



United Nations

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Part I

**Annual report pursuant to General Assembly
Resolution 428 (V)**

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Seventy-eighth session

Supplement No. 12



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Chapter I

Background and introduction

1. Resolution 58/153 provides that the High Commissioner for Refugees shall present an annual written report to the General Assembly “on the understanding that every ten years, beginning with the sixty-eighth session, the report shall include a strategic review of the situation of refugees and the role of the Office”. Accordingly, this year’s report is provided in two parts: part I covers the activities of the Office for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, while part II contains the strategic review.

2. By the end of 2022, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided protection and assistance to a total of 112.6 million people worldwide. Some 108.4 million¹ people were forcibly displaced by persecution, conflict, human rights violations and violence, an increase of 19 million compared to the end of 2021. This was the largest recorded increase between years. The total included 35.3 million refugees,² 62.5 million internally displaced persons³ and 5.3 million asylum-seekers. An estimated 4.4 million people worldwide were stateless or of undetermined nationality, 2 per cent more than at the end of 2021.

3. Humanitarian crises grew in scale and complexity, with increasing intensity and prevalence of conflict and violence in 2022. While the armed conflict in Ukraine triggered one of the largest and fastest-moving displacement crises with 11.6 million persons remaining displaced within and outside the country at the end of 2022, conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Myanmar and the Sudan highlighted the need for greater attention to address humanitarian crises as well as protracted situations, including in Afghanistan and South Sudan.

4. The escalation of armed conflict in the Sahel by non-State armed groups resulted in the forced displacement of more than 2.6 million persons in West and Central Africa. In the Lake Chad Basin, complex conflict dynamics persisted. The conflict in the Sudan resulted in over 3.7 million people⁴ displaced within the country and across borders, placing an enormous strain on Chad, the Central African Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia and South Sudan, among others. By the end of 2022, the Americas hosted 15.2 million of forcibly displaced people, many of whom came from within the region.

5. While in many countries the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) was brought under control, the longer-term socioeconomic consequences continued to affect refugees and displaced people, especially women and children. Meanwhile, the wider impact of the armed conflict in Ukraine, including economic downturn and food insecurity, worsened the plight of tens of millions of displaced and stateless people. The surge in global energy and commodity prices affected many countries that were already fragile, such as those in the Sahel, a region where millions of people already required humanitarian assistance.

6. The adverse effects of climate change affected displaced populations globally and worsened living conditions, especially for those in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Climate-related and other natural hazards, such as catastrophic flooding in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and parts of the Sahel, a devastating earthquake in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye, relentless drought and suffering in Afghanistan, Madagascar and the Horn of Africa and floodings, tropical storms and hurricanes in Central America and the Caribbean, impacted millions of refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless persons and host community members. UNHCR actively engaged in the response to disasters and helped reduce risks by strengthening preparedness and building resilience, in line with its 2021 strategic framework on climate action.

¹ Updated figures are available from the UNHCR Refugee Data Finder.

² The number includes 5.9 million refugees under the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

³ Estimate by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

⁴ The figure includes refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees.

7. Responding to emergencies stretched the capacity of UNHCR and its partners. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, UNHCR declared 43 emergencies in 31 countries, dispatched \$52 million worth of emergency core relief items and facilitated deployments of approximately 550 personnel to respond to emergencies.

8. Despite the challenging global situation, solutions were actively supported by UNHCR. Some 6 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin in 2022, including 5.7 million internally displaced persons and 339,300 refugees. In June 2022, following the implementation of a comprehensive solutions strategy, the application of the cessation of refugee status for refugees from Côte d'Ivoire came into effect, concluding one of the most protracted refugee situations in West Africa. The ending of the fighting in northern Ethiopia in November 2022 and the ceasefire in Yemen, which continued to be broadly adhered to following its expiration in October 2022, were positive developments that provided opportunities for solutions. Some 114,300 refugees were resettled in 2022, which was double the number from the previous year.

9. The High Commissioner renewed his Office's strategic directions for the period from 2022 to 2026. They will help guide the work of the organization in a complex global environment for the next five years, in alignment with the organization's new global results framework.

Chapter II

Global Compact on Refugees

10. The Global Compact on Refugees, affirmed by the General Assembly in 2018 (A/RES/73/151), continued to provide a foundation for promoting more predictable and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing and to promote global solidarity in support of people forced to flee and their host countries and communities.

11. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the second Global Refugee Forum will take place from 13 to 15 December 2023 in Geneva. It will be co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland, and co-convened by Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, the Niger and Uganda. During the reporting period, preparations for the Global Refugee Forum were launched, including the cultivation of high quality pledges from States and other stakeholders in support of the implementation of the four objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. As highlighted in the Global Compact on Refugees Indicator Report of 2021, these efforts sought to: (a) advance development cooperation to ease pressure on host countries; (b) further support the implementation of policy commitments to include refugees in national systems and increase self-reliance; and (c) unlock additional opportunities for durable solutions, including through voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways.

12. The High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges, which took place in December 2022, focused on how development cooperation could further advance protection, inclusion and solutions for displaced and stateless people. Nine multi-stakeholder development cooperation initiatives⁵ were announced at the event, with the intention of mobilizing pledges towards the next Global Refugee Forum.

13. The support platforms under the Global Compact on Refugees continued to galvanize political will to find solutions and helped mobilize resources. The comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework in Central America and Mexico, the support platform for the solutions strategy for Afghan refugees and the support platform facilitated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in the East and Horn of Africa helped strengthen comprehensive solutions through political dialogue and operational support.

14. To facilitate meaningful participation in decision-making, an advisory board consisting of organizations led by displaced and stateless people was established. Sixteen organizations led by refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless persons globally were selected to be a part of the advisory board for a two-year tenure (2022-2024). With the

⁵ Additional information on development cooperation initiatives may be found on webpage of the High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges 2022.

support of this board, guidance was prepared for stateless and displaced people on how to engage in the Global Refugee Forum and ensure that their voices are heard.

