees and host communities

To monitor progress towards the Global Compact on Refugees and its goals of more equitable and predictable burden- and responsibility-sharing and easing pressures on host countries, improving comparable data and evidence on the socioeconomic circumstances of displaced and host communities is key. Better data will inform initiatives under the Compact, including measuring the impact of protecting, hosting and assisting refugees on host countries, as well as addressing evidence gaps, informing policy and programming, and improving efficient resource allocation more broadly. Data is also central to linking humanitarian and development efforts for displaced people, who by 2030 could account for two-thirds of the world's extreme poor. Progress has been made in a number of countries hosting significant refugee populations to address the current gap in socioeconomic data and analytics, including Kenya and Uganda, but further efforts are needed.

In October 2019, UNHCR and the World Bank Group formally established the Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement to improve the collection, dissemination and analysis of data on forced displacement. A research conference on displacement scheduled to take place in Bogota, Colombia, in May 2021 will highlight learning from the center's first full year of operation, which saw initial support provided to some 40 activities across the two organizations and their partners. Together with the center, the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network (GAIN) also seeks to expand the scope and applicability of research on displaced people and host communities in support of the Compact.

bringing new partners on board is an innovative modality introduced at the Forum, which will continue to be prioritized.

Other initiatives established by the Compact, such as the Asylum Capacity Support Group, the "Three-year strategy (2019-2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways", the Global Academic Interdisciplinary Network and the Clean Energy Challenge also show encouraging levels of progress and engagement by a broad range of stakeholders, and will continue to guide the work of the Office in 2021. The digital platform for the Global Compact on Refugees keeps all stakeholders abreast of these developments, enabling the sharing of good practices and tracking progress made on pledges.

In December 2021, UNHCR will organize a High-Level Official's Meeting to take stock of progress towards the implementation of the Compact and the pledges made at the Forum. In preparation for the meeting, a series of thematic and regional stocktaking

opportunities and events will be convened, enabling pledging entities to report on progress and share information about remaining needs. Additionally, the first Global Compact on Refugees indicators report will be released at the meeting. The outcomes of the indicators report and the stocktaking exercise will guide the development of future pledges and contributions for the next Forum in 2023.

The Global Compact on Refugees will steer the work of UNHCR, States and partners in the decade ahead and beyond, providing a powerful tool for broadening the base of support for refugees and their host countries and communities, strengthening protection, advancing inclusion and pursuing solutions. In 2021, UNHCR will ensure that its internal systems can support and facilitate effective implementation of the Compact, including follow-up to Forum pledges, by integrating these aspects into the organization's planning, programming, budgeting, reporting, training and communications processes.

Initiatives to share global responsibility for refugees



Pledges and contributions dashboard



PARTNERSHIPS



UNHCR staff distribute personal protective equipment to MEDU (Doctors for Human Rights), its partner in Rome, Italy.

Strengthening multi-stakeholder approaches

In 2021, UNHCR will strengthen its work with partners to advance protection and solutions, including by furthering collaboration with development, peace and security actors. The ongoing NGO partnership reform process is expected to result in simplified agreements in 2021, leaving more room for strategic discussions and engagement. A new framework for UNHCR's work with refugee-led organizations and networks will also be developed, and particular focus will be placed on relationships with faith-based actors and women-led civil society organizations.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that no-one is safe unless everyone is safe, underlining the need for efforts to include the displaced in national health and socioeconomic response plans.

Partnering with WHO and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, on the basis of new memoranda of understanding concluded in 2020, UNHCR will focus on ensuring that risk communication activities and vaccination campaigns reach displaced and stateless populations. COVID-19 also highlighted the need for better prevention of and response to gender-based violence, along with activities to enhance gender equality to address its root causes. Cooperation with agencies such as UN Women, UNFPA and the many international NGOs and civil society actors working in this field will be strengthened in 2021.

In 2020, UNHCR ensured that inter-agency humanitarian action plans and response frameworks included strategic objectives relating to refugees, IDPs and stateless persons. In 2021, based on feedback from

people of concern, many of whom have lost their livelihoods as a result of COVID-19, renewed impetus will be given to also ensuring their inclusion in socioeconomic response plans, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. UNHCR will continue to partner with development actors, international financial institutions and those involved in the design and implementation of economic recovery plans and social security schemes. A key focus will be the UNHCR-UNICEF “Blueprint for a fair deal for refugee children”, which is aimed at ensuring the inclusion of refugees in national development plans and multisectoral needs assessments.

UNHCR's innovative work together with partners on predictive analysis and artificial intelligence will continue, focusing on mitigating the displacement aspects of climate change. UNHCR will develop new and more strategic partnerships with academic, research and peace institutions and actors, with a particular emphasis on addressing the root causes of displacement.

At the strategic level, monthly consultations will be held with key international NGOs and the annual partnership survey will continue to highlight the challenges and advances made in UNHCR-NGO cooperation. Localization efforts will continue, in line with Grand Bargain commitments, focusing on ensuring local actors are part of coordination mechanisms and strategic decision-making.

Given the important role sport can play in the social development, inclusion and well-being of refugees, as recognized in the Global Compact on Refugees, in 2021 UNHCR will strengthen work with a coalition of 87 sport, private sector, NGO and government entities that made three joint pledges at the Global Refugee Forum on access to sport programmes and facilities and participation in sports activities at all levels. Although the 2020 Tokyo Olympics were postponed by 12 months because of COVID-19, UNHCR will continue to partner with the International Olympic Committee to support their Refugee Athlete Scholarship Holders, and the Refugee Olympic Team will compete at the Games in 2021.



SPOTLIGHT: Engagement with development actors and processes

In 2021, UNHCR will consolidate its partnerships with multilateral development banks and other development actors. UNHCR will engage in the World Bank's 18th and 19th International Development Association (IDA) replenishments—more than \$4.2 billion in total—as these have been essential not only in increasing investments in refugee-hosting areas but also in supporting more inclusive, progressive and sustainable policies. Partnerships with regional development banks such as the African Development Bank, will be consolidated, building on collaboration to assist people of concern in the Sahel and the East and Horn of Africa.

UNHCR will work with the European Commission on development interventions targeting refugee-hosting areas as part of the 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework. Work with the French Development Agency (AFD), the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will be a priority, with particular focus on increasing synergies at the programme and policy levels in countries hosting large numbers of refugees. Supporting governments to strengthen complementarity of interventions by development actors in hosting areas will also be a priority.

Close collaboration with the ILO, UNDP and UNICEF to support the inclusion of people of concern in national development plans will continue. UNHCR will also strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, operationalizing the United Nations “sustaining peace agenda” and the recommendation on the humanitarian-development-peace nexus of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

German development cooperation in the context of forced displacement



Engagement approach for Syrian refugees (JICA)



Regional refugee response plans in 2021

UNHCR will continue to lead and coordinate the response to complex refugee crises, including those involving mixed refugee and migrant situations, through five regional refugee response plans (RRPs). UNHCR leads inter-agency planning and coordination for the RRP for the situations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in Response to the Syria Crisis (3RP) is co-led together with UNDP, and the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (RMRP) together with IOM.

RRPs cover the inter-agency response in 33 refugee-hosting countries and, where appropriate, are an integrated yet distinct part of inter-agency humanitarian response plans. They contribute to the application of the Refugee Coordination Model, articulating protection and solutions priorities and outlining the needs of refugees and their host communities.

Through RRP, UNHCR and partners seek to address the most urgent needs, including humanitarian, socioeconomic and development needs; as well as new health needs caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with RRP partners mainstreaming COVID-19 response activities into core strategies and working to ensure the refugee response is integrated into national efforts. In addition, UNHCR and partners will prioritize the mitigation of and response to gender-based violence, and the inclusion of the needs of persons with disabilities within RRP frameworks, as well as support to other groups at heightened risk.

RRPs integrate a resilience and solutions approach, based on coherent engagement of partners and host governments in the pursuit of solutions for refugees, migrants and impacted members of host communities. Recognizing the importance of promoting innovative approaches in the overall refugee response, RRP include environmental initiatives by partners to complement UNHCR's strategy on climate change and energy, such as the one-of-a-kind recycling facility at Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan.

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLANS | 2020-2021

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLANS	2020			2021
	Inter-agency budget (USD) ³	Inter-agency funding received (USD)	Funding level as at 30 September 2020	Estimated Inter-agency budget (USD) ⁴
Burundi	298,375,205	73,593,745	25%	298,375,205
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	638,709,377	93,364,469	15%	638,709,377
South Sudan	1,429,908,307	280,976,959	20%	1,429,908,307
Syria 3RP ¹	5,995,975,760	1,705,237,566	28%	5,995,975,760
Venezuela ²	1,407,580,167	416,545,541	30%	1,407,580,167
TOTAL	9,770,548,816	2,569,718,280	26%	9,770,548,816

¹ co-lead with UNDP.

² co-lead with IOM.

³ Except for the RRP for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, these budget figures refer to revised inter-agency requirements including for the COVID-19 response.

⁴ The 2021 budgets are only preliminary figures, based on the 2020 requirements, pending finalization and approval by partners and host countries.

RISK MANAGEMENT



COVID-19 isolation and treatment facility for refugees and host community members at Nalemsokon health clinic in Kalobeyei settlement, Kenya.

UNHCR's approach to managing the uncertainties that could impact the achievement of its objectives—commonly called “risk”—is now well established. As part of its core business, for example in supporting the implementation the Global Compact on Refugees and stepping up the IDP response, as well as in addressing emerging priorities like climate action, UNHCR staff regularly undertake high-quality risk analysis, with results informing decision-making. UNHCR is broadening awareness of and skills for risk management across all levels of the organization. This means empowering the workforce to take the appropriate level of risk and equipping them to make

decisions systematically in light of risks and opportunities. Already colleagues speak with authority on the biggest risks facing their operations; and the COVID-19 pandemic has only reinforced the need for UNHCR staff at all levels to act as risk managers.

COVID-19 highlighted the need to strengthen preparedness for catastrophic events which could disrupt the lives of people of concern and UNHCR's activities. In camps in Bangladesh, for example, triage and isolation zones were established and sanitary measures reinforced to better manage the negative impact COVID-19 could have had on operations.

Across operations, proactive decisions were taken to reinforce health facilities for staff, to ensure that the best possible care should someone contract the virus. While the situation evolves, a thorough assessment of the risks is helping to shape UNHCR's response and has enabled the organization to continue to deliver under exceptional circumstances, protecting the well-being of both people of concern and UNHCR's own staff. With the reduced physical presence imposed by the pandemic, risk management plays an important role in safeguarding the integrity of UNHCR's programmes.

In 2021, an expanded network of 33 dedicated risk experts—up from three in 2017—will support those operations most in need. Through in-person and, more recently, remote trainings and workshops, more than 3,000 personnel have been trained in risk management, including in conducting risk assessments and strengthening fraud risk management and fraud detection. In addition, senior leadership in regional bureaux and country operations are being coached in risk management and crisis communications to better prepare them to respond to the next emergency. UNHCR will also launch an internal communications campaign to empower staff to “horizon scan” for risks and opportunities before making important decisions in their work.

UNHCR is developing tools to support field staff in identifying and addressing risks in areas such as cash assistance, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and partnership management. In addition, the risk management framework will be strengthened through a revised policy, and the organization is exploring

the development of a risk appetite statement that defines the level and nature of risk UNHCR is willing to accept in pursuit of its objectives.

UNHCR continues its active engagement on risk management with partners and other UN agencies. Through regular briefings and updates to States, UNHCR shares information on its high-level risks and opportunities. UNHCR is also actively engaged in the UN High-Level Committee on Management's (HLCM) task force on risk management.

UNHCR has been independently assessed as being at an “established” level of risk maturity, according to an HLCM-endorsed UN risk maturity model. UNHCR has defined risk management processes, good organizational coverage, regular risk reporting and escalation, and risk information used in operational decision-making. Building on the success of the Risk Management 2.0 initiative (2018-2020), the High Commissioner has called for UNHCR to further enhance its risk culture to reach an “advanced” level of maturity. To that end, UNHCR is integrating the new results-based management tool and the risk register tool; strengthening the strategic use of data; and continuing to embed risk management considerations in policies, processes and day-to-day activities.

UNHCR'S FIGHT AGAINST SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

UNHCR has made significant progress in tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment over the last two years. With efforts coordinated by dedicated staff working as part of multifunctional structures under the leadership of the Deputy High Commissioner, organizational accountability has been strengthened, reporting mechanisms on sexual misconduct by colleagues and people of concern have been enhanced, and trust in systems has increased. In addition, investigation and disciplinary action has been strengthened and there is increased awareness and capacity among staff, along with initiatives to support strong leadership and organizational culture change.

The High Commissioner has also implemented a number of key initiatives in his role as IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment, a position which began in September 2019 and which will continue until the end of 2020. His championship has focused on bolstering prevention, expanding safe spaces, and promoting the respectful use of authority.

Despite progress, much more remains to be done. Reflecting a commitment to ensuring UNHCR is run in a way that actively prevents harm, harassment and abuse and to responding safely and consistently if there is a problem, and building on achievements and in line with a safeguarding and victim-centred approach, the Office issued a 2020-2022 strategy and action plan which takes into account challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and is guided by four main objectives: ensure an end-to-end

victim-centred approach is streamlined across all UNHCR practices and procedures concerning sexual misconduct; equip and empower UNHCR and partner personnel to prevent, identify and respond to sexual misconduct; uphold organizational accountability in tackling sexual misconduct; and maintain UNHCR's role as a key stakeholder in inter-agency efforts through close and active engagement with all partners.

Some key initiatives to be launched in 2021 include: work with an academic institution to better understand the experiences of victims/survivors of sexual harassment to inform response and support mechanisms, ensuring that the needs and wishes of victims/survivors are heard and considered; implementation of a new policy on a victim-centred approaches; the roll-out of new interactive learning materials on sexual misconduct for staff and for partners; mainstreaming of prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse across operational sectors; strengthening the capacity of partners on sexual exploitation and abuse, including through the piloting and implementation of a new assessment tool; and strong engagement in inter-agency efforts, including those aimed at preventing and responding to sexual misconduct in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tackling sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment



IASC Champion on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment



East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes



An asylum-seeker from the Democratic Republic of the Congo sits with her children after undergoing a health screening near a border crossing in Zombo, Uganda.

© UNHCR/Rocco Nuri

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strengthening protection and access to quality services for persons at heightened risk

With the region hosting the largest number of refugees on the African continent, UNHCR will work to ensure that the right to seek asylum is upheld and that refugees are protected. Continued engagement with the African Union, the East African Community, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region will strengthen refugee policy. Individual biometric registration, delayed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will be prioritized in eight countries. The Office will support governments to resume and strengthen fair and efficient refugee status determination procedures, incorporating modalities that meet COVID-19 prevention measures and aim to reduce backlogs.

.../...

Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

With over 80% of refugees living in camps or settlements and 20% in urban settings, the COVID-19 pandemic poses significant challenges in the region due to the population density in refugee camps and the severe impact of the economic downturn on urban livelihoods. The poor health and nutritional status of displaced families, coupled with inadequate health, water and sanitation facilities and an underfunded humanitarian response, has required the prioritization of preparedness and activities relating to basic needs and assistance over support for self-reliance. Access to asylum was also impacted by border closures across the region. Uganda temporarily opened its border to allow refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enter, and other countries put in place various exceptions for asylum-seekers.

COVID-19 planning for 2021 has sought to ensure that all sectors incorporate prevention measures, allowing for good hygiene practices and physical distancing. There will be an increased need for nutritional support, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, child protection, access to education (notably for girls) and mental health and psychosocial support.

The economic impact of COVID-19 will continue to heavily affect refugees and IDPs across the region, particularly in urban areas. Job losses and business closures have left many struggling to pay for rent, food and other essentials. Self-reliance and economic inclusion programmes therefore need to be strengthened and expanded, along with income-generating activities.

Most countries in the region included refugees in national COVID-19 prevention and response plans. This may support efforts to advance broader pledges on refugee inclusion in national systems and services made at the Global Refugee Forum, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees.

MAJOR SITUATIONS IN THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES IN 2021



BURUNDI

Despite heightened tensions during the May 2020 elections in Burundi, there was no increase in forced displacement. However, the human rights situation in Burundi remains concerning and in 2021, UNHCR will advocate to preserve the asylum space for Burundians displaced in the region. Assistance to, and services for, Burundian refugees will need to be increased to ensure that minimum basic needs are met, with COVID-19 exacerbating their already precarious living conditions. The Regional Refugee Response Plan for Burundi has been updated to incorporate COVID-19 response measures. It includes 35 partners in the four main countries of asylum and takes a comprehensive and solutions-oriented approach, emphasizing the need to include refugees in national systems, integrate service delivery with host communities wherever possible and prioritize self-reliance.

Although the prevailing situation in Burundi is not conducive to actively promoting voluntary repatriation, the Office will facilitate returns for Burundians who make an informed voluntary choice to do so. In 2021, returnees are expected from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with smaller numbers from other countries. All will receive a standardized return package that includes a cash grant and food assistance. The Joint Refugee Return and Reintegration Plan is an integrated, inter-agency response plan aimed at ensuring the sustainable return and reintegration of Burundian refugees, and at supporting community-based protection in areas of return. It brings together 19 partners within Burundi, including government ministries, UN agencies and NGOs.

Working closely with other UN agencies, UNHCR will also provide protection, assistance and core relief items to support some 46,000 targeted Burundian IDPs.

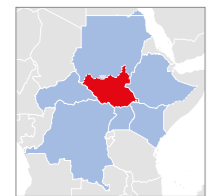
325,000
BURUNDIAN REFUGEES IN
NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

131,000*
IDPs

135,000
REFUGEE RETURNÉES

75%
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
REFUGEES AND
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

* Source: IOM



SOUTH SUDAN

As the South Sudanese refugee response entered its seventh year, there were some advances in the peace process, but continued outbreaks of violence may lead to new refugee outflows into neighbouring countries in 2021. The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda continued to host over 2.2 million South Sudanese—the largest refugee population on the continent—and there were a further 1.6 million IDPs. The COVID-19 pandemic has posed significant challenges for South Sudanese refugees due to the high population density in refugee camps and inadequate sanitary facilities. Only 43% of refugee households have a latrine for instance. Although UNHCR is neither promoting nor facilitating returns, the Office anticipates an increase in spontaneous IDP and refugee returns in 2021. UNHCR plans to continue protection profiling and analysis to support protection-centred returns, peacebuilding, reconciliation and social cohesion.

The South Sudan Regional Refugee Response Plan has been updated to reflect COVID-19 prevention and response measures. It brings together 95 partners working across five countries and aims to meet the assistance and resilience needs of South Sudanese refugees in the region.

As part of UNHCR's IDP Initiative, the Office will continue to strengthen its support to the IDP response as a partner in the inter-agency humanitarian response plan.

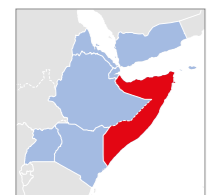
2.2 million
SOUTH SUDANESE REFUGEES
IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

1.6 million
IDPs

445,000
REFUGEE RETURNÉES

14,000
STATELESS PERSONS

83%
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
REFUGEES AND
ASYLUM-SEEKERS



SOMALIA

The Somalia situation is one of the world's longest-running displacement crises. Despite political developments, the overall security situation in Somalia remains unpredictable, with continued high levels of displacement within and outside the country. In addition to the COVID-19 pandemic and its related socioeconomic impact, severe drought and floods will likely continue to displace thousands of families and reduce their access to regular humanitarian assistance. UNHCR will continue to focus on protection monitoring, community engagement and risk communication, as well as the provision of health and hygiene supplies. Where possible, settlements will be decongested, and shelter and household supplies will be distributed to those affected by flooding.

In countries of asylum, continued investment is needed to support inclusion and livelihood activities. This is in line with the regional application of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Nairobi Declaration of 2017, where Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development agreed to collectively pursue a comprehensive regional approach to durable solutions for Somali refugees, while maintaining protection and promoting self-reliance in countries of asylum. Voluntary refugee return to Somalia will continue to be facilitated for those requesting it, and where possible.

805,000
SOMALI REFUGEES IN
NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

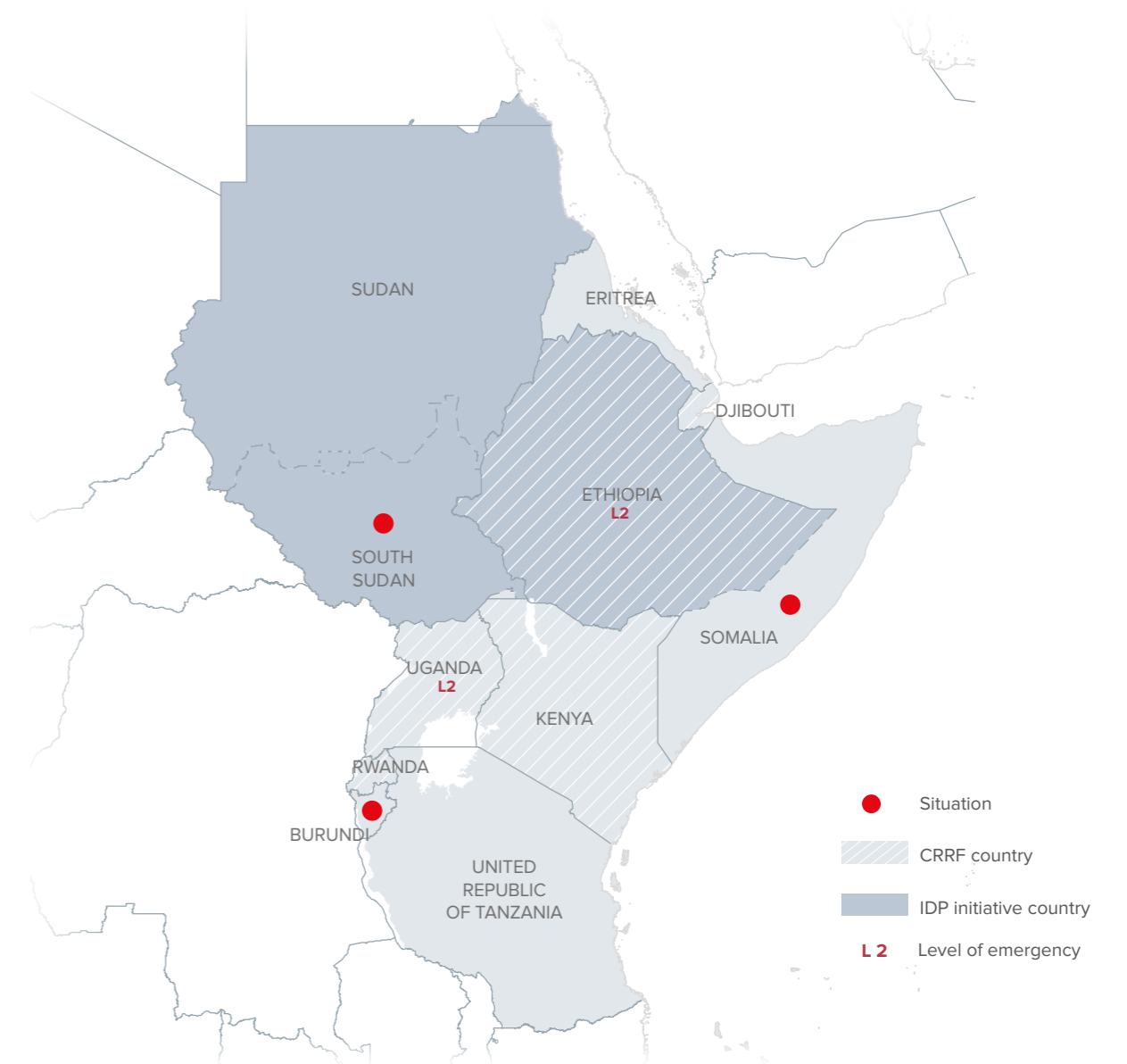
2.5 million
IDPs

18,600
REFUGEE RETURNÉES

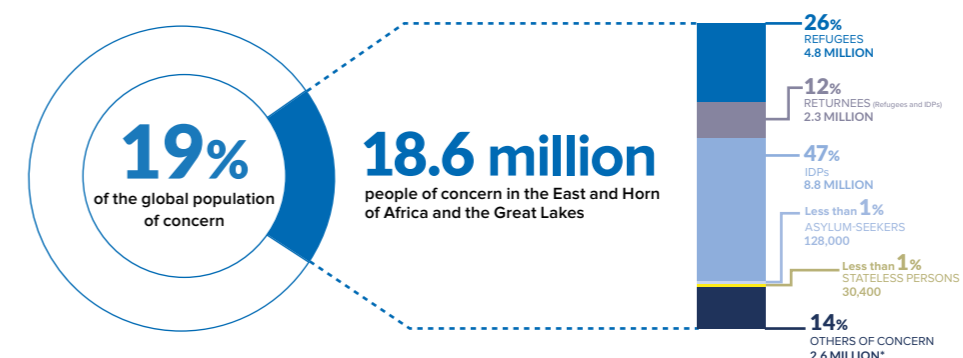
81%
WOMEN AND CHILDREN
REFUGEES AND
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

82%
IDP WOMEN
AND CHILDREN

Limited progress made in various peace processes, combined with sporadic outbreaks of violence, will likely result in sustained levels of displacement and may lead to new population movements in 2021. In addition to the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region is also highly vulnerable to worsening flooding and droughts due to climate change, all of which directly affects displaced populations and increases dependence on humanitarian assistance.



2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes



* Figure currently includes host community population in Uganda, reflecting UNHCR's evolving approach to refugee inclusion and integrated area-based service delivery. Population category definitions are under review and will be adjusted in 2021 to introduce a separate category of host community members who may benefit directly from UNHCR assistance.

.../...

Addressing issues relating to the quality and accessibility of asylum procedures will, in turn, contribute to addressing the causes of irregular onward movement. A strong focus on child protection, providing tailored support to survivors of gender-based violence, and expanding mental health support interventions will be critical after COVID-19 prevention measures and lockdowns. Meaningful engagement with displaced populations to address these needs, building on strengths and capacities within communities, will also be a key area of focus. UNHCR will strengthen and seek innovative approaches to risk communication and community engagement and disseminate information to people of concern accordingly.

Providing life-saving humanitarian assistance and access to social services

In the region, more than 80% of refugees reside in camps or settlements where they receive basic assistance, including shelter, water and sanitation, health care and education. More investment is needed to ensure assistance and services meet international standards, including in terms of shelter, core relief items, sanitary kits and improved access to energy. Procurement and distribution of relief items was delayed in 2020 as resources were reprioritized for COVID-19 prevention measures in the health and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, countries in the region remain committed to applying comprehensive responses, particularly Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. UNHCR will continue to work closely with host governments and line ministries to include refugees in services and national planning, with a specific focus on education and water, sanitation and hygiene. The Office will also

continue to advocate more development investment in refugee-hosting areas, particularly critical as the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 continues to affect both host communities and refugees alike.

Promoting self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers

Planned self-reliance programmes were delayed as prevention and response measures for COVID-19 were prioritized. Cash assistance was significantly expanded, with 615,000 refugees having received this in the region as of October 2020; 180,000 of them, mainly in urban areas, specifically because of loss of livelihoods due to COVID-19. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to invest in cash assistance through cash transfers and self-reliance programmes to meet the needs of refugees and host communities.

Despite challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, some meaningful progress occurred against the pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. In 2021, UNHCR will work to ensure implementation of country-level action plans and roadmaps for inclusion that are being developed or are underway in Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Office will pursue new partnerships and strengthen existing ones, including with the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the International Finance Corporation. UNHCR will assist the IGAD support platform to mobilize political, technical and financial resources to implement Forum pledges on education, health and livelihoods in refugee-hosting areas. Opportunities to expand connectivity for refugees will also be pursued to support education and entrepreneurship, whose importance was highlighted by the pandemic.

Pursuing durable solutions

UNHCR will continue to assist voluntary repatriation to Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Somalia, with planning notably underway for some 100,000 Burundian refugees and 20,000 Somali refugees to return home in 2021. Ensuring the voluntary nature of return, along with protection monitoring in return areas and advocating increased reintegration support, will be prioritized. COVID-19 measures affected resettlement activities and delayed departures for many in 2020, but as restrictions will ease in 2021 the Office hopes to return to or expand its capacity to process cases. More than 450,000 individuals in need of resettlement have been identified across the region. In parallel, complementary pathways and opportunities for local integration will also be pursued.

Preventing, addressing and resolving statelessness

While some progress occurred in implementing pledges made at the High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019, many remained

unaddressed in 2020 as governments prioritized efforts to respond to COVID-19. In 2021, UNHCR will provide operational, legal and policy support to ensure national laws are consistent with international and regional standards on statelessness, including to ensure that stateless persons have access to a nationality and that those at risk of statelessness can obtain nationality documentation. As birth registration is essential for the prevention of statelessness, UNHCR will also increase support to ensure that all refugees born in exile have a birth certificate.

Coordinating and delivering protection, assistance and solutions for IDPs

In 2021, UNHCR will continue its work with governments, UN agencies, and NGOs in coordinating and delivering protection, camp coordination and camp management activities, and shelter for IDPs in Ethiopia, South Sudan and Sudan (target operations under UNHCR's IDP Initiative), as well as in Burundi and Somalia.

© UNHCR/Sébastien Rich



Microsoft and Vodafone help connect refugee children and youth to quality education

UNHCR partners with key actors, such as Microsoft and the Vodafone Foundation, to implement connected education programmes that provide thousands of refugee and host country students with quality digital education. With more than 1.5 billion children and youth impacted by school closures due to COVID-19, such private sector initiatives have helped ensure that refugees continue to access learning opportunities and build skills for the future. Such programmes are already helping refugee children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania, and will be expanded to other countries.



Key areas of focus include ensuring the centrality of protection across the humanitarian response, informed by stronger information management and analysis; delivery of protection and assistance in affected areas; and supporting conditions conducive to solutions, in partnership with humanitarian,

development and government stakeholders. In the four major IDP response operations in the region— Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan—UNHCR will implement protection and solutions strategies developed in 2020, as adapted to local conditions and the impact of COVID-19.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implications of underfunding

Lack of funding has and will continue to severely affect displaced populations in the region. Populations from the largest refugee situations, including in Burundi, Somalia and South Sudan, remain most vulnerable, as do the significant number of Congolese refugees living in the region.

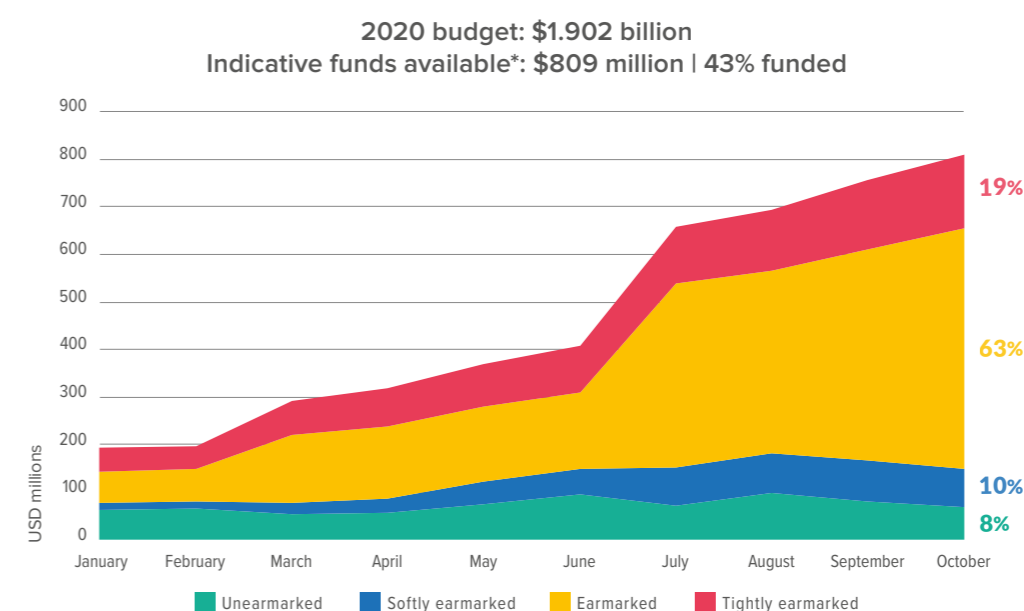
Whether in camps, settlements or urban areas, refugees are living in extremely precarious conditions. Conflict, COVID-19, locust infestations, continuous flooding and droughts are contributing to growing pressure on already overstretched services, including health, education, sanitation and housing. For example, a lack of funding has limited the nutritional supplements available for children and pregnant and breastfeeding women across the region. Stunting prevalence remains high among Burundian refugee children, at 51% in the United Republic of Tanzania

and 26% in Rwanda. Only 50% of households in Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan were provided with sufficient non-food items. Livelihood support was heavily impacted by reprioritization for the COVID-19 response, resulting in only some 53,000 South Sudan refugees assisted during the first six months of 2020, a 62% drop from 2019. Lack of funding has also delayed UNHCR's emergency response to address the needs of drought- and conflict-affected IDPs.

