

# GLOBAL REPORT

2020



The High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.

## GLOBAL REPORT 2020

UNHCR's Executive Committee and the UN General Assembly have authorized involvement with other groups. These include former refugees who have returned to their homeland, internally displaced people, and persons who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed. The Office seeks to reduce situations of forced displacement by encouraging States and other institutions to create conditions which are conducive to the protection of human rights and the peaceful resolution of disputes. In all of its activities, it pays particular attention to the needs of children and seeks to promote the equal rights of women and girls.

The Office carries out its work in collaboration with many partners, including governments, regional organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the Office's activities should be consulted over decisions which affect their lives.

The Global Report presents the work carried out by UNHCR in 2020 to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of people of concern—refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees, internally displaced people, stateless persons, and others of concern. It highlights the year’s achievements, as well as challenges faced by the organization and its partners, in responding to multiple life-threatening crises and ever-growing humanitarian needs.

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The [Global Focus website](#) is UNHCR’s main operational reporting platform for donors. Regularly updated, it complements and augments information in the Global Report with greater detail on UNHCR operations, data on key operational themes and objectives, and in-depth information on UNHCR’s budgets, funding and expenditure. It contains also a glossary of technical terms used throughout this publication.

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**595,070**  
page views  
in 2020 compared to 497,000 in 2019 (+20%)

**26,390**  
visits  
per month (+20%)

**242,200**  
documents downloaded  
compared to 175,230 in 2019 (+38%)

**20,180**  
documents downloaded  
per month (+38%)

# An unprecedented response in an unprecedented year

© UNHCR/Will Swanson

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi meets refugee children from Ethiopia at Hamdayet border reception centre in Sudan.

If you have no reserves to fall back on, you have no resilience in a crisis. When the COVID-19 pandemic shocked the world in 2020, refugees and other people of concern to UNHCR were among the most vulnerable. For them, the most basic advice was often impossible to follow:

“Don’t travel.” “Stay at home.” “Keep your distance.” “Get tested.” “Wash your hands frequently.” “Study or work online.”

COVID-19 meant UNHCR’s mission to protect and assist refugees was suddenly mired in an unprecedented emergency, and in a context where travel was difficult and physical contact all but impossible. The borders refugees must cross to reach safety were abruptly closed to stem the spread of the disease. Forcibly displaced people risked being excluded from the COVID-19 response, impoverished, evicted, unfed and unable to travel to seek safety or return home. Resettlement, already

straining to keep pace with a historic decade of displacement, was squeezed further by the pandemic, with the fewest departures since 2002. There were fears for a worsening of the plight of stateless persons.

And yet, UNHCR had started 2020 on a positive note. The international community had come together for the first Global Refugee Forum in December 2019, making more than 1,400 pledges that would put the Global Compact on Refugees into operation, a manifestation of the whole-of-society approach to respond to forced displacement.

UNHCR had also completed its regionalization and decentralization process, a significant component of an ambitious reform agenda. It aimed to improve delivery, giving more authority to the field while maintaining and strengthening risk management and appropriate controls.

And how important those pledges and reforms were.

When COVID-19 hit, most States found practical solutions to enable protection from persecution and from the pandemic. Some States, particularly in Africa, worked closely with UNHCR to ensure they could uphold their international legal protection obligations to even large influxes of refugees, while shielding their own citizens from the disease. Their leadership and solidarity have been exemplary.

Alongside our international, national and local NGO partners, UNHCR stayed and delivered vital protection activities and services and, critically, bolstered host State health systems and provided cash assistance, shelter and other support to help mitigate the most immediate impacts of the pandemic on the displaced and host communities.

Yet COVID-19’s impact has gone far beyond health and has driven millions of refugees into deeper poverty and despair. Often reliant on daily wage jobs or informal employment, they were among the first to lose out in lockdowns, with poverty rates amongst refugees soaring. And the consequences have been grave, especially for women and children. Gender-based violence has increased, as has domestic violence and early child marriage. Refugee children, especially girls, were already less likely to attend school than their host counterparts, had less access to remote learning opportunities, and are less likely to return to school after the pandemic. Mental health needs have grown faster than the response can manage.

