

Annual Results Report

2023

South Sudan

Acknowledgements

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- 4.1 - Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Section 1: Context and Overview

1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

The overall situation in Sudan remained extremely challenging. The protection landscape in South Sudan in 2023 remained precarious and characterized by localized violence, climate/economic shocks, and most significantly, the onset of the Sudan crisis. In addition to seeing close to half a million refugees and returnees arriving from Sudan, local communities also bore the brunt of the economic crisis triggered by the conflict in Sudan. While the operation continues its efforts to promote self-reliance and solutions, it also had to shift priorities and reallocate resources to the new emergency response. The operation thus prioritized three key areas: life-saving emergency response; protection; and solutions. South Sudan is also at the forefront of the climate emergency, with continued flooding that have caused large-scale displacement, fueled inter-communal violence, exacerbated food insecurity and economic hardships, as well negatively impacting the operation (e.g., closed roads).

By December 2023, over 386,000 refugees and asylum-seekers had sought protection in South Sudan, with most arriving from neighboring countries such as Sudan, Ethiopia, and the DRC, As a result of the influx, particularly from Sudan, the operation increased its presence in the field, including opening new offices in Renk and Aweil. According to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview, an estimated 2.2 million people remained displaced in South Sudan with an estimated 9 million people expected to experience critical needs in 2024. Protection concerns range from preserving the civilian character of asylum to addressing gender-based violence and lack of psychosocial support and educational opportunities, particularly for youth. There was some progress on solutions, with the government adopting the National Durable Solutions Strategy (2023) to provide solutions issues of IDPs, refugees, returnees, and host communities. UNHCR led the development of an area-based roadmap along a nexus model in Upper Nile State.

1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

By 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless persons enjoy more favourable rights to access territory and documentation.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.56%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Stateless Persons	100.00%	100.00%

South Sudan's asylum policy is in line with international refugee law, safeguarding and adhering to the principle of non-refoulement, offering protection to refugees and asylum-seekers. It advocates for refugee integration, freedom of movement and access to territory, and fosters a safe and dignified environment where refugees can live harmoniously with host communities. However, administrative hurdles and insufficient implementation impede the full realization of refugee rights, especially concerning access to employment.

South Sudan faces capacity and development issues that affect its refugee response. The influx of refugees from Sudan places a strain on services in refugee camps and settlements, leading to heightened levels of GBV, child protection concerns, limited educational opportunities and psychosocial support. The government's response to the concentration of new arrivals in urban areas, which includes designating specific areas for registration, has led to increased reports of arrests and detention of refugees. South Sudan maintains an open-door policy for refugees, UNHCR continues to collaborate closely with the Commission of Refugee Affairs to foster a favorable protection environment. Asylum-seekers and individuals at risk of statelessness generally enjoy freedom of movement, with some restrictions in certain areas. Refugees are largely dependent on food assistance, which faces reductions due to funding. Community-led initiatives, risk assessments, and (regional) partnerships with development and private sector stakeholders were pursued to help address protection challenges. Advocacy for the systematic inclusion of refugees, IDPs, and returnees in national systems and policies continue, with partnerships with the World Bank playing a pivotal role. Agricultural projects on allocated land aim to enhance social cohesion and create socioeconomic opportunities for both displaced and host communities.

2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

Affected populations are increasingly resistant to shocks.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	95.80%

In 2023, UNHCR implemented significant measures to enhance the protection environment and empower refugees, IDPs and host communities in South Sudan. These efforts aimed to mitigate protection risks and increase resilience. Capacity-building initiatives were implemented for UNHCR staff, government officials, partners, and various stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the protection response. For IDPs, UNHCR established an operational presence from the start, focusing on protection, shelter, core relief, site management, and durable solutions. This approach, emphasizing community engagement, benefited both IDPs and host communities. By leveraging the government's commitments made during the Global Refugee

Forum (GRF), UNHCR advocated with the government and other stakeholders to fulfill pledges related to education, livelihoods, solutions, and protection capacity. The office prioritized responses to gender-based violence (GBV), child protection, mixed migration, peaceful coexistence, access to justice, solution pathways, and interagency coordination. An active fraud reporting mechanism was established, along with channels for reporting GBV and cases of SEA.

In 2023, UNHCR achieved significant milestones in refugee support by establishing three refugee transit sites in Wedweil, Abyei, and Renk, providing essential shelter, infrastructure solutions, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) facilities for Sudanese refugees. Additionally, an expansion plan was executed for the Renk Transit site, resulting in the development of a new extension featuring communal shelters, service areas, basic infrastructure, and fencing, all contributing to increased protection and well-being of the refugee communities.

According to the 2023 World Bank poverty and equality brief, the most recent estimates (2016) suggest that 82.3% of the population (9.1 million individuals) live below the National Poverty Line. While more recent estimates are not available, protracted conflict and a volatile macroeconomic environment, compounded by natural disasters, are expected to have further deteriorated living conditions. The economic outlook is further clouded by dwindling oil production and the need for economic diversification. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis is deepened by the influx of refugees and returnees due to the conflict in Sudan having further deteriorated living conditions of the people and equally impacting the forcibly displaced persons.

UNHCR collaborated with the Government of Upper Nile to secure land at State Garden and Radio Tower Plot in Malakal town for building two IDP villages, providing 163 households with shelter, WASH, and other infrastructure. By providing shelter, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities, and essential infrastructure to 163 households, this initiative aims to improve living conditions and reduce health risks associated with overcrowding.

3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

By 2025, communities achieve greater self-reliance and gender equality.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	IDPs	65.83%	85.36%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.45%	68.29%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Returnees	38.91%	74.73%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	IDPs	9.03%	20.48%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.79%	13.35%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Returnees	40.48%	20.22%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	IDPs	57.56%	48.61%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	68.92%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Returnees	15.00%	54.76%

In South Sudan, refugees are granted the right to decent work through the National Refugee Act of 2012 and the 2017 labour laws. Despite this legal framework, economic instability, limited job diversification, and conflict has restricted access to quality employment opportunities. The labour law, complemented by non-discrimination and fundamental rights provisions, alongside South Sudan's commitment to international conventions, theoretically supports refugees' work rights and contributions to host communities. However, practical challenges, including economic and institutional fragility, impair private sector growth and livelihood improvements.