Persistent underfunding in recent years, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic has required UNHCR to redirect resources away from livelihood activities to ensure minimum standards of protection, and provide basic humanitarian assistance, including cash grants. With the COVID-19 pandemic ongoing, a similar pattern is expected in the coming year in the absence of adequate funding for the region.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES

As of 1 October 2020



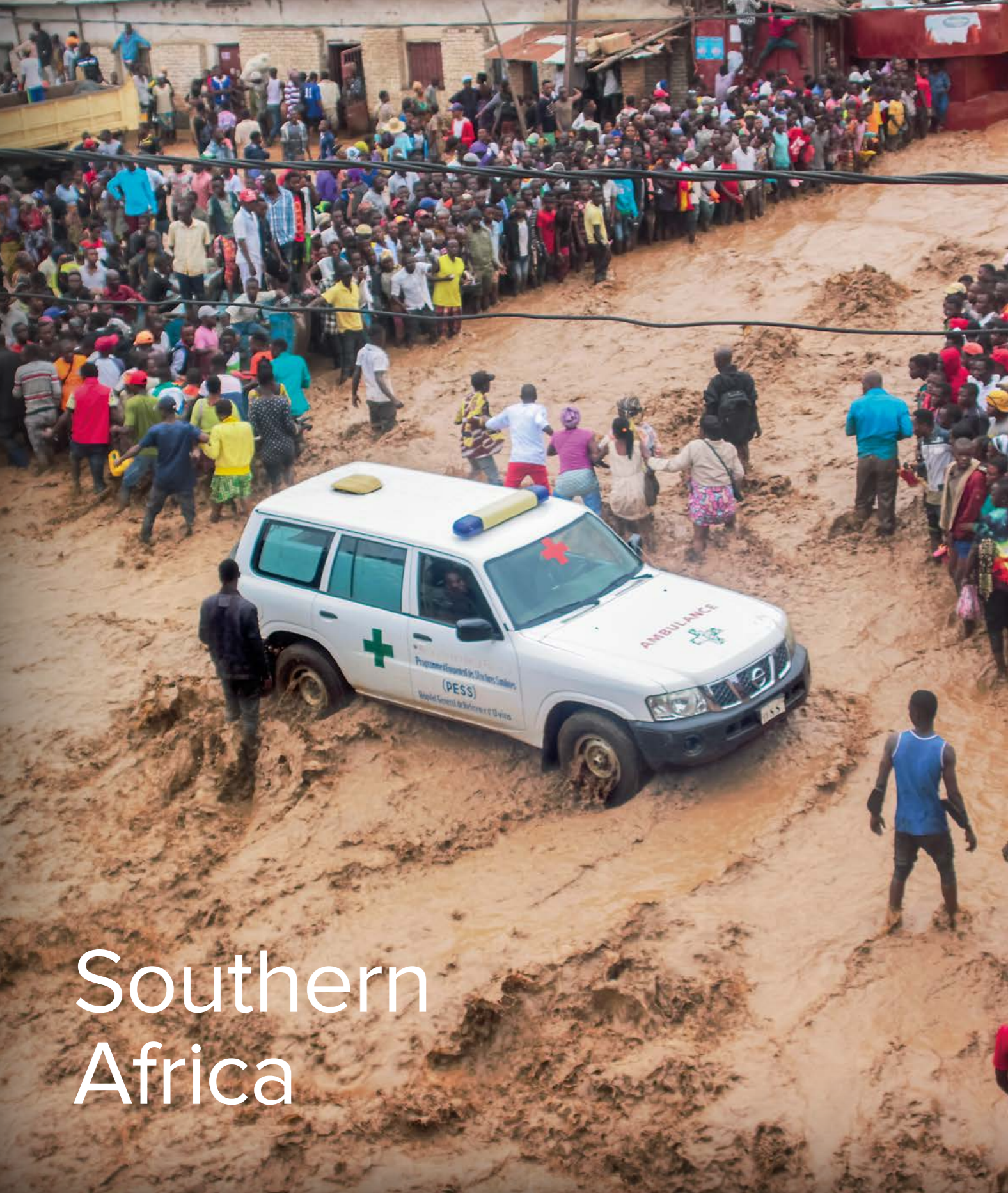
* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR THE EAST AND HORN OF AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
Regional Bureau for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes ¹	17,276,133	16,873,879	-	-	-	16,873,879
Regional activities for the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes ¹	2,846,200	2,500,000	-	-	-	2,500,000
Other operations in Africa	5,081,315	2,700,000	-	-	-	2,700,000
Burundi	56,760,494	42,325,981	12,017	2,000,000	2,086,597	46,424,596
Djibouti	17,674,208	16,925,482	-	-	-	16,925,482
Eritrea	9,528,287	6,165,291	-	-	-	6,165,291
Ethiopia	385,114,939	278,314,675	-	-	24,699,171	303,013,846
Kenya	164,647,589	144,927,057	524,537	-	-	145,451,594
Rwanda	108,961,965	77,349,999	-	2,650,000	-	79,999,999
Somalia	154,379,251	38,889,943	-	80,758,875	34,427,232	154,076,049
South Sudan	197,108,100	124,266,037	3,958,680	41,470,606	31,402,104	201,097,427
Sudan	274,882,262	205,824,679	2,576,600	17,116,253	69,674,709	295,192,240
Uganda	357,070,010	320,171,721	493,279	-	-	320,665,000
United Republic of Tanzania	150,661,119	111,867,709	-	3,132,291	-	115,000,000
TOTAL	1,901,991,872	1,389,102,452	7,565,114	147,128,025	162,289,812	1,706,085,402

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region.

* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).



Southern Africa

An ambulance drives through floodwater in Mulongwe in the city of Uvira, South Kivu Province, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR has been working with local authorities and partners to assist some 80,000 people affected by heavy floods in South Kivu.

© UNHCR/Moses Yope Madjaga

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Promoting access to and support for asylum

National asylum and migration systems in the region are overwhelmed and ill-equipped to respond to mixed movements of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants coming from over 90 countries of origin. This has left thousands of people in legal limbo, with asylum systems facing backlogs that can take months or years to process, and which are dependent on UNHCR for technical and financial support.

To address this, UNHCR will work to improve the quality and integrity of registration and refugee status determination. In June 2020, UNHCR and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) established a five year joint action plan (2020-2024) to strengthen support for SADC Member States. This support will include technical expertise to facilitate regional alignment in managing the response to asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, IDPs and stateless persons.

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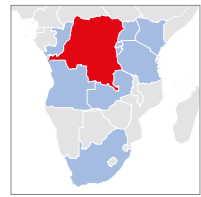
Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

By mid-October 2020, there had been over 796,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the Southern Africa region, including among refugees. UNHCR programmes have been adapted to observe social distancing and other COVID-19 mitigation measures: health protocols are in place at registration and distribution points, and hotlines and community protection structures are being utilized to identify protection issues and assistance needs.

While as of October 2020 the rate of COVID-19 positive cases was decreasing across the region, the risk of resurgence in 2021 remains. UNHCR will continue risk communication to spread information about COVID-19 prevention and services, having reached 2.5 million people in 2020. Strengthening health systems and reinforcing water, sanitation and hygiene services will also remain priorities in 2021. UNHCR will continue to equip health centres, train health-care workers and support isolation and quarantine centres for COVID-19 patients, particularly in refugee camps.

These activities will build on achievements in 2020, including COVID-19 training for 1,900 health staff and the provision of supplies and equipment to 37 health centres. Additional handwashing facilities and soap distributions, as well as individual family latrines, will support good hygiene practices and reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This will include maintenance of over 4,700 additional handwashing facilities that were established in 2020, as well as additional soap supplies covering the needs of 458,000 people. UNHCR will also continue to provide cash assistance and core relief items to those most in need and impacted by COVID-19. Finally, the Office will continue to advocate with governments and UN partners to ensure that refugees and host communities are included in COVID-19 preparedness and response plans.

MAJOR SITUATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA IN 2021



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Since December 2019, an increase in violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo saw the number of IDPs rise to almost 6 million by the end of October 2020. In the provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu, over 1 million people have been displaced in 2020 alone. UNHCR declared an L3 emergency for these provinces in November 2019 that led to the activation of emergency procedures and helped expedite access to additional human, material and financial resources. Fresh violence also erupted in the Kasai region in 2020, causing new displacement.

The country has one of the largest IDP situations globally, and the largest in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2021, UNHCR will strengthen its rapid response to recurrent emergencies, ensure the centrality of protection in all IDP interventions, reinforce advocacy based on its protection monitoring system, consolidate community-based protection approaches, implement solution strategies for IDPs in sites and local communities, ensure targeted assistance to persons at heightened risk, promote peaceful coexistence within affected communities and strengthen community mobilization.

Over 1 million Congolese hosted across 20 African countries make up the largest population of refugees and asylum-seekers in the region. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to lead the coordination of the inter-agency Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Democratic Republic of the Congo situation. UNHCR, in close coordination with more than 60 partners, will provide protection and assistance to Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers, bolster livelihood opportunities and—in line with the Global Compact on Refugees—support the needs of host populations and strengthen peaceful coexistence.

The health and well-being of refugees and IDPs is a priority, and UNHCR has adjusted its operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in refugee-hosting countries to prevent and respond to COVID-19. These measures will be further strengthened in 2021.

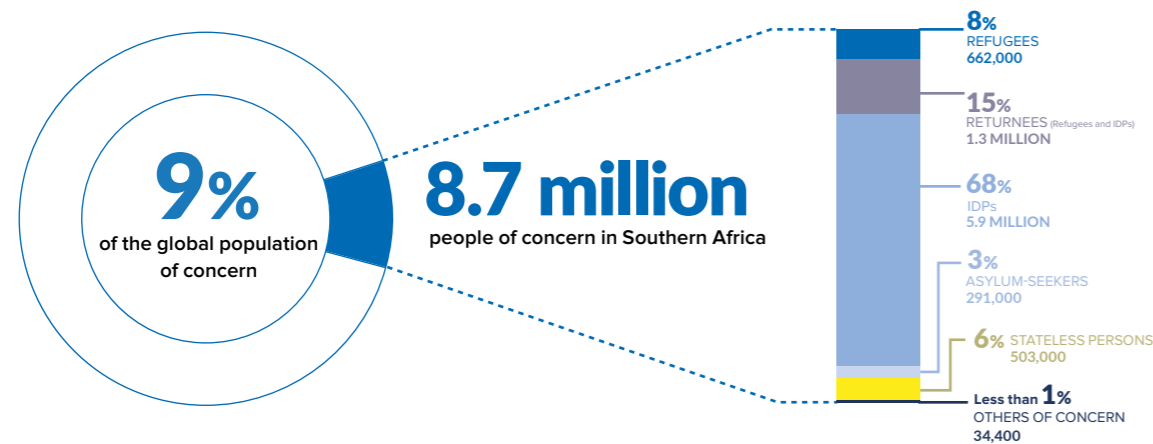
1 million
REFUGEES FROM THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE
CONGO IN NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES

5 million
IDPs

1.3 million
REFUGEE AND
IDP RETURNÉES

55%
OF PEOPLE OF CONCERN
ARE CHILDREN

2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in Southern Africa



Over 88% of people of concern to UNHCR in Southern Africa are refugees, asylum-seekers or IDPs affected by the complex and overlapping humanitarian crises in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2021, the situation in the east of the country will require a strengthening of UNHCR's emergency response. The deteriorating security situation in Mozambique, with internal displacement of over 300,000 people in north-eastern Cabo Delgado Province, will also continue to require a sustained, inter-agency humanitarian response.



.../...

In line with UNHCR's strategy to address mixed movements in Africa, UNHCR will also implement a four-year joint project with the ILO, UNODC and IOM to support SADC countries in strengthening institutional mechanisms for migration management, including review of the legislative frameworks for persons in need of international protection.

Coordinating and delivering protection and solutions for IDPs

The Southern Africa region hosts some 7.1 million IDPs and IDP returnees, mainly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique, where the insurgency in the north-eastern province of Cabo Delgado has displaced over 300,000 people.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one of the target operations of UNHCR's IDP Initiative, UNHCR will provide multipurpose cash grants to meet urgent basic needs, support livelihoods and mitigate protection risks. In 2021, some 3,000 households will benefit from multipurpose cash grants; 4,200 households will receive core relief items; 600 women will receive sanitary materials; and 3,000 transitional shelters will be provided to IDP returnees in Ituri Province.

UNHCR has declared an L2 emergency for the IDP situation in northern Mozambique and will continue to co-lead the protection cluster response in Cabo Delgado and Maputo in 2021. UNHCR will work closely with partners to identify and map protection needs, as well as to provide appropriate protection support and services, including in response to gender-based violence. UNHCR will also distribute core relief items to some 45,000 extremely vulnerable individuals.

Working towards durable solutions

Border closures aimed at limiting the spread of COVID-19 led UNHCR to suspend all voluntary repatriation operations from March 2020 onwards. As borders re-open, voluntary repatriation programmes will resume, in line with international health standards and precautionary measures, and subject to available funding. Tripartite consultations involving UNHCR and relevant countries of origin and asylum will also continue regarding the voluntary repatriation of refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Government of Namibia has also requested that the Government of Burundi and UNHCR facilitate the voluntary return of some 500 Burundian refugees residing in Osire refugee camp.

In Zambia, efforts towards the local integration of former Angolan and Rwandan refugees will continue through support for self-reliance and socioeconomic inclusion. In Zimbabwe, the African Development Bank will fund a scheme expanding self-reliance opportunities through agricultural activities. In Namibia, some 2,400 Angolan refugees are receiving help to acquire permanent residency, with 1,800 refugees having already obtained residence permits. Pending the availability of durable solutions, settlement approaches, with refugees living side-by-side with host communities, will be adopted in Malawi and Mozambique, and further developed in Zambia in 2021.

Resettlement in the Southern Africa region has been severely constrained, with third country resettlement quotas having decreased from 4,700 submissions in 2019 to about 1,500 in 2020. UNHCR is mapping possibilities for the region, in line with "The three-year strategy

(2019-2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways" and will design a regional strategy for complementary pathways, including family reunification, education, employment, humanitarian admission and private sponsorship.

Enhancing partnerships

In 2021, UNHCR will seek to further operationalize the Global Compact on Refugees by strengthening its partnership with regional economic communities, in particular SADC. The memorandum of understanding between UNHCR and SADC has been revised to advance the principles of the Compact and operationalize pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum in the region. Cooperation will include exploring a regional mechanism governing freedom of movement, regularization of stay and access to working rights for refugees in transit and destination countries, as well as alternative pathways for skilled migrants. Enhanced partnerships will also be explored with the Pan-African Parliament and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

In 2021, UNHCR will pursue alliances with a range of stakeholders to ensure refugee and host community inclusion in national development plans. Further, UNHCR will contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. The Office will leverage its partnership with the World Bank Group to mobilize additional resources in response to situations of displacement, in addition to maintaining its strategic partnership with the Identification for Development (ID4D) initiative in the

Republic of the Congo. Partnerships with the African Development Bank and the French Development Agency will also be enhanced to advocate investments in refugee-hosting areas and to catalyze the economic inclusion of people of concern.

Preventing, addressing and resolving statelessness

Positive advances have been made towards addressing statelessness in the region, albeit with progress slowed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia and Zambia have taken concrete steps towards accession to the statelessness conventions which will be supported by UNHCR in 2021. UNHCR will provide technical support to the Republic of the Congo and Eswatini following their adoption of national action plans to end statelessness. This will include reforms of their nationality laws and enhancement of their civil registration systems. Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Madagascar, Namibia and Zambia, all have national plans awaiting formal endorsement by their Governments. Data collection efforts on the risks of statelessness, as well as the profiles and sizes of affected populations, have been initiated in Angola, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Madagascar, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe, and will likewise be supported by UNHCR in 2021. In view of the favourable political context in these countries, UNHCR will redouble its efforts to collect reliable data to inform policies and strengthen and promote legal and administrative frameworks relating to nationality and statelessness.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implications of underfunding

Basic humanitarian assistance and longer-term development planning and solutions would be affected by underfunding.

Before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP food cuts were already seriously affecting people of concern, particularly in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Food shortages due to underfunding are therefore likely to continue in these refugee operations in 2021.

Based on trends in 2020, underfunding will also likely affect UNHCR's COVID-19 response. The planned construction of family latrines was put on hold in 2020, for example, affecting 8,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, despite the urgent need to mitigate public health risks (the ratio of people per latrine is 32, compared to the recommended 20).

Emergency shelter interventions for 14,000 vulnerable IDP families in North and South Kivu Provinces, as well as cash programming for 100,000 IDP women at risk in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, will remain halted in the absence of further resources.

With reduced funding, successful community-based protection activities will also have to be significantly downsized in the east of the country.

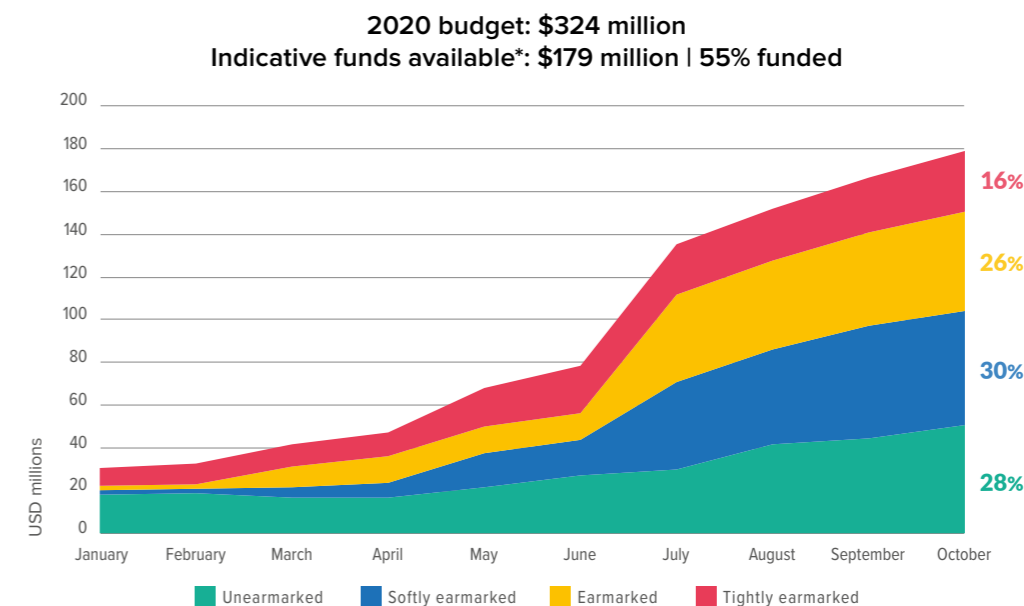
With the resources available in the region having to be prioritized to address basic needs and provide emergency assistance, UNHCR's work on self-reliance and livelihoods will also be constrained.

In Zambia, for example, an initiative to further access employment opportunities and mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 for 1,500 Congolese refugee youth and women by developing alternative livelihoods, including artisanal activities, will not be implemented without appropriate funding in 2021. Education programming in Zambia will also continue to be affected, with the planned construction and rehabilitation of schools and classrooms suspended, affecting a total of 6,000 refugee students.

Across the region, community-based interventions protecting the most vulnerable children will also be suspended should additional funding not be secured.

Finally, in terms of solutions, underfunding would delay the voluntary return of an estimated 10,000 Congolese refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA | As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
Regional Bureau for Southern Africa ¹	11,338,583	10,437,597	-	-	-	10,437,597
Regional activities for Southern Africa ¹	2,836,098	4,000,000	-	-	-	4,000,000
Angola	22,599,704	27,194,543	120,000	-	-	27,314,543
Congo	29,406,638	24,149,837	1,154,957	-	2,311,039	27,615,833
Democratic Republic of the Congo	168,219,857	104,871,523	6,157,841	8,400,637	68,711,175	188,141,176
Malawi	21,366,778	17,549,902	-	-	-	17,549,902
Mozambique	9,687,853	9,407,839	93,630	-	4,982,240	14,483,709
South Africa Multi-Country Office ²	26,777,290	26,131,268	1,822,541	-	-	27,953,810
Zambia	24,621,490	19,800,193	-	-	-	19,800,193
Zimbabwe	7,594,259	6,906,292	797,952	-	-	7,704,244
TOTAL	324,448,549	250,448,994	10,146,922	8,400,637	76,004,454	345,001,006

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole Southern Africa region.

² Includes activities in Botswana and South Africa and covers also Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia and the Seychelles.

³ Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

West and Central Africa

Malian refugee students at school in Goudoubo camp, Burkina Faso. Because of rising insecurity, teachers have not shown up for class since before the Christmas break. Students come to class nonetheless and teach each other lessons, without teachers, books or chalk.

© UNHCR/Sylvain Cherkaoui

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Providing life-saving humanitarian assistance

In light of the ongoing crises and displacement in the region, especially in the central Sahel and Lake Chad Basin, and given the volatile political situation in the Central African Republic and Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR will step up its emergency preparedness and response capacity to provide timely life-saving humanitarian assistance to over 8.5 million people forced to flee and the communities that host them.

In context of internal displacement, UNHCR will lead the protection,

shelter/non-food item and camp coordination and camp management clusters, provide direct assistance to IDPs, ensure that protection is placed at the centre of the multi-stakeholder humanitarian response and pursue solutions in coordination with all partners, including key development actors. In line with its IDP Initiative, UNHCR will aim for a more consistent application of area-based approaches and integrated programming in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria to increase opportunities and resources in support of displaced populations and local communities.

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Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

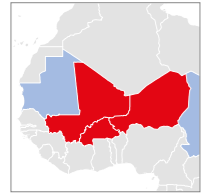
In West and Central Africa, the COVID-19 pandemic represents an additional burden for a region grappling with climate change, poverty and vulnerabilities such as fragile national health-care systems, limited access to water and sanitation facilities, and precarious living conditions in most areas hosting displaced populations.

With humanitarian access already hindered by violence and insecurity in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, UNHCR's operations were further constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing restrictions on movement imposed by governments across the region.

Education was particularly disrupted by the pandemic, especially in the Lake Chad Basin and the Sahel, where it was already jeopardized by ongoing violence. The negative consequences of prolonged school closures significantly impacted displaced children, especially girls who are more at risk of permanently dropping out, exposing them to protection risks such as forced marriage.

In this difficult regional context, UNHCR is adapting its processes and programmes to ensure continuity of assistance and mitigate the impact of the pandemic on displaced populations. The Office will advocate to preserve access to asylum and international protection; support inclusive national health responses; strengthen shelter interventions to improve living conditions, including in host communities; ensure continuity of education; strengthen community-based protection mechanisms; increase livelihood interventions to mitigate the economic impact of the pandemic; and seek durable solutions.

MAJOR SITUATIONS IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA IN 2021



THE SAHEL

In August 2020, the number of IDPs in Burkina Faso surpassed 1 million. This reflects rising violence and instability in the Sahel, which has forced a growing number of families to flee while exacerbating social and political tension within the region. The conflict has also expanded southwards, with populations in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana increasingly targeted by armed groups. As the security situation is likely to further deteriorate, it is expected that up to an additional 2 million people may be displaced in the Sahel in 2021.

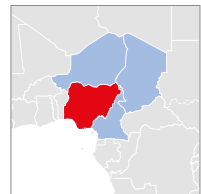
UNHCR will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and seek solutions for displaced populations and their hosts. In line with the regional strategy issued in June 2020, UNHCR's response will be focused on shelter interventions, distribution of core relief items, prevention of and response to gender-based violence, education and environmental protection. Should the conflict, violence and forced displacement spill over into Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, UNHCR will sustain its support to these countries in their emergency preparedness and contingency planning.

The Office will ensure that the humanitarian response is complemented by more long-term development and peacebuilding interventions to address the deep-seated and intertwined root causes of the Sahel crisis. UNHCR will also engage and coordinate with the Governments of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger and other relevant actors. To facilitate and structure this cooperation, the five Governments have established, with UNHCR's support, the Bamako Process, an intergovernmental process to implement the conclusions of the 2019 Bamako Declaration.

189,800
MALIAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

2 million
IDPs IN BURKINA FASO, MALI AND WESTERN NIGER

71,000
REFUGEE AND IDP RETURNÉES



NIGERIA

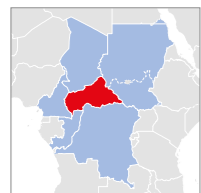
The security situation in and around Nigeria, notably across the Lake Chad Basin, will remain volatile in 2021, negatively impacting the protection environment in the border areas between Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria and leading to further displacement in the region.

The Lake Chad Basin—particularly the border areas between Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria that are critically exposed to the Boko Haram insurgency—will remain among the most dangerous areas in the world for civilians. Violence and insecurity in the states of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara in Nigeria's North West show no signs of abating, limiting options to return for over 40,000 refugees who have been forced to flee to the Maradi region of southern Niger since 2019. Despite shrinking humanitarian access due to insecurity, UNHCR will focus on maintaining emergency response capacity and will also place greater emphasis on medium-term responses, including solutions, support to governments to improve identification of people of concern, building resilience, and gender and youth. UNHCR will also continue its support to national health systems to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to mitigate the spread of the virus in hosting areas around the Lake Chad Basin, characterized by a high population density and overstretched health systems.

307,000
REFUGEES IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

3.3 million
IDPs IN FAR-NORTH CAMEROON, SOUTH-WEST CHAD AND NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

179,000
REFUGEE AND IDP RETURNÉES



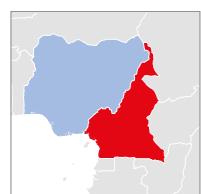
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The political and security situation in the Central African Republic continues to improve, albeit with pockets of instability. Building on the tripartite agreements that were concluded with Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo in 2019, UNHCR will collaborate with governments as well as humanitarian and development actors to facilitate the safe and dignified return of Central African refugees and IDPs in 2021 and to ensure their successful and sustainable reintegration. While strengthening its presence in key return areas, UNHCR will also lead the protection, shelter/non-food items and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) clusters in the Central African Republic. UNHCR will establish a support platform to advocate and mobilize political and financial commitments for protection, inclusion and solutions for all affected populations in the Central African Republic and key host countries.

591,000
CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

500,000
IDPs

130,000
REFUGEE AND IDP RETURNÉES



CAMEROON

The crises in the North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon are expected to persist in 2021, triggering both internal displacement within the country and refugee outflows to Nigeria. UNHCR will maintain its support to the Government of Nigeria by providing protection and strengthening the resilience of refugees and their hosts through a combination of targeted interventions for refugees living in settlements, and out-of-camp approaches in coordination with national services and local authorities. UNHCR will also lead the protection, shelter/non-food item and CCCM clusters. This leadership will be informed by quality protection data and analysis, in support of the multisectoral IDP response. UNHCR will further support efforts by the Government of Cameroon to provide documentation to IDPs and returning populations.

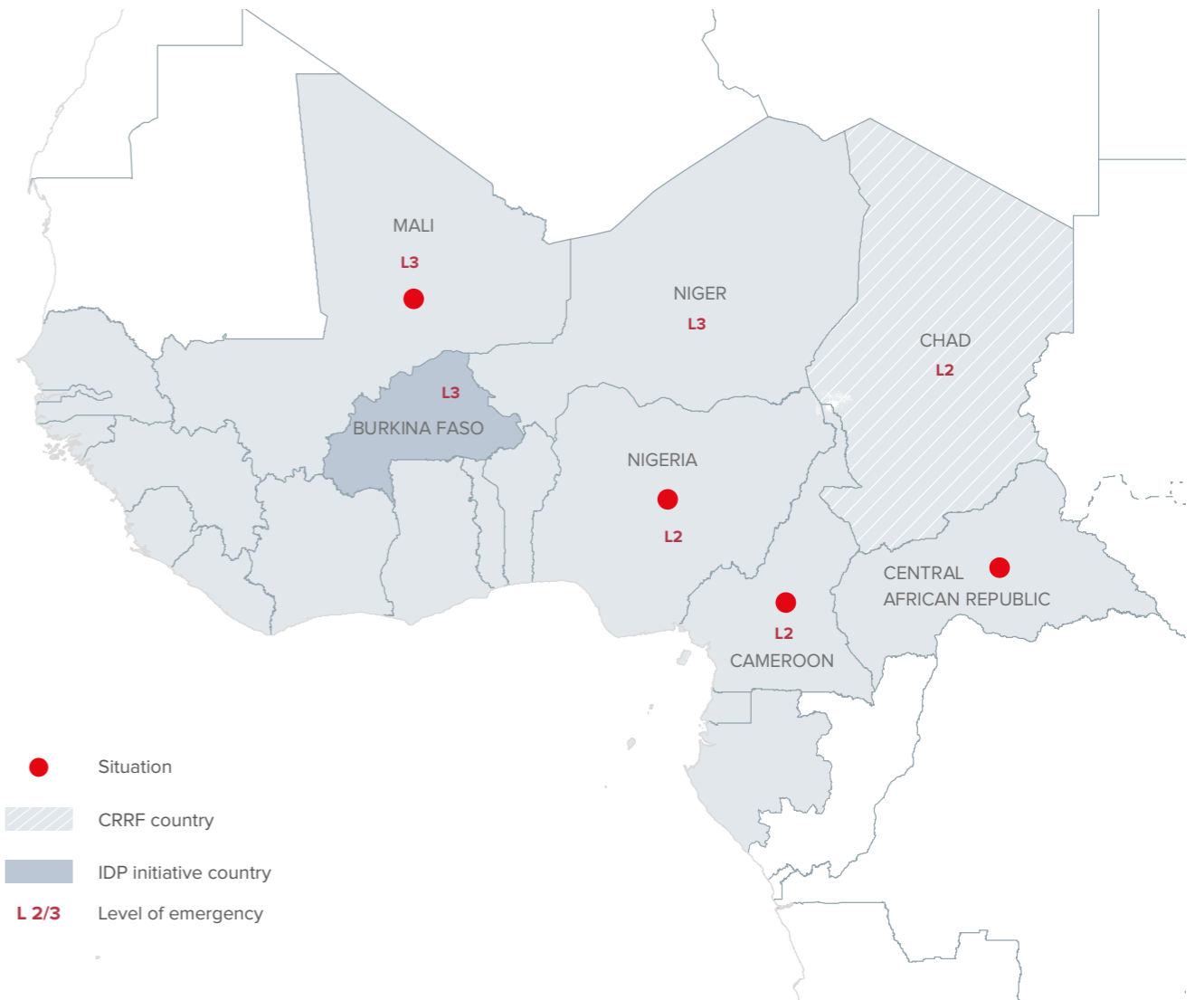
* Government estimate: 152,000 people

75,000
CAMEROONIAN REFUGEES IN NIGERIA

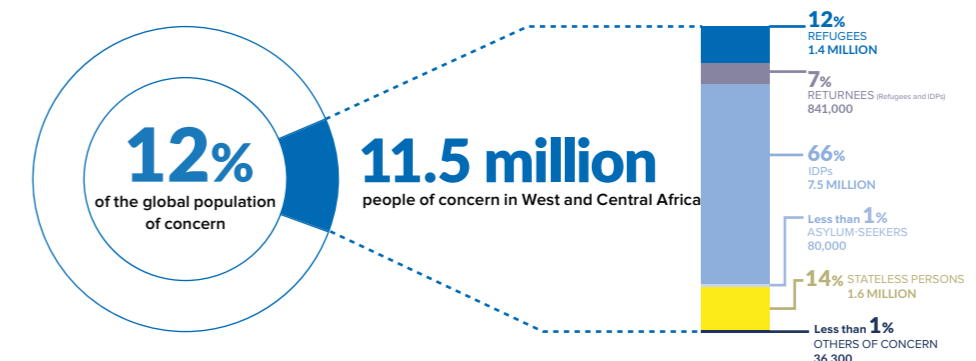
802,000*
IDPs IN NORTH-WEST AND SOUTH-WEST CAMEROON

431,000
IDP RETURNÉES

With five major displacement crises underway across the region and with the potential for instability, exacerbated by the effects of climate change in the Sahel, to spill over into coastal countries, West and Central Africa will face major protection concerns and rising displacement in 2021 and beyond.



2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in West and Central Africa



.../...

Strengthening protection and access to quality services for the displaced and those at risk of statelessness

UNHCR will focus on preserving access to territory and the right to seek asylum for refugees across West and Central Africa, as well as reducing the risk of statelessness, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR will support inclusive national health responses, particularly in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; strengthen education and self-reliance opportunities to foster the socioeconomic inclusion of people forced to flee; and reinforce social cohesion and peaceful coexistence with host communities.

UNHCR will also focus on preventing and responding to gender-based violence, specifically in conflict areas such as the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin where women and girls are often targeted and disproportionately impacted by violence.