While COVID stopped many things, it did not stop conflict. Old conflicts persisted or even reignited and new ones erupted, increasing the number of displaced as the year went on. Brutal killings were meted out in Mozambique. Conflict, which included sexual violence, engulfed Tigray in Ethiopia. The scourge of gang violence in parts of Central America drove more

people—including children—into exile. The people of the Sahel continued to be plagued and persecuted by conflict and climate change, forcing more and more away from their homes.

UNHCR and partners were determined that the pandemic would not stop them protecting and assisting record numbers of forcibly displaced and stateless people around the world, with by year’s end more than 91.9 million people of concern—refugees and asylum-seekers, returnees, IDPs, and stateless persons. And despite the challenges of conflict, the pandemic and paralysis on political progress on most conflicts, UNHCR has continued to search for solutions so that men, women and children can stop living in a state of uncertainty and instead make the most of their potential. For example, at the behest of South Sudan and Sudan and under the stewardship of IGAD, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, UNHCR is developing a solutions strategy that could help resolve displacement for up to 7 million people in and from the two countries. This has the potential to end the plight of millions of people, but it needs the support of the international community to strengthen peace and security efforts and provide resources to develop the countries, including areas where the displaced will live.

Despite the global economic challenges brought on by COVID, solidarity with and for refugees persevered. The major host governments, themselves often relying on fragile health systems, did not hesitate to include refugees in their health responses. Donors funded a large percentage of our COVID-19 response and, led by the United States of America, Germany and the European Union, responded with an unprecedented overall financial contribution to our budget of over \$4.7 billion, including generous levels of unearmarked funding from donors such as Sweden, España con ACNUR, and the United Kingdom.

The World Bank and international financial institutions took drastic measures, including rapidly providing around \$1 billion of grants instead of loans for refugee-hosting countries. The private sector, including contributions from innovative Islamic financing mechanisms, contributed \$537.5 million and shared its valuable expertise to improve our worldwide response.

This was an unprecedented response to an unprecedented year and helped us carry out our mandate around the world.

This support also steadied our resolve to see through our ambitious reform agenda. The pandemic forced acceleration in a number of areas, including streamlining processes and partnerships to enable greater flexibility and improved delivery of assistance. And the global uprising against racism and social justice gave us pause and prompted reflection on our own shortcomings and biases, unconscious or not. This led to sometimes painful, yet necessary, internal discussions on race equality and inclusion within UNHCR. To address the issues raised, and building on work on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, we launched agency-wide discussions, hired external experts to guide us, and developed an interim plan of action to make UNHCR a better, more inclusive agency which will undoubtedly make us a better champion of refugees and the displaced.

Despite the many achievements of 2020, there are unfortunately more forcibly displaced people than ever and their needs are greater. The additional hardship brought by COVID-19, the lack of political progress on resolving conflicts, combined with funding shortfalls for UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies, compounds their suffering. Ending wars and rebuilding peace would allow many millions to fulfil their dreams of going home. Yet even a fully-funded UNHCR would only be able address a portion of these needs, and humanitarian funding windows are not

adequate or sufficiently predictable for the response that is required.

This is why the underpinnings of the Global Compact on Refugees must be implemented in response to today's displacement crises. There must be greater inclusion—not only in the health response and vaccinations, but in other social services and the socioeconomic response. In designing and implementing financial rescue packages, host countries need to include refugees to prevent further hardship and suffering, and donor States must ensure hosts are properly resourced to allow them to continue to extend the protection and support needed to refugees, the displaced and the communities that host them.

And we need greater support elsewhere, including crucially in the area of vaccine equity to avoid a world divided by inoculated and infected, ultimately leaving no one safe from a resurgence of the virus. I appeal in the strongest terms to those States with resources and capacity to do more to share vaccines and logistical support so that all people, including refugees and their hosts, can be protected from the virus.

The COVID-19 pandemic also reminds us of the importance of prevention and preparedness. Clearly this applies to future pandemics, but it must also be applied to prevent and resolve conflict and address the climate emergency, which threatens us all and from which no country alone can protect its population.

