



**FACTSHEET**

## UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations to protect and safeguard the rights of refugees and seek permanent solutions that allow them to rebuild their lives. It supports refugees who return to their country, people displaced within their country, as well as stateless people.

### Governance

UNHCR is governed by the UN General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Standing Committee meetings are held three times a year and serve to prepare the annual Executive Committee meeting, which consists of 110 members and approves the agency's budget.

### Strategic Objectives

UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2022-2026 commit UNHCR to:

- Respond rapidly and effectively in emergencies and beyond;
- Promote the inclusion of refugees, displaced and stateless people in economic growth and poverty reduction efforts;
- Empower the people to determine and build their futures;
- Pursue solutions to address the consequences of displacement and problems of statelessness.

UNHCR's support to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) directly contributes to UNHCR's strategic objective towards enhancing refugees' self-reliance and pursuing durable solutions.

### Added Value and Challenges

As the custodian of the Refugee Conventions, UNHCR has the specific mandate from the United Nations to protect the rights of refugees worldwide. It also has specialised staff with a vast experience as well as the capacity to respond rapidly to forceful displacement in emergencies.

The challenges of forced displacement have grown in scope, scale and complexity due to intractable conflicts, and the climate crisis. The protection space has diminished, inequalities have increased. Displacements have become more complex, including mixed movements of refugees, internally displaced people and migrants. Funding has decreased considerably down from USD 5 billion to 3.5 in 2025.

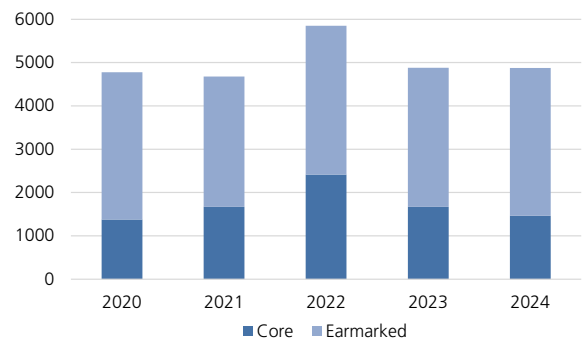
### Key Results in 2024

18.4 million people, including 1.5 million children, received protection services. 5.3 million people received cash assistance and 6 million non-food items to address their basic needs. 15.5 million individual health consultations have been provided and 1.7 million people benefited from specialised GBV programs. 2.6 million people received shelter and housing assistance.

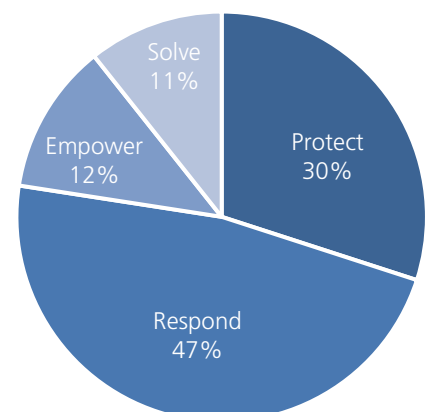
## FACTS AND FIGURES

Type of organisation:  
Subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly  
Head of organisation:  
Barham Salih (IRQ), High Commissioner  
Headquarter:  
Geneva, Switzerland  
Country Offices:  
137  
Total Personnel (International):  
19'829  
Established in:  
1951  
Steering:  
Executive and Standing Committee

**Total Revenues UNHCR 2020-2024, Core vs. Earmarked, in million USD**



**UNHCR Expenditures 2024, by Impact Areas (%), Total: USD 4'925 million**





Woman breast-feeds her baby shortly after arriving at the Batanga Transit Centre. ©UNHCR/L.Baumann

## SWITZERLAND AND UNHCR

Contributions (2024):

Total: CHF 55 million  
(12th largest gov. donor, 1.2% of total budget)

Core: CHF 18 million <sup>(10th)</sup>

Earmarked: CHF 37 million

Number of Swiss staff:

