

Humanitarian Thematic Fund

2023 ANNUAL REPORT





A woman looks over a scene of destruction following the earthquake in Jinderis, Syrian Arab Republic.
© UNFPA/Karam Al-Masri.

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Women and girls can access reproductive and GBV services at the UNFPA-supported Etoya safe house in Mekelle, Tigray region, Ethiopia. Survivors of GBV are able to get food and shelter while they continue to receive health, psychosocial and legal services. © UNFPA Ethiopia/MOPIX Production

Foreword

Nearly 300 million people worldwide need humanitarian assistance and protection according to the 2024 Global Humanitarian Appeal. The number has more than doubled in recent years amid increasing and prolonged conflicts with devastating impacts on civilians. Furthermore, an escalating climate crisis is causing widespread destruction. Worsening economic conditions compound conflicts, climate disasters and disease outbreaks.

In line with its strategic plan 2022-2025, UNFPA aims to achieve three global transformative results by 2030: ending preventable maternal mortality, ending the unmet need for family planning and ending gender-based violence (GBV), including harmful practices. With over 60 per cent of preventable maternal deaths occurring in humanitarian settings and GBV risks rising in crises, achieving these three goals requires ensuring that sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV prevention and response programmes reach everyone in need. As the mandated United Nations lead agency on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV in emergencies, UNFPA is on the front lines in delivering and scaling up assistance to women and girls in humanitarian settings.

SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes save lives. But they are consistently underfunded. In 2024, UNFPA is appealing for \$1.2 billion to provide SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes to 48 million women, girls and young people in 58 crisis-affected countries. As of March 2024, the appeal was only 15 per cent funded, compared to 50 per cent in 2023. Current trends suggest that even as humanitarian needs rise, funding will not keep pace and may even decline.

To address the funding gap and adhere to Grand Bargain commitments to efficient and effective humanitarian financing, UNFPA established the Humanitarian Thematic Fund (HTF) for Reproductive Health, Safety and Dignity in Crises in June 2018.

The HTF provides flexible, high-quality, multi-year funding to support UNFPA's emergency responses to acute and protracted crises as well as its preparedness activities and humanitarian interventions in humanitarian-development-peace nexus programming.

The HTF offers a unique opportunity for donors, both public and private, to pool funds and amplify results in assisting the most vulnerable people in emergencies, particularly women and girls. It enables donors to meet Grand Bargain commitments by increasing multi-year flexible contributions, and allows more predictable planning and effective responses. The HTF also advances localization by rapidly and flexibly making funds available to local and national partners at the onset of crises. In 2023, about 80 per cent of allocations to partners went to 62 local and national entities in 18 countries.

Since its inception, the HTF has grown significantly from a starting point of \$5.8 million in 2019. Revenues rose to \$30.8 million in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to \$45.8 million in 2022, given the Ukraine war. In 2023, HTF revenue reached \$32.3 million. The HTF allocated \$40.9 million to assist 35 countries in 2023. This growth has been made possible thanks the contributions from 20 donors. Cumulative revenue from 2019 to 2023 was over \$122 million.

This 2023 annual report highlights the HTF's strategic use of funds to address urgent humanitarian needs. It details achievements and value addition, and provides a financial overview. I would like to thank all HTF donors for making these achievements possible, and supporting UNFPA to make a positive difference in the lives of women and girls.

Shoko Arakaki

Director / UNFPA Humanitarian Response Division



Craft activities and psychosocial support at a UNFPA-supported safe space for women and girls in Wad Madani, Sudan, supporting displaced women and girls and host communities. © UNFPA Sudan

Overview

2023 Humanitarian Thematic Fund by numbers



960,000

People reached with SRH services



719,000

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



170

Safe spaces for women and girls supported



\$40.9 million

Allocated to 35¹ countries



80%

of the HTF funds spent by partners were implemented by local and national partners



60%

of funds spent by local and national partners were implemented by women led organizations

The HTF is UNFPA's humanitarian pooled funding mechanism. It allows the rapid provision of resources to support emerging and underfunded emergencies, preparedness actions and the humanitarian pillar of humanitarian-development-peace nexus programming. The HTF complements contributions from UNFPA core resources, including the Emergency Fund and the Humanitarian Response Reserve, as well as bilateral donor for specific humanitarian appeals and proposals.

The HTF offers an important opportunity for donors to make contributions that cover UNFPA's humanitarian response appeals at the country, regional and global levels, without geographic or time limitations. Both public and private contributors provide funding, allowing scope for innovative non-core financing arrangements. The fund greatly reduces the transaction costs associated with individual donor agreements and ultimately allows UNFPA to act quickly when emergencies strike and the needs of women and girls are most acute.

¹ Excludes countries with allocations below \$10,000, related to small contributions received via the Individual Giving Programme or small balances from 2023.

The HTF enables:

- Flexibility in responding rapidly to unforeseen, emerging and/or deteriorating crises.
- Critical humanitarian resources for underfunded or neglected crisis.
- Investments in emergency preparedness, which is often short of funding, to turn the dividends of humanitarian action into sustainable crisis recovery, resilience-building and development opportunities.
- Scope for localization through partnerships with trusted national and local actors, including women-led organizations. In 2023, over 80 per cent of the HTF funds spent by partners were implemented by local and national partners. Over half of those funds went to women-led organizations.
- Greater accountability to affected populations via community engagement and feedback mechanisms, with a clear commitment to meaningfully and continuously involve communities in project decisions.

As a pooled thematic funding modality, the HTF presents significant added benefits to donors. It helps to fulfil Grand Bargain commitments, as donors can increase flexible multi-year funding and resources for local and national actors, particularly women-led organizations. The HTF also supports simplified and harmonized reporting requirements and cost effectiveness. Reduced transaction costs allow a lower indirect cost rate of 7 per cent in lieu of 8 per cent.

The HTF also provides an attractive “entry point” for smaller, newer donors, boosting their contributions and ultimately providing higher value in terms of impact.

The HTF’s pooled thematic funding modality presents significant complementarity with other humanitarian financing mechanisms. It can flexibly and quickly make key initial investments that draw in resources from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and country-based pooled funds, for example.