15. By the end of June 2023, UNHCR had received updates on implementation for over 1,000 of the more than 1,700 pledges made since the first Global Refugee Forum in 2019. These updates demonstrated that nearly 30 per cent of the updated pledges had been fulfilled.⁶ In 2022, 60 new pledges were made towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees by various actors, including 36 new pledges made by cities, municipalities and local governments in response to a call for local action to implement the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

16. To advance burden- and responsibility-sharing, a dedicated Global Refugee Forum pledge matching portal was set up in 2022. It facilitates the pairing of policy pledges made by host countries to further inclusion, protection and support for refugees, with pledges made by donors and other actors to provide financial, material and technical assistance for their implementation. UNHCR served as a facilitator between pledging entities to support the realization of the match. UNHCR welcomed the matching pledge between the Governments of Burundi and the Republic of Korea on the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees and continues to advocate for greater support.

17. Under the new global results framework and multi-year planning approach adopted by UNHCR, country operations worldwide worked towards systematically integrating the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees in their programmes. More than 500 personnel were trained, and 93 country operations used the newly introduced Global Refugee Forum “marker” in their 2023 planning to track outputs associated with the pledges and their follow-up.

Chapter III

Protection

A. Refugees and asylum-seekers

18. The number of refugees under the mandate of UNHCR worldwide⁷ rose by 35 per cent, reaching 34.6 million at the end of 2022 compared to 25.7 million the previous year. Globally, Colombia, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye hosted the largest number of refugees.

19. The responsibility of protecting the world’s refugees continued to fall disproportionately on low- and middle-income countries, which hosted 76 per cent of the world’s refugees and other people in need of international protection. The least developed countries provided asylum to 20 per cent of the total, while 70 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection were living in neighbouring countries.

20. During the year, nearly 5 million people were granted international protection or received temporary protection, including over 717,000 people who had made an individual asylum claim. Nearly 2.6 million new individual asylum applications were registered with States or UNHCR worldwide, representing an 83 per cent increase of 1.4 million applications from 2021. This increase was the result of new and unresolved conflict, with people forced to seek international protection in ever greater numbers, an uneven protection and assistance landscape in countries of asylum and the relaxation of most COVID-19 related travel restrictions in early 2022.

21. While many States were able to bring the infection rates of COVID-19 to manageable levels, public health concerns continued to be invoked in some countries to justify restrictions on entry and on the right to seek asylum, despite the availability of effective strategies to

⁶ More information on pledges can be found on the Global Compact on Refugees webpage under pledges and contributions.

⁷ The number of refugees under the mandate of UNHCR worldwide includes people in refugee-like situations and other people in need of international protection.

manage arrivals while also protecting public health. Negative political discourse against refugees and migrants persisted in some countries, as did policies and practices aimed at preventing irregular movements and arrivals with insufficient safeguards to ensure access to asylum procedures for those who needed it.

22. UNHCR continued to support States with the development of fair and efficient asylum procedures and policies that were compliant with international legal standards. A new asylum law was adopted in Benin, while progress on asylum reforms was made in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and the Niger. Based on the recommendation of an independent evaluation in 2022 on the work of UNHCR in favour of the development of asylum capacity, UNHCR is developing a five-year strategy in consultation with States to effectively support them. In the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, UNHCR made available good practices on the online portal of the Asylum Capacity Support Group to assist States in the development of new pledges in this area. In addition, the Asylum Capacity Support Group assumed a more active role, launching a dialogue platform in early 2023 to share knowledge and facilitate relationship-building between States and to reinforce linkages with key stakeholders.

23. Some States sought to maximize the protection offered to individuals seeking safety and to increase efficiency through group-based *prima facie* approaches to refugee recognition, including in Benin for arrivals from Burkina Faso and in the Central African Republic for arrivals from the Sudan. Others employed practical measures and mechanisms for providing protection in the context of large-scale displacement and ongoing conflict to complement the asylum regime. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, a headcount exercise enabled 2.6 million Afghans to obtain temporary documentation, protecting them from refoulement. Regularization processes for Venezuelans in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru facilitated their access to rights and socioeconomic inclusion. Brazil extended its humanitarian visa and temporary protection policy to Haitians, and Costa Rica implemented a special temporary stay arrangement on humanitarian grounds for nationals from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Ukrainians continued to benefit from temporary protection under a European Union directive and from national protection schemes across Europe and beyond.

B. Internal displacement

24. By the end of 2022, UNHCR had responded to situations of internal displacement in 34 countries. During the year, 28 million persons were newly displaced due to conflict, persecution, human rights violations and generalized violence. Armed conflict in Ukraine and conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Myanmar each displaced more than 1 million people within their own country. Climate, environmental degradation, and climate-related and other natural hazards were also drivers of internal displacement. A further 32.6 million new displacements were caused by climate-related and other natural hazards.⁸

25. The primary responsibility of States to assist and protect the displaced was highlighted in the “Global Report on Law and Policy on Internal Displacement: Implementing National Responsibility”, which was produced by UNHCR under the Global Protection Cluster. The report established key benchmarks for national responsibility, analyses trends across regions, and offered recommendations and best practices.

26. In Honduras, with the support of UNHCR, the Congress adopted landmark legislation establishing a legal framework to respond to people displaced within the country. UNHCR also provided expert advice and assistance aimed at advancing new legislation and policies on internal displacement in Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria and the Philippines. Further efforts in this direction were ongoing in Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, the Niger and Somalia.

⁸ These figures are also included in the statistics on internal displacement provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

27. In Iraq, UNHCR commenced the transition to a longer-term development approach in anticipation of the deactivation of the cluster system and the discontinuation of the humanitarian response plan. UNHCR will co-lead the newly formed protection platform with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and provide strategic guidance and technical support to partners in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.

28. In the Philippines, UNHCR supported the development of draft legislation on the rights of internally displaced persons at both the national level and in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

29. In line with the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, UNHCR released its institutional plan on solutions to internal displacement to demonstrate its long-standing commitment and engagement in situations of internal displacement. To facilitate the operationalization of the Action Agenda, UNHCR supported the offices of the Resident Coordinators in Afghanistan and Yemen to develop solutions strategies at the country level. Furthermore, an independent evaluation of its engagement in situations of internal displacement was underway and will be issued at the end of 2023.

