

UNHCR IN 2019

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 November 2019, 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 2019) 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.

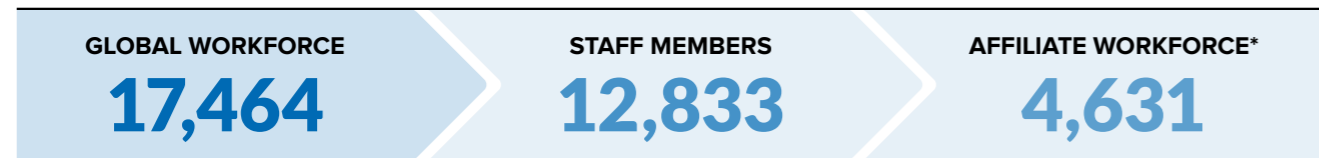
As of December 2019, 94 States are parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 74 to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

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.

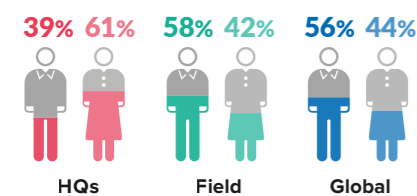
The Office carries out its work in collaboration with many partners, including governments, regional organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the Office's activities should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

Global presence

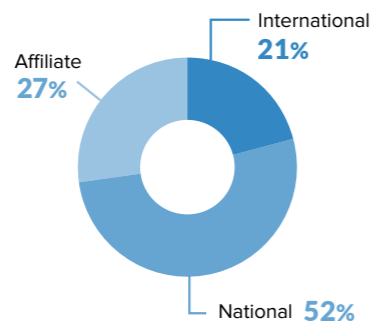
UNHCR is present in **130 countries and territories** with offices in **507 locations**



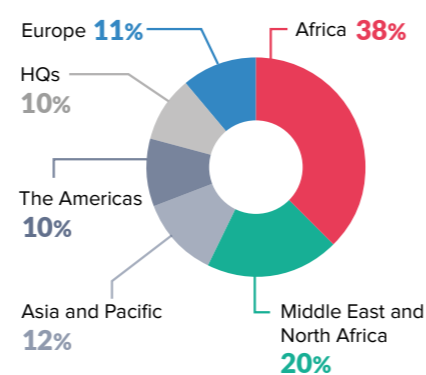
Gender breakdowns of UNHCR workforce



Global workforce by category



Global presence by region



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

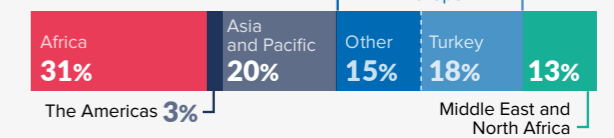
86.5M People of concern to UNHCR worldwide

4.1M Asylum-seekers pending cases

The largest numbers of pending cases were in — The Americas: 1.9 million
Europe: 1.2 million
Africa: 529,600

20.4M Refugees

Refugee populations by region of asylum



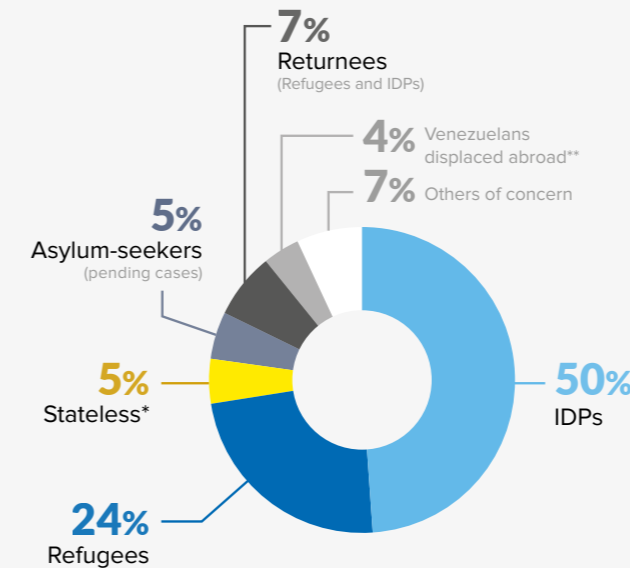
57% coming from three countries



3.6M Venezuelans displaced abroad**

6.1M Others of concern

**See footnote (6) in map of global populations of concern



4.2M Stateless persons*

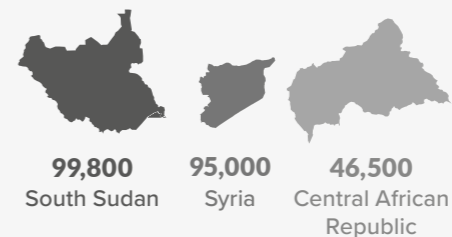
81,100 formerly stateless individuals acquired a nationality or had their nationality confirmed in 26 countries

* Includes 1,113,315 stateless persons of Rohingya ethnicity who are also counted as refugees, asylum-seekers or others of concern in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand or as IDPs in Myanmar.

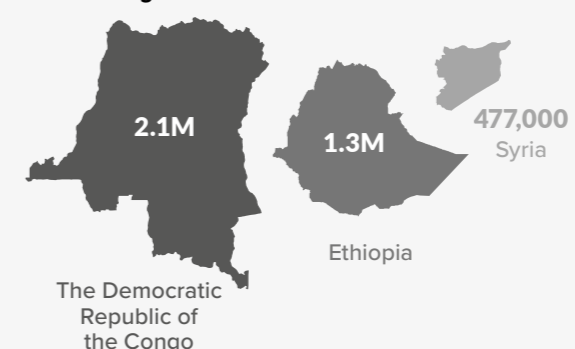
5.7M Returnees (Refugees and IDPs)

Unresolved conflicts and insecurity in countries of origin presented major constraints for returns and their sustainability.