Life-saving supplies and equipment

The HTF supports the procurement and distribution of supplies that save lives in emergency settings.

In 2023, HTF funds of more than \$5.2 million were invested in supplies such as Interagency Reproductive Health kits (IARH kits), dignity kits, medicines and pharmaceutical products as well as mobile maternity units and vehicles to operate mobile clinics and psychosocial support services.

HTF allocations often accompany funding from the Supplies Thematic Fund earmarked for IARH kits. **In 2023, approximately \$1.2 million from the Supplies Thematic Fund was invested in 15 countries in conjunction with HTF funding.**

In 2023, the HTF made a game-changing investment of \$5 million in the UNFPA revolving fund for prepositioning humanitarian items to strengthen preparedness for humanitarian action. This investment was matched by an equivalent sum from UNFPA regular resources. The increase in the size of the revolving fund, from \$10 million to \$20 million, allows UNFPA to scale up the stockpiling and prepositioning of critical items such as IARH kits, mobile clinics, ambulances and solar generators for faster delivery wherever and whenever needed.

Rapid deployment of specialized human resources

HTF resources often finance the rapid deployment of specialized humanitarian expertise to humanitarian responses. **In 2023, approximately \$500,000 backed 14 deployments from UNFPA's surge mechanism.**

A diverse group of experts served from one to six months. Positions were filled with a focus on gender balance, ensuring equal representation.

Cuba, Libya, Moldova, Somalia and Ukraine received deployments. Three experts assisted UNFPA's

regional office in Eastern Europe and Central Asia to effectively respond to the Ukraine regional crisis.

Deployments tapped an array of functions, with a particular emphasis on SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes. Experts also supported humanitarian coordination, logistics, operations, communications, and mental health and psychosocial support. Their expertise proved invaluable in advancing UNFPA's global mission to ease suffering and meet critical needs in humanitarian responses.



A UNFPA maternity tent is being set up within the Rezai Foundation Maternity Hospital grounds in Herat City, Afghanistan, to accommodate pregnant women affected by the earthquake in Herat province. © UNFPA Afghanistan/Arlene Alano



As part of the UNFPA response to the devastating earthquakes, and in partnership with the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, the first humanitarian assistance reached Al Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhood in northern Aleppo where there were more than 17,000 people. © UNFPA Syria

Key achievements and programme highlights

In 2023, the HTF allowed UNFPA and its partners to assist thousands of women, girls and young people with a range of life-saving services, supplies and information.

2023 Humanitarian Thematic Fund Global Results

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



960,000

People reached with SRH services



1,490

Personnel trained on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for SRH



4,100

Women and girls reached with cash and voucher assistance for access to life-saving SRH services



395

Health facilities supported by UNFPA

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



719,000

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



2,600

Women reached with humanitarian cash assistance for GBV case management and/or other response and risk mitigation measures



170

Safe spaces for women and girls supported by UNFPA



81,600

Dignity kits distributed



Support to the Arab States



94,350

People reached
with SRH services



30,180

People reached with
GBV prevention, risk
mitigation and response
services



**\$4.29
million**

Allocated to 5 countries

SOMALIA

In Somalia, severe drought has affected over 7.8 million people, including 1.9 million women of reproductive age. The situation demands urgent humanitarian and protection assistance. UNFPA has utilized the HTF to provide timely, essential services. In close collaboration with national and local partners, UNFPA successfully established 10 emergency obstetric and newborn care (EmONC) facilities. It supported health care workers, including midwives; covered operational costs; and sustained the continuous provision of quality supplies. UNFPA also helped equip 10 health facilities with IARH kits and medical supplies for EmONC services. Skilled birth attendants managed over 8,700 deliveries. The initiative has provided critical SRH and GBV information and counselling to 31,680 crisis-affected women and girls.

LIBYA

In September 2023, Storm Daniel devastated Libya's north-eastern region. Heavy rains caused flash floods and the collapse of two dams near Derna. Rivers overflowed in five provinces, causing large-scale destruction and thousands of deaths. A fast combination of funding from the HTF and the UNFPA Emergency Fund supported the rapid delivery of humanitarian aid following the disaster and facilitated additional resources for the response. The response extended life-saving SRH and EmONC services to 21,400 pregnant women, girls, boys and newborns. UNFPA distributed 800 "mama" kits, deployed five mobile medical teams to provide SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes, and provided 940 dignity kits.

Safe spaces for women and girls extended critical psychosocial support to 8,260 women and girls, and seven mobile psychosocial support teams were also deployed. Three safe spaces established near temporary shelters allowed access to specialized GBV services, reaching 2,160 women and girls.

Promoting accountability to affected populations through localization in Somalia

In Somalia, national and local partners helped design UNFPA's humanitarian response from the start. HTF funding supported women's increased participation in leadership roles, including in civil society organizations and community structures. A leadership development programme targeted key local and national stakeholders to foster responses attuned to the complex Somali environment.

UNFPA has engaged with diverse and vulnerable groups at all stages to ensure a solid understanding of their needs, priorities and concerns. Participatory programme design approaches cultivated ownership, accountability and mutual learning. A feedback mechanism documented and responded to concerns, and upheld accountability.

STATE OF PALESTINE

The war in Gaza has caused massive destruction, death and displacement. Since the onset of the crisis in October 2024, the HTF has allocated over \$1 million for an immediate response. The distribution of thousands of dignity kits and menstrual hygiene management kits provided a lifeline to women and girls struggling to maintain their dignity, hygiene and menstrual health. The kits contain basic essentials like soap, sanitary pads and other hygiene items, which many women and girls are otherwise unable to obtain in the dire conditions created by conflict and displacement. The kits ensure women and girls can still maintain their hygiene and help sustain psychological well-being. HTF funding remained available for the Gaza response into 2024.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC AND NORTH WEST SYRIA

Following the devastating earthquake in the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye, a \$1 million allocation from the HTF and UNFPA's Emergency Fund jumpstarted activities by UNFPA and national and local partners to address the most critical needs. UNFPA supported its partners in delivering essential reproductive health services through the MISRP and GBV prevention and response services, while also building capacities to enhance and expand the response.

