

Europe

Eastern Europe

South-Eastern Europe

Central Europe and
the Baltic States

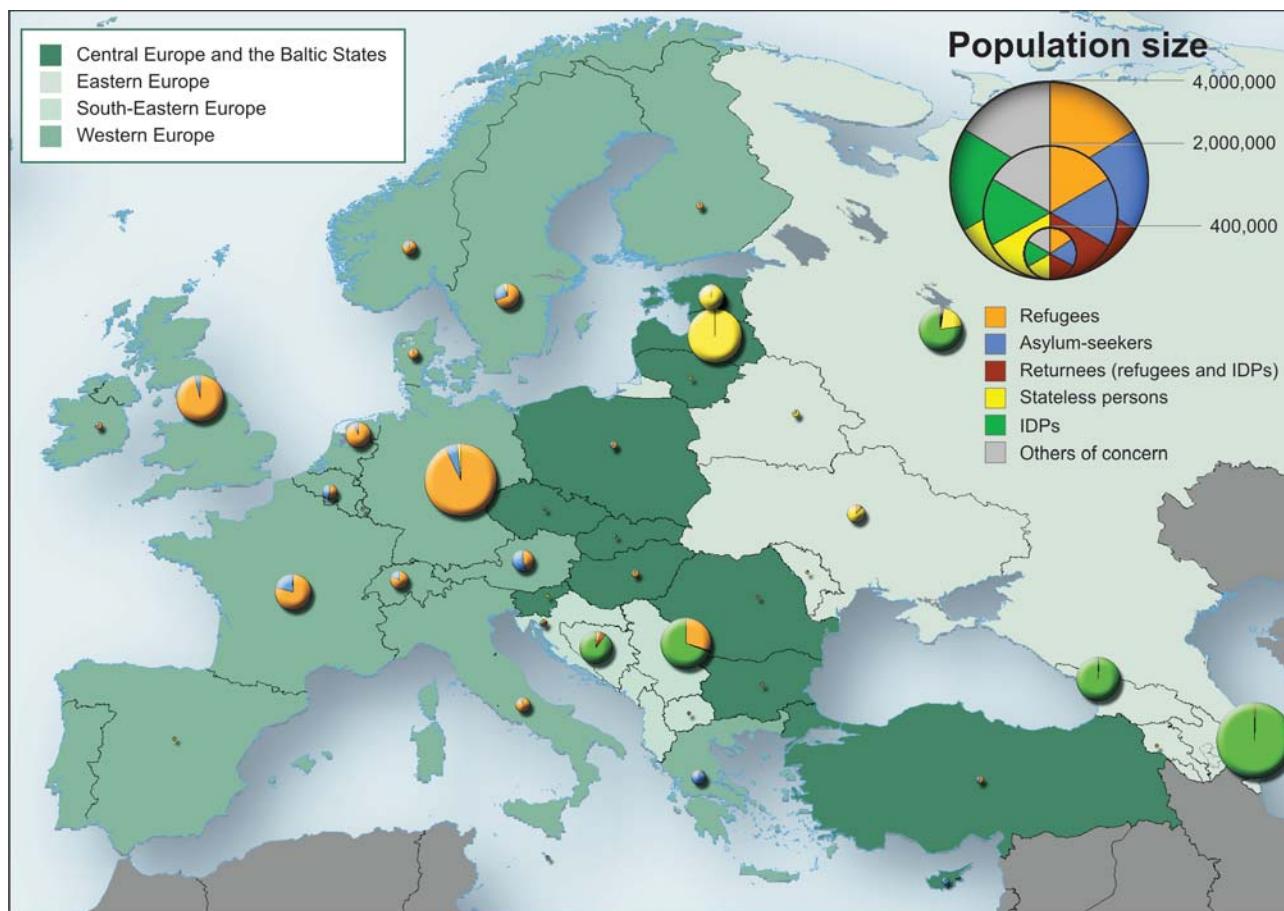
Western Europe



Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)

Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget
Europe overall	United States	100,000
	Sub-total	100,000
Total		100,000

