

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

DRC STANDBY ROSTER

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FOREWORD

In 2024, the DRC Standby Roster continued its steadfast support to humanitarian responses and protection efforts around the world. The DRC Standby Roster's deployments to the operations of our UN partners offered expertise and strong dedication, ensuring skilled and timely assistance to the growing number of people in need.

While working under challenging conditions and often in unsafe environments, the experts deployed helped respond to humanitarian needs caused by natural disasters, armed conflicts and protracted crises.

“Thanks to our roster members and dedicated deployees, we are proud to highlight that the DRC Standby Roster remained a strong partner in the global humanitarian response in 2024.”

During 2024, deployees sent by the DRC Standby Roster provided support to response efforts related to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the drought in Southern Africa, the protracted Rohingya refugee crisis in Bangladesh, the civil war in Sudan, the ongoing war in Ukraine, the rebuilding of Syria and so many more. We also continued to facilitate deployments of skilled experts within the technical areas of climate and environmental issues as well as renewable energy.

Another remarkable highlight is our deployees' valuable contribution to finding durable solutions for thousands of refugees via registration and resettlement support.

Our Resettlement Roster deployees to UNHCR helped at least 28,000 refugees to access resettlement in 2024. Moreover, in 2024 the DRC Standby Roster initiated the GBV & Child Protection Deployment Scheme, providing roving expertise within these areas to UNHCR's operations across the world.

Thanks to our roster members and dedicated deployees, we are proud to highlight that the DRC Standby Roster remained a strong partner in the global humanitarian response in 2024. Without their dedication, experience and commitment to assist where the needs are highest, we could not run a professional roster. Our deployees are always a guarantee of high-quality programme delivery.

I would also like to share my gratitude to our many partners, donors and trainers. Our close collaboration and the strength of our partnerships is essential to the work of our rosters and the people we are committed to assist.



Maria Dyhr Zangenberg

Operational Lead of the DRC Standby Roster

DRC STANDBY ROSTER: WHAT WE DO

When a crisis hits, all actors providing protection and humanitarian assistance need to respond swiftly by having the right human resources on the ground quickly. This remains the core objective of the DRC Standby Roster.

The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) Standby Roster works to enhance the United Nations' (UN) response to humanitarian crises and displacement, and as such enables faster and more effective support to people in need. This is achieved through the deployment of experts and specialists to UN and DRC operations across the world. The DRC Standby Roster consists of four active deployment schemes.



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE ROSTER

The Humanitarian Response Roster has been operating since 1991 and is comprised of more than 550 highly qualified experts, representing more than 70 nationalities with a variety of technical profiles. The roster supports eight UN partners as well as DRC's own operations in both emergency and protracted crises through the deployment of experts with a broad variety of competencies.



RESETTLEMENT ROSTER

The UNHCR-DRC Resettlement Roster enhances UNHCR's capacity to process resettlement cases, delivering protection and durable solutions to the world's most vulnerable refugees. Through this scheme, DRC deploys skilled and experienced experts in Resettlement, Refugee Status Determination, Best Interest Determination and Assessment, Child Protection, and Complementary Pathways to UNHCR operations globally.



REGISTRATION ROSTER

The UNHCR-DRC Registration Roster supports UNHCR's work within registration and identity management through deployments of experts that strengthen UNHCR's field operations' capacity to register and identify refugees, asylum seekers and other people of concern to facilitate access to basic assistance and protection. Further, the deployments serve to identify individuals with specific needs, prevent fraud and corruption and ensure adequate planning in relation to shelter, food, water, health, sanitation, and cash-based interventions.



GBV & CHILD PROTECTION SCHEME

The UNHCR-DRC GBV & Child Protection Scheme aims to enhance UNHCR's capacity to prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection risks in both emergency and protracted settings. The deployments of roving experts support local programming, coordination, and capacity building, while reinforcing national protection systems.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

An overview of activities that defined a successful year for the DRC Standby Roster.

Deployment Response

The DRC Standby Roster facilitated 173 deployments of experts to 53 countries, aiding both UN and DRC operations.



Strategic Focus on Emergencies

Prioritising Humanitarian Response Roster deployments addressing urgent humanitarian needs, strongly focused on crises in Sudan, Chad, Gaza, and Zambia.

Strengthening our Pool of Experts

Recruitment of 119 new roster members, including Spanish-speaking resettlement experts ready for deployment to operations in Latin America.



Comprehensive Training Initiatives

Online inductions and technical trainings equipped roster members for effective deployment and support.



Expanding UNHCR Partnership

Starting up a new deployment scheme with UNHCR, deploying experts within GBV and child protection.



Coordinated Responses

Strong engagement in the Standby Partnership Network, including joint efforts to improve PSEA measures and evaluating the Sudan crisis response.



Monitoring Mission Insights

Monitoring missions to Egypt, Zambia, and Mozambique assessed deployee wellbeing, staff integration, profile match, sustainability plans, etc.



Launch of Candidate Database

Registering close to 1,000 candidates interested in joining the Humanitarian Response Roster in the new Candidate Database launched in October.



Deployments in 2024

Insights into the last year of deployments across the four deployment schemes.

