



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

# GLOBAL REPORT

2018



FINANCIAL | OPERATIONAL | STATISTICAL

GLOBAL  
REPORT  
2018

The Global Report presents the work carried out by UNHCR in 2018 to protect and improve the lives of tens of millions of people of concern—refugees, 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 attempting to respond to multiple life-threatening crises and ever-growing humanitarian needs.

## OVERVIEW OF 2018



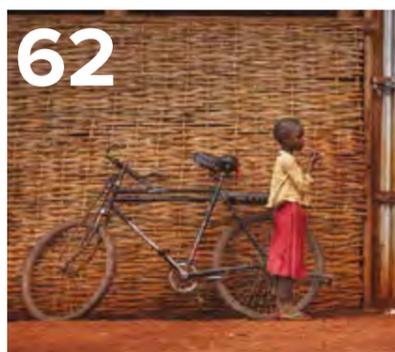
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### REGIONAL SUMMARIES

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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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### Global Focus audience in 2018

**480,000**  
page views  
in 2018

**19,500**  
visits  
per month (+16%)

**145,000**  
documents  
downloaded

**12,000**  
documents  
downloaded  
per month (+30%)

# UNHCR IN 2018

## Mission

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. As of December 2018, 149 States are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and/or to its 1967 Protocol.

UNHCR's 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.

UNHCR's Executive Committee (102 Member States as of October 2018) 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. As of December 2018, 91 States are parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 73 to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

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.

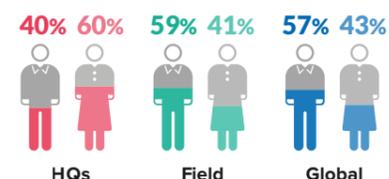
The Office carries out its work in collaboration with many partners, including governments, regional organizations, and international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the Office's activities should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

## Global Presence

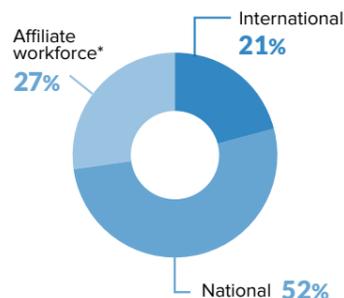
UNHCR is present in **131 countries** with offices in **501 locations**