Europe



Operational highlights

- Advocacy efforts and engagement where the lines between asylum-seekers and migrants are blurred have focused on saving lives, before the more legalistic discussion of who is, or is not, a refugee takes place. Agreements on border monitoring and ensuring access for potential asylum-seekers have strengthened UNHCR's role in the past year throughout Europe, particularly along the eastern internal and external frontiers of the European Union (EU).
- The Office promoted its 10-Point Plan, particularly to articulate implementation matrixes for both the Mediterranean and eastern border regions to strengthen its role in advocating for protection-sensitive migration policies and practices.
- UNHCR participated in the ongoing transposition of the EU asylum-related directives into national law in the 27 EU member States. The Office issued comments on the EU's Green Paper on the implementation of the Common European Asylum System, and released a study on the differing interpretations of the EU's Qualification Directive.
- In the Western Balkans, UNHCR focused on identifying durable solutions, including local

integration and resettlement, for long-term refugees and internally displaced persons, with emphasis on the access to livelihoods and improving the legal frameworks necessary for refugees to reside and support their families while in exile. UNHCR played a strong role in building capacity for refugee status determination (RSD) procedures, while encouraging governments to assume this role in the future.

- As a result of UNHCR's advocacy efforts, European Governments and the European Commission provided more than 50 per cent of the Office's funding in 2007. UNHCR also benefited from a broadening funding base by expanding its private sector fundraising efforts.

Working environment

One of the most pressing challenges in Europe over the past years has been in the area where the rights of asylum-seekers are potentially jeopardized in mixed migratory movements. The Office has prioritized its advocacy efforts for people in danger at sea, insisting that they be brought to safety to determine who is or is not in need of international protection. Collaboration

between UNHCR, governments and civil society in monitoring borders and ensuring access to territory and procedures was intensified. With the eradication of internal borders in the EU, the borders of Europe have moved, challenging countries with the requirements of physical border management. Within the EU, “virtual borders” are set up within electronic databases. In this context, UNHCR is closely monitoring and providing inputs into the construction of a Common European Asylum System, with an emphasis on access, quality and consistency.

Although Europe, by and large, remains free of refugee camps, there are a widespread and diverse number of refugees, internally displaced, stateless people and others of concern in long-term situations of displacement. Many people with special protection needs, particularly in the Caucasus and the Western Balkans, have remained in collective centre accommodations for more than a decade, unwilling or unable to return home.

Intolerance, racial discrimination and xenophobia continued to be of concern for UNHCR, giving increased impetus to the promotion of effective integration policies.

Unaccompanied and separated children are often not able to benefit from child-sensitive reception arrangements, including identification and basic care.

Achievements and impact

- **Ensure international standards of protection are met for all persons of concern to UNHCR taking into account their age, gender or personal background (GSO 1)**

In the Mediterranean, UNHCR bolstered its presence in Greece, Lampedusa, Sardinia, Sicily, Spain and elsewhere along the coast to monitor and to advise asylum-seekers who arrive by sea. UNHCR offered similar assistance to governments of the EU who hold land borders along the Eastern frontier.

Implementation matrices for UNHCR’s 10-Point Plan were developed for the southern and eastern European border regions, providing operational guidance for the Office and its partners.

Border guards and NGOs, together with UNHCR, have been encouraged to enter tripartite agreements to enhance access and monitoring, and improve the accordance of rights to those who seek asylum in Europe.

A special project was implemented in four operations providing procedures for identification and referral, safe shelters and livelihood opportunities for survivors of sexual gender based-violence (SGBV).



The Spanish coastguards intercept a fishing boat transporting migrants off the island of Tenerife, in the Canaries.

UNHCR/A. Rodríguez

In July 2007, the first UNHCR European regional meeting on HIV and AIDS protection and programming was held in Warsaw. Some 70 people participated in the workshop from 17 countries. The overriding issue facing UNHCR's populations of concern was that of mandatory testing for HIV and possible *refoulement* of refugees and asylum-seekers based on their HIV status.

HIV and AIDS programmes, focusing on assessment, training, treatment and education were organized in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia. In Ukraine, UNAIDS awarded funds to UNDP and UNHCR to train 15 refugee leaders in HIV and AIDS and develop posters and leaflets for use by other countries.

- **Advocate for and support governments in the development and maintenance of an international protection regime including implementation at the national level (GSO 2)**

Offices in Europe followed legislative processes to identify and provide comments on legal provisions of relevance to UNHCR's mandate. In addition, UNHCR emphasized direct and indirect judicial interventions, particularly in Brussels and Strasbourg, and most recently in Luxembourg. It also provided support to RSD decision-making in several countries, encouraging some States particularly in the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe, to increase their responsibilities and capacity in this field.

- **Redouble the search for durable solutions (GSO 3)**

UNHCR has taken a renewed look at populations with specific protection needs stranded within protracted situations, especially in the Caucasus and the Western Balkans, encouraging the diplomatic and political breakthroughs that would be needed to end their plight.