The Office will also strive to secure humanitarian access to people of concern and civilians, and work with partners to improve civil-military coordination, including through support for existing civil-military platforms and the establishment of a regional civil-military coordination platform. UNHCR will continue to improve and scale up coordinated protection monitoring to inform its programming and advocacy, with the development and roll out of new tools across the region in 2021.

Reducing protection risks for refugees and asylum-seekers traveling as part of mixed movements in West and Central Africa will also remain a priority. In coordination with governments, UNHCR will further invest in

programmes aimed at sensitizing the public on the dangers of attempting to cross both the Sahara and the Mediterranean, and provide people of concern with viable alternatives to onward movements by ensuring protection and livelihood opportunities in countries of asylum.

UNHCR will support national asylum authorities in their efforts to prevent human trafficking and protect victims, and strengthen collaboration in this area as relevant in accordance with its mandate. The joint UNHCR and IOM "Framework document on developing standard operating procedures to facilitate the identification and protection of victims of trafficking" will be used as a reference.

Working towards durable solutions

UNHCR will work with partners such as governments, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), development actors and local communities to support refugees' socioeconomic inclusion and, where possible, their local integration.

In 2021, UNHCR will support the naturalization process for over 3,000 targeted refugees across the region and will advocate other forms of local integration, such as resident permits for Ivorian refugees living in Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mauritanian refugees in Senegal, Senegalese refugees in the Gambia and Guinea Bissau and Togolese refugees in Ghana. UNHCR will also work to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 through activities that strengthen livelihoods, self-reliance and peaceful coexistence between refugees and their hosts.

UNHCR will seek to maximize opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees in West and Central Africa as travel restrictions are progressively lifted. Despite the suspension of resettlement programmes since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, UNHCR is planning to resettle over 2,800 refugees and will continue to advocate more resettlement opportunities and alternative pathways, including family reunification, study and work permits and evacuation to the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger. Where it is possible to do so in safety and dignity, UNHCR is planning to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of an estimated 170,000 refugees wishing to return, especially to the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Nigeria.

Enhancing regional partnerships

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will continue to engage with a wide range of partners, including development agencies and international

financial institutions, to support more comprehensive and coordinated responses to displacement in West and Central Africa. The World Bank's International Development Association regional sub-window for refugees and host communities (IDA18) will continue to be a key strategic partnership, particularly in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. UNHCR will also strengthen its engagement with key regional organizations such as the African Development Bank in the Sahel, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States, and the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, facilitating dialogue and promoting a coordinated regional approach.

© UNHCR/REUTERS



International community must act with "urgency" to end the crisis in the central Sahel.

Escalating insecurity has made it almost impossible for aid workers to reach those in need in a region where "unspeakable violence" perpetrated against civilians has forced nearly two million people to flee their homes.



FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implications of underfunding

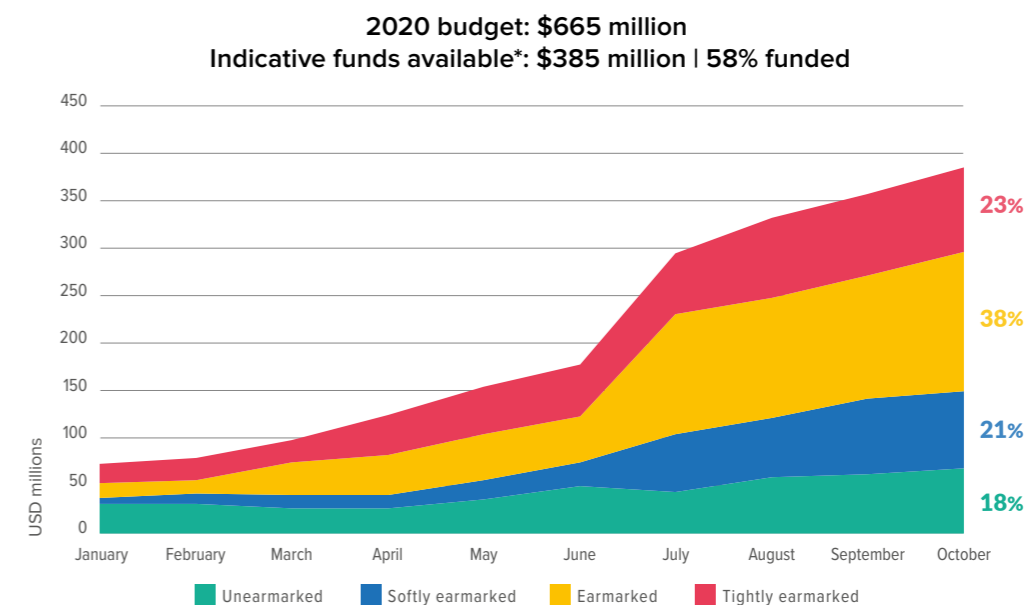
Refugees in protracted situations in the region, including Mauritanian refugees in Senegal and Ivorian and Togolese refugees in Ghana, risk being among the most severely impacted by underfunding in 2021. Limited funding will also jeopardize the response to the region’s major humanitarian crises, leading to the potential scaling down or suspension of strategic programmes, including those linked to UNHCR’s IDP Initiative, the Emergency Transit Mechanism in Niger, or the Central African Republic voluntary repatriation programme.

UNHCR is depending on further resources and staffing to continue to step up its leadership role in coordinating the protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM) clusters in emergencies across the region, particularly in situations where the number of IDPs is expected to grow in 2021, such as in Burkina Faso. In the North West zone of Nigeria, there is an urgent need to increase both operational and coordination responses for IDPs. In Chad, the development of an operational CCCM response is vital, while in Cameroon and Mali further resources are also needed to sustain operational and coordination responses in CCCM.

In Niger, given the growing insecurity and displacement, without sufficient funding the Office will not be able to maintain the current level of services provided through the Emergency Transit Mechanism—a programme which has proven its value in evacuating vulnerable individuals to safety, while also providing psychosocial and mental health support and strengthening social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between displaced and host communities around Agadez through joint livelihood activities. Insufficient funding will reduce UNHCR’s capacity to monitor and respond to the protection needs of over 2,500 refugees and asylum-seekers expected to be assisted in the transit centre and the surrounding host areas.

With the Central African Republic situation already one of the most underfunded in the world, the country experienced a new influx of some 3,000 Congolese refugees in Waka Prefecture in May 2020. In the absence of additional funding, the critical needs of these refugees will not be met adequately. Further, UNHCR will not be in a position to support voluntary repatriation and reintegration projects for refugee and IDP returnees to the Central African Republic, whose numbers are expected to increase in 2021.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA | As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa¹	13,679,130	14,477,736	-	-	-	14,477,736
Regional activities for West and Central Africa¹	3,140,200	4,000,000	-	-	-	4,000,000
Burkina Faso	75,660,739	49,875,060	1,000,135	-	32,005,398	82,880,594
Cameroon Multi-Country Office²	99,761,775	69,088,564	890,699	-	22,223,312	92,202,575
Central African Republic	47,362,639	14,515,584	841,245	16,853,566	11,001,032	43,211,428
Chad	135,390,747	136,465,978	909,076	-	2,089,454	139,464,509
Côte d'Ivoire	13,869,959	5,584,644	9,485,500	2,973,891	-	18,044,035
Ghana	7,886,819	7,249,894	-	-	-	7,249,894
Liberia	10,904,737	10,250,535	-	-	-	10,250,535
Mali	47,501,614	26,934,893	800,000	13,594,457	13,410,681	54,740,031
Niger	100,717,094	84,877,149	1,266,100	-	20,736,215	106,879,464
Nigeria	89,730,440	41,396,925	-	19,562,434	35,436,015	96,395,375
Senegal Multi-Country Office³	19,401,527	18,761,418	626,513	-	-	19,387,931
TOTAL	665,007,421	483,478,381	15,819,268	52,984,349	136,902,108	689,184,106

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole West and Central Africa region.

² Coordinates activities in Cameroon and Gabon and also covers Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome Principe.

³ Includes activities in Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Togo and also covers Benin, Cape Verde, Gambia and Sierra Leone.

* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

The Americas

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Providing life-saving assistance

Across the region, UNHCR will respond to the immediate needs of increasing numbers of people of concern impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, UNHCR provided assistance to meet basic needs in border areas and to the most vulnerable in urban centres, however, it is likely that the number of those in dire need will grow exponentially in the first half of 2021 in the Americas, requiring large-scale assistance in terms of food, safe water, sanitation supplies, basic relief items and emergency shelter. Cash assistance will be even more important to ensure basic needs, such as food, rent and medicines, are met in countries receiving Venezuelans, including Colombia or Brazil; as well as in those

countries hosting people fleeing insecurity in Central America and Nicaragua, such as Mexico and Costa Rica, respectively.

Ensuring access to protection

In a context of restrictions on access to territory and overstretched asylum systems, efforts to strengthen asylum capacities and protection-sensitive migration management are urgent. Through case management, registration and referral mechanisms, UNHCR will focus on identifying and assisting the most vulnerable. Investing in protection monitoring and evidence-based programming and analysis will be at the core of regional strategies, guided also by age, gender and diversity considerations, as well as the need to ensure protection from exploitation and abuse.

.../...

Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

In 2021, the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 is expected to have negative consequences for the protection environment for displaced people in the region. There may be challenges to securing the inclusion of people of concern in national welfare systems, along with tightened border controls, reduced access to territory and regular stay (including asylum), and public fatigue and xenophobia. Temporary suspensions of or delays in refugee status determination will further strain national asylum systems. The post-pandemic socioeconomic crisis will also disproportionately impact workers in the informal sector and the self-employed, affecting the majority of people of concern to UNHCR. In this demanding environment, UNHCR will focus on the provision of life-saving assistance and protection in the short term, as well as engaging a range of stakeholders on longer-term solutions to address the actual and potential impacts of COVID-19. Health, water and sanitation, shelter, livelihoods and life-saving multipurpose cash assistance will need to be significantly reinforced, both in terms of financial and human resources.

A group of Venezuelans living in Baños de Agua Santa, Ecuador, have created a soap brand called Kuya (meaning “big tree” in the Kichwa indigenous language) with support from UNHCR.

© UNHCR/Jaime Giménez Sánchez de la Blanca

MAJOR SITUATIONS AND OPERATIONS IN THE AMERICAS IN 2021



BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

Population outflows from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela will resume once COVID-19-related restrictions are eased, although irregular movements are expected to continue while borders remain closed. UNHCR activities in border areas—including monitoring, identification and referral of the most vulnerable, and basic assistance and counselling—will acquire greater urgency. Inside the country, humanitarian needs exacerbated by the pandemic will trigger further displacement. Intentions expressed by populations returning to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in 2020 suggest that many who returned during the pandemic plan to leave the country again in 2021. UNHCR will step up assistance to returnees and local communities in need, while strengthening protection and shelter/energy/non-food items cluster leadership and delivery. UNHCR will co-lead the inter-agency response together with IOM, implementing the Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan across 17 countries, and will provide technical support to governmental coordination in the Quito Process—an initiative of several Latin American countries that seeks to harmonize domestic policies in receiving countries.

NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA

Political fragility compounded by the impact of COVID-19 will likely result in additional displacement in and from the north of Central America. Violence and persecution by criminal gangs in El Salvador and Honduras, and increased border restrictions to the north will result in more internal displacement, with numbers projected at around 403,000 people. Border restrictions implemented during the COVID-19 crisis have led people to rely on even more dangerous routes to seek safety. UNHCR will seek to strengthen its capacity along borders to mitigate protection risks, as well as to increase resettlement capacity to manage up to 5,000 cases. Support for the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework for the Americas (MIRPS) and the implementation of national plans will be key, as will work with the Organization of American States to expand the MIRPS support platform.

COLOMBIA

New internal displacement is expected to continue in areas controlled or disputed by irregular armed groups, in line with pre-COVID-19 trends of approximately 100,000 people annually. As local and national authorities cope with the aftermath of COVID-19, coordinated efforts will be required to ensure monitoring, emergency response, community empowerment and solutions, including through land legalization and public policies for IDP integration, aligned with implementation of the peace agreement. UNHCR will co-lead the protection cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council and coordinate with respective national and local authorities and institutions.

NICARAGUA

As many as 45,000 new arrivals from Nicaragua are projected to arrive in Costa Rica and Panama in 2021. In the context of the 2021 presidential elections in Nicaragua, a political crisis could lead to widespread social turmoil, including violence and displacement. As one of the poorest countries in the region, Nicaragua is also among the most severely impacted by COVID-19. Capacity within Costa Rica, where almost 100,000 Nicaraguans have already sought refuge, is stretched.

In close collaboration with governments in receiving countries, UNHCR will work to improve asylum space in 2021, including registration, documentation and access to basic services. UNHCR will continue to support social protection programmes through cash assistance in the areas of food security, livelihoods and shelter, as well as the social security programme in Costa Rica to improve access for asylum-seekers.

222,000
REFUGEES FROM THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA

1.1 million
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

4.3 million
VENEZUELAN DISPLACED ABROAD

63%
OF DISPLACED VENEZUELAN ARE WOMEN AND CHILDREN



103,000
REFUGEES FROM THE NORTH OF CENTRAL AMERICA

569,000
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

403,000
IDPs

104,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN



70,100
REFUGEES FROM COLOMBIA

82,500
COLOMBIANS IN REFUGEE-LIKE SITUATIONS

47,500
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

8.2 million
IDPs

425,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN



13,400
REFUGEES FROM NICARAGUA

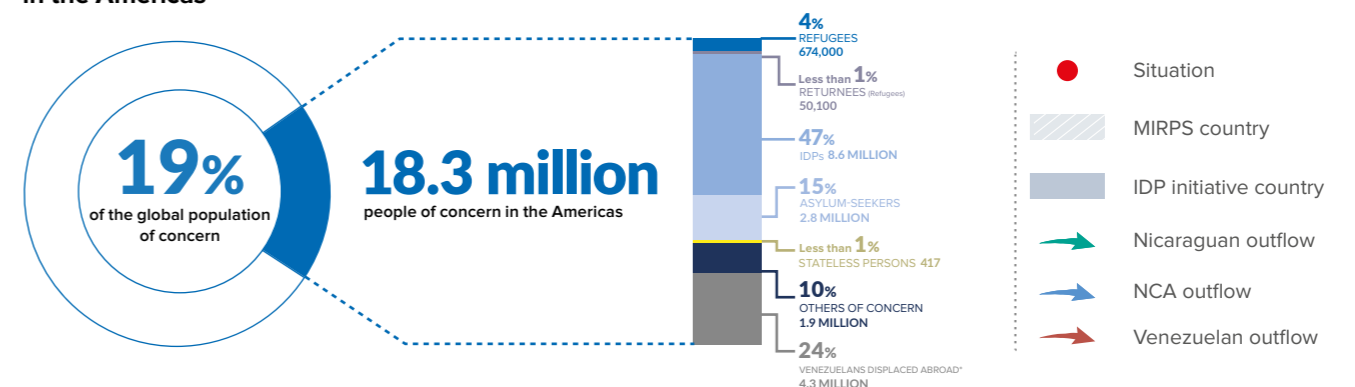
129,000
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3,100
OTHERS OF CONCERN

As restrictions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic start to be lifted, the inclusion of refugees and displaced populations in national post-pandemic recovery plans and enhanced support from the international community for the displaced and their host countries and communities will be crucial.



2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in the Americas



* Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons of Venezuelan origin who are likely to be in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. Regardless of status, Venezuelans displaced abroad require protection against forced returns, and access to basic services.

.../...

In a context of increasing irregular cross-border movements due to border restrictions and health containment measures, the provision of information and a network of support spaces will remain critical in preventing exploitation and abuse.

Pursuing durable solutions

Pending the availability of durable solutions, through a whole-of-society approach, UNHCR will build partnerships in the Americas to mobilize support for the inclusion of refugees in national welfare systems and economic and development efforts.

Building upon the experience of the “Cities of solidarity” initiative, cooperation with local authorities and communities will be central to achieving inclusive public policies for displaced people, ensuring respect for human rights during displacement, and supporting eventual local integration and peaceful coexistence.

Strengthened cooperation with development actors (including international financial institutions) and engagement with the private sector will be essential for viable durable solutions over the longer term.

Advocacy for complementary pathways and resettlement will be needed for many lacking prospects for a safe future, especially women and girls at heightened risk.

Fostering community engagement, participation and mobilization and enhancing solidarity and peaceful coexistence

To prevent displacement, mitigate protection risks and build the resilience of affected communities, UNHCR will prioritize community-centred interventions in the region, including support to community leaders and self-management structures, community mechanisms for identification and referral of persons at heightened risk, as well as enhanced access to information and complaint mechanisms.

Through area-based approaches, UNHCR will strengthen national services to respond to the needs of displaced populations and host communities alike. Two-way communication with communities will be instrumental in boosting their engagement and participation, particularly in the context of responses to increasing risks, notably at borders.



Community innovates for inclusion in Ecuador

UNHCR established a working group of Venezuelans and members of the host community in Bañon de Agua Santa, Ecuador, to combat discrimination against people of concern and promote inclusive social spaces. Supported by UNHCR’s Innovation Fund, this partnership led to a photo exhibition, a community mural, and an effective campaign in response to a rise in xenophobia. In the process, UNHCR harnessed human-centred design and innovation methodologies such as brainstorming, community participation, and analytical techniques. This is the first time in the region that UNHCR has researched, co-designed and implemented a project entirely with refugees, while producing an in-depth toolkit. In 2021, the next stage of the project involves collaborative sessions to share knowledge and tools based on the initiative, to help foster promising community-based protection practices nationally.



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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implications of underfunding

Lack of funds in 2020 limited the number of people assisted by UNHCR across the region, a situation compounded by the constraints and demands of the COVID-19 pandemic. With many people of concern losing their livelihoods, the risk of being evicted, of being infected, or of being discriminated against escalated for the displaced and others on the move. Amidst border closures and movement restrictions, only those in extreme need received cash or in-kind assistance, and limited numbers of people were sheltered in fewer operating collective sites.

Despite efforts to increase remote communication and assistance mechanisms, many people remained stranded in areas with no access to assistance and counselling, resorting to negative coping mechanisms such as the sale of sex and child labour. Help lines and information services proved insufficient in many countries, especially Costa Rica. In a desperate move, thousands of Venezuelans, as well as some Nicaraguans, attempted to return to their country, facing risks en route and possible hardships and repercussions upon return. As health needs grew across the region, support for long-term opportunities and solutions, such as relocation schemes and employment or self-employment programmes, was reduced or deprioritized.

For the first half of 2021, UNHCR will need to secure a minimum amount of funds to ensure continuity in life-saving activities in the region, including the delivery of hygiene items; emergency shelter in border areas and for those facing eviction; and cash assistance for people of concern facing challenges in a contracted economy.

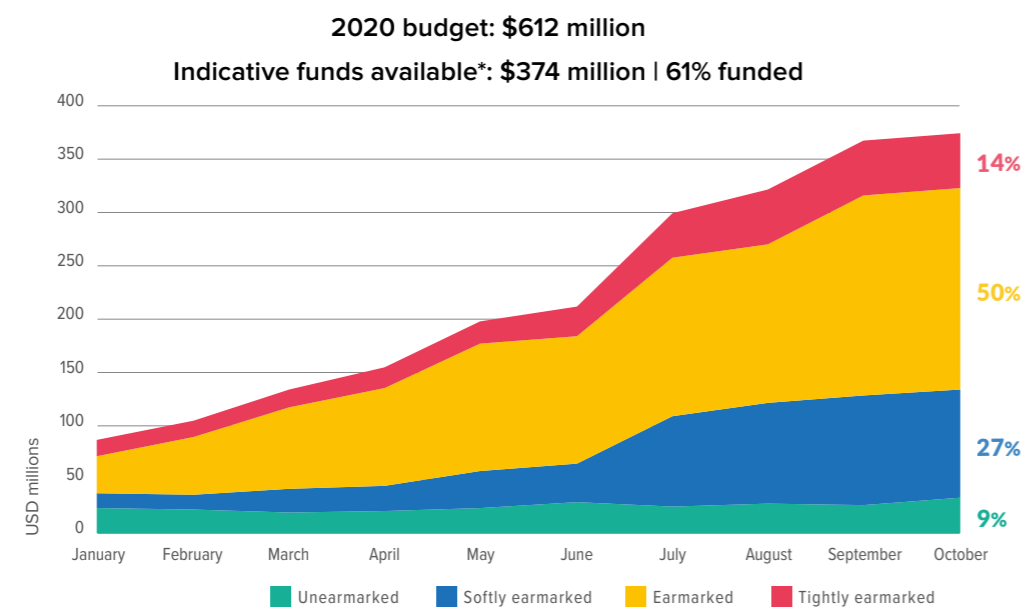
More broadly, considering the challenging socioeconomic environment in 2021 and the expected growth in the numbers of people of concern in the region (possibly reaching around 18 million by the end of 2021), UNHCR will prioritize the provision of life-saving assistance and protection. Particular attention will be paid to those who have lost their sources of income and are in severely vulnerable situations due to the socioeconomic downturn.

UNHCR will provide life-saving assistance, health care, safe water and sanitation, emergency shelter and multipurpose cash assistance through transfers or vouchers, especially in border areas and urban environment with high concentrations of population of concern.

Support for protection responses, access to quality refugee status determination, biometric registration, and referrals to relevant services will be combined with enhanced community outreach and specialized services for children, survivors of violence, and the LGBTIQ+ community.

In the absence of sufficient funding, prioritization of immediate and urgent assistance may negatively impact work on resilience and long-term solutions, which will require UNHCR to reimagine partnerships and explore innovative approaches to livelihoods and other inclusion activities, particularly with the private sector. With the economic downturn caused by the pandemic, growing anti-foreigner sentiment will require UNHCR to invest in innovative and cooperative initiatives to combat xenophobia. The success and range of such initiatives will depend on the amount and type of funding the region receives.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR THE AMERICAS | As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR THE AMERICAS | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
THE AMERICAS						
Regional Bureau for the Americas ¹	19,574,035	21,988,058	-	-	-	21,988,058
Regional activities for the Americas ¹	5,740,053	8,149,211	-	-	-	8,149,211
SUBTOTAL	25,314,088	30,137,268	-	-	-	30,137,268
LATIN AMERICA						
Argentina Multi-Country Office ²	23,953,621	35,000,000	-	-	-	35,000,000
Brazil	46,373,057	33,000,000	-	-	-	33,000,000
Colombia	96,683,410	69,196,622	-	-	14,540,928	83,737,550
Costa Rica	26,852,308	27,000,000	-	-	-	27,000,000
Ecuador	74,720,743	58,470,744	-	-	-	58,470,744
Guatemala	34,628,455	33,725,655	-	-	-	33,725,655
Honduras	21,973,913	110,000	-	-	19,163,913	19,273,913
Mexico	65,212,229	61,481,693	-	-	-	61,481,693
Panama Multi-Country Office ³	43,803,631	25,694,349	-	-	18,639,280	44,333,629
Peru	48,625,534	55,000,000	-	-	-	55,000,000
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	55,226,699	50,244,449	-	-	-	50,244,449
SUBTOTAL	538,053,599	448,923,513	-	-	52,344,120	501,267,633
NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARRIBBEAN						
Canada	2,204,019	2,204,019	-	-	-	2,204,019
United States of America Multi-Country Office ⁴	46,266,667	33,663,056	6,530,500	-	-	40,193,556
SUBTOTAL	48,470,686	35,867,075	6,530,500	-	-	42,397,575
TOTAL	611,838,373	514,927,857	6,530,500	-	52,344,120	573,802,476

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole Americas region.

² Coordinates activities in Argentina and Chile and also covers the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.

³ Coordinates activities in Belize, Cuba, El Salvador and Panama.

⁴ Coordinates activities in Aruba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America and also covers Curaçao and Haiti.

* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

Asia and the Pacific

A young boy attending class in Pin Gou Njan Adolescent Club in Nayapara settlement (also called Camp 26), Teknaf, Bangladesh.

© UNHCR/Vincent Tremeau

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Inclusive protection and assistance to empower and build resilience and self-reliance of people of concern, while easing pressure on host communities

Asia and the Pacific is a region on the move, characterized by large-scale displacement and also mixed flows of both refugees and migrants. As a priority, UNHCR will support States to build and strengthen national asylum systems and capacity; enhance refugees' access to education, livelihoods and local services; and prevent, identify and reduce statelessness. The inclusion of people of concern and their host communities in national and UN development programmes will also be pursued. UNHCR will promote protection-sensitive migration management, as well as access to territory.

Through a people-centred approach, UNHCR will enhance outreach to host communities to strengthen coexistence and promote tolerance towards people of concern. It will also engage refugees and returnees to foster empowerment and participation in decision-making processes.

Agility in the face of protection and socioeconomic risks amplified by COVID-19

As States adjust public health and safety measures in their response to COVID-19, UNHCR must be agile, proactive and supportive of national efforts, while ensuring access to territory for individuals in need of international protection remains a priority.

.../...

Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

While having significant health, protection and socioeconomic consequences for people of concern and their host communities across Asia, the COVID-19 pandemic has provided impetus for governments and development actors to reconsider the inclusivity of their programmes and policies. COVID-19 has underscored the importance of universal, non-discriminatory access to prevention, testing and treatment—regardless of nationality or legal status. From the outset, UNHCR has worked with governments and partners to promote the inclusion of people of concern in national responses or to align UNHCR's programmes with government responses.

UNHCR's cash assistance programme in Pakistan mirrors the Government's Ehsaas emergency cash programme. UNHCR has significantly scaled up cash assistance in the region to cover the basic needs of the most vulnerable populations, with an increase of 100% between 2019 and 2020 up to \$28 million, including \$11.9 million for the COVID-19 response.

The realization of durable solutions has also been severely affected by the pandemic. The region's large-scale facilitated voluntary repatriation programmes from India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Thailand (to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Myanmar, respectively) were largely put on hold through mid-2020, with total refugee returns dropping from over 10,300 in 2019 to just 584 in the first half of 2020.

MAJOR SITUATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC IN 2021



AFGHANISTAN

With the crisis in Afghanistan entering its fifth decade, Afghans are the second largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate globally. Pakistan remains the world's second largest refugee-hosting country and the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks eighth, with the two countries hosting 87% of Afghan refugees. UNHCR will work to support the inclusive policies of the two host countries, notably efforts to improve access to quality education, health care, skills training and self-reliance initiatives for both Afghans and their host communities. In addition, UNHCR will facilitate voluntary repatriation as the preferred (regional) durable solution for Afghan refugees, while continuing to promote and facilitate access to complementary pathways and increase resettlement quotas from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Inside Afghanistan, the security situation remains volatile, with an estimated 2.6 million people internally displaced by conflict at the end of 2019.

In 2021, UNHCR will work with traditional and emerging partners to expand reintegration opportunities for returnees and local communities through humanitarian and development investments in priority areas of return and reintegration. In addition, UNHCR will facilitate the work of the support platform for the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees and its core group in order to inspire investment and complementary action, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

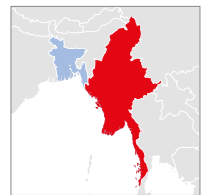
2.4 million
REFUGEES FROM AFGHANISTAN

15,700
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

3.8 million
IDPs

310,000
RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPs)

53,800
OTHERS OF CONCERN



MYANMAR

UNHCR will work with the Government of Bangladesh and partners in Cox's Bazar to meet the needs of some 860,000 Rohingya refugees. Priorities include expanding access to education and skills development opportunities; prevention of and response to gender-based violence through community-based education and protection, legal aid and mental health support; and maintaining a critical health and nutrition response.

In Myanmar, UNHCR will continue working with the Government, UNDP and other partners to improve conditions in northern Rakhine State, while also advocating renewed efforts to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. Under a tripartite memorandum of understanding with the Government, UNHCR and UNDP have conducted needs assessments in 130 locations and 75 quick impact projects are underway. In 2021, UNHCR and UNDP will seek to expand these programmes to further enhance livelihoods, education and social cohesion. Throughout Rakhine State, where there are over 200,000 IDPs, UNHCR will advocate that the Government's strategy to close IDP camps be implemented in line with international human rights standards, so displaced people are able to return to their places of origin. UNHCR will also expand education and livelihood opportunities for over 265,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar hosted in India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

1.1 million
REFUGEES FROM MYANMAR

35,400
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

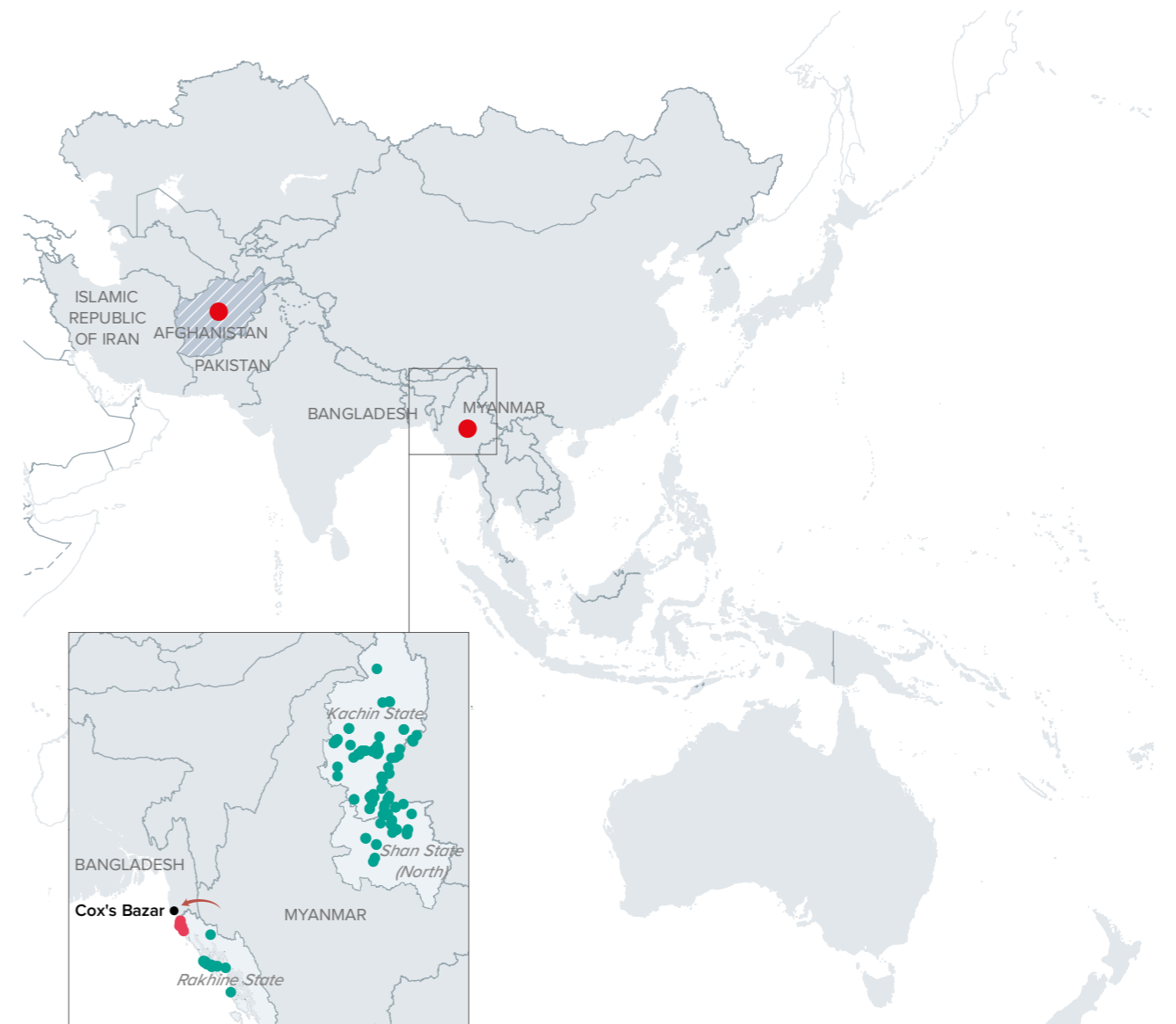
313,000
IDPs

1.6 million
STATELESS PERSONS*

11,400
RETURNEES (REFUGEES AND IDPs)

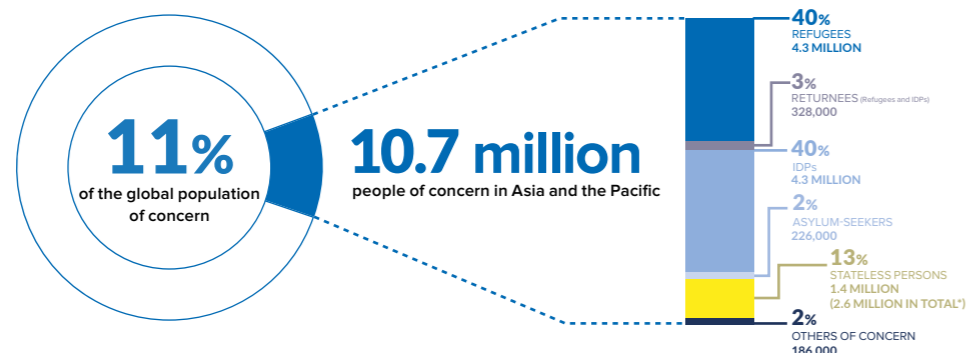
2,100
OTHERS OF CONCERN

Responding to a broad set of displacement and statelessness situations in 2021, and in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNHCR will strive to realize more equitable and predictable responsibility-sharing in support of protection and solutions for the 9.2 million people of concern in Asia and the Pacific as of September 2020, as well as for host communities. Recognizing that voluntary return remains the preferred solution for most, progress toward greater inclusion and self-reliance while they are displaced will enable refugees to contribute to their host communities and better prepare them for eventual return.