OVERVIEW



GENDER BALANCE

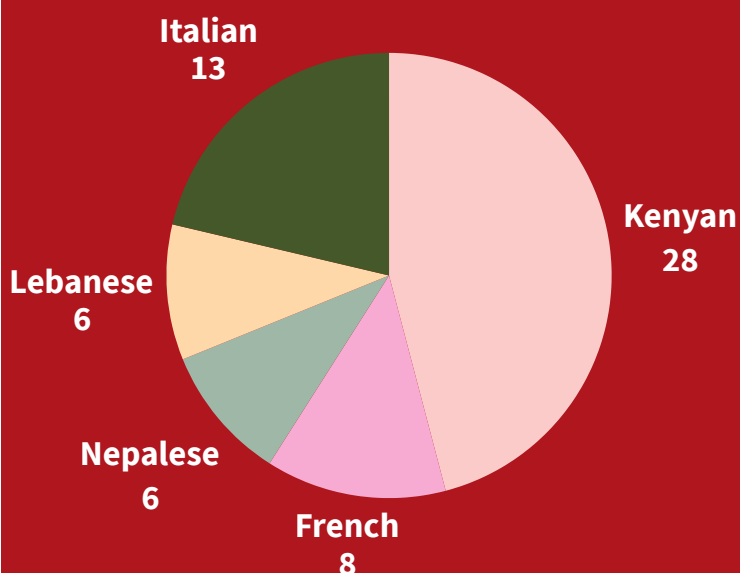


55% MALE
44% FEMALE
1% OTHER



56 NATIONALITIES

TOP 5 NATIONALITIES OF DEPLOYEES



It remains important for the DRC Standby Roster to maintain a culturally diverse pool of experts, to respond effectively and sensitively to global humanitarian needs.

FASTEST DEPLOYMENT

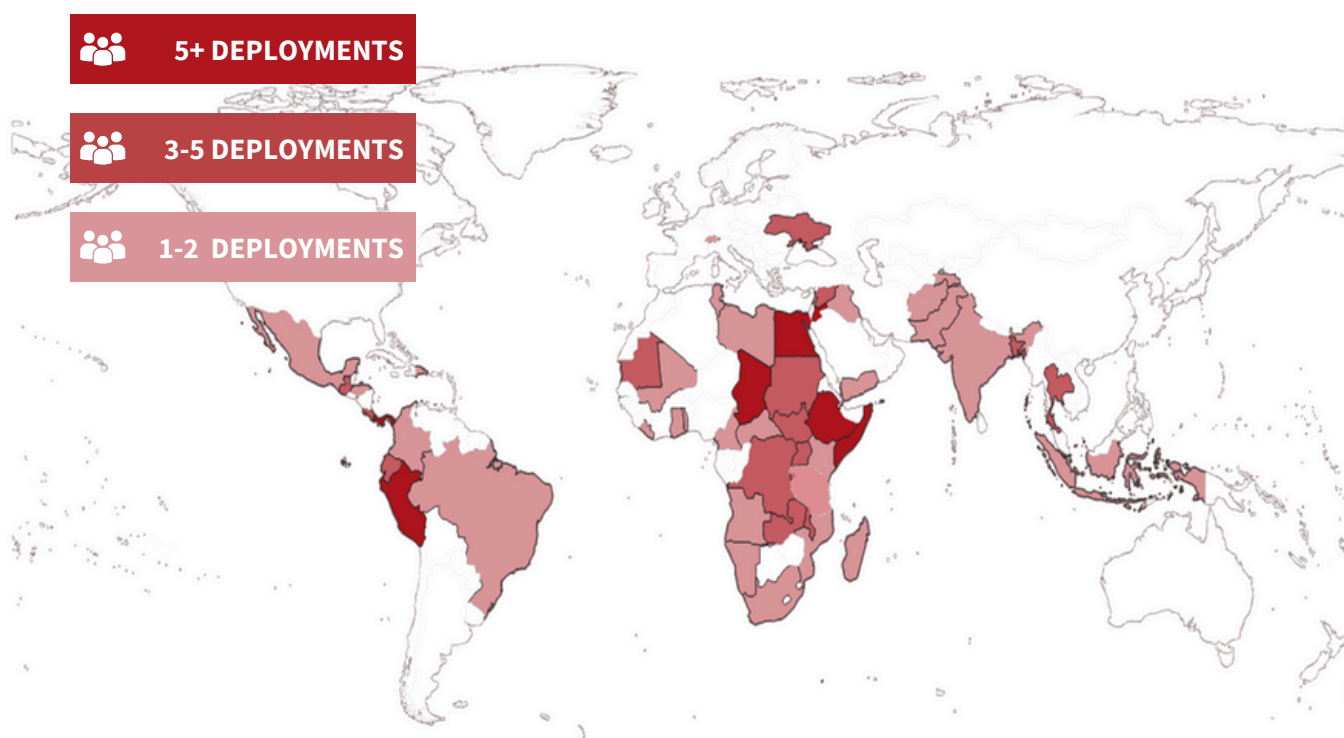
**17
DAYS**



The fastest deployment - from date of request received to date the deployee arrived at the duty station - was 17 days.

This was a deployment of a WASH Specialist to UNICEF South Sudan.

2024 DEPLOYMENTS BY COUNTRY



TOP EXPERT PROFILES DEPLOYED*

**654** RESETTLEMENT**89** REGISTRATION**61** INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**49** LOGISTICS & SUPPLY

*In deployment months

The four deployment schemes deployed over 30 different profiles during the course of 2024. The most common are listed above.

**450****NEW REQUESTS**

The Humanitarian Response Roster received 450 requests for deployments from UN partners over the year.