C. Mixed and onward movements

30. People seeking international protection continued to move across borders alongside those moving for different reasons, often following similar routes and facing similar risks. In this context, UNHCR advocated for a holistic and collaborative approach to strengthen protection and solutions for the mixed flows of refugees and migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination in addition to looking at management of borders.

31. Tragic incidents involving the loss of life of refugees and migrants persisted, including in the Mediterranean Sea, the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, the Caribbean as well as in the Darién region. Concerned about inadequate search-and-rescue capacity and the need for safe and timely disembarkation of rescued refugees and migrants, UNHCR welcomed regional efforts to address a 360 per cent increase in onward movements of Rohingya refugees in the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal, including through the activation of the second consultation mechanism of the Bali Process in April 2023. In response to continuing dangerous sea crossings in the Mediterranean Sea, UNHCR has systematically advocated for coastal States to reinforce search-and-rescue capacities and establish a predictable mechanism for disembarkations in places of safety. To promote comprehensive and coordinated regional responses to address mixed movements in the Americas, UNHCR engaged with governments, civil society, the private sector and financial institutions in the implementation of the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection.

32. In July 2022, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) signed a framework of engagement to strengthen joint responses to mixed movements of refugees and migrants, promote durable solutions for internally displaced persons and improve the coordination of data and information management.

33. In Nigeria, UNHCR and IOM worked to address protection risks with communities in transit, and in Cameroon and Gabon, they supported capacity-building for local border authorities. To address the risks and reinforce the rights of refugees and migrants, UNHCR called for complementary implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, including through pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum.

D. Protection from gender-based violence

34. In 2022, UNHCR continued to implement its policy on the prevention of, risk mitigation and response to gender-based violence. A policy monitoring framework and operational guidance accompany this policy. Women-led organizations and, in particular, those led by displaced women helped ensure the meaningful participation of displaced women in decisions that concerned them and in coordination mechanisms for the prevention

of and response to gender-based violence. Globally, compared to 2021, 63 per cent more women-led organizations and groups were involved in the coordination mechanisms to prevent and mitigate gender-based violence in refugee settings in 2022.

35. Increasing access to quality services for survivors and those at risk of gender-based violence remained a priority. In 2022, 73 per cent of countries (131 UNHCR operations) had services available to survivors. For example, in Ethiopia, UNHCR worked with the national Bureau of Women, Youth and Children Affairs to strengthen the quality of services for women affected by gender-based violence in Jijiga. With funding support from the Safe from the Start initiative, UNHCR deployed specialists to support 13 operations with emergency responses, reaching over 1 million displaced people. In several countries, UNHCR also took steps to prevent violence against women by engaging communities in addressing harmful social norms and practices. An initiative, namely “Engaging men in accountable practices”, was also implemented. In Hungary and Poland, UNHCR conducted gender-based violence safety audits and made cross-sectoral recommendations to better protect refugees from Ukraine. Two online “Stay safe” campaigns in 2022 and 2023 raised awareness among refugees from Ukraine on gender-based violence and trafficking risks, with over 5 million views on social media platforms.

E. Specific needs

36. UNHCR remained committed to applying an age, gender and diversity approach to its programmes to address the protection risks faced by vulnerable groups. Xenophobia, islamophobia, false and negative perceptions of people on the move jeopardized their access to rights and services and contributed to a growth in hate speech and misinformation. Together with partners, UNHCR voiced concern about acts of racism, intolerance and discrimination against displaced populations, whether for racial, ethnic, religious or other reasons, and remained committed to fighting all forms of discrimination. Its age, gender and diversity policy and the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy guided the engagement of UNHCR with persons with disabilities. In 2022, UNHCR provided targeted support to some 5,300 older persons and 127,000 persons with disabilities. Community-based initiatives helped over 3,400 displaced children with disabilities gain access to education in Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Mauritania, the Niger, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In collaboration with the International Disability Alliance, a UNHCR facilitator guide for disability inclusion was launched in the Middle East and North Africa region. Furthermore, UNHCR updated its integration handbook for resettled refugees to ensure that integration programmes are responsive to the specific needs of refugees, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

37. The UNHCR Executive Committee adopted a conclusion on mental health and psychosocial support. In doing so, Member States acknowledged the importance of prioritizing this issue in responses to displacement.

F. Child protection and education

38. Children account for 40 per cent of the world’s displaced population, and complex protection risks for this vulnerable group persisted. UNHCR and partners implemented child protection programmes in over 70 countries, strengthening national capacities, and key child protection services were prioritized. In Cameroon, UNHCR and partners supported over 16,000 children at risk and provided psychosocial support to nearly 6,000 children. In Europe, UNHCR and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) support 34 Blue Dot hubs across seven countries to facilitate access to services and referrals for women and children. In Ukraine, over 41,000 children were provided with psychosocial support by UNHCR and partners as part of broader community-based child protection activities. In Brazil, the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents published a new resolution, updating procedures for unaccompanied, separated and undocumented children.

39. A UNHCR-UNICEF toolkit was used to assess the extent to which refugee children were included in national child protection systems, and to strengthen their accessibility and

responsiveness. Under the Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children, UNHCR and UNICEF strengthened the inclusion of refugee children in national child protection systems, scaled up birth registration and helped mitigate risks, such as child marriage, in 10 operations around the world. In line with its technical guidance on child-friendly procedures, UNHCR advanced reception, registration, status determination and durable solutions for displaced children. Together with partners, it supported programmes to strengthen the resilience and life skills of children, their families and communities in 39 operations.

40. Although ensuring access to primary and secondary education for refugee children and retaining girls in school remained challenging, there were some positive developments, including policy shifts that expanded opportunities for learning. In Iraq and Mauritania, refugees were granted access to the national curriculum. UNHCR, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation, implemented sport for protection programmes in primary schools in Chad, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda to promote increased school enrolment, attendance and improve well-being, social cohesion and inclusion. In southern Africa, digital information and communication technology was leveraged to enhance the teaching and learning process for refugees, asylum-seekers and learners from communities hosting them. The Instant Network Schools programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mozambique transformed classrooms into multimedia learning hubs and made digital content available to over 77,000 refugees, other forcibly displaced people, host community learners and their teachers. In Mexico, over 1,700 children benefited in 2022 under the auspices of the Educate A Child programme.

