

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Malawi**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

Malawi has been a country of asylum since 1994. The refugee population decreased from 56,000 to 53,000 between 2022 and 2023, as confirmed by a 2023 verification. In 2023 UNHCR registered 4,251 individuals, including 2,441 new arrivals, 1,799 newborns, and 11 individuals recognized as 'in situ,' meaning they were granted refugee status without having crossed an international border, alongside the repatriation of 225 Burundian refugees. The majority of refugees in Malawi were from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda, predominantly residing in Dzaleka camp, the sole refugee camp in the country. Originally intended to accommodate 10,000 to 12,000 people, Dzaleka camp now hosts numbers far exceeding its capacity, leading to cramped living conditions and strained resources.

In response to the critical issue of overcrowding, UNHCR has been engaging with the Malawian Government to seek sustainable solutions. The Government has identified Chitipa in northern Malawi, as a site for a new camp. This move is part of broader efforts to address the living conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers, aligning with immediate logistical needs while continuing discussions on longer-term, non-camp-based solutions.

Malawi's economy faced critical vulnerabilities, particularly due to its heavy reliance on export-driven income. This situation was further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, resulting in unpredictable weather patterns affecting agricultural output. The country struggled with internal economic pressures, unemployment, and a substantial dependency on international aid. The 44% devaluation of the national currency added to the existing economic challenges.

In May 2023 the Government reinforced its encampment policy which led to the return of some 2,300 individuals to the camp significantly straining the camp's infrastructure and contributing to severe overcrowding, impacting the well-being and security of the camp's inhabitants.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**By end of 2026 people we care for in Malawi enjoy conducive protection environment through improved access to durable solutions and alternative pathways.**

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	100.00%	100.00%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	30.00%

Malawi's legal and policy framework still presents some challenges. The country has ratified and acceded to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol with nine reservations and translated into the 1989 Refugees Act. Reservations are related to exemption from reciprocity, movable and immovable property, rights of association, wage-earning employment, professional licensing for certain occupations, access to public education and social security, freedom of movement, and naturalization. Only a few refugees have been naturalized on an exceptional basis. Under the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Government has pledged to review some of these reservations. A Draft Migration Policy has been prepared and advocacy is underway for its adoption. UNHCR supported the review of the Refugees Act at the end of 2023, expecting the removal of some of the reservations.

In 2023, the office actively engaged in advocacy with the Government to incorporate forcibly displaced individuals into Malawi's national development agenda. This was part of a broader commitment to the CRRF and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), aiming to improve both the protection environment and the socioeconomic conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers within the country. While resettlement continued to serve as a crucial solution for those with urgent protection needs, these efforts were integral in progressing toward a more inclusive approach to the well-being of displaced populations in Malawi. While resettlement is currently a viable solution for refugees and asylum-seekers with critical protection needs, commitment to the CRRF and the GRF would improve the protection environment and socioeconomic status of refugees and asylum-seekers in Malawi.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

**By end of 2026 people we care for enjoy legal and social protection to realize their rights.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.22%	85.61%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.73%	42.85%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.00%	85.00%

In 2023, UNHCR's efforts in Malawi focused on empowering refugees particularly in enhancing women's representation in leadership roles and promoting access to education and skills training. Through collaborative initiatives with the government and partners, UNHCR successfully facilitated the achievement of equal representation of men and women in leadership positions during camp elections, reflecting a 50:50 gender ratio.

UNHCR engaged the community through various platforms such as town hall meetings and refugee-led organizations, fostering accountability and participation among forcibly displaced individuals. Efforts were also made to increase access to education for all, with a particular emphasis on promoting girls' empowerment and education.

In collaboration with the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa and the Gender Unit at the Department of International Protection (DIP), UNHCR documented promising gender practices in Malawi, highlighting initiatives such as the Naweza Project, implemented by the Jesuit Refugee Service, which focused on empowering girls and bridging the gender gap through secondary and tertiary education funding and girl empowerment clubs.

UNHCR partnered with the Ministry of Education to sign a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at enhancing access to quality education for refugee children and the surrounding host community.

The UNICEF-UNHCR Collaboration framework presented an opportunity for enhanced access to and quality of education for refugees, reflecting UNHCR's continuous efforts to provide inclusive education opportunities for all.

UNHCR has also taken significant steps to address the specific needs of SOGESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, expression, and sex characteristics) individuals through targeted programs and interventions to ensure their inclusion and participation. This includes sensitization sessions, capacity building, and tailored support services aimed at promoting their safety, well-being, and empowerment.