- Situation
- CRRF country
- IDP initiative country
- L2 Level of emergency
- Refugee camp
- IDP camp
- Rohingya refugee outflow

2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in Asia and the Pacific



* The total stateless figure includes 1.2 million stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity who are also counted as refugees, asylum-seekers or others of concern in the region.

.../...

Where broad restrictions on movement hinder access to people of concern, UNHCR will continue innovative service delivery, including through the use of remote technology and refugee community volunteers. With COVID-19 hampering children's education globally, the reliance on the internet and electronic devices for remote learning has disproportionately disadvantaged displaced and stateless children. Redressing disparities and seeking to include refugees in all pandemic-related responses will thus be crucial. With many people at heightened risk due to lack of legal employment and dependence on daily wage labour, UNHCR will scale up cash assistance, aligned with national social protection systems where possible.

Innovative solutions for different populations, based on their diverse profiles and needs, in both protracted situations and emergencies

Using support platforms and solidarity approaches such as the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), UNHCR will broaden the base of stakeholders working towards solutions. The Office will continue to advocate investments and engage with all partners and stakeholders to create conditions conducive to voluntary and sustainable return. In parallel, advocacy for humanitarian-development-peace interventions to address root causes of displacement will be prioritized. Additional emphasis will be placed on expanding opportunities for third-country solutions, increasing both the number of States providing and spaces made available for resettlement, as well as complementary pathways such as family reunification, education and labour mobility. UNHCR will advocate legislative reform and universal birth and civil registration to reduce and prevent statelessness in the region.

Cluster leadership and partnerships will be strengthened to ensure protection and solutions for the internally displaced across the region.

Diversified partnerships for multi-stakeholder approaches, with a focus on operational synergies, joint strategy development, advocacy and resource mobilization

Partnerships and collaboration constitute a cross-cutting priority, linking protection, assistance and solutions. In addition to engaging refugees, returnees and host communities to foster their empowerment and participation in decision-making, UNHCR will develop diversified partnerships in support of an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach, in the spirit of more equitable responsibility-sharing and comprehensive solutions in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. UNHCR will also pursue strategic engagement with regional organizations, processes and platforms, as well as with development actors and international financial institutions. This will be a particular priority for UNHCR within the support platform for the SSAR, in close collaboration with the Governments of the Islamic Republics of Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, the core group of the support platform, and other stakeholders. UNHCR will continue to explore venues for engagement with the private sector, including to identify innovative approaches to delivering humanitarian assistance and solutions for refugees.

Harmonized and strengthened data collection and analyses to drive evidence-based protection and solutions strategies

In line with UNHCR's 2020-2022 data strategy for Asia and the Pacific and the organization-wide data transformation

strategy, providing quality information and data on operational activities in a reliable, predictable and innovative way will be a key priority. This will require a harmonized regional approach to facilitate data consolidation, comparability, and analysis,

with a view to supporting evidence-based decision-making. In addition to supporting prioritized data activities at country level, UNHCR will identify and facilitate innovative solutions to existing data processes and engage with regional data partners.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Implications of underfunding

In 2020, underfunding for the Afghanistan situation led to a range of activities being curtailed. In Afghanistan, due to conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic, many government and community safety networks have either broken down or are no longer accessible. Insufficient funding in 2020 restricted UNHCR's ability to provide assistance to women at risk, survivors of gender-based violence, individuals with medical or legal needs and children. This heightens the susceptibility of vulnerable individuals to abuse and exploitation, and may place them at risk of irreversible and lasting harm. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR was able to cover universal public health insurance fees for only one third of the 300,000 most vulnerable Afghan refugees, leaving others at risk of resorting to negative coping mechanisms to make ends meet. In Pakistan, UNHCR planned to carry out a joint verification and re-issuance of proof of registration cards exercise with the Government, but was unable to do so in full due to lack of funding.

In Bangladesh, underfunding limited the expansion of transitional shelters, support to persons at heightened risk, and site improvement and development activities across the camps in Cox's Bazar, including water, sanitation and hygiene.

Looking to 2021, and regarding the Afghanistan situation, in Afghanistan itself UNHCR will focus on investments in the

priority areas of return and reintegration. The Office will also prioritize core protection activities and delivering basic assistance to people of concern, including core relief items, shelter, protection monitoring and specialized support to persons at heightened risk and IDPs. In Pakistan, the joint UNHCR-Government verification and re-issuance of proof of registration cards, which expired in 2015, for 1.4 million registered Afghan refugees will be a priority. This exercise is essential for ensuring continued protection of registered refugees through new smart identity cards, similar to those issued to nationals, which will help prevent detention and refoulement and enable access to essential services. The exercise will also enable better targeting of assistance and solutions in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, bringing efficiencies of scale and value for money. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNHCR will prioritize support to the Government's inclusive policies, notably in health care (through the universal public health insurance programme) and education. However, as in 2020, these activities may be severely curtailed in their scale due to underfunding.

For the Myanmar situation, in Bangladesh, UNHCR will prioritize expanding educational and skills development opportunities; prevention of and response to gender-based violence through community-based education and protection, legal aid and mental health support; and maintaining a critical health and nutrition response.

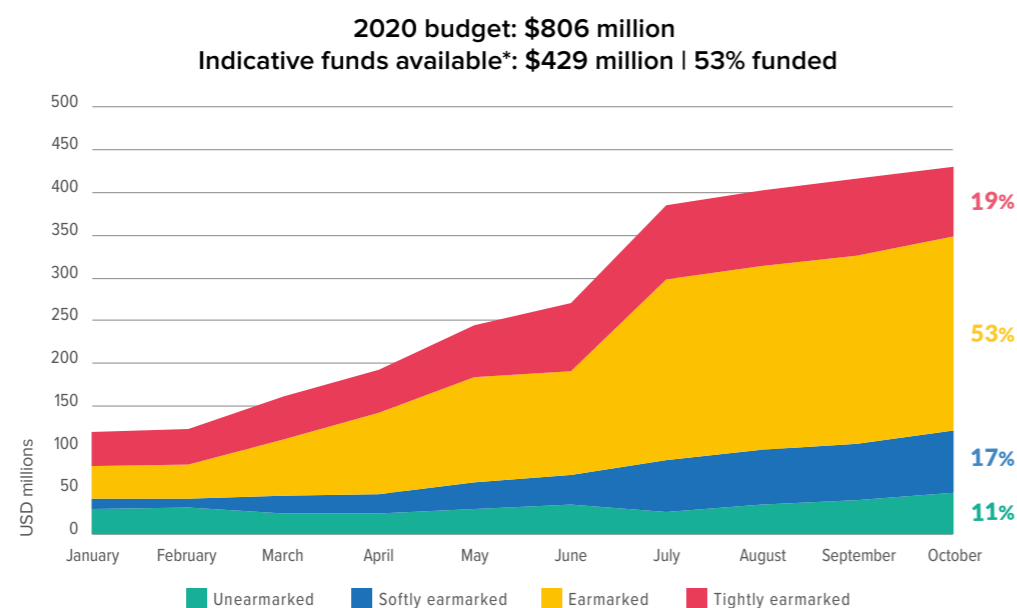
However, underfunding might impact UNHCR’s ability to ensure uninterrupted support to primary health-care centres, and to meet water and sanitation needs in the camps and host communities. Shelter assistance and the distribution of liquid petroleum gas to members of the host community might also be curtailed, which would impact reforestation efforts and work to maintain forest cover. It would also expose women and girls to increased risk of gender-based violence if they are obliged to leave camps in search of firewood.

In Myanmar itself, a tripartite memorandum of understanding between the Government, UNHCR and UNDP will support expansion of programmes on livelihoods, education and social cohesion. In India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, UNHCR will seek to

expand education, livelihood and solutions opportunities for over 265,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Myanmar hosted by these countries. However, the level of funding in 2021 will impact UNHCR’s ability to carry out these crucial activities.

Operations such as those in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand were among the most underfunded in 2020. These operations relied heavily on allocations of flexible funding—either unearmarked or softly earmarked funding. While this demonstrated the importance of such funding in allowing UNHCR to maintain activities, it also highlighted the extent to which UNHCR was forced to prioritize the most urgent needs, with support for self-reliance restricted to only the most vulnerable, and outreach activities and monitoring reduced.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	2021 proposed budget*				
		Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific ¹	11,449,470	10,358,563	-	-	-	10,358,563
Regional activities for Asia and the Pacific ¹	2,498,235	2,850,000	-	-	-	2,850,000
SUBTOTAL	13,947,705	13,208,563	-	-	-	13,208,563
CENTRAL ASIA						
Kazakhstan Multi-Country Office ²	3,084,045	2,133,727	725,765	-	-	2,859,492
Kyrgyzstan	1,170,000	587,081	112,919	-	-	700,000
Tajikistan	2,370,000	1,191,949	828,753	-	-	2,020,702
SUBTOTAL	6,624,045	3,912,757	1,667,437	-	-	5,580,194
EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC						
Australia Multi-Country Office ³	3,385,477	3,357,377	109,134	-	-	3,466,511
China	4,440,027	3,750,000	150,000	-	-	3,900,000
Japan	3,577,288	3,417,403	59,705	-	-	3,477,108
Republic of Korea	2,044,347	2,802,770	99,840	-	-	2,902,610
SUBTOTAL	13,447,138	13,327,550	418,679	-	-	13,746,228
SOUTH ASIA						
India	13,331,893	9,346,216	185,625	-	-	9,531,841
Nepal	6,761,200	2,136,523	438,642	-	-	2,575,164
Sri Lanka	3,781,409	3,732,768	48,640	-	-	3,781,408
SUBTOTAL	23,874,501	15,215,506	672,906	-	-	15,888,413
SOUTH-EAST ASIA						
Bangladesh	318,821,586	288,940,721	-	-	-	288,940,721
Indonesia	9,722,063	6,955,979	392,476	-	-	7,348,455
Malaysia	22,131,840	24,263,334	873,101	-	-	25,136,435
Myanmar	52,226,529	5,359,420	27,319,202	-	12,661,737	45,340,359
Philippines	3,658,017	666,236	392,434	-	2,599,348	3,658,017
Thailand Multi-Country Office ⁴	19,066,446	18,842,823	1,373,395	-	-	20,216,218
SUBTOTAL	425,626,481	345,028,513	30,350,608	-	15,261,085	390,640,205
SOUTH-WEST ASIA						
Afghanistan	123,205,758	22,923,826	-	68,377,447	26,819,333	118,120,607
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	99,861,425	98,221,684	-	-	-	98,221,684
Pakistan	99,661,722	72,394,337	580,000	26,789,059	-	99,763,396
SUBTOTAL	322,728,905	193,539,847	580,000	95,166,506	26,819,333	316,105,687
TOTAL	806,248,775	584,232,736	33,689,630	95,166,506	42,080,418	755,169,290

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole Asia and Pacific region.
² Coordinates activities in Kazakhstan and also covers Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
³ Coordinates activities in Australia and covers New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands.
⁴ Coordinates activities in Thailand and also covers Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and Viet Nam.
* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

Europe



Shadi shops at a supermarket in Geneva, Switzerland. Alongside a group of fellow Syrian refugee volunteers, he hand delivers food and supplies to vulnerable people who are shielding from the coronavirus.

© UNHCR/Elisabet Diaz Sanmartin

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Ensuring access to territory, asylum procedures and adequate reception

The European Commission's "Pact on asylum and migration", presented in September 2020, offers an opportunity to establish a common and principled approach to asylum and migration in Europe. Ensuring access to territory and asylum procedures will remain central tenets of UNHCR's work. The Office will notably continue to advocate safe access to territory for arrivals at sea through a predictable regional disembarkation mechanism; support the implementation

of fair and efficient asylum procedures; and offer information and guidance to an estimated 108,000 asylum-seekers through various digital tools and outreach activities. UNHCR will also provide technical expertise, capacity-building and quality support to national asylum authorities. Focus will be placed on adequate and safe reception capacity and conditions, including for persons with specific needs and health risks. UNHCR will support national authorities in the early identification of people at heightened risk to ensure reception and access to asylum procedures, as relevant.

.../...

Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR adjusted to ensure business continuity across the region. This included advising and supporting government counterparts and partners, for example, through its compilation of practical recommendations and good practices on continuation of access to territory, registration and documentation, safe reception and asylum procedures. UNHCR also reprioritized programmes to support national public health responses and social protection through targeted cash assistance based on needs.

Given the continued prevalence of COVID-19, UNHCR's planning for 2021 focuses on continuity in provision of protection and assistance, building on good practices from 2020. While many countries in Europe have strong capacities and inclusion policies to address the needs of people of concern, there are subregions where gaps persist. The Office will support national authorities to establish and implement preparedness and response plans, ensure access to territory, strengthen fair and effective asylum procedures, and enhance reception capacity. Where needed, UNHCR will also support strengthening of public health measures, including water and sanitation and quarantine and isolation areas, while continuing outreach and communication with communities.

Working closely with partners and local civil society, UNHCR will advocate the inclusion of people of concern in national COVID-19 preparedness and response plans—including as health workers in support of the national response—and assist governments and municipal actors in ensuring access to public health and protection-related information via linguistically- and culturally-appropriate means.

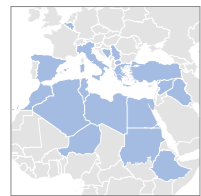
MAJOR SITUATIONS AND OPERATIONS IN EUROPE IN 2021



UKRAINE

Over 2.4 million internally displaced and conflict-affected people will face protection challenges in Ukraine in 2021, with many needing to regularly cross the contact line for family reasons, or to access services such as pensions. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted such movements, limited access by humanitarian convoys, and increased pressure on health infrastructure in non-government-controlled areas. UNHCR will continue protection and shelter in support of IDPs and conflict-affected individuals, with a focus on those residing in non-government-controlled areas and around the contact line, along with efforts to prevent statelessness and support fair and efficient asylum procedures. UNHCR will work with local authorities and strengthen partnerships with development actors, while providing assistance to vulnerable families and individuals with heightened protection risks.

5,150
REFUGEES IN UKRAINE
720,000
IDPs
1.7 million
OTHERS OF CONCERN



MEDITERRANEAN AND CANARY ISLANDS ROUTES

Between January and July 2020, almost 39,000 individuals arrived in Europe via the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands, a 20% decrease compared to the same period in 2019 due in part to COVID-19 restrictions. In the same period, an estimated 430 people died or went missing at sea, while there were credible reports of pushbacks, delayed rescues, and ships being refused permission to dock for extensive periods. In 2021, UNHCR will advocate a comprehensive and predictable response to mixed movements across the Mediterranean and the Canary Islands, including a predictable regional disembarkation mechanism, and support States in enhancing reception capacity and conditions, strengthening asylum procedures, and ensuring effective return procedures for those found not to be in need of international protection.

349,000
REFUGEES
(ITALY, MALTA AND SPAIN)



TURKEY

As of mid-2020, Turkey hosted close to 4 million refugees and asylum-seekers, including 3.6 million Syrians under temporary protection. The COVID-19 pandemic has added to an already difficult situation for refugees and their hosts, increased pressure on public services, and challenged social cohesion. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to support Turkey in the implementation of its comprehensive legal framework. UNHCR will support access to fair and efficient national protection processes, with its work with Turkish authorities on continuous registration remaining a priority. UNHCR will strengthen protection for refugees with specific needs, with a focus on children and women at risk, and promote durable solutions and self-reliance while increasing its engagement with local and national authorities to promote social cohesion.

4 million
REFUGEES IN TURKEY



GREECE

As of mid-2020, Greece hosted some 121,000 asylum-seekers. Despite welcome transfers from the heavily overcrowded reception and identification centres on the Aegean islands to the mainland, the COVID-19 pandemic is compounding health risks. In 2021, UNHCR will advocate the further decongestion of centres while working with national authorities to establish screening, isolation and quarantine procedures and facilities. Protection services will continue to be supported nationwide—including legal aid, capacity-building for asylum authorities and child protection activities. UNHCR will continue to work with the Government to transition responsibility for the cash (ESTIA) programme, while furthering integration initiatives targeting recognized refugees.

170,000
REFUGEES IN GREECE
3,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN



SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

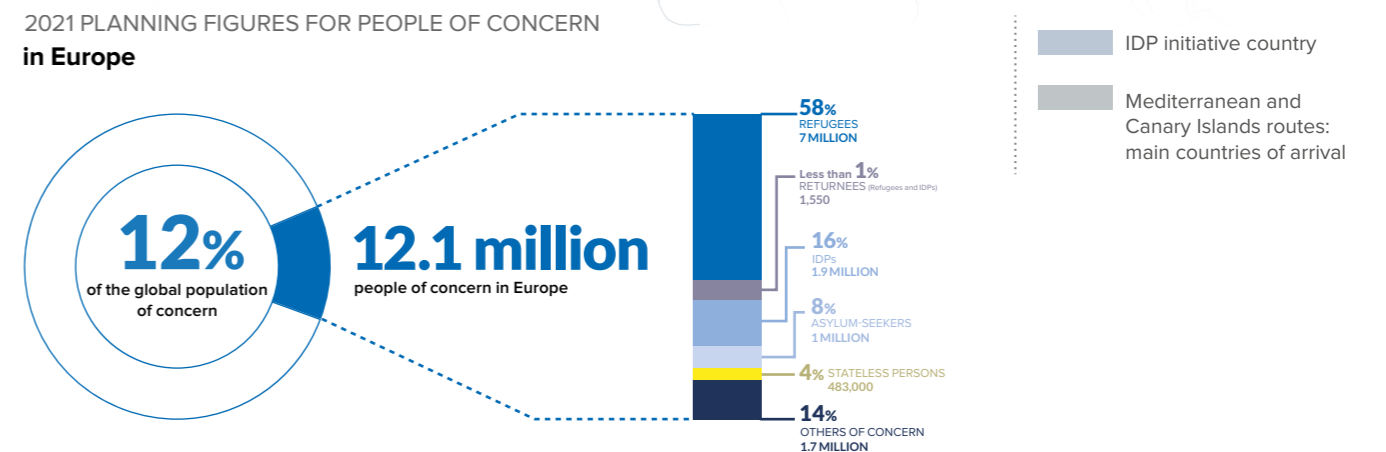
South-East Europe has seen a significant increase in mixed movements, including individuals with international protection needs who have often transited through other countries with the aim of reaching western or northern European Union countries. As EU Member States have strengthened their border control mechanisms, an increasing number have remained in South-East Europe. UNHCR will support improved protection and response capacity in the subregion, with an emphasis on access to territory and asylum procedures, registration and asylum system development. Through partnerships, UNHCR will also support the inclusion of refugees in national systems, as well as effective return procedures for those found not to be in need of international protection. UNHCR will assist the estimated 5,960 persons at risk of statelessness in the region, addressing documentation and data challenges.

25,000
REFUGEES (MAINLY IN SERBIA AND KOSOVO (S/RES/1244 (1999))
222,000
IDPs IN THE SUBREGION
125,000
PEOPLE ASSISTED AS PART OF MIXED MOVEMENTS

In the wake of COVID-19, States have harnessed new technologies and other innovations to maintain access to asylum while safeguarding public health. Cities and towns have taken concrete actions to ensure inclusion while, across Europe, refugees and asylum-seekers have stood in solidarity with their hosts, contributing their skills and ingenuity to collective, community public health responses. As Europe renews its dialogue on the future management of migration, asylum, solidarity, integration and inclusion, UNHCR will continue to work with States to ensure respect for core protection principles, identify pragmatic solutions, and address issues of ongoing concern, including access to territory, rescue at sea, detention and reception conditions.



2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in Europe



.../...

Building and maintaining effective community-based protection

UNHCR will prioritize efforts to strengthen two-way communication and engagement with communities, and to facilitate the participation of people of concern in decision-making and policy fora. Engagement with outreach volunteers, networks and refugee-led organizations will be strengthened based on a starter kit, developed through a joint UNV-UNHCR partnership, and other promising practices in the region. Capacity-building initiatives to strengthen community-based protection, particularly child protection and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, will target governments and partners. Facilitating access to national services, specifically for persons at heightened risk, and inclusion of people of concern in government plans will remain key, particularly in the field of education given large numbers of children of concern are reportedly out of school.

Securing solutions for refugees and internally displaced people

UNHCR will strengthen linkages between refugees and asylum-seekers and key actors working towards their integration. The COVID-19 pandemic allowed refugees to demonstrate solidarity with host communities and as the public health emergency deepened, several States publicly invited refugee health practitioners to join the response. UNHCR will continue capitalizing on these good practices in 2021.

Europe's commitment to resettlement will remain essential, with some 420,000 people of concern, mostly in Turkey, remaining in need of resettlement in the region in 2021. Given that resettlement needs will far exceed available places, resettlement will continue to be prioritized for those most at risk, serving as an important demonstration of international responsibility-sharing.

The Office will also advocate a reduction in barriers to family reunification and the development of other complementary pathways for admission, building on State-led initiatives set up in response to the Syria crisis. This includes expanding community-based private sponsorship programmes, student scholarship schemes, labour migration schemes and humanitarian visas, with a view to providing alternatives to perilous irregular journeys.

UNHCR will prioritize IDP's access to national services and enhance the capacity of authorities, notably through its coordination of the protection cluster and provision of legal assistance. In Ukraine, UNHCR will prioritize the repair of homes damaged by the conflict in non-government-controlled areas; while also deploying targeted advocacy and assistance to support residents in these areas to exercise their rights to pensions, documentation and birth registration. UNHCR will monitor the protection situation at contact line check points and assist in improving conditions there. UNHCR will advocate solutions for IDPs and support them to organize community groups and engage effectively with local authorities.

Preventing, addressing and resolving statelessness

Improving the identification and protection of stateless persons in Europe will continue to be a priority for UNHCR, including by supporting dedicated determination procedures and advocating access to naturalization. UNHCR will particularly advocate measures to prevent and reduce childhood statelessness, including by closing gaps in nationality laws and improving access to civil registration and documentation. UNHCR will continue capacity-building for decision-makers and officials and increase outreach to affected communities, in collaboration with partners.

The Office will also engage with regional actors such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe. Building on the 2015 Council conclusions on statelessness, UNHCR will advocate the European Union's enhanced involvement in addressing statelessness, including through the European Migration Network's Platform on Statelessness. The Office will support States and other stakeholders to meet their commitments from the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness and the Global Refugee Forum, including accession to the statelessness conventions (Belarus and Iceland) and establishing or improving determination procedures (Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Montenegro, Portugal and Spain). It will also pursue progress in addressing statelessness in countries that have not made any formal pledges.

Strengthening evidence-based external engagement

Addressing negative rhetoric and narratives about refugees, which have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, will remain a key priority—particularly with discussions on the “Pact on migration and asylum” likely to place refugee and migrant issues high on policy and political agendas across Europe in 2021. Drawing on strengthened capacity in data management and analysis, the Office will develop evidence-based advocacy to address misperceptions about people of concern. Partnerships will also be strengthened to ensure joint and complementary advocacy efforts and mobilize resources.

UNHCR will advocate the inclusion of people of concern in relevant national laws and policies, as well as the application of international protection standards by partners, including the European Union and its agencies (EASO, FRONTEX), the Council of Europe, and the OSCE. As a co-chair of the Issue-based coalition on large movements of people, displacement and resilience for the Europe and Central Asia region, UNHCR will work with Resident Coordinators and UN country teams to ensure the specific needs of refugees, asylum-seekers, migrants and stateless persons are taken into account when incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals into national policies and frameworks across Europe.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

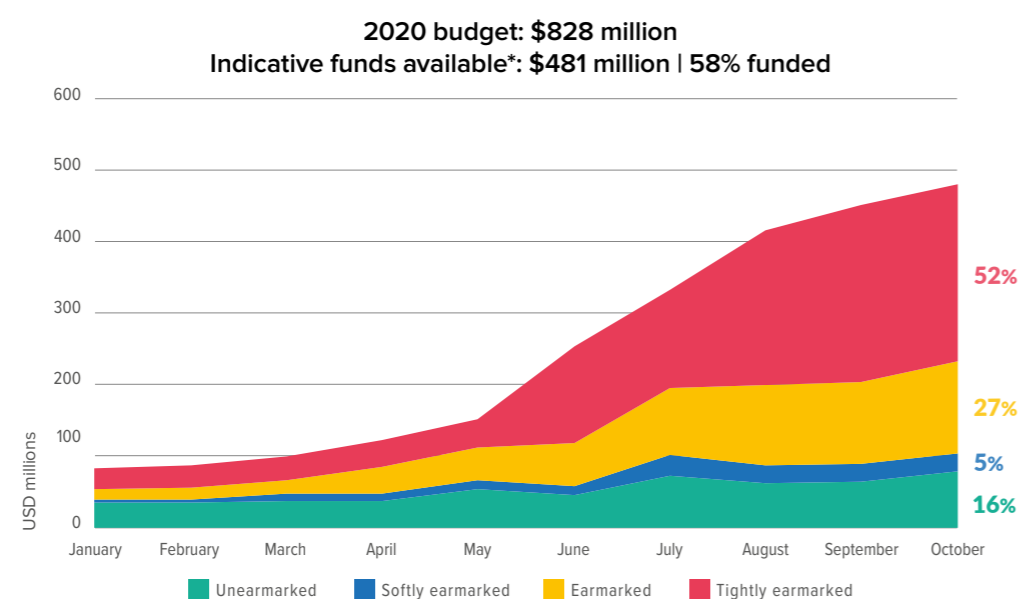
Implications of underfunding

Additional funds were needed in 2020 to urgently support COVID-19 preparedness and response activities and to meet the unforeseen additional needs of some 11.4 million people of concern the Office had anticipated would require assistance. UNHCR demonstrated flexibility and reallocated available funds to implement critical activities in the region, impacting its ability to carry its regular programmes. Against this background, if insufficient funding continues into 2021, UNHCR will not be able to deliver on several key priorities. Flexible funding will be crucial to allow the Office to adapt to what will remain an uncertain environment.

A strict prioritization exercise has been conducted to identify the main areas of focus in Europe during the first half of 2021. This will include enhancing life-saving support for people of concern; supporting the inclusion of people of concern in national COVID-19 responses; strengthening community-based protection, child protection and support to survivors of gender-based violence; and working with States to enhance asylum infrastructure and reception conditions and foster socioeconomic inclusion. However, a lack of funding for activities in refugee-receiving countries may constrain UNHCR's activities related to local integration, along with capacity-building initiatives to strengthen, and ensure the quality of, national asylum systems in Europe.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR EUROPE

As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

BUDGETS FOR EUROPE | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	2021 proposed budget*				
		Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
EUROPE						
Regional Bureau for Europe ¹	13,523,535	13,049,253	-	-	-	13,049,253
Regional activities for Europe ¹	11,579,562	11,975,002	240,000	-	-	12,215,002
Other operations in Europe	4,590,785	4,518,394	72,392	-	-	4,590,785
SUBTOTAL	29,693,883	29,542,649	312,392	-	-	29,855,041
EASTERN EUROPE						
Armenia	3,659,360	3,510,799	123,443	-	-	3,634,242
Azerbaijan	4,065,316	2,616,940	95,715	-	970,321	3,682,976
Belarus	1,940,000	1,895,000	45,000	-	-	1,940,000
Georgia	6,089,375	3,149,572	371,413	-	2,611,248	6,132,232
Russian Federation	6,434,620	5,364,223	817,907	-	-	6,182,130
Turkey	369,482,805	315,821,143	5,000	-	-	315,826,143
Ukraine	29,751,676	5,162,710	908,838	-	22,293,624	28,365,173
SUBTOTAL	421,423,153	337,520,387	2,367,316	-	25,875,193	365,762,896
NORTHERN, WESTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN EUROPE						
Belgium Multi-Country Office ²	12,495,627	12,113,085	391,983	-	-	12,505,068
Cyprus	2,932,064	2,883,066	4,000	-	-	2,887,066
France	3,787,225	3,487,351	226,991	-	-	3,714,342
Germany	2,297,959	2,117,540	38,265	-	-	2,155,805
Greece	275,438,883	214,714,264	75,000	-	-	214,789,264
Hungary Regional Office ³	12,918,111	12,387,893	420,247	236,860	-	13,045,000
Italy Multi-Country Office ⁴	18,176,476	17,987,160	189,316	-	-	18,176,476
Malta	1,319,082	1,314,082	5,000	-	-	1,319,082
Spain Multi-Country Office ⁵	5,588,613	5,557,393	31,220	-	-	5,588,613
Sweden Multi-Country Office ⁶	5,328,745	4,678,745	650,000	-	-	5,328,745
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3,097,328	2,389,773	403,002	-	-	2,792,775
SUBTOTAL	343,380,113	279,630,351	2,435,024	236,860	-	282,302,235
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE						
Albania	3,147,190	3,034,322	184,484	-	-	3,218,806
Bosnia and Herzegovina	10,037,331	9,371,024	614,113	-	-	9,985,137
Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))	3,468,704	2,695,033	779,388	-	-	3,474,422
Montenegro	2,508,001	1,914,712	197,715	-	-	2,112,427
North Macedonia	4,551,269	3,950,428	321,248	-	-	4,271,677
Serbia	9,383,360	6,222,388	2,137,118	-	-	8,359,506
SUBTOTAL	33,095,854	27,187,907	4,234,067	-	-	31,421,974
TOTAL	827,593,003	673,881,295	9,348,798	236,860	25,875,193	709,342,146

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities covers the whole Europe region.

² Coordinates activities in Belgium, Ireland, Malta (EASO), the Netherlands, Poland (FRONTEX) and also covers Luxembourg.

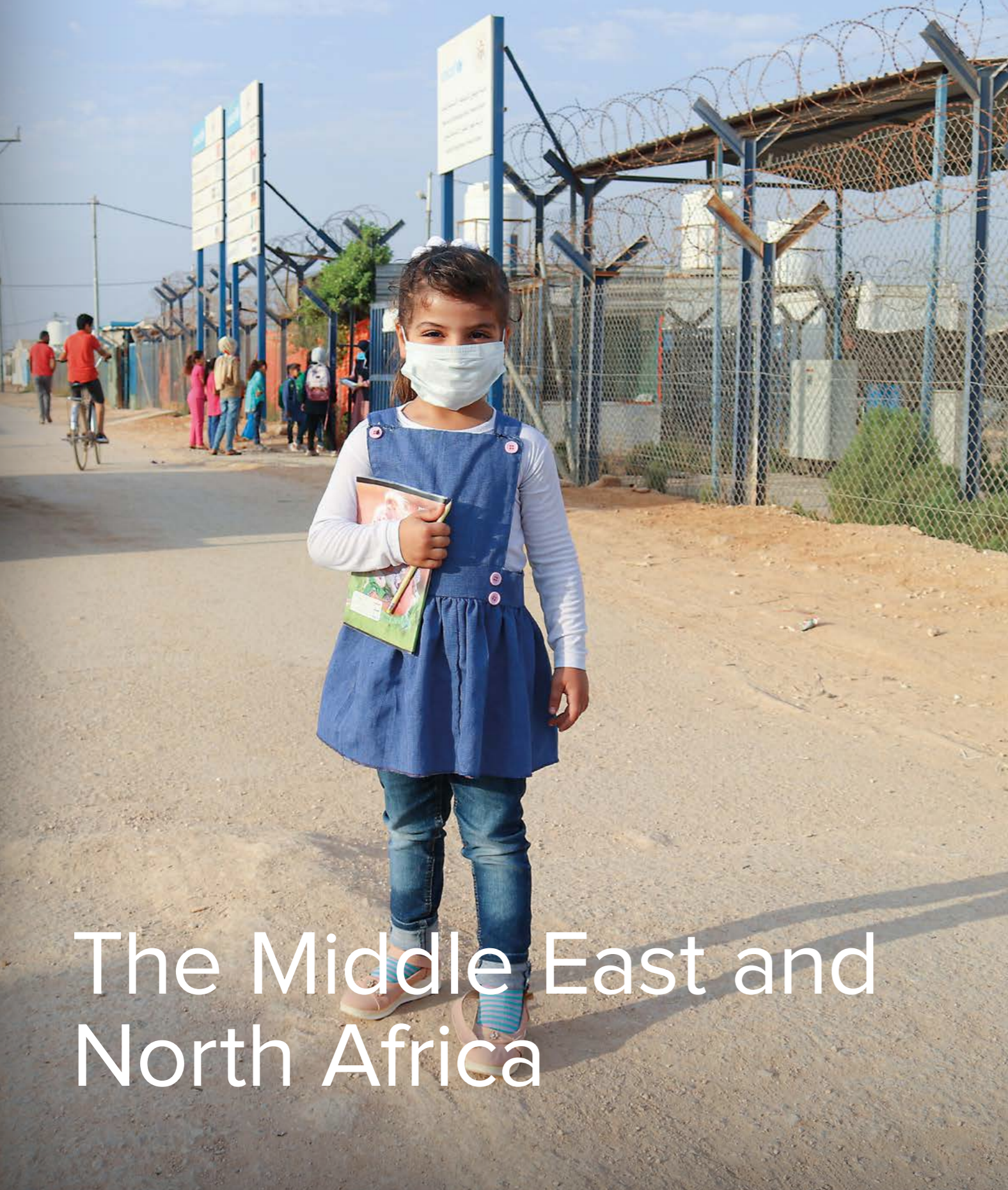
³ Coordinates activities in Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Poland, Romania and also covers the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia and Slovenia.

