



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Annual Results Report

2022

Iraq

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Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

After nearly a year of political gridlock, a new government was formed in October 2022. Sticking points remain between the Federal and Regional Kurdistan authorities, particularly around resources and the displacement portfolio. The Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) is also marked by increasing tensions between the two leading parties. The security situation remains volatile, with sporadic attacks by extremist groups as well as some regional tensions, but this has no impact on UNHCR's operational footprint. The socioeconomic situation remains fragile, despite the substantive expansion of the Federal government's fiscal space due to oil revenue increases.

Clusters were deactivated at the end of 2022 and Iraq did not present an HRP for 2023. The HCT decided to transition to development interventions and strengthen public authorities' ownership under the UNSDCF. UNHCR and OHCHR co-lead the newly formed Protection Platform, which provides strategic guidance/advocacy and technical support to UNSDCF partners. UNHCR has internalised the CCCM functions of the remaining 25 KRG-administered IDP camps (180,000 IDPs).

UNHCR is working with authorities to find dignified solutions for IDPs residing in KRG-administered camps, including returns/reintegration, sustainable local integration and/or the transformation of camps into formal settlements serviced by public institutions. HCR is also leading UN advocacy for the inclusion of eligible IDP households in the social assistance programme. UNHCR continued the provision of legal assistance to those lacking civil documentation including complex cases and at risk of statelessness groups, such as Bidoons and Faili Kurds.

A total of 287,000 refugees and asylum seekers are registered with UNHCR Iraq, most of whom are Syrians of Kurdish origin. Over 90% of refugees and asylum seekers reside in KRI.

UNHCR accelerated efforts to support the Government to end statelessness by 2023 for those entitled to Iraqi nationality including through dedicated surveys to identify stateless and at-risk populations and the provision of support to the MoI and legal assistance and civil documentation.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2024, forcibly displaced and stateless persons in Iraq will be able to enjoy a safe protection environment (rights to asylum, documentation, and identity, and access to inclusive protection services)

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of individuals seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98%	80.10%

In 2022, UNHCR registered 30,301 new asylum seekers in Iraq, providing them with UNHCR certificates, which allows them to prove their identity, protect against arbitrary arrest, detention and forcible returns to countries of origin and facilitates their access to essential public services including residency, education and medical care. The majority of the newly registered individuals are Syrians (26,916; 88.8%) followed by 662 Iranians, 564 Turkish, 523 Afghans, 322 Palestinians and 1,314 from other countries. UNHCR partners continued providing specialized case management and psychosocial support to vulnerable refugees, complemented by ongoing efforts to strengthen the domestic asylum mechanisms and better enforce the non-refoulement principle; such efforts led to better recognition of UNHCR certificates by judges, which in turn resulted in fewer arrests and detention of asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR advocacy and technical legal support for development of a sound asylum legal framework in line with international standards for refugee protection was intensified in 2022. Both Federal and KRG authorities were supported to develop Administrative Instructions aimed at harmonizing processes for access to residency permits and adoption of key international refugee principles, laying the foundations of a new refugee law. By the end of 2022, both Instructions reached a final draft and a committee was established by the Mol to work on a new refugee law. A common challenge faced by IDPs and IDP returnees is a lack of civil documentation. This impedes their ability to access basic services such as education, healthcare and social security benefits, and can lead to restricted freedom of movement, increased risk of arrest and detention, exclusion from restitution and/or reconstruction programmes, and the inability to participate in public affairs. To this end, UNHCR focused on strengthening the capacities of relevant public authorities in charge of delivering civil documents and provided legal assistance including to those lacking civil documentation and at-risk of statelessness. In total, UNHCR and its partners issued at least 72,178 civil documents and assisted 160 stateless individuals to acquire Iraqi nationality and documents in 2022.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

By 2024, the people we serve are able to access quality services in Iraq that meet their basic needs and reduce their vulnerability.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	100%	68.01%
2.2 Proportion of PoCs residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	69.44%
2.3 Proportion of PoC with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%

UNHCR continued to ensure improved access to basic public services for vulnerable refugees and IDPs, which assisted individuals to regain social and economic ability to meet their essential needs and reduce their vulnerability and dependence on humanitarian assistance. This was supported through enhanced refugee inclusion into the public education system, provision of cash assistance for the most vulnerable refugees and to a limited extent linking of refugees and IDPs to livelihood programmes provided by humanitarian and development actors, as well as improved access to government services for refugees (such as health and psychosocial support) to pave the way towards their social and economic inclusion. UNHCR also worked on strengthening the capacities of relevant authorities to continue delivering public services and encouraging refugee inclusion into national systems and social protection schemes. Efforts included advocacy with authorities to include refugee camps in Government provision of public services and implementing projects with the aim of benefitting both the refugee and host communities. During the course of 2022, WASH services in camps were handed over to local public authorities, and the handover of health services commenced. Additionally, in selected locations, work has been undertaken with development partners to include refugee camps in local governance structures, including local development plans. Advocacy by UNHCR and partners led to the KRG's gradual integration of refugee students (grades one to four) and qualified refugee teachers in public schools (with public budgets), enhancing the quality of education and fostering social cohesion. Education actors, led by UNHCR, continue to advocate for the implementation of REIP phase two for grades five to nine from the 2023/2024 academic year. The operation set out detailed guidance on recording and monitoring refoulement-related incidents and interventions in accordance with the Operational Guidelines and accompanying Administrative Instructions on Preventing and Responding to Refoulement (2022) and drafted Standard Operating Procedures for Responding to Detention in Iraq which allows for a systematic approach to these core issues for the operation. In 2022, UNHCR successfully intervened and ensured the release of 585 refugees which also represents an increase as compared with the 525 cases in 2021.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2024, the people we serve are actively engaged in decision-making processes that affect and shape their lives.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Proportion of PoC who have the right to decent work [GCR, 2.1.1]	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%
3.2b Proportion of PoC enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	13.93%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	IDPs	Unknown	85.72%
3.3 Proportion of PoC feeling safe walking alone in their neighborhood (related SDG 16.1.4).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	85.77%

In 2022, UNHCR prioritized community-based protection (CBP) as a means to empower and mobilize displaced communities to secure their rights, safety and dignity, centred in the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach. Community structures and individuals are recognized as agents of protection in all aspects of programming and response, while humanitarian actors are accountable for transparency, dialogue, and trust under their commitment to accountability to affected populations (AAP). With 46 Community Support Centres (CSCs) and diverse community representation structures of over 1,540 members, UNHCR reached refugee and IDP communities in areas across the country, promoting access to information and feedback (two-way communication), linking individuals to available services, and promoting community empowerment/participation and social cohesion via a variety of community-led initiatives. In 2022, the Programme made significant progress toward gender equality. This has been achieved with increased women participation in leadership structures (a notable 48% amongst the refugee and a 35%

amongst IDP population), by supporting quotas for women in election/selection processes, piloting gender support groups and targeting more than 4,600 women and girls (1,346 refugees and 3,300 IDPs) with life skills training. As a result, women have increased opportunities to leave their households and to meet and discuss matters affecting their lives in safe and protected environments. Moreover, a proportion of women benefitting from life-skills training, have been able to acquire skills to become more self-reliant and, for example, open small businesses. Against a fairly conservative socio-cultural context, this is an achievement with potential for social behavioural changes.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

By 2024, forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to secure sustainable and adequate solutions that guarantee their rights and allow them to realize their potential.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin. [RF/GCR 4.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	4,000	2,845
4.2a Number of PoC who departed on resettlement. [GCR 3.1.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1,000	835
4.2b Number of PoC who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10	137
4.3a Number of stateless persons for whom nationality is granted or confirmed.	Stateless Persons	500	160

UNHCR's assistance to IDPs in Iraq transitioned to longer-term development approaches, in line with the Humanitarian Country Team's phase out of the humanitarian response and focus on durable solutions under the UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework. (UNSDCF) UNHCR and OHCHR co-lead the newly formed Protection Platform, which will provide strategic guidance, advice, and technical support to UNSDCF partners. UNHCR continued to enhance relevant institutions' capacity and advocate for removing barriers to documentation, especially for complex cases. Refugees continue to benefit from inclusive health and education policies and are allowed to work with some restrictions. In 2022, 2,663 individuals (548 cases) were submitted for resettlement. The operation also assisted more than 450 individuals of different nationalities to access complementary pathways in 17 third countries, with 45 families (137 individuals departed in 2022).