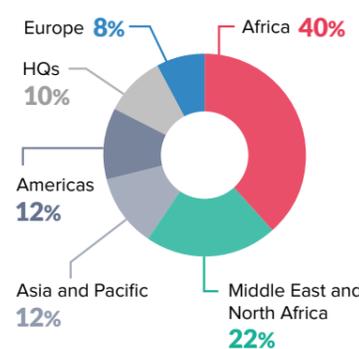
Gender breakdowns of UNHCR workforce



Global workforce by category

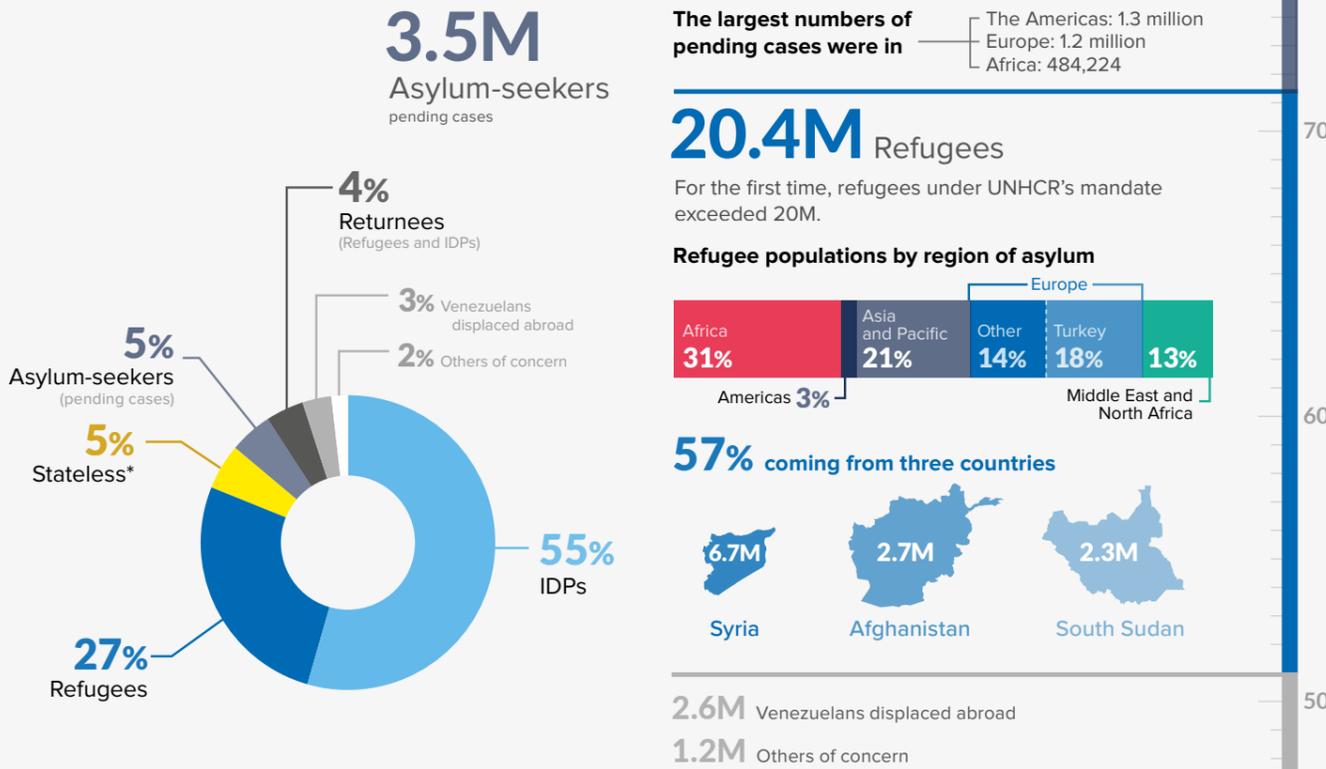


Global presence by region



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

# 74.8M People of concern to UNHCR worldwide



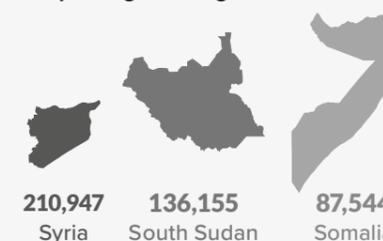
## 3.9M Stateless persons\*

A reported 56,400 people who were formerly stateless or of undetermined nationality acquired nationality or had their nationality confirmed in 24 countries. The actual number of stateless persons is higher, but a true figure remains difficult to obtain.

## 2.9M Returnees (Refugees and IDPs)

Unresolved conflicts and insecurity in countries of origin presented major constraints for returns and their sustainability.

### Top 3 largest refugee returns



### Top 3 largest IDP returns



## 41.4M IDPs

Many IDPs were in protracted situations characterized by critical protection and humanitarian conditions.

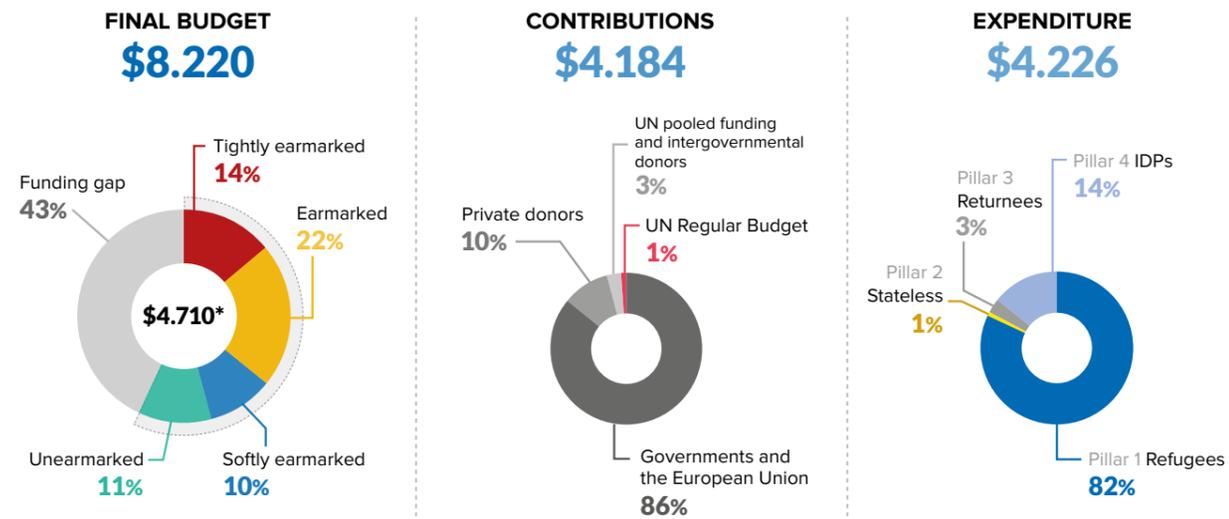
### 45% were in three countries



\* Includes 906,635 Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh and 125,000 stateless IDPs in Myanmar who are also counted in refugee and IDP populations.