**28,000****REFUGEES**

DRC Resettlement deployees helped at least 28,000 refugees to access resettlement in 2024.

DEPLOYMENT MONTHS BY DONOR

**769**

UNHCR

184

DANIDA

104

WFP

43

FCDO

23

UNFPA

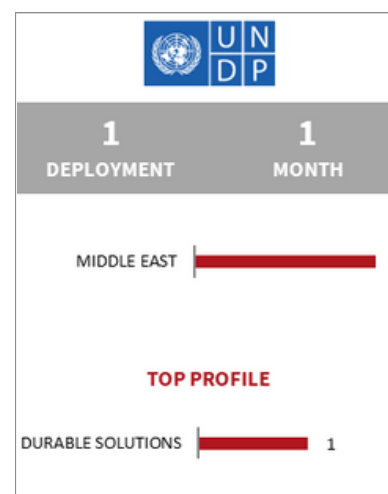
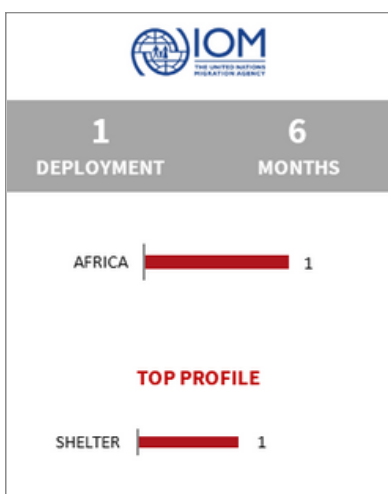
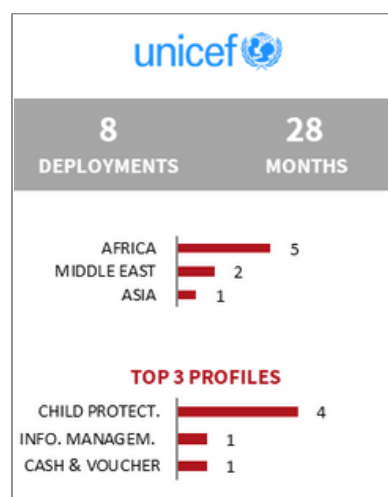
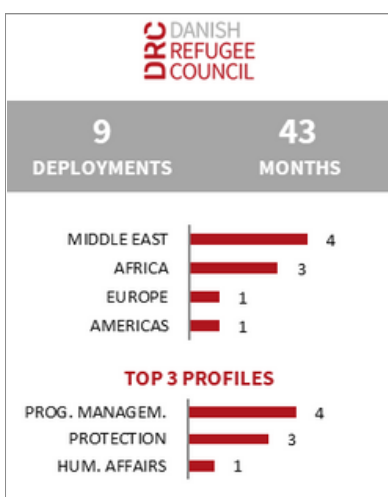
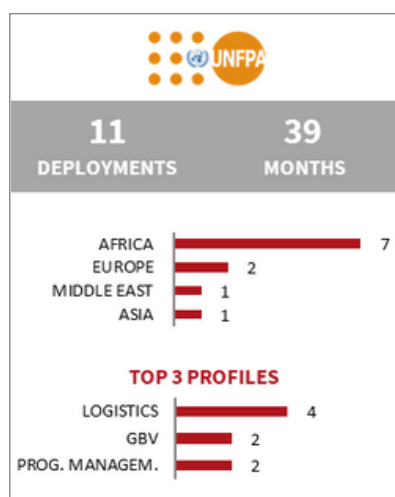
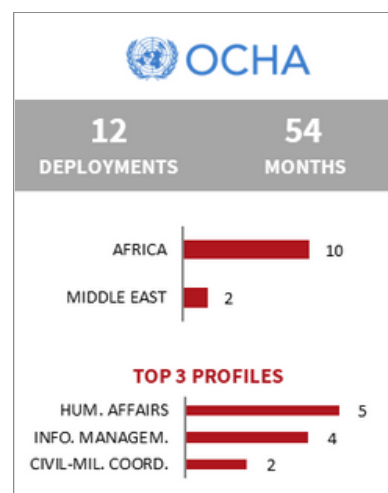
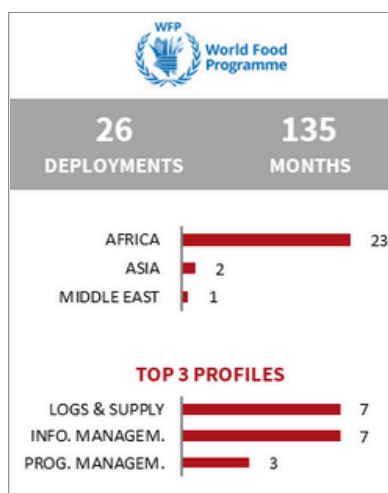
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FAO

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DEPLOYMENTS BY AGENCY AND PROFILE



FINDING THE RIGHT PEOPLE

To maintain a strong and relevant pool of experts, the DRC Standby Roster conducted targeted recruitment during the year and launched a new initiative to attract interested candidates and strengthen the ability to meet our partners' needs for personnel.

Deploying the right people at the right time remains the core objective of the DRC Standby Roster. To meet the needs of our partners and match evolving trends and demands within the humanitarian sector, it is imperative to constantly ensure that the DRC Standby Roster has an adequate number of available experts with relevant skills and experience.