A2PS interventions were aligned to include refugees, IDPs and returnees in public services. Interventions supported the integration of camp-based Primary Health Centres and the implementation of the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) through rehabilitation and construction of schools and strengthening of WASH infrastructure. Provision of WASH services and health activities was gradually handed over to the authorities in 2022. Three refugee camps in Erbil were included in the local development and investment plans of three municipalities in collaboration with the International Cooperation Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG).

UNHCR identified and designed projects in five new A2PS areas to support IDPs in areas of return. UNHCR expanded its partnership with ILO, ensuring refugees' access to micro-loans. Refugees will also be included in a Social Safety Net pilot project planned for implementation in 2023 by MoLSA with the support of the World Bank.

The activities planned under Impact Statement 4 align with priority area 1 of the UNSDCF on "achieving social cohesion, protection, and inclusion", priority area 3 on promoting effective, inclusive, and efficient institutions and services", and priority area 5 on "durable solutions" related to IDPs.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Formalization of the Durable Solutions Strategy and the Camp to Neighbourhood Approach was temporarily put on hold. Discussions with the government will be re-initiated in 2023. As detailed under impact area IA: Securing Solutions, progress on these objectives were achieved.

Despite intensified efforts and technical support by UNHCR to develop a sound asylum legal framework in Iraq in line with international standards for refugee protection at both Federal and KRG levels, the political situation in Iraq proved to be challenging. Negative factors included delays with the formation of the new government, the non-harmonised policies of the two governments on refugees, and the limited ability of the KRG to regulate asylum and residency, which remains under the federal jurisdiction. Access to territory and asylum remains restricted. Border control is exercised by a combination of entities and the procedures currently in place severely limit the ability of Syrians seeking international protection to access safety in the KR-I.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

The UN shifted its focus from a humanitarian-only response plan to a development-focused approach to better serve the needs of all citizens in Iraq. As a result of decreasing humanitarian needs and the presence of a durable solutions architecture, the international humanitarian response in Iraq is being scaled down, and a government-led approach under the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) is being implemented. As part of the transition plan, UNHCR and OHCHR are co-leading the Protection Platform and UNHCR has taken on the relevant CCCM functions for 25 IDP camps in KR-I and support camp management at the governorate level. UNHCR is working with Gol and KRG to identify and implement dignified solutions for IDPs still residing in the 25 camps, with the aim to improve the living conditions of IDPs and create a more secure and stable future for them.

UNHCR continued its role as the co-coordinator of the 3RP. Given the limited scope of other operational partners and limited operational relevance of the 3RP in Iraq, consultations took place with 3RP partners in the course of 2022, building on the momentum of the HRP cluster de-activation in order to rethink and reshape the approach towards the 3RP. As many clusters were also double-hatting to include refugee coordination, refugees have been included, when relevant, within the relevant government-led and development coordination structures that will replace the clusters in 2023. Regarding protection, refugees have been included in the Protection Platform and the MoLSA-led GBV and the CP coordination sector groups established to take over sub-cluster functions. The health and the education sector will be led by the Ministry of Health and Education respectively while the livelihood sector will be reviewed. Additionally, decisions have been made to de-activate other sectors with only one remaining active operational agency (general protection, shelter, basic needs, food security) and with no appeal due to a successful handover of services (WASH). The remaining needs to ensure refugees' access to public services are better addressed through a development and long-term solution-oriented approach focusing on strengthening national and local services to advance refugees socio-economic inclusion. This would require further advocacy to include refugees in the UNSDCF, where all UNHCR activities are already included.

In 2022 UNHCR worked to further enhance partnerships with development actors to include refugees in their programming. UNHCR strengthened collaboration with GIZ, VNG, WFP and ILO through A2PS programming and non-transactional partnerships, such as with the World Bank and UNICEF. Engagement with livelihood actors allowed to expand collaboration with actors running employability, financial inclusion, and capacity building programming relevant to refugees.

To achieve the objectives of the GCR, and working towards the GRF in 2023, UNHCR advocated with the Gol to establish a GRF Committee, which would jointly identify potential pledges as well as

good practices to present at the GRF. Furthermore, foundational work has been undertaken with the Office of the Resident Coordinator, to take the lead in devising UN Common Pledges for Iraq. Potential pledges could focus on enhancing the legislative framework for refugees in Iraq, support the expansion of the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP), and addressing statelessness. Work in this regard will begin in earnest in 2023.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoy non-discriminatory access to effective protection in Iraq, including through identification, quality registration, and timely issuance of documentation.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.44%	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. [SDG 16.9.1 - Tier 1]	IDPs	0.83%	70.50%	0.53%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority. [SDG 16.9.1 - Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85.21%	87.00%	85.21%
1.3 Proportion of PoC with legally recognized identity documents or credentials [GCR 4.2.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	98.77%	100.00%	98.77%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR registered new 30,301 asylum seekers in Iraq, providing them with UNHCR certificates as a proof of identity. Among the newly registered, 7,471 are newborns, 10,451 are new arrivals and remaining 12,379 are in-situ (arrived to Iraq prior to 2022) Among the 10,451 new arrivals, 91.5% are Syrians (9,573 individuals), followed by 4% Afghan (391 individuals), 1% Iranian (142 individuals) and 3.5% other nationalities (345 individuals). A part of continuous registration, 61,080 households (225,471 individuals) were verified and their UNHCR certificates. were renewed

UNHCR's documentation is a proof of identity, contributes to protect against arbitrary arrest, detention, and forced returns to countries of origin. It facilitates access to essential public services, including education, medical care and specialized case management by UNHCR partners including psychosocial cash support to vulnerable refugees. UNHCR registration and UNHCR issued certificates are prerequisite for the issuance of Humanitarian Residency Permit (HRP) in the Kurdistan Region and the card from the Permanent Committee – Ministry of Interior (PC-MOI) is mainly available for refugees residing in Federal Iraq.

During 2022, Permanent Committee for Refugee Affairs (PC-MOI) conducted one registration mission to Diyala, which targeted 235 individuals and issued PC-MOI cards. The Committee's missions and planned activities are expected to increase in 2023.

UNHCR and partners, including WFP, continue to rely on the registration data to deliver targeted food and cash assistance to those most in need.

Addressing the registration backlog which increased during the COVID-19 pandemic was prioritized during 2022. Moreover, in Q4 2022, the validity of UNHCR certificates was extended from one to two years, targeting those who had been in Iraq for three or more consecutive years.

UNHCR worked to reduce the risks of deportation and extradition and intervened to halt the deportation or extradition of asylum seekers and provided durable solutions for 39 individuals with urgent protection and/or medical needs.

UNHCR and partners significantly scaled up their support to secure civil documentation for Iraqi nationals, in particular IDPs and IDP returnees. Throughout 2022, a total of 72,178 documents were secured. Additionally, UNHCR assisted in the coordination of 57 government mobile documentation missions (47 local CAD missions, three Unified ID missions (to Jedda 1 camp to support returnees from Al-Hol) and seven Ad Hoc Committee missions) to facilitate the issuance of documentation for those who are unable to travel to the required government offices due to security or material constraints, or due to partial or complete destruction of local documentation offices.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Access to territory and asylum remains severely restricted. Syrians seeking to access the territory via land have traditionally entered KR-I through two different entry points- Peshkhabour Border Crossing Point (PK-BCP) and Sahela Irregular entry point; both in Duhok governorate. The procedures in place severely limit the ability of Syrians seeking international protection to access safety in the KR-I. These border restrictions mean many Syrians who continue to face human rights and humanitarian law violations at home are forced to opt for unsafe routes to access safety in Iraq. This is particularly concerning for women and children traveling alone who have reported facing instances of violence and abuse, including by smugglers. UNHCR is advocating for the re-opening of the border crossing point where in the past, Syrians could seek asylum. UNHCR developed a preparedness plan in anticipation of possible Turkish attacks on northern Syria (buffer zone) with its KRG counterparts that committed to opening the border should such attacks materialize. At the same time, the KRG shared reservations regarding the cost of hosting additional large numbers of asylum seekers in an environment marked with decreasing humanitarian funding earmarked for Iraq. The KRG maintains their position that Syrian refugees can remain until they are able to return in a safe and dignified manner. The KRG has instructed UNHCR not to register Afghan asylum seekers, thus denying them access to asylum. This direction has been recently followed by the same instruction from Baghdad, with continuous advocacy carried out by UNHCR and regular engagement on this issue with relevant stakeholders.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