For education, efforts to increase enrolment of children and young people in both primary and secondary education have been further hindered due to the Sudanese refugee influx and compounded by pre-existing challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of qualified teachers, straining the education system. While progress has been made by UNHCR and partners in enrolling refugee learners, the overall proportion of children and young people enrolled in education may not have significantly increased due to the substantial rise in the education population (6-17 years) resulting from the Sudan crisis. Efforts to integrate refugee education into the national system continued, with students enrolled in pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools. This included the gradual adoption of the national curriculum, procurement and utilization of the national English curriculum, incorporation of Sudanese teachers, and strengthening of the Ministry of Education's oversight of education activities in camp-based schools. Refugee students were also enrolled to sit for national examinations.

Prior to the Sudan crisis, various factors contributed to children and young people moving back and forth to their Country of Origin, including demand-side issues such as inadequate food assistance from WFP.

4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons can freely choose amongst durable solutions pathways.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8	4
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	6
4.3a Number of stateless people for whom nationality is granted or confirmed	Stateless Persons	2,756	0

In 2023, South Sudan saw spontaneous returns of refugees and South Sudanese previously residing in Sudan. This population movement constituted the largest bulk of population movements across borders in 2023 and was closely monitored by UNHCR, together with the Government (RRC) and IOM. Over 480,000 individuals returned, facing challenging conditions, yet few expressed intentions to return to Sudan. The conflict increased the refugee count to 386,000 by December 2023 compared to 310,520 refugees in December 2022. The increase in the refugee population led to the establishment of a new settlement in Aweil and overcrowding in camps. Four r refugees were resettled via UNHCR, while 24 LGBTIQ+ individuals resettled directly through the Embassy of the United States of America.

Complementary Pathways remained underutilized, despite supporting six scholars for overseas studies. Efforts to address statelessness resulted in 1,330 individuals being enrolled for nationality certificate issuance, marking significant progress toward eradicating statelessness as South Sudan moved to accede to international conventions on statelessness. Additionally, UNHCR's collaboration with various bodies facilitated political inclusion of 1,749 IDPs, refugees, and returnees in the national dialogue, crucial for the constitutional and electoral processes. Consultations occurred across 15 locations and extended regionally, engaging a significant number of participants, including those with disabilities and the elderly. This inclusive approach aimed to ensure that displaced populations needs are considered in upcoming elections, with outcomes of consultations set to influence advocacy efforts in 2024.

UNHCR's solutions flagship project Pockets of Hope, which employs a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder

approach to solutions with a focus on reintegration and community empowerment, was impacted in 2023 due to diversion of funds towards lifesaving humanitarian assistance for the Sudan situation. The operations reprioritization jointly agreed upon as part of the emergency response adopted to funds solutions and reintegration activates from development funds with the bulk of solutions projects funded through EU INTPA projects and solutions prioritized for refugee locations where vulnerabilities were highest. Sectors that continue to be prioritized under solutions include Housing land and property, WASH, construction and renovation of infrastructure for resilience including healthcare centers, boreholes and schools, livelihoods, and agriculture. Cash assistance was increased in 2023 to support freedom of choice among persons with specific needs and build on resilience.

1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

The crisis in Sudan and resulting L3 emergency severely impacted UNHCR and all humanitarian actors in South Sudan. UNHCR and partners mobilized immediately to support the Government of South Sudan in assisting people in hard-to-reach areas with very limited infrastructure, particularly in the most remote border areas, and in those locations where host communities are already extremely vulnerable. The large-scale arrivals of vulnerable and traumatized individuals have placed strains on the existing infrastructure and services (e.g., education, health, and WASH) in the refugee camps as well as host communities. Due to resurgence of insecurity, inter-communal violence, sporadic clashes among armed groups, recurrent natural disasters, and ineffective administrative systems, many IDPs continue to experience protracted displacement and are living in dire conditions in former PoC sites, without access to essential services such as food, water, sanitation, and healthcare. Dependency on humanitarian assistance remained high with limited capacity of the government to respond.

Funding constraints experienced by all humanitarian actors in the Sudan emergency response highlighted the importance of operationalization of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus and of engaging development actors from the onset of the emergency. Internally, while there was strong support to the operation at the start of the emergency, lack of clarity about availability of resources at the end of the year put a strain on the operation's capacity to respond.

1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR maintained robust and multi-faceted partnerships to support displaced individuals in South Sudan. At the onset of the Sudan crisis, UNHCR established joint coordination with IOM to spearhead a phased emergency response strategy focusing on initial reception, immediate interventions in return areas, and fostering resilience and integration. The Emergency Coordination Group (IOM, UNHCR, HCT, OCHA) tackled coordination and operational challenges, with UNHCR leading sectoral coordination at field level in Renk. UNHCR also worked with the government through the Refugee Coordination Model to facilitate strategic discussions and sectoral coordination with partners. UNHCR's local initiatives included collaborations with key government, 65 NGOs, and community stakeholders, significantly bolstering the refugee and emergency response efforts. UNHCR maintained its leadership of the protection cluster and significantly boosted its co-leadership of CCCM cluster. It also took the leadership of the Flagship Initiative in Upper Nile State, developing a solutions roadmap for IDPs with the State government and humanitarian, peace and development partners. UNHCR partnerships extended to UN Missions for civilian protection, including agreements with UNMISS and UNISFA to promote the participation of refugees, IDPs and returnees in consultations on the implementation of the revitalized peace agreement. UNHCR supported the Government of South Sudan to update its pledges ahead of the GRF and mainstreaming the GCR and SDGs into development plans and policies to advance inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in national planning and development agenda.