Significant results included the increased awareness of and demand for reproductive health services and commodities, particularly among the most vulnerable populations in crisis-affected areas. In the immediate aftermath, UNFPA procured and distributed approximately 10,000 dignity kits for individuals in shelters and established a critical service delivery to support 800 safe deliveries by trained health workers. Furthermore, awareness and information sessions on SRH were provided to 11,200 individuals, while 5,680 individuals received awareness sessions on GBV.

SUDAN

The ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces has resulted in significant civilian casualties, mass displacement and severe disruptions to essential services, including health care, food supplies and access to clean water. Over \$340,000 from the HTF has complemented allocations from the Emergency Fund as well as bilateral funding from donors. UNFPA used these resources to conduct an assessment mission in Kassala state that gauged needs for three EmONC facilities, with findings incorporated into the 2024 humanitarian response plan.

UNFPA also procured and distributed IARH kits to West Darfur (Al Geneina) and Central Darfur (Zalengei and Golo) through cross-border operations. These interventions sustained essential health care services in three facilities, including normal deliveries, cesarean section operations, family planning and the clinical management of rape. The Al Geneina Hospital in West Darfur and the Zalengei and Golo Hospitals in Central Darfur serve as the main referral facilities in these states, with an average of 270 and 190 deliveries per month, respectively.



Maria and her children at a site for internally displaced people in Sudan. © UNFPA Sudan/Sufian Abdulmouty



Najwa, 52, is from Aleppo, Syria. She has been receiving professional psychosocial services from a UNFPA-supported safe space for women and girls in the busy Bustan Al Zahra area of the city. © UNFPA Syria/ICDA/Ange Hussein

Brick by brick: How one Syrian earthquake survivor rebuilt her life

Najwa, 52, from the Bustan Al Zahra neighbourhood in Aleppo, left her abusive husband and fled with their four daughters. Her difficult situation worsened after the earthquakes that devastated the Syrian Arab Republic in 2023. Reflecting on her struggles and overlapping catastrophes, Najwa said: “My suffering started with the war in Syria, then the economic situation got worse, and the last straw was the earthquake.”

Najwa’s life began to improve when she found critical support at a UNFPA safe space. Determined to care for her daughters, she discovered a training course and counselling services. Gradually, she started rebuilding her life.

“I’ve been visiting the safe space for five years now, and I’m learning handicrafts and baking skills,” she said. “I’ve come to realize there is nothing wrong with me as a divorced woman. On the contrary, I can achieve a lot.” [Read more.](#)



Support to Asia and the Pacific



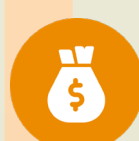
52,800

People reached
with SRH services



34,450

People reached with
GBV prevention, risk
mitigation and response
services



\$1.22 million

Total funding made
available to 8 countries

INDONESIA

On 21 November 2022, a 5.6-magnitude earthquake struck the Cianjur District of West Java, triggering landslides that severed roads between the Cipanas and Cianjur districts.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, and supported by the HTF, UNFPA swiftly responded, establishing life-saving SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes. A reproductive health tent was set up at the Cugenang Basic EmONC Primary Health Centre within 24 hours, followed by two more, and accompanied by accommodation tents for deployed midwives. UNFPA distributed 1,500 dignity kits tailored for pregnant mothers, post-delivery mothers, newborns, women of reproductive age and older females. Prepositioned supplies quickly reached the most affected population. From November 2022 to June 2023, staff in the three tents safely delivered 194 babies and provided 2,030 women with antenatal and postnatal care and counselling.

A coordination mechanism in Cianjur District strengthened links between government and non-governmental organizations to prevent and manage GBV. A GBV risk assessment and safety audit conducted in the five most affected areas informed cluster meetings and strategies to mitigate risks in the humanitarian response. Altogether, a total of 12,600 females and over 4,000 males were supported.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh, UNFPA drew on the HTF in responding to flash floods in the north-eastern region, reaching 43,900 people. During the response, the Directorate General of Health Services and the Directorate General of Family Planning collaborated with UNFPA local implementing partners to provide SRHR services in the three most affected districts. Twelve health facilities identified for this initiative received a deployment of 6 midwives and 15 community health workers, assisting 10,130 women. The facilities provided over 4,300 family planning services, 3,800 antenatal and postnatal care and diagnostic, 420 referrals for mental health and psychosocial support and GBV-related issues, and 1,625 SRHR referral services. Additionally, through mobile money transfer mechanisms, 1,610 pregnant women received cash assistance to travel to the nearest health facility to access emergency obstetric services and other SRH and GBV-related care.

PAKISTAN

Devastatingly heavy monsoon rainfall and floods hit Pakistan in 2022, particularly Sindh Province. Among the 14.5 million affected people, approximately 3.6 million were women of reproductive age. Commencing in 2022 and continuing throughout 2023, the HTF funded integrated SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes for affected communities and leveraged over \$12 million in funds from other sources for flood response efforts. Notable achievements included the distribution of over 1,100 dignity kits and 2,140 newborn baby kits, and 800 safe deliveries overseen by trained health workers. Awareness and information sessions reached 11,200 individuals on SRH and 5,680 on GBV.



Nasrin Khatun, 27, was one of the midwives on duty to assist Khadija in safely delivering her baby boy as Cyclone Mocha raged along the coast of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. © UNFPA/Fahim Ahad

Midwives bring hope to survivors of Cyclone Mocha in the world's largest refugee camp

Khadija, 21, lives in a camp for Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. As a trained midwife, she knew the dangers of going into labour at home, especially as a cyclone made landfall near the camp.

Khadija urgently needed help but a trained birth attendant couldn't reach her due to the floods, and the nearest health centres were closed. Her family managed to call an ambulance, funded by UNFPA and operated by Research, Training and Management (RTM) International, which transported her to the UNFPA-supported HOPE field hospital, where Khadija also works.

Nasrin, 27, was one of the midwives on duty. She noted that Khadija's blood pressure was dangerously high, and complications had developed following the attempted home delivery.

The midwife quickly resolved the situation, helping Khadija deliver a healthy baby boy. The relief was short-lived as Khadija soon started bleeding profusely due to postpartum haemorrhage, a condition that could have been fatal without skilled intervention.