Government is supported to promote and develop inclusive policies, legislation, and mechanisms that are in line with international standards, ensuring protection and social protection for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Not Adequate	Favorable	Not Adequate
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.	Stateless Persons	Not Adequate	Favorable	Adequate

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR continued its technical legal guidance and support to both Federal Iraq and KRG authorities on enhancing the asylum legal and policy frameworks through the drafting of Administrative

Instructions (AI). The development of the KRG AI is meant to be a framework for the issuance of Humanitarian Permits to asylum seekers and is an opportunity to harmonize approaches across the KRI governorates on the procedures for acquiring and maintaining KRI residency based on one's status as an asylum seeker. The Office provided its final written commentary to the latest version of the Instructions in September, highlighting the areas where gaps remained, including on grounds for international protection and protection against refoulement. A drafting committee was established as an entry point to further engage federal authorities on legal reform and advocate for the enactment of a new refugee law. The Federal Minister of Interior established a committee to develop a new draft refugee law, with the support of the State Council and UNHCR. The technical guidance provided in the context of the AI is hoped to be utilized in the draft refugee law.

The operation accelerated its efforts to support the Government in ensuring that all legally eligible individuals can acquire Iraqi nationality and to improve access to civil documents across the country. This included the provision of legal aid for acquisition of nationality and nationality documents to identified statelessness (160 individuals (re)acquired Iraqi nationality), 20 capacity development and awareness sessions for targeted communities, authorities and partners, expansion of the study to other population groups and areas to further identify stateless or at-risk individuals, enhanced support to improve access to civil documentation and advocacy for strengthened legal safeguards against statelessness. UNHCR submitted confidential comments to the HRC-CCPR, CESCR and CAT, provided inputs to Special Rapporteurs reports on IDP Participation in Elections, and Adequate Housing, and the Committee on Enforced Disappearance. Additionally, UNHCR and the Government of Iraq began bilateral talks in preparation for participation in the Global Refugee Forum in 2023. UNHCR and partners significantly scaled up their support to secure civil documentation. Throughout 2022, a total of 72,178 documents were secured. This support was provided through awareness-raising sessions on the importance of civil documentations and procedures to obtain them as well as through individual legal assistance interventions, including file preparation, counselling and legal representation. Additionally, UNHCR assisted in the coordination of 57 government mobile documentation missions to facilitate the issuance of documentation for those who are unable to travel to the required government offices due to security or material constraints, or due to partial or complete destruction of local documentation offices. UNHCR held a plenary discussion with partners around the country in October 2022 to identify the types of complex cases encountered and develop a targeted advocacy plan with government and judicial authorities to streamline documentation procedures for all in need.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR continued to raise its concern about the terminology used by Federal authorities regarding Syrian asylum seekers and refugees in Iraq as being "displaced from border areas of Syria and received for humanitarian reasons". This recognition does not grant Syrians the status of either refugee or asylum seeker, which are internationally recognized terms with corresponding legal rights attached used widely with respect to Syrians abroad. UNHCR continued to advocate for the Federal authorities to use the terminology of "refugees and asylum seekers" for this population. A change of terminology would also contribute to unblocking the barriers to undertaking registration of Syrians in KRI locations as the KRG currently opposes such registration as they recognise Syrians as asylum-seekers. In view of the serious violations of international humanitarian law and violations and abuses of human rights law and ongoing armed conflict in Syria, UNHCR continues to characterize the flight of civilians from Syria as a refugee movement, with the vast majority of Syrian asylum-seekers continuing to be in need of international refugee protection, fulfilling the requirements of the refugee definition contained in Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention.

Despite the generally favorable protection environment enjoyed by asylum seekers and refugees, Iraq is not a party to the 1951 Convention/1967 Protocol and lacks a comprehensive legal framework for refugee protection that is aligned with international standards. Only political and so-called military refugees are recognised in the 1971 Political Refugee Act, the principal law regulating refugee issues. Further, Syrian asylum seekers and refugees are not officially recognised as such by the Federal authorities, in accordance with the National Security Council Decision No. 9 of 2019. Asylum seeker and refugee rights, including access to the territory for asylum and residency, are thus generally enjoyed on an ad hoc basis in the absence of a comprehensive legal or policy framework.

UNHCR advocacy efforts and technical legal support for development of a sound asylum legal framework in Iraq in line with international standards for refugee protection were intensified in 2022 at both Federal and KRG levels. While efforts on legal reform generally take years, the political situation in Iraq including the

delays with the formation of the new government (2021-2022), the non-harmonised policies of the two governments on refugees, and the limited competency of the KRG to regulate asylum and residency issues, have made the legal reform process highly politicised and complex.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

Gender-sensitive and inclusive protection including gender-based violence prevention, mitigation, and response services, are progressively expanded and improved to address needs of the people we serve.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	Unknown	80.00%	71.61%
4.1 Proportion of PoC who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24.02%	80.00%	88.26%
4.2 Proportion of POCs who do not accept violence against women.	IDPs	Unknown	20.00%	85.27%
4.2 Proportion of POCs who do not accept violence against women.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	20.00%	92.21%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with SGBV case management services.	IDPs	Unknown	85.00%	99.71%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with SGBV case management services.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	85.00%	98.47%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To respond to the GBV issues faced by displaced communities due to gender inequality and weak national legislation, compounded with vulnerabilities linked to displacement, UNHCR and partners have been working on prevention, mitigation and response activities from national system strengthening, awareness raising and community-based activities to provision of specialized GBV services to support survivors. UNHCR and its partners provided GBV prevention and risk mitigation services through awareness-raising activities on topics including domestic violence, early marriage, and sexual exploitation and abuse. In 2022, 13,182 refugees and asylum seekers and 21,106 IDPs benefitted from such awareness raising activities.

UNHCR and GBV partner in Erbil, successfully concluded the Engaging Men in Accountable Practices (EMAP) program, including receptiveness of key concepts on gender equality, power dynamics and women's rights. In continuation of capacity development activities, UNHCR and partners in 2022 trained 1167, individuals including government actors and GBV service providers on GBV prevention, GBV case management, safe disclosure and referral. UNHCR also facilitated a training on working with LGBTIQ+ individuals in displacement for GBV partners. The training received positive engagement and highlighted concerns from partners, such as the lack of a safe shelter that can accommodate LGBTIQ+ individuals. Training on the GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) was also conducted for Data Gathering Organizations to facilitate use of the online GBVIMS+ platform. In 2022 UNHCR provided specialized case management services and psychosocial support for refugees and asylum seekers (5,390) as well as IDPs (7,528) through partners. UNHCR continues supporting the Directorate of Combating Violence Against Women (DCVAW) in KR-I to provide prevention, mitigation, and response services for GBV survivors – including through capacity-building sessions and regular meetings to discuss challenges and address gaps. Among the survivors provided with GBV specialized services, 721 refugees, 3,817 IDPs and host communities were supported by DCVAW in partnership with UNHCR. DCVAW teams complement the services of national partners in KRI through legal support and admission to safe shelters.

Since Q4 2022, UNHCR Iraq has been phasing out of GBV assistance, i.e., case management for IDPs in line with Iraq's transition strategy from humanitarian response to sustainable development. UNHCR developed counselling key messages for IDP children and care givers who have open cases with partners to inform about the transition plan and the phase out of individual case management services for IDPs. Open cases of IDPs who provided consent were transferred to government actors and other service providers to continue receiving specialized services. UNHCR led an exercise of service mapping of the GBV services countrywide providing an overview of GBV case management service gaps beyond the cluster deactivation. UNHCR will continue advocacy efforts and capacity building activities of the relevant authorities jointly with other UN-agencies, primarily in support of UNFPA, and humanitarian and development actors.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The main challenges continue to be the limited options of safe shelters for GBV survivors, especially LGBTIQ+ individuals. As Iraq is transitioning from the humanitarian response to sustainable development and the focus of funding is shifting to other emergency operations, many GBV actors have phased-out of providing GBV specialized services for IDPs. Therefore, instead of providing direct one-on-one services, UNHCR will continue to support the relevant authorities in Federal and KR-I to continue building capacity for these services, in cooperation with other agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA.