New members are recruited to the DRC Standby Roster through a comprehensive process where candidates are screened, interviewed, reviewed and tested prior to being awarded a roster membership. The recruitment rounds in 2024 saw high application numbers, and a total of 119 new roster members were welcomed onboard.



To meet the needs from the UNHCR resettlement operations for experts deploying to Latin America, the recruitment of resettlement experts in 2024 was focused on Spanish speakers ready to deploy to this region. From February to September, DRC received 866 applications for membership, of which 84 were successful. This brought the total of experts on the Resettlement Roster to 524 members by the end of 2024.



Recruitment of members to the Humanitarian Response Roster was targeted experts within gender-based violence (GBV), protection, and cluster coordination. A record-high 1,200 candidates applied, of which 35 were awarded memberships, bringing the total number of active members of the Humanitarian Response Roster to more than 550.

New database to enable rapid recruitment

To strengthen the ability to provide fast support to UN partners in case of unavailability of existing members, the DRC Humanitarian Response Roster's Candidate Databased was launched in October. This platform allows candidates interested in joining the Humanitarian Response Roster to register when we are not actively recruiting. Candidates should have a minimum of 3 years of technical experience as well as international humanitarian field experience, ideally with the UN.

While registering in the database does not automatically result in roster membership, it provides a pathway for skilled humanitarian experts to express their interest in future opportunities and deployments with DRC. And it gives DRC Standby Roster the opportunity to do rapid recruitment for positions that can't be filled by members in the existing pool of experts. In 2024, 968 experts were registered in the database, and it continues to grow in 2025.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and capacity building remained an essential part of what we offer as a deploying agency. Both to ensure that roster members are well equipped for deployments as well as to support them in deepening their expertise, thereby maintaining a strong, relevant pool of skilled professionals.



Induction Training

Three induction trainings for new members of both the Resettlement and Registration Rosters and the Humanitarian Response Roster were held and attended by a total of 47 members. Participants attended a comprehensive set of sessions on topics including core values and operations of DRC and the DRC Standby Roster, safety on deployment, wellbeing and code of conduct, and they also heard from partners, receiving UN operations and current deployees.



UN Training

Eight trainings hosted by various UN agencies were offered to members of the Humanitarian Response Roster. Four members were selected for participation by our UN partners and completed three different trainings on GBV Risk Mitigation (UNICEF), Information Management (OCHA) and Emergency Management (UNHCR). Their training participation was financially supported by the DRC Standby Roster.



New DRC PSEAH course

DRC launched a new e-learning course on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment (PSEAH). The training is central to DRC's safeguarding commitment and mandatory for all DRC staff members. Completion of the course is also a requirement for all DRC Standby Roster members selected for deployment.



Wellbeing during deployment

11 roster members attended a two-day psycho-social workshop in May and December on coping with emotional challenges of humanitarian work. The training was facilitated by Psychologists Across Borders with the aim to provide the tools and psychosocial skills needed for deployments and in potentially hardship duty situations.

TRAINING PARTICIPANT REFLECTIONS: “WILL STAY WITH ME THROUGHOUT MY CAREER”

Serge Ouedraogo is a member of the DRC Humanitarian Response Roster and has completed several deployments as a Livelihoods Specialist. In October, he participated in UNHCR’s Workshop on Emergency Management (WEM) in Neuhausen, Germany with financial support from the DRC Standby Roster. The course simulates deployment conditions and integrates both security training to provide critical life-saving knowledge and skills to deliver in high-threat environments. The workshop is known for being an intense and rewarding experience, and Serge confirmed that:

“This workshop was among the best I have ever participated in. It was an intense, unique, and immersive training experience, especially during the field simulations. The trainers were truly engaged, as were the participants, and the

diversity of the participants as well as the quality of the trainers greatly enhanced the experience,” he shared after having completed the training.

Serge is certain that the course taught him things that he will remember for a long time and be able to draw on for future deployments:

“The practical simulations and team dynamics created a strong sense of solidarity and pushed me to reflect deeply on decision-making under pressure — something that will stay with me throughout my career. Beyond the technical skills, it was also a rich and meaningful human experience, marked by mutual support, respect, and inspiring connections with fellow participants. I learned many things regarding work in emergency situations, and these lessons will be very useful for me. I am grateful that the DRC Standby Roster supported my participation.”



Serge Ouedraogo (fourth from right) and other participants during a scenario at the Workshop on Emergency Management (WEM) in Neuhausen, Germany in October 2024. Photo: UNHCR

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

“WE CANNOT MEET ALL THE NEEDS, BUT AT LEAST WE ARE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING”

Ten years after her previous assignment in Gaza, Fatima Al-Wahaidy returned on a deployment as Gender-Based Violence Program and Coordination Specialist to UNFPA. Faced with immense needs and operational complexities, close collaboration with local partners was key to serve women and girls.



Fatima Al-Wahaidy (in UNFPA vest) was deployed to Gaza from November 2023 to February 2024. Photo: Mustafa Abu Modalala

Upon arriving in Gaza, the reality on the ground was entirely different from what was reflected in the reports and the news. The UNFPA team was based in a relatively safe area at the time in Rafah which offered a glimpse into the harsh realities faced by the Palestinians in Gaza.

UNFPA was determined to continue serving in Gaza through Gender-based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) programs. During my deployment, we reactivated the GBV Sub-Cluster, a coordination forum focusing on the prevention and response to GBV. Interacting with and listening to local partners highlighted that the standardized approaches were insufficient in addressing the needs of this emergency. Instead,

we worked together on crafting interventions grounded in local context and realities.

