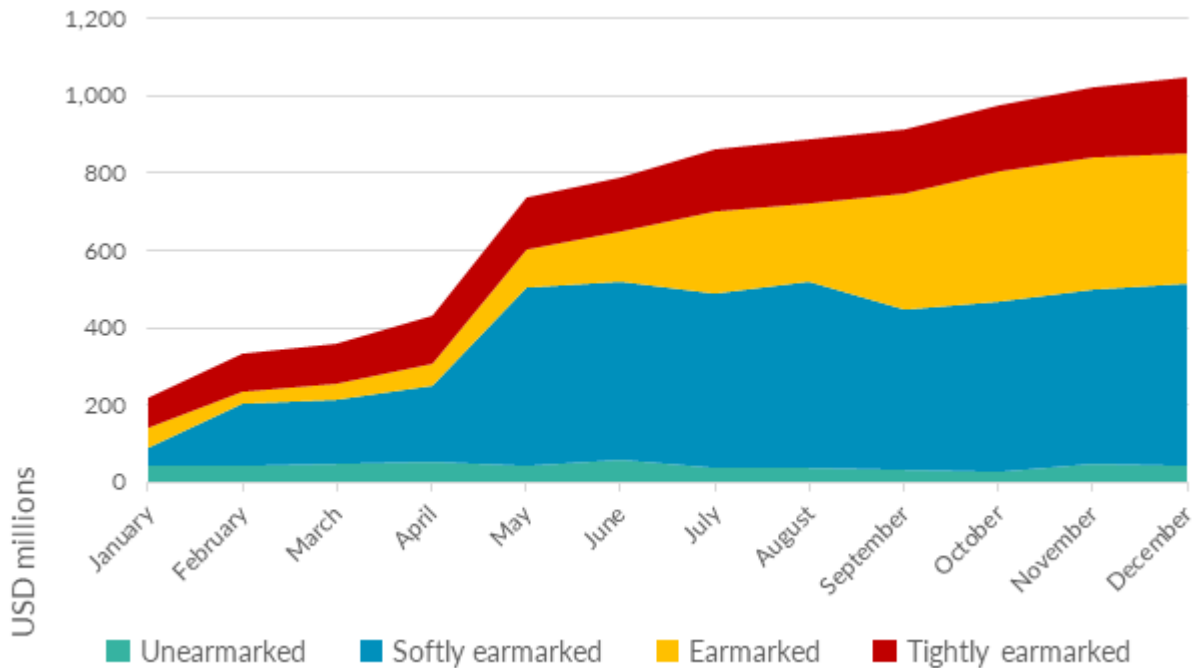


# Flexible Funding Report 2023

# EUROPE



© UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz



### Approximately 49% of final expenditure of \$1.047 billion came from flexible funding

By the end of 2023, the number of forcibly displaced and stateless people in Europe stood at 21.5 million. In percentage terms, the region was the largest recipient of flexible funding, in particular of softly earmarked funding, with 44% of final expenditure being softly earmarked. Some notable achievements throughout the year that were made possible by flexible funding included support for 1,400 of the over 22,300 child arrivals in Europe; the distribution of nearly \$80 million in cash assistance, providing vital support to over 463,000 people; the provision of legal assistance to over 28,000 people; and support for resettlement, with European countries accepting 54% of global resettlement submissions.