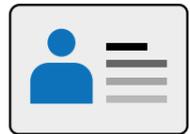
# Key data and achievements in 2018

Unit: billion



\*Funds available: contributions (voluntary contributions and UN Regular Budget); carry-over; other income and adjustments

## Safeguarding fundamental rights



**Registration**  
**2.4M**  
 biometric registrations in 2018

**7.2M** individuals  
 biometrically registered by the end of 2018, mainly in Africa (48%) and in the Middle East and North Africa (38%)

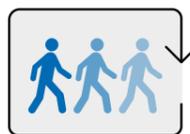


**Partnerships**  
**\$1.407B** allocated to partners

- 666 national NGOs
- 195 international NGOs
- 199 government partners
- 17 UN agencies

**33%** of global expenditure to partners

## Responding with lifesaving support



**Emergencies**  
**10** active emergencies

**Emergency deployments**

- 285 from UNHCR
- 135 from standby partners

**5 new emergency declarations in 2018**

- Cameroon
- Chad
- The DRC
- The North of Central America
- The Venezuela situation



**Core relief items**  
**Over \$34M**

worth of core relief items delivered to 39 emergency-affected countries



**Cash-based interventions**  
**\$568M**

(\$502M in 2017)

**↑13%**  
 (compared to 2017)

**93 countries**  
 Implemented CBIs



**Shelter**

**3.4M** refugees provided with shelter in planned settlements

**134,540** Tents  
 Delivered in 39 countries

**13,602** Refugee Housing Units  
 in 27 operations

## Building better futures



**Resettlement**

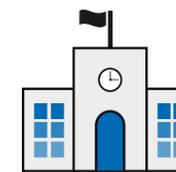


Top 5 resettlement countries

- United States of America 29,026
- Canada 14,264
- United Kingdom 6,286
- Sweden 4,967
- France 4,926

Top 5 countries of origin

- Syrian Arab Republic 28,189
- Democratic Republic of the Congo 21,807
- Eritrea 4,288
- Afghanistan 3,995
- Somalia 3,066



**Education**

**61%** of refugee children attend primary school

**23%** of refugee children attend secondary school

**1%** of refugee youth attend university



**Livelihoods and economic inclusion**

**75 countries** implemented livelihoods and economic inclusion initiatives

**1.8M** beneficiaries (people of concern and members of host communities)

# A moment of transition



In the course of 2018, conflict, persecution and civil strife continued to uproot millions of people, in harrowing circumstances. In many parts of the world, the politics around refugee and migration issues became more acrimonious and polarized, with direct consequences for the lives of many refugees who were denied refuge, separated from family members, or pushed back to situations of danger. Yet at the same time, a groundswell of solidarity was evident. Long-standing host countries stood firm in their commitment to protection principles and humanitarian values, and people across all walks of life came together to welcome and support refugees, including in countries where official policies became more restrictive.

For UNHCR and its partners, 2018 brought many challenges. In the first part of the year, we faced a race against time to stabilize conditions for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, ahead of the monsoon season. The Venezuela crisis reverberated across an entire region, as a growing number of destitute and vulnerable people sought stability and refuge beyond its borders. Hostilities in Yemen intensified, exposing millions to hunger; and the number uprooted by recurrent conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic also soared. Countries such as Cameroon, Ethiopia and Nicaragua were affected by new or accelerating displacement.

The plight of refugees and migrants moving in mixed flows—exploited, imprisoned and even enslaved while undertaking perilous journeys—called for resolute action and practical solutions, even as insecurity and other restrictions often limited our scope of action, in Libya and elsewhere. An average of six people lost their lives each day trying to cross the Mediterranean, with search and rescue capacities reduced and governments failing to agree on predictable disembarkation arrangements.



Grace, 27, from Uganda leads a life skills class on sewing machines for men and women from the refugee and host communities at Bidibidi Refugee Settlement in Uganda.



UN Refugee Chief Filippo Grandi talks to a young returnee in the ruins of Souran in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Millions of internally displaced people returned home in Iraq and Syria, often to widespread destruction and hardship, while in Afghanistan, Somalia and other long-standing displacement situations, the scope for solutions remained very limited. By the end of the year, the number of people of concern to UNHCR around the world—asylum-seekers, refugees, returnees, the internally displaced and stateless—had reached 74.8 million people, the highest figure ever.