Advocacy efforts have focused on resettlement and increasing collaboration between existing resettlement countries and countries that aspire to create a full resettlement programme. To this effect, UNHCR participated in and organized a number of events, including its Regional Resettlement Initiative Meeting in Budapest, the first European NGO Forum on Resettlement in Lisbon, and the European Commission-chaired ad hoc meeting of EU Member States in Brussels.

UNHCR addressed the prevention and reduction of statelessness, planning a project on civil registration in the Western Balkans aimed at remedying registration gaps for Roma populations across the region.

Some three million internally displaced persons in Europe remain in protracted situations. UNHCR played a key role in the development of national strategies, working with authorities to develop implementation plans across the southern Caucasus and the Western Balkans.

- **Establish effective partnerships and frameworks for action for responding to the challenges of protecting and finding solutions for persons internally displaced due to conflict and abuses of human rights, protecting refugees in broader migration movements, and bridging the gap between relief and development (GSO 4)**

Partnerships are crucial in a region of complex asylum systems and highly-developed civil societies. UNHCR's outreach to the general public builds understanding and support - moral, political and financial - for refugees and the work of the Office. Partnership and advocacy go hand-in-hand in the Offices' interactions with the EU, which represents both a major donor and key partner in addressing a wide range of protection issues across Europe.

- **Strengthen UNHCR's external relations through improved public information, public awareness, media relations and fund raising (GSO 5)**

European countries provided more than half of UNHCR's funds in 2007. European non-governmental donors contributed over 50 per cent of the private sector fundraising. Strategic partnerships were enhanced through open dialogue and close cooperation with civil society and regional institutions such as European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC), International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and the Council of Europe.

To keep governments informed of UNHCR's positions, activities and needs, Offices in western and central Europe played a key role by sharing knowledge and information on situations ranging from resettlement in Nepal and durable solutions prospects for refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania to the crises in Iraq and Chad.

Constraints

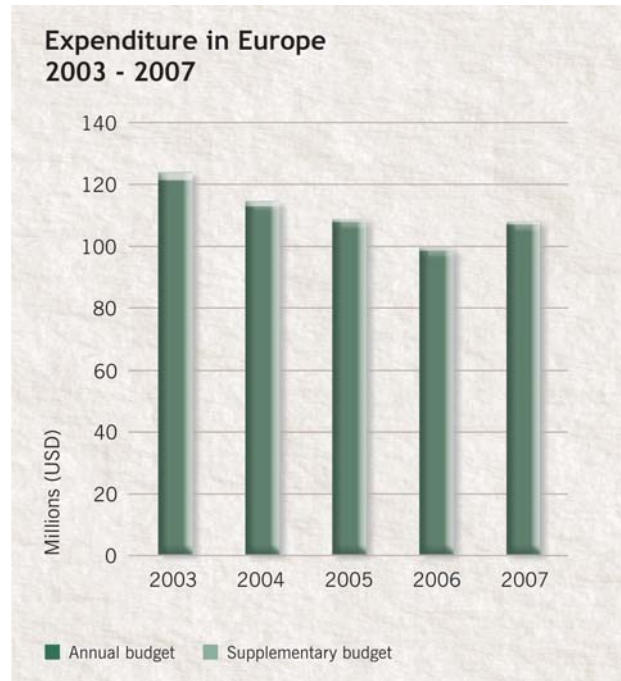
In addition to the challenging working environment, altering public perception and policy on such a broad range of issues requires dedicated staff, access to Europe's leading policy and opinion forming bodies, and financial resources. Due to the comparative rise in the cost of activities taking place in Europe and the reduction of the budget in 2007, fewer activities could be planned and some programmes had to be reduced or postponed. New and additional funding sources were tapped to support requirements.

Security concerns remain in and around Georgia, Chechnya and North Ossetia-Alania. The tensions over the future status of Kosovo also remained throughout the year, with staff on alert for changes in the security situation.

Financial information

More than half of the governments in the region provide full or partial funding for UNHCR's office premises and utilities in the respective countries,

assisting in keeping administrative costs low. However, the significant rise of the Euro in relation to the US dollar has reduced the spending power of European offices throughout the year.



