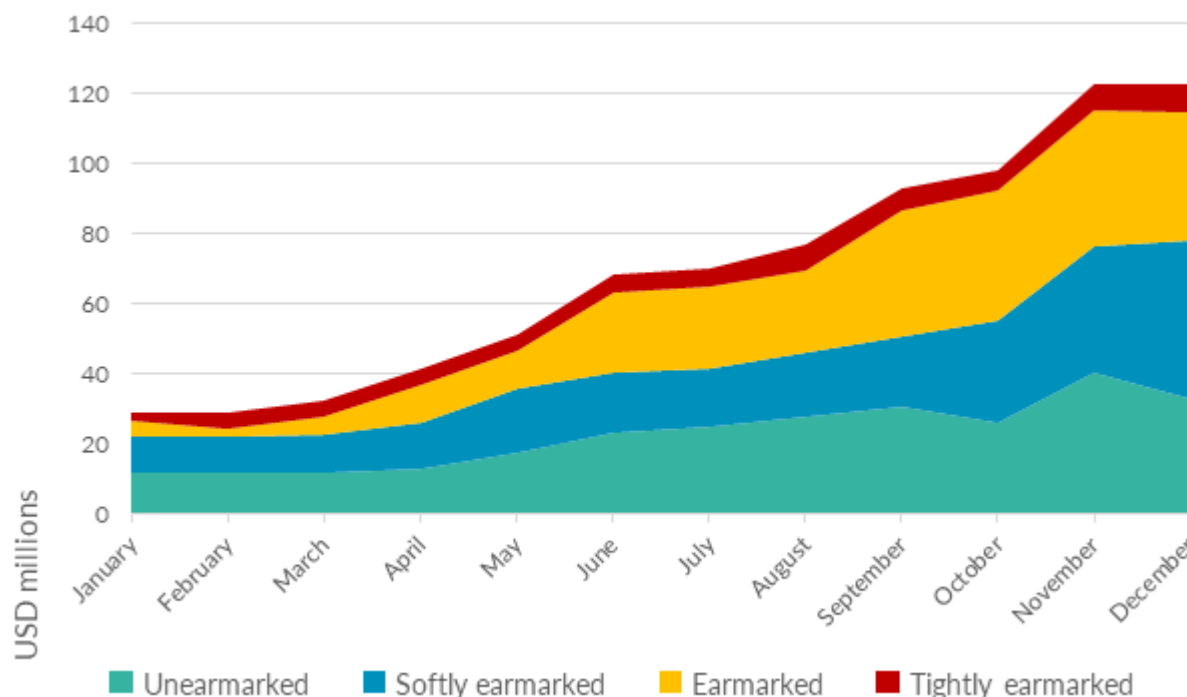


Flexible Funding Report 2023

IRAQ



© UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



Approximately 63% of final expenditure of \$122.4 million came from flexible funding

Iraq spent \$53.4 million in flexible funding, including \$23.9 million unearmarked and \$29.5 million softly earmarked funding, accounting for 63% of total expenditure.

Iraq hosts 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, of which 270,000 are Kurdish Syrians in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KR-I), as well as over 1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), of whom some 160,000 live in 23 camps in the KR-I. UNHCR and partners, including donors, transitioned from a humanitarian to a development approach to strengthen national capacity to provide protection and quality public services for Iraqis and refugees.

UNHCR invested flexible funding to increase the capacity of authorities to restore public service delivery. In 2023, access to public service projects were completed in Anbar, Dohuk, Erbil, Kirkuk, Ninewa and Salah Al-Din governorates. This integration included access to health and education, reflecting a significant advancement in refugee inclusion and rights fulfillment on par with local communities.

Flexible funding went towards helping 58,420 refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas with multi-purpose cash assistance. The importance of this assistance was backed up by post-distribution monitoring. Surveys indicated that the assistance meant 79% of households could meet half of their basic needs, 100% could find desirable quality items and/or services in the markets; 91% were re satisfied with the amount of cash assistance and 15% were able to gain access to livelihoods and productive assets. The top spending priorities were rent, food, and health, followed by utilities and debt repayment.

UNHCR collaborated with the KRG to support camp management for 25 IDP camps (reduced during the year to 23 camps), nine refugee camps, and one transit centre, all of which hosted up to 180,000 IDPs and 95,000 refugees. UNHCR completed 63 infrastructure projects, with the overall objective to strengthen the capacity of Government public services to allow further

disengagement of UNHCR and humanitarian partners and to transition to engage development partners.

Other areas that benefited from flexible funding included community engagement, with UNHCR supporting community outreach volunteers and other community structures, strengthening two-way communication; and education, which saw construction, maintenance and development of infrastructure, and support for scholastic materials, teacher training and capacity, and transportation support for students.