## Other Core Impact Indicators

Country	Indicator	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
Malawi	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	0.51%
Malawi	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	67.66%
Malawi	4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	523	787
Malawi	4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30	50
Malawi	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	0

### 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

In 2023, while there were significant efforts to provide healthcare services in the camps, approximately 68% of refugees and asylum seekers, or 35,796 individuals out of a total camp population of 52,726, accessed primary healthcare services. The shortfall in achieving 100% access can be attributed to various barriers, including limited healthcare facilities and resources insufficient to serve the entire camp population, potential language and cultural differences between healthcare staff and the camp inhabitants, logistical challenges, and possibly a lack of awareness among the refugees and asylum seekers about the available services. These challenges collectively contribute to the fact that access to health services in the camps is not universal.

Another significant barrier is related to achieving gender equality and community empowerment due to the constricting legal structure, which prevented most refugees from utilizing their important skills in different

business sectors or job opportunities. Additionally, the temporary halt in issuing Convention Travel Documents (CTDs) by the government limited their chances to secure scholarships for international universities and explore alternative educational routes. Moreover, the high cost of permits combined with unclear requirements for securing work and business permits further complicated the situation.

Furthermore, cultural practices that perpetuate societal norms that place male dominance hindered women's efforts to pursue leadership roles or assume financial independence. However, to tackle these barriers, sustained efforts were made in community engagement and awareness campaigns, focusing on educating about the rights and responsibilities within the community. We also intensified our dialogue with the Government, advocating for the amendment of discriminatory laws to facilitate a more inclusive legal and social environment.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

In 2023, UNHCR was actively engaged in various UN initiatives, including the UN Country Team, the UN Programme Management Team, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Advisory Group. The operation collaborated closely with other UN agencies such as World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), all working towards the goal of 'Delivering as One'. UNHCR also actively participated in the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Malawi 2024-2028.

UNHCR worked particularly closely with WFP to address funding challenges and pipeline breakdowns, providing cash instead of in-kind aid to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also worked with IOM under the Shelter and Camp Management Clusters to respond to the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Freddy. Further, UNHCR was an active member of the Protection Cluster at the national level. Regular consultations were held with the refugee population to ensure their needs were being met.

UNHCR worked together with various development organizations such as the World Bank, and the African Development Bank, and donors such as the European Union, Japan, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom to oppose the return-to-camp order. Moreover, UNHCR collaborated with African Risk Capacity and the Government of Malawi to include refugees in a drought insurance program through a replica programme, supported by funding from KFW Development Bank.

In 2023, UNHCR worked with six main partners, including the Jesuit Refugee Service, Plan International Malawi, Welthungerhilfe, Churches Action in Relief and Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Homeland Security, Ministry of Education in Dzaleka camp. Additionally, UNHCR supported the efforts of other national and international NGOs such as Moravian Humanitarian & Development Services, Fraternity Without Borders, and There is Hope. Regular inter-agency coordination forums allowed NGOs to coordinate with UNHCR and the government departments responsible for refugee welfare at both field and country levels.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

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

**Forcibly displaced and Stateless people have access to registration and civil status documentation processes that conform to international standards.**

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	93.12%	100.00%	99.90%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	16.16%	100.00%	8.77%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.00%	50.00%	38.84%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Amidst changes in immigration policies in Malawi, stricter border and migration management measures are impacting individuals seeking international protection, leading to an increased reliance on irregular pathways and noted challenges at the border with Tanzania. The asylum procedure, dependent on the Department of Immigration's clearance for new arrivals, becomes complicated without such endorsements, hindering the initiation of the asylum-seeking process. Consequently, support for asylum seekers saw a noticeable reduction in 2023, particularly in transportation assistance. Furthermore, in the northern region of Karonga, logistical challenges such as the necessity for proper registration are affecting the provision of essential services, like food assistance.

New asylum-seekers often face lengthy delays at the transit center while awaiting clearance, a prerequisite for registration by the Department for Refugees (DFR) of the MoHS through UNHCR system registration (proGres v4). By the end of 2023, there were 52 asylum-seekers pending registration. Consequently, without registration, they lacked the necessary family composition documents required for accessing basic services. Meanwhile, 14,449 families that have been registered by the government by the end of 2023 have obtained their proof of registration, and out of these, 11,127 individuals aged 16 and above have received ID cards, with 9,237 distributed in 2023 alone. Regarding birth certificates, of the 8,519 refugee children under five years old in the country, only 747 were registered.