If it has taught us anything, I trust this year has taught us all that the gravest threats to our health and safety—whether it be a pandemic, the climate emergency or conflict—require multilateral cooperation and action to address and resolve.



—Filippo Grandi  
UNHCR High Commissioner



Special Envoy Angelina Jolie with UNHCR colleagues in Bangladesh and Myanmar on a Zoom discussion.

## The Special Envoy

At its heart, UNHCR's mission is about compassion and humanity. That simple truth is easily drowned out by the din of social media or lost in political arguments. In the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, UNHCR has a high-profile champion whose inspiring and focused advocacy can cut through the noise and bring the conversation back to solutions for refugees.

On World Refugee Day, in an [article](#) for *Time* magazine, she urged Americans to look beyond borders and see the fight for rights and equality as universal, and asked governments to work towards durable settlements to the world's conflicts. The article cited UNHCR data on displacement, while an accompanying video helped spotlight the plight of refugees in Bangladesh and Myanmar, with UNHCR staff briefing the Special Envoy on day-to-day challenges they encounter. She addressed the UN Security Council on sexual violence against children, highlighting Iraq's Yazidi minority and challenging Member States to do more for survivors. At a UNHCR-UNICEF roundtable, co-hosted by Canada and the United Kingdom, she urged governments to invest in educating refugee children.

Although COVID-19 made travelling almost impossible, the Special Envoy remained informed and engaged, making a virtual

visit to UNHCR's Yemen operation in December and learning about the challenges that both the displaced and UNHCR staff on the ground are battling on daily basis, and speaking to UNHCR field officers in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela about the impact of the pandemic on their work.

Separately, during a virtual design competition and fashion show organized by UNHCR's Kenyan partner RefuSHE, the Special Envoy reunited virtually with a Congolese refugee she had met three years before and who had since been resettled to the United States of America. In October, the Special Envoy joined U.S. Representative Chrissy Houlahan for an online conversation on combatting gender-based violence, and the following month she addressed the Republic of Korea's conference on Action with Women and Peace, demanding an end to impunity around sexual violence in conflict. Her poignant op-ed in the [Financial Times](#) invited readers to consider the context and complexity of UNHCR's work, and to support refugees with respect and understanding as well as donations.



—Angelina Jolie  
UNHCR's Special Envoy

# UNHCR IN 2020

To protect and assist **91.9 million** people of concern in 132 countries and territories,