⁴ Coordinates activities in Italy and also covers the Holy See and San Marino.

⁵ Coordinates activities in Spain and also covers Andorra and Portugal.

⁶ Coordinates activities in Denmark, Lithuania and Sweden and also covers Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia and Norway.

* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).



The Middle East and North Africa

A Syrian refugee girl returns to school at Za'atari camp in Jordan.
© UNHCR/Shawkat Alharfosh

WORKING ENVIRONMENT AND KEY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Strengthening emergency preparedness and response

Emergency assistance will continue to provide a vital lifeline for millions of people of concern, particularly in the context of the health and socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite insecurity and limited humanitarian access, UNHCR will strengthen its emergency response capacity to address humanitarian needs through multisectoral assistance, including protection services, shelter, basic relief

items, and multipurpose cash and health assistance. Contingency plans to enable a swift and coordinated response to new and deteriorating situations will be kept up to date. In line with UNHCR's IDP Policy, the Office will reinforce its role in protection, shelter, and camp coordination and camp management clusters across the region, and will lead the protection and shelter sectors as part of the inter-agency response to the August 2020 blast in Beirut, Lebanon.



Consequences of COVID-19 on planning, preparedness and response

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR worked closely with governments to support the inclusion of people of concern in national services, in particular public health, and maintaining this will be a key priority in 2021. UNHCR has also stepped up its advocacy to include people of concern in other national services and systems, including for social protection and socioeconomic support.

While poverty and unemployment rates for refugees were already high prior to the onset of COVID-19, refugees have faced even greater challenges in earning a livelihood, meeting basic needs such as shelter or food, and accessing key services. Socioeconomic vulnerability in turn exacerbates protection risks, particularly in relation to child marriage, child labour, sexual exploitation, and domestic violence, as well as accruing mental health and psychosocial needs.

UNHCR has strengthened community outreach and awareness-raising on public health and hygiene, as well as protection activities that will continue in 2021. UNHCR will particularly focus on increasing needs in terms of prevention of and response to gender-based violence in the context of measures taken to contain COVID-19. Other key priorities are access to education, and mental health and psychosocial support (already identified as a cross-cutting issue pre-pandemic). In addition, support for national health facilities will continue in 2021 in order to increase their capacity to ensure inclusion of people of concern.

While UNHCR's cash assistance programmes will continue to support people to meet their basic needs, UNHCR will also collaborate with existing government programmes (social safety nets), including through advocacy, capacity-building and partnerships with development and financial actors such as the World Bank.

MAJOR SITUATIONS AND OPERATIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA IN 2021



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

With more than 6 million IDPs and 5.6 million registered Syrian refugees in neighbouring countries as of 2020, of whom 45% are children and 21% are women, the Syria situation will remain the largest displacement crisis in the world. An acute economic crisis, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, will also continue to impact the humanitarian situation. While humanitarian needs and significant protection risks will likely persist inside the Syrian Arab Republic in 2021, IDPs and refugees are expected to continue to return, particularly to areas where relative stability has emerged, subject to restrictions on borders, movement and travel due to COVID-19.

UNHCR will focus on multisectoral assistance, including to support access to safety and civil documentation, and to strengthen community-based protection. It will promote comprehensive solutions, provide emergency core relief items and shelter assistance, and support livelihood opportunities. UNHCR will maintain large-scale cash assistance for the most vulnerable Syrian refugees, including increased support to those most affected by the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the five main countries hosting Syrian refugees, UNHCR will continue to co-lead the 3RP along with UNDP, coordinating the work of more than 270 partners, in support of the vital role played by host communities.

* Source: OCHA (figure for Jan-Sep 2020).

** Monitored by UNHCR from Jan-Aug 2020: does not reflect all returns.

5.6 million
REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING TURKEY)

6.7 million
IDPs

324,300
IDP RETURNÉES*

21,600
REFUGEE RETURNÉES**

160,000
STATELESS PERSONS



IRAQ

Inside Iraq, some 1.3 million Iraqis remain internally displaced and more than 4.7 million IDP returnees will face protection risks, constrained access to basic services and insecurity, while contending with limited access to livelihood opportunities and shelter, as well as the dangers from explosive remnants of war. IDPs are likely to continue to face secondary or multiple displacement where return to areas of origin is not possible or sustainable. In neighbouring countries, as of September 2020 there were some 279,000 Iraqi refugees and asylum-seekers—of whom 39% are children and 29% are women—who are expected to remain registered with UNHCR. There are also an additional 31,000 people living in camps without registration in Al-Hassakeh Governorate in the Syrian Arab Republic.

UNHCR's focus will remain on protection and gradual transition from humanitarian assistance to development programming, including by strengthening access to national services and formal employment opportunities, inclusion in national systems and identifying comprehensive protection and solutions strategies for people of concern. Additional aid, such as increased cash assistance and support for livelihoods, will be provided to mitigate the medium- and long-term socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.

290,000
REFUGEES IN NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES (INCLUDING TURKEY)

1.3 million
IDPs

55,000
OTHERS OF CONCERN



YEMEN

Needs in Yemen will remain acute in 2021, with the humanitarian crisis still considered to be the worst globally. As of mid-2020, over 24 million people depended on assistance due to persistent fighting, socioeconomic insecurity and heavy rains and flooding. Some 3.7 million people have been recorded as internally displaced since the start of the conflict in 2015. With the peace process unlikely to be fully implemented by the end of 2020, an increase in the number of conflict frontlines and thus displacement is expected in 2021. The protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen deteriorated in the context of COVID-19, with reduced access to UNHCR and partners, increasingly restrictive policies towards foreigners and limited socioeconomic prospects, leading UNHCR to expand its outreach and assistance, including through cash.

In 2021, UNHCR will focus on delivering humanitarian aid to IDPs, IDP returnees and affected local communities, while continuing to improve protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers through community-based protection strategies and work with local authorities and partners. UNHCR will lead the protection, shelter/non-food items and camp coordination and camp management clusters. It will also co-lead the refugee and migrant multi-sector response and work together with IOM to respond to mixed movements to and through Yemen.

149,000
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN YEMEN

4.1 million
IDPs



LIBYA

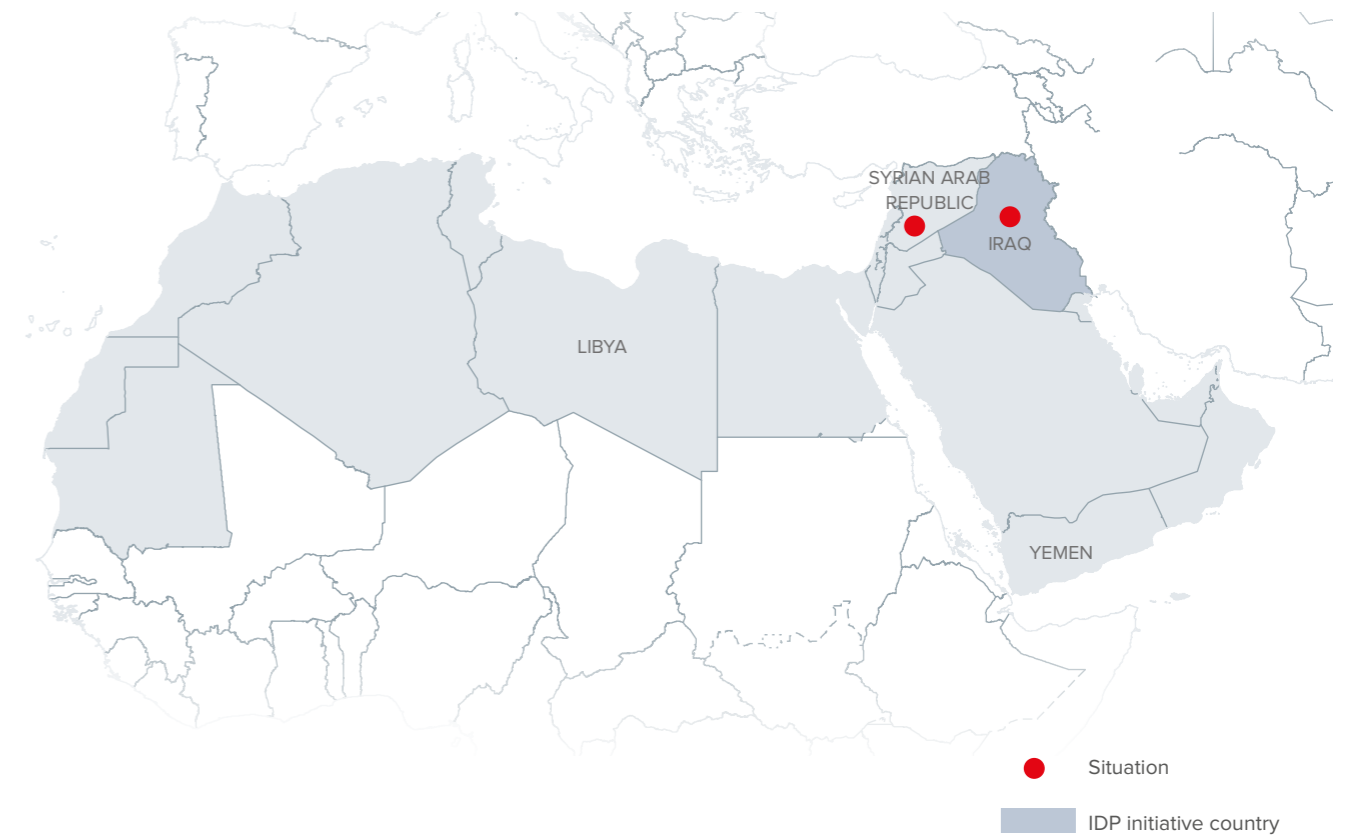
Despite ongoing peace talks, fighting is likely to trigger further internal displacement in 2021. Although the total number of migrants and refugees in detention declined in early 2020—from some 5,000 in January to fewer than 1,800 in February—by the final quarter of 2020, the number of people rescued or intercepted at sea had surpassed that of 2019, with a subsequent rise in the numbers detained to around 2,500. In 2021, the Libyan Coast Guard is expected to continue disembarking refugees and migrants attempting to depart via the Mediterranean Sea, with many likely to find themselves in prolonged detention, in dire conditions.

UNHCR will continue to protect the displaced in Libya, including IDPs and returnees, and will assist refugees and asylum-seekers, particularly in urban areas. UNHCR will deliver life-saving assistance at disembarkation points and detention facilities, while advocating alternatives to detention. Although mobility restrictions related to COVID-19 limited the implementation of durable solutions in 2020, in 2021, UNHCR will prioritize direct resettlement, voluntary repatriation and family reunification, as well as humanitarian evacuations for vulnerable people of concern to the Emergency Transit Centres in Italy and Romania, and to the Emergency Transit Mechanisms in Niger and Rwanda.

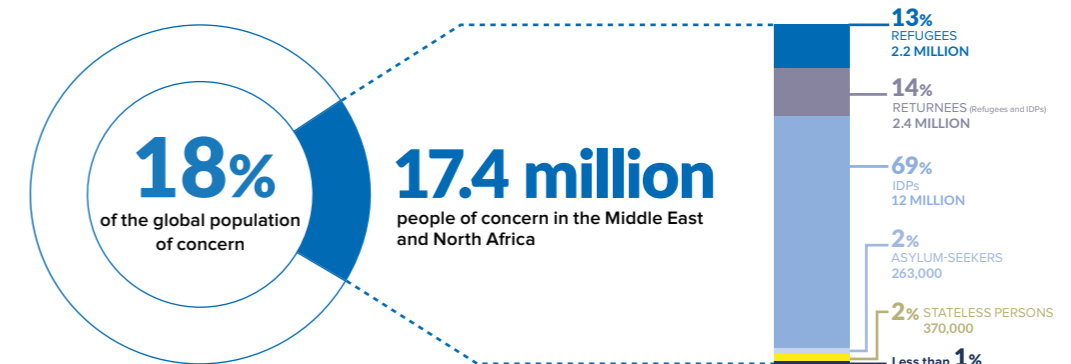
53,000
REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS IN LIBYA

550,000
IDPs

The challenges facing people of concern in the Middle East and North Africa region have been exacerbated by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. With the pandemic disrupting daily life across the region, UNHCR and partners will continue to deliver protection and assistance to the most vulnerable, adapting in the context of prolonged conflict. Almost 20% of those displaced globally come from the region.



2021 PLANNING FIGURES FOR PEOPLE OF CONCERN in the Middle East and North Africa



.../...

In the Syrian Arab Republic, UNHCR will continue life-saving assistance and shelter support, including through cross-border activities from Turkey. Interventions in the Iraq and Syria situations will go beyond emergency response, transitioning to supporting solutions and longer-term development plans, especially in Iraq. UNHCR will continue to provide cash and core relief items in Yemen to meet protection, shelter and other basic needs. In Libya and neighbouring North African countries, UNHCR and partners will undertake protection monitoring and provide humanitarian and medical assistance at accessible disembarkation points. UNHCR is preparing to respond to a potential influx in Mauritania from Mali as part of the Sahel situation.

Preserving protection space and supporting access to national asylum systems and services

In line with the preferences expressed by communities of concern in the Middle East and North Africa through participatory assessments, UNHCR and partners will continue to provide community outreach both in-person (including through community outreach volunteers and community centres), as well as through innovative virtual and digitalized tools tailored to the capacities and needs of all people of concern, taking into account age, gender and diversity factors. The capacity of UNHCR to engage and communicate with communities and develop multisectoral protection and solutions services remotely will be strengthened, including through investments in equipment, innovative software and applications, human resources and partnerships (including with the private sector and financial institutions).

UNHCR will continue to support issuance of civil documentation, including birth certificates, to displaced populations, facilitating access to protection, services and solutions and preventing statelessness. Based on quality and reliable country of origin information, UNHCR will advise States on asylum systems and adjudication of claims for international protection across the region. With governments making welcome commitments in terms of access to education, further support is needed to build the capacity of overstretched and under-resourced education systems across the region.

Ensuring protection from violence and exploitation, and providing mental health support

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing protection risks and vulnerabilities, especially in terms of health and livelihoods. Nearly half of displaced children in the region are out of school, child marriage rates are increasing and, in certain countries, approximately half of refugee households reportedly rely on the income generated by a child to meet basic needs. Noting the linkages between socioeconomic vulnerability and child protection risks, UNHCR will continue to reinforce cash assistance, complemented by appropriate protection services.

UNHCR's strategy to prevent and respond to gender-based violence underscores the need to strengthen national systems and capacity, as well as the importance of community-based protection and response initiatives. UNHCR will also focus on mainstreaming gender-based violence risk mitigation across all sectors; promoting gender equality in national laws; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; and improved data collection and analysis in this area.

Achieving comprehensive solutions

While COVID-19 severely restricted resettlement submissions in 2020, remote processing and other innovations helped mitigate the overall impact, while also preserving the integrity of the process and the safety of refugees, staff members and receiving communities. To the extent possible, UNHCR will aim to meet outstanding quotas while facilitating the gradual resumption of resettlement departures. Through the annual tripartite consultations on resettlement and the Priority Situations Core Group, and drawing on the "Comprehensive protection and solutions strategy for Syrian refugees" (2018), UNHCR will continue to engage closely with resettlement countries and partners to safeguard ongoing resettlement commitments in the region. Efforts to expand access to resettlement and complementary pathways will also remain critical, both in order to give individual families a future and to demonstrate to host countries that the international community is ready to share the responsibility of hosting refugees.

While a majority of refugees in the region wish to return home, only a small proportion plan to do so in the near future. As most refugees are likely to remain in their countries of asylum in the medium term, sustained support to host States and ongoing assistance programmes remain crucial.

Mobilizing support through strategic partnerships

Addressing regional refugee crises through an inclusive approach remains a priority in terms of UNHCR's strategic partnerships across the region. This approach is reflected in the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan for the Syria Crisis (3RP)—an integrated humanitarian and development plan to address the needs of refugees and host communities alike led by UNHCR and

UNDP and developed together with 270 partners. Across the region, the response to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to require strong partnerships with governments, particularly national health authorities. Mixed population movements across the Mediterranean Sea and the Gulf of Aden will also necessitate collaborative cross-regional approaches to prevent loss of life and strengthen solidarity and responsibility-sharing.

UNHCR will particularly strengthen its partnership with financial institutions, including the World Bank Group, to identify sustainable solutions to displacement across the region. In Mauritania, UNHCR will engage with the World Bank and the Government to advocate the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national health system, and will build upon the recent partnership with the African Development Bank and the G5 Sahel (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger) that supported a coordinated response to COVID-19. Assisting IDPs in Iraq, UNHCR will also work with the World Bank to facilitate their inclusion in national social protection mechanisms.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, efforts will continue to ensure that a whole-of-society approach is adopted in responding to regional crises, and that multi-stakeholder partnerships are integrated from the initial design phase of projects and programmes. Working with local civil society actors has been essential to addressing issues such as non-discrimination and social cohesion, as well as to shaping the narrative on the contributions of refugees. UNHCR will continue to support implementation of pledges made by States and NGOs at the Global Refugee Forum, including increased support to host communities and fostering greater opportunities for education, economic empowerment and financial inclusion of people of concern.

UNHCR will continue to strengthen its collaboration with UNICEF and WFP on common delivery mechanisms for cash assistance, such as the Common Cash Facility approach developed for Jordan

and Lebanon. UNHCR will also support the expansion of common targeting approaches, through the UNHCR-WFP Joint Targeting Hub and other similar initiatives.



Saïd Foundation supports Syrian refugees through scholarships

Since 2014, the Saïd Foundation and UNHCR have been working together to improve refugees' access to accredited quality tertiary education through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) scholarship programme. Over 400 Syrian refugee students in Jordan and Lebanon have been able to build a brighter future for themselves and their family.



© UNHCR/Amrune Tary

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

BUDGETS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | USD

OPERATION	ALL PILLARS	PILLAR 1	PILLAR 2	PILLAR 3	PILLAR 4	TOTAL
	2020 Current budget (as of 30 June 2020)	2021 proposed budget* Refugee programme	Stateless programme	Reintegration projects	IDP projects	
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA						
Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa ¹	17,115,454	19,000,000	-	-	-	19,000,000
Regional activities for the Middle East and North Africa ¹	48,340,707	48,421,052	-	-	-	48,421,052
SUBTOTAL	65,456,161	67,421,052	-	-	-	67,421,052
MIDDLE EAST						
Other operations in the Middle East	45,665,553	-	-	-	18,000,000	18,000,000
Iraq	538,643,818	177,163,304	325,000	-	332,936,695	510,425,000
Israel	6,000,000	6,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
Jordan	426,737,449	370,557,449	-	-	-	370,557,449
Lebanon	607,516,457	487,594,837	834,318	-	-	488,429,155
Saudi Arabia Multi-Country Office ²	11,490,294	11,327,189	135,664	-	-	11,462,853
Syrian Arab Republic	586,273,712	46,968,149	198,640	317,833,049	247,382,855	612,382,693
Yemen	252,052,873	76,650,482	-	-	194,349,517	270,999,999
SUBTOTAL	2,474,380,156	1,176,261,410	1,493,622	317,833,049	792,669,067	2,288,257,148
NORTH AFRICA						
Algeria	37,436,503	37,118,500	-	-	-	37,118,500
Egypt	118,312,434	117,518,805	-	-	-	117,518,805
Libya	84,098,958	63,828,051	-	-	26,740,333	90,568,384
Mauritania	24,591,889	27,131,658	-	-	-	27,131,658
Morocco	8,500,000	8,000,000	-	-	-	8,000,000
Tunisia	11,589,319	7,778,402	-	-	-	7,778,402
Western Sahara - Confidence-building measures	4,000,000	4,000,000	-	-	-	4,000,000
SUBTOTAL	288,529,102	265,375,416	-	-	26,740,333	292,115,749
TOTAL	2,828,365,419	1,509,057,878	1,493,622	317,833,049	819,409,400	2,647,793,949

¹ Regional Bureau and regional activities cover the whole Middle East and North Africa region.

² Includes activities in Kuwait and in the United Arab Emirates.

* Note: budget appropriations are those approved by the UNHCR Executive Committee at its 71st session in October 2020. They are based on a budget cut-off date of 15 June 2020. Any subsequent revisions to budgets will be reflected as they are processed. Updated budget information is made available to Member States through regular updates on budgets and funding to the UNHCR Standing Committee. Information on the 2021 budgets will also be updated online on a monthly basis on Global Focus (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

Implications of underfunding

In 2021, critical and life-saving activities across the region, along with support to address increased needs and vulnerabilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, could be impacted by underfunding. Affected activities could include winter assistance, cash assistance, support for basic needs, health services and core protection activities.

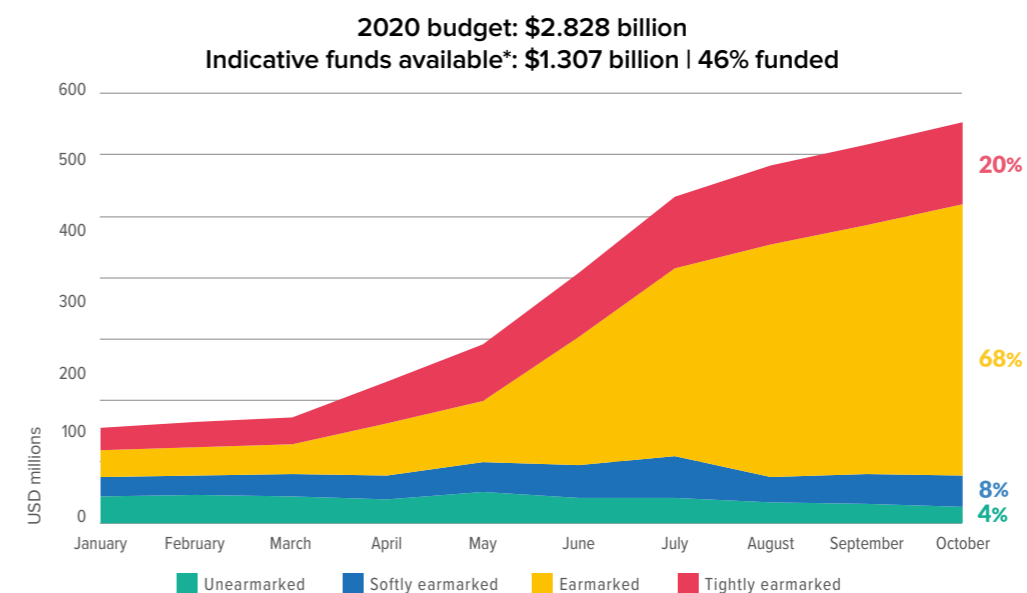
Sufficient funding for cash assistance programmes will remain critical in 2021 to mitigate growing protection risks such as child labour, gender-based violence, early marriage and other forms of exploitation, as well as the longer-term socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. Underfunding in 2021 would also affect UNHCR's winterization programme, leaving vulnerable refugees and IDPs unable to meet basic needs during winter months.

With health costs continuing to rise and not all refugees having access to public health care, continued funding is vital to ensure that refugee families have access to basic medical services, including primary health

care, as well as secondary and tertiary care. Further investment to meet the education needs of children, youth and adolescents, aligned with national policies and plans (including in the context of responses to COVID-19) will be needed to minimize child protection risks and build better futures for refugee and host community children alike.

For operations in the region facing chronic funding shortfalls, such as Algeria, Morocco and Mauritania, it will be vital to maintain minimum standards of assistance, including in protection, shelter, health, and water and sanitation, providing support to host countries and helping to address the causes of onward movements. In line with "one-refugee" approaches, adequate funding will be sought to assist refugees of all nationalities equally. In Lebanon, economic recovery following the blast in Beirut remains a crucial challenge, and funding shortfalls will have implications for longer-term programmes to address development gaps and maintain protection space.

2020 EARMARKING AND TIMELINESS OF FUNDING FOR THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA | As of 1 October 2020



* Indicative funds available include carry-over from prior years and an indicative allocation of unearmarked and softly earmarked funds based on the prioritized budget.

Safeguarding fundamental rights

In 2021, UNHCR will continue to advocate and support the full respect of the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced and stateless persons and returnees. Against the background of COVID-19-related restrictions and the risk that major protection achievements of recent years could be jeopardized, this work will take agility, commitment and principled pragmatism.

The pandemic has challenged fundamental principles of refugee protection—the right to seek asylum and the prohibition of refoulement—and exacerbated protection risks in humanitarian situations, while exposing vulnerable populations to new threats and disproportionately impacting UNHCR’s people of concern. Increased violence and forced displacement, a rise in xenophobia and stigmatization, alongside disruption of basic services, are compounded by access constraints—both to protection and solutions by people of concern, and to affected communities by protection actors.

Restrictive measures applied by States with no exceptions for those in need of protection as well as socioeconomic shocks have resulted in adverse survival strategies—including more dangerous routes to seek refuge where borders are closed and access is denied, exposure to forced recruitment and human trafficking, school dropouts, sexual exploitation and forced marriages—with limited safe alternatives.

UNHCR will advocate upholding of good practices put in place by many States, as critical examples for others: from remote interviewing of asylum applicants, processing of resettlement cases via dossier, and extending the validity of legal documentation; to border management attuned to health and security priorities, with access for those seeking international protection and quarantine measures applied without discrimination; as well as

the acknowledgment of refugees’ active contribution to the crisis response.

UNHCR and partner agencies have adapted their responses thanks to greater engagement with communities in acknowledgement of their critical role on the ground as actors of protection, including to ensure transparent communication and continuity in service delivery. UNHCR’s “Operational guidance on accountability to affected people” (AAP), issued in 2020, will steer collective efforts to support and bolster the capacity of communities to be front-line responders and an integral part of the design, delivery and monitoring of protection programmes and assistance.

In the year of the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 60th of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, this continued pledge to safeguard fundamental rights and protection globally proves the enduring value and relevance of the letter and the spirit of the international protection regime, as well as its historical capacity to respond to evolving challenges.

In this chapter

- Legal protection frameworks
- Registration, documentation and identity management
- Identifying international protection needs
- Refugee protection and migration, including responses to mixed movements
- Preventing and responding to statelessness
- Community-based protection
- Child protection, youth engagement and empowerment
- Gender equality
- Protecting persons with disabilities and older persons
- Protecting LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement

A family of Afghan refugees stands on the deck of a ferry as it docks at the port of Piraeus, Greece.

© UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

LEGAL PROTECTION FRAMEWORKS



UNHCR assists newly-released detainees in Tripoli, Libya.

2021 TARGETS



Develop legal and policy guidance on international protection issues in line with refugee and human rights law.



Represent UNHCR and advance the rights of people of concern through partnerships and processes, including human rights mechanisms.



Support and engage with international law development, regional and national legislative action, and judicial processes and actors.

In 2020, the enduring value and relevance of strong legal protection frameworks has become more evident as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on access to protection and enjoyment of rights. In 2021, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, UNHCR will continue to advance, promote and

monitor the implementation of international protection standards and the enjoyment of rights by people of concern to the Office as well as their host communities, in line with its mandate—particularly its supervisory responsibility—and in support of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Office will also promote strengthened national systems

and capacity, as well as State commitment to international standards, integrating legal and policy advocacy in all relevant areas of its work.

More specifically, and in light of measures to contain COVID-19, in 2021 UNHCR will provide guidance on: access to international protection, particularly the right to seek asylum and the principle of non-refoulement; freedom of movement and ending arbitrary deprivation of liberty, including by pursuing alternatives to detention and advocating the elimination of child immigration detention; solutions; legal and normative issues around displacement in the context of climate change and disasters; socioeconomic rights, including the right to decent work; and the right to family life for refugees in the context of family reunification. UNHCR will also strengthen its efforts to address racism and xenophobia impacting people of concern.

Support will be provided to States to accede to relevant treaties or to lift reservations to treaties to which they are a party. Where needed, UNHCR will assist States in their legislative and judicial processes and work with legislators, lawyers, judges and courts to provide advice on laws and policies, including through intervening as *amicus curiae* where relevant.

UNHCR’s engagement with strategic partners, processes and mechanisms on issues related to international protection, human rights, displacement and statelessness will continue at the global, regional, national and local levels. This includes engaging with human rights mechanisms and participation in UN task teams and inter-agency initiatives. The Office will continue to collaborate with UN country teams and humanitarian

country teams, States, UN agencies, civil society and national human rights institutions.

A rights-based approach will be integrated across different areas of UNHCR’s work, including delivering advice, guidance and training (internally and externally) on the rights of people of concern, in line with its 2020 human rights engagement strategy and the UN Secretary-General’s “The highest aspiration: Call to action for human rights”.

Promoting policy coherence on climate change and disaster displacement will continue to be a focus for the Office, deepening understanding among partners and key stakeholders of relevant legal and normative standards and protection principles in these contexts. (See “Strengthening UNHCR’s engagement in climate action” in *Global initiatives in 2021*.)

REGISTRATION, DOCUMENTATION AND IDENTITY MANAGEMENT



Venezuelans are identified and receive medical attention and COVID-19 tests before entering the integrated assistance centre in Maicao, northern Colombia.

2021 TARGETS



19 million individual records will be registered in UNHCR's population registration and identity management ecosystem (PRIMES).



80 operations will use PRIMES biometrics and in these operations, more than 90% of individuals will hold a biometric record by the end of 2021.



75 operations will implement the "Policy on identity management: registration and biometrics".



PRIMES systems and related guidance will be strengthened to support remote service delivery in the context of COVID-19 and UNHCR's five-year action plan on digital identity.

Registration, documentation and identity management remain key protection tools, facilitating access to basic assistance, protection and solutions. The population registration and identity management ecosystem (PRIMES) is UNHCR's central population registry and corporate

registration and case management system. As of September 2020, 13.1 million people of concern (primarily refugees and asylum-seekers) were registered in it across 90 operations. In 2021, UNHCR will implement and manage PRIMES across 97% of its operations, covering an estimated

19 million individual registration records, with more than 90% of all registered individuals enrolled biometrically across 80 operations.

In 2021, UNHCR will strengthen PRIMES systems to provide a trusted digital identity for displaced people, facilitating their access to protection and assistance. This will also create greater opportunities for digital and remote service delivery as part of the response to COVID-19, and strengthen access to and control of personal data. UNHCR will ensure that PRIMES applications, including proGres v4, the biometric identity management system (BIMS), and the global distribution tool (GDT), are accessible and interoperable with partner systems; and support beneficiary authentication to enhance integrity and efficiencies in the provision of assistance and solutions. These efforts will also support secure, safe and appropriate access to data for UNHCR, partners and people of concern.

Trained registration staff will be deployed to emergency situations across UNHCR operations. Additionally, the Office will strengthen its partnership with the Danish Refugee Council on a dedicated roster of registration and identity management experts to support registration and population verification activities. The forthcoming "Policy on identity management: registration and biometrics", expected to be issued in late 2020, will be implemented by 75 UNHCR operations by the end of 2021.

UNHCR will also continue to support governments to build inclusive and protection-sensitive refugee registration, digital identification and civil registration systems; as well as to increase the number of people of concern with proof of legal and official identity, enabling access to rights and private and public sector services.

UNHCR will support innovations that contribute to realizing the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees—particularly facilitating self-reliance, connectivity and financial inclusion. This includes identity attestations issued jointly by governments and UNHCR that meet "know your customer" requirements for bank accounts or SIM card issuance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi and Niger; as well as joint UNHCR-government proof of return documents that are sufficient to allow returnees to open bank accounts in Somalia.

In addition to supporting States in registration and identity management, UNHCR will assist in gathering and managing data and information on refugees and IDPs, increasing State capacity to analyse the situation of people of concern and ensure their needs are taken into account in national plans.

IDENTIFYING INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION NEEDS



A Syrian refugee family renews their refugee status with an iris scan at UNHCR's Khalda refugee registration centre in Amman, Jordan.