UNHCR led a community sensitization initiative on the significance of birth registration and obtaining birth certificates, aiming to secure legal documentation for all children. This effort reached 34,000 Dzaleka camp residents, (18,360 men, 15,640 women). Furthermore, the Dzaleka Health Centre registered 1,132 newborns by the end of 2023, and 696 children received birth certificates through the standard free procedure.

#### 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

**Forcibly displaced people have access to quality status determination procedures.**

**National legislative framework for the protection of PoCs follows international standards**



## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, the Government of Malawi commenced the review of its Refugees Act to align it to international standards. The Refugees Act is the only national law on the management of refugees in Malawi. The Act, enacted in 1989, does not fully incorporate standards of international protection set out in the international and regional legal instruments to which Malawi is a party. The policy on refugees is, therefore, influenced by the nine reservations that Malawi made when acceding to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, including the reservation on the freedom of movement which enables the Government to enforce an encampment policy for all refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR has advocated for the review of the Act for a long time a process that led to the Government entering a pledge to review the law at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum. The Government initiated the review process in 2022 and commenced the actual review towards the end of 2023. UNHCR contributed \$50,000 to the process. It is envisaged that the review will result in the lifting of the reservations made to the 1951 Convention and in conforming national legislation to international standards.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

**Forcibly displaced and stateless people experience reduced cases of GBV and improved child protection.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	56.00%	90.00%	60.32%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	84.00%	85.00%	78.78%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70.00%	70.00%	74.39%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Diverse activities were conducted in 2023 to foster a safe environment and reduce GBV incidents. UNHCR conducted campaigns to raise awareness of prevention, mitigation, and response to GBV, with a particular focus on harmful practices, intimate partner violence, denial of resources, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and safeguarding. In total, 37,000 community members were engaged (9,000 boys, 7,000 girls, 10,000 women, and 11,000 men).

UNHCR, through funds from UNAIDS, procured and installed solar lights in GBV hotspots to provide illumination to reduce GBV incidence. Through the same funding, UNHCR supported an orientation training for newly elected refugee leaders that emphasized GBV prevention. In addition, UNHCR supported refugee-led organizations (RLOs) in conducting GBV prevention, mitigation, and response awareness campaigns. UNHCR facilitated the RLOs' integration into the GBV Cluster providing financial support for their training and involving them in incident reporting and case management, leading to the identification and reporting of cases to the police for investigation. To empower GBV survivors and the population at risk, a joint inter-agency enterprise assessment, training, and monitoring of income-generating activities was carried out with 1569 people (79 men and 77 women, 6 of whom had diverse gender identities and sexual orientations). They were empowered with diverse skills such as poultry farming, welding, tailoring, carpentry, and baking to enhance their economic independence and improve their livelihoods.

To prevent further victimization of GBV survivors, two cases (involving nine individuals, including dependents) were provided with Safe House accommodation, and eight people were eventually resettled to a third country.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

### Persons with specific needs have access to services

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Progress Against the Desired Outcome UNHCR worked to improve the knowledge of forcibly displaced and stateless persons about Malawian laws to reduce detention risks, promote peaceful coexistence between the refugee and the host community, improve access to legal services, and promote access to services for persons with specific needs.

UNHCR provided protection and legal support to 52 forcibly displaced and stateless individuals in detention centers through prison and border monitoring in various locations, including border areas. Additionally, UNHCR engaged with immigration officials to expedite the release processes for nine cases, resulting in the release of four individuals whose prison terms had expired. By the end of the year, 26 out of the 52 forcibly displaced individuals had been released and relocated to the Dzaleka camp.

UNHCR provided legal support to 95 (54 criminal, 41 civil) registered cases at Dowa magistrate court through monitoring and hearing of court cases. Out of these 95 cases, 54 cases (37 criminal, 17 civil) were presided over at Dowa, while 41 cases (34 criminal, 7 civil) were presided over through mobile court at Dzaleka camp. A total of 84 cases (44 criminal, 38 civil) were concluded in 2023. The mobile court initiative has enhanced project participants' knowledge regarding Malawian laws through patronization of court hearings as well as timely conclusion of cases.