Urgent protection needs for women and girls

Our efforts were severely challenged by the widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, Israeli restrictions on aid delivery to Gaza, and the utilization of available buildings as shelters for displaced individuals. Over time, as displacement persisted and resources decreased, concerns regarding protection and GBV began to surface among affected populations. To address this, we worked persistently to ensure the provision of menstrual health management items to women and girls as

a risk mitigation intervention and providing psychosocial support services as well as establishing clinical management of rape services.

I remember seeing a latrine in an informal market, where women queued up amidst a group of men. This humiliating scenario highlights the urgent need for segregated and dignified facilities and reflects a glimpse of the reality for women and girls. 50% of the WASH facilities lack proper separation, further exacerbating the vulnerability of women and perpetuating the cycle of GBV.

A different reality

I worked with UNFPA during the 2014 escalations in Gaza, and people were also displaced and moved to the UNRWA schools for shelter. At that time, organizations were able to implement programs and meet the needs of the affected people. Now, the reality is different. The UNRWA schools, for example, are hosting four to five times more than their capacity, and it is simply not possible to provide services within the centres.

The operational environment do not allow for planning a response, unlike in previous years where we were able to ensure that there were referral pathways and support services for survivors. What we have mapped out now is a skeleton of an emergency referral pathway which can collapse at any time. And we cannot meet all the needs, but at least we are trying to do something. The situation in Gaza is very unpredictable and changes by the hour.

True heroes on the ground

UNFPA adopts a localized approach to program implementation, heavily relying on national organizations as part of the commitment to support national capacities. Despite significant challenges including displacement, loss of premises, and even casualties and injuries among their staff, these organizations remain crucial partners in outreach efforts, especially in distributing essential items for menstrual health management.

“The national organizations are the true heroes on the ground demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination in serving their communities amidst challenging circumstances and insufficient protection for humanitarian workers.”

In the current context, they serve as the backbone of operations, engaging directly with women and girls daily. The trust and relationships they have built within the community are invaluable, guiding us in planning and implementing future strategies effectively.

The national organizations are the true heroes on the ground demonstrating remarkable resilience and determination in serving their communities amidst challenging circumstances and insufficient protection for humanitarian workers. I was deeply humbled by their unwavering commitment to serve, utilizing whatever resources were available, and their courageous efforts to amplify the voices of women and girls.

Fatima Al-Wahaidy's three-month deployment ended in February 2024. The interview was published in April 2024.

STRENGTHENING PROTECTION: NEW STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH UNHCR

In April 2024, the DRC Standby Roster was selected by UNHCR's Division of International Protection to lead a new Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection (CP) Deployment Scheme. Chosen through a competitive process, the DRC Standby Roster stood out for its proven expertise in rapid, high-quality deployments to the UN, robust HR systems, and strong safeguarding and financial management practices.

Launched in June 2024, the project aimed to enhance UNHCR's capacity to prevent and respond to GBV and CP risks in both emergency and protracted settings. Despite a challenging recruitment landscape, DRC successfully deployed six seasoned experts, three in GBV and three in CP, following rigorous technical assessments and vetting of candidates. The GBV specialists were deployed to Farchana (Chad), Bassikounou (Mauritania), and Metetí (Panama), while the child protection experts were stationed in Kasulu (Tanzania), Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic), and Iriba (Chad). These deployments supported local programming, coordination, and capacity building, while reinforcing protection systems.



Children in settlements near Mae Sot, Thailand being interviewed for resettlement. Photo: DRC/Jenna Magee

Field Impact: Child protection response in the Dominican Republic



Child Protection deployee Rocio de Miguel Rodriguez during a birth documentation workshop. Photo: UNHCR

In the Dominican Republic, where the protection landscape remains complex—particularly due to the Haitian situation—DRC responded to growing child protection needs with the deployment of child protection specialist Rocio de Miguel Rodriguez. The country hosts a rising number of Haitian, Venezuelan, and other persons in need of protection, as well as migrant children, many of whom face serious risks such as family separation, early parenthood and barriers to access documentation. Rocio's deployment focused on strengthening protection services for children identified as having international protection needs or seeking national solutions. She played a key role in embedding child protection into strategic planning and providing technical guidance to UNHCR and its partners. Rocio made a significant contribution to UNHCR's efforts—from integrating critical child protection considerations into strategic frameworks to developing actionable recommendations that address barriers and enhance advocacy initiatives.

By the end of 2024, the initiative had laid a strong foundation for long-term impact. Its success led to a renewal for 2025, reflecting both operational achievements and the deep trust built through effective collaboration and a shared commitment to protection.

Swift support for the most vulnerable

Women and children are among the most vulnerable in situations of displacement and statelessness. Children make up over 40% of forcibly displaced populations and face increased risks of violence, exploitation, and

abuse - especially when emergencies disrupt families, education, and support systems. UNHCR's GBV and CP policies provide strategic frameworks to address these risks. They emphasize early, coordinated, and survivor - or child-centered responses, while strengthening national systems and community resilience. This new deployment scheme gives UNHCR greater flexibility to respond swiftly in emergencies and provide sustained technical support in protracted crises – ensuring that GBV and CP considerations are embedded from the outset and throughout humanitarian responses.