Section 2: Results

2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons exercise their rights and duties associated with access to territory and possession of documents.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	28.33%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	21.60%	70.00%	50.51%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.87%	90.00%	35.01%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	60.00%	65.00%	53.78%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The South Sudanese Government has maintained an open-door policy, welcoming those seeking asylum with prima facie group recognition and facilitating the return of individuals to their areas of origin in South Sudan. UNHCR and partners supported the government in the implementation of various measures to cater to the needs of new arrivals. This includes the establishment of transit centers near border-crossing points, arranging transportation to existing refugee camps and settlements, and the creation of new settlements to manage the influx. In response to the Sudan crisis in April 2023, UNHCR rapidly deployed a comprehensive response, working with stakeholders at border points to ensure the smooth processing and admission of individuals to transit sites for immediate assistance. The implementation of Individual Emergency Registration (IER) or biometric registration at transit centers such as Renk and Abyei has improved efficiency and accuracy while reducing the risk of fraud.

South Sudan's dedication to refugee registration and management reflects its commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of displaced individuals. Through proactive efforts and strategic partnerships, including UNHCR-led advocacy initiatives, significant achievements have been made. The enactment of the 2018 Civil Registry Act represents a major advancement in documentation processes. UNHCR's advocacy for the implementation of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) regulations has ensured universal birth registration. Training of staff and advanced de-duplication techniques have enhanced data privacy and accuracy. Integration of the Global Distribution Tool during assistance issuance and meticulous pre-verification efforts have enhanced the reliability and precision of registration data, laying the foundation for sustainable progress within South Sudan's refugee communities.

2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

Asylum seekers have access to fair and efficient national Refugee Status Determination procedures.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62.00	62.00	51.00
2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%
2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The South Sudanese Commission of Refugee Affairs (CRA) is responsible for registration and Refugee Status Determination (RSD), acting as the Secretariat for the Refugee Eligibility Committee (REC), which approves RSD decisions. In response to diverse influxes from neighboring countries, CRA has implemented various registration and RSD strategies, including granting prima facie refugee status. By the end of 2023, the time taken from registration to asylum decision was reduced from 62 to 51 days, thanks to UNHCR's advocacy for prima facie recognition and its support for CRA. The South Sudan Refugee Act of 2012 guarantees asylum-seekers the right to legal representation during RSD procedures. In 2023, CRA carried out 625 RSD interviews, with all applicants entitled to legal representation, although none availed themselves of it. Of these, 430 RSD decision recommendations were submitted for REC's endorsement. The Refugee Appeals Board (RAB), established in 2020 to address rejected asylum applications, is not yet fully operational. However, there were no instances of denied access to appeals processes in 2023. UNHCR has pushed for the complete establishment of the RAB and has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for its functioning. UNHCR's extensive support to CRA, REC, and RAB includes providing interpreters, security, incentives for caseworkers, arranging venues, participating in REC meetings with an observational role, and conducting capacity-building activities. These initiatives are designed to enhance the RSD process, ensuring the rights and efficient processing of displaced individuals seeking asylum in South Sudan.

3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

By 2025, national policy supports a more favourable protection environment for forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

South Sudan's national legal framework for refugee protection aligns well with the 1951 Convention, its 1967 Protocol, and the 1969 OAU Convention, creating an adequate environment for the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. In 2023, significant efforts were made to enhance the government's capacity in managing individual cases, especially for the most vulnerable and those with specific needs. UNHCR collaborated with authorities to improve border management and monitoring, providing guidance on the reception of individuals fleeing into South Sudan.

In a significant move towards eradicating statelessness, South Sudan's national parliament endorsed the accession, and the President signed the instruments of accession for the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness in 2023. These documents are awaiting deposit at the UN Treaty office in New York to finalize the accession process. UNHCR has continued to assist the government in strengthening its national laws and framework, offering legal commentary on the Nationality Act of 2011, aiding in drafting the Civil Registry Regulations for the Civil Registry Act of 2018, and providing capacity-building activities for officials involved in nationality and

documentation. At the second Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the Government of South Sudan pledged to enhance its protection capacity and asylum system documentation. This includes commitments to operationalize the appeals process, develop interoperability between asylum management systems, and process refugee ID cards, including biometric refugee IDs and Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents. Additionally, South Sudan renewed its commitment to preventing and eradicating statelessness, demonstrating its ongoing dedication to improving the protection and documentation of stateless persons.

4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

National authorities and communities are able to strengthen gender equality and respond to/prevent GBV.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	72.55%	80.00%	72.30%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	34.61%	50.00%	80.20%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	20.00%	30.00%	75.78%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	23.30%	30.00%	35.70%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	30.00%	37.47%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Returnees	20.00%	25.00%	42.31%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	30.00%	89.29%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In South Sudan, UNHCR and partners have continued to address GBV amid increased GBV risks arising from deeply rooted gender inequality and the influx from the Sudan crisis since April 2023. Efforts include GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and support for survivors and vulnerable women and girls. In 2023, 98% of the reported survivors were women and girls and 25% were children (16% in the case of refugees s). The most reported GBV incident was physical violence, followed by sexual and psychological violence. From the response side, comprehensive GBV case management became a crucial aspect of UNHCR's response through systems and referral pathways, providing individual and group care for GBV survivors. In 2023, GBV survivors made use of specialized GBV response services including psychosocial, legal, health, safety, and livelihood support on 2,044 different occasions. Additionally, 3,856 women and girls engaged in activities at Women and Girls Safe Spaces, and 330,174 individuals were informed about GBV and related services, with 13,848 benefiting from specialized prevention programs like EMAP, SASA! and Girl Shine. Safety audits were conducted in key refugee areas, and 22,780 women and girls received dignity kits. Training sessions enhanced the capacity of 103 GBV staff and frontline workers in GBV case management and clinical management of rape. These initiatives aimed to shift community norms and behaviors regarding GBV and improve understanding of women's rights. The SASA! program, piloted in Maban, Juba, and Jamjang for IDPs, returnees, and refugees, promotes behavioral change and violence prevention, showing a growing awareness of the negative impact violence against women' A survivor satisfaction survey indicated high approval of the GBV case management services. Through these comprehensive efforts, UNHCR and its partners strive to mitigate the effects of GBV and support survivors in accessing necessary services.