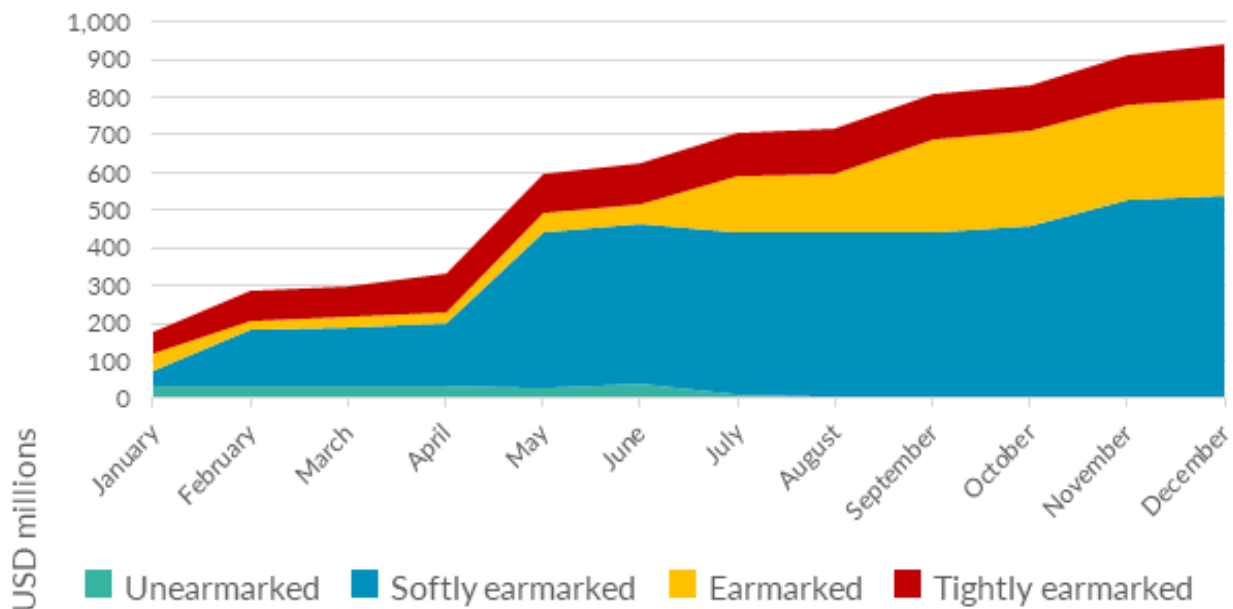
There were also emergency responses in the region, aside from the major effort in Ukraine (see below). UNHCR used flexible funding in the aftermath of the earthquake in Türkiye in February 2023, supporting the Government with over 3 million core relief items including tents, beds and bedding, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and containers. Over 68,500 people benefited from UNHCR’s Specific Needs Fund cash assistance, while over 500,000 people were reached by UNHCR-funded protection activities, including legal counselling, referral to specialized services, and psychosocial support. UNHCR prioritized resettlement for vulnerable refugees affected by the earthquakes, many of whom were injured or lost family members, housing or livelihoods. Over 16,800 refugees were processed for resettlement, and over 13,900 – mostly Syrians – departed from Türkiye through resettlement in 2023.

Softly earmarked funding also boosted UNHCR’s support to the humanitarian response led by the authorities in Armenia – who offered Temporary Protection to refugees – and coordinated the inter-agency Refugee Response Plan to deliver protection and assistance to refugees and hosting populations.