41. In 2022, the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative scholarship programme, known as DAFI, marked 30 years of providing higher education and opportunities to refugee youth in 55 countries, together with over 30 national partners. The programme delivered scholarships to more than 9,000 students enrolled in over 700 higher education institutions, with a rise in female enrolment from 41 per cent to 43 per cent. Several graduates of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative were admitted to master's degree programmes in France, Germany and Italy. Working with various partners, UNHCR expanded higher education opportunities for refugees, advancing towards the goal of enabling 15 per cent of refugees to access tertiary education by 2023.

G. Climate action and disaster displacement

42. Climate-fuelled crises and their devastating impact forced tens of millions of people to flee and made life even more precarious for those already uprooted from their homes. In 2022, there were over 32 million internal displacements due to climate-related and other natural hazards, with 8.7 million people remaining displaced at the end of the year.⁹ In addition, around 70 per cent of refugees originated from countries that were highly vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change, and some 90 per cent of returnees went back to countries that are climate vulnerable.

43. Over 3.4 million refugees, internally displaced persons and members of host communities were affected by floods in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, the Niger and Nigeria. In South Sudan, more than 1 million people needed assistance following severe floods in 2022. In Pakistan, floods impacted around 33 million individuals, destroying and damaging homes, farmland and livestock, affecting both refugees and host communities. In early 2023, earthquakes in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye took the lives of tens of thousands of people, including refugees, and affected millions, leaving many injured and without shelter. Drought was also a driver of displacement in Afghanistan, Madagascar and in the Horn of Africa. The devastating impact of tropical storms in parts of Central America and the Caribbean had severe consequences for displaced people and their hosts. In southern Africa, unstable climate conditions multiplied the vulnerability of displaced communities and had a devastating effect on sustainable livelihoods.

44. UNHCR introduced preventive and preparedness measures to minimize the impacts of climate crises on refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people and host

⁹ Estimate by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre.

communities, and enhance their resilience to risks. Natural hazard and climate-related risks that could increase humanitarian needs and displacement were identified in 47 countries. UNHCR helped mitigate climate impacts such as flooding, landslides, water scarcity and deforestation in displacement settings through climate-smart settlement planning, shelter, housing, water, sanitation, hygiene and energy. In collaboration with the United Nations Satellite Centre, UNHCR facilitated the geospatial and hydrological analysis of 30 settlements in the 15 countries most affected by climate-related shocks, enhancing site planning and evidence-based decision-making for improved environmental management of settlements.

45. UNHCR supported governments in the development of legal and policy frameworks for the protection of people who were internally displaced in the context of climate-related and other natural hazards in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Nigeria, the Philippines and South Sudan. A study on human mobility and climate change was prepared in the IGAD region. It was coordinated by IOM, together with UNHCR and other partners, in order to address drivers of displacement and facilitate safe, orderly and regular migration in the context of disasters and climate change. The study provides a basis for strengthening the protection environment and management of mobility in the region. In collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for Development in the Sahel and a research consortium of 18 academic institutions, UNHCR released a report on vulnerability hotspots in the Sahel¹⁰ that aims to support greater coherence on addressing climate and other risks across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

46. UNHCR made significant progress towards environmental sustainability and reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, which were down by 5 per cent in 2022 compared to previous years. The organization set an ambitious target of achieving a 45 per cent reduction in emissions by 2030 and successfully attained climate neutrality for the fifth consecutive year through offsetting measures. To improve energy efficiency, UNHCR embraced environmentally friendly practices, with 92 per cent of offices adopting “green boxes” for remote electricity monitoring to improve and optimize energy consumption. UNHCR also spearheaded renewable energy projects through its Green Financing Facility, providing guarantee-backed long-term leases for solar power provision, even in fragile settings. This initiative successfully reduced carbon emissions and generated financial savings in offices in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Recognizing the importance of greener practices in its supply chain, UNHCR took significant steps to enhance environmental performance. The aim is to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in carbon emissions associated with core relief items by the end of 2025.

Chapter IV Statelessness

47. At the end of 2022, an estimated 4.4 million people worldwide were either stateless or of undetermined nationality, based on data received from 95 countries. This represented an increase of 90,800 people compared to 2021. Several States took important steps to address statelessness, resulting in 32,400 people acquiring citizenship or having their nationality confirmed in 32 countries.

48. Improving data on statelessness remained a crucial aspect of the organization’s work in 2022. The endorsement by the United Nations Statistical Commission in March 2023¹¹ of the recommendations made by UNHCR to facilitate the production of statelessness statistics at the national level and promote greater harmonization of the data regionally and globally was a key milestone. UNHCR collaborated with States and other stakeholders to enhance

¹⁰ This report entitled “Moving from reaction to action: anticipating vulnerability hotspots in the Sahel” was developed under the Sahel Predictive Analytics Project in support of the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

¹¹ For more information, see section 54/121 of the report of the United Nations Statistical Commission contained in E/2023/24-E/CN.3/2023/37.

quantitative and qualitative data on stateless populations, resulting in higher reported numbers of stateless individuals.

49. Several States made progress in addressing statelessness through reformed laws and policies that recognize stateless populations as nationals and grant women and men equal rights in passing on nationality to their children. Liberia amended its aliens and nationality law to eliminate provisions that prevented women from conferring nationality on their children on an equal basis as men. Colombia extended a resolution allowing children born to Venezuelan parents in the country to obtain birth certificates, which are valid to acquire Colombian nationality, benefiting more than 94,000 children to date. North Macedonia adopted amendments to the law on civil registry to ensure birth registration of all children born in the country, regardless of the legal status of the parents. The Philippines introduced a foundling provision in its nationality law, granting nationality to children of unknown parentage within its territory, and became the first country in South-East Asia to accede to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

50. An identification and documentation campaign in Kazakhstan resulted in the confirmation of citizenship for over 4,860 people of previously undetermined nationality. In December 2022, the Kenyan Government announced the recognition of the Pemba community as citizens. Uzbekistan halved the number of stateless cases since the adoption of a progressive nationality law in 2020, with over 62,000 stateless people being granted nationality or having it confirmed. Several countries, including Benin, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands (Kingdom of) and Turkmenistan adopted legislation to establish or enhance statelessness determination procedures.