2021 TARGETS



Ensure those seeking international protection have access to national asylum/refugee status determination systems.



Ensure asylum/refugee status determination systems operate according to minimum procedural standards, in line with international and regional obligations.

In 2021, UNHCR will work to strengthen national asylum systems and capacity development; ensure quality case processing in all of the 51 countries where refugee status determination (RSD) is conducted under UNHCR's mandate (mainly in the Middle East and North Africa, and Asia and the Pacific); and issue high-quality country of origin information and country guidance.

As demonstrated by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, which saw asylum procedures suspended or delayed in many parts of the world, ensuring the adaptability of RSD procedures is a complex and multifaceted challenge, where additional focus is needed. Within the framework of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Asylum Capacity Support Group mechanism, UNHCR will mobilize technical

and other support for States committed to strengthening any of the four aspects—fairness, efficiency, adaptability and integrity—of a quality national asylum system.

At the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, more than 50 States pledged to improve their asylum capacity or to support other States in doing so, with assistance also offered by other stakeholders. In 2020, UNHCR engaged with its national counterparts in relevant countries to clarify areas where priority support would be sought. Against a background of backlogs and long waiting periods (whether pre-existing or accumulated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic), there will be two priorities in the resumption of asylum procedures and preparedness planning in 2021: the need for sustainable backlog management; and screening and triaging of cases using registration data for the identification of appropriate processing modalities.

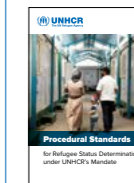
UNHCR will conduct RSD under its mandate only in instances where this will result in protection or solutions benefits, including through simplified, accelerated and other case-processing modalities. Where possible, UNHCR will also further State engagement, in line with the responsibility and capacity of States to those seeking asylum on their territory.

While primarily addressed to UNHCR, the revised “Procedural standards for refugee status determination under UNHCR’s mandate”, released in 2020, will assist advocacy with States for minimum due process standards and the development of processes during the transition from UNHCR to national asylum procedures.

Establishing a comprehensive legal framework for RSD, ensuring sufficient staffing levels, and setting up supportive infrastructure can be demanding and resource intensive for States. Long-term support will continue to ensure transition to national procedures is successful, including through quality assurance initiatives, such as those undertaken in the Americas and Europe. UNHCR will work with States to set clearly defined, measurable and time-bound objectives, with detailed plans for implementation.

UNHCR will continue to provide country of origin information to asylum decision makers and other stakeholders, including judges and tribunal members, lawyers and legal aid providers, drawing on UNHCR’s comparative advantage and access to direct information on the ground. In addition, the Office will provide country guidance for the primary countries of origin of people of concern, as part of its supervisory responsibility under its mandate.

Procedural standards for refugee status determination under UNHCR’s mandate



REFUGEE PROTECTION AND MIGRATION, INCLUDING RESPONSES TO MIXED MOVEMENTS



A Nigerian asylum-seeker is hosted in temporary accommodation in Sfax, on the west coast of Tunisia, after being rescued at sea.

2021 TARGETS



Identify, assist and refer people in need of international protection travelling in mixed movements to appropriate mechanisms and procedures.



Strengthen partnerships to improve respect for the rights of people in mixed movements, including with States, UN agencies and civil society.



Ensure effective safeguards to protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and their access to international protection.

UNHCR's central objective in its engagement with mixed movements—defined as irregular, cross-border travel by individuals and groups with different needs and profiles using similar routes and means of transport or facilitators—is to ensure that refugees and other people under its mandate are identified and provided with international protection and solutions.

This includes ensuring that legal frameworks and policies on migration management take into account the needs and rights of people in need of international protection in ways that are fully responsive to legitimate security and public health concerns of States. It also involves UNHCR's active presence along routes used by refugees and migrants

to facilitate identification and access to rights for people of concern while also working with partners to support effective responses for all on the move, including unaccompanied and separated children and migrants in vulnerable situations.

In 2021, in line with the Global Compact on Refugees and building on ongoing UN engagement in prevention, peacebuilding, security and sustainable development, UNHCR will support measures to address the root causes of displacement and onward movement, to reduce the need for people to undertake dangerous journeys. This includes developing and strengthening asylum systems in regions of origin and along movement routes, so that those in need of international protection can gain access to territory and asylum procedures, adequate reception facilities and protection from refoulement, as well as basic services and livelihood and educational opportunities.

It is often difficult to determine if a person is a refugee when they first arrive at a State's border or territory. UNHCR will work to support the identification of the immediate needs of all people, regardless of status, and to provide safe and dignified reception followed by referral to appropriate procedures.

UNHCR will also support States and other partners, including the International Maritime Organization and the International Chamber of Shipping, on protection at sea, including to reinforce the framework related to search and rescue at sea and disembarkation, with due attention to security concerns.

States will be assisted to exercise their sovereign rights to manage entry at their borders in a protection-sensitive manner, in line with relevant international standards.

This includes facilitating the application of public health measures to combat COVID-19 in ways that also ensure access to international protection.

Recognizing that the credibility of asylum systems requires mechanisms to facilitate the safe and dignified return of people who are not in need of international protection or otherwise entitled to stay, UNHCR will work with States and other partners to reinforce rights-compliant return and reintegration.

UNHCR will participate in the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, contributing to coherent, comprehensive and coordinated implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and in other key migration fora. To strengthen responses to trafficking in persons, UNHCR will collaborate with States and partners, particularly IOM and UNODC. It will continue co-chairing the Global Protection Cluster anti-trafficking task team, and will support the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in 2021.

United Nations Network on Migration



PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO STATELESSNESS



A stateless woman from Kyiv, Ukraine, talks to UNHCR about her late mother's unsuccessful 21-year fight for a residence permit in Ukraine. A new law to tackle statelessness gives her hope for the future.

2021 TARGETS

- 
90,000 stateless persons will be supported to acquire a nationality, or have it confirmed.
- 
14 accessions to the statelessness conventions.
- 
20 States will improve their nationality laws, policies and procedures in line with international standards.
- 
12 States will establish or improve statelessness determination procedures.
- 
88 States for which UNHCR will report statistical data on stateless persons.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities of stateless persons, who in some countries have faced increased economic hardship due to dependence on the informal sector for their livelihoods, as well as difficulties accessing testing, treatment and other social services in the absence of national identification.

In 2021, building on good practices from different regions, UNHCR will continue to support non-discriminatory access by stateless persons to testing and treatment; innovative ways to provide flexibility in terms of procedures or deadlines for birth registration and renewal of civil documentation; and measures to allow

online submission of applications for statelessness status and for interviews to be conducted remotely.

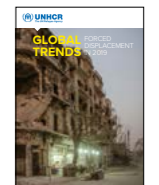
More generally, UNHCR will support States and other actors to implement the 396 commitments to address statelessness made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness and the Global Refugee Forum, in line with the global #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024. Despite a steady increase in the number of accessions, many more States will have to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness to reach the 2024 goals of 140 and 130 States parties respectively. In 2021, UNHCR will direct its advocacy efforts to those States that have committed to accede to the conventions and to States where accession is expected to have the biggest impact.

Targeted advocacy will be undertaken with States that maintain gender discrimination in their nationality laws, particularly where such discrimination prevents mothers from conferring their nationality to their children on an equal basis as fathers. Efforts towards reform will continue with States whose laws permit denial, loss or deprivation of nationality on discriminatory grounds; and States with significant stateless populations due to a lack of key safeguards in their nationality laws. UNHCR will provide technical advice to governments interested in achieving law and policy frameworks that are more consistent with international standards, with the aim of positive reforms in some 20 States. This target includes the removal of gender discrimination from nationality laws in two States.

Globally, only 24 States have established dedicated statelessness determination procedures, and many States hosting significant populations still lack such a procedure. In 2021, UNHCR will advocate and provide technical advice to governments for the introduction or improvement of statelessness determination procedures, with the aim of achieving legal or administrative changes in at least 12 States.

The lack of data on statelessness remains a key challenge. UNHCR is working with the United Nations Statistical Commission, the World Bank, UNFPA and national statistics offices to improve the quality of data reported to UNHCR as well as the number of countries reporting. As of 2020, this effort is being supported by the UNHCR-World Bank Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement. A key objective of this partnership includes a more rigorous global estimate of the number of stateless persons. The Office will also support identification and registration exercises and surveys to increase knowledge concerning the number of stateless persons, their situation and possible solutions. These efforts are expected to lead to an increase in the number of countries for which there is statistical data on stateless persons by approximately 10.

For available 2019 data on number of stateless persons see: Global trends: forced displacement in 2019



COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION



Community health workers in the Rohingya refugee settlements in Bangladesh help to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 TARGETS



65 operations will improve local community support for the presence of people of concern.



30 operations will increase the number of programme priorities identified by the community that are implemented.



Improve the percentage of people of concern represented in leadership management structures.



85 of operations will have functioning complaints and feedback mechanisms in place, including in the context of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical role that communities play in crafting and implementing actions to enhance their own protection. Where investments in community-based protection mechanisms were made prior to the pandemic, UNHCR was better able to adapt quickly, avoid major disruptions to key services, and

continue to work with communities to identify and assist those most at risk. Measures included mobilization of existing community outreach volunteers and networks to raise awareness and ensure prevention measures were respected; participating in community radio to sensitize communities to protection risks exacerbated by COVID-19; and deploying

digital communication channels including WhatsApp and Telegram. UNHCR also supported communities to self-organize as agents of protection for those most at risk in the context of the pandemic, and their role in facilitating identification, safe disclosure and referral has been invaluable.

UNHCR will continue to bolster these community-based mechanisms in 2021, in response to the pandemic and more broadly. UNHCR will also enhance staff capacity through additional guidance and

practical and innovative tools to implement the “UNHCR policy on age, gender and diversity”. An online training package on community-based protection is planned, as well as an updated age, gender and diversity e-learning course. UNHCR will also promote wider use of its online community-based protection community of practice internally and with external partners.



SPOTLIGHT: Accountability to affected people

Ensuring that UNHCR is accountable to the people it serves has always been a central tenant of the work of the Office and an area in which significant investment has been made through the decades. Now referred to as accountability to affected people (AAP), this is a commitment to the intentional and systematic inclusion of the expressed priorities, needs, capacities and views of people of concern throughout the operations management cycle, ensuring they are at the forefront of the humanitarian response and can influence decisions that directly reflect their lives. Importantly, AAP is also a commitment to being answerable for organizational decisions and staff actions. To support these efforts, UNHCR released operational guidance in September 2020 on AAP and compact guidance on AAP for senior managers, which will be implemented organization-wide in 2021.



AAP has never been more important than in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. A wealth of evidence has confirmed the importance of systematic, meaningful community engagement in the communication of risks, prevention, services and treatment during disease outbreaks. With restrictions on mobility and access to people of concern across the globe, UNHCR will rely on new technology and expand partnerships with community leaders, influencers and volunteers to ensure and strengthen accountability. Continued physical distancing limitations have led to diverse communication preferences among people of concern, with traditional channels such as radio and face-to-face contact used alongside multi-channel contact centres, digital platforms and social media. In 2021, UNHCR will strengthen existing and explore new mechanisms to share information and receive feedback from the diverse groups which make up communities, as well as to understand and mitigate online data protection and privacy risks.



The Global Compact on Refugees also provides new opportunities to strengthen organizational accountability and develop a more holistic AAP approach. This includes the engagement of host communities, municipal actors and national governments and defining roles and accountabilities in multi-stakeholder service provision. UNHCR will continue to demonstrate inter-agency leadership on AAP as co-chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee results group 2 on accountability and inclusion and as co-signatory of the Grand Bargain’s participation revolution workstream.

CHILD PROTECTION, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT



Two young refugees from Afghanistan hold hands in an informal camp adjacent to the Moria reception and identification centre on Lesbos, Greece.

2021 TARGETS

30 youth-led projects will be supported by UNHCR.

70% or more of unaccompanied or separated children will have a best interests process initiated or completed.

600 children's committees and other structures will be operational.

30 countries will ensure non-discriminatory access to national child protection and social services for children of concern.

COVID-19:
Adapting child protection case management



As of the end of 2019, an estimated 20-24 million children around the world had been driven across borders by conflict, violence and persecution. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed displaced children and youth at even greater risk, with increased poverty, reduced access to education, restrictions

on movement and confinement driving a rise in violence against children, child labour and child marriage, and preventing children from being reunified with their families. Despite these challenges, children and youth have great potential for resilience if provided with appropriate support and opportunities.

Scaling up access to sustainable child protection systems and services

In 2021, UNHCR will work with authorities, UN agencies and civil society to enhance the inclusion of displaced and stateless children in national child protection systems, as well as the capacity of these systems to address the specific needs of children of concern. Priorities include improving the capacity of social services in areas hosting displaced people; strengthening expertise and procedures to respond to the specific needs of displaced children; and increasing rates of birth registration for children of concern. UNHCR will also undertake a global evaluation of its child protection programming and update its global strategy on child protection.

Ensuring appropriate best interests and child-friendly procedures are undertaken for children at risk

An ongoing priority for UNHCR is to ensure that refugee children and other children of concern have access to appropriate and timely best interests procedures. UNHCR and partners will undertake best interests assessments and determinations where national procedures are insufficient or inaccessible, and support appropriate alternative care for unaccompanied and separated children. Capacity-building will also be undertaken to ensure UNHCR and government asylum systems are child-friendly, notably that children's views are given due weight, family unity is prioritized, children and families are provided with timely and accurate information, and interviews are conducted by skilled staff in a child-friendly manner.

Supporting communities and families to care for and protect children

UNHCR and partners will work to support families and communities' own efforts and initiatives to protect children. UNHCR will assist community members to mobilize, share information and initiate dialogues on key child protection issues. UNHCR and partners will also support parenting programmes that help caregivers deal with their own stress, care for and protect their children, and use positive discipline methods and support life skills for children.

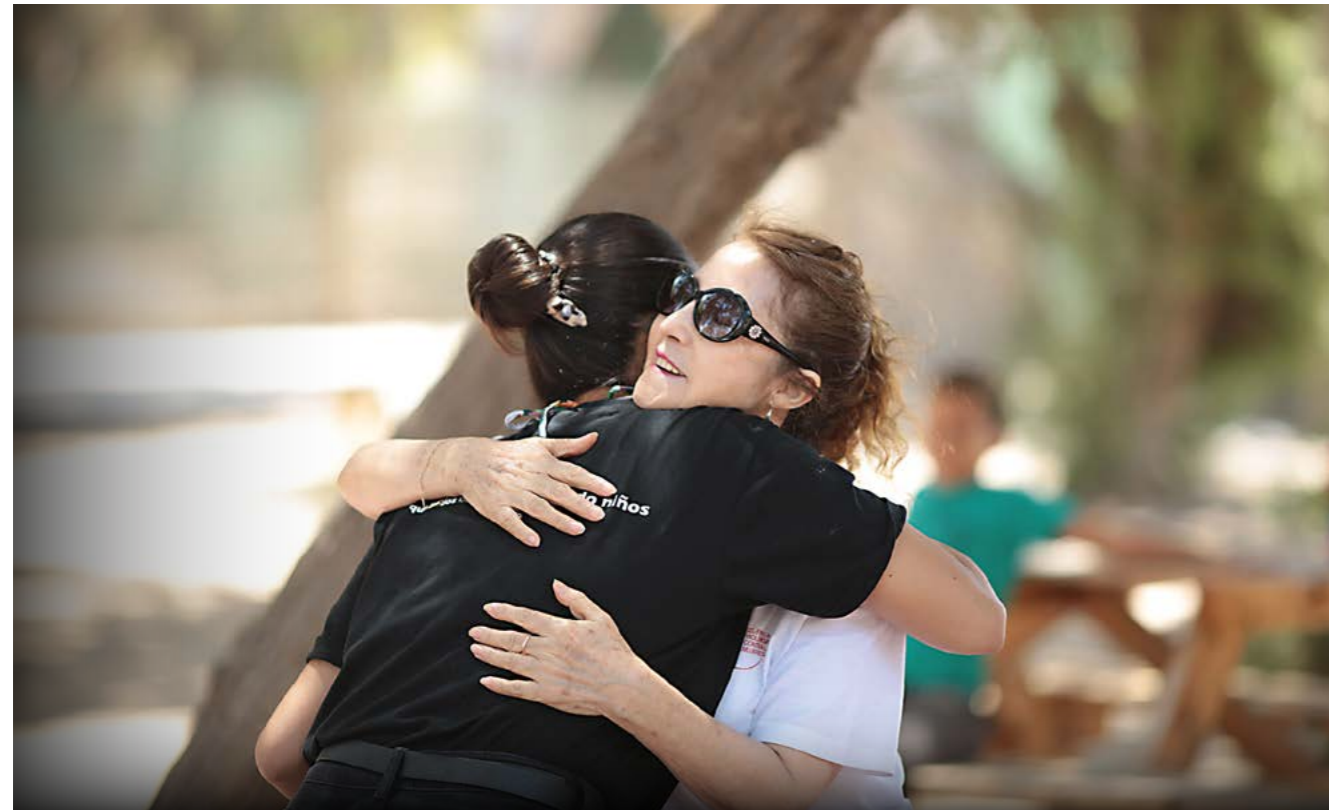
Youth engagement and empowerment

Meaningful participation of youth in decision-making processes, youth-sensitive programming, and the provision of youth-specific services are all key priorities of the Global Compact on Refugees. In line with the implementation of the "Core actions for refugee youth", in 2021 UNHCR will support youth-led initiatives; engage youth in coexistence and peace-building activities; promote youth development; provide youth-sensitive education, livelihoods, sports and recreational opportunities; and increase capacity-building (for youth, UNHCR staff and partners). UNHCR will also strengthen youth inclusion in accountability mechanisms and in broader consultation and networking opportunities, and support a range of initiatives to strengthen youth leadership.

Core actions for refugee youth



GENDER EQUALITY



Venezuelans and Colombians celebrate the end of a three-day workshop—“Tell your story, your story counts”—in Arica, Chile.

2021 TARGETS



54 refugee operations and **4** IDP situations will improve the participation of women in leadership and management structures.



Conduct staff training to strengthen gender equality integration across UNHCR’s work.



Provide operational guidance to strengthen gender equality mainstreaming.

UNHCR policy on age, gender and diversity



UNHCR promotes gender equality as an integral part of its protection mandate, guided by the “UNHCR policy on age, gender and diversity” (2018). The policy sets out UNHCR’s commitments to women and girls, which remain key action areas for advancing their protection and upholding their rights:

- Women and girls participate equally and meaningfully in all decision-making, community management and leadership structures and committees.
- Women and girls are provided with individual registration and documentation.

- Women and girls have equal access to and control over management and provision of food, core relief items, and cash assistance.
- Women and girls have equal access to economic opportunities, decent work, and quality education and health services.
- Women and girls have access to comprehensive gender-based violence prevention and response services.

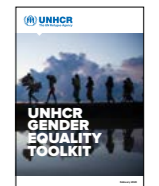
In 2021, UNHCR will continue to advance gender equality across its operational responses through implementation of the five commitments to women and girls; internal capacity and skills strengthening; advocacy; cross-operational and cross-regional learning and knowledge sharing; and strengthening partnerships and collaboration around gender equality. UNHCR will also ensure that gender equality is a key area of its results-based management system.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significant gendered impacts, with displaced women and girls in many cases facing increased protection risks, such as gender-based violence. UNHCR will continue to support women and girls of concern in its response to the pandemic, while also promoting women’s leadership. This is also in line with the 2020 “UNHCR policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence”, which highlights the imperative to address its root causes and embed gender equality in all aspects of UNHCR’s work.

In 2021, the Office will document and share promising gender equality practices from different operations and regions to foster cross-organizational learning. The UNHCR gender equality learning programme has been rolled out in three of seven regions and roll-out will continue in 2021, increasing technical capacity and communication and advocacy skills of key staff. During 2021, UNHCR will also disseminate its new gender equality toolkit, released in 2020. This contains practical guidance, user-friendly tools and resources to support the advancement of gender equality and enhance women’s meaningful participation across UNHCR’s work, including in emergency responses, throughout the operations management cycle and in cash assistance programmes.

The active participation and leadership of displaced women and the organizations representing them is a priority for UNHCR. Building experience from refugee women-led gender audits of the Global Compact on Refugees drafting process and the Global Refugee Forum, the Office will promote displaced women’s participation and leadership at the global level and undertake advocacy on gender equality in displacement contexts and emergencies.

UNHCR gender equality toolkit



PROTECTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PERSONS

2021 TARGETS

Roll out guidance and training material on identifying refugees with disabilities at registration.



3 regional or subregional online workshops will be organized with people of concern with disabilities and local/regional organizations of persons with disabilities.

3 regions will roll out training on strengthening protection of displaced persons with disabilities.



Disseminate updated “Need to know guidance: Working with older persons in forced displacement” and develop accompanying training material.

Failure to identify refugees with disabilities at registration undermines their equal access to protection, assistance and solutions, and limits UNHCR’s capacity to effectively monitor their inclusion in programming. To address these challenges, in 2021 UNHCR will build the capacity of staff and partners to identify persons with disabilities in continuous registration processes, including through use of the Washington Group question sets on disability.

together refugees, IDPs, UNHCR staff, partners and organizations of persons with disabilities.

Older persons experience specific risks during displacement and are often excluded from opportunities to exercise their leadership, skills and capabilities. Building on UNHCR’s understanding of the factors contributing to older persons’ vulnerability and the barriers to participation they face, the “Need to know guidance: Working with older persons in forced displacement” will be updated in 2021.

As co-chair of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee results group 2 on accountability and inclusion, UNHCR will continue to play a key role in promoting and advocating inclusion of age and disability considerations in humanitarian action from the onset of emergencies.

Additional initiatives to enhance the inclusion of persons with disabilities living in displacement include a training programme for UNHCR staff and partners which will be rolled out remotely in three pilot regions, along with supporting guidance on organizing participatory assessments with persons with disabilities.

Another priority for UNHCR in 2021 will be to expand its partnerships with organizations of persons with disabilities, with the support of the International Disability Alliance, including as part of its “step-up” approach to implementing the “United Nations disability inclusion strategy”. To facilitate dialogue and partnerships at the regional and national levels, UNHCR will hold three regional or subregional workshops that will bring

Hardships multiply for older refugees amid COVID-19 pandemic



United Nations disability inclusion strategy



PROTECTING LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE IN FORCED DISPLACEMENT



Valentinna is a publicist from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela who sought safety in Chile in 2014 where she has since obtained a professional visa, is studying for a masters degree, was hired by a prestigious advertising company, and has completed her gender transformation process.

2021 TARGETS

Build the capacity of UNHCR and partner staff to work with and support LGBTIQ+ people of concern.

Reinforce partnerships to protect LGBTIQ+ people in displacement.

Persecution and discrimination experienced by LGBTIQ+ people can trigger their flight in search of safety and security. LGBTIQ+ people are also frequently subjected to continued harm while displaced, including gender-based violence, lack of police protection, refoulement, exclusion from access to basic services or lack of services addressing their specific needs, arbitrary detention and marginalization. In many locations, COVID-19 has exacerbated the stigma and discrimination faced by LGBTIQ+ people, including in accessing information and health services.

Building on the lessons of the past decade in working with LGBTIQ+ people in displacement, and the findings from

recent global and regional consultations, UNHCR will organize a roundtable event in 2021, bringing together experts from States, NGOs, academic institutions and international organizations, together with LGBTIQ+ people of concern. The aim will be to take stock, share successful approaches, encourage awareness and support among humanitarian actors, and collectively chart areas needing focus going forward. In addition, in 2021, UNHCR will invest in building capacity by developing and delivering training for UNHCR staff and partners. UNHCR and IOM will update their joint training package, an e-learning course will be launched, and the “Need to know guidance: Working with LGBTIQ+ people in forced displacement” will be updated.

Responding with life-saving support



In 2021, UNHCR will continue to provide protection and assistance in new, ongoing or escalating humanitarian emergencies, in line with “UNHCR’s strategic directions 2017–2021” and its revised “Policy on emergency preparedness and response”. The Office will address the new set of challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic, including multi-hazard crises in an environment involving more complex mobility for UNHCR’s people of concern, staff and partners.

In March 2020, for the first time in its history, the High Commissioner declared a global Level 2 emergency for UNHCR in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, aligning with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s (IASC) system-wide scale up protocols, which followed in April 2020. This provided delegated authorities to the regional bureaux and country operations for procurement, facilitated access to material resources, and simplified procedures to engage with NGO partners to respond to the extraordinary protection and assistance challenges. In parallel, UNHCR continued to mobilize financial, human and material resources to assist refugees and IDPs in emergency situations worldwide, responding to L3 and L2 emergencies in the central Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) and in northern Mozambique in October 2020.

UNHCR’s global standby emergency response capacity will remain centralized to enable a swift response to new emergencies. Through training and preparedness tools, regional bureaux and field operations will also be assisted to gradually build their capacities, as a

complement to global capability. UNHCR will explore new local and regional partnerships in emergency preparedness and response and strengthen collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs, including through UN and humanitarian country teams. Capacity and tools to prepare and respond to IDP emergencies will be boosted, in line with UNHCR’s IDP Policy, for example through the roll out of the Office’s new preparedness package on IDP emergencies and by maintaining a senior first-line responder dedicated to IDP situations in UNHCR’s standby team.

Beyond emergencies, UNHCR’s “Policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence”, issued in 2020, will steer efforts to reduce gender-based violence risks and ensure that all survivors have adequate and timely access to quality services. Other life-saving support—including cash assistance, health care, mental health and psychosocial support, nutrition and food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and shelter—will continue to be scaled up or adapted to take into account prevention of and response to COVID-19, while also being channeled to support the inclusion of people of concern in national systems and services to the extent possible.

In this chapter

- Emergency preparedness and response
- Global supply management
- Cash assistance
- Public health
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence
- Nutrition and food security
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Shelter and settlements

Policy on emergency preparedness and response



UNHCR preparedness package for IDP emergencies



IASC system-wide scale up protocols



An Afghan asylum-seeker sleeps in the parking lot of a supermarket after fleeing with his family from the Moria reception and identification centre in Greece, which was burned down.


© UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis


EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE




UNHCR moved quickly to provide support in Beirut, Lebanon in the aftermath of the deadly explosion in August 2020.

2021 TARGETS

- 

200 UNHCR surge staff and standby partner experts will be deployed.
- 

470 UNHCR and partner staff will be trained in emergency preparedness and response, including 360 staff trained online.
- 

50% of all new international security workforce recruitments will be women, until gender parity is achieved.

Preparedness package for refugee emergencies



Preparedness is critical to strategic emergency responses. Preparing for emergencies involves risk analysis as well as minimum and advanced preparedness actions, including scenario-based contingency planning. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to build its capacity

at the country and regional levels to identify and address preparedness gaps. UNHCR's High Alert List on Emergency Preparedness (HALEP), the Office's key mechanism to assess risks and identify preparedness actions, will be strengthened to ensure that all high-risk

operations are compliant and that 100% of red-rated operations have a preparedness action plan in place and receive targeted preparedness support. UNHCR will also maintain its engagement in inter-agency preparedness efforts, including through the IASC Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Analyst Group (EWEAR).

In line with global preparedness efforts, UNHCR will train staff and partners on emergency preparedness and response, exploring further online methodologies, and will ensure that its "Emergency handbook", available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese, remains updated.

UNHCR will manage its internal centralized rosters of skilled and dedicated emergency first responders, maintain its standby emergency management team, and continue to

benefit from deployments through standby partner arrangements. Coordinated mobilization of Headquarters support to emergency preparedness and response will be achieved through emergency activations, joint senior-level missions and emergency cell meetings.

Partnerships are critical for effective emergency preparedness and response. In 2021, UNHCR's 18 standby partners will continue to support emergency operations through the deployment of protection, coordination, information management and technical experts to both refugee and IDP operations. As part of the Office's COVID-19 response, standby partnership deployment modalities were adapted to enable in-country and remote support. Where possible, new local and regional partnerships will be explored to strengthen deployable capacity for new emergencies.

Emergency handbook



UNHCR standby partners

- Bundesanstalt Technisches Hilfswerk
- Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning of Norway
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- CANADEM
- Danish Surge Support Water
- RedR Australia
- Danish Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency.lu, Luxemburg Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Save the Children Norway
- Danish Refugee Council
- iMMAP
- Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
- Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- IrishAid
- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- International Humanitarian Partnership
- Veolia Environment Foundation
- Comisión Cascos Blancos

Safety and security

As a front-line humanitarian agency working in insecure environments, sound security risk management practices are essential to ensuring UNHCR is able to stay and deliver. In 2021, the Office will strengthen its security culture by establishing, disseminating and monitoring security standards, recommending effective governance mechanisms, liaising on inter-agency security policy and coordination, and strengthening its security workforce.

Through its restructuring process, UNHCR has been reconfigured to better serve the needs of country operations and regional bureaux. Senior security personnel are now located within each bureau, providing direct support to their regions, with a leaner Headquarters structure providing global oversight and support.

In 2020, staying and delivering in complex environments was made even more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic. This necessitated a worldwide risk review,

adapting different approaches including the use of virtual and other technological solutions to ensure safe and sustained delivery. These approaches will continue in 2021. With the revision and update of UNHCR’s “Policy on security management” to be finalized in late 2020, the Office will develop guidelines and standard operating procedures on security processes, which take into account the revised accountability structures across the organization. Regular exchanges and dialogues with high-risk operations will continue through the Security Steering Committee chaired by the Assistant High Commissioner for Operations to ensure appropriate oversight and actions in areas with significant security risks. In response to restrictions on travel and large gatherings, key security management training programmes are being adapted to online platforms. The Office has also made specific efforts to ensure that gender considerations are better reflected in security risk management.



SPOTLIGHT: Gender and security risk management

UNHCR is working to ensure gender considerations are at the centre of security risk management processes in the United Nations Security Management System, building on the policies, guidance and training for security professionals it has developed. While COVID-19 limited training in 2020, 60 UNHCR security personnel will benefit from the “Gender in security risk management” training in 2021 and all UNHCR offices should have appropriate procedures and identified support structures in place for incidents of gender-based violence. Given the practical nature of the training and support that is afforded through in-person discussions, women’s security awareness training will continue where resources and travel restrictions permit.

The Office is committed to achieving gender parity in security posts at all levels through prioritized recruitment efforts. Recognizing the value of diversity and inclusion, UNHCR is committed to ensuring half of new international security workforce recruitments are women until gender parity is achieved.

GLOBAL SUPPLY MANAGEMENT



UNHCR staff receive and prepare boxes of soap and hygiene products donated by Unilever, to be distributed to refugees and asylum-seekers in San Jose, Costa Rica.

2021 TARGETS



Maintain emergency supplies for urgent deployment to assist up to 600,000 people of concern in need.



Optimize UNHCR’s supply chain management to integrate procurement and delivery of PPE and medical items for its COVID-19 response.

An effective supply chain is critical in delivering life-saving goods and services. While ensuring adequate capacity for supply and procurement functions at the country, regional and global levels, UNHCR aims to maintain speed, quality and efficiency in its supply chain and proactively engage and coordinate with NGO partners and UN agencies on service delivery, problem solving and local solutions.

Maintaining central supply functions for global stockpiles ensures streamlined and simplified processes, strong compliance with rules and procedures, and a cost-efficient and effective supply chain, specifically during emergencies. Global stocks will be maintained to meet the urgent needs of up to 600,000 people in seven strategically-located stockpiles. A stockpile in Panama has been newly established, while the Kampala stockpile will be merged with that in Nairobi. UNHCR will also manage over 200 global frame agreements and provide technical support to regional and local procurement mechanisms with a view to simplifying and innovating procurement processes, using new technologies, and exploring possibilities for local businesses.

UNHCR will focus on quality assurance and compliance, with operations supported to mitigate risks in relation to the supply function, including through a dedicated learning programme on fraud prevention, workshops, pre-delivery quality inspections and factory audits. Further, the Office will issue and roll out revised comprehensive policy documents on procurement, clarifying rules and procedures and providing additional guidance to staff.

After the short disruption in global supply chains in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR ensured expedited procurement and logistics support was provided at the operational and regional levels. UNHCR also identified capable suppliers and various means of delivery for personal protective equipment (PPE) and critical medical items to prioritized operations. Efforts to further diversify PPE suppliers and essential medical items, particularly N-95 masks, gowns, gloves and oxygen concentrators, including through inter-agency procurement mechanisms, will continue in 2021. A stockpile of the most frequently used COVID-19-related PPE and supplies is being established for immediate dispatch to operations in case of urgent need.

CASH ASSISTANCE



Vulnerable refugees receive cash assistance at the Kharaz refugee camp, Yemen.

2021 TARGETS

- \$700 million** in cash assistance will be provided to people of concern across 95 operations.
- 95%** of the cash assistance delivered will be unrestricted.
- 25** operations will pursue collaborative approaches for cash assistance, in line with the UN Common Cash Statement.
- 40** operations will monitor cash assistance through the post-distribution monitoring tool.

