

Addressing challenges, unlocking opportunities: UNHCR's approach to gender equality and the empowerment of refugee women in practice

WiRL Seminar Series: A Cold Climate for Women refugees
Monday 27 November



Agenda

- UNHCR's work, in numbers
- UNHCR's approach to gender equality, the empowerment of women and girl, and gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response
- Addressing challenges
- Unlocking Opportunities



*Guatemala. A refugee girl plays with her shadow in front of a mural of Solidarity Cities, near a health centre supported by UNHCR.
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110 million

people forcibly displaced
worldwide by May of 2023

35.3 million

refugees displaced across
borders

Newly arrived Sudanese refugees at the Madjigilta site in Chad's Ouaddai region, on the border with Sudan

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REFUGEES AND OTHER PEOPLE IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION:

LOW-AND MIDDLE-
INCOME COUNTRIES
HOSTED

75%

Low- and middle-income countries hosted 75 per cent of the world's refugees and other people in need of international protection.³ The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 20 per cent of the total.

1.6 MILLION
NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.6 million new claims in the first half of 2023. The United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications (540,600), followed by Germany (150,200), Spain (87,100), Mexico (74,800) and France (60,400).

United States of America 540,600

Germany 150,200

Spain 87,100

Mexico 74,800

France 60,400

3.4 MILLION
REFUGEES HOSTED
IN BOTH THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND
TÜRKIYE

The Islamic Republic of Iran and Türkiye each hosted 3.4 million refugees, the largest populations worldwide. Germany was third with 2.5 million, followed by Colombia with slightly less than 2.5 million, including other people in need of international protection. Pakistan hosted 2.1 million refugees.

Islamic Republic of Iran 3.4 million

Türkiye 3.4 million

Germany 2.5 million

Colombia 2.5 million

Pakistan 2.1 million

69%
LIVED IN NEIGHBOURING
COUNTRIES

69 per cent of refugees and other people in need of international protection lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

1 IN 6
ARE DISPLACED

Relative to their national populations,⁴ the island of Aruba (1 in 6) and Lebanon (1 in 7) hosted the largest number of refugees and other people in need of international protection, followed by Curaçao (1 in 14), Montenegro (1 in 15) and Jordan (1 in 16).⁵

Aruba 1 in 6

Lebanon 1 in 7

Curaçao 1 in 14

Montenegro 1 in 15

Jordan 1 in 16

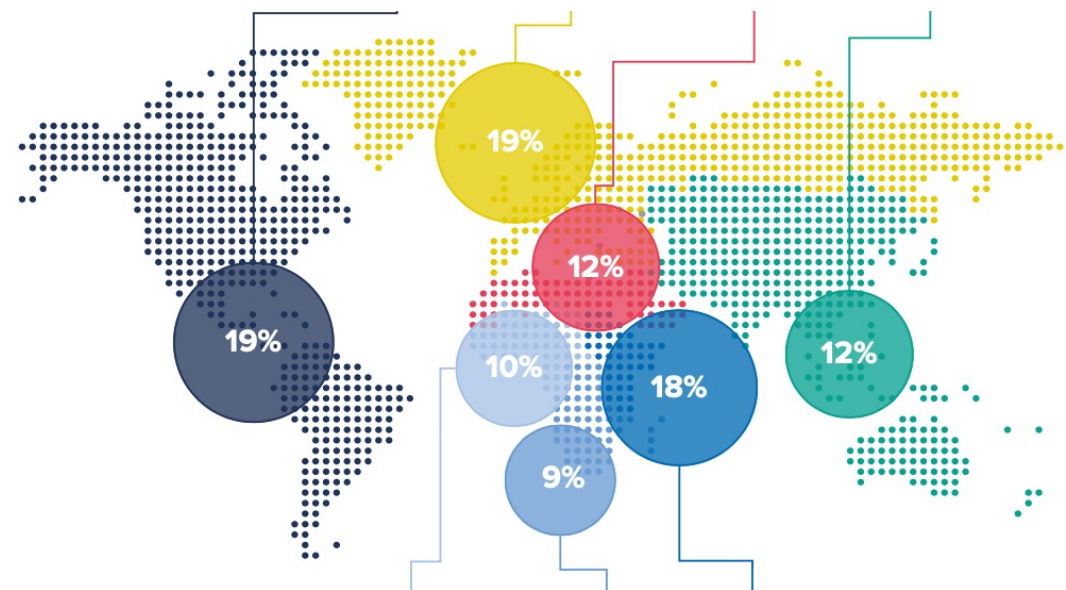
52%
ORIGINATED FROM JUST
THREE COUNTRIES

52 per cent of all refugees and other people in need of international protection came from just three countries.

Syrian Arab Republic 6.5 million

Afghanistan 6.1 million

Ukraine 5.9 million



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Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls

UNHCR's Policy on Age, Gender and Diversity

Women and girls participate equally and meaningfully in all decision-making, community management and leadership structures, and committees

Women and girls are provided with individual registration and documentation, directly or through support provided by UNHCR.

Women and girls have equal access to and control over management and provision of food, core-relief items, and cash-based interventions.

Women and girls have equal access to economic opportunities, including decent work and quality education and health services.