"She held my hand and thanked me with a full heart," said Nasrin. "This is the kind of moment that inspires me in my profession." [Read more.](#)



Support to East and Southern Africa



384,050

People reached with SRH services



56,850

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



\$1.36 million

Total funding made available to 6 countries

Two community health volunteers talk with Rukia, 38, recently displaced along with her nine children from a drought-affected area in Somalia. They sought refuge at Daadab refugee camp, Garissa County, Kenya © UNFPA/Luis Tato

UGANDA

The HTF provided essential support to Uganda's response to the Ebola virus outbreak. Key interventions included the procurement of personal protective equipment and infection prevention and control materials as well as dignity kits. Funds supported training, preparedness, community engagement and operational costs. A total of 142,600 people in affected districts received SRH and GBV information and services, and 600 health workers, social workers, teachers, religious and cultural leaders, and peer educators gained training to deliver messages on risk perception and prevention.

Supplies such as surgical and examination gloves, alcohol-based sanitizers and liquid soap sustained the vital work of 650 health workers and 3,400 village health teams. Training helped 100 midwives in EmONC health facilities to serve pregnant women suspected or confirmed to have the disease. Dignity kits reached 250 mothers and their babies, and personal protective equipment was distributed to around 57,600 individuals.

The HTF also supported the integration of SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes into disaster preparedness and response efforts in flood-affected districts in Eastern Uganda, reaching 12,100 people. Funding ensured that SRHR/GBV working groups functioned in all targeted districts, and backed the district-level implementation of the national GBV database reporting system.

ETHIOPIA

In 2023, Ethiopia faced a devastating drought, reported as the worst in 40 years, leading to severe and multifaceted health and protection risks. The HTF helped meet urgent SRH and GBV needs, providing 4,950 women and girls of reproductive age with dignity kits that enhanced their safety and abilities to mitigate GBV risks while managing basic hygiene needs. Improvements in maternal and newborn health meant 2,150 women delivered safely under

the care of skilled birth attendants. Enhanced access to SRH services brought family planning services to women and girls; 1,500 individuals used services for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Better access to GBV services came through specialized care, such as psychosocial counseling and case management, offered through safe spaces for women and girls.

KENYA

Severe drought in Kenya – considered the worst in the past four decades – has significantly affected women and young girls. Acute malnutrition is widespread among children and pregnant or lactating women, and complications during pregnancy and childbirth have risen. Access to SRH services is hindered by women's heavy domestic burdens, such as longer distances to fetch water and gather food. Both women's health and economic prospects are compromised, and they face heightened risks of gender-based violence. The ongoing crisis exacerbates gender inequalities; stripping women of options and decision-making power. While the drought forces both men and women into precarious situations, women suffer more severe consequences.

An allocation of \$140,000 from the HTF enabled UNFPA to offer integrated SRH and GBV services to 101,250 women and 33,750 men. SRH services reached 78,450 women and 26,150 men. GBV services were provided to 22,800 women and 7,600 men. The project also trained 240 health care workers on the MISRP for reproductive health and distributed 6,520 dignity kits. These efforts, among other results, helped keep adolescents in school and reduced cases of child marriage.



Amino Bashir holds her newborn baby boy, Farxan, at the UNFPA-supported Dudumacad health centre in Ethiopia. This was her fourth pregnancy but her first safe and successful delivery. © UNICEF Ethiopia

As drought and floods threatened millions in Ethiopia, midwives became a lifeline for pregnant women and newborns

“Saving the life of this baby was a miracle and a blessing for my family. I am immensely grateful,” said Amino, 25, holding her newborn.

Amino lives in Dudumacad in Ethiopia’s Somali region, devastated by severe drought. This was her fourth pregnancy but her first safe delivery. Her previous pregnancies ended in heartbreak due to a lack of professional help, as health services were limited by conflict, drought and flooding. She learned about trained birth attendants at local health facilities through community volunteers from UNFPA’s partner, the Organization for Welfare and Development in Action.

In 2023, UNFPA deployed over 200 trained midwives to support maternal and newborn health care in conflict- and drought-affected regions. [Read more.](#)

Promoting accountability to affected populations through localization in Kenya

UNFPA involved local organizations in project design and implementation, including the Kenya Red Cross Society and the Centre for Enhancing Democracy and Good Governance. They have ensured meaningful participation and engagement with affected communities; making the initiative more relevant to local needs and priorities, including on issues such as the content of dignity kits. HTF funding enhanced local capabilities and leadership in delivering emergency SRH responses through capacity strengthening on the MISP for reproductive health in emergencies, involving 27 reproductive health coordinators from 12 counties and refugee camps.



Support to Eastern Europe and Central Asia



229,200

People reached with SRH services



473,600

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



\$30.53 million

Total funding made available to 6 countries

UKRAINE RESPONSE: UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, BELARUS

As the war in Ukraine persists, ongoing violence has displaced millions of people, exacerbating humanitarian concerns and straining resources and support systems. In 2023, UNFPA allocated \$23.2 million from the HTF. The funding was pivotal in delivering life-saving reproductive health and protection services in the most affected areas, including through close partnerships with civil society groups, notably women-led organizations. Enhancing the GBV and SRH response capacity of both national and local partners was a cornerstone of a localization approach based on training, technical advice and development guidance. Through this process, UNFPA facilitated and sustained the operations of 109 psychosocial support mobile teams, 29 safe spaces for women and girls, eight women's economic empowerment career hubs, and 11 centres specialized in assisting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. Moreover, 14,575 dignity kits were distributed. These efforts collectively reached over 375,000 individuals.

UNFPA also established and supported 28 SRH mobile outreach units in Ukraine, including a maternity unit, and 108 service delivery points. Services comprised the clinical management of rape and were accessible to women with disabilities. With HTF funding, 240 metric tons of IARH kits, pharmaceuticals and other medical supplies reached 94 health care facilities to support quality services.