UNFPA handed over 21 UNFPA-funded Women Community Centres providing GBV services to MoLSA in KR-I. MoLSA retained the staff previously under UNFPA's project partnership, however the handover is impacting GBVIMS reporting, particularly nine centres in refugee camps as MoLSA is yet to use GBVIMS. Survival sex workers or women resorting to harmful coping mechanisms face risk of arrest, as well as discrimination from the community. While the operation has engaged in spreading awareness on the subject linked to personal safety or public health, the authorities have shown reluctance on the matter and prefer to respond to it from a security or law enforcement perspective.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

The children we serve are protected from violence, abuse, exploitation, and discrimination, have access to child-friendly procedures and services, and their social-emotional well-being is promoted.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.72%	97.00%	64.28%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	24.63%	50.00%	13.62%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.54%	50.00%	26.41%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an appropriate alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.14%	100.00%	64.28%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and child protection partners continued to provide specialized case management and psychosocial

support services to children at risk and their families, including through parenting programmes and engagement with the community through awareness raising and community-based child protection structures. UNHCR implemented best interest procedures (BIP) for 250 refugee children, including for unaccompanied and separated children and children with disabilities- and included 708 refugee and 6,666 IDP parents in parenting programs. UNHCR, through child protection partners, submitted 30 incident reports under the children in armed conflicts (CAAC) monitoring and reporting mechanism (MRM) on grave violations against children in armed conflict. The majority of violations were reported by internally displaced children in previously Dae'sh controlled areas of Iraq, with the main violations relating to the forced recruitment and use of children. UNHCR's capacity building project for social workers at the Directorate of Labour and Social Affairs (DoLSA) in the KR-I was completed at the end of June, bringing to a close five years of capacity building to DoLSA on child protection case management and implementing structured psychosocial support programs. The government now has a pool of trainers and capacitated staff to continue the provision of child protection services for refugees and IDPs. Joint UNHCR-UNICEF advocacy with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MoLSA) in Baghdad on complex cases of children with missing civil documents and the recommendations for adopting best interest procedures (BIP) (BIA/BID) recommendations in lieu of DNA testing is ongoing. The joint UNHCR-UNICEF BIP overview note for external audience (government, partners and international community) was finalized and was in particular shared with government counterparts at Baghdad and Ninawa levels to continue the advocacy for family unity, access to civil documentation and alternative care arrangements for Iraqi children returning from Syria. Moreover, cross-border coordination with UNHCR and child protection actors in Syria continues to ensure coordination on simplified BID procedures for returning unaccompanied and separated children.

Since end of 2022, UNHCR Iraq has been phasing out of child protection (CP) assistance, i.e., case management for IDPs in line with Iraq transition strategy from humanitarian response to sustainable development. UNHCR developed counselling key messages for IDP children and care givers who have open cases with partners to inform about the transition plan and the phase out of individual case management services for IDPs. Open cases of IDPs who provided consent were transferred to government actors and other service providers to continue receiving specialized services. UNHCR led an exercise of service mapping of CP services countrywide providing an overview of CP case management service gaps beyond the cluster deactivation. UNHCR will continue advocacy efforts and capacity building activities of the relevant authorities jointly with other UN-agencies, and in particular in support to UNICEF, and humanitarian and development actors.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

In line with the transition plan in Iraq, specialized CP services provided by humanitarian actors have decreased causing gaps in specialized CP services mostly affecting IDP children, especially as government institutions with the child protection mandate still need support and national legislations protecting children remain weak. UNHCR has also phased out of individualized case management services for IDP children country wide. As a result, open cases are being transferred to government actors (DoLSA) and other CP actors.

The frustration of the caregivers because of poverty and limited livelihoods opportunities reportedly led to episodes of domestic violence and exposes caregivers to psychological distress, child neglect, and harmful coping mechanisms, such as child marriage and child labour. The caregivers' behaviours in turn impact the children causing aggressivity, distress, and isolation. The lack of appropriate documentation (including valid residency for refugees in Federal governorates) remains a challenge for many of the refugee children to be enrolled in the public schools.

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

Community-based mechanisms promoting increased inclusive engagement and participation in leadership and decision-making are supported.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	IDPs	Unknown	88.00%	100.00%
7.1 Proportion of PoC who participate meaningfully across all phases of the OMC.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	88.00%	100.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	IDPs	100.00%	93.00%	85.00%
7.2 Proportion of PoC who have access to effective feedback and response mechanisms.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	93.00%	85.00%
7.3 Proportion (and number) of active female participants on leadership/management structures.	IDPs	Unknown	35.00%	34.89%
7.3 Proportion (and number) of active female participants on leadership/management structures.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	35.00%	48.34%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR supported a range of community-based outreach structures, including Community Outreach Volunteers (COVs), community representation structures, and community-based organizations/entities. The COV programme consists of reimbursement-based individual volunteers for awareness-raising and information dissemination, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, and community empowerment/mobilization, while community representation (including Women, Youth, and Refugee Welfare Committees) are elected/appointed bodies designed to consult and represent voices within the community. Collectively, these structures are considered trusted peers, with a strong understanding of community composition, dynamics, and needs. Embedded as they are, they are primed to identify ongoing or emerging needs and gaps across the AGD spectrum, which they can relay to UNHCR and partners for targeted programming. At the end of 2022, 239 refugee COVs (131 women and 108 men) and 167 IDP COVs (71 women and 96 men) in addition to 57 host-community COVs (30 women and 27 men) supported community outreach. Efforts were complemented with the engagement of 212 members (87 women and 125 men) of refugee leadership/community representation structures and 925 members (320 women and 605 men) of IDP structures. COVs supported the implementation of CBP activities including community assessments, awareness raising and sensitization on various topics of communities' interest and on the implementation of the community feedback mechanism. As the result of collective efforts, in 2022 UNHCR managed to involve over 2,700 refugees (of which the majority were women and girls) in community assessments and over 113,000 refugees (with most women and girls) in community awareness and sensitization. Similarly, some 5,300 IDPs participated in awareness raising activities (of which more than 50% were women and girls). Sessions focused on various topics affecting their lives, including access to education, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), anti-fraud awareness, AAP mechanism / complaint and feedback, mental health awareness, resettlement and opportunities for complementary pathways, child protection, gender-based violence, legal matters, online safety, service availability, environmental protection and anger management. In parallel, UNHCR and partners have continued to operate a diverse set of complaint and feedback mechanisms (CFM) targeting all population groups, including the countrywide helpline Iraq Information Centre (IIC), information feedback points (IFPs), and complaint and feedback boxes (CFBs), as well as face-to-face engagements and referrals by COVs and other community-based mechanisms. Additionally, remote digital CwC continued across various platforms. As a result, nearly 14,600 refugees and 3,500 IDPs were able to lodge feedback via the decentralized CFM tools, while 87,000 refugees and more than 3,800 IDPs contacted the interagency centralized call centre (IIC). Moreover, as part of the UNHCR funded One Refugee Helpline project, the IIC was able to make referrals for more than 4,000 refugees, of which 99% were resolved and closed. Across the operation, 46 physical community spaces (CSCs) in camp and urban settings have provided space for community mobilization, information sharing, CFM and referrals, community programming, and ad hoc activities. With progressively increased involvement of communities in the

management and enhanced promotion of gender and cultural diversities, these centres have assumed an essential role in promoting access to safety and inclusiveness, becoming reference points for the entire communities across the AGD spectrum