Largest refugee returns



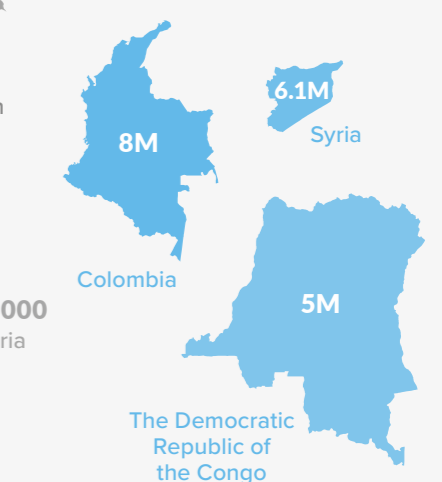
Largest IDP returns



43.5M IDPs

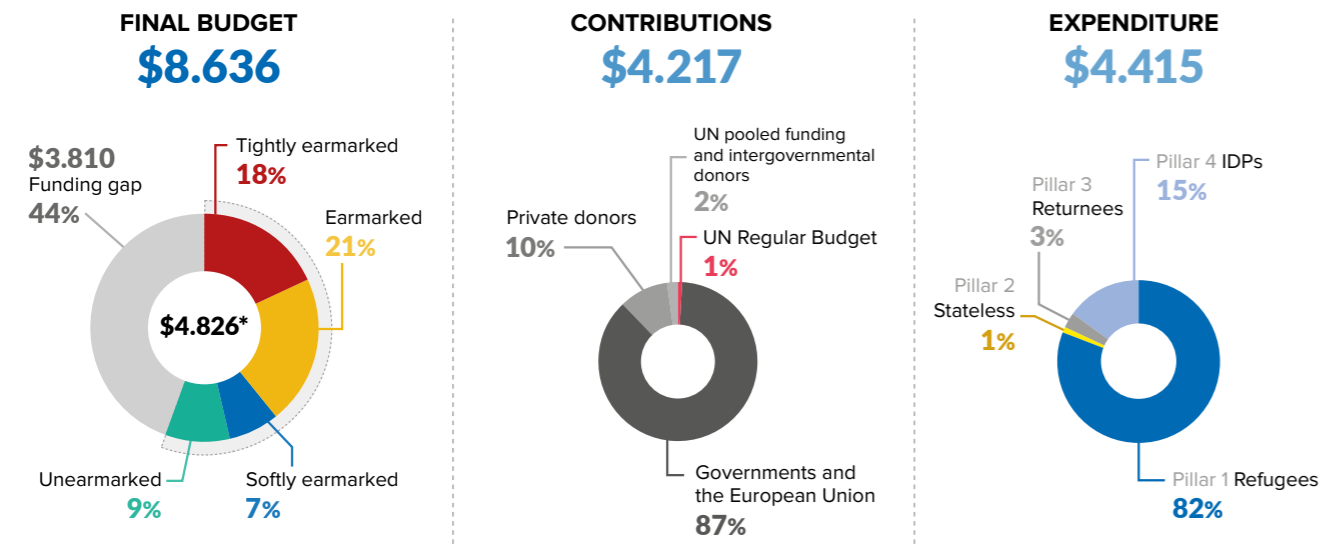
Many IDPs were in protracted situations characterized by critical protection and humanitarian challenges.

44% were in three countries



Key data and achievements in 2019

Unit: billion



*Funds available: contributions (voluntary contributions and UN Regular Budget); carry-over; other income and adjustments

PARTNERSHIPS



Safeguarding fundamental rights

- Legal protection frameworks**
16 States adopted laws and legislative changes improving refugee rights
- Refugee status determination**
2.3M new and appeal asylum applications were registered globally, including 120,400 registered by UNHCR (5% of the total)
- Statelessness**
81,074 individuals who were formerly stateless acquired a nationality or had their nationality confirmed
- Registration**
8.8M individual records biometrically registered in UNHCR's Biometric Identity Management System across 69 countries

Responding with lifesaving support

Emergencies

6 new emergencies

- 3 IDP emergencies: Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cyclone Idai (Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe)
- 3 refugee emergencies: Costa Rica, Iraq, Niger

Emergency deployments

- 167 UNHCR emergency staff deployed
- 102 emergency standby partner staff deployed

Core relief items

7 global stockpiles used to deliver \$30 million-worth of CRIs to 23 emergency-affected countries

8 emergency airlifts, fulfilling 122 requests

Cash assistance

\$650M distributed, 13% increase on 2018

100 operations implemented cash assistance

80% of cash assistance disbursed electronically

Shelter

15,198 Refugee housing units deployed to 15 operations

86,426 Households received cash grants for rental accommodation

116,527 People of concern received emergency shelter

Building better futures

Resettlement

1.4M refugees in need of resettlement

81,671 resettlement submissions to 29 countries

63,726 UNHCR-facilitated resettlement departures

Education

- 63% of refugee children attend Primary school
- 24% of refugee children attend Secondary school
- 3% of refugee youth attend University

Energy and environmental protection

- 1M refugees accessed a sustainable source of cooking fuel
- 838,220 tons of CO₂ emissions reduced by using cleaner sources of energy
- 100 UNHCR offices conducted an environmental inventory