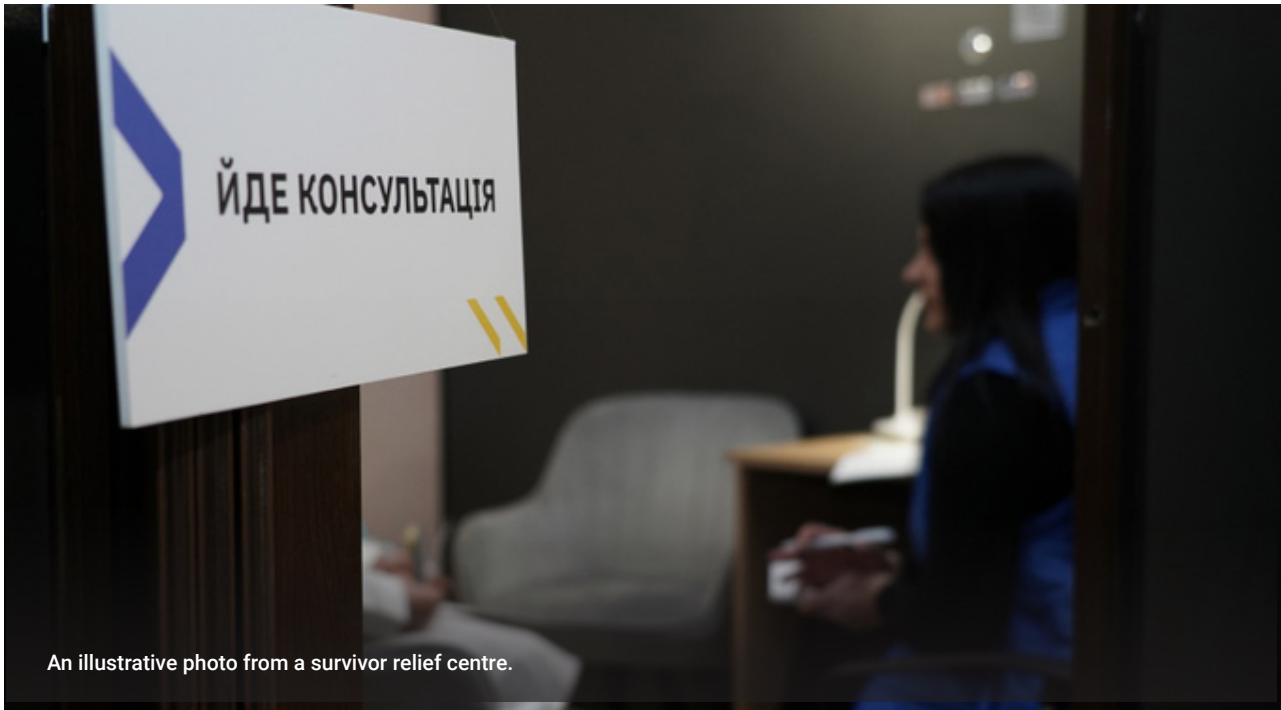
In Moldova, where over 90 per cent of refugees from Ukraine live outside formal accommodation centres, UNFPA prioritized strengthening national health and social protection systems, fostering social cohesion, and delivering direct services to vulnerable populations, especially women and older persons. It has established 31 safe spaces for women and girls and 11 mobile teams to reach refugee and host communities, including women, youth, older people, people with disabilities and the Roma population. The safe spaces assisted 37,100 unique visitors in 2023 with information on GBV and SRH and available

support services. The HTF helped fund a space at the Chisinau train station to provide first-line support to refugees crossing into Moldova, connecting them to existing services and helping them to navigate the next steps in their journey. The space includes a specialized family room that served 2,270 pregnant women, nursing mothers and older refugees.

In Belarus, UNFPA collaborated with inter-agency partners to bolster the overall humanitarian response, emphasizing solidarity, collaboration and the inclusion of both national and local host communities in line with the principles of the Global Compact on Refugees. It supported three Orange Safe Spaces and three crisis centres in Gomel, Brest, Vitebsk and Mogilev. Both types of facilities provided psychosocial counselling, information, referral to essential services (health, employment and social protection) and temporary accommodation (in crisis centres), especially for older people and people living with disabilities.

With HTF funds, UNFPA's regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia implemented its regional strategy on the clinical management of rape and intimate partner violence by enhancing the capacity of health providers in Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Ukraine. This initiative, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, World Health Organization, and United Nations Children's Fund, has propelled advocacy for integrating the clinical management of rape services in referral pathways, revising national guidelines and establishing a regional pool of trainers targeting over 100 health providers.

The HTF has been pivotal in resource mobilization from other sources, providing initial core funds to kickstart the humanitarian response. Its early support facilitated staff availability and attracted additional contributions from various donors to ensure an ongoing response. Timely funds disbursement has allowed UNFPA and its partners to promptly initiate and complete planned activities, achieving effective delivery and coordination within the humanitarian community



An illustrative photo from a survivor relief centre.

Home became the most dangerous place

Tetiana was 25 when the war in Ukraine escalated in February 2022. After her town was occupied, she endured conflict-related sexual violence.

“I will never return home. Home has become the most dangerous place in the world for me. What’s next? I don’t know. So far, I have neither a past nor a future,” she told UNFPA.

Tetiana managed to leave the occupied territories and sought psychological support at a survivor relief centre.

“All I want is to stop being afraid. That’s why I went to the survivor relief centre to see a psychologist. Little by little, I began to speak – not about the past, which I don’t remember, or the future, which I haven’t seen, but about the present and my feelings. It was a relief to be greeted by the kind and understanding staff at the center,” she said.

Survivor relief centres were established by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, with assistance from the Government Commissioner for Gender Policy and support from UNFPA’s HTF. [Read more.](#)

KYRGYZSTAN

After clashes between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan displaced over 136,770 individuals from the Batken and Leilek districts, UNFPA's humanitarian response provided integrated SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes. Mobile health teams were deployed and over 88 health care providers trained to manage pregnancy-related complications, provide family planning and offer post-partum services. IARH kits were distributed to two health facilities to support midwives. The Emergency Fund and HTF enabled over 3,230 individuals to access psychological counselling and other life-saving services, with a team of 25 professionals providing mental and psychosocial health and GBV referrals across eight affected districts. Around 200 women, particularly those at high risk of maternal mortality, received cash assistance to access SRH and GBV services. In total, interventions reached 14,180 people.

