Humanitarian, peace and stability, Africa

Does Africa get its share of humanitarian money for its displaced people?

Sub-Saharan Africa hosts a third of the world's forcibly displaced people and 39% of its internally displaced. In 2025 African crises received 39% of the money given to UN-coordinated plans: a fair share of a total that nearly halved.

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In short

- At the end of 2025, sub-Saharan Africa hosted 33.2% of the world's 117.8 million forcibly displaced people and 38.6% of its 82.2 million internally displaced. African plans received 39.4% of 2025 humanitarian funding and were funded at almost the same rate as plans elsewhere: 29.6% against 30.2%.
- Funding to African plans halved in a year, from US$10.50 billion in 2024 to US$5.36 billion in 2025. About a fifth of the fall reflects Ethiopia having no coordinated plan in 2025; without it, the fall was 43.5%, the same as elsewhere.
- Refugees fare worst. Africa's three refugee response plans were 21.2% funded, against 30.7% for its in-country plans. Sudan's refugee plan was 16.2% funded while the number of Sudanese refugees rose 35%, to 2.8 million.

The evidence

Each figure carries its source, its date and a label for how much weight it can bear. Open 'How we know this' for the method.

✓ Record or count — End of 2025

9.1 million

people were internally displaced in Sudan, the largest internal displacement crisis in the world.

UNHCR, Global Trends 2025; IDMC, Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026

How we know this

UNHCR and the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre agree on this figure for the end of 2025. A further 2.8 million Sudanese were refugees in other countries, up 35% on 2024.

✓ Record or count — 2025

39.4%

of funding to UN-coordinated humanitarian plans went to African crises. Sub-Saharan Africa holds 38.6% of the world's internally displaced people.

Probatio Africa calculation from OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and IDMC

How we know this

US$5.36 billion received by 20 African country, flash and refugee plans, of US$13.61 billion for all plans in the Global Humanitarian Overview. A cross-regional plan for migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen is excluded.

✓ Record or count

2025

16.2%

of the Sudan refugee response plan was funded: US$99.4 million of US$611.8 million. Sudan's plan inside the country was 37.1% funded.

OCHA Financial Tracking Service

How we know this

Funding reported against each plan, read in January 2026 after the plan year closed. The Sudan refugee plan covers refugees in neighbouring countries, including Egypt and Libya.

✓ Record or count

2024 to 2025

−49%

fall in funding to African humanitarian plans in one year, from US$10.50 billion to US$5.36 billion. Coverage fell from 52% to 30%.

Probatio Africa calculation from OCHA's Financial Tracking Service

How we know this

Ethiopia's 2024 plan received US$1.0 billion; it had no coordinated plan in the 2025 figures. Excluding Ethiopia, the fall was 43.5%, the same as for plans outside Africa (43.1%).

Sub-Saharan Africa's share of the world: displacement and humanitarian money

Sub-Saharan Africa as a share of the world total, 2025



Displacement from UNHCR and IDMC; funding from OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (UN-coordinated plans only). Each row compares a different quantity with its world total.

Sources: 1, 2, 3, 4.

What the data show

UNHCR reports that 117.8 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2025, 5.4 million fewer than a year earlier and the first fall in a decade[1]. Countries in Eastern and Southern Africa hosted 22.7 million and those in West and Central Africa 16.4 million, together a third of the world total[1]. Sudan remained the largest internal displacement crisis in the world, with 9.1 million people displaced inside the country, and refugees from Sudan rose 35% to 2.8 million. Chad hosted 1.5 million refugees, nine in ten of them Sudanese; Uganda hosted 1.9 million[1].

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre counts 82.2 million internally displaced people worldwide at the end of 2025, 68.6 million by conflict and 13.6 million by disasters[2]. Sub-Saharan Africa had 31.7 million, almost 39% of the total, and recorded 17.3 million new displacements during 2025, 27.8% of the world's[2,3]. Its largest displaced populations were in Sudan (9.1 million), the DR Congo (4.3 million) and Nigeria (3.5 million)[2].