5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

Youth and children protection systems are established to ensure their wellbeing.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	38.64%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	20.00%	20.00%	7.38%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11.29%	25.00%	23.80%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Returnees	30.00%	30.00%	7.94%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	13.35%	28.00%	40.19%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Children, women, and families from Sudan continue to confront significant protection concerns, with children being particularly affected by the conflict. This situation has exposed them to extreme violence and abuse, leading to a notable decline in the mental health and well-being of affected children. UNHCR's Child Protection (CP) programs have been actively responding to children at risk of, or victims of violence, neglect, abuse, or exploitation, or those with urgent specific needs. Through its partners, UNHCR has provided specialized programs to ensure that all refugee children identified as unaccompanied or at risk of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, and other heightened risks receive immediate, quality services in their best interest. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were identified, registered, and given relevant case management services, including family tracing and reunification. Those whose families could not be traced received alternative care arrangements and referral services. Despite facing various challenges, UNHCR, its partners, and the government have maintained a high level of collaboration and partnership in responding to the emergency. Children still make up over 40% of the population seeking asylum in South Sudan. Out of the total number of children (220,077), 51,385 have heightened risks. Access to child protection services is limited by the scarcity of CP partners due to constrained CP funding. UNHCR continues to advocate with the government and partners, raising awareness about children's rights, life skills, and empowering community-based mechanisms/networks in the camps on child protection knowledge and childcare. These efforts aim to promote a conducive growing and learning environment for all refugee and asylum-seeker children.

6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to justice by 2025.

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR concentrated on priority areas to enhance safety and access to justice for refugees and asylum-seekers. This involved proactive and continuous advocacy supporting the freedom of movement as guaranteed by the 2012 Refugee Act. Strengthening safety and access to justice was paramount throughout the year, particularly with the influx of Sudanese refugees who faced unlawful arrests and detentions by law enforcement and other security agencies. Access to justice for refugees, asylum-seekers,

and returnees in South Sudan is either limited or nonexistent due to inadequate judicial infrastructure, scarce legal representation, and a general lack of understanding regarding procedures, among other hurdles. In the absence of formal justice systems in refugee-hosting areas, refugees, akin to host communities, turn to informal justice mechanisms and local council courts for dispute resolution. In Bentiu, local chiefs have been involved in revising Nuer traditional laws to ensure alignment with international standards, especially concerning justice for women. Thanks to UNHCR's efforts and collaboration with authorities, a reduction in arrests and detentions was observed in the latter half of the year, as indicated by monitoring reports.

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

Community based structures are strengthened to enable community inclusion, empowerment and resilience.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	50.00%	50.00%	22.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.48%	100.00%	97.00%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Returnees	30.26%	35.00%	13.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	20.00%	25.00%	35.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.00%	45.00%	40.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Returnees	20.00%	25.00%	35.00%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR focused on community engagement and women's empowerment among displaced communities, establishing supportive networks for inclusive representation, following its Age, Gender, and Diversity Policy. It ensured community involvement in decision-making, with trained focal points for complaint and feedback mechanisms ensuring confidentiality and safety. Efforts in refugee and IDP camps mobilized community participation, utilizing their skills and potential. UNHCR, with government partners, supported leadership structures for refugees and IDPs, assessing needs through dialogue and community-led interventions. Special attention was given to women and girls, disproportionately affected by displacement, by providing self-reliance opportunities through skills training in tailoring, bakery, stove making, and vegetable gardening. Economic empowerment was supported via Village Savings and Loans Associations, focusing on sustainable livelihood initiatives. In IDP-hosting areas, UNHCR promoted self-management and engagement projects, reaching 86,775 individuals with capacity development activities. It supported community actions against flood impacts and built community and women's centers for exchange and support. Peaceful coexistence dialogues and community campaigns were facilitated across regions, enhancing community resilience and empowerment amidst displacement challenges. With regard to differences in feedback coverage across the different target groups, refugees often stay in one location (camps or settlements), as do IDPs until they choose to return to their area of origin. Both are therefore easy to access and target with long term programmes. In comparison, returnees are highly mobile. This high mobility creates challenges for consistent community engagement, leading to lower indicator achievement rates, especially those related to feedback.

8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

Urgent humanitarian needs are addressed for all forcibly displaced and stateless persons.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	6.66%	11.00%	8.71%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	60.24%	70.00%	92.06%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Returnees	12.52%	15.00%	5.29%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Stateless Persons	2.26%	14.00%	17.37%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR provided USD 2.8 million in cash assistance to 260,182 beneficiaries in South Sudan, aiding refugees, IDPs, returnees, and host community members. This support was aimed at addressing protection issues and preventing harmful coping strategies, aligning with UNHCR's commitment to welfare and self-reliance. Furthermore, 172,377 refugees and asylum-seekers received Non-Food Items (NFIs) like hygiene kits, baby kits, and cooking fuel, with 140,702 IDPs and 10,021 refugee returnees also receiving assistance. UNHCR in collaboration with the partner promoted sustainable energy solutions by supporting two refugee women groups to produce and distribute over 15,610 kg of charcoal briquettes in Maban to 580 households, reducing deforestation and the risk of gender-based violence. In Jamjang, 180 fuel-efficient stoves were provided to families, enhancing cooking fuel efficiency and safety. Additionally, UNHCR launched a solar electric cooking technology pilot in Maban, training 22 youths and supplying 50 communal and home solar cookers. This initiative supports clean cooking technology and a market-based approach to sustainable energy for refugees, underlining UNHCR's dedication to the well-being and sustainability of displaced communities and environmental conservation.