51. With less than two years left of the #Ibelong campaign to eradicate statelessness and since the high-level segment on statelessness convened by UNHCR in 2019, some 212 of the 417 pledges made to address statelessness were in progress, with 27 per cent fulfilled as of end of June 2023. UNHCR developed a plan to guide its work to prevent and respond to statelessness until 2026, including by working with States on national action plans to end statelessness and by strengthening networks to foster engagement with stateless people and civil society.

52. To implement the recommendation to end statelessness in the United Nations Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda, UNHCR commenced a process to establish a multi-stakeholder global alliance to end statelessness, including with the participation of stateless people. This alliance, to be launched in 2024, will build on the gains and momentum generated by the #Ibelong campaign, and serve as a platform to catalyse political commitments and accelerate the implementation of solutions.

Chapter V

Durable solutions

A. Voluntary return

53. In 2022, a total of 339,300 refugees voluntarily returned to 38 countries of origin, a decrease of 21 per cent compared to 2021. Several factors, including ongoing and recurrent conflicts, political instability, security challenges, a lack of services and livelihood opportunities, and failure to redress housing, land, and property issues, as well as climate-related challenges, remained obstacles to the sustainability of returns.

54. UNHCR utilized a data-driven approach to guide its commitment to mobilizing effective support for inclusion and planning for returns. For example, in the Central African Republic, UNHCR collaborated with the World Bank to conduct assessments on the availability of services and the capacity of schools to support returning refugees.

55. South Sudanese refugees constituted the largest group of returnees, with 151,300 returning in 2022, primarily from Ethiopia, the Sudan and Uganda. In South Sudan, UNHCR conducted assessments to anticipate and address additional needs that could arise from these returns. Due to the deteriorating situation in the Sudan, UNHCR is preparing for

an increase in returns from that country. As thousands of refugees chose to return in a self-organized manner to South Sudan, UNHCR scaled up area-based approaches through an initiative that focused on enhancing living conditions and access to essential services in areas of return.

56. In Afghanistan, despite the profound challenges, and building on improved access and security in all 34 provinces, UNHCR and partners re-oriented their response to better respond to the growing needs and to deliver much-needed assistance. UNHCR expanded the use of cash-based assistance to support protection and solutions for the return and reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons. UNHCR together with partners continued to support community- and area-based investments in the 80 priority areas of return and reintegration contributing to resilience building and widening access to essential services such as health, education, and livelihoods. Some 6,500 refugees and 236,200 internally displaced persons returned to Afghanistan or their areas of origin in 2022. Some 51,300 Syrians returned to their country during the year, an increase of 14,800 from 2021, with two-thirds returning from Türkiye. Although UNHCR did not promote or facilitate refugee returns to the Syrian Arab Republic, it assisted local communities receiving returnees together with partners.

57. Other notable returns during the year included Cameroonian refugees from Chad (30,800), Ivorian refugees from Liberia (12,900), Nigerian refugees from the Niger (10,700), Congolese refugees (from the Democratic Republic of the Congo) from Zambia (10,200), and Burundian refugees from Uganda (10,100) and the United Republic of Tanzania (5,807).

58. UNHCR worked closely with national and development actors to create conditions conducive to safe, dignified and sustainable returns of internally displaced persons through area-based approaches. In 2022, an estimated 5.7 million internally displaced persons returned to their places of origin, 8 per cent more than during the previous year, with 81 per cent in sub-Saharan African countries. A peace agreement signed in northern Ethiopia in November 2022 resulted in 1.9 million internally displaced persons returning during the year. In addition, significant returns were reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (1.2 million), Somalia (607,300), the Central African Republic (404,600), Myanmar (325,200), Mozambique (270,500) and the Syrian Arab Republic (255,100). While UNHCR works to ensure that all returns are voluntary, camp closures and forced or premature evictions in some contexts affected the voluntariness. Similarly, in some contexts, new forced displacement far outpaced returns, raising questions of sustainability.

B. Integration and local solutions

59. During 2022, an estimated 50,800 refugees were naturalized in 28 host countries, a 10 per cent decrease from the previous year. Globally, Canada and the Netherlands (Kingdom of) reported the largest numbers of refugees naturalized. Refugees who obtained their host country's citizenship or were granted permanent residence were primarily from the Syrian Arab Republic (14,400), Eritrea (4,700), the Islamic Republic of Iran (3,300), Indonesia (2,200) and Nigeria (2,000).

C. Resettlement and complementary pathways

60. Advocacy by UNHCR resulted in an increase in resettlement places provided by States. In 2022, submissions were up by 84 per cent compared to 2021, with expanded submissions for Afghans and the Rohingya. A total of 114,300 resettlement arrivals were reported by governments in 2022, representing a return to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Some 55 per cent of refugees resettled globally were supported by UNHCR, with the remainder resettled through other means, most commonly private sponsorship programmes. The principal countries of origin were the Syrian Arab Republic (37,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (26,000), Afghanistan (12,000), Myanmar (9,000) and Eritrea (4,000). However, the number of resettled refugees constituted only 7 per cent of the 1.5 million people estimated to be in need of resettlement. Approximately 90 per cent of resettlement submissions made by UNHCR to States concerned survivors of torture, violence, people with

legal and physical protection needs, and particularly vulnerable women and girls. Resettlement submissions of children accounted for 52 per cent of all such submissions made by UNHCR.

61. Support was provided to States to strengthen their capacity to establish or expand solutions in third countries, including tools developed under the sustainable resettlement and complementary pathways initiative. In 2022, a third-country solutions roadmap¹² was launched, reaffirming three mutually reinforcing goals: expand resettlement; advance complementary pathways and family reunification; and build the foundations for welcoming and inclusive societies. The roadmap aims to expand opportunities for solutions in solutions for 3 million refugees through resettlement (1 million) and complementary pathways (2 million) by 2030.