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

### Forcibly displaced people can participate in decision making.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	94.81%	100.00%	94.00%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45.07%	50.00%	43.96%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To create a safe space for women and girls involved in harmful coping mechanisms, UNHCR established "Empower Her: Women's Transformation Network" as a platform for women to share experiences and find sustainable solutions to their needs. Through this initiative, women and girls were oriented on GBV issues, reporting mechanisms, and sexual and reproductive health resources available in the camp, leading to 100% access to oral contraceptives. Furthermore, four girls and three women sought medical assistance (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis, Sexually Transmitted Infection, and HIV screening/testing) from Dzaleka Health Centre with referral support from UNHCR partner Plan International Malawi (PIM). To alleviate their involvement in survival sex, the network members as well as the survivors of GBV and child abuse were enrolled in livelihood intervention programmes. This initiative resulted in 75% of girls and women transitioning from the harmful practice. Through this economic empowerment, women are now able to run their businesses upon graduating from the livelihood interventions and can pay school fees for their children, as well as support other family needs. At the community level, UNHCR, provided technical and material support to RLOs, most of which were led by women, for various training sessions. Throughout 2023, RLOs conducted 12 trainings, reaching 840 individuals (384 women and 454 men).

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy a peaceful and safe environment.**

**Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy food security.**

**Forcibly displaced people have access to sufficient basic and domestic items.**

**Protection monitoring for IDPs, Documentation procedures and systems function effectively**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	92.13%	99.00%	92.83%
8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	50.00%	1.00%	8.82%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In May 2023, the "back to camp" order was enforced, whereby over 2,000 individuals were returned to the Dzaleka camp. The return of many people to the camp led to their complete dependence on humanitarian aid and put a strain on already-scarce resources. However, engagement with the community and frequent meetings ensured that everyone understood the scarcity of the resources.

In July 2023, WFP enacted a 50% ration reduction. This was difficult for the community, but due to the collective engagements with stakeholders, the Government, WFP, and regular meetings with the community and their leadership, UNHCR was able to explain the scarcity of funding to the community. The community also showed considerable solidarity towards each other.

Despite the scarcity of core relief items (CRIs), UNHCR and partners managed to reach the most vulnerable, including people with specific needs and new arrivals. Those who returned to the Dzaleka camp and were at risk also received some assistance. UNHCR coordinated well with partners, the Government, and refugees for the response. An implementing partner also did a market-based intervention on a clean cooking technology, Zipolopolo cookstoves, reaching 8.82% of the camp.

UNHCR provided support to people with specific needs through the provision of basic assistance. In 2023, 126 people with chronic illnesses (49 men and 77 women) and 78 people with sickle cell anemia (37M, 41F) received supplementary food to meet their nutritional and dietary needs. All 541 people with specific needs (327 women and 214 men) were provided with soap to improve their hygiene. UNHCR also engaged 225 people with specific needs (132 women and 93 men) through a consultation meeting to understand their social security concerns in the camp for improved service delivery.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

**Forcibly displaced and stateless people live in a decongested camp and have access to shelter that meets UNHCR's minimum standards.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	7.50%	40.00%	0.51%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30.00%	40.00%	61.56%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR in collaboration with Fraternity Without Borders constructed 39 shelters in the newly expanded regions of New Katubza and Dzaleka hills in Dzaleka camp in 2023. The project prioritized the most vulnerable refugees, including those with specific needs, new arrivals, and those who were adversely affected by the "back to camp" - order. UNHCR provided these individuals with shelter, water, sanitation, a hygiene unit, and a communal kitchen. Additionally, 164 families that were deemed capable of building their own homes were provided with housing materials.

### 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**Forcibly displaced and stateless people enjoy medical services including nutrition and have optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services.**

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	50.56%	92.00%	76.22%
10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	99.55%	99.50%	91.17%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, 35,796 individuals from the Dzaleka camp were able to access primary healthcare at the Health Centre. During the year, 1,132 normal deliveries took place, 92% of which were attended by skilled birth professionals. A significant number of children aged 0-9 months were able to receive Measles vaccines, with a vaccine coverage rate of 76%.

The cholera outbreak was effectively addressed. UNHCR set up a treatment centre within the camp to address cases. Capacity-building was offered to the healthcare workers of the Ministry of Health in the camp. Ensuring coordination with diverse stakeholders at various levels made it possible to include refugees in the 2023 Malawi National Cholera Response Plan. UNHCR worked closely with other UN agencies at the UN Country Team (CT) technical committee level to ensure that the needs of cholera-affected refugees were included in the National Cholera Emergency Flash Appeal.

Refugees residing in the Dzaleka camp were also incorporated into the 2024 Malawi Demographic Health Survey (MDHS). UNHCR Malawi successfully obtained the necessary financing from UNHCR-World Bank-Joint Data Center (JDC) for this MDHS.

On HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, 8,508 individuals, including refugees and host community members, underwent testing, with a substantial number identified as HIV positive. The programme ensured that these received prompt care, with 647 individuals, including 204 refugees, receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART). Under the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission programme, 3,629 pregnant women underwent testing, with 11 of them identified as HIV positive. They were promptly initiated on ART, minimizing the risk of transmitting the virus to their newborns.

The implementation of community-based support networks significantly improved social cohesion and resilience among refugees affected by HIV. It created a nurturing environment where individuals can easily access care and treatment services. A training session was held to educate participants about HIV, GBV, Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and mental health services, with a focus on key populations such as female sex workers and people who have identified themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, or questioning (LGBTIQ+).

In addition to physical health services, the programme recognized the importance of mental health and

psychosocial support (MHPSS) in promoting overall well-being. A total of 840 refugees and asylum-seekers received MHPSS services, addressing issues such as trauma, stress, and emotional distress.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

### Forcibly displaced and stateless people have access to education

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	17.15%	8.00%	7.97%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	26.25%	53.00%	22.25%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, 8% of the refugee and asylum-seeker population accessed tertiary-level education services, while 22% of the total school-age population accessed education services at preschool, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels through the national education system. Many refugees and asylum-seekers could only access education services from providers not affiliated with or recognized by the national education system. UNHCR collaborated closely with all partners offering education services at various levels to ensure alignment with minimum education standards. This facilitated smooth transitions to education interventions within the national education system whenever opportunities arose. UNHCR and partners provided specialized education technical support to RLOs supporting education interventions, either through their community and faith-based schools or by assisting children enrolled in mainstream schools. This significantly contributed to enrollment figures and supported retention and promotion rates. Additionally, the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNHCR and the Ministry of Education enabled increased technical support from the Government and enhanced inclusion efforts.

During the reporting period, UNHCR lobbied for government recognition for RLO-operated community schools in the camp, and the process commenced with six refugee hosting schools placed on an improvement plan that will end in their being included in the national education system. UNHCR continued engaging various development partners through meetings, Local Education Groups, Education Development Partners Groups, Education Cluster, and a variety of Technical Working Groups, as a way of ensuring refugee concerns and issues in education are kept visible.

However, funding challenges, exacerbated by high inflation rates and a steady population of young people in need of education services, led to a decline in the proportion of young people accessing education from 26% in 2022 to 22% in 2023, representing a 4% decrease. The tertiary sector was particularly affected, impacting overall project performance.

A total of 6,329 children and youth, constituting 22%, access primary and secondary education services through UNHCR's direct funding and support, an improvement from 5841 or 19% in 2023

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

## Forcibly displaced people have access to sufficient water supply and minimum sanitation and hygiene standards are met.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	85.00%	6.50%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	97.14%	89.00%	65.16%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Malawi had the world's deadliest outbreak of Cholera in 2023. UNHCR responded through partners by creating Dzaleka camp 100 dome slabs, distributing chlorine, soap, and handwashing buckets, training local health promoters on cholera, and conducting cholera road show campaigns.

The increase in population with 2,301 individuals returned to the camp, following the "back to camp" order also exacerbated the already stressed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in Dzaleka camp. UNHCR worked with partners to maintain existing WASH infrastructure at the reception center and ensure the 51 families who were moved to extension areas had adequate WASH units. We also strengthened our collaboration with UNICEF by jointly distributing WASH-related CRIs to relocating refugees.

Despite the challenges of the year, the 2023 Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) household survey conducted among Dzaleka camp residents showed measurable improvements in household WASH access in the camp since 2022, namely an improvement of 0.9 liters of water per person per day, an improvement of 0.6 percentage points in household toilet access, an improvement of 5 percentage points in households with access to a handwashing device, and an improvement of 23 percentage points in households with access to solid waste disposal. There is still room to improve since we are below the UNHCR post-emergency standards on most key WASH indicators.

UNHCR works closely with forcibly displaced persons and asylum seekers living in the Dzaleka camp to implement the WASH programme. In 2023, we had 2 maintenance technicians and 20 WASH promoters (who coordinate a network of 345 WASH volunteers) who live in the camp. UNHCR has also been advocating for the inclusion of refugees in government policies and development plans, such as the National Sanitation & Hygiene Policy. We also eagerly await the connection of the camp to the municipal water supply, scheduled for mid-2025.

Other highlights of the year include being awarded the Innovation Fund for piloting Wastewater Epidemiology. UNHCR also installed real-time monitoring equipment to improve data collection and decision-making (10 borehole levels and two water meters).

