

Middle East and North Africa

Regional overview

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Internally displaced people faced dire conditions at an IDP site in Sa'ada city, Yemen, after heavy rains flooded their makeshift shelters built from tarpaulins and bricks. UNHCR and its local partner responded with immediate support providing temporary shelters, relief items and essential supplies, and UNHCR provided cash assistance to affected families.

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POPULATION DATA

2025 population planning figures

17 million forcibly displaced and stateless people | 12% of the global population



The Middle East and North Africa region is grappling with new and long-standing challenges related to forced displacement. Complex political and security environments are exacerbated by adverse global socioeconomic conditions, high inflation, dwindling donor interest, and decreasing tolerance for those supported by UNHCR. By mid-2024, there were 16.6 million forcibly displaced and stateless people in the region. Their humanitarian conditions remain precarious, particularly in terms of access to basic services, including livelihoods, and the risk of expulsion from several countries.

As of 19 November 2024, UNHCR is responding to the significant escalation in hostilities in Lebanon, which has displaced more than 880,000 people within Lebanon and 550,000 across the border into the Syrian Arab Republic. People are still on the move. UNHCR is delivering vital protection services, cash assistance, safe shelter, and other essential support to people displaced by the conflict.

The emergency response is not reflected in UNHCR's 2025 budget, which was prepared prior.

The Syria crisis remains the region's largest displacement situation, with 7.4 million people displaced within the Syrian Arab Republic and 5 million registered refugees in the region, including around 3 million in Türkiye. The [Regional Refugee and Resilience Response Plan \(3RP\)](#) serves as the key coordination mechanism. UNHCR will partner with development actors, particularly within the frameworks of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact on Refugees, to support the socioeconomic inclusion of UNHCR's beneficiaries in national plans. The ultimate goal is to enhance self-reliance and social protection for both refugees and host communities.

The conflicts in Sudan and Gaza have had far-reaching impacts on both the region and the global geopolitical landscape. At the time of writing (mid-October 2024), UNHCR

is responding to the significant escalation in hostilities in Lebanon, which has displaced more than 700,000 people within Lebanon and close to 300,000 across the border into the Syrian Arab Republic. People are still on the move and these numbers continue to rise. UNHCR is delivering vital protection services, cash assistance, safe shelter, and other essential support to people displaced by the conflict. The emergency response is not reflected in UNHCR's 2025 budget, which was prepared prior.

In North Africa, individuals with international protection needs travel alongside economic migrants, exposing them to significant protection risks. Insecurity and unrest in the Sahel region, combined with new cooperation agreements between the European Union and North African States, may lead to an increase in refugees and asylum-seekers choosing North African countries as their final destination, or remaining there for longer due to difficulties in moving onward.

In response to these challenges, UNHCR's protection and solutions approach is anchored on its three main pillars: a) access to safety, b) a favourable protection environment and c) the realization of solutions.

Maintaining and improving access to territory, safety and asylum are critical for ensuring people have a recognized identity and legal status and for reducing the risk of arrest, detention or refoulement. This is of particular importance in the region, since the legal and policy frameworks for recognizing refugees and stateless people are generally lacking. UNHCR's refugee status determination work is therefore vital, as refugee status provides important protection dividends. It is also essential that national governments develop law and policy frameworks to take on registration and status determination.

UNHCR will pursue durable solutions as a strategic priority, with resettlement and complementary pathways being the primary solution for the many highly vulnerable refugees in the region, including as an alternative to onward movements. UNHCR will also invest in fair, efficient, and robust case processing and management to ensure protection outcomes linked with durable solutions. To prevent and respond to statelessness, UNHCR will continue advocacy and capacity-building, and promote civil documentation and legal reforms.

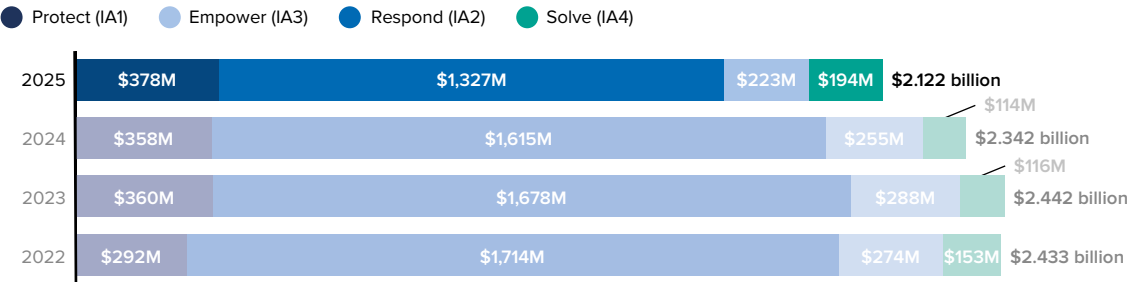
UNHCR's country operations across the region are implementing alternatives to dangerous journeys in mixed movements to address the multi-dimensional challenges faced by forcibly displaced and stateless people. This aims to strengthen access to State-based protection and solutions through comprehensive, targeted, and coordinated interventions by States, UNHCR, other UN agencies, and stakeholders in countries along key routes.

UNHCR operations are also revisiting the programming approach to ensure funding is used for longer term benefits to refugees and the countries that host them, as sustainable, appropriate and as circumstances permit. The objective is to strengthen – including through financial support – the capacities and resilience of host countries and communities so they can successfully, and sustainably, include displaced people in their national response systems for the duration of displacement. Concurrently, in addition to redoubling efforts to attracting additional development financing as well as private sector resources, UNHCR is strategically realigning its operational footprint in the region with programmatic efficiencies in order to direct aid and attention to where they are most needed.