2016-2019 UNHCR implementation of the policy on cash-based interventions



In line with its “Policy on cash-based interventions”, in 2021 people of concern will receive cash assistance through collaborative cash systems, in which UNHCR works in partnership with governments, the private sector, UN agencies, community-based and local partners, and development actors.

UN Common Cash Statement (UNCCS) questions and answers



This will build on the implementation of the UN Common Cash Statement in the seven priority countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Ecuador, Niger and Yemen. Whenever possible, UNHCR will work through and link vulnerable populations to existing national systems under the leadership of host governments.

Interoperability will be increased, with biometrics as a core technology enabling delivery of assistance in an accountable manner. UNHCR’s data protection policy remains a cornerstone of cash assistance, including expanded data-sharing agreements building on the UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP trilateral agreement.

The COVID-19 response demonstrated that UNHCR is fit for purpose to deliver cash at scale and rapidly. More than 65 UNHCR operations launched or expanded cash assistance initiatives, reaching some 3 million vulnerable people between March and September 2020. Where appropriate, UNHCR will continue the rapid use of cash in emergencies, building on preparedness, feasibility assessments and response analysis, and ensuring that 95% of cash is unrestricted, giving people the choice and flexibility to meet their own needs.

Building on past achievements that have enabled refugees to access formal bank and mobile money accounts in 40 operations, UNHCR will work with governments and partners to address the legal and regulatory challenges around accessing financial services. Adaptive social protection schemes and linking cash to national social assistance are also essential in efforts towards inclusion of refugees and others of concern.

Monitoring of cash assistance and data analysis will inform and adjust UNHCR’s programming, building on UNHCR’s corporate post-distribution monitoring (PDM) tool. This directly surveys recipients on their use of cash, related challenges and their basic needs, with monitoring suggesting assistance goes to meet basic needs including food, rent, utilities, hygiene items and health. In 2021, UNHCR will roll out its corporate PDM tool in 40 operations. UNHCR will also maintain strong financial management and accountability by streamlining corporate and comprehensive financial control systems. This will include the further roll out of CashAssist, UNHCR’s cash management system, to 40 operations by the end of 2021.

UNHCR will ensure cash assistance strengthens and complements protection activities, including gender equality, child protection, and the prevention of and response to gender-based violence, by investing in training on cash and protection, along with additional research and innovative pilots. UNHCR will systematically conduct protection risk assessments before launching cash assistance initiatives and will strengthen complaints and feedback mechanisms. UNHCR will also invest in cash assistance and environmental protection initiatives, coupled with increased efforts to use cash for shelter and education.

While UNHCR may be fit for delivering cash rapidly at scale, the needs of many people of concern are far from being met. In UNHCR’s 2020 PDM report, 74% of refugees responding stated they could meet only half or less of their basic needs, with over 40% reporting they could not even meet half of their basic needs. 83% of surveyed households, ranging from 48% to almost 100%, engaged in one or more negative coping mechanisms to meet their basic needs, an increase since the COVID-19 pandemic. Conversely, despite widespread movement restrictions, 88% of households surveyed reported having access to the key services and items they need on the market. A clear majority preferred cash as an assistance modality (80%) while a limited proportion preferred a combination of cash and in-kind assistance.

UNHCR cash assistance and COVID-19: Main findings from post-distribution monitoring



PUBLIC HEALTH



UNHCR relocates Venezuelan Warao refugees to a safe shelter in Manaus, northern Brazil.

2021 TARGETS



The under-5 mortality rate in refugee operations will be less than **1.5** deaths per 1,000 children per month.



40% of refugee-hosting countries with national health insurance schemes will include refugees on the same basis as nationals.



95% of births in refugee operations will be attended by skilled birth attendants.



560,000 women and girls will have accessed sexual and reproductive health care.



100% of refugee-hosting countries will provide tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS treatment to refugees through national programmes.



90% of malaria endemic refugee-hosting countries, and countries with national HPV vaccination programmes, will provide malaria treatment as well as the HPV vaccine to refugees through national programmes.

Partnership for improving prospects for host communities and forcibly displaced persons



In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will work with governments and other partners to include refugees in national health policies, plans and strategies, and for their integration into national service delivery.

UNHCR's new "Global public health strategy 2021-2025" will provide guidance on early effective emergency health responses; development of medium- to long-term inclusion plans at country level; and promotion of equity and multisectoral approaches to achieving health outcomes. UNHCR's partnership with the ILO on social health protection will be strengthened, with a

focus on the "Prospects project" countries, and targeted support will be provided to expand inclusion in national social health protection schemes, for example in Costa Rica and Nigeria.

In 2019, 67% of 49 refugee-hosting countries had a national health insurance scheme and 33% of those included refugees, either partially or entirely. In 2021, UNHCR hopes to see this number rise to 40%. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted that many national health systems have insufficient capacity or can quickly become overwhelmed. The expanded use of national health systems

in refugee emergencies thus requires a strong response capacity, as well as efficient coordination and resource mobilization to provide sufficient support to national service delivery and to meet the immediate health needs of refugees. UNHCR will improve its emergency response capacity in public health, including medical supply chain and health information management. The 2020 public health emergency response toolkit provides tools and guidance to facilitate this. The revised memorandum of understanding with WHO also provides an opportunity to jointly provide greater support to national systems.

UNHCR will strengthen its integrated refugee health information system (iRHIS), which collects real-time data from health services in refugee settings to support analysis, timely reporting and decision-making. UNHCR will also introduce an online medical referral database to improve monitoring of costs and appropriateness of referrals. Improvements in quality and scope of health data will be made with the scale up of the revised Health Access and Utilization Survey PLUS, with new variables relating to COVID-19, and indicators relating to other sectors impacting health and nutrition outcomes, including water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, energy, food security and education.

UNHCR will formalize its collaboration with Gavi's 2021-2025 strategy. This will aim for the sustained inclusion of refugees and stateless persons in national immunization programmes, including the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination and future COVID-19 vaccine programmes; provide tailored strategies and interventions to reach zero-dose and under-immunized refugee and stateless children; and provide targeted support for disease outbreak response during emergencies.

UNHCR's global approach to HIV will be revised with the forthcoming UNAIDS global

strategy and will emphasize treatment and prevention of HIV in adolescents, as well as health and protection in key populations, including men, women and transgender persons who sell or exchange sex. Joint guidance from UNHCR and UNFPA will strengthen internal and partner capacity, mobilize additional resources and scale up services. Work with the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will further refugee inclusion and improve health services in isolated or insecure areas.

Reproductive health services are an integral part of UNHCR's public health programmes and emergency obstetric and newborn care. Too many displaced women and newborns still die when they could be saved by high-impact, often low-cost interventions. UNHCR will strengthen life-saving interventions for mothers and newborns in priority countries including Chad, Cameroon and Niger by improving health-care worker capacity, availability of equipment and supplies, and home visits for newborns. In collaboration with UNFPA, training on reproductive health and HIV will be rolled out in the Middle East and North Africa, and the East and Horn of Africa. WHO, UNFPA and UNHCR will build capacity for clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence including through remote training.

The COVID-19 pandemic will impact access to health services and health outcomes well into 2021. Monitoring of access to care and solutions to ensure continuity of care are essential. UNHCR will focus on strengthening community health systems, including through community health and outreach workers, remote consultations and use of digital technology. Ensuring a stable health workforce with the means to protect themselves against COVID-19 infection, as well as adequate medicines and supplies, will be crucial.

MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT



A UNHCR staff member makes flowers with adolescent girls at the Naf Adolescent Club in Kutupalong settlement, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.

2021 TARGETS



180,000 consultations will be provided for mental health, neurological and substance use conditions in refugee health facilities.



65% of countries hosting more than 50,000 refugees will have a multisectoral technical working group for mental health and psychosocial support.



75% of health facilities in refugee-hosting areas with general health staff will have trained them to identify and manage mental health conditions.



50% of refugee operations will have introduced evidence-based psychological treatments.



5 operations will have an integrated plan for suicide prevention.

An estimated 22% of adults in conflict settings have significant mental health conditions, a figure that is higher than among non-conflict-affected populations. UNHCR's work to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is based on its 2013 operational guidance for such assistance in refugee operations. This will be updated in 2021 to better reflect recent technical developments and include IDP settings and mixed movement situations. The COVID-19 pandemic—which saw 265,000 refugees and IDPs benefit from

support between May and August 2020—and associated issues related to livelihoods, social cohesion, access to services and intimate partner violence have also prompted UNHCR to reinforce its focus on MHPSS.

A cornerstone of UNHCR's approach is that MHPSS be mainstreamed across humanitarian sectors, while striving to include people of concern in national systems. In 2021, the integration of mental health into primary health care for refugees will be further strengthened. Health providers—including professionals

and volunteers from amongst refugee populations themselves—will be trained in the identification and management of mental health conditions, with regular supervision and support from mental health professionals to manage complex conditions.

Mental health and psychosocial support will be consolidated within protection activities for women, girls, men and boys, including those who have experienced gender-based violence or other human rights abuses. This includes training staff in psychological first aid and the integration of mental health and psychosocial support into case management. A key element of UNHCR's community-based protection work centres around strengthening community support and self-help, for example by integrating MHPSS into the work of community outreach volunteers and ensuring supportive supervision.

UNHCR will intensify its efforts to promote social emotional learning within formal and nonformal learning and provide psychosocial support in schools to those who are in need, enabling them to learn and develop healthy relationships.

Additionally, UNHCR will introduce brief and scalable psychological interventions (five to eight sessions) to address mild mental health conditions by non-specialized staff, though brief training and with the supervision of professionals.

Together with the WHO and UNICEF, UNHCR will finalize the minimum services package for MHPSS in humanitarian settings and pilot its implementation in selected emergency settings.

Specific attention will be given to prevention and response to suicidal behaviour and alcohol/substance use. These are complex behavioural issues that can only be addressed with the strong engagement of communities and through concerted action from staff in various sectors such as health, community-based protection, gender-based violence, education and child protection.

UNHCR will also strengthen the integration of MHPSS in voluntary return planning and preparedness, returnees being at heightened risk of mental health and psychosocial distress during the process and/or after returning to their countries of origin.



SPOTLIGHT: Mental health and psychosocial support and community outreach volunteers



Trained community workers, many of them refugees themselves, are providing vital mental health support during the COVID-19 outbreak in northern Iraq.



Peer-to-peer mental health initiative helps young refugees learn to cope with a life in exile in Bangladesh.



In Peru, Venezuelan mental health professionals are reaching out to the displaced with remote sessions to help them cope in the COVID-19 pandemic.



PREVENTION OF, RISK MITIGATION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



© UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mubanzi

A refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo at the Nakivale settlement. She is one of hundreds of women who have benefited from the support of Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winner for Africa, Sabuni Françoise Chikunda, founder and chair of The Women's Center which helps victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

2021 TARGETS



Communities will be active in gender-based violence prevention and response activities in **58** refugee operations, **8** IDP situations and **4** returnee situations.



Known gender-based violence survivors will receive survivor-centered support in **95** refugee operations, **10** IDP situations and **3** returnee situations.

Gender-based violence remains an underreported serious human rights violation and a major public health issue, known to happen in all contexts and at every stage of displacement. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the risks of gender-based violence for women and girls, highlighting existing inequalities and discrimination. Confinement policies, lockdowns and quarantines adopted across the world have led to restricted movement, reduced community interaction, closure of services and worsening socioeconomic conditions, resulting in increased incidents

of intimate partner violence, sexual exploitation and child marriage.

While acknowledging that women and girls are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, UNHCR aims to ensure that tailored services are available to meet the specific needs of all survivors. UNHCR's life-saving programmes for survivors of gender-based violence are continuously adapted to meet the public health requirements and movement restrictions in all operations, as well as priorities set by displaced and stateless women and girls.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, key adaptations to UNHCR's programming have included the revision of gender-based violence referral pathways to incorporate remote services; bolstering community-based protection mechanisms; the creation and expansion of 24/7 emergency hotlines and other communication channels for survivors; availability of remote life-saving gender-based violence case management services; and emergency cash assistance to support survivors and women at risk of gender-based violence. UNHCR also broadened its engagement with trained community outreach volunteers, especially women, who serve as a safe and trusted means for information-sharing and to refer survivors to gender-based violence services where requested.

Further investment is critically needed in 2021 to address gender inequality, power imbalances and structural discrimination, against a backdrop of continued public health concerns and movement restrictions. Dedicated staff with expertise in addressing gender-based violence in all operations and at the onset of emergencies have improved access to services for survivors and reduced the risk of gender-based violence across sectors. However, underfunding has meant UNHCR does not have enough dedicated staff, restricting systematic prioritization of gender-based violence services and programming. To address this, the first organization-wide "UNHCR policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence", launched in October 2020, will support institutionalization and prioritization of gender-based violence

programming and resource allocation. In 2021, UNHCR will work towards compliance and quality of delivery across the policy's nine core action areas, ensuring a consistent and harmonized roll out of the policy across all regions.

Provision of gender-based violence specialized programmes, as well as mainstreaming gender-based violence risk mitigation measures across all areas of programming, are priorities within UNHCR's protection mandate. UNHCR will continue to focus on capacity development for staff to promote quality case management and referral pathways, in order to ensure safe disclosure of gender-based violence incidents and safe access to multisectoral response services for survivors. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees as well as the Office's community-based protection approach, UNHCR will continue to engage with communities, in particular women and girls who play essential roles in the humanitarian response, while also enhancing its engagement with women-led organizations.

The Office will continue to systematically integrate gender-based violence risk mitigation into all sectors of its work. Several integrated multisectoral projects have been implemented to address key thematic areas linked to gender-based violence risks and empowerment, in particular livelihood opportunities and access to technology. Prevention initiatives will continue to be supported through evidence-based curriculums across operations.

UNHCR policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation, and response to gender-based violence




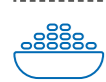



NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY



A 17-month-old Rohingya refugee sleeps soundly in his new monsoon-ready shelter where he lives with his parents and older brother in Kutupalong settlement, Bangladesh.

2021 TARGETS

 <p>168,000 children 6-59 months with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) will be admitted to targeted supplementary feeding programmes for treatment.</p>	 <p>66,000 children 6-59 months with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) will be admitted to out-patient therapeutic programmes or stabilization centres for treatment.</p>	 <p>70% of refugee camps and sites surveyed by UNHCR will have a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence among children 6-59 months old under 10%.</p>
 <p>20% of refugee camps and sites surveyed by UNHCR will have a prevalence of anaemia among children 6-59 months old under 20%.</p>	 <p>75% of infants under 6 months old will be exclusively breastfed in 85% of refugee camps and sites surveyed by UNHCR.</p>	

Ensuring adequate nutrition throughout the life cycle and eliminating all forms of malnutrition (undernutrition and overweight/obesity) are key priorities, with the health and well-being of a mother directly impacting the growth and health of the infant. Adequate food security, nutrition and care practices contribute to healthy growth, better nutrient intake and development of young children, making

them more resistant to disease and much less likely to die from common childhood illnesses.

In 2021, UNHCR will work towards the inclusion of refugees in national health and nutrition services and food systems and will support efforts in line with the nutrition targets of Sustainable Development Goal 2.2, which aims to end all forms

of malnutrition by 2030, in accordance with UNHCR's new "Global public health strategy 2021-2025".

Refugee populations are affected by all forms of malnutrition, especially in emergency situations. This is likely to worsen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic due to limited economic opportunities, market disruptions and movement restrictions that are preventing access to land, markets and nutrition services. In addition, transportation disruptions have decreased the availability of nutrition treatment products.

In 2021, UNHCR will continue to support the management of acute malnutrition, improve prevention of undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, and explore innovation and context-specific interventions to improve food security and the nutrition status of refugees.

Together with FAO, UNICEF, WFP and WHO, UNHCR will promote the inclusion of refugees in national plans and support the implementation of prioritized actions outlined in the global action plan framework. UNHCR will collaborate with Save the Children on promoting and supporting infant and young child feeding, including through multisectoral activities, roll out the updated standardized expanded nutrition survey (SENS), and newly-developed mobile data collection tools. The Office will improve the interactive dashboard for data collected in SENS to better enable trend and situation-level analysis in refugee populations, while supporting open-data access.

While the causes of malnutrition are varied, food insecurity is a significant contributing factor amongst refugee populations who, in many countries, are not able to enjoy their rights to land, employment, freedom

of movement and access to financial services and are therefore dependent on humanitarian food assistance.

Due to funding constraints, many have suffered increasing cuts to food and non-food assistance over the past few years, further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Increased numbers of refugees are resorting to harmful coping strategies, including reduced food consumption, sale of sex, onward movement and return to unstable countries of origin to meet their most basic needs. UNHCR will continue to monitor the food security of refugees through nutrition surveys, where possible (noting that COVID-19 restrictions resulted in the postponement of almost all surveys in 2020), while expanding efforts to integrate refugees into national and other initiatives, including remote phone-based monitoring in partnership with WFP.

In recent years, UNHCR and WFP have increased their collaboration through global commitments to data sharing, joint targeting, and refugee self-reliance. The Joint Programme and Targeting Hub (an initiative launched in 2020) will support select country operations on joint programming for refugee food security and self-reliance, while fostering strategic dialogue and greater coordination between technical teams at all levels. UNHCR and WFP will continue to jointly advocate and fundraise for critical operations. The inclusion of refugee food security data into national assessments will also be prioritized.

UNHCR's SENS data dashboard



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE



A family of Venezuelans wash their hands as they enter the integrated assistance centre in Maicao, northern Colombia.

2021 TARGETS



45% of people of concern will have access to at least 20 litres of safe water per day.



35% of people of concern will have access to a safe household toilet.



25% of people of concern will have access to a household shower or bathing facility.

In 2021, UNHCR will continue to support access to water and sanitation for 8 million refugees directly assisted through UNHCR's water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programmes. This work is done in pursuit of Sustainable Development Goal 6, which aims to ensure the availability and sustainable management of safe water and sanitation for all by 2030. Refugees continue to be left behind globally, and UNHCR will advocate the inclusion of all people of concern in national WASH systems, in line with the Global Compact

on Refugees. To accomplish this, the Office's WASH programmes will focus on five areas: data, risk management, emergency response, sustainability and inclusion.

The UNHCR WASH monitoring system (WMS) provides publicly available, comprehensive disaggregated data on refugee access to WASH services, ensuring that access to WASH information is equitable and transparent, and fostering accountability. Functional improvements,

including the collection of WASH data in health-care facilities and schools, will make data even more useful for stakeholders in the field.

To mitigate risks and improve transparency and effectiveness in water service delivery, UNHCR will scale up its innovative and award-winning work on real-time water monitoring technology. Pilot work in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, among other operations, has yielded lessons learned to inform the roll out in 2021.

The COVID-19 pandemic has refocused attention on emergency WASH preparedness and response, which enable basic hand hygiene with water and soap. UNHCR will continue to improve basic services, ensuring access to safe water and soap distribution, and build capacity of its staff and partners to be prepared for future emergencies. The UNHCR WASH community of practice will be bolstered with increased opportunities for capacity-building through online trainings, webinars and exchanges of lessons learned for both staff and partners.

UNHCR will continue to invest in sustainable WASH solutions early in

emergencies and work with partners to find innovative solutions that lead to better services, lower costs, smooth transitions from emergencies to protracted contexts, and more predictable and effective responses overall. Trainings on solar pumping schemes are being improved and adapted to give practitioners the tools they need to put these environmentally- and financially-sustainable technologies to use. Through the "Blueprint for joint action", UNHCR and UNICEF will work closely to deliver better WASH outcomes for all people of concern.

Advocating the inclusion of refugees in national WASH systems from the onset of a refugee crisis will remain one of the key priorities in 2021 and will entail working closely with development actors. Experience in strengthening the capacity of local water and sanitation providers will also be crucial to this effort. Where refugees are given the right to work, UNHCR will explore the possibility of introducing equity-based revenue collection for WASH service delivery, on the basis of vulnerability criteria.

UNHCR awarded the European Commission's prestigious innovation prize for the Lorawan real-time water provision monitoring pilot



Unilever helps fight COVID-19 with a groundbreaking donation of hygiene products

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, Unilever donated approximately 33 million bars of soap, hand sanitizer and other hygiene products to UNHCR, supporting over 60 operations worldwide in preventing the spread of the virus. UNHCR also became one of the first partners in the Unilever-led hygiene behaviour change coalition, with funding to support preventative measures provided in Bangladesh, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan.

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS



An internally displaced Nigerian mother of four stands beside a firewood distribution point at a site in Zarmaganda, Ouallam, with a shelter kit distributed by UNHCR.

2021 TARGETS



1.6 million people of concern living in 55 settlements in 11 operations will receive additional shelter and settlement support, in line with UNHCR's COVID-19 response.



1.2 million people of concern living in refugee camps and settlements will benefit from improved living conditions due to enhanced integrated multisectoral settlement planning.



250,000 people of concern in at least 40 operations will benefit from improved shelter.

Shelter is a critical factor affecting the survival of people of concern in the aftermath of displacement. In addition to providing security and protection from the elements, shelter provides displaced individuals with a sense of home, essential to both family unity and community life.

Each year UNHCR responds to the needs of around 5.5 million displaced people (952,000 households) living in

over 643 planned settlements, through the provision of some 2 million pieces of plastic sheeting, 100,000 tents, 15,000 pre-fabricated shelters and a range of local shelter solutions.

As much as 82% of core relief items relate directly to emergency shelter (58%) and household items (24%). This corresponds to approximately 31,000 metric tons of core relief items, of which 77%, or

24,000 metric tons, are plastic. When considering the scale of procurement, these items represent a large proportion of UNHCR's environmental footprint. In 2021, the Office will strive to improve shelter solutions and develop environmentally-friendly alternatives through the revision of technical specifications for core relief items, using recycled materials and exploring multi-use packaging.

UNHCR will also roll out shelter sustainability guidelines which examine the technical and environmental characteristics of different UNHCR shelter solutions and the life cycle of construction materials, in order to improve the performance of shelter solutions and reduce the Office's environmental footprint.

In the last four years UNHCR has deployed more than 50,000 refugee housing units across different country operations. Increasing the lifespan of these units and improving their comfort is a priority. UNHCR will work to develop technical guidance to enhance the sustainability of refugee housing units through locally accessible materials and construction techniques, providing people of concern with a more dignified shelter solution.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 crisis has placed significant pressure on shelter actors as they have attempted to ensure that decongestion and social distancing measures were carried out in overcrowded settlements and host communities. As of October 2020, more than 8,000 refugee housing units had been deployed to 15 countries, to be used for a variety of health and medical facilities to support the COVID-19 response. In 2021, UNHCR will continue to step up its response in this area.

In recent years and with partner support, UNHCR has reassessed humanitarian settlement planning within the context of displacement crises. The master plan approach to settlement planning is UNHCR's guiding framework for the spatial design of humanitarian settlements, aligned to national, subnational and local development plans and facilitating efforts to link humanitarian responses with long-term development efforts.

UNHCR has worked to operationalize the master plan approach and developed a holistic settlement planning manual to roll out its 10 guiding principles. The manual provides a roadmap for multisectoral responses to establish integrated local settlements. UNHCR will continue to work with standby partners and host communities, the private sector, as well as UN-Habitat, UNITAR, Better Shelter and Autodesk, to enhance integrated multisectoral settlement planning approaches and support tools that improve living conditions for people of concern in both refugee and IDP settlements.



Building Better Futures

Important progress has been made in the past few years to improve the self-reliance of people of concern to UNHCR and to promote their inclusion in national systems. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its promise to “leave no one behind”, and the Global Compact on Refugees, including the comprehensive refugee response framework, have showcased the determination of the international community to enhance the socioeconomic conditions of refugees and host communities, while also reinforcing the search for durable solutions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the vulnerabilities faced by displaced populations, who in many countries have been disproportionately impacted by its socioeconomic consequences. Increased support to refugees will be required to ensure that their basic needs are met, while simultaneously working towards their self-reliance and inclusion. More support for livelihoods, in particular, is needed to respond to the socioeconomic challenges faced by people of concern, including in urban settings. While the pandemic has necessitated changes in the way UNHCR operates, ensuring that the displaced are included in national systems whenever possible will remain a guiding principle.

In 2021, UNHCR will promote the positive impact of education, livelihoods, access to energy and inclusion on the resilience and well-being of refugees and their host communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. The Office will expand its use of data and evidence to guide multi-year programming, inform advocacy efforts, and improve decision-making.

A Yemeni refugee takes part in a hybrid mechanics class as part of his diploma at Luminus Technical University College in Amman, Jordan.

© UNHCR/Mohammad Hawari

UNHCR has bolstered its work through partnerships with governments, development agencies and research institutions, which are investing heavily in measuring and monitoring the health and socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic and making the business case to provide financial services to refugees. Efforts to further the inclusion of refugees in social protection schemes whenever possible will be pursued.

In parallel, UNHCR will support the search for durable solutions, including voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries, as well as local integration and other local solutions. This work will be in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, bolstered by mobilization of specific support platforms including for Afghanistan, the East and Horn of Africa and the Americas, as well as “The three-year strategy (2019-2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways”. While the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to continue to impact access to solutions in 2021, UNHCR will work with States and partners to adapt, including through modified processing and departure modalities for those accepted for resettlement, and the provision of cash and other assistance, including transport and appropriate reception arrangements, for those wishing to return home.

In this chapter

- Access to quality education
- Livelihoods and economic inclusion
- Energy and environmental protection
- Supporting the urban displaced
- Local integration and other local solutions
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Voluntary repatriation






ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION



© UNHCR/Adrian Zaveri

A young asylum-seeker from Afghanistan attends class near the Vial reception and identification centre on Chios, Greece.

2021 TARGETS

 <p>405,000 children aged 3-5 will be enrolled in early childhood education.</p>	 <p>2 million children will be enrolled in primary education.</p>	 <p>250,000 students will be enrolled in lower and upper secondary education.</p>
 <p>15,000 people of concern will be enrolled in tertiary and higher education.</p>	 <p>500,000 refugee children and youth will be supported with distance or home-based learning.</p>	

Coming together for refugee education



In 2021, UNHCR will work to reduce the enrolment gap between refugee and host community children at primary-school level, where only 77% of refugee children were enrolled in 2019. With an estimated 1.8 million refugee children and youth out of school due to mandatory school closures in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (as of September 2020), primary education programming will be closely aligned with national responses, in order to support the safe reopening of schools and the

resumption of in-person school-based learning.

Targeted interventions will focus on enrolling out-of-school children in certified accelerated, alternative and non-formal education programmes that support transition into formal education, as well as re-enrolment of children who dropped out of school due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There will also be increased focus on access to quality primary education and creating safe learning environments for

displaced girls, children with disabilities and over-aged children. Efforts to reopen schools will be informed by needs identified in a 2020 water, sanitation and hygiene survey, to ensure that school facilities are safe for teachers and students, particularly girls.

Just 31% of refugees were enrolled in secondary education in 2019 and, due to COVID-19, half of refugee girls in secondary school were estimated to be at risk of dropping out in 2020. UNHCR will significantly increase programming to boost enrolment and retention rates for adolescent girls in national school systems in 2021, leveraging strategic partnerships with ministries of education and other key actors through platforms such as the Secondary Education Working Group.

The German Albert Einstein Academic Scholarship Programme for Refugees (DAFI) will not see significant new enrolments in 2021 due to funding limitations and COVID-19-related closures, delaying completion of studies for many refugee tertiary students. In 2021, UNHCR will maintain levels of support and funding to ensure that DAFI scholarship students can continue their studies.

Refugees have been disproportionately excluded from accessing national continuous learning programmes due to a growing digital divide, which has been

exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic in some countries. In 2021, UNHCR will advocate the inclusion of refugees in national COVID-19 response plans, as well as increased investments in connected education in low-resource communities. Actions will include: increasing access to digital learning content and the internet in schools through the expansion of the Instant Network Schools programme, in partnership with Vodafone Foundation; and increasing access to nationally aligned, offline education content platforms like Kolibri, in partnership with Learning Equality.

In 2021, the Humanitarian Education Accelerator will continue to support promising education innovations as these are developed to scale. By investing in research and supporting a growing community of practice, UNHCR will build evidence on what works in humanitarian education, informing efforts by the Office and other key stakeholders.

In 2019, the Global Refugee Forum resulted in 204 education pledges, which are being mapped against the “Global framework for refugee education”. The implementation of these pledges will be supported at the country, regional and global levels in 2021 through the Education Co-Sponsorship Alliance, with task teams advancing strategic goals and identifying matched and continual investments.

Supporting continuous access to education during COVID-19: Emerging practices



Humanitarian Education Accelerator



Global framework for refugee education



© UNHCR/Adrian Zaveri



Displaced out-of-school children access education with the support of Educate A Child

UNHCR and Educate A Child, a programme from the Education Above All Foundation, have renewed their long-standing partnership and commitment to expanding access to quality primary education for displaced children globally. The comprehensive programme, supported by the Qatar Fund for Development, will allow over 115,000 out-of-school children to enrol in primary school in 14 countries in 2021.





LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION



© UNHCR/Dunja Adam Khan

A Congolese refugee in Uganda who has become the sole breadwinner for her family following the COVID-19 pandemic. Trained as a tailor with UNHCR's support, she has started making non-medical, washable masks out of the African fabric Kitenge.

2021 TARGETS

- 3** regions where UNHCR will “step up” and roll out livelihood strategies, taking into account the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 50%** of people of concern aged 15 or older will hold a basic financial account (a mobile money account or an account with a financial institution).
- 50,000** refugee and host community households will be supported through the “graduation approach” to poverty alleviation by the Poverty Alleviation Coalition.
- 2,700** refugees and host country artisans in 20 countries will maintain an income through UNHCR's MADE51 project.

COVID-19: Emerging practices on livelihoods and economic inclusion



A UNHCR pre-COVID-19 survey (2019) revealed that 70% of refugees live in countries with restricted rights to work, 47% in countries with restricted access to bank accounts, and 52% in countries with restricted rights to own a business. Against this background, UNHCR's support for livelihoods will be strengthened in 2021 to mitigate the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on people of concern. UNHCR and partners will work to: protect livelihoods and income-generating assets; expand data on and assessments of the impact of the pandemic; advocate

refugee inclusion in national fiscal and socioeconomic responses; strengthen evidence-based programmes; and facilitate joint resource mobilization efforts together with other UN agencies and partners.

Financial inclusion

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, some financial service providers serving refugees have restructured or placed a moratorium on refugee loans. UNHCR will advocate refugee access to financial services and work with financial institutions—such as the International

Financial Corporation—to create blended finance projects, enabling financial service providers and investors to include people of concern in their operations.

Cash assistance will be deployed to facilitate refugee access to broader financial services whenever possible. New partnerships with financial service providers will be pursued, and key programmes will be expanded and serve as models for other contexts: for example, the partnership between UNHCR, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and Grameen Credit Agricole Foundation to promote access to financial and non-financial services for refugees and host communities in Uganda.

To strengthen refugee access to credit, UNHCR will pilot a credit history project in the Middle East, North Africa and Africa regions, using a technology platform that supports digital identification and a verifiable credit history for refugees. Together with the United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNHCR will convene the private sector and policymakers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to expand access to affordable remittances and other financial services for people of concern.

Inclusion in employment and entrepreneurship

UNHCR's MADE51 project offers refugees and host community members a sustainable income and a fair trade route-to-market for their handmade products. Partnering with global private sector companies and local social enterprises, UNHCR will further facilitate market access for refugee-made products through a new MADE51 online store.

UNHCR will also work with a number of UN agencies to expand livelihood opportunities for refugees, including: with UNDP, to create a consortium of the world's largest digital employers and providers of technology to improve the inclusion of people of concern in digital jobs and skills development; with the FAO, to improve resilience and self-reliance in displacement settings in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, expanding to West and Central Africa in 2021; with the ILO, on a joint pilot to facilitate refugee access to employment services under the inclusive national employment services initiative in Mauritania; and with UNITAR, to promote entrepreneurship opportunities for refugees through an e-learning curriculum, supporting the operationalization of a UNHCR-UNCTAD-IOM “Policy guide on entrepreneurship for refugees and migrants”.

Sida, UNHCR and Grameen Crédit Agricole Foundation join hands to promote access to financial services for refugees and host communities in Uganda



© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



IKEA pledges to support employability skills for 2,500 refugees worldwide

UNHCR supports IKEA across 30 countries in its efforts to provide a minimum of 2,500 refugees with skills for employment, thus enabling them to contribute to their host communities. Through this initiative, IKEA aims to help change the narrative on refugees, with the hope that other businesses will join their efforts.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



A refugee pump operator cleans the cells that power the solar pump in Um Gargour camp, Sudan.

2021 TARGETS

1.7 million people of concern will have access to clean cooking fuel.

2.9 million people of concern will have access to sustainable sources of electricity for lighting, power and productive use.