Field Impact: Strengthening GBV response in Mauritania

In Bassikounou, Mauritania, our GBV specialist, Sandra Berty, was deployed to support UNHCR's sub-delegation in a region facing one of the most complex protection environments in West Africa. As of July 2024, Mauritania hosted over 142,000 refugees, the highest number ever recorded, with the majority originating from Mali and concentrated in the Hodh Chargui region. The Mbera refugee camp alone hosted more than 109,000 people, 83% of whom were women and children. Sandra's deployment focused on preventing, mitigating, and responding to GBV risks in this emergency context and it was particularly critical in a context where child marriage, sexual violence, emotional abuse, and lack of access to resources remained prevalent risks.

According to Sandra's supervisor, the "deployment significantly strengthened the operation in Hodh El Chargui by bringing in specialized expertise and revitalizing GBV-related systems and coordination mechanisms. Her work led to the reactivation of the GBV Sub-Working Group and the initiation of a Health GBV Technical Working Group, both of which enhanced inter-agency collaboration and clarified roles and responsibilities in the response".



*Sandra Berty (right) during a GBV case management training.
Photo: UNHCR/Oumar Mamadou Ball*

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

ENSURING DATA-DRIVEN DECISIONS FOR PROTECTION OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

Reliable data is crucial for protection efforts and emergency response. Deployed as Operational Data Management Officer to UNHCR in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, Mphatso Kalombo worked to strengthen the use of data management tools and promote decisions based on solid facts and figures.

Since gaining independence in 1991, Tajikistan along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have provided refuge to thousands fleeing war, persecution, and human rights violations. The five Central Asian countries host over 20,000 refugees and asylum seekers, along with nearly 38,000 stateless persons. Tajikistan alone hosts around 10,000 asylum seekers and refugees, primarily Afghans, with 3,000 stateless persons.

UNHCR collaborates with Central Asian governments to enhance protection of forcibly displaced persons. This includes strengthening asylum systems, promoting local integration, eradicating statelessness, and building emergency response capacity.

“PRIMES and its associated tools ensure that individuals are registered correctly and that their identities are verifiable, which is vital for delivering services, legal protection, and support, such as cash-based assistance.”

In my role, I am responsible for maintaining and promoting the use of PRIMES (Population Registration and Identity Management Eco-System) tools in Central Asia to ensure reliable data for protection interventions and reporting. These systems are crucial for UNHCR’s work in registration and identity management, providing accurate, secure, and real-time data. PRIMES and its associated tools ensure that individuals are registered correctly and that their identities are verifiable, which is vital for delivering services,



*Mphatso Kalombo at the UNHCR office in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
Photo: UNHCR Kazakhstan*

legal protection, and support, such as cash-based assistance. Together, they create an ecosystem that fosters transparency, efficiency, and reliability in managing refugee data globally.

Protection efforts need reliable data

I work to promote the effective use of PRIMES tools. One of my key achievements has been establishing comprehensive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and updating critical documentation, which has significantly improved the consistency and reliability of PRIMES tool usage across the operation. A major focus has been on conducting thorough data quality checks and initiating a clean-up process, which is key to ensuring that the data we rely on for protection and assistance is both accurate

and reliable. Although I came into this role with significant experience in data management and working with UNHCR operations, I've learned that no matter the size of the operation, the principles of adaptability, attention to detail, and collaboration are key to ensuring effective outcomes. This experience has also given me a deeper appreciation for tailoring strategies to fit the specific needs of a smaller operation while still applying the high standards expected of larger-scale operations.

Data management progress in the pipeline

Tajikistan will likely continue to host a significant number of Afghan refugees, particularly as the political situation in Afghanistan remains

uncertain. As such, Tajikistan is expected to maintain its role as a key host and transit country in the region.

Looking ahead, I foresee significant progress in the data management aspect of UNHCR's work in Tajikistan. Ongoing efforts to improve data accuracy and enhance staff capacity will not only improve the registration process but also ensure that decision-making is based on reliable data, ultimately providing better and more timely services for forcibly displaced persons. These improvements will streamline assistance efforts, making it easier to identify needs and provide timely support.

Mphatso Kalombo's 14-month deployment ended in March 2025. The interview was published in October 2024.



Mountain view from the window of Mphatso Kalombo's office in Almaty, Kazakhstan during his deployment to UNHCR. Photo: Mphatso Kalombo

SCALING UP RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Intensified natural hazards cause displacement and massive humanitarian needs across the world. Following targeted recruitment of experts, the DRC Standby Roster increased deployments to climate-related response efforts and sustainable energy rollout in 2024, particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa.



Unprecedented flooding caused displacement and massive humanitarian needs across various African regions in 2024.

Recent years have seen countries heavily affected by flash floods, severe droughts, wildfires and cyclones. While extreme weather events in certain areas of the world are common, it is well established that effects of climate change are driving an intensification of climate shocks and stresses. The number of internal displacements triggered by disasters has risen nearly sixfold across Africa in the last 15 years reaching 6.3 million in 2023, partly due to the growing number of people exposed and vulnerable to hazards.

Following a targeted recruitment of experts within the fields of climate change impacts and

sustainable energy, the DRC Standby Roster increasingly supported response efforts related to natural hazards and effects of climate change during 2024. Particularly in Eastern and Southern Africa where countries struggled with the impact of El Niño-driven floods and droughts.

“We were glad to see a number of newly recruited members being deployed to support our UN partners in their efforts to respond to climate change impacts and promote sustainable energy. These are important agendas for both DRC and our partners, and they will continue to be priorities for us going forward,” says Maria Dyhr, Operational Lead of the DRC Standby Roster.