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Challenges to the delivery of CBP interventions in Iraq are intrinsically linked to its diverse demography, the vastity of the territory and the uneven distribution of the displaced populations (with some scattered across very broad rural areas, others orbiting around main cities/towns, and a camp-based population confined within the KR-I). This situation is further exacerbated by a heterogeneous socio-political context and an overall conservative environment; the latter hampering an effective roll out of the AGD policy approach. Against this background, the implementation of CBP activities requires a fair balance between harmonization of procedures and the need to address and respond to context specificities. In 2022, in line with the 2021-2022 CBP strategy, the operation has advanced in promoting some levels of harmonization, such as the development of standard operating procedures for the implementation of the COVs programme, or the process for the roll-out of a countrywide digitalized CFM. However, significant gaps persist in promoting fully accessible and inclusive CBP and AAP interventions. The Iraq Information Center (IIC) was established in an effort to shorten the distance between the communities and the humanitarian response, yet the unified call center proved to be unsuitable to absorb the demand and was eventually deactivated at the end of 2022. Key challenges are also noted in the area of community participation in protection mechanisms. Owing to socio-cultural norms and practice and fear of retaliation, community support as a primary safety net is very minimal, while discrimination against specific minority groups (e.g., LGBTIQ+ and women with perceived Da'esh affiliation) is extremely prominent. In addition, informal community dispute resolution structures (mostly consisting of male members) and some law enforcement entities take family unity principle in ways that do not promote and protect the rights of women.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

The people we serve, particularly the most vulnerable, have improved access to dignified, quality, integrated, shock-sensitive, and inclusive social protection systems and services meeting their basic needs.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	IDPs	80.00%	90.00%	44.47%
8.1 Proportion of PoC in need that receive cash transfers or in-kind assistance.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24.74%	28.00%	45.88%
8.2 Proportion of PoC with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology [SDG 7.1.2 Tier 1]	IDPs	Unknown	20.00%	98.58%
8.2 Proportion of PoC with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology [SDG 7.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	20.00%	99.68%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to provide multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) to vulnerable refugee and asylum seeker households. A total of 7,936 households (42,989 individuals) were assisted through MPCA in 2022. Cash-based interventions were aimed to support the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers to meet their basic needs and reduce the risk of resorting to harmful coping mechanism. For some, it also provided a basis to establish more sustainable livelihoods by investing in small businesses and thus, help them graduate from dependency to humanitarian aid to economic self-reliance. The targeted households were provided with multi-month (up to 12 months) cash assistance of approximately \$ 255 per month before being reassessed for re-inclusion. According to the post-distribution monitoring, refugee families have used the assistance to buy food, pay rent, repay debt and for healthcare expenses. In addition to MPCA, some 137 refugees families (451 individuals) were provided with emergency cash assistance (ECA) to address an emergency and mitigate risks of serious harm. UNHCR also supported refugees and asylum seekers to better prepare for cold winter temperatures, through the provision of winter cash assistance, allowing 22,966 refugee families (78,293 individuals) to purchase kerosene, winter clothing and blankets as needed. In 2022, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance to 23,942 IDP and IDP returnee households (142,131 individuals) throughout Iraq. Around 23% of these families were female-headed. The eligible households were identified using data aligned with the harmonized integrated socioeconomic assessment tool endorsed by the Cash Working Group of Iraq. With the gradual transition from an emergency humanitarian response to a longer-term solutions approach, as of 2023, UNHCR will disengage from the provision of the MPCA to IDPs and IDP returnees, while engagement and advocacy for inclusion of IDPs and returnees in national social protection programme is yielding some promising preliminary results. MoLSA has agreed in principle to include IDPs, including those residing in KRI, in its social safety net.

In-kind assistance has been provided to a limited extent to address basic needs of refugees and IDPs in the camps, mainly as replacement of wear-and-tear or in case of accidents (fire), as well as to a limited extent to IDPs and returnees in urban and rural areas. In total, about 4,500 refugee families and more than 12,000 IDP and returnee families have received full or partial NFI kit. Except in emergency situations such as fires, UNHCR will phase out of the distribution of NFIs for IDPs and IDP returnees in 2023. Both refugee and IDP populations have been relatively stable, with the last notable influx dating back to 2019, so starting in 2022 UNHCR has limited its contingency stock to basic non-food items for 5,000 households only. Due to budget limitations to provide seasonal support, UNHCR has accepted in-kind donations of clothing that were distributed to at least 18,000 HHs. As part of winterization in-kind support, some 3,864 IDP families in the camps in the East Mosul area, where IDPs face additional challenges in regard to freedom of movement and access to livelihoods, were provided with seasonal items, including insulation material and solar lamps.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR initial comprehensive winter assistance plan included in and out of camp refugees as well as IDPs and returnees, with an estimated budget requirement standing at \$ 35 million. Due to funding shortage, only vulnerable out-of-camp refugees were prioritized for assistance under the winter cash programme. Additionally, in late November, the operation was alerted of non-renewal of government registration of the partner who provides communication support for all CBI matters in Iraq, and therefore timely communication with beneficiaries, particularly during the winterization activities, was an additional challenge.

In regard to in-kind assistance, the main challenge during 2022 was related to the procedures related to the movement of goods, both into the country and between Federal Iraq and the KR-I. Changes in import formalities were introduced in early 2022, which led to substantial delays in moving the non-food items between UNHCR warehouses, and added additional layer of complexity to NFI procurement and distribution planning. Delays in obtaining the National Operations Command (NOC) letters of authorization by both UNHCR and partners led to the necessity to postpone some of the distributions to already identified IDP beneficiaries to early 2023.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

The people we serve in camps are supported in accessing safe, secure, and sustainable settlements with basic service provision.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	IDPs	Unknown	37.00%	55.22%
9.1 Proportion of PoCs living in habitable and affordable housing.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	90.00%	41.12%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	IDPs	Unknown	90.00%	99.52%
9.2 Proportion of PoC that have energy to ensure lighting (close to Sphere).	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	90.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Throughout 2022 UNHCR has continued support to the Joint Crisis Coordination Centre of the Ministry of Interior of the Kurdistan Regional Government that is responsible for camp administration in 25 IDP camps, 9 refugee camps and the Bardarash transit centre, that in total continue to host about 180,000 IDPs and 93,000 refugees. As part of its camp-to-neighbourhood approach, the operation continued to advocate for further inclusion of the camps' basic services into the national and municipal systems. Thus, in 2022, UNHCR phased out from providing WASH services in refugee camps and transferred several of the camp-based primary health centres to the respective Departments of Health. Camp-to-neighbourhood considerations were mainstreamed into area-based programming; Basirma, Kawergosk, Qustapa, Arbat and Domiz refugee camps are currently prioritized areas for A2PS programming. In 2022, UNHCR implemented 16 projects in camps ranging from communal infrastructure to solar energy and water management, to promote their integration into public services.

In past years, UNHCR had been upgrading all shelters in refugee camps to move away from the use of family tents. In 2022, the remaining 130 shelters were upgraded in Basirma camp, Erbil, to match standards in other refugee camps in Iraq. In coordination with relevant authorities, refugees will move from Bardarash so that it returns to its original purpose of a transit centre. More than 800 refugee families are concerned and will have two options – voluntary and assisted relocation to urban areas, or relocation to Gawilan camp, which is a preferred option of vulnerable families with limited support networks outside the camp. UNHCR has started construction of additional infrastructure and shelters in Gawilan to accommodate them, which will be completed by mid-2023. In addition, the operation will review its urban refugee strategy to better support refugees who choose, including through incentives, to establish themselves in urban settings.

In case of IDP camps, UNHCR's advocacy remains focused on ensuring the free and informed decision of IDPs to choose their place of residence, as many are unable or unwilling to return to their areas of origin in the foreseeable future. Substantial progress was reached in Dohuk governorate where UNHCR advocated for IDPs in camps to be given the possibility to upgrade their shelters. While such upgrades may not be possible in all IDP camps, due to land ownership issues, progress on this front in Dohuk governorate is a critical breakthrough, as it will help improve the quality of life of the IDPs and reduce risks of fire. The operation will continue advocating for all IDPs in camps throughout KRI to be given a similar opportunity. To support IDP returns, UNHCR installed 559 'refugee housing units' (RHUs) in areas of origin for the families whose houses had suffered major damage (category 3 and 4). An additional 858 families were identified in Anbar, Baghdad and Mosul areas, and as of end of 2022 the installation of these RHUs was under way.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Despite preliminary discussions with the government and UNICEF about UNHCR phasing out of WASH intervention in the camps by mid-2022, the initial transition to the public services was complicated, and several refugee camps experienced disruption of garbage collection. The situation was resolved over the month of July, during which UNHCR closely monitored the epidemiological situation.