5,000 hectares of degraded land will be rehabilitated through reforestation activities in refugee-hosting areas.

Global strategy for sustainable energy 2019-2024



Ensuring that refugees have access to clean, affordable and reliable energy is an integral part of humanitarian responses. Meeting energy needs can provide significant benefits in terms of protection, gender equality, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, livelihoods, connectivity and environmental protection.

In 2021, UNHCR will continue to deploy its “Global strategy for sustainable energy 2019-2024”, focusing on four areas:

addressing refugee households’ energy needs from the onset of an emergency; improving access to sustainable, safe and affordable household cooking energy; expanding sustainable household electrification; and expanding sustainable electrification of community and support facilities, while limiting overall consumption.

The strategy also foresees strengthened collaboration with various energy actors to meet refugees’ energy needs,

while minimizing environmental impact UNHCR and GIZ, the German Agency for International Cooperation, are working in partnership to reduce the carbon footprint of, and improve access to sustainable energy by, UNHCR operations, while also providing clean and sustainable energy sources to populations of concern in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. With the support of Sida, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UNHCR is establishing a revolving fund to help operations partner with the private sector to transition to clean energy and phase out fossil fuels.

Together with the Global Plan of Action for Sustainable Energy Solutions in Situations of Displacement, UNHCR is leading the Clean Energy Challenge, a worldwide effort to replace unsustainable energy use in displacement settings with clean, modern energy sources for households, community services and humanitarian operations. The “marketplace” is an innovative matching tool developed within the Clean Energy Challenge to connect energy demands in displacement settings with resources supplied by donor and business communities.

More broadly, the Office is using market-based approaches, including power purchase agreements and leasing solutions, that channel donor funds towards developing self-sustaining local market capacities. UNHCR will also work with refugees and host communities to build community resilience through sustainable environmental management: notably, in partnership with Land Life Company, UNHCR will expand its reforestation efforts on degraded land in refugee-hosting areas.

In 2021, UNHCR and partners will harmonize energy and environmental data collection and analysis, aiming to develop a robust baseline and database to support

project proposals and implementation. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNHCR is working to increase the resilience of refugees and reduce the environmental impact of health facilities by using renewable energy solutions in Burundi, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. Building internal capacity within the organization to undertake environmental monitoring will also continue to be a priority, in order to assess progress and identify opportunities for improvement.

SUPPORTING THE URBAN DISPLACED

2021 TARGETS



80% of people of concern living in cities will have access to primary health care through the national system on the same basis as nationals.



70% of people of concern living in cities will have access to secondary and tertiary health care through the national system on the same basis as nationals.



80% of households in urban areas will pay rent through cash assistance received from UNHCR.



SPOTLIGHT: Strengthening city networks

The Global Compact on Refugees recognizes the important role of local authorities as frontline responders to displacement, including in identifying housing and shelter solutions and providing essential services and protection. Mayors play an important role in encouraging community activities and promoting public messages which celebrate diversity and inclusion.

Launched on World Refugee Day in 2018, the Cities #WithRefugees initiative will continue to encourage more local authorities and municipalities to welcome and include refugees in their communities. To date, the initiative has brought together more than 250 cities in 50 countries.

Concerted engagement with city networks, including the Mayors Migration Council and United Cities and Local Governments, led to pledges at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum by the cities of Bristol (the United Kingdom); Durban (South Africa); Milan (Italy); Sao Paulo (Brazil); and Strasbourg (France). UNHCR will work with these networks to support implementation of these city-led pledges in 2021.

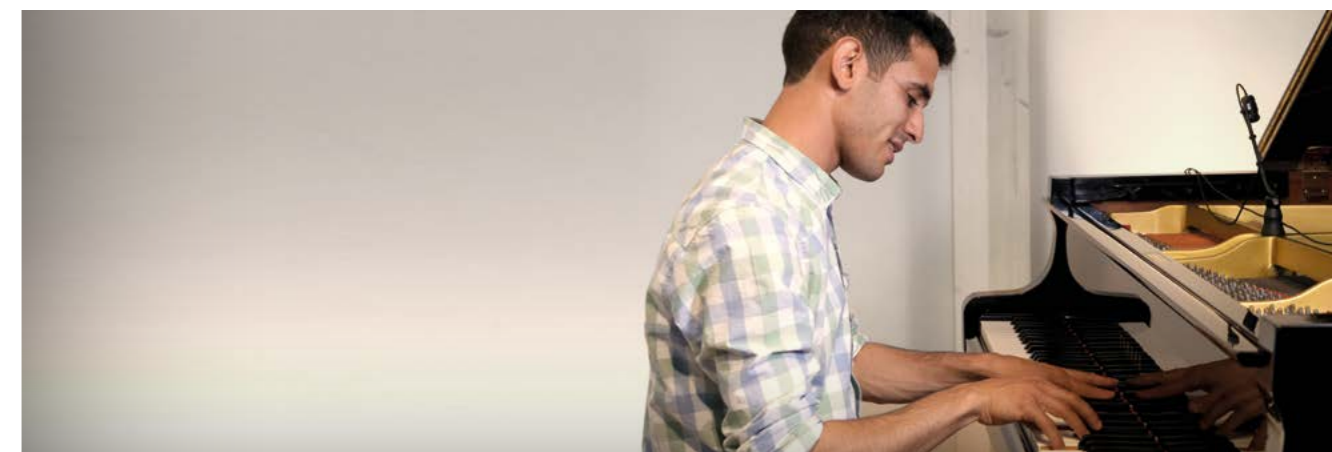
Some 70% of UNHCR's people of concern live in urban settings. Many live in poor shelters where health care, water, sanitation and hygiene, education services and national social safety nets are overstretched or inaccessible, even where the legal framework is enabling. COVID-19 has exacerbated this situation, notably affecting the livelihoods of people of concern who are often in low-wage informal employment and have little or no savings or access to loans.

In 2021, UNHCR will prioritize the inclusion of the urban displaced in national systems and services, including for health, education, protection and livelihoods, as well in preparedness and response plans for COVID-19. The Office will continuously assess the overall well-being of people of concern in urban areas and monitor their inclusion in national plans, their access to basic services and the availability of cash assistance through

national social safety nets. The Office will also advocate laws and policies that enable inclusion of people of concern, including reduced restrictions on access to services and the right to work; monitor minimum standards in service provision across sectors; and increase community outreach and community-based protection.

Operationally, UNHCR will invest in shelter interventions and livelihood opportunities, and significantly scale up cash assistance for those in urban areas, not least to mitigate the negative impact of COVID-19 on the most vulnerable. Partnerships with urban communities, local and national governments, development actors, humanitarian organizations, the private sector, academia and civil society will be key to increasing support for people of concern in urban settings and building the capacity of national services and local partners.

LOCAL INTEGRATION AND OTHER LOCAL SOLUTIONS



Aeham, the 'Pianist of Yarmouk', recording a Nansen performance 2020 in Kassel, Germany.

2021 TARGETS



15 refugee situations where local integration will be advanced, including as part of the implementation of pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum.

UNHCR will continue to support governments opting to provide local integration or other local solutions to people of concern. At the Global Refugee Forum, a number of States pledged to advance the legal and socioeconomic integration of refugees and former refugees, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mozambique and Zambia. Where needed, UNHCR will support efforts by States to implement pledges, including through direct technical support and by facilitating the matching of available financial, material and technical assistance.

In certain countries in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region, legal pathways to local integration are accessible to refugees under existing legislation. As such, several local integration efforts are being pursued for long-staying refugee populations in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

UNHCR is also enhancing activities regarding the issuance of residence permits to ensure

lawful stay and pathways to naturalization. In Zambia, UNHCR is advocating the issuance of residence permits for 10,000 former Angolan refugees and 4,000 former Rwandan refugees as part of the legal local integration process. UNHCR is also supporting efforts by governments, including in the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau and Namibia, to formalize residency and naturalization for refugees.

In the Americas, efforts to support local integration will build on the "Cities of solidarity" initiative, which is embedded in the 2014 Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action and aims to enhance operational, multi-stakeholder responses in urban settings, with a view to advancing integration and building institutional responses. The initiative was rolled out in the first quarter of 2020 in municipalities across four countries. In Mexico, UNHCR will continue supporting on-site interventions aimed at facilitating local integration, including home visits, as well as naturalization and cash assistance.

 **RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS**



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A Syrian refugee plays with his daughter on the rooftop of their house in Barja, Lebanon. They are awaiting resettlement to Norway, however the COVID-19 pandemic suspended international resettlement for refugees worldwide in 2020.

2021 TARGETS

 **80,000** refugees will be resettled through UNHCR.

 **33** countries will receive UNHCR resettlement submissions.

 **160,000** refugees will be admitted through complementary pathways to third countries.

UNHCR projected global resettlement needs 2021



The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on capacity to provide resettlement, complementary pathways and other third-country solutions to refugees in need in 2020. After surpassing the first year's target of resettling 60,000 refugees to 29 countries in 2019, as set out in "The three-year strategy (2019-2021) on resettlement and complementary pathways" (the 3YS), 2020's target of resettling 70,000 refugees to 31 countries will not be met.

UNHCR estimates that over 1.4 million refugees will be in need of resettlement in 2021. Governments, NGOs, UNHCR and other partners remain committed to the more than 80 activities included in the global action plan to implement the 3YS. UNHCR has adopted new ways of working to reach the ultimate goals of providing resettlement to more than 1 million refugees and facilitating complementary pathways for

2 million individuals by 2028. This includes innovations adopted in response to the COVID-19 situation: facilitating video interviews with refugees for country selection missions; remote communication and counselling with refugees and refugee communities; and online training for staff.

In line with the 3YS, UNHCR and IOM launched the Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative (CRISP) in early 2020. The CRISP is supporting States and other key actors to establish or expand third-country solutions through tailored capacity-building activities. CRISP emphasizes building quality, sustainable programmes and enhancing coordination and partnerships.

The Global Task Force on Education Complementary Pathways is fully operational with two chairs in place. The State-led Network on Family Reunification, launched in October 2020, and the Task Force on Labour Mobility, chaired by Canada in February 2021, are critical to stepping up achievement of the 3YS goals. All three will be key platforms for sharing good practices and advocating refugees' increased access to these solutions.

The UNHCR Opportunities Platform, launched in September 2020, is a resource tool to help refugees find scholarships for higher education, and will be expanded to include third-country employment opportunities.

The Priority Situations Core Group will remain the primary vehicle for resettlement countries and other stakeholders to maximize the impact of resettlement and other third-country solutions, such as humanitarian admission programmes. The group's focus remains on the Syria and central Mediterranean situations, which are at the forefront of global resettlement needs.

The Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative will support States and civil society to make community sponsorship available in more places and for more refugees. Community sponsorship is an important tool not only to increase resettlement opportunities, but also to foster welcoming societies, the third goal of the 3YS.

UNHCR will continue to implement secure methods of transferring personal data in the context of resettlement, and complete data sharing agreements with States and partners in line with its data protection policy.

Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative



UNHCR Opportunities Platform



VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION



Burundian refugees prepare to board buses at Mahama camp in Rwanda to voluntarily return home after living in exile since 2015.

2021 TARGETS



Support conditions in countries of origin to enable voluntary return in safety and dignity, in line with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees.



Provide adequate return assistance to refugees wishing to repatriate.



Strengthen access by returnees to legally recognized documentation and credentials.

By the end of 2019, nearly 317,200 refugees had repatriated voluntarily, a decrease of 46% compared to 2018. While voluntary repatriation remains the solution preferred by many refugees, the most common obstacles to return remain fragile or faltering peace processes; continuing insecurity; limited inclusion and participation of refugees in peace processes and repatriation plans; failure to address root causes; destruction

and confiscation of housing, land and property; severely overstretched service provision in home locations; and the lack of viable livelihood opportunities.

The absence of conditions conducive to return will continue to challenge voluntary repatriation prospects globally in 2021. With the number of displaced people rising each year, efforts to bolster short-term humanitarian support in countries of origin

will be needed to sustain return over the long term. Development action is critical in this regard, but depends on security and stability in areas of return to be delivered effectively. In addition, in 2020, voluntary repatriation operations have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in widespread suspension of organized return travel. While some operations resumed voluntary repatriation activities in the last trimester of 2020, it is expected that the pandemic will continue to affect return arrangements into 2021.

UNHCR will continue to work with UN-Habitat and other partners to address housing, land and property grievances in the context of return, and with the ILO to support the economic inclusion of returnees. Cooperation will also be strengthened with UNDP to promote an integrated approach to development in at least 13 countries through a global partnership on rule of law and local governance, a critical component of inclusion to sustain returns.

UNHCR will continue to play a catalytic role to assist the three regional support platforms under the Global Compact on Refugees, namely: the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) support platform for long-term solutions to the refugee situation in the East and Horn of Africa; the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR); and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework in Latin America (MIRPS). Strengthening prospects for voluntary repatriation is part of the core work of all three platforms.

In 2021, the Office will provide counselling and information on return, including organizing “go-and-see” visits for refugees

to observe conditions in countries of origin. Intention surveys will be undertaken to explore the short- and longer-term intentions of IDPs and refugees regarding return. UNHCR will also promote access to civil documentation in the context of return.

Furthering the humanitarian-development-peace nexus in countries of origin will be a priority for the Office, building on its operational footprint and competencies in key thematic areas. In Sudan, for example, UNHCR is building on strategic global and regional development partnerships; ensuring continuity between protection and peace interventions in displacement-affected contexts and communities; and supporting the capacity of national and local authorities to address displacement as part of the ongoing political transition.

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayerlín Vergara Pérez, the 2020 Nansen Award winner



#WithRefugees campaign



UNHCR's prominent supporters and Goodwill Ambassadors



Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014-2024



Communications are key for UNHCR in the effort to fulfill its mandate and positively impact the lives of people forced to flee and stateless persons. In 2021, media relations will remain central in promoting the Office's advocacy goals, with new and broader audiences mobilized through investment in social media and multimedia content production.

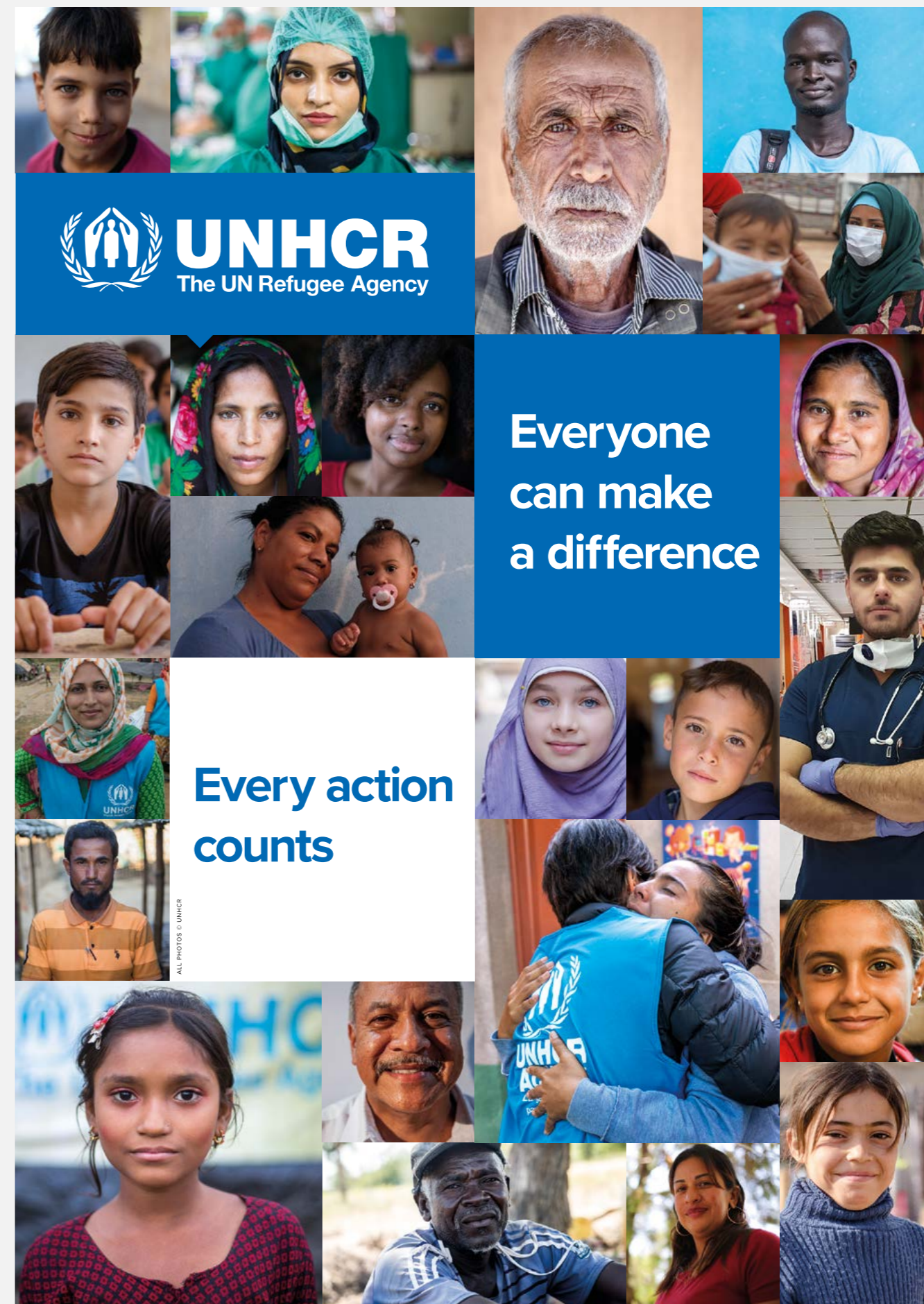
World Refugee Day will remain UNHCR's annual milestone for communication on forced displacement. The global 2021 World Refugee Day campaign will advocate an inclusive approach, increasing empathy and mobilizing support through a positive narrative focusing on refugees' resilience and potential. With city mayors playing an important role in strengthening inclusion and combatting xenophobia, UNHCR will maintain its active engagement with them through Cities #WithRefugees, which includes more than 250 cities in 50 countries.

The #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness will enter its seventh year in 2021. While there has been significant progress, much still needs to be done to reach the campaign goals by 2024. States and other actors are delivering on the 396 commitments to address statelessness made at the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness and the Global Refugee Forum, such as ensuring birth registration. UNHCR will maintain its robust approach to telling the human story of statelessness and celebrating progress towards the campaign goals.

For 66 years, the Nansen Refugee Award has honored extraordinary individuals and groups courageously going beyond the call of duty to help people forced to flee and stateless persons. The story of the 2020 Laureate, Mayerlín Vergara Pérez, highlighted critical efforts to prevent the trafficking and exploitation of refugee children. In 2021, building on the experience of creating a successful virtual ceremony in 2020, UNHCR will deliver another memorable event around the United Nations' oldest and most prestigious humanitarian award.

UNHCR's diverse family of Goodwill Ambassadors and high-profile supporters—including a number of former refugees—will add their voices, creativity, influence and platforms to support UNHCR's work. Their engagement will be particularly important not only for UNHCR's campaigns and events, but also for emergency appeals and around key issues such as livelihoods, the effects of COVID-19 on populations of concern, or the link between climate change and displacement. They will help cheer on the refugee athletes at the Tokyo Olympic Games in July 2021, and bolster commemorations to mark UNHCR's 70th anniversary.

In parallel, seminal products, like the annual education report, will highlight the need for greater opportunities for people forced to flee and stateless persons, as well as the achievements of those who successfully complete their studies—becoming, for example, pilots or doctors or neuroscientists.



MEMBERS OF UNHCR'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND STATES PARTIES TO THE REFUGEE AND STATELESSNESS CONVENTIONS

UNHCR is governed by the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In 1958, ECOSOC established the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom), pursuant to a resolution of the General Assembly. Its main tasks are to approve the High Commissioner's programmes, advise the High Commissioner in the exercise of his functions (mainly on protection issues), and oversee the Office's finances and administration.

ExCom holds an annual session in Geneva every October. The 71st session took place from 5 to 9 October 2020. Meetings of the Executive Committee's Standing Committee are held at various dates throughout the year to carry on the work between plenary sessions.

ExCom membership is on the widest possible geographical basis from those States (Members of the United Nations) with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of refugee problems. By the end of 2020, there were 106 ExCom members in the following table—in blue—which also shows the State Parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol of 1967 and to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

	Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol		Conventions on the Status of Stateless Persons and the Reduction of Statelessness	
	1951	1967	1954	1961
Afghanistan	2005	2005		
Albania	1992	1992	2003	2003
Algeria	1963	1967	1964	
Angola	1981	1981	2019	2019
Antigua and Barbuda	1995	1995	1988	
Argentina	1961	1967	1972	2014
Armenia	1993	1993	1994	1994
Australia	1954	1973	1973	1973
Austria	1954	1973	2008	1972
Azerbaijan	1993	1993	1996	1996
Bahamas (the)	1993	1993		
Bangladesh				
Barbados			1972	
Belarus	2001	2001		
Belgium	1953	1969	1960	2014
Belize	1990	1990	2006	2015
Benin	1962	1970	2011	2011
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1982	1982	1983	1983
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1993	1993	1993	1996
Botswana	1969	1969	1969	
Brazil	1960	1972	1996	2007
Bulgaria	1993	1993	2012	2012
Burkina Faso	1980	1980	2012	2017
Burundi	1963	1971		
Cabo Verde		1987		
Cambodia	1992	1992		
Cameroon	1961	1967		
Canada	1969	1969		1978
Central African Republic (the)	1962	1967		
Chad	1981	1981	1999	1999
Chile	1972	1972	2018	2018
China	1982	1982		
Colombia	1961	1980	2019	2014
Congo	1962	1970		
Costa Rica	1978	1978	1977	1977
Côte d'Ivoire	1961	1970	2013	2013
Croatia	1992	1992	1992	2011
Cyprus	1963	1968		
Czechia	1993	1993	2004	2001
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	1965	1975		
Denmark	1952	1968	1956	1977
Djibouti	1977	1977		
Dominica	1994	1994		
Dominican Republic	1978	1978		
Ecuador	1955	1969	1970	2012
Egypt	1981	1981		
El Salvador	1983	1983	2015	
Equatorial Guinea	1986	1986		
Estonia	1997	1997		
Ethiopia	1969	1969		
Fiji	1972	1972	1972	
Finland	1968	1968	1968	2008
France	1954	1971	1960	
Gabon	1964	1973		

	1951	1967	1954	1961
Gambia	1966	1967	2014	2014
Georgia	1999	1999	2011	2014
Germany	1953	1969	1976	1977
Ghana	1963	1968		
Greece	1960	1968	1975	
Guatemala	1983	1983	2000	2001
Guinea	1965	1968	1962	2014
Guinea-Bissau	1976	1976	2016	2016
Haiti	1984	1984	2018	2018
Holy See	1956	1967		
Honduras	1992	1992	2012	2012
Hungary	1989	1989	2001	2009
Iceland	1955	1968		
India				
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	1976	1976		
Ireland	1956	1968	1962	1973
Israel	1954	1968	1958	
Italy	1954	1972	1962	2015
Jamaica	1964	1980		2013
Japan	1981	1982		
Jordan				
Kazakhstan	1999	1999		
Kenya	1966	1981		
Kiribati			1983	1983
Kyrgyzstan	1996	1996		
Latvia	1997	1997	1999	1992
Lebanon				
Lesotho	1981	1981	1974	2004
Liberia	1964	1980	1964	2004
Libya			1989	1989
Liechtenstein	1957	1968	2009	2009
Lithuania	1997	1997	2000	2013
Luxembourg	1953	1971	1960	2017
Madagascar	1967			
Malawi	1987	1987	2009	
Mali	1973	1973	2016	2016
Malta	1971	1971	2019	
Mauritania	1987	1987		
Mexico	2000	2000	2000	
Monaco	1954	2010		
Montenegro	2006	2006	2006	2013
Morocco	1956	1971		
Mozambique	1983	1989	2014	2014
Namibia	1995	1995		
Nauru	2011	2011		
Netherlands	1956	1968	1962	1985
New Zealand	1960	1973		2006
Nicaragua	1980	1980	2013	2013
Niger	1961	1970	2014	1985
Nigeria	1967	1968	2011	2011
North Macedonia	1994	1994	1994	2020
Norway	1953	1967	1956	1971
Pakistan				
Panama	1978	1978	2011	2011
Papua New Guinea	1986	1986		

	1951	1967	1954	1961
Paraguay	1970	1970	2014	2012
Peru	1964	1983	2014	2014
Philippines	1981	1981	2011	
Poland	1991	1991		
Portugal	1960	1976	2012	2012
Republic of Korea	1992	1992	1962	
Republic of Moldova	2002	2002	2012	2012
Romania	1991	1991	2006	2006
Russian Federation	1993	1993		
Rwanda	1980	1980	2006	2006
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2002			
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1993	2003	1999	
Samoa	1988	1994		
Sao Tome and Principe	1978	1978		
Senegal	1963	1967	2005	2005
Serbia	2001	2001	2001	2011
Seychelles	1980	1980		
Sierra Leone	1981	1981	2016	2016
Slovakia	1993	1993	2000	2000
Slovenia	1992	1992	1992	
Solomon Islands	1995	1995		
Somalia	1978	1978		
South Africa	1996	1996		
South Sudan	2018	2018		
Spain	1978	1978	1997	2018
Sudan	1974	1974		
Suriname	1978	1978		
Swaziland	2000	1969	1999	1999
Sweden	1954	1967	1965	1969
Switzerland	1955	1968	1972	
Tajikistan	1993	1993		
Thailand				
Timor-Leste	2003	2003		
Togo	1962	1969		
Trinidad and Tobago	2000	2000	1966	
Tunisia	1957	1968	1969	2000
Turkey	1962	1968	2015	
Turkmenistan	1998	1998	2011	2012
Tuvalu	1986	1986		
Uganda	1976	1976	1965	
Ukraine	2002	2002	2013	2013
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1954	1968	1959	1966
United Republic of Tanzania	1964	1968		
United States of America		1968		
Uruguay	1970	1970	2004	2001
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		1986		
Yemen	1980	1980		
Zambia	1969	1969	1974	
Zimbabwe	1981	1981	1998	
Total Parties	146	147	94	75

In 2020, North Macedonia acceded to the 1961 Convention on the reduction of statelessness.

ACRONYMS

3RP Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan in response to the Syria crisis

AAP Accountability to affected people

BIMS Biometric Identity Management System

CCCM Camp coordination and camp management (cluster)

CERF Central Emergency Response Fund

CRRF Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework

DAFI German Albert Einstein Academic Scholarship Programme for Refugees

EASO European Asylum Support Office

EU European Union

ExCom Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme

FAO Food and Agriculture Organization (UN)

FRONTEX European Border and Coast Guard Agency

GAM Global acute malnutrition

GIZ German Agency for International Cooperation

GP20 Plan of action for the 20th anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

GPC Global Protection Cluster

GSC Global Shelter Cluster

HALEP High Alert List for Emergency Preparedness

HCT Humanitarian country team (UN)

HIV/AIDS Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

HPV Human papilloma virus

HRP Humanitarian response plan

IASC Inter-Agency Standing Committee

ICRC International Committee of the Red Cross

IDA International Development Association (World Bank)

IDP Internally displaced person

IFRC International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development

ILO International Labour Organization

IOM International Organization for Migration

JICA Japan International Cooperation Agency

JPO Junior Professional Officer

LGBTIQ* Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer

MHPSS Mental health and psychosocial support (UNHCR)

MIRPS Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework in Latin America

NGO Non-governmental organization

NRC Norwegian Refugee Council

OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)

OECD Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development

OSCE Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

PDM Post-distribution monitoring

PPE Personal protective equipment

PRIMES Population registration and identity management ecosystem (UNHCR)

RRP Refugee response plan

RSD Refugee status determination

SADC Southern African Development Community

SENS Standardized expanded nutrition survey (UNHCR)

Sida Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

SSAR Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

UN-Habitat United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNMAS United Nations Mine Action Service

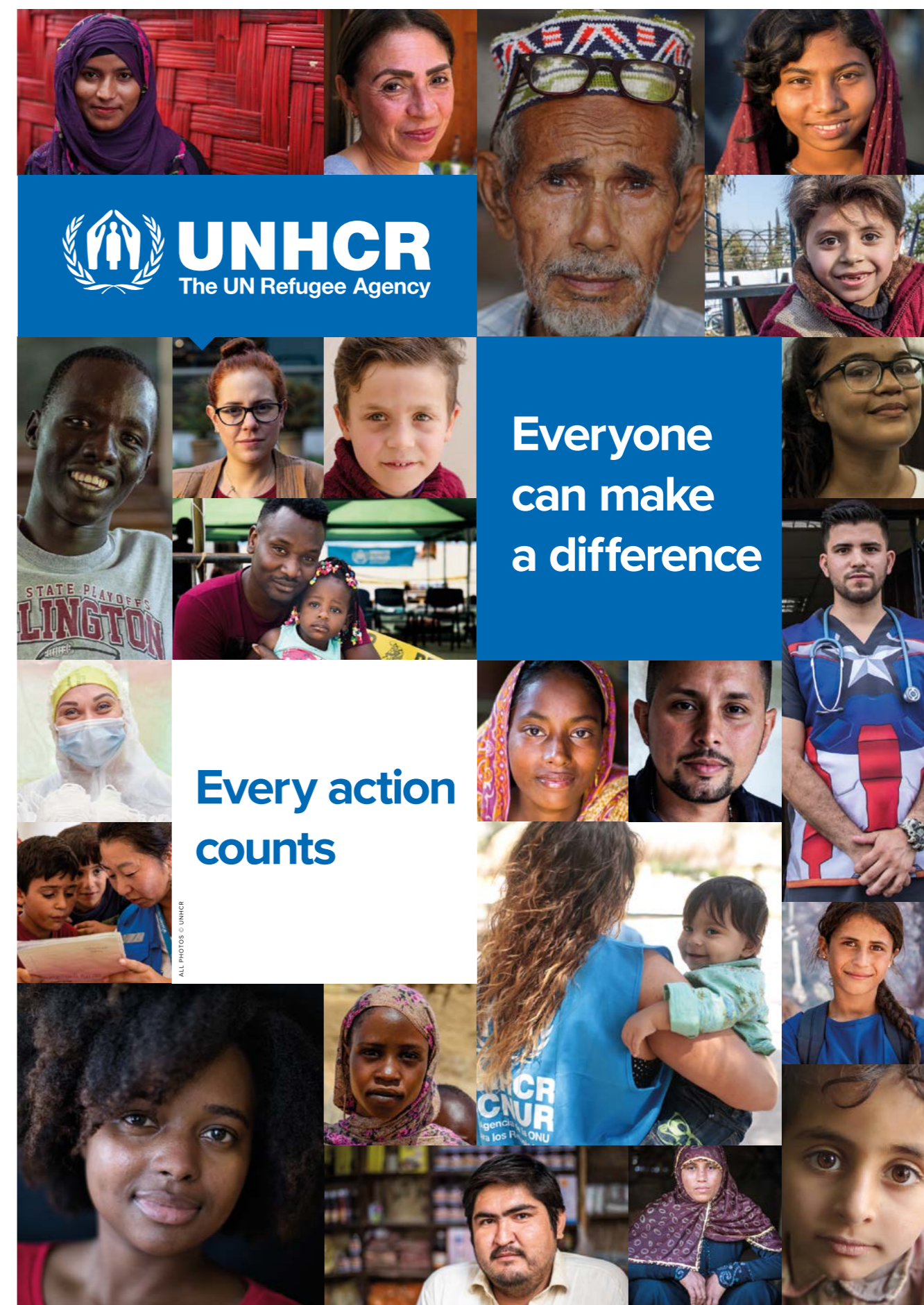
UNV United Nations Volunteers

UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WASH Water, sanitation and hygiene

WFP World Food Programme

WHO World Health Organization



C R E D I T S

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Data in this report are drawn from the most recent statistics available to UNHCR, and from other United Nations agencies. For any corrigenda found subsequent to printing, please visit the Publications page on Global Focus website (<https://reporting.unhcr.org>).

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Cover photo:

UNHCR's first-ever Youth with Refugees Art Contest was launched in April 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, to encourage young people aged 12-25 to reflect creatively on the theme: "Everyone counts in the fight against the virus, including refugees." Some 2,000 participants from 100 countries submitted drawings and comic strips. Mr Alfa Mukange, 25, a Congolese refugee in Kenya, is one of the global winners.

© UNHCR/Alfa

Back cover (from left to right):

- Hayat Murad, 22, an internally displaced person in Iraq, received a special mention. © UNHCR/Hayat
- Mukah Ispahani, 24, from Cameroon is one of the global winners. © UNHCR/Fridane
- Kaylynn Grobb, 17 from Canada received a special mention. © UNHCR/Kaylynn
- Kayla Abigail Salim, 23, from Indonesia is one of the cartoon winners. © UNHCR/Kayla



Watch the video of the seven global winners, whose drawings have been animated by Japanese studio SPEED inc.

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