BUDGET DATA

Regional budget by Impact Area 2022-2025

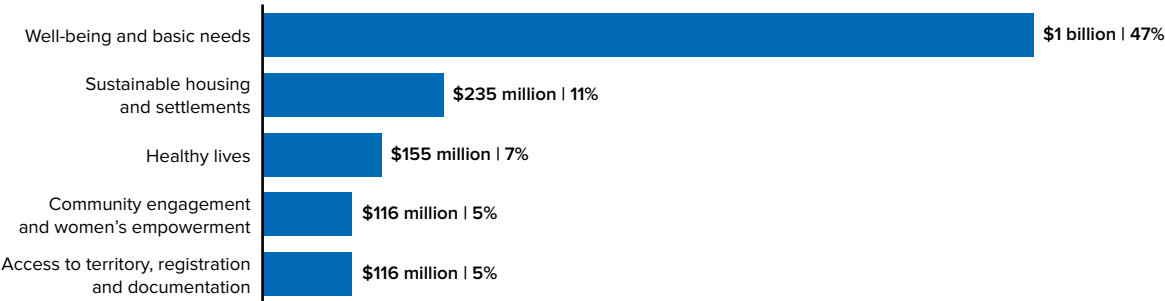
\$2.122 billion required for 2025 | **21%** of the global needs | **-9%** vs 2024 current budget*



*current budget as presented at ExCom 2024

Top 5 budgets for Outcome and Enabling Areas in 2025

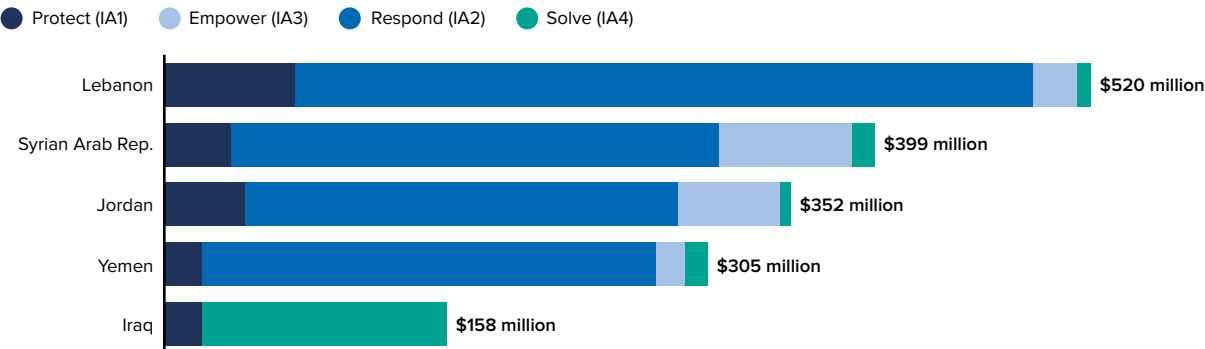
These **5 areas account for 76%** of the regional needs.



Other Outcome and Enabling Areas = \$500 million | 24%

Top 5 operations by budget in 2025

These **5 operations account for 82%** of the regional needs.



BUDGET DATA

2025 regional budget by operation and impact area | USD

REGION / OPERATION	2025 approved budget				
	Attaining favourable protection environments	Realizing basic rights in safe environments	Empowering communities and achieving gender equality	Securing solutions	TOTAL
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA					
Regional Bureau for the Middle East and North Africa¹	8,202,247	14,012,140	4,320,702	4,318,911	30,854,000
Other Operations in the Middle East	5,991,977	17,380,000	4,476,200	983,555	28,831,732
Algeria	3,208,400	27,685,956	7,652,900	282,000	38,829,256
Egypt	102,465,669	22,982,646	10,512,589	1,753,122	137,714,026
Iraq	21,141,733	-	-	137,357,967	158,499,700
Israel	7,117,658	-	-	1,323,419	8,441,076
Jordan	45,374,830	242,717,772	57,288,738	6,705,637	352,086,976
Lebanon	73,235,144	414,179,030	24,911,673	7,731,350	520,057,198
Libya	18,812,415	22,719,126	4,818,413	5,185,395	51,535,348
Mauritania	9,041,270	23,806,442	9,895,957	2,787,037	45,530,706
Morocco	2,966,370	6,614,427	2,269,125	-	11,849,922
Saudi Arabia multi-country office²	8,468,007	3,856,032	-	-	12,324,039
Syrian Arab Republic	37,121,680	274,128,148	74,629,630	13,120,542	399,000,000
Tunisia	13,891,338	-	3,412,483	-	17,303,821
Western Sahara confidence-building measures	-	2,181,901	2,301,759	-	4,483,660
Yemen	21,142,340	254,752,454	16,619,588	12,485,618	305,000,000
TOTAL	378,181,077	1,327,016,073	223,109,758	194,034,553	2,122,341,462

¹ Regional Bureau and Other operations in the Middle East cover the whole Middle East and North Africa region.

² Coordinates activities in Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and in the United Arab Emirates and covers without a presence Bahrain and Oman.



Muslim World League's steadfast commitment to enhancing the lives of refugees and host communities

Since 2020, the Muslim World League (MWL) has supported UNHCR through a range of projects including financial contributions for child protection, psychological support, inclusion programs, and livelihood activities for refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) in Africa, the Middle East, and

Europe. With a strong belief in UNHCR's mission, MWL has renewed its commitment for another five years, pledging funds during the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). This renewed commitment focuses on improving the lives of refugees and host communities by ensuring food security, promoting economic and social inclusion, creating livelihood opportunities, fostering public-private partnerships, and actively engaging refugees in community programmes.