Amidst these challenges, with the support of committed donors, and working closely with generous host countries and other partners, UNHCR continued to be present in the field—saving lives, securing protection and helping build a future for millions of refugees, internally displaced and stateless persons. Some 39% of our workforce was assigned in “hardship” duty stations, often in insecure environments, separated from their families. We made

significant investments in strengthening the integrity of our programmes, through new risk management measures and additional oversight capacities, and implemented a range of prevention and response measures in relation to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.

Record funding commitments made for 2018 at our pledging conference in December 2017 were an important expression of confidence in our programmes. The amount pledged—more importantly, the flexible funding pledged—placed us on a solid footing to commence our 2018 programmes and paved the way to a record year for voluntary contributions. All told, UNHCR received \$4.184 billion in contributions. When added to carry-over and other amounts, UNHCR had funds available to it of \$4.710 billion but, in the face of growing needs, this still left a funding gap of 43%.

This was also a moment of transformation. On 17 December 2018, the Global Compact on Refugees was affirmed by the United Nations General Assembly, presenting a new set of opportunities to translate the principle of responsibility-sharing into concrete action, building on a growing number of positive examples of the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.



The Compact presented an important opportunity to broaden the base of support for refugees and make it more predictable, to accelerate the shift away from outdated camp-based response models; to drive refugee inclusion in local communities; to mobilize development resources, civil society and the private sector; and to refocus attention on solutions.

Making this work requires adaptation, innovation and the ability to influence and shape responses on the ground. This is the driving rationale behind UNHCR’s internal transformation process, and the regionalization and decentralization phase that we launched in 2018. Our aim is to ensure that we have strong and empowered country operations, with the authority and weight of our organization behind them, able to engage a wide range of partners, build and implement strategies,

take decisions and direct resources in a quick and nimble way. This work is aligned with the UN Development System reforms that are now being rolled out, in which we are fully engaged.

With the affirmation of the Compact, we now have a framework to transform our response to major refugee situations around the world, including by broadening the base of support beyond traditional host, donor, and resettlement countries, and making it a truly “whole-of-international-community affair”. The first Global Refugee Forum, to take place in December 2019, will offer an unprecedented opportunity to showcase, and further galvanize, innovative and tangible ways of applying the principles of solidarity and equitable burden- and responsibility-sharing in practice.

At this moment when division and intolerance have gained ground in many parts of the world, it is critical that we are able to demonstrate, in practical, meaningful ways, that international cooperation and multilateralism still work. By giving substance to the Compact, and working together to translate its promise into action, we can do just that—and help strengthen cohesion and build opportunities for millions of uprooted people and hosting communities worldwide.

# A Letter From Mosul

## Angelina Jolie, the UNHCR Special Envoy

A year after the fighting to liberate it ended, West Mosul lies abandoned, ruined and apocalyptic. The streets are eerily quiet: hundreds of thousands of former residents of the city are living in camps or nearby communities because there is nothing for them to go back to. In streets that look entirely uninhabitable, small numbers of shell-shocked families are clearing the rubble of their homes with their bare hands, braving the concealed explosives left behind. Even worse than the physical ruin of the city, even worse than the sundering of its cultural fabric, is the damage done to the emotional well-being of its people. The injustices done to them and the suffering they endured at the hands of their occupiers is impossible to quantify.

asked myself, have we become numb to human suffering? Are we guilty of performing a form of collective moral triage, selectively choosing when and where we will defend human rights, for how long and to what degree?

In Mosul, I felt I was standing at a ground zero of foreign policy failures over the last decade. But also in a place that represents the human capacity for survival and renewal, and the stubborn endurance of universal values in individual hearts. I think of a father I met, and his joy that his two young daughters are able to go to school again. Penniless and without a roof over their heads, he spoke as if he had no more treasured possession than their report cards. There would be no more profound symbol of victory than every girl in Mosul being able to go back to school and excel.

Not a single family I met in West Mosul



“I felt I was standing at a ground zero of foreign policy failures over the last decade. But also in a place that represents the human capacity for survival and renewal, and the stubborn endurance of universal values in individual hearts.”—Mosul, Iraq, June 2018.

“If we’ve learned anything from the last decade in the Middle East and Afghanistan, it is that if ‘liberty’ is not followed by effective support to ensure stability, then the cycle of violence only continues.”

—Angelina Jolie, UNHCR Special Envoy

Appointed Special Envoy in 2012, Angelina Jolie undertakes advocacy and represents UNHCR and the High Commissioner at the diplomatic level, and engages with decision-makers on global displacement issues. Through this work, she has helped contribute to the vital process of finding solutions for people forced to flee their homes.

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