UNHCR's budget was **\$9.131 billion**

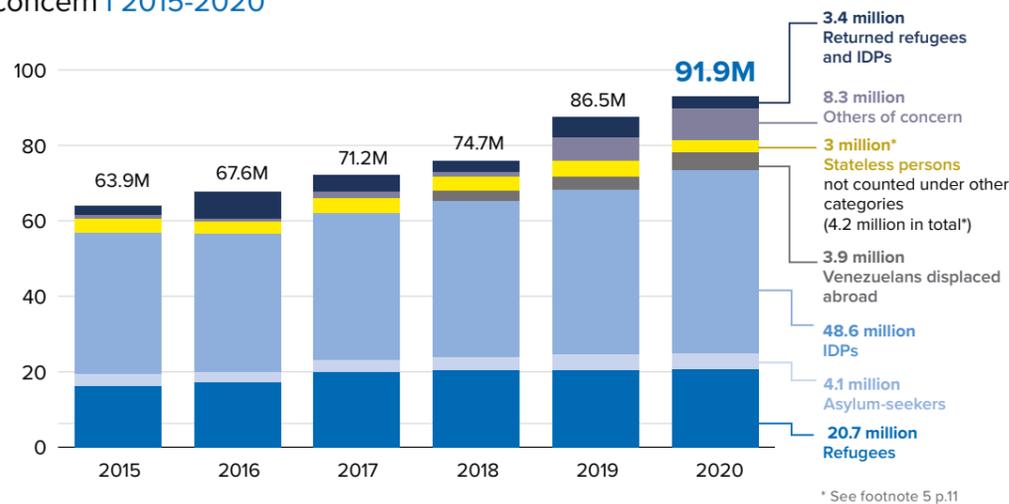


It received **\$4.776 billion** in contributions

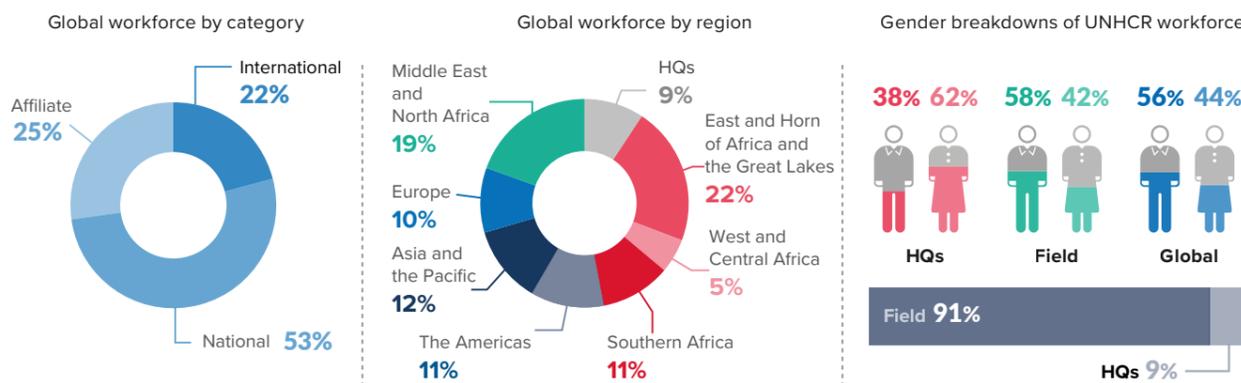


Its expenditure was **\$4.838 billion**

## People of concern | 2015-2020



UNHCR was present in **132 countries and territories** with offices in **520 locations**



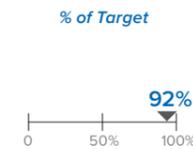
\* UNVs, individual contractors and consultants hired through UNOPS or directly, employees, secondees and interns.

## KEY RESULTS IN 2020

### Safeguarding fundamental rights

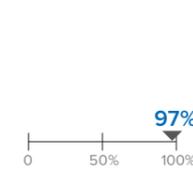
#### REGISTRATION

**9.2 million** individuals (5 years and above) with biometric records in PRIMES. Target: **10 million** | 2019 result: **8.8 million**



#### ASYLUM APPLICATIONS

**115,800** Individual asylum applications processed by UNHCR. Projection before COVID-19 **120,000**, 2019 result: **120,400**



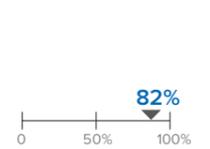
#### STATELESSNESS

**63,200** stateless persons acquired a nationality, or had it confirmed. Target: **100,000** | 2019 result: **81,074**



#### CHILD PROTECTION

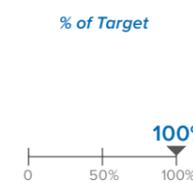
**45,974** best interests assessments conducted. Target: **48,451** | 2019 result: **56,091\***



### Responding with life-saving support

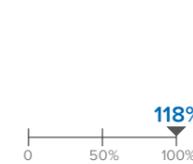
#### EMERGENCY AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS

**600,000+** people of concern received core relief items in emergency-affected countries. Target: **600,000** | 2019 result: **600,000**



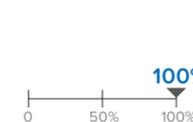
#### CASH ASSISTANCE

**\$695 million** of cash assistance delivered to people of concern across all operations. Target: **\$588 million** | 2019 result: **\$650 million**



#### SHELTER

**249,000** people of concern lived in a refugee housing unit. Target: **250,000** | 2019 result: **219,000**



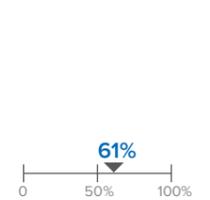
#### HEALTH

**0.19** under-5 mortality rate (per 1,000 under-5s per month) in refugee camps. Target: **<1.5** | 2019 result: **0.3**



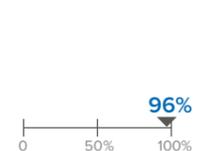
#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