TÜRKIYE

Türkiye experienced two significant earthquakes on 6 February 2023, affecting 9.1 million people across 11 provinces and leaving over 3.6 million without safe homes nationwide. HTF funds complemented Emergency Fund resources and donor contributions to address the most urgent and life-saving SRH and GBV needs of women and girls, aligning with the MISP.

From the outset, UNFPA provided essential services, including for maternal health, SRH education, menstrual hygiene management, GBV prevention and psychosocial support. The distribution of IARH kits, dignity kits, maternity kits and contraceptives supported empowerment and safety. UNFPA procured seven mobile clinics for the Ministry of Health and distributed 31 tons of reproductive health kits, benefiting a population of 1 million. Additionally, 286 service providers received supervision and self-care training, 2,465 individuals accessed GBV information and services, and 11,250 women and girls were provided with dignity kits. UNFPA deployed social media to inform 16,694 people about available assistance.



Cahide, 29, and her 5-month-old son Furkan, outside their tent at a temporary camp in Diyarbakır, Türkiye, set up following the earthquakes. © UNFPA Türkiye/Gözde Kumru Uçak



Support to Latin America and the Caribbean



45,150

People reached with SRH services



8,900

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



\$1.32 million

Total funding made available to 4 countries

CUBA

On 27 September 2022, Hurricane Ian struck the western region of Cuba, impacting over 630,000 women of reproductive age, including 330,000 adolescents aged 10 to 19. The HTF supported a rapid response to sustain essential SRH services and supplies, including EmONC, safe births, family planning, and care for STIs and sexual violence. As a result, 5,560 pregnant women received obstetric services and life-saving SRH information. Seven health facilities were supplied with STI and family planning kits, benefiting 26,770 women of reproductive age, including adolescents, pregnant women and transgender individuals.

GUATEMALA

In Guatemala, a heavy rainy season and Tropical Storm Julia damaged homes, schools, infrastructure and communications networks, and harmed the economy, health and food security. A total of 871,480 people were affected, including 235,300 women of reproductive age and 191,730 girls aged 10 to 19. Thanks to HTF funding, UNFPA reached an estimated 12,070 individuals, including 500 women of childbearing age to address family planning issues, 500 high-risk pregnant women and 1,250 adolescents on pregnancy prevention. Survivors and women and adolescent girls at high risk of GBV gained quality, safe, survivor-centred multisectoral services and referral pathways in six municipalities. Individual and group psychosocial care sessions reached 3,510 individuals, and 13 safe spaces were established.

Promoting accountability to affected populations through localization in Cuba

In Cuba, an alliance with the Federation of Cuban Women, a civil society organization, brought communities into decisions about the scope and priorities of the response. Intersectoral national and provincial coordination teams involving the Ministry of Public Health and the Federation of Cuban Women backed the implementation of SRH activities, which were promoted by joint community brigades.

HAITI

As of late 2023, Haiti faced a severe crisis with escalating violence, political instability and economic collapse. This has put women and girls at increased risks of GBV and displacement, and diminished access to essential services for health care and education. The HTF provided \$770,000 to complement other sources of humanitarian funding, with flexibility to extend into 2024 to support the response.

VENEZUELA

Prolonged and significant economic contraction, political polarization, chronic inflation with episodes of hyperinflation and the COVID-19 pandemic have generated massive humanitarian needs in Venezuela. With HTF support, 11,326 people received life-saving SRH services, including family planning counselling.



UNFPA distributed solar lanterns and dignity kits that include basic hygiene supplies like soap, toothbrushes, water purification tablets, underwear, menstrual pads, flashlights, hand sanitizer and masks to families in Les Cayes, Haiti. © UNFPA Haiti

“Haiti must rise from her ashes”: Health workers on the front lines of a spiraling crisis

The National Institute for Midwifery in Haiti’s capital usually trains about 80 midwives annually, helping thousands of women deliver their babies safely. However, armed gangs stormed and looted the institute in Port-au-Prince in February, forcing students and staff to flee. Many are uncertain if they will ever return.

With the rise in gang violence, health facilities face constant attacks; losing equipment, medicine and ambulances. Most have ceased operations, displacing staff and leaving essential health care, social services and psychological assistance dangerously scarce.

“The few facilities still open are not fully functioning,” said Marie Suze Albert, UNFPA’s national midwife adviser in Haiti. “Not all staff can get to work. Sometimes midwives have to stay up to three days on site to provide care, without being able to return home.”

Women and girls are paying the heaviest price. As health and protection systems crumble, sexual violence has become rampant. To support survivors, UNFPA and partners run a hotline providing counselling, information and referrals.

“Very often, it is women and girls in psychological distress who call,” said Yolette Jeanty, director of the local women’s rights NGO Kay Fanm, which runs the hotline with UNFPA. “We listen and identify the open referral centres; psychologists also provide remote therapy.”

Nadège Daudier, director of the Port-au-Prince maternity teaching hospital attacked by gangs, told UNFPA, “We have no idea what to expect. Everyone is scattered. How can we rediscover the threads that bound us together?”

Even so, she added, “We must keep going, for our families and our loved ones. Haiti must rise from her ashes.” [Read more.](#)



Support to Western and Central Africa



154,450

People reached with SRH services



115,000

People reached with GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response services



\$2.2 million

Total funding made available to 7 countries

REGIONAL OFFICE: CAMEROON, CHAD, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Several countries in the West and Central Africa region are entrenched in protracted humanitarian crises with no immediate signs of stability. There's an urgent need for increased resources for humanitarian responses, especially for UNFPA's coordination role within the GBV subcluster. The HTF provided \$1.5 million for humanitarian capacity-building in three priority countries – Cameroon, Chad and the Central African Republic – facilitating access to SRH and GBV prevention and response programmes for affected women and girls. The deployment of UNFPA-trained humanitarian midwives and the redeployment of midwives from district hospitals reinforced services in the most affected areas.