Promising first steps

Three members of the DRC Humanitarian Response Roster were deployed in 2024 to work on climate action and promoting access to renewable energy. The deployees were based in Mozambique (WFP), Malawi (WFP), and Somalia (OCHA). Among them was Stanley Njau Wanjiku, an expert within WASH, environmental and climate-related issues. He was recruited as roster member in 2023 as part of the DRC Standby Roster's aim to meet UN partners' growing need for surge personnel with energy and climate-related profiles.

"I am proud to be part of this important work and look forward to see our actions make a difference for thousands of people affected by climate shocks"

Stanley Njau Wanjiku, deployed as Climate Crisis Advisor to OCHA Somalia

Stanley went on his first DRC deployment in 2024 to support OCHA in Somalia with the implementation of the IASC Climate Crisis Roadmap launched in June last year. The roadmap represents a collective commitment of the humanitarian community to proactively address climate-related challenges, and Stanley Njau Wanjiku was leading the implementation and mapping of the activities under the roadmap areas in Somalia, a country heavily affected by climate shocks.

"Somalia is among the few countries taking bold steps to implement climate actions because of its high vulnerability to drought and floods – exacerbated by cyclic conflict and displacement. I am proud to be part of this important work and look forward to see our

actions make a difference for thousands of people affected by climate shocks," Stanley Njau Wanjiku said when the DRC Standby Roster met him in February during his deployment which ended in April.



Stanley Njau Wanjiku was deployed as Climate Crisis Advisor to OCHA Somalia from October 2024 to April 2025. Photo: Private

The other two deployees worked with fighting climate change through promoting access to renewable energy, in particular for farmers, enterprises, and schools. One of the deployees is Egide Ntakirutimana, and you can read more about his deployment as Energy Advisor to WFP in Mozambique in his story from the field, also available in this report.

While the mentioned deployments were only initial steps in the DRC Standby Roster's increased engagement on sustainable energy and climate-related challenges, their impact and relevance confirmed the timely decision to dedicate deployments to these thematic areas. The DRC Standby Roster looks forward to continuing our support and partnerships to respond to the great humanitarian needs caused by climate-related crises across the world.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD

TOWARDS GREENER FOOD SYSTEMS IN MOZAMBIQUE

For 19 months, Egide Ntakirutimana served as Energy Advisor with the World Food Programme (WFP) in Mozambique, where he played a pivotal role in integrating renewable energy solutions into food systems programming.



Egide Ntakirutimana (right) and João de Deus, lead farmer in Cahora-Bassa district of Tete Province in Mozambique.

Photo: WFP/Florencio Alves

“From the outset of my deployment, I was entrusted with supporting the Climate Change Adaptive Food Systems (CCAFS) unit in designing and implementing renewable energy interventions aligned with WFP Mozambique’s strategic framework,” Egide Ntakirutimana explains during his deployment as Energy Advisor to WFP in Mozambique.

Mozambique is among the southern African countries most severely affected by climate change, with recurrent extreme weather events such as droughts—occurring roughly every three to four years—disrupting lives and livelihoods. Since 1984, more than 25 million Mozambicans have been affected by drought. Despite growing urbanization, around two-thirds of the population still reside in rural areas where access to basic services, including clean and affordable energy, remains scarce. Nearly 45% of the population lives below the poverty line, and 80% depend on small-scale, climate-sensitive agriculture for food and income.

Greening Agriculture, Empowering Farmers

Agriculture contributes roughly a quarter of Mozambique’s GDP and provides employment to over 70% of its population, making it a cornerstone of national development. Building climate-resilient, adaptive food systems is thus essential—not only to safeguard food security but also to improve the livelihoods of millions of rural families across the country.

“To achieve this,” Egide notes, “it’s crucial to combine scientific research with local knowledge in the design and implementation of projects that promote sustainable agricultural practices and energy access.”

“Seeing the pride and joy on a farmer’s face while surveying a thriving field is incredibly rewarding—and knowing I contributed to that transformation is what motivates me most.”

During his assignment, Egide focused on ensuring that clean energy solutions—such as solar-powered irrigation, food processing, and preservation technologies—were embedded within WFP’s climate adaptation initiatives. These interventions empower smallholder farmers to boost both the quantity and quality of

their agricultural output, while reducing post-harvest losses and adding value to their produce. One standout example of this work was the installation of low-cost solar irrigation systems in drought-prone communities. These systems enabled vulnerable farmers to diversify crop production, extend growing seasons, and increase harvests, all while minimizing their environmental impact.

“Throughout my time with WFP Mozambique,” Egide reflects, “I witnessed firsthand how access to renewable energy allowed smallholder farmers to sustainably expand their agricultural activities. Seeing the pride and joy on a farmer’s face while surveying a thriving field is incredibly rewarding—and knowing I contributed to that transformation is what motivates me most.”

Egide Ntakirutimana’s 19-month deployment ended in February 2025. The interview was published in July 2024.



Egide Ntakirutimana (third from right) alongside WFP staff, cooperating partners, local government officials, and beneficiaries in Caia, Sofala province, Mozambique. Photo: WFP/Jaime Vilanculo

ON THE PILLARS OF PARTNERSHIPS

Enduring partnerships are key for the DRC Standby Roster's work to promote successful deployments. The DRC Standby Roster continued its close collaboration with UN partners in 2024 and was deeply engaged in collective efforts to strengthen both durable solutions for refugees and humanitarian response efforts across the world.