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

### Forcibly displaced people have access to livelihood opportunities and are self-reliant.

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	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80.76%	90.00%	89.60%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	43.00%	44.00%	38.96%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	38.02%	94.50%	7.71%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In total, 1,227 refugees, asylum-seekers, and host community members were supported with farm inputs and resources for enterprise development, representing 7.68% of the total population. The main activities included livestock, insect, and crop farming and business enterprises.

UNHCR's partnership with CARD targeted 800 people. Under crop and livestock production, 90 people (40 for irrigation and 50 for rainfed) were added to the programme, and high-value crops such as cabbage, tomatoes, and white onion under irrigation and groundnuts and sunflower under rainfed were promoted. Under enterprise development, three areas were promoted: existing enterprise development/income-generating activities with linkages to micro-financial institutions for loans through collateral agreements; Village Savings and Loans groups; and farmers' products, which were showcased at the Agriculture Trade Fair in August 2023 as a means of marketing.

The insect farming pilot project, implemented by UNHCR and the World Bank, progressed. The project started to generate income through several streams, including training services and sales of startup colonies to farmers interested in establishing their own insect farms and production and sales of protein powder, frass, and liquid fertilizer to local farmers. The project participated in the National Agriculture Fair and Open Day, where products were advertised and sold. As organic waste is a main input to the project, UNHCR worked with Welthungerhilfe to initiate organic waste collection to support the project, while also improving waste management in the Dzaleka camp. UNHCR ensured the inclusion of refugees in partner-funded programs, facilitating Plan International Malawi's efforts to secure funding for livelihood activities. Through this collaboration, 127 survivors of GBV received starter packs for various business ventures, including poultry production, tailoring, catering, and baking, as well as barbershops and hairdressing. Solidarity of Refugee Women for Social Welfare (SRWSW), an RLO, facilitated the initiation of farming activities for 200 women organized into groups of 20, utilizing the resources from the UNHCR Refugee-led Innovation Fund. These groups were allocated land for farming, underwent training in various farming techniques, and received farm inputs and tools. UNHCR Malawi ensured rigorous monitoring and evaluation of these projects, overseeing the collective cultivation of Irish potatoes and maize for both food and cash crops.

Furthermore, Women for Action (W4A), another RLO, received support from the UNHCR Refugee-led Innovation Fund to empower 100 women in aquaponics and information technology. UNHCR Malawi actively monitored and evaluated these endeavors, ensuring their successful implementation. W4A established an aquaponics training site in a designated area within Dzaleka camp, known as old Katubza, where international technical experts conducted training sessions for the participants.

## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**The forcibly displaced persons have adequate information to return in a manner that upholds their security and dignity.**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In line with its mandate, UNHCR has collaborated with the Government of Malawi and the respective countries of origin to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of forcibly displaced individuals who have expressed their desire to return. In 2023, UNHCR and its partners facilitated the return of 225 refugees from Burundi via flight transport. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services (DICS) of the MoHS, visited the Dzaleka camp to aid in processing travel documents for all individuals intending to return to their homeland of Burundi.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**Forcibly displaced people have increased resettlement opportunities.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2,086	3,000	2,769
15.2 Average processing time from resettlement submission to departure under normal priority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	730.00	1,095.00	730.00
15.3 Number of people admitted through complementary pathways from the host country	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	15	17	50

**Progress Against the Desired Outcome**

Overall, 2,724 people were referred for resettlement consideration to the United States of America (2,077), Canada (105), Australia (205), New Zealand (301), Finland (14), and Norway (22). As of 13th December 2023, a total of 816 individuals departed from Malawi on resettlement and complementary pathways. Overall, there were 1,282 Resettlement Consultations during the year, through which feedback was provided to applicants on their cases.

**2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity**

UNHCR proactively integrated the Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach into its initiatives. Data was systematically disaggregated by age, sex, and diversity to tailor interventions effectively. However, the challenge arose in identifying and documenting the specific needs of self-identifying LGBTIQ+ individuals. Given the criminalization of LGBTIQ+ status under Malawi's laws, these individuals faced legal challenges and discrimination, leading to a notable gap in addressing their unique needs.

The camp leadership selection ensured a 50:50 representation concerning gender and diversity, and people with specific needs were also represented. Additionally, AGD was streamlined around community participation during meetings, elections of zonal leaders, hiring of interpreters, and community policing.