## Continuing support for the Ukraine situation

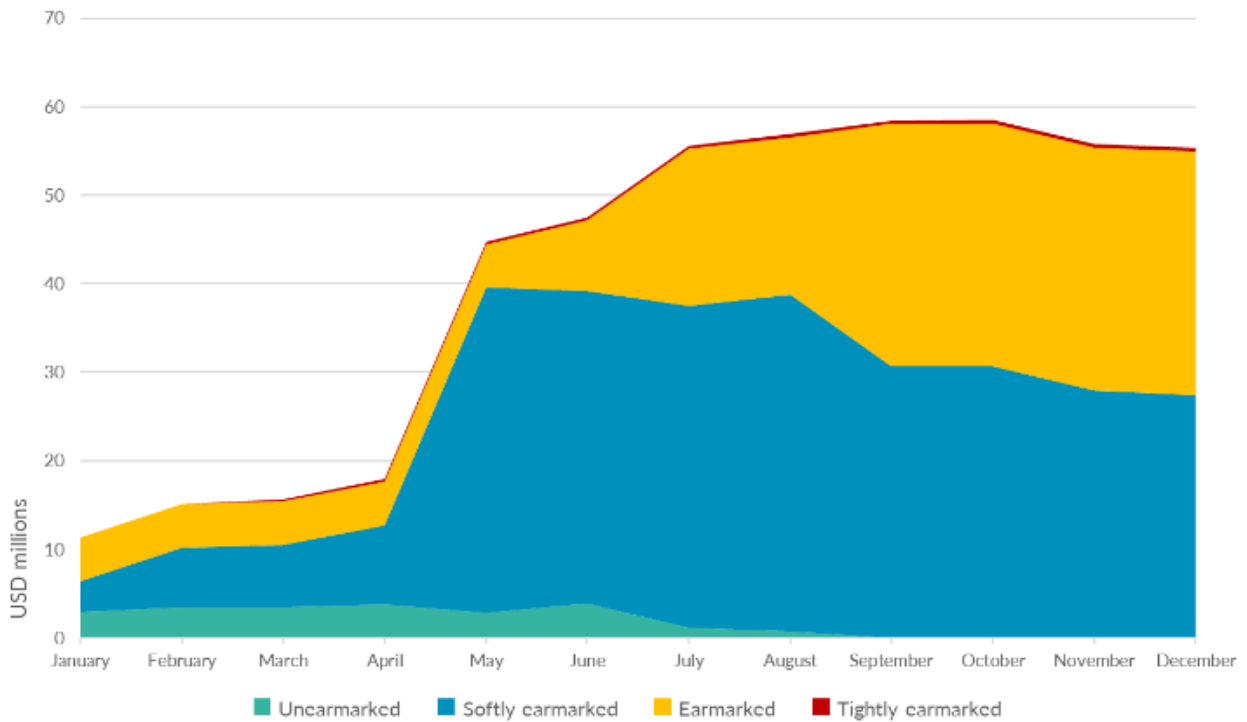
This funding was particularly useful for the Ukraine situation. By the end of 2023, nearly 6 million Ukrainians were estimated to be internally displaced, and nearly 8 million Ukrainian refugees were recorded across Europe. Softly earmarked funding was widely Thanks to softly earmarked funding that bolstered the response, UNHCR reached 2.6 million people, with nearly 900,000 of the most vulnerable receiving cash assistance. Over 900,000 received winterization assistance, including cash top-ups, relief items, and care in collective sites. UNHCR supported the repair of over 27,500 homes and contributed to 95 inter-agency humanitarian convoys delivering vital humanitarian assistance to frontline and hard-to-reach areas.

To advance community-based approaches to protection and refugee inclusion, UNHCR established the Regional Contact Centre in Hungary, a toll-free refugee helpline covering operations across Europe, which received 52,000 calls. A second iteration of the ‘Stay Safe’ campaign to raise awareness about the risks of trafficking and exploitation reached 7.9 million people. UNHCR managed 40 dedicated Help sites, which received 9.1 million hits, providing vital protection information across the region.