With HTF support, 530 individuals received psychosocial support and/or case management for GBV, while eight safe spaces for women and girls were established. A total of 19,950 individuals accessed safe spaces and/or centres tailored to the needs of women and girls. Some 8,100 women and girls benefited from menstrual hygiene management kits and/or dignity kits, with 13,390 individuals received services enabled by IARH kits.

NIGERIA

Heavy rains and severe floods in Nigeria have taken lives, displaced populations and destroyed homes, farmland and infrastructure. Through the HTF, UNFPA provided training for disaster management agencies, emergency responders and local government personnel on GBV case management, psychosocial support, MISP and comprehensive malaria responses. Additional training equipped state government personnel with skills on basic GBV and SRH concepts, the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, and referral pathways for responding to humanitarian crises.

UNFPA distributed a GBV referral directory to all stakeholders and community members across three states, and provided 1,500 locally procured dignity kits. Successful community mobilization efforts raised awareness about GBV and SRH. Effective monitoring of the use of reproductive health kits and hospital consumables helped ensure reductions in child and maternal mortality rates. Many women and girls actively engaged in SRH and GBV sensitization sessions; fostering open discussions about issues impacting their health and well-being.

CHAD

UNFPA actively responded to the flood emergency in Chad that impacted approximately 622,550 people and displaced around 373,530. The Emergency Fund strengthened the operationalization of field activities, enabling the mobilization of additional funds to continue essential operations. With HTF funding, UNFPA has supported uninterrupted access to essential services for women and girls, focusing on life-saving initiatives that promote SRH. Services include prenatal and postnatal consultations, family planning, care for survivors of sexual violence, capacity-building, and initiatives aimed at enhancing community awareness on GBV and harmful practices. In collaboration with the GBV area of responsibility coordination mechanism, UNFPA has spearheaded activities to mitigate GBV risks.

The HTF has also facilitated UNFPA's outreach to 21,530 pregnant women attending prenatal consultations, which has entailed overseeing 5,040 live deliveries and conducting 7,940 post-natal consultations. It distributed 7,960 dignity kits and supported 14 safe spaces for women and girls. Humanitarian midwives and reproductive health kits aided 17 mobile clinics in their operations.

Promoting accountability to affected populations through localization in Chad

Project consultations by UNFPA and its local partners in Chad were broad and inclusive, ensuring the engagement of the affected population in assistance and protection solutions at all stages. Assessments and focus group discussions cultivated a better understanding of GBV and SRH risks and needs. Consultations with women and girls steered the identification of safe space locations and the content of information sessions. Different feedback mechanisms were put in place to seek and respond to the views of affected people, and were tailored to diverse needs and capacities. They included suggestion boxes, toll-free numbers, SMS and other communications channels. Information on them was displayed in public facilities and spaces.

TOGO

The deteriorating situation in Burkina Faso in 2023 forced thousands of refugees, mostly women and children, to flee to Togo. The influx of refugees increased pressure on already strained social services, including SHR and GBV prevention and response services. A HTF allocation of \$185,000 at the end of the year initiated cross-year emergency response activities, including capacity-building on MISP implementation for health system executives at the central and regional level, and on the clinical management of rape and psychosocial assistance for doctors, midwives and nurses. IARH kits were also provided.



UNFPA met with women leaders in Toumtouma camp in eastern Chad, which hosts around 15,000 Tchadian returnees who have fled the fighting in Sudan, to discuss the challenges they are currently facing and how they can increase awareness of available reproductive health services that UNFPA is supporting. © UNFPA Chad/Muriel Kobena



Ancha attends an appointment along with her 3-year old child at a UNFPA-supported mobile health clinic in Mozambique, where nurse Juliana provides her with an iron supplement. © UNFPA Mozambique/Mbuto Machili

Financial Overview

Overall Humanitarian Thematic Fund balance and operations

The opening balance of the HTF, as of 1 January 2023, totalled \$32.6 million, out of which \$17 million was already allocated to countries for cross-year responses. Approximately \$7 million was in reserve for potential scale-up allocations and HTF operations during the year. This left a balance of \$8.6 million

for new allocations to countries at the beginning of 2023.²

The summary of operations conducted during 2023 led to a closing balance, as of 31 December 2023, of \$33 million, resulting from the following operations.

2023 HTF financial overview

OPENING BALANCE

\$32.6 million

New contributions (net of indirect cost)

\$30.2 million

Collections of unspent balances

\$0.16 million

CLOSING BALANCE FOR 2023

\$33 million

New allocations

\$24.0 million

Investment in pre-positioning revolving fund

\$5 million

HTF operational budget

\$0.95 million

The \$33 million balance at the end of 2023 comprised \$19.7 million rolled over in countries for cross-year interventions and \$6.7 million in reserves for potential scale-up allocations and HTF operations during the year, leaving a balance of \$6.6 million available for new allocations to countries in 2024.

Unspent balances and HTF allocations are automatically rolled over to the following calendar year as long as allocations are related to cross-year humanitarian responses. This characteristic of the HTF allows for uninterrupted humanitarian operations across calendar years. It explains the significant amounts in the roll-over category at the beginning of each year.

² All figures are interim and net of the 7 per cent indirect costs retained by UNFPA upon the receipt of the contributions. Final financial results, including expense figures, are provided in the 2023 Humanitarian Thematic Fund Certified Annual Financial Statement.

Regional funding details

The total volume of funding for UNFPA offices (rolled over from 2022, plus new allocations) reached \$40.9 million and was distributed as follows:



UNFPA region	Opening balance (in millions of US dollars)	New allocations (in millions of US dollars)	Total funding made available in 2023 (in millions of US dollars)
● Arab States	\$1.99	\$2.30	\$4.29
● Asia and the Pacific	\$0.88	\$0.34	\$1.22
● Eastern Europe and Central Asia	\$11.17	\$19.36	\$30.53
● East and Southern Africa	\$0.66	\$0.70	\$1.36
● Latin America and the Caribbean	\$0.59	\$0.73	\$1.32
● West and Central Africa	\$1.68	\$0.52	\$2.20
Grand total	\$16.97	\$23.95	\$40.92

The large proportion of funding going to Eastern Europe and Central Asia is strongly linked to significant contributions from donors softly earmarked for the humanitarian response in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Localization funding

Governments and civil society organizations play critical roles as first responders when disasters strike. They are vital in sustaining longer-term efforts and ensuring last-mile delivery. Local non-governmental organizations are at the forefront in implementing UNFPA's humanitarian responses everywhere in the world. Of the financing provided to partners through the HTF in 2023, over 80 per cent went to local and national partners in 18 countries, demonstrating UNFPA's strong investment in localized responses.