Partnerships are at the heart of what we do. The DRC Standby Roster has longstanding partnerships with eight UN agencies, and the close collaboration continued in 2024. Deployment focal points in the DRC Standby Roster were in daily contact with receiving UN agencies and operations to ensure that all 173 deployments were provided in a timely manner and were fruitful for both the deployees, the UN operations, and the people they served.

2024 also marked a year of deepened partnership with UNHCR's Division of International Protection (DIP) as we entered an agreement to run a new deployment scheme with the aim of providing expertise within Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection to UNHCR's operations worldwide. You can read more about this new deployment scheme in a previous section of this report.

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“In 2024, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) stood as one of UNFPA's most significant partners in delivering crucial humanitarian aid across multiple emergencies. The rapid deployment of DRC's highly skilled experts in areas such as GBV, SRH, Supply Chain & Logistics, and PSEA was a cornerstone of our joint response efforts.”

Dusan Jovanovic, Surge Manager, UNFPA's Humanitarian Response Division

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“The DRC Registration Roster has proven to be a highly efficient and reliable mechanism, that allows UNHCR to quickly deploy experienced experts to meet urgent and critical registration needs. We greatly appreciate the professionalism and excellent cooperation and look forward to continuing this strong partnership.”

Ennie Shonhiwa-Chikwanha, Registration & Identity Management Officer, UNHCR's Digital Identity and Registration Section

DRC Standby Roster staff were engaged in various SBP activities throughout the year, including strengthening duty of care for deployees and a joint monitoring exercise to evaluate the SBP partners' response to the humanitarian crisis in Sudan – a response which was highly prioritised by the DRC Standby Roster in 2024. The team also participated in

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“The cooperation shared with the DRC Standby Roster team is immensely valued as it is efficient, transparent and focused on problem-solving. Moving people across the world and in and out of challenging contexts is no easy task, and with the DRC team's positive and constructive attitude to challenges, we have always been able to address these in a strong partnership spirit.”

Marie Hesselholdt, Emergency Partnerships and Deployments Officer, UNHCR's Division of Emergency, Security and Supply

“Within the Standby Partnership Network, DRC is a pillar of excellence, and the DRC Standby Roster is an indispensable part of United Nations emergency responses. In 2024, DRC again contributed actively to the SBP Network through engagement in multiple key areas. DRC played a leading role in the Duty of Care and MEAL Working Groups and contributed to the workstream on the PSEA standards implementation.”

Lauren Cheshire, Network Coordinator, Standby Partnership Network

biannual Standby Partnership Network consultations in Geneva and Oslo as well as occasional coordination calls with the SBP partners to coordinate response efforts for specific humanitarian crises and exchange knowledge to improve deployments and administrative processes, including visa and work permission, travel arrangements, accommodation at the duty station etc.



Partners of the Standby Partnership (SBP) Network at the Mid-Annual Consultations in Oslo in November 2024.

The DRC Standby Roster was also represented at the three-day annual Consultations on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways (CRCP) in Geneva in June – a forum for UNHCR, states, NGOs, refugees and other stakeholders to discuss and advance issues of common interest that relate to resettlement and other durable migration pathways for refugees. During the consultations, a statement joined by DRC and other NGOs from 26 countries was delivered, calling for expansion of resettlement globally and for states to step up and provide sustainable, multi-year commitments to refugee resettlement.

“DRC provides UNHCR a flexible and mobile workforce with a solid knowledge of UNHCR standards and procedures. It is estimated that deployees from all partners, including DRC, contributed to over 50% of UNHCR resettlement submissions last year.”

Audrey Bernard, Resettlement Officer, UNHCR's Division of International Protection

THANK YOU

A special thanks to our Members, Donors and Partners.

Over the past 34 years, the DRC Standby Roster has deployed thousands of experts and specialists to UN's humanitarian relief operations all over the world. However, this would not have been possible without our excellent, loyal and committed members. Currently, the DRC Standby Roster has over 1,000 members across four deployment schemes with a broad variety of professional profiles who make a difference for persons in need every single day.

We could not support this vital work without our committed donors, of which a special thank goes to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who has supported the DRC Standby Roster since the beginning in 1991. Lastly a warm felt appreciation to the UN agencies, DRC country operations, and the range of partners who have all contributed and played a key role in the work and achievements of the DRC Standby Roster in 2024.



DRC STANDBY ROSTER TEAM

Please meet the DRC Standby Roster staff who worked in the team during 2024.



Kristine Østensen
Head of People Analytics & Surge Capacity



Maria Dyhr Zangenberg
Operational Lead of the DRC Standby Roster



Susanne Brokmose
Former Head of the DRC Standby Roster



Pia Terslev Johansen
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Rachel Hesketh
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Jenna Magee
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Malaika Bueno
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Rasmus Walther Jensen
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Hanne Heidinger
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Johanna Margoline
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Ellie Nicholson
Programme and Operations Coordinator



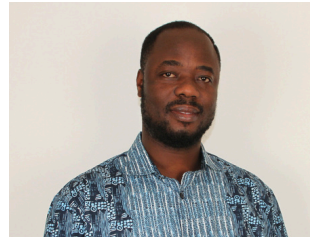
Karina Nordmann Østrup
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Celine Manriquez Nordheim
Programme and Operations Coordinator



Maral Afsharian
Intern



George Kobina Ackom
Intern