Budget and expenditure (USD)

Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget ¹	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Eastern Europe						
Armenia	2,004,825	0	2,004,825	1,940,403	0	1,940,403
Azerbaijan	3,649,608	0	3,649,608	3,586,091	0	3,586,091
Belarus	1,623,828	0	1,623,828	1,619,547	0	1,619,547
Georgia	5,661,406	0	5,661,406	5,433,901	0	5,433,901
Moldova	655,977	0	655,977	652,323	0	652,323
Russian Federation	13,623,688	0	13,623,688	13,173,334	0	13,173,334
Ukraine	3,176,431	0	3,176,431	3,111,543	0	3,111,543
Regional activities ²	1,227,370	0	1,227,370	945,110	0	945,110
Sub-total	31,623,134	0	31,623,134	30,462,253	0	30,462,253
South-Eastern Europe						
Albania	887,428	0	887,428	875,129	0	875,129
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7,813,800	0	7,813,800	7,802,896	0	7,802,896
Croatia	3,709,963	0	3,709,963	3,499,104	0	3,499,104
Montenegro	2,543,640	0	2,543,640	2,519,759	0	2,519,759
Serbia	24,189,764	0	24,189,764	23,614,188	0	23,614,188
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3,276,767	0	3,276,767	3,250,246	0	3,250,246
Sub-total	42,421,362	0	42,421,362	41,561,322	0	41,561,322
Central Europe and the Baltic States						
Bulgaria	961,258	0	961,258	958,057	0	958,057
Cyprus	792,399	0	792,399	787,069	0	787,069
Czech Republic	517,224	0	517,224	514,314	0	514,314
Hungary	2,140,745	0	2,140,745	2,090,838	0	2,090,838
Poland	983,700	0	983,700	961,286	0	961,286
Romania	1,111,081	0	1,111,081	1,068,618	0	1,068,618
Slovakia	549,360	0	549,360	511,897	0	511,897
Slovenia	208,106	0	208,106	191,523	0	191,523
Turkey	6,942,267	1,489,621	8,431,888	6,597,282	1,234,221	7,831,503
Regional activities ³	201,389	0	201,389	168,807	0	168,807
Sub-total	14,407,528	1,489,621	15,897,149	13,849,691	1,234,221	15,083,912
Western Europe						
Austria	1,187,139	0	1,187,139	1,044,825	0	1,044,825
Belgium	3,381,603	0	3,381,603	3,380,314	0	3,380,314
France	2,750,317	0	2,750,317	2,746,585	0	2,746,585
Germany	2,235,468	0	2,235,468	2,213,613	0	2,213,613
Greece	1,237,893	0	1,237,893	1,196,154	0	1,196,154
Ireland	687,720	0	687,720	658,551	0	658,551
Italy	4,098,157	0	4,098,157	3,691,374	0	3,691,374
Malta	55,320	0	55,320	49,533	0	49,533
Portugal	59,479	0	59,479	59,434	0	59,434
Spain	1,283,267	0	1,283,267	1,276,470	0	1,276,470
Sweden	2,122,394	0	2,122,394	2,074,688	0	2,074,688
Switzerland	717,337	0	717,337	661,876	0	661,876
United Kingdom	1,688,403	0	1,688,403	1,683,052	0	1,683,052
Sub-total	21,504,496	0	21,504,496	20,736,467	0	20,736,467
Total	109,956,521	1,489,621	111,446,142	106,609,733	1,234,221	107,843,955

¹ Does not include a seven per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes activities in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, and strengthening protection capacities.

³ Includes promotion of refugee law.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Australia	35,534	0	35,534
Australia for UNHCR	23,346	0	23,346
Austria	60,017	0	60,017
Belgium	447,679	0	447,679
Canada	169,492	0	169,492
CERF	328,127	0	328,127
Council of Europe Development Bank	7,248	0	7,248
Cyprus	10,203	0	10,203
Denmark	93,512	0	93,512
European Commission	7,709,826	265,048	7,974,874
Finland	13,191	0	13,191
France	534,428	0	534,428
Germany	518,807	0	518,807
Ireland	150,525	0	150,525
Italy	1,106,048	0	1,106,048
Japan	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Netherlands	1,132,164	0	1,132,164
Norway	20,136	0	20,136
Private donors in Cyprus	26,781	0	26,781
Romania	147,493	0	147,493
Russian Federation	1,000,000	0	1,000,000
Spain	486,805	0	486,805
Statoil (Azerbaijan)	193,458	0	193,458
Sweden	5,822,416	0	5,822,416
Switzerland	2,040,725	0	2,040,725
UNDP	27,900	0	27,900
United Kingdom	746,115	0	746,115
United States	19,617,703	0	19,617,703
USA for UNHCR	46,500	0	46,500
Total	43,516,181	265,048	43,781,228

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.