The KRG's commitment to the shelter self-upgrade pilot in IDP camps of Dohuk was a positive development, but experienced delays in implementation, as the authorities needed to determine how to address issues pertaining to ownership of land on which some of the IDP camps are located. As some of the IDP camps are located on private land, it effectively limits, according to the authorities, the possibility of replicating the approach in all remaining IDP camps although UNHCR will continue advocating for solutions to be found. Overall implementation of infrastructure projects and support to the camps was affected by the fluctuation of the exchange rate of the Iraqi dinar and global inflation, resulting in difficulties in identifying suppliers ready to undertake complex construction projects.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Public Health services, including Mental and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), at national and local levels, are supported to protect and promote psychosocial well-being, as well as, treat and prevent diseases/disorders, deliver accessible, equitable, and comprehensive universal health coverage to all, including the refugees and asylum seekers

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90.07%	98.00%	100.00%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel. [SDG 3.1.2 Tier 1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	99.55%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, Syrian refugees in KR-I continued to have free access to primary healthcare services through camp-based PHCs supported by UNHCR and other UN agencies or public health facilities outside camps. A total of 270,958 medical consultations were provided for refugees living in camps, and the health utilization rate (visit/person/year) was 2.5, which lies within the expected range of 1 – 4. In addition, 11,173 refugees were referred from camps to secondary and tertiary health facilities for further investigations and/or hospitalization. Medicines and medical supplies were available in refugee camp PHCs; however, there were shortages in some medicines, particularly medicines for chronic diseases. UNHCR supported the Directorates of Health (DoHs) in procuring medicines and medical supplies to fill in the gaps in chronic disease medications.

In line with UNHCR's strategy for the inclusion of refugees, UNHCR successfully integrated the PHC services provided in camps (Akre, Arbat, Basirma and Kawergosk) with the national health system. Two camp PHCs in Erbil (Basirma and Kawergosk) were closed, and UNHCR's support shifted to the public PHCs near the camps, which are accessible for camp residents and host community members alike. The two camp PHCs (Akre in Duhok and Arabt in Sulaymaniah) were added to the national health system and are managed entirely by the relevant Directorate of Health (DoH), and UNHCR shifted its support to the public PHCs near the camps.

With the spread of cholera and Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in Iraq (endemic), UNHCR

supported the DoHs in KRI to conduct health awareness campaigns and to build the capacities of the medical staff working in camps and public health facilities. A total of 230 staff were trained on the prevention and case management of cholera and CCHF in Erbil and Duhok governorates, and a total of 22,500 leaflets on CCHF were printed by UNHCR and distributed in refugee camps, as well UNHCR supported DoHs to print out and distribute IEC materials on cholera. No cases of cholera and CCHF were reported among refugees in 2022. Syrian refugees continued to have free access to COVID-19 vaccination through COVID-19 vaccination units in camps or public PHCs. A total of 45,175 doses were administered in refugee camps.

In 2022, UNHCR continued to support the provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services in refugee camps, providing multi-layer MHPSS services ranging from specialized services to community and individual support. UNHCR partners provided training to community health workers and other community outreach volunteers on the identification and follow-up of people with severe or complex mental health conditions. In addition, 36 DAFI and SWEDO COVs, and 25 community stakeholders from camp committees, were trained to identify persons needing mental health and/or psychosocial support; reduce stigma against mental disorders; basic communication skills and psychology first aid (PFA) for adults, and PFA for children. Brief evidence-based psychological treatments were available for refugees with mild to moderate mental health conditions using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Problem Management Plus (PM+), and Self Help Plus (SH+), provided by clinical psychologists and trained psychosocial counselors, supervised by partner MHPSS Technical Advisor.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

Irregular supply of medicines by the Directorates of Health, particularly medicines for chronic diseases, led to shortages in some medicines. However, UNHCR supported DoH in procuring medicines and coordinated with WHO to provide medicines and medical supplies to camp-based and public PHCs.

11. Outcome Area: Education

Refugees and asylum seekers have access to quality, integrated, and inclusive education services on a non-discriminatory basis at national and local levels.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
11.1 Proportion of PoC enrolled in tertiary and higher education.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	5.00%	0.56%
11.2 Proportion of PoC enrolled in the national education system. [GCR 2.2.1]	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.00%	66.00%	56.85%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

After years of advocacy, the KRG Ministry of Education (MoE) officially launched the implementation of the Refugee Education Integration Policy (REIP) in July 2022, to enhance access to inclusive and quality education for all children in the KRI. As of September 2022, refugee and asylum seeker children attending primary school in grades one to four have been enrolled in public schools and followed the KRG curriculum taught in Kurdish. In November 2022, the number of refugee school-aged children (5 to 17 years old) reached 75,330. UNHCR, together with the Education Sector and KRG's MoE successfully implemented the first phase of the REIP. As a result, the number of Syrian refugee children enrolled in schools increased by 11% in November 2022 compared to June 2021. According to the MoE's education management information system, 44,937 Syrian children were enrolled in school for the academic year 2022. Among them, 38,713 are enrolled in primary and 4,113 children in secondary level. Comprehensive data from

refugee schools in KRI shows a notable increase of 20% of Syrian refugee children enrolled in grades 1-4 after the REIP implementation. In addition, in a breakthrough, the KRG recruited 393 qualified refugee lecturers with the same salary as national lecturers – a unique approach in the region and beyond. To improve the quality of education, UNHCR continued supporting school construction and rehabilitations in KRI to welcome new students and reduce overcrowded classrooms. Capacity-building activities were delivered to 306 Parent-Teacher Associations and 551 teaching and non-teaching staff benefited from a range of topics including PSEA, GBV, child safeguarding and blended curriculums, including MHPSS for social workers. Additionally, 5,021 individuals (444 teachers, 727 parents, and 3,850 children) benefitted from Kurdish language courses to ease their shift from Arabic to Kurdish as the language of instruction in public schools. To facilitate refugee children's access to formal schools, UNHCR and partners also supported 3,029 students with transportation costs, mostly in urban areas and provided catch-up, remedial and numeracy and literacy classes to 4,207 children in both camp and urban settings. In addition, 6,302 teaching and learning materials were also distributed across KR-I schools based on education needs identified. UNHCR has and will continue supporting refugees' enrolment through ongoing activities, such as through case management, awareness-raising activities focusing on the REIP implementation, and monitoring to identify out-of-school children. UNHCR will continue advocating with donors to increase investment to support refugee integration in public schools. Engagement with UNICEF on the Blueprint Joint Plan of Action and reporting had been strengthened to support the REIP. UNHCR and UNICEF coordinated with the MoE and education partners for the launch of the Back to Learning campaign. Concerning refugees' access to higher education, UNHCR continues supporting 145 DAFI scholars across Iraq (21 scholars graduated successfully). UNHCR also supported UNESCO's efforts to pilot the UNESCO Universal Qualification Passport (UQP) in Iraq.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

UNHCR and education sector partners continue advocating for full implementation of REIP and the enrolment of the additional 30,393 refugee school-age children in grades five and above in the public system. However, the inclusion of the 44,937 Syrian refugee children in school comes with challenges in delivering quality education given -overcrowded classrooms, shortage of qualified teachers and non-teaching staff, language barrier (from Arabic to Kurdish as the teaching language) and the lack of desks/chairs and teaching-learning materials, including computer devices. Dropouts and out-of-school children remain a key challenge to address, including through enhancing the quality of education and putting in place specific measure to retain children in school. The lack of civil documentation is still a challenge for refugees to enroll children in public schools, and major gaps persist in terms of refugee students' access to psychosocial support due to the lack of social workers in schools.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

The most vulnerable refugees with needs that cannot be addressed in all of Iraq are able to access durable solutions through resettlement or complementary pathways to third countries.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,550	3,000	2,659
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	400.00	300.00	1,149.00