Women and girls have access to comprehensive GBV prevention and response service.

What we do: Fundamental Programming to Prevent, Mitigate and Respond to GBV

PREVENTION

Addresses the root causes of GBV to prevent it from first occurring

RISK MITIGATION

Interventions to reduce the risk of exposure to GBV through humanitarian programming and assistance

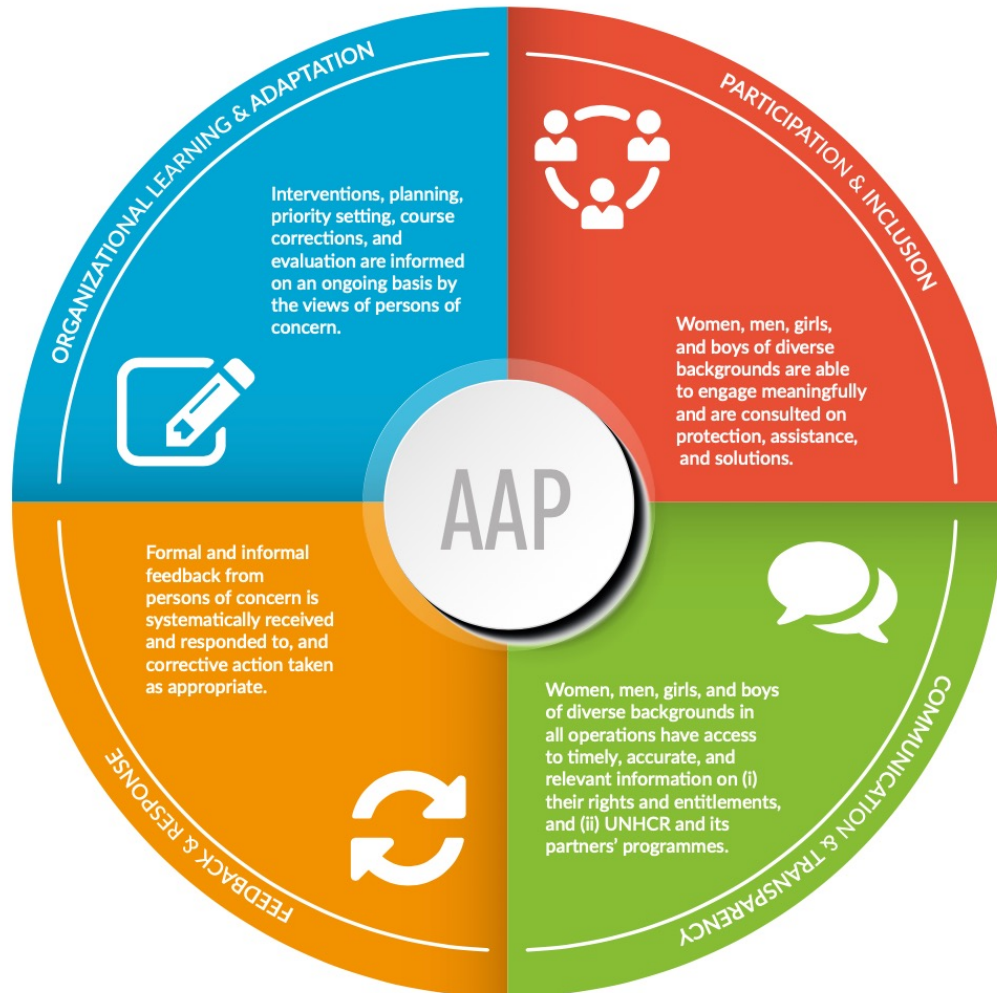
RESPONSE

Specialized services and support that address the consequences of GBV



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Meaningful participation and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)



UNHCR Good Practice: The Advisory Board

The Advisory Board was established to provide strategic policy advice based on their experiences and to represent the voices of the organizations they represent.

Addressing challenges

- **Deeply rooted discriminatory gender norms**

Harmful gender norms perpetuate inequalities

- **Increase in armed conflicts and more protracted crises**

Forced displacement continues to grow as conflicts escalate and become increasingly protracted

- **Unprecedented funding gaps and underfunded operations**

Underfunding impacts the ability to respond to the needs of people affected by the ever-growing number of emergencies

- **Climate Crisis**

Climate-driven displacement

Unlocking Opportunities

- **Gender mainstreaming and targeted action**

Integrating gender perspectives into all UNHCR policies, strategies and programmes

- **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

UNHCR's board membership in the Compact on WPS in Humanitarian Action, and in the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

- **Supporting Refugee and Women-led Organizations (Localization)**

The provision of flexible funding, including to non-registered organizations

- **Climate Action**

Providing legal advice, guidance and support to the international community to enhance protection for refugees and other people displaced by disasters and climate change

Unlocking opportunities: The Global Refugee Forum 2023

GCR objectives

- I. Ease the pressures on host countries
- II. Enhance refugee self-reliance
- III. Expand access to third-country solutions
- IV. Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

Examples of GRF Pledges

Gender Equality and Protection from Gender-based Violence

Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

Climate Action and Finance

Economic Inclusion and Social Protection

Age, Gender and Diversity approach

Thank You!