UNHCR carried out two key participatory assessments. The first evaluated the impact on refugees from the 'back to camp' order, notably affecting their livelihoods and social ties. The second one focused on the broader Dzaleka camp population, aiming to understand their living conditions and needs. Both involved active participation across age and gender groups, ensuring a targeted approach to identify specific needs. This adherence to AGD guidelines was crucial for gathering detailed insights.

Furthermore, AGD extended to the distribution of core relief items, tailoring the process to meet the varied needs of different demographic groups. This approach ensured equitable access to essential supplies, particularly for those impacted by relocation, while promoting dignity and rights during this adjustment period.

However, young girls continue to assume caretaking responsibilities due to prevailing poverty and cultural norms, leading to their reduced participation in camp recreational activities. Additionally, efforts need to be enhanced to engage minority ethnic groups, who are often overlooked in many activities.



## Section 3: Resources

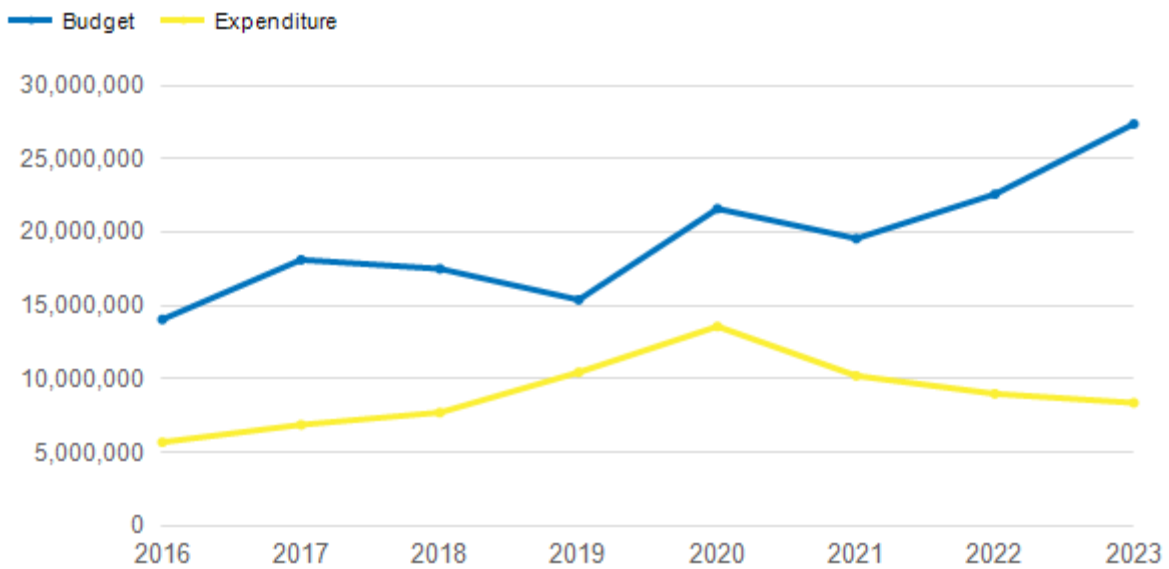
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