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2022, UNHCR continued processing Syrian refugees through the merged RSD/RST procedures. By

fostering strong referral systems, UNHCR was able to identify the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement. In 2022, the total number of refugees submitted to resettlement countries was 2,663 individuals (548 resettlement cases), out of which 2629 individuals (538 cases) were Syrians. Seven (three cases) were Iranians, 21 (six cases) Palestinians and three (one case) Turkish. These refugees will be considered for resettlement, allowing them to re-build their lives in safety, stability and with support. Most cases submitted were cases with children at risk, legal and physical protection needs, and women at risk. The resettlement countries were the USA, Australia, Norway, New Zealand, Canada and France, with a few cases also being submitted to Sweden, the UK and Finland. A total of 834 refugees (187 cases) departed to resettlement countries during 2022, out of which 800 individuals (177 cases) were Syrians. In addition, 33 individuals (nine cases) were Palestinian nationals, while one case was an Iranian national. Resettlement departures, following the delays and suspensions of COVID-19 in 2021, were re-started and scaled up. This has effectively decreased the number of refugees waiting to be resettled. Considering the disparity between the resettlement needs and actual resettlement target allocated to Iraq, the operation has focused on expanding access to Complementary Pathways (CPaths). In 2022, UNHCR provided support to more than 170 refugee cases (451 individuals) to enable them to access complementary pathways in 17 third countries. Of the cases which UNHCR initiated CPaths support for in 2022, 45 (135 individuals) departed prior to the end of December and those remaining will continue to receive ongoing support from the team in 2023. Family reunification remains the most accessed pathway, accounting for 34% of applications but 89% of verified departures. Support for community and private sponsorship opportunities as well as humanitarian visas is ongoing. In 2022, UNHCR focused on expanding pathways accessible in Iraq – in particular employment and education pathways. The UNHCR conducted identification of eligible candidates for employment pathways. In total, 29 cases (and 70 individuals) were submitted in collaboration with Talent Beyond Boundaries (TBB) for consideration in multiple industries. In 2022, 49 Iraq-based candidates applied for education opportunities in third countries with the support of UNHCR. In 2022, UNHCR reached out to a total of 6,767 refugees for the purpose of Resettlement & CPaths, allowing a significant number of refugees to flag protection concerns and request support from UNHCR or share updates.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The operation identified 39,420 refugees and asylum-seekers in need of resettlement in 2022. Against the resettlement quota and maximum submissions available to the operation, this means that less than 1% of those who required resettlement were able to be resettled. UNHCR has filled all available quotas for 2022, making full use of this protection tool, and will continue to submit cases against available quotas in 2023. Insufficient RSD capacity within the operation in 2022 severely affected processing of complex cases and of non-Syrian (Iranian and Turkish) cases that cannot be moved through the (Syrian) merged process. The operation has taken action to improve its RSD capacity.

Significant accumulated overstay fines following refugees' inability to renew residency permits has created barriers for departures of highly vulnerable individuals. The inability to pay the fines prior to resettlement departure causes delays and cancellations of departures of refugees. UNHCR advocacy has mitigated this to an extent, but the issue remains.

For Complementary Pathways, the need to travel to embassies in neighbouring countries for interviews and visa collection prevents many refugees from advancing in their applications. This is compounded by rigid documentation requirements and reluctance by third countries to waive or accept alternatives. Some pathways require a high level of language skills (English) which few Iraq-based refugees are able to demonstrate, and refugees generally have limited experience with formal application processes and deadlines.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons are able to benefit from a wide range of inclusive, rights-based local solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Baseline (2022)	Target (2022)	Actual (2022)
16.1. Proportion of PoC with secure tenure rights and/or property rights to housing and/or land [revised SDG indicator 1.4.2].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.97%	35.00%	35.97%
16.2. Proportion of PoC covered by social protection floors/systems [SDG 1.3.1].	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	2.00%	0.87%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued the development and implementation of A2PS to contribute to sustainable returns, reintegration, and local integration for IDPs and IDP returnees and to support refugee inclusion, especially in relation to connecting refugee camp to public services. UNHCR identified and designed projects in five new A2PS areas across Kirkuk, Ninewa, Dyala and Salahddin governorates to support IDPs in areas of return and one A2PS area in Duhok targeting IDPs, local communities and refugees in areas surrounding refugee camps. Additionally, UNHCR continued the implementation across six A2PS areas in Erbil, Sulaymaniyah, Anbar and Salahddin governorates.

A2PS programmes have been designed in consultation with communities and local authorities, including coordination with other humanitarian and development actors through the UN-NGO led Area-Based Coordination (ABC) groups in Federal Iraq, established under the Durable Solutions structure for IDPs. In some areas in the KR-I, A2PS programmes are coordinated in ad-hoc area-based committees, such as in the Dohuk area, where such programmes are then discussed in a coordination forum led by the Governor's Office. Some of the interventions identified are co-designed and implemented with other (development) actors, such as VNG, GIZ, ILO and WFP. To achieve a gradual transformation of refugee camps into settlements administered and serviced by local municipalities, interventions are aligned with a number of inclusion strategies, including the integration of camp-based PHCs with public PHCs outside of the camps. In 2022, a major milestone has been achieved, with the inclusion of three refugee camps in the development plans and catalogues of investments of the hosting municipalities, achieved through UNHCR's collaboration with VNG and the Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism. Throughout 2022, UNHCR has continued to play a catalytic role to support the implementation of the catalogues and potential scalability of the model. Furthermore, this is a stepping stone for further advocacy required to include refugee camps in the master plans that will be updated in the upcoming years. Such interventions served to expand protection space and mitigated protection risks; the sustainability and impact of interventions was taken into consideration in their design, leading towards solutions such as return or inclusion of IDPs and refugees into public services and programmes.

To achieve solutions for both IDPs and refugees, UNHCR further strengthened collaboration and engagement with development actors to advance inclusion of refugees in their programming and national capacity building initiatives with government counterparts. For instance, through the PROSPECTS partnership, UNHCR successfully advocated for the inclusion of refugees in the Social Safety Net pilot that is expected to be implemented in 2023 by MoLSA, with the support of the World Bank. This pilot represents an important precedent for the inclusion of refugee in national social protection schemes. Collaboration with ILO within the PROSPECTS partnership also led to the inclusion, for the first time, of refugees in the programming of a national micro-finance institution, Al-Thiqa to unable refugees' access to microfinancing for SME's development. Refugees will also be included in the Digital Employment Platform that will be designed by ILO as part of the EU- funded Social Protection Programme aimed to strengthen the capacity of MoLSA to collect relevant socio-economic data of refugees and increase their access to MoLSA's job centers, TVET and opportunities with the private sector.

Challenges to Achieving Outcome

The implementation and monitoring of A2PS programming has been a challenge due to heavy internal requirements. UNHCR worked on a revision of the A2PS guidelines to simplify the process and align further A2PS interventions with strategic priorities and ensure that all projects result in protection outcomes in particular. These guidelines will be finalized in early 2023.

Substantial progress has been made to advance the operational integration of camp-based services with local municipalities. However, due to the multitude of changes in the operational context, the further development and endorsement of strategies to transform both IDP and refugee camps into formal settlements connected by public services and managed by local authorities have been temporarily put on hold.

The decline in the number of operational actors in KR-I remained a challenge, including the shift of focus of many development actors, such as UNDP, towards Federal Iraq. Further engagement and advocacy are required to include refugees in development actors programming. The overall approach, including the communication strategy, will need to be revised in 2023.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

In 2022, all interventions across sectors have continued to be guided by the AGD Policy, with some significant advancements being observed. Notably, in the area of gender equality, the introduction of affirmative actions, such as fixed quotas for women in leadership/management structures, has led to an increased participation of women (48% and 35% amongst the refugee and IDP populations respectively). Moreover, women and girls have been systematically engaged in participatory methods, whereby more than 50% of community members engaged in community assessments were female. Gender support groups, women associations, promotion of equal representation of girls in youth groups and sport for girls' activities also worked toward a more gender inclusive environment and created socialization opportunities for girls. These are substantial achievements if measured against the background of a conservative socio-cultural environment. UNHCR's commitment to youth empowerment and mobilization has been reinforced with the promotion of youth-run projects in urban areas focusing on inclusion, conflict resolution and social cohesion.