9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

By 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to sustainable solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	10.85%	15.00%	21.50%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	8.48%	20.00%	63.77%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Returnees	6.81%	7.00%	20.96%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR aimed to provide shelter support to 18,503 refugees and asylum-seekers, 24 returnees, and 1,751,788 IDPs in South Sudan, successfully supporting 2,602 refugees and asylum seekers, 40,829 returnees, 16,125 IDPs, and 800 individuals with specific needs from host communities. UNHCR

implemented its shelter strategy (2023-25) focusing on context-specific shelter design modules, considering local construction trends, costs, and material availability. This strategy was meticulously planned, with designs reviewed and spot checks conducted in field locations to ensure adherence to approved specifications and sustainability. The government facilitated these efforts by allocating land for IDP villages and settlements, with UNHCR establishing new sites and constructing shelters for Sudanese refugees and returnee families. Additional space for a transit center in Renk was also secured due to lobbying efforts with the Government of Upper Nile, alleviating overcrowding during peak periods. Collaboration with humanitarian partners like NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), NCA (Norwegian Church Aid), UNMISS, and UNIFSA enhanced the shelter and settlement response, including infrastructure improvements and borehole drilling. UNHCR's distribution of solar lamps to schools in Maban and households in Juba and Aweil settlements improved educational outcomes and community safety. Installation of solar streetlights in Kaya camp and communal shelters in Gendrassa and Doro camps contributed to mitigating GBV risks and enhancing well-being. These initiatives underline UNHCR's commitment to providing sustainable shelter solutions and improving the lives of displaced communities in South Sudan.

10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to healthcare by 2025.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	64.24%	80.00%	95.04%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	91.88%	95.00%	94.98%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Access to health care for refugees and asylum-seekers in South Sudan remained a critical concern in 2023, with lack of access exposing them to various health risks. Despite WHO recommendations for measles vaccination rates of 95% or above to ensure herd immunity, analysis of vaccination services from 2023 revealed lower rates, indicating the high risk of measles outbreaks among the refugee population. Antenatal care services and awareness about the importance of skilled delivery remained inadequate within refugee camp settings due to a lack of sufficient human resources, including midwives, medical supplies, and informational campaigns promoting safe motherhood. In response, UNHCR allocated funds in 2023 to deploy vaccinators, midwives and community outreach workers and provided medical supplies to enhance child health services delivery. Efforts were also made to solarize health facilities for sustainable power supplies, particularly for cold chain management. UNHCR engaged UNICEF to bridge funding gaps that materialized 18 months funding support through the World Bank financing of the health programme in Upper Nile & Rawang administrative area. This has ensured provision of health services in 13 health facilities, six camps and two county hospitals. Coordination with the local Ministry of Health (MoH) ensured the supply of vaccines for various deadly vaccine preventable diseases affecting children under five years of age. Despite challenges such as interruptions in vaccine supply, power supply irregularities and missed opportunities due to refugee movement, nearly 95,000 doses of vaccines were administered, including measles, polio, and pentavalent vaccines. However, achieving target outcomes was hindered by vaccine stockouts and service interruptions, particularly in Maban and Jamjang camps.

Priority was also given to strengthening safe motherhood services across all camps. Funds were allocated to recruit and deploy clinical staff, including midwives, and supply of reproductive health commodities and laboratory diagnostic capacity. As a result, around 70,000 displaced persons of reproductive age received comprehensive reproductive health services, including clinical management of rape and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

To address malnutrition, UNHCR intensified active case findings, providing life-saving acute malnutrition treatment to nearly 5,000 pregnant and lactating women. Medical and nutrition screening was conducted for new arrivals, UNHCR contributed in strengthening coordination mechanisms, campaigns on nutrition

information, supporting clean water supply, resource mobilization, strengthening SC services, treatment of medical complications, and vaccination campaigns that improved malnutrition cure rates and impacted in reduced mortality trends maintained at sphere standard.

11. Outcome Area: Education

By 2025, children and youth have enhanced access to education opportunities.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	59.38%	65.00%	45.37%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The DAFI Programme remained pivotal in providing tertiary and higher education opportunities in South Sudan. Enrolment increased by 0.76% with 68 new DAFI scholars and 1 Mastercard foundation scholar joining USIU-Africa. In 2023, 36 DAFI scholars graduated, with 10 transitioning successfully into the labour market through the INS connected learning programme. Expansion of the INS program to four centres, supported by UNHCR HQ and the Vodafone Foundation, led to increased connected learning opportunities. The onset of the Sudan crisis in April 2023 heightened the education needs for refugee children and young people, straining the national education system. UNHCR, the government, EHAGL, and IGAD facilitated national consultations on the Costed Plan of Action for Education, assessing progress and outlining contextual challenges. Progress was made in enrolling 61,291 refugees at primary and secondary levels, with improvements in infrastructure, teacher incentives, and learning materials. School governance was strengthened through training, and efforts focused on encouraging school attendance, particularly for girls. Cash-based interventions supported exam uptake, and scholarships were provided for secondary students. Regular school attendance was supported by WFP's school feeding program, with additional assistance from the Girls Education South Sudan Project.

12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Forcibly displaced and stateless persons have improved access to healthcare by 2025.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	IDPs	25.00%	25.00%	89.62%
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	90.00%	57.50%
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Returnees	50.00%	60.00%	82.99%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	IDPs	55.00%	65.00%	34.89%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51.35%	60.00%	45.62%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Returnees	30.00%	45.00%	49.46%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Despite financial constraints, efforts were made to address WASH needs for refugees and nearby host communities in 2023. UNHCR supported routine operation and maintenance of 129 existing and four new boreholes, tap stands and water treatment with chlorine solution that ensured clean water supply to more than 350,000 refugees. UNHCR and partners fought to maintain sphere standard due to limited funding the challenges of inadequate Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services, with household latrine coverage remaining below 60% across all locations. Challenges such as high-water delivery costs, power supply interruptions, spare parts scarcity, and fuel and item price inflation affected the provision of safe water.