62. UNHCR renewed efforts to improve access to complementary pathways for refugees. As accurate data related to admission through complementary pathways remained a challenge, UNHCR and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development collaborated to strengthen the evidence base. UNHCR pursued a protection-sensitive approach to developing complementary pathways for refugees. It also engaged with global task forces on refugee labour mobility and education pathways in third countries for qualified refugees. UNHCR convened the first International Forum on Complementary Pathways, which brought together the private sector, academia, refugees and governments at the International Humanitarian Law Institute of San Remo. A framework for the provision of loans to help refugees access job opportunities was launched at this event in collaboration with a partner, Pathway Club, which covers costs related to visas and passports when needed in the labour market.

63. Reuniting separated refugee families remained a priority. UNHCR advocated for family reunification in response to the Ukraine emergency and the earthquakes in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye. It promoted procedural flexibility, including remote processing and flexible documentation requirements. Under the Global Family Reunification Network, a platform for cooperation and information-sharing, UNHCR strengthened collocation among States and partners in response to the Afghanistan and Ukraine crises, contributing to emerging best practices to improve access to family reunification. It also mobilized pledges on family reunification for the 2023 Global Refugee Forum. More broadly, UNHCR is taking the lead in expanding the identification, screening and processing of cases eligible for resettlement and other protective measures with the United States Government under the Safe Mobility Offices initiative, which was launched in May 2023.

64. Efforts to secure labour and educational pathways in third countries continued, with programmes launched in Belgium, France, Ireland, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Tertiary educational pathways were expanded in Italy and Japan.

Chapter VI Partnerships

65. In line with the High Commissioner's strategic directions (2022-2026), the Global Compact on Refugees and the United Nations development system reform, UNHCR diversified its partnerships and strengthened collaboration across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. Its partnership strategy was guided by the following tenets: placing affected populations at the centre of the response; upholding protection principles; championing localization; and assisting governments in coordinating the international response to displacement and statelessness. Partnerships were strengthened with local actors, regional organizations, organizations led by displaced and stateless persons, faith-based organizations, development actors and international financial institutions, with the aim to advance localization and inclusion of the displaced populations in United Nations programmes, as well as in national humanitarian and development policies and plans.

¹² UNHCR, "Third country solutions for refugees: roadmap 2030", June 2022.

A. Development actors and financial institutions

66. In light of the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, UNHCR continues to collaborate with development actors, specifically multilateral development banks, international financial institutions and regional and national development agencies to support responsibility-sharing. Its non-transactional role with such institutions facilitated concessional grants and loans to some 23 refugee-hosting countries, releasing resources for development and poverty reduction.

67. Efforts to build resilience and promote inclusion and local integration for refugees gained momentum through strategic partnerships with governments and development partners. In Mexico, a strategic cooperation agreement between UNHCR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs played a crucial role in facilitating naturalization applications. In Liberia, the World Bank's dedicated funding window for host communities and refugees enabled the issuance of permanent residence permits without charge to former Ivorian refugees. Similarly, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, efforts were made by UNHCR for refugees to gain access to land for livelihoods and promote their socioeconomic integration alongside legal residency. Together with the Burundian Government and development actors, UNHCR advocated measures to support greater self-reliance for refugees and the inclusion of returnees in national development plans. In Cameroon, UNHCR supported the Government's upcoming census through data collection on internally displaced persons and returnees. Temporary protection granted to some 5 million refugees from Ukraine in Europe by June 2023, which afforded them rights including access to the labour market.

68. The tangible benefits of supporting resilience and inclusion extended beyond refugees and included host communities. In Uganda, collaboration among the Government, UNHCR and the World Bank led to the successful transition from parallel humanitarian systems to inclusive national education, health and water systems. In Kenya, through the Refugee Act of 2021 and the proposed Shirika Plan, the Government is pursuing an innovative approach to refugee management and inclusion to transition refugee camps into integrated settlements. The plan, which aims to provide equitable access to services, support socioeconomic inclusion and build resilience for refugees and host communities, attracted development financing from the World Bank and the Global Partnership for Education. In Colombia, 1.2 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants were enrolled in the national health insurance programme with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.

69. UNHCR assisted Mexico with a local integration programme for thousands of refugees, significantly enhancing their well-being and contributing to the national tax revenue. Similarly, integration efforts by Brazil resulted in improved access to jobs, housing and education for Venezuelans.

70. Initiatives resulting from partnerships with regional entities, such as IGAD on regional durable solutions and the solutions initiative for South Sudan and the Sudan, are supporting the inclusion of refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in national dialogues to ensure their perspectives were reflected in national development and peacebuilding strategies and plans. In the Americas, Member States implementing the comprehensive regional protection and solutions framework reaffirmed their commitment to solutions for another five years, while the Central American Bank for Economic Integration and the World Bank became members of its support platform, joining the Inter-American Development Bank in identifying long-term solutions in Central America and Mexico. Building on the Yaoundé Declaration on Solutions of April 2022, seven governments committed to a regional approach to operationalize a solutions support platform to seek durable solutions for 1.4 million forcibly displaced Central Africans residing in six countries. UNHCR supported coordination mechanisms to help develop solutions-oriented national policy instruments in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali and the Niger.

71. Engaging development actors in the response from the outset of a crisis remained a priority. UNHCR continued to foster strategic alliances with development actors, international financial institutions, bilateral and United Nations development actors with a view to building resilience and promoting inclusion. Following an evaluation of its work with development actors in 2021-2022, UNHCR designed a four-year strategy to engage such

actors to socially and economically empower refugees, internally displaced persons, returnees and stateless persons with the means to become self-reliant and enable them to contribute to sustainable development.