**61%** of surveyed sites had acceptable levels of global acute malnutrition (<10%). 2019 result: **61%**



#### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

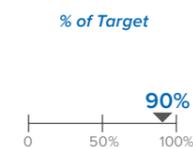
**43%** of people of concern had at least 20 litres of safe water per day. Target: **45%**



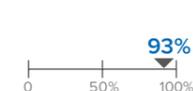
### Building better futures

#### EDUCATION

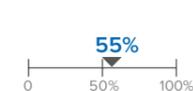
**1.7 million** children enrolled in primary education. Target: **1.9 million** | 2019 result: **1,476,716\*\***



**170,000** students enrolled in lower and upper secondary education. Target: **182,900** | 2019 result: **63,888**



**7,087** people of concern received tertiary education scholarships. Target: **12,800** | 2019 results: **8,262**



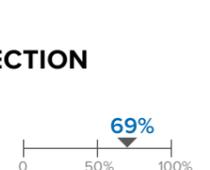
#### RESETTLEMENT

**22,800** UNHCR-facilitated resettlement departures. Target: **70,000** | 2019 result: **63,726**



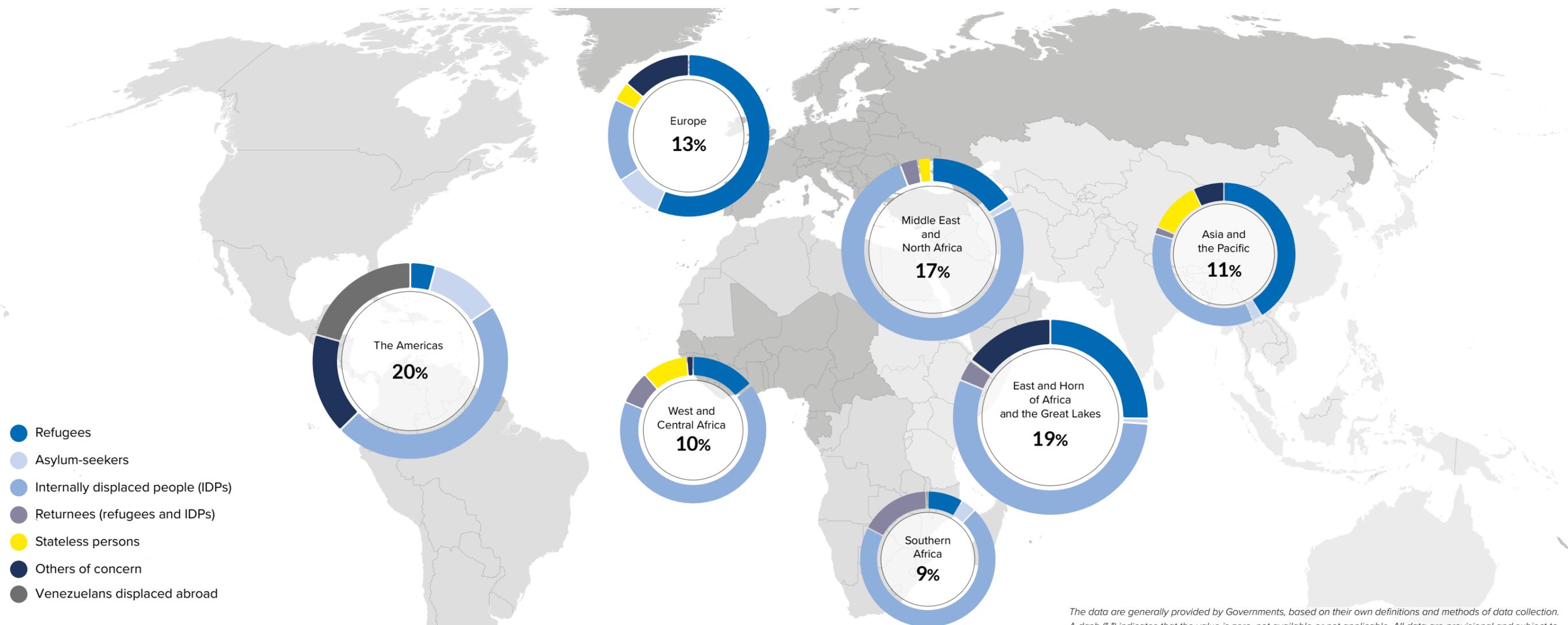
#### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**1.7 million** people of concern had access to a sustainable source of electricity. Target: **2.5 million**