UNHCR allocated funds to WASH partners to operate and maintain facilities. Spare parts procurement enabled drilling of new boreholes in Ajuang Thok and Pamir refugee camps, along with maintenance and repair of tap stands, pipes, and faucets in all locations. Capacity enhancement training for 80 WASH incentive workers in water management improved local expertise. Regular water quality analysis, borehole flushing, and chlorine monitoring ensured safe water supply. Efforts were made to improve sustainable power supply, with solar systems installed in 50% of boreholes. Partners like Peace Window Japan and Samaritan's Pursedrilled new boreholes in various camps. Excavation of water ponds and handover to host communities improved water supplies. Despite efforts to ensure reasonable WASH services, the coverage in the refugee camps is lower than that for IDPs and returnees due to various development partners intervening in such locations hosting these groups. In 2023, measures including latrine distribution, community engagement, and soap distribution contributed to improved hygiene practices.

Hygiene messaging reached over 350,000 people, reducing the risk of disease outbreaks. A unified community health programme ensured coordinated outreach services. Awareness campaigns in refugee camps reduced open defecation and environmental contamination, mitigating disease risks. Despite funding challenges and crises, concerted action led by UNHCR and partners improved access to clean water and sanitation facilities, enhancing the health and well-being of displaced populations.

13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

The majority of forcibly displaced and stateless persons gain access to sustainable livelihoods by 2025.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	15.00%	20.00%	8.33%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.00%	15.00%	1.94%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Returnees	15.00%	20.00%	11.62%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	25.00%	30.00%	9.16%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.00%	56.00%	8.71%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Returnees	25.00%	30.00%	5.60%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	IDPs	15.00%	10.00%	2.64%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15.00%	10.00%	19.88%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Returnees	15.00%	10.00%	3.94%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR is executing the 2023-2025 livelihoods strategy, which offers a comprehensive approach centred on assets, economic inclusion, and livelihood diversification, with climate considerations as a crucial aspect to engage development actors. Here's how UNHCR is facilitating this engagement:

Wage employment: UNHCR and its partners supported 2,716 refugees in securing wage employment for at least 6 months, with a focus on employing at least 40% as primary teachers through UNHCR-funded projects.

Agriculture: To bolster food security, 16,713 individuals (80% refugees, 20% host community), and 352 returnees received agricultural inputs for vegetable and crop production across 10 locations. Additionally, 1,103 households were enrolled in a livestock restocking program, and mechanized agriculture was promoted through tractor tillage of over 3,233 feddans of land in select areas.

Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurship training was provided to 442 individuals (80% refugees, 20% host community), and 71 returnees, with 134 selected to receive business acceleration grants, which fostered economic independence and aided in rebuilding lives.

Financial Inclusion: Basic financial education was offered to 4,062 individuals through Village Saving and Loans Association schemes, with a workshop engaging NGOs and financial service providers to explore financial inclusion opportunities for refugees.

Vocational Skilling: Skills training programs in tailoring, ICT, bakery, handicrafts, and certified teacher training benefited 483 individuals in targeted locations.

Climate/Environment: To restore ecosystems, 420 individuals (330 refugees, 90 host community) planted 103,819 seedlings and established over 333 acres of agroforestry woodlots. Disaster preparedness efforts included the development of dykes and drainage channels, enhancing environmental and food security benefits in refugee-hosting areas.

UNHCR intensified collaboration with the World Bank and the African Development Bank (AFDB) to aid refugees. This resulted in the launch of the Entrepreneurship Support Project by the AFDB and the Safety Net for Socioeconomic Opportunities Project (SNSOP) by the World Bank aimed to extend social protection programmes to refugees. UNHCR signed a LOU with INKOMOKO, which is committed to enhancing financial inclusion for refugee empowerment and livelihood improvement. Additionally, UNHCR actively participated in regional coordination platforms and economic inclusion working group meetings to foster collaboration among stakeholders. With the support of 11 sector partners the programme achieved

significant results in 2023.

15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

More deserving and vulnerable refugees have access to third country solutions through resettlement and complementary pathways.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28	40	87
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	180.00	150.00	326.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	5	6

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR anticipated resettlement needs for around 13,340 individuals, including those with severe medical conditions and ongoing protection risks. Initially granted 100 slots for the Australian quota as a pilot phase, by year's end, 115 individuals were identified and referred for resettlement, prioritizing emergency, urgent, and normal cases. Of these, 107 individuals were submitted to Australia (103), Finland (2), and the USA (2).

Complementary Pathways opportunities remained limited. South Sudan collaborated with Türkiye and the Mastercard Foundation, supporting six scholars across various courses. As part of the Sudan emergency response, resettlement processing was facilitated for refugees who fled conflict in Sudan but had active cases in Sudan, with medical screenings conducted for over 130 individuals under private sponsorship, primarily to Canada. Departures for resettlement occurred in 2023, with more scheduled for the following year.

Additionally, through South Sudan US Embassy P1 referrals, 26 LGBTQI+ individuals from Kakuma, Kenya was processed for resettlement to the USA, with 24 successfully facilitated departures in 2023.

16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

By 2025, forcibly displaced and stateless persons have access to solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	IDPs	9.53%	25.00%	3.25%
16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	66.00%	70.00%	3.42%

Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR intensified its support for Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) activities in five locations: Torit, Magwi, Yei, Wau, and Juba. Efforts focused on securing property and land tenure rights through various means including:

Facilitating ownership documents: 452 vulnerable individuals obtained ownership documents, including national identity cards crucial for this purpose. HLP activities also facilitated the issuance of land documents such as lease agreements and customary land certificates.