Humanitarian money fell much faster. The plans in the 2025 Global Humanitarian Overview required US$45.46 billion and received US$13.61 billion, 29.9%[4]. The 20 African plans required US$18.12 billion (39.8% of the total) and received US$5.36 billion (39.4%); their coverage, 29.6%, was almost the same as for plans elsewhere, 30.2%[4]. In 2024 African plans had received US$10.50 billion, with coverage of 52%[5]. Excluding Ethiopia, which had a 2024 plan but none in the 2025 figures, funding to African plans fell 43.5%, the same as elsewhere.

Within Africa, money is concentrated. Sudan's two plans received US$1.64 billion, 30.6% of all funding to African plans; the other 18 shared US$3.72 billion[4]. Refugee plans fared worst: Africa's three refugee response plans (Sudan, South Sudan and the DR Congo) were 21.2% funded, against 30.7% for in-country plans. Refugee and migrant plans outside Africa did worse still, at 14.8%[4].

For 2026, OCHA asked for US$33 billion to reach 135 million of the 239 million people in need, with a prioritised US$23 billion for 87 million [6]. That targets 56% of people in need.

Where sources disagree

'Africa' differs by source. UNHCR's African regions exclude North Africa, where many Sudanese refugees live; the IDMC's sub-Saharan Africa includes Sudan; and the Sudan refugee plan covers refugees in Egypt and Libya. We have not adjusted for these differences, which are small.

UNHCR counts 68.7 million people internally displaced by conflict; the IDMC counts 82.2 million, adding those displaced by disasters. We use the IDMC throughout for internal displacement.

We have not calculated funding per displaced person. Humanitarian plans fund whole affected populations, not only displaced people, and many of the world's displaced live in countries with no humanitarian plan, where costs are met from national budgets. Dividing funding by displacement would overstate Africa's position.

What this means for decisions

- In 2025 the problem was the size of the total, not Africa's share of it. Plans in Africa and elsewhere were funded, on average, at about 30 cents on the dollar.
- Countries hosting refugees, such as Chad and Uganda, carry the cost through the least-funded instruments: Africa's refugee plans were funded at two-thirds the rate of its in-country plans.
- One crisis takes nearly a third of the continent's humanitarian money. The other 18 African plans compete for what is left.
- With 2026 plans targeting 56% of people in need, 104 million people in need are not targeted by any plan, and no plan reports on what happens to them.

Method

- Displacement: UNHCR Global Trends 2025 (June 2026) for forcibly displaced people by host region; IDMC Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026 (May 2026) for internally displaced people and new displacements.
- Funding: OCHA Financial Tracking Service, coordinated plans for 2024 and 2025, read in January 2026 after both plan years had closed. African plans are the 20 country, flash and refugee response plans for African crises listed for 2025; their requirements and funding sum to US$18,115.0 million and US$5,363.6 million.
- Shares: African plans' funding ÷ the Global Humanitarian Overview total; sub-Saharan Africa's displaced population ÷ the world total. Coverage elsewhere excludes the cross-regional plan for migrants from the Horn of Africa to Yemen.

Limitations

- We could not verify 2026 funding received to date, so the brief does not report it.
- The Financial Tracking Service records funding reported against plans. Pledges, unreported aid and government spending fall outside it.
- Displacement shares say where people are, not how severe their needs are or what it costs to meet them.
- Figures for plan years can still change slightly as late contributions are reported.

Sources

1. UNHCR (June 2026). **Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2025**. https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/2026-06/global-trends-report-2025.pdf
2. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (May 2026). **Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026**. https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/IDMC-GRID-2026-Global-Report-on-Internal-Displacement.pdf

3. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (May 2026). **Global Report on Internal Displacement 2026: summary**. https://api.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/2026-idmc-global-report-on-internal-displacement-2026-summary-en.pdf

4. OCHA Financial Tracking Service (Read January 2026). **Coordinated plans 2025**. https://fts.unocha.org/plans/overview/2025

5. OCHA Financial Tracking Service (Read January 2026). **Coordinated plans 2024**. https://fts.unocha.org/plans/overview/2024

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