On disability inclusion UNHCR has continued to work toward an inclusive accessibility of facilities while sensitizing its partners on the removal of barriers. In 2022 as member of the of the Inter-Agency Disability Working Group, UNHCR has contributed to the implementation of the joint action plan and provided a set of trainings on the Washington Set of Questions (WSQ) and related training to UNHCR protection staff, partners and community outreach structures. A specific indicator on support to persons with disabilities was introduced in the result framework in 2022. Collaborations with community-based organization working on disability were also extended. Gashbun organization, a KR-I based CBO supporting refugee children with various forms of disabilities, was successfully supported to access the 2022 MENA AAP Grant.

Efforts continued to be made to raise awareness and advocate for the inclusion and equal access of LGBTIQ+ displaced and stateless persons to rights and services. This is hampered by restrictive legislative and political initiatives that have reduced the protection space for LGBTIQ+ persons and those helping them. In 2022, together with the UN country team, UNHCR advocated to prevent the issuance of new national laws that criminalize those "who by act or word advocates or encourages homosexuality/LGBTIQ+ persons". Moreover, training of personnel and partners and prioritization of this population for cash, livelihoods, gender-based violence support services, health, and resettlement have remained key features of UNHCR response in Iraq.

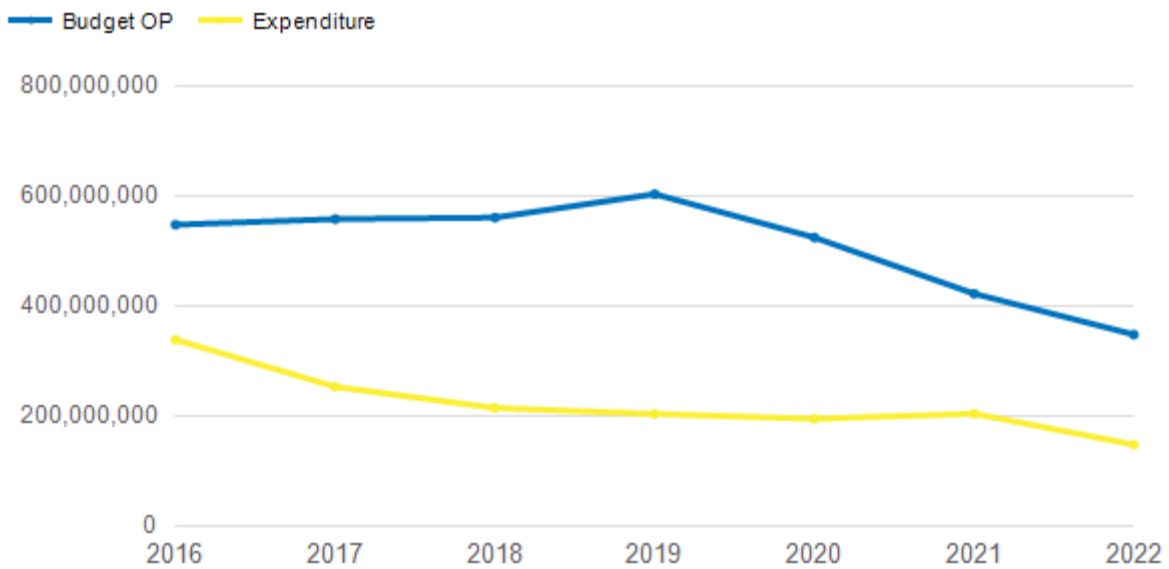
Section 3: Resources

3.1 Financial Data

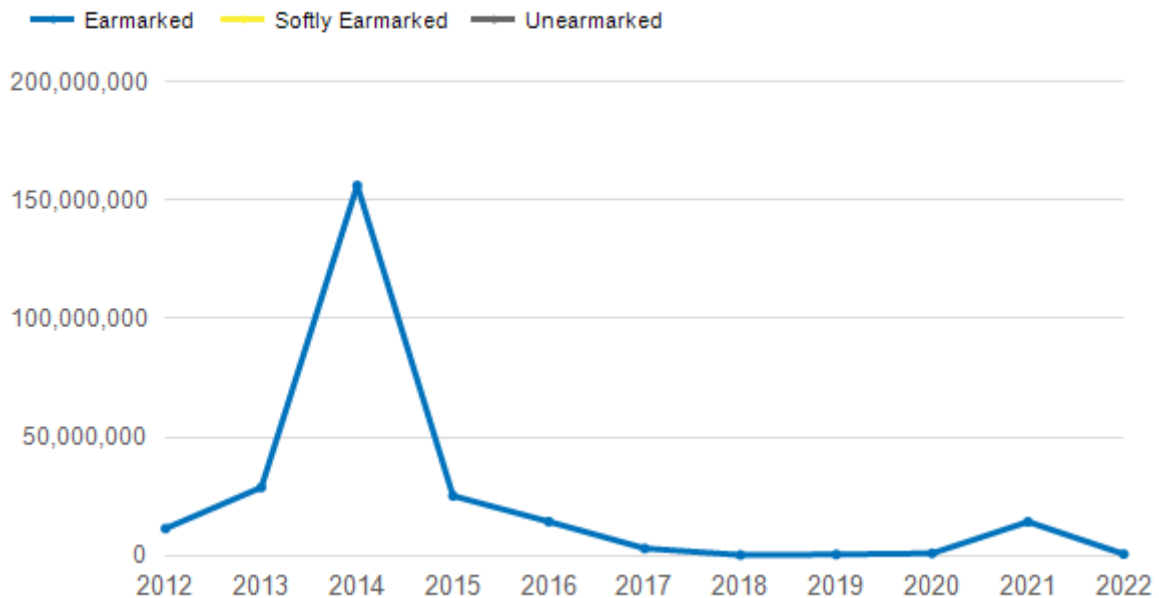
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	45,131,455	30,032,144	66.54%	29,991,767	99.87%
IA2: Respond	195,930,798	75,798,422	38.69%	75,838,421	100.05%
IA3: Empower	16,793,571	14,138,739	84.19%	14,138,739	100.00%
IA4: Solve	89,502,844	27,494,527	30.72%	27,440,069	99.80%
All Impact Areas		40,016	0.00%		0.00%
Total	347,358,668	147,503,847	42.46%	147,408,996	99.94%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	20,821,748	18,608,652	89.37%	18,608,652	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	668,230	675,908	101.15%	675,908	100.00%
OA4: GBV	10,201,665	4,321,031	42.36%	4,321,031	100.00%
OA5: Children	13,439,812	6,412,651	47.71%	6,412,651	100.00%
OA7: Community	16,793,571	14,138,172	84.19%	14,138,172	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	147,368,707	51,893,232	35.21%	51,893,232	100.00%
OA9: Housing	33,611,707	13,064,076	38.87%	13,023,698	99.69%
OA10: Health	8,204,857	5,673,527	69.15%	5,673,527	100.00%
OA11: Education	6,745,526	5,182,030	76.82%	5,222,030	100.77%
OA15: Resettle	2,825,668	3,020,037	106.88%	2,965,579	98.20%
OA16: Integrate	86,677,176	24,474,515	28.24%	24,474,515	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		40,016	0.00%		0.00%
Total	347,358,668	147,503,847	42.46%	147,408,996	99.94%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The operation’s plan for 2022 was only 42% funded, which is a result of several compounding factors, including optimistic macroeconomic prognosis for Iraq, increasing donor fatigue with protracted displacement situations and new crises globally. However, despite relative stability and an ongoing transition from a humanitarian emergency response in relation to the IDP response, Iraq continued to present humanitarian needs. To address those, UNHCR has continued its interventions in the areas of basic needs, mostly through cash-based interventions especially for refugees, and supported the KRG’s efforts in camp management coordination of the remaining IDP and refugee camps. Due to funding limitations, substantial gaps remain under the refugee cash assistance programme, where only a limited number of refugee families have received financial support from UNHCR to address their daily and seasonal needs. UNHCR Regional Winterization Assistance Plan for 2022-2023 for Syria and Iraq situation has received limited support from the donors, thus the operation was not able

to prioritize seasonal cash assistance for IDPs and opted to cover only the most vulnerable refugee families.



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