42 primary, 61 secondary nationality

Number of Swiss secondments:

15

Involved Swiss government entities:

SDC, PHRD, SEM

## SWITZERLAND'S PARTNERSHIP WITH UNHCR

### Switzerland's Strategic Priorities

- **Centrality of Protection:** Switzerland wants UNHCR to improve protection environments for refugees and other people of concern.
- **Locally-led action:** Switzerland encourages UNHCR to reinforce its localisation efforts, with focus on the engagement and inclusion of refugees and other people of concern in response planning and implementation.
- **Climate-related migration:** Switzerland wants UNHCR to mitigate climate-related displacement.
- **Durable solutions:** Switzerland supports UNHCR to provide durable solutions for refugees and other people of concern to address the effects of displacement.
- **Governance and quality funding:** Switzerland holds UNHCR accountable and supports its qualitative resource mobilisation efforts.

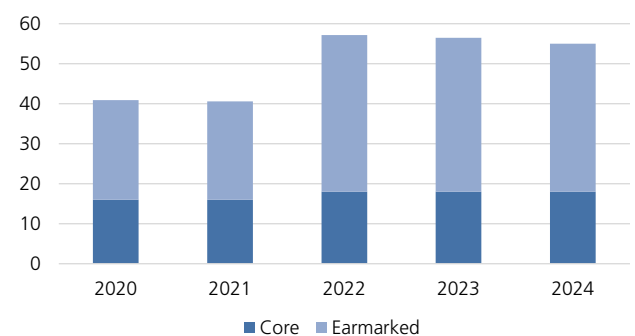
### Cooperation at Country Level

Switzerland provides country or regionally earmarked contributions to implement UNHCR's programmes and, in case of emergencies, contributions from SDC's emergency relief fund. Through the secondment of Swiss experts (e.g. protection, shelter, water and sanitation, cash) UNHCR increases its protection emergency response capacity and its ability to facilitate durable solutions. Switzerland also supports the work on durable solutions through the IDP Solutions Fund. Swiss Cooperation Teams exchange regularly with UNHCR country offices on the challenges they face at country level and cooperate in their policy dialogue with national or sub-national authorities.

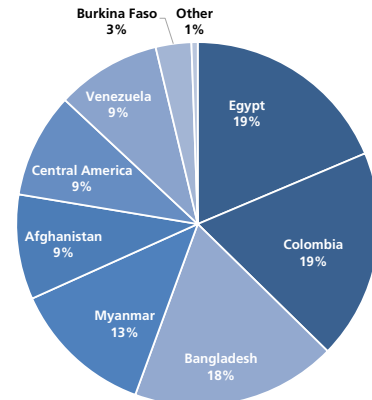
### Cooperation at Global Level

Switzerland supports the Global Protection Cluster as well as activities against Gender-Based Violence and for Education in Emergencies. The Geneva Technical Hub promotes environmental sustainability of refugee camps and settlements. The Digital Hub on Treasury Solutions works on efficient financial transactions including a more rapid and targeted cash assistance. Switzerland co-hosts the Global Refugee Forum and co-sponsors the Nansen Award to support resource mobilisation. The State Secretariat for Migration (SEM) supports resettlement activities and FDFA's Peace and Human Rights Division (PHRD) is engaged against human trafficking. At policy level, Switzerland is part of the UNHCR Standing and Executive Committee.

### Swiss Contributions 2020-2024, Core vs. Earmarked, in million USD



### Earmarked Swiss Contributions 2024 (Country Emergencies), Total CHF 5.36 million



### Geneva Technical Hub (GTH)

Thanks to the GTH, an initiative co-funded by Switzerland, UNHCR dedicated additional resources to technical sectors, in particular in the area of water and sanitation. The hub contributed to the document "Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy". Based on the good results so far, the GTH shall serve also other interested multilateral organisations, as pledged at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

### Contact:

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