Housing renovation and construction: 103 UNHCR Persons of Special Needs (PSNs) received support for the reconstruction or construction of their homes, while a total of 555 people gained secure tenure rights to housing and/or land.

Strengthening dispute resolution: UNHCR reinforced 12 Community Land Committees (CLCs) comprising 361 community leaders to address land and property disputes through alternative dispute resolution methods.

Legal counseling: 1,448 individuals, including 249 critical HLP cases, benefited from legal counseling, legal representation, court fees coverage, and transportation to and from court.

Awareness sessions: Information-sharing sessions on HLP and available options benefited 3,463 PSNs.

The Government of South Sudan Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development approved interventions, shifting focus from high return to emergency response areas, where populations lacked secure tenure. In 2015, the Government of South Sudan approved the National Social Protection Policy Framework (NSPPF) envisioning a comprehensive system for vulnerable populations. However, South Sudan's social protection indicators remain among the world's worst. Although the NSPPF allocated 1% of the National Annual Budget to implement various interventions, including Disability, War Veteran, and Old Age Grants, these remain unenacted, with donor funding covering 99.7% of social protection expenditures. Despite this, the government collaborates with UNHCR to support refugees, yet national social protection systems remain nonexistent.

The targets for people covered by national social protection systems were set with the anticipation of significant developmental of World Bank's South Sudan Productive Safety Net for Socioeconomic Opportunities Project (SNSOP). However, the project's launch in 2022 did not immediately lead to the commencement of activities. While the SNSOP has faced delays in the commencement of its activities, UNHCR has facilitated inception activities and discussions on data sharing frameworks in the refugee-hosting counties, marking a gradual progression towards refugee inclusion.

2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

The operation remained committed to ensuring that people are at the centre of operational priorities. The age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approach were applied to all aspects of our work. Through this policy, we ensured that persons of concern can enjoy their rights on an equal footing and participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives, families, and communities. This included a strong orientation towards the accountability to affected people as well as commitment to women and girls.

UNHCR ensured the implementation of AGD mainstreaming through established minimum standards, including enhanced protection of women, girls, and children and the prevention of GBV. Refugees and IDPs were engaged in decision-making processes through FDGs and participatory assessments which ensured inclusivity for people with disabilities and minority groups. They reached 3,529 individuals, (1,031 refugees and 2,498 IDPs of whom were 1,833 female, 1,696 male, and 154 persons with disabilities). UNHCR South Sudan prioritized communications from displaced individuals to inform protection assistance, ensuring interventions aligned with risks, needs, and priorities. Joint participatory assessments and monitoring were conducted, and measures to prevent, respond to, and mitigate GBV/SEA were implemented, with an Information Sharing Protocol established for safe and ethical data exchange between partners. In promoting gender equality, UNHCR focused on respecting women and girls' rights, identifying and assisting those at risk, and involving them in skills training and livelihood programs, to facilitate their well-being and empowerment.

As a result of the above, positive results were noted from the 2023 South Sudan countrywide ADG self-

assessment which noted that data collected by the operation is disaggregated by ability, age, ethnic background, health status, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, and skills.

Section 3: Resources

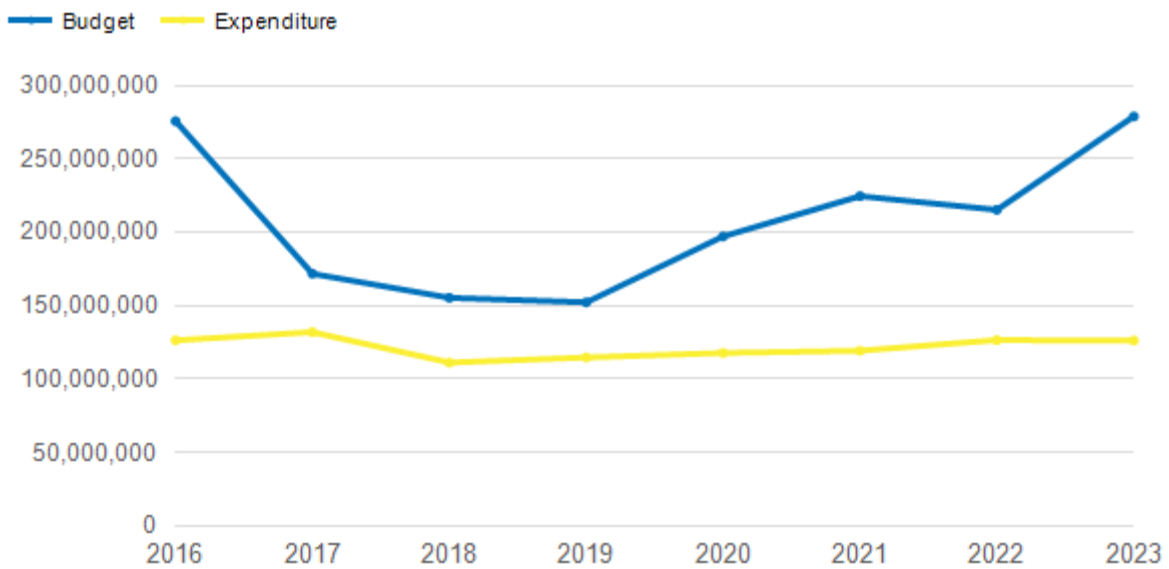
3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