72. UNHCR contributed to the International Monetary Fund's strategy for fragile and conflict-affected States, emphasizing support to countries impacted by forced displacement. UNHCR also continued to partner with the World Bank to foster midterm development opportunities for refugees and host communities, leveraging financing opportunities for host countries, and identifying policy and programming priorities through joint assessments and monitoring of host country refugee protection and policy frameworks. This enabled the Governments of Mauritania and Uganda to advance the process of progressively transferring essential services for refugees from parallel humanitarian systems to their respective national systems. Costa Rica became eligible for the Global Concessional Finance Facility with support from UNHCR and received its first grant for a resilient infrastructure project benefiting refugee-hosting areas. UNHCR signed a global framework on a data-sharing agreement with the World Bank to facilitate timely access to data related to the socioeconomic condition of refugees, internally displaced persons and stateless populations, enabling the World Bank to design targeted programmes that build long-term economic resilience and individual potential. Enhanced collaboration with the International Finance Corporation, a private sector arm of the World Bank Group, is strengthening the collective effort to create markets in areas hosting refugees and internally displaced persons, and to mobilize private sector contributions for financial inclusion and access to labour markets.

73. Collaboration with the Asian Development Bank in the context of its expanded disaster and pandemic response facility resulted in a grant for Bangladesh, financing a multi-sectoral response in Cox's Bazar. These examples confirm the value of engagements with multilateral development banks on forced displacement situations.

B. Inter-agency engagement

74. UNHCR strengthened strategic partnerships within the United Nations and leveraged complementary expertise through frameworks for cooperation with IOM, UNICEF and the United Nations Development Programme. A global joint initiative with the United Nations Development Programme for 2023-2025 was launched to enhance collaboration in the areas of livelihoods, integration, the rule of law and local governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding, climate and the environment, internal displacement and statelessness. UNHCR and UNICEF signed a global strategic collaboration framework in February 2023 to promote the inclusion of displaced children and their families in national plans, budgets, datasets and service delivery systems. It builds on strong collaboration and experience gained during the implementation of the Blueprint for Joint Action for Refugee Children between 2020 and 2022.

75. UNHCR helped shape the strategic priorities and associated task forces of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for 2022-2023, including on the centrality of protection, accountability to affected populations, the humanitarian-development nexus and localization. In 2022, UNHCR led and coordinated six regional refugee response plans, supporting inter-agency responses in 55 refugee-hosting countries. Partners reached refugees and host communities, such as 2.2 million individuals impacted by the Syrian crisis through food assistance; 1.2 million refugees from Ukraine through cash assistance; and over 760,000 people who benefited from the installation of new or rehabilitated water supply systems in countries hosting Afghans. Over 390,000 South Sudanese refugee children were enrolled in primary school, and over 1.1 million refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and host community members were able to access basic health services.

76. UNHCR, alongside the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Action, represented the United Nations in the facilitation group of the Grand Bargain 2.0. Under the new cash coordination model, which aims to ensure the use of standardized protocols, market assessments and cash delivery in humanitarian settings, UNHCR was designated as co-lead for cash coordination in refugee contexts, in support of national governments, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in non-refugee contexts. In 2022, UNHCR

delivered \$977 million to 10 million people in over 100 countries, including in emergencies and other challenging contexts. Eighty per cent of cash recipients received cash assistance through digital means, including some 32 per cent through their own bank and/or mobile money accounts, paving a way for further financial inclusion.

77. In the lead-up to the second Global Refugee Forum in 2023 and building on the 2019 United Nations common pledge on refugees, UNHCR, the United Nations Development Coordination Office and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs co-led the process to develop a United Nations common pledge 2.0. The pledge aims to reflect measurable commitments by 20 United Nations entities and some 30 United Nations country teams towards the overall goal of refugee inclusion.

C. Non-governmental organizations

78. Non-governmental and civil society organizations remained essential partners for UNHCR to provide protection and solutions to displaced and stateless people, both as funded and strategic partners locally and globally. UNHCR signed partnership agreements with 1,239 partners, of which 1,043 (84 per cent) were local and national responders, including government partners. Seventy of these agreements were signed with 59 organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons in 22 operations for a value of \$233,000. In addition, a new grant agreement mechanism to assist local and refugee-led organizations was introduced with reduced registration and reporting requirements. UNHCR continued to provide standard overhead support costs to national and local NGO partners (4 per cent). In 2022, UNHCR disbursed approximately \$850 million to local and national responders, which represented some 23 per cent of the overall programme expenditure and 57 per cent of the overall funding UNHCR provided to partners. The proportion of expenditure implemented by local and national partners was relatively consistent in 2021 and 2022, while noting that in the Ukraine situation, UNHCR directly implemented large-scale cash and relief assistance programmes.

79. In 2022, UNHCR engaged with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) through multilateral consultations and high-level bilateral discussions to align priorities for advocacy, fundraising and implementation modalities, resulting in nimble and simplified relationships at the operational level. The 2022 global consultations with NGOs, co-led with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, focused on localization and climate action. Consultations with civil society focused on access to justice, the refugee coordination model, partnership reform and collaboration with development banks.

80. An advisory board led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons was established to provide inputs on strategic documents and guidance. Also, in 2022, UNHCR launched the Refugee-led Innovation Fund, which was co-created with refugees and provides direct financial, technical and capacity-building support to refugee-led organizations. Out of 2,100 applications, 17 projects were endorsed, ensuring refugees play a central role in the design and implementation of their own projects. Seven women-led organizations also received awards in recognition of their innovative work with forcibly displaced and stateless persons, their commitment to gender equality and accountability to women and girls, and their promotion of women in leadership positions. In addition, a global mapping tool and an online information repository¹³ were developed to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and make information available to organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

81. UNHCR adopted its first sport strategy,¹⁴ working to increase partnerships with the sport sector to provide opportunities and to increase the well-being of refugees through sport. UNHCR leveraged new and existing partnerships in sport to combat xenophobia and racism and raise awareness about the positive contributions of refugees in their societies. Sport for protection projects were implemented in Colombia, Libya, Malaysia, Türkiye and Uganda.

¹³ More information on UNHCR engagement and partnership with organizations led by forcibly displaced and stateless persons is available on the Global Compact on Refugees webpage.

¹⁴ The UNHCR sport strategy, "More than a game", outlines the organization's approach to working with and through the sport world to improve the lives of displaced persons.