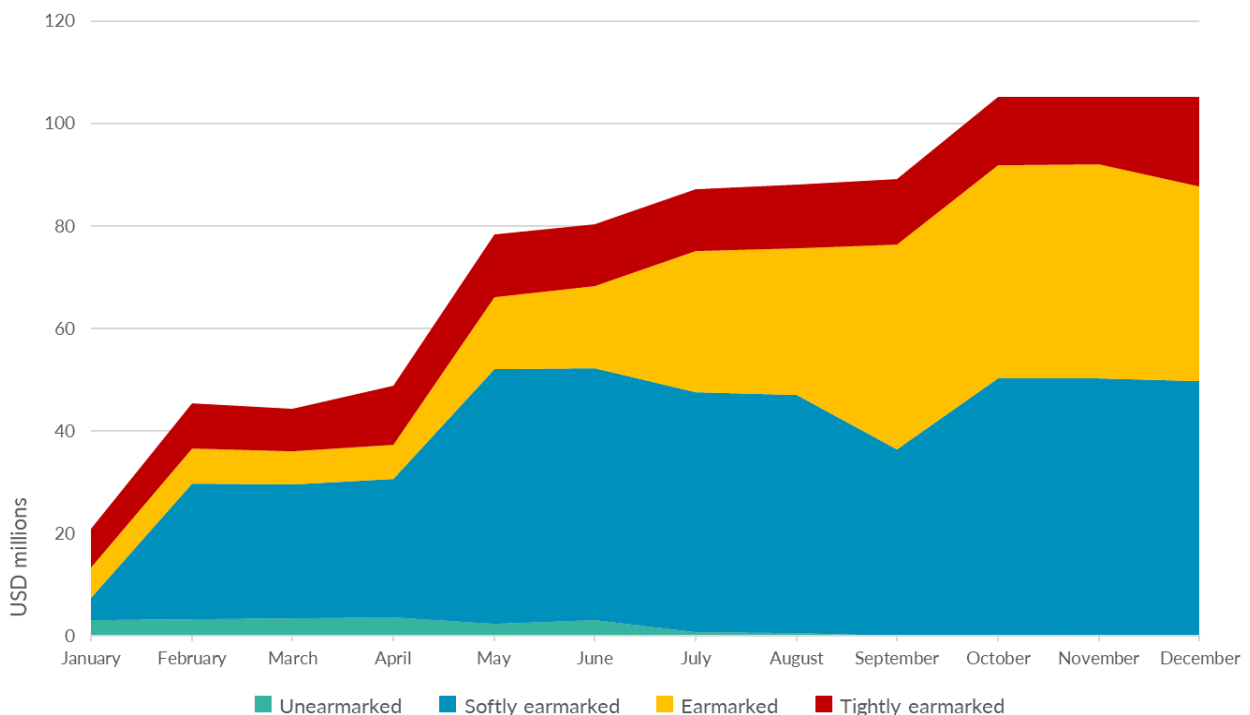
### Approximately 57% of final expenditure of \$938.1 million came from flexible funding

Nearly 6 million refugees from Ukraine were registered across Europe under the EU’s Temporary Protection Directive or under similar national schemes. Softly earmarked funding helped UNHCR respond to the needs of Ukrainian refugees in 11 countries with cash assistance, protection services such as legal counselling and socio-economic inclusion support and advocacy for their longer-term inclusion in education, healthcare services, access to accommodation and employment. Poland and Moldova, key operations within the Ukraine situation, offer good examples of how flexible funding was used, with both operations relying heavily on flexible funding as part of their overall expenditure.



In **Poland**, where softly earmarked funding was 50% of final expenditure of \$55.3 million, UNHCR piloted a refugee housing solution and maintained a network of over Blue Dot 30 information centres run by UNHCR, UNICEF and partners that provided 300,000 people with information, services, and referrals for specific needs.

Over 1.4 million people received assistance, including protection, emergency shelter, housing, cash, and in-kind support. Notably, 13,687 highly vulnerable families received targeted cash assistance, which was crucial in helping them meet their basic needs. UNHCR also worked closely with the Government on social integration initiatives, such as the "We Need Each Other" programme, aimed at improving social cohesion and creating opportunities for refugees to become self-reliant.



In **Moldova**, where softly earmarked funding was 46% of final expenditure of \$105.1 million, UNHCR provided protection, legal assistance, and socioeconomic inclusion. The organization successfully supported 167,494 refugees with legal assistance, and disbursed cash assistance to 40,110 households (85,844 people) and additional winter support was extended to 33,125 households (75,883 individuals).

Essential non-food items were provided to both refugees and vulnerable host communities, totaling 206,940 items. UNHCR also scaled up its support for children and persons with disabilities, aimed at preventing gender-based violence and enhancing communication with refugee communities. Six community centers were established, offering legal assistance, psychosocial support, cultural events, vocational training, and language courses.