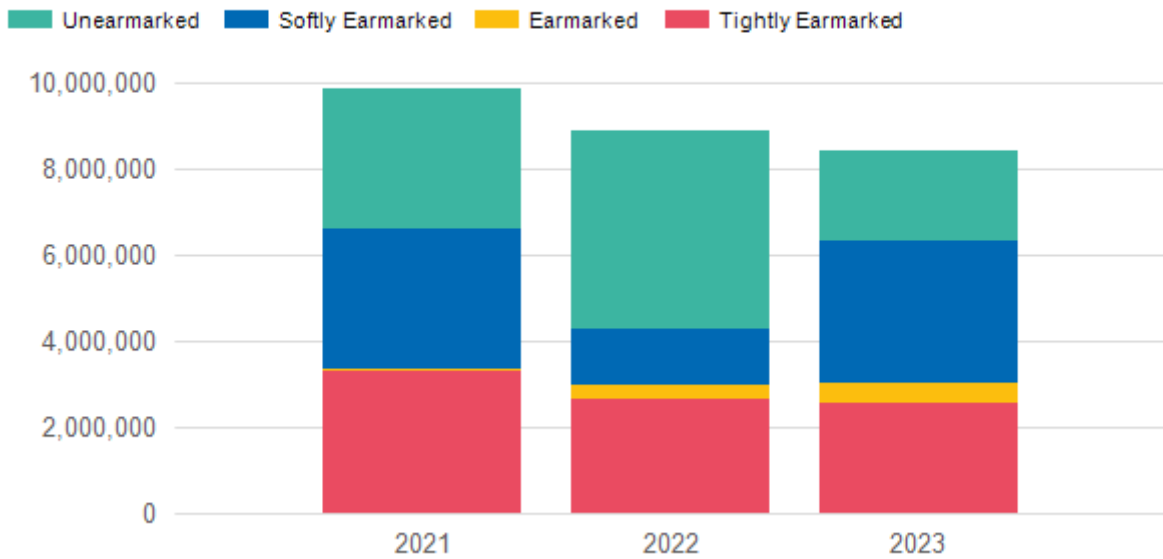
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	10,074,638	4,520,559	44.87%	4,520,559	100.00%
IA3: Empower	17,293,978	3,853,240	22.28%	3,853,240	100.00%
IA4: Solve		30,453			
All Impact Areas		106,720			
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,368,616</b>	<b>8,510,971</b>	<b>31.10%</b>	<b>8,373,799</b>	<b>98.39%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	2,024,036	828,041	40.91%	828,041	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	628,020	250,221	39.84%	250,221	100.00%
OA4: GBV	1,456,886	330,745	22.70%	330,745	100.00%
OA6: Justice	549,065	102,456	18.66%	102,456	100.00%
OA7: Community	758,177	199,139	26.27%	199,139	100.00%
OA8: Well-being	5,653,768	2,906,068	51.40%	2,906,068	100.00%
OA9: Housing	4,186,563	356,293	8.51%	356,293	100.00%
OA10: Health	1,965,636	704,300	35.83%	643,150	91.32%
OA11: Education	2,993,689	672,593	22.47%	672,593	100.00%
OA12: WASH	2,281,521	269,425	11.81%	269,425	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	2,481,521	342,262	13.79%	342,262	100.00%
OA14: Return	361,041	287,568	79.65%	287,568	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	240,760	132,335	54.97%	101,882	76.99%
EA18: Support	1,332,070	889,657	66.79%	889,657	100.00%
EA20: External	455,865	194,299	42.62%	194,299	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		45,569			
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,368,616</b>	<b>8,510,971</b>	<b>31.10%</b>	<b>8,373,799</b>	<b>98.39%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

Considering the limited availability of resources, in 2023 UNHCR had to prioritize certain fixed costs and essential activities. These included critical protection interventions such as registration, child protection, and response to gender-based violence. Furthermore, the operation also prioritized healthcare, which involved securing medications, as well as education, which included paying teacher salaries and providing teaching and learning materials. Lastly, UNHCR placed importance on supporting the refugees affected by the “back to camp” order through the provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities and shelter.

During the year, many refugees expressed the desire to return to their countries of origin. As a result, UNHCR allocated resources to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Burundi. Moreover, the operation successfully identified financial opportunities and obtained additional resources, such as through

the Central Emergency Relief Fund, to respond to Tropical Cyclone Freddy, which had a significant impact on southern Malawi. Funding from UNAIDS was secured for HIV and AIDS-related activities.

UNHCR benefited from in-kind support from operational partners. For instance, Fraternity Without Borders played a significant role in providing manpower and construction materials, such as doors and windows, for the shelter construction aimed at accommodating the most vulnerable individuals affected by the “back to camp” order. Such initiatives helped alleviate some of the pressure on UNHCR and meet the needs of those affected.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Some refugee-led start-ups and initiatives are working towards improving conditions in various sectors. UNHCR will continue to partner with these organizations to provide technical support and improve data accuracy to identify real gaps in their respective areas of work.

There is a significant amount of misinformation about refugees and asylum-seekers in Malawi. Therefore, it is crucial to continue with awareness-raising initiatives to dispel this misinformation and foster a harmonious relationship between the forcibly displaced individuals and the host communities.

To unlock durable solutions, proactive advocacy is necessary to ensure the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national development agenda. Additionally, it is of utmost importance to enhance the protection environment by advocating for the evaluation and revision of laws and policies, while fostering collaboration with development stakeholders. This approach will entail the pursuit of practical, development-oriented solutions that yield benefits for both refugees and host communities. Furthermore, by integrating refugees and asylum-seekers into the national agenda, we can not only support them in developing more productive, diversified, and sustainable livelihoods, thereby enhancing their self-reliance but also potentially contribute to poverty alleviation in impoverished rural communities. This can be accomplished by establishing lucrative, sustainable, and resilient livelihood opportunities.



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