Partnerships with the Union of European Football Associations, Football Club Barcelona and Nottingham Forest Football Club were leveraged to attract greater resources and raise awareness of refugee issues through club and player fanbases as well as sporting goodwill ambassadors.

Chapter VII

Reform, accountability and oversight

A. Transformation

82. Efforts to build a more agile, efficient, inclusive and collaborative organization continued. Key milestones were reached in the business transformation programme, specifically with the cloud-based digital systems whose governance and management structures were strengthened to ensure their effectiveness.

83. Workday, the new cloud-based enterprise resource planning solution for human resources, was launched in October 2022. The new system aims to simplify and optimize workforce management, including recruitment, performance management and learning, through improved, real-time analytics. The launch of Workday triggered the revision and simplification of key human resource policies and administrative instructions.

84. The first full operations management cycle with COMPASS, the organization's results-based management system, was completed. By 2024, it is expected that all UNHCR operations will have multi-year plans, resulting in better alignment and collaboration with governments and partners, including development actors and international financial institutions.

85. UNHCR issued a new policy on emergency preparedness and response in February 2023. The policy introduced new ways of working and simplified procedures for emergencies, and it was accompanied by the release of new guidance on emergency preparedness in April 2023. The guidance provides a practical framework for implementing and operationalizing the preparedness measures set out in the emergency policy.

86. Beyond transforming its structures and systems, UNHCR also focused on work culture and its collaboration methods with partners, as well as refugees, internally displaced persons, stateless people and host communities.

B. Accountability and oversight

87. Roles, accountabilities and authorities were revised to provide a harmonized view of the differentiated roles of headquarters, regional bureaux and country operations across all major business areas of the organization. These updated roles, accountabilities, and authorities, released in December 2022, aimed to strengthen effective and accountable decentralized decision-making and bring UNHCR in closer alignment with the "three lines of defence" model on oversight.

88. Ensuring a safe and confidential space to proactively address staff issues continued to be a key priority. A support desk was set up to coordinate the independent oversight bodies for the initial assessment of both informal and formal workplace issues, and an anti-retaliation policy update in August 2022 clarified the roles and responsibilities of UNHCR entities in providing protection against retaliation, enabling them to use their expertise more efficiently and effectively.

89. UNHCR remained steadfast in its commitment to identify, prevent and respond to sexual misconduct. Interactive learning and training packages on the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment were made available to staff and partners. Together with the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, UNHCR established a fund to promote localized outreach and communication on the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual harassment. The organization continued to contribute to United Nations system-wide efforts, including through the United Nations Chief Executives Board Task Force on Addressing

Sexual Harassment, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and the offices of the United Nations Special Coordinator on Improving the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and the Victims' Rights Advocate.

90. The risk management culture, grounded in the organization's 2025 risk management strategy, continued to mature, as evidenced by the annual risk reviews as well as by an advisory study on risk management conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Full compliance was achieved for the annual risk registers as well as greater operationalization of the risk management methodology.

91. To bring greater coherence to the UNHCR oversight system, the Inspector General's Office facilitated the coordination of the activities of independent oversight and integrity parties, including at the planning, fieldwork and analytical stages. Online tools were developed to streamline oversight planning. Recommendations and adjustments were also made to ensure integrity matters were handled by the right integrity provider for the best result.

92. Independent, robust and professional investigations were delivered by the Inspector General's Office. Intake processes and structures were strengthened to handle the increasing number of complaints of misconduct received. Learning, research and analytical products, including on the risk of fraud, were issued.

93. The evaluation policy was updated in 2022, with strengthened provisions for independence and new norms for evaluation coverage. Learning and recommendations from evaluations directly contributed to the development of organizational policy and strategy.

Chapter VIII

Contributions to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

94. The final budget of UNHCR for 2022 was \$10.7 billion, including four supplementary budgets to address new and worsening crises relating to the forced displacement situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, the floods in Cameroon, Chad and Pakistan, and the humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons in Afghanistan.

95. UNHCR received \$5.8 billion in voluntary contributions in 2022, as well as the assessed contribution of the United Nations regular budget of \$42.2 million. Seventy-five per cent of voluntary contributions were provided by government donors and 21 per cent by the private sector. Total funds available reached \$6.2 billion, leaving a 42 per cent funding gap. Expenditure totalled \$5.6 billion, an increase of 14 per cent compared to 2021.

96. Contributions to UNHCR have become more tightly earmarked over the past decade, with unearmarked funding declining as a share of total contributions, from 16 per cent in 2013 to 13 per cent in 2022, making it more difficult for UNHCR to shift resources among its operations. There was, however, an increase in softly earmarked funding as a share of total contributions, from 21 per cent in 2021 to 28 per cent in 2022, largely due to private sector contributions made in the context of the situation in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Chapter IX

Conclusion

97. This past year was marked by intense conflict and violence across the globe with humanitarian crises growing in scale and complexity. Increasing emergency situations in different regions, the lingering socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global consequences of the situation in Ukraine, food insecurity and the adverse effects of climate change and climate-related and other natural hazards continued to have an impact on the plight of forcibly displaced people. This underscored the need for access to rights in host countries and redoubled efforts to achieve solutions, supported by effective burden- and responsibility-sharing among States. While mixed movements added to the scale and

complexity of displacement challenges, they also brought to the fore the critical importance of responses to global mobility that uphold human rights.

98. As the international community marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2023, it is an important moment to recall the value of the international human rights framework and to reinforce its key principles, including the right to seek and enjoy asylum.

99. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR will continue to reinforce strong partnerships with States, United Nations partners, civil society, representatives of affected communities, development partners, international financial institutions and the private sector to address the current global displacement situation. While collective action has helped promote and support solutions for displaced and stateless populations, the growing scale and complexity of displacement calls for amplified action across the board.

100. Remarkable solidarity continues to be shown for refugees and other forcibly displaced populations around the world. The forthcoming Global Refugee Forum will be an opportunity to demonstrate that this solidarity remains solid, as States and other stakeholders showcase good practices and make new commitments in support of refugees and their host communities. UNHCR will play a catalytic role in promoting new pledges and continuing to accelerate the implementation of existing pledges to bring about positive change to the lives of those in need of protection.