The HTF offers a flexible means of financing, allowing adaptive programming that strengthens meaningful

partner interactions and coordination with both governmental and non-governmental actors. In Ethiopia, for example, the majority of HTF funding was channelled to local partners providing SRH and GBV services to women and girls in pastoral communities affected by the severe drought.

A significant portion of the direct implementation of HTF funds involves the central procurement of IARH kits and related medicines, dignity kits and life-saving medical equipment for maternity units and mobile clinics. Equipment is ultimately transferred to partners for their use in humanitarian responses.



Staff from UNFPA partner, the Şanlıurfa Women and Youth Support Center, load the dignity kits into the vehicle for distribution in the earthquake-hit areas in Türkiye. © UNFPA/Eren Korkmaz

Donors

The generous contributions of multiple donors make the work of the HTF possible. In 2023, the HTF benefited from contributions from 11 donors plus UNFPA's Individual Giving Programme, totalling approximately \$32.3 million.



NORWAY
10.7M



SWEDEN
9.1M



GERMANY
4.8M



AUSTRIA
2.2M



IRELAND
1.6M



KOREA
1.6M








SPAIN
632K











PRIVATE
CONTRIBUTIONS
1.8M

Fully flexible contributions of \$11.4 million from the following donors allowed the allocation of resources to the most underfunded responses as needed.

Donor	Contributions received (USD)
 Germany	\$4,777,081
 Republic of Korea	\$1,500,000
 Norway	\$3,722,662
 Open Society Foundations	\$800,000
 Spain	\$632,911
Total	\$11,432,654

Softly earmarked contributions, targeting multi-country regional responses, also played an important role in allocating enough funding to complex emergency responses. The following softly earmarked contributions were received in 2023.

Donor	Contributions received (USD)	Soft earmarking
 Austria	\$2,192,982	Ukraine and neighbouring countries response
 Friends of UNFPA	\$95,000	Türkiye/Syrian Arab Republic earthquake response
 Individual Giving Programme	\$818,862	Yemen, Ukraine and neighbouring countries, Türkiye/Syrian Arab Republic earthquake, Gaza, others.
 Ireland	\$1,590,668	Ukraine and neighbouring countries response
 Music Securities, Inc.	\$82,951	Ukraine and neighbouring countries response
 Norway	\$6,945,420	Ukraine and neighbouring countries response
 Sweden	\$9,134,345	Ukraine and neighbouring countries response
 UNFCU Foundation, Inc.	\$41,283	Türkiye/Syrian Arab Republic earthquake response
Total	\$20,901,512	



Annex

Opening balances, new allocations and total funding made available for 2023 per country.

UNFPA region	Country	Opening balance in 2023	New allocations in 2023	Total funding made available
Arab States	Libya	\$0	\$350,000	\$350,000
	Somalia	\$1,985,541	\$303,478	\$2,289,019
	State of Palestine	\$0	\$1,091,327	\$1,091,327
	Sudan	\$300	\$343,696	\$343,996
	Syrian Arab Republic	\$0	\$219,100	\$219,100
	Regional total		\$1,985,841	\$2,307,601
Asia and the Pacific	Afghanistan	\$418,551	\$13,637	\$432,188
	Bangladesh	\$111,883	\$0	\$111,883
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	\$0	\$200,000	\$200,000
	Indonesia	\$213,520	\$0	\$213,520
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	\$0	\$18,150	\$18,150
	Pakistan	\$120,653	\$6,751	\$127,404
	Papua New Guinea	\$16,618	\$0	\$16,618
	Timor-Leste	\$0	\$104,330	\$104,330
Regional total		\$881,225	\$342,868	\$1,224,093
Eastern Europe and Central Asia	Regional office	\$948,881	\$50,111	\$998,992
	Belarus	\$37,461	\$380,405	\$417,866
	Kyrgyzstan	\$112,145	\$0	\$112,145
	Moldova	\$1,999,944	\$2,963,784	\$4,963,728
	Türkiye	\$500,000	\$371,728	\$871,728
	Ukraine	\$7,573,841	\$15,592,639	\$23,166,480
	Regional total		\$11,172,272	\$19,358,667

UNFPA region	Country	Opening balance in 2023	New allocations in 2023	Total funding made available
East and Southern Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo	\$395,973	\$0	\$395,973
	Ethiopia	\$764	\$418,000	\$418,764
	Kenya	\$0	\$139,927	\$139,927
	Mozambique	\$10,296	\$0	\$10,296
	Uganda	\$252,004	\$144,637	\$396,641
	Regional total	\$659,037	\$702,564	\$1,361,601
Latin America and the Caribbean	Cuba	\$176,195	\$25,000	\$201,195
	Guatemala	\$332,482	\$0	\$332,482
	Haiti	\$0	\$700,000	\$700,000
	Venezuela	\$86,054	\$0	\$86,054
	Regional total	\$594,731	\$725,000	\$1,319,731
West and Central Africa	Benin	\$0	\$120,000	\$120,000
	Cameroon	\$392,944	\$0	\$392,944
	Central African Republic	\$248,092	\$0	\$248,092
	Chad	\$484,687	\$0	\$484,687
	Côte d'Ivoire	\$0	\$218,000	\$218,000
	Nigeria	\$553,692	\$0	\$553,692
	Togo	\$0	\$185,000	\$185,000
	Regional total	\$1,679,415	\$523,000	\$2,202,415
Subtotal		\$16,972,521	\$23,959,700	\$40,932,221
*Countries with allocations below \$10,000		\$27,595	\$1,000	\$28,588
Grand total		\$17,000,118	\$23,960,701	\$40,960,819

* 10 countries had funding available below \$10,000 during the year, related to small contributions received via the Individual Giving Programme or small balances rolled over from 2023.



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