\* Data addition included since the previous Global Report reporting cut-off date (55,769 best interests assessments reported in the Global Report 2019). \*\* 1,136,002 reported in the Global Report 2019. 2019 figure has been revised to reflect the cut-off date.

# POPULATIONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR



[END DECEMBER 2020]

	West and Central Africa	East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes	Southern Africa	The Americas	Asia and the Pacific	Europe	Middle East and North Africa	TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN
Refugees	1,353,611	4,511,575	720,533	650,932	3,968,708	6,673,149	2,483,780	20,362,288
Persons in refugee-like situations <sup>(1)</sup>	-	-	-	108,759	47,997	105,271	26,000	288,027
Total refugees	1,353,611	4,511,575	720,533	759,691	4,016,705	6,778,420	2,509,780	20,650,315
Asylum-seekers	38,058	157,008	294,788	2,112,469	203,480	1,125,616	207,902	4,139,321
Returned refugees <sup>(2)</sup>	42,160	165,467	675	10	2,547	24	40,068	250,951
IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR <sup>(3)</sup>	6,373,076	9,875,419	6,000,599	8,571,378	3,544,916	1,985,782	12,206,269	48,557,439
Returned IDPs <sup>(4)</sup>	655,815	474,822	1,434,272	-	155,113	375	463,721	3,184,118
Stateless persons <sup>(5)</sup>	954,646	27,794	-	4,423	2,285,074	534,438	370,527	4,176,902
Others of concern <sup>(6)</sup>	138,157	2,690,328	37,408	3,052,456	685,100	1,657,095	49,207	8,309,751
Venezuelans displaced abroad <sup>(7)</sup>	-	-	-	3,856,327	-	-	-	3,856,327
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,555,523</b>	<b>17,901,439</b>	<b>8,488,275</b>	<b>18,356,358</b>	<b>9,755,055</b>	<b>12,016,349</b>	<b>15,847,447</b>	<b>91,920,446</b>

The data are generally provided by Governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection. A dash ("-") indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable. All data are provisional and subject to change. More information on people of concern to UNHCR in 2020, including statistical trends and changes of global displacement during the year, can be found in the [2020 Global Trends](#) report.

<sup>(1)</sup> Includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.  
<sup>(2)</sup> Includes refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2020. Source: country of origin and asylum.  
<sup>(3)</sup> Includes IDPs who are in IDP-like situations.  
<sup>(4)</sup> Includes IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2020.  
<sup>(5)</sup> Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency's statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. The figures reported include stateless persons who are also counted as refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs or others of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR's statistical reporting generally follows a methodology that reports only one legal status for each person of concern. However, due to the extraordinary size of the displaced stateless population from Myanmar, UNHCR considers it important to reflect the dual status of this population group as both displaced and stateless. Additional stateless refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs will be reported on as UNHCR continues to review and improve its reporting on stateless persons with a dual status.  
<sup>(6)</sup> People of concern to UNHCR not included in the other categories but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance.  
<sup>(7)</sup> Venezuelans displaced abroad refers to persons of Venezuelan origin who are likely to be in need of international protection under the criteria contained in the Cartagena Declaration, but who have not applied for asylum in the country in which they are present. Regardless of status, Venezuelans displaced abroad require protection against forced returns, and access to basic services. UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration work together with this population by leading the Regional Inter-Agency Coordination Platform, which is aimed at strengthening the protection dimensions and consistent responses across the region in line with human rights standards.

# GLOBAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2020-2021

The Global Strategic Priorities (GSPs) for the 2020-2021 biennium set out areas targeted by UNHCR to enhance protection for people of concern and find solutions for them. The GSPs are divided into two categories: “operational priorities” for field operations and “support and management priorities” for core organizational functions. The operational priorities influence the development and implementation of country-level plans by field operations. The GSPs are in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reflect UNHCR’s 2017-2021 Strategic Directions and commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, including under the Grand Bargain.

This year for the first time, the Global Strategic Priorities are fully integrated into the Global Report, and reporting on UNHCR’s achievements and challenges across all GSP areas in 2020 can be found in the thematic chapters of the Global Report.

## OPERATIONAL GSPs

### FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

**1.** Safeguarding access to territorial protection and asylum procedures; protection against refoulement; and supporting the adoption of nationality laws that prevent and/or reduce statelessness (Legislation on refugees, Law and Policy on IDPs and Legislation on statelessness)

>**NARRATIVES** in the chapter on *Safeguarding fundamental rights*

IMPACT INDICATOR	HOW WAS UNHCR ENGAGED?	RESULTS
Extent law consistent with international standards relating to refugees and asylum seekers	Improving national law and policy in 80 countries.	Improved in <b>9</b> countries
Extent law and policy consistent with international standards relating to internal displacement	Improving national law and policy in 17 countries.	Improved in <b>14</b> countries
Extent citizenship law consistent with international standards relating to prevention of statelessness	Improving citizenship laws in 40 countries.	Improved in <b>19</b> countries
% of stateless persons for whom nationality granted or confirmed	Seeking rise in rate of stateless people acquiring or confirming nationality in	63,200 stateless individuals acquiring or having their nationality confirmed.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_17337](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17337)



### SECURITY FROM VIOLENCE AND EXPLOITATION

**3.** Reducing protection risks faced by people of concern, in particular, discrimination, gender-based violence and specific risks faced by children (Gender-based violence response, Best interests procedures and Access to national child services)

IMPACT INDICATOR	HOW WAS UNHCR ENGAGED?	RESULTS
> <b>NARRATIVES</b> in the chapter on <i>Responding with life-saving support</i>		
Extent known gender-based violence survivors receive appropriate support	Improving support for gender-based violence survivors in 95 refugee operations, 10 IDP situations and 3 returnee situations.	Improved in <b>42</b> situations
Extent community is active in gender-based violence prevention and survivor-centred protection	Improving community involvement in prevention of gender-based violence and protection of survivors in 58 refugee situations, 8 IDP situations and 4 returnee situations.	Improved in <b>21</b> situations
> <b>NARRATIVES</b> in the chapter on <i>Safeguarding fundamental rights</i>		
% of unaccompanied and separated children for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed	Maintaining or increasing the rate in 74 refugee situations.	Increased in <b>25</b> situations Maintained in <b>9</b> situations
Extent children of concern have non-discriminatory access to national child protection and social services	Increasing non-discriminatory access to national child protection and social services in 37 refugee situations, 4 IDP situations and 3 returnee situations.	Increased in <b>15</b> situations Maintained in <b>10</b> situations

### BASIC NEEDS AND SERVICES

**4.** Reducing mortality, morbidity and malnutrition through multi-sectoral interventions (Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and Under-5 mortality rate)

**5.** Meeting international standards in relation to shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (Shelter and Water)

>**NARRATIVES** in the chapter on *Responding with life-saving support*

IMPACT INDICATOR	HOW WAS UNHCR ENGAGED?	RESULTS
Prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) (6-59 months)	Maintaining UNHCR standards or reducing level of GAM in 36 refugee camp/settlement situations.	Standard met in <b>27</b> situations
Under-5 mortality rate	Seeking UNHCR standards or reducing under-5 mortality rates in 44 refugee camp/settlement situations.	Standard met in <b>159</b> sites in <b>19</b> countries
% of households living in adequate dwellings	Maintaining or increasing the percentage of households living in adequate dwellings in 48 refugee situations, 15 IDP situations and 7 returnee situations.	Increased in <b>56</b> situations Maintained in <b>9</b> situations
Average number of litres of potable water available per person per day	Maintaining or increasing the level of water supply in 46 refugee situations.	Increased in <b>26</b> situations Maintained in <b>6</b> situations