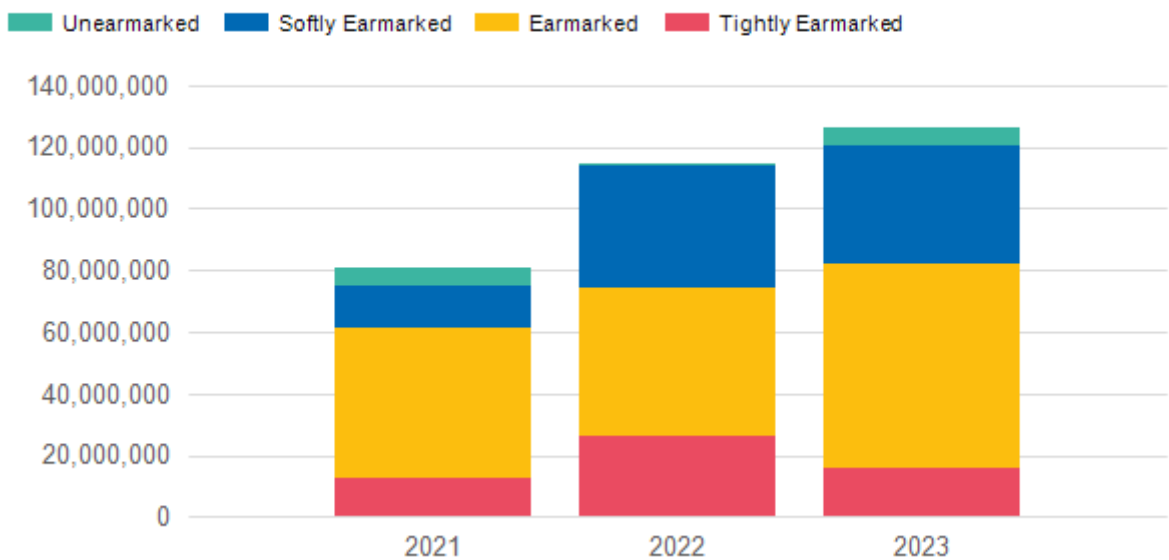
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	77,439,764	11,599,342	14.98%	10,042,328	86.58%
IA2: Assist	78,079,357	56,171,885	71.94%	55,702,401	99.16%
IA3: Empower	98,481,759	36,313,995	36.87%	36,313,995	100.00%
IA4: Solve	24,817,949	24,061,261	96.95%	24,061,261	100.00%
All Impact Areas		414,935			
Total	278,818,829	128,561,418	46.11%	126,119,986	98.10%

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	39,829,508	3,462,719	8.69%	3,462,719	100.00%
OA2: Status	879,512	900	0.10%	900	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	10,618,762	11,920,486	112.26%	11,920,486	100.00%
OA4: GBV	6,960,181	5,148,561	73.97%	5,148,561	100.00%
OA5: Children	5,278,588	3,064,845	58.06%	3,064,845	100.00%
OA6: Justice	35,851,232	7,290,652	20.34%	6,578,708	90.23%
OA7: Community	38,540,536	7,971,175	20.68%	7,971,175	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	27,075,869	17,276,837	63.81%	17,276,837	100.00%
OA9: Housing	30,146,405	11,180,309	37.09%	11,180,309	100.00%
OA10: Health	25,026,706	7,867,440	31.44%	7,771,290	98.78%
OA11: Education	8,764,140	5,675,551	64.76%	5,621,074	99.04%
OA12: WASH	9,909,519	3,799,348	38.34%	3,799,348	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	8,791,910	3,398,031	38.65%	3,328,031	97.94%
OA15: Resettle	879,512				
OA16: Integrate	14,199,187	12,140,775	85.50%	12,140,775	100.00%
EA18: Support	16,067,263	28,169,480	175.32%	26,854,926	95.33%
All Outcome Areas		194,308			
Total	278,818,829	128,561,418	46.11%	126,119,986	98.10%

Budget and Expenditure Trend



Contributions Trend by Type



3.2. Resources Overview

The operation faced critical resource constraints amidst the emergency that enveloped the entire border area with Sudan and extended into the capital. The operation leveraged available resources, supplemented by additional funding with the support of the Regional Bureau and Headquarters and from the operation’s efforts to fundraise from different sources such as CERF which provided approximately \$18M. The operation was fundraised through both participation in donor briefings and the organization of donor missions. This funding was critical in initiating the emergency response, particularly for the increasing numbers of returnees, whose projected influx has escalated from an anticipated 188,000 individuals to a staggering 520,000 by year-end, drastically amplifying the needs and costs associated with reception, transit, and onward movements, especially given the logistical complications imposed by the rainy season. The refugee response, led by UNHCR, initially aimed to avoid opening new camps by directing refugees to

existing ones or adopting a settlement/integration approach. However, increasing pressures and the GoSS directives necessitated the planning for a new settlement in Wedwil settlement. The budget for the operation by end of the year stood at around \$123M, with approximately 62% already expended and the remaining 38% fully committed to supporting ongoing programming and other emergency response – commitments allocated for the procurement of additional CRIs, etc. The outcome area with the largest funding gap was Outcome Area 9 (Sustainable Housing and Settlement). The emergency significantly heightened the demand for shelter. Unfortunately, the operation did not have the capacity to fully address these needs. Furthermore, Enabling Area 18 experienced underfunding, which partially hindered the operation's ability to ensure the prompt and effective distribution and management of supplies. Additionally, both Outcome Areas 10 and 13 faced financial shortages.

Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

The Sudan crisis put enormous strain on all humanitarian actors in South Sudan and forced the operation to very quickly shift its focus from longer-term solutions to emergency response. The declaration of an internal level 3 emergency on 6 July 2023 allowed UNHCR to rapidly deploy additional emergency resources, both human and financial, but the end of the year was characterized by uncertainty over available resources in the last 6 weeks of the year that threatened to derail the response.

The strong collaboration with IOM from the start of the response has led to further cooperation on border monitoring and data collection that is likely to prove useful in years to come. The strong relations established with stabilization and development actors paid off, with quick engagement of development actors – WB, EU-INTPA, AfDB – to support the emergency response. In addition, UNHCR was a key player in the implementation of the Flagship Initiative in South Sudan and the roadmap to solutions developed in South Sudan will be used as a model in other locations in future. Frequent and transparent communication with donors was key in ensuring strong support to UNHCR throughout the year.



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