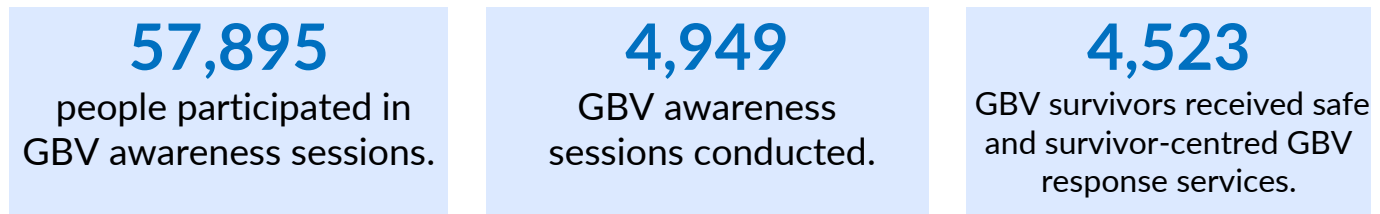
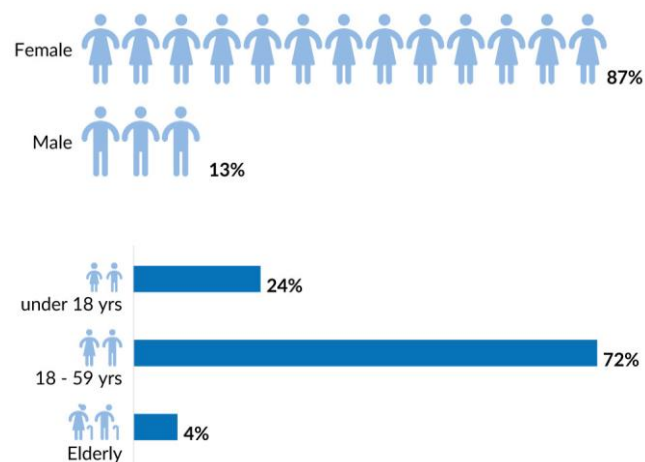


Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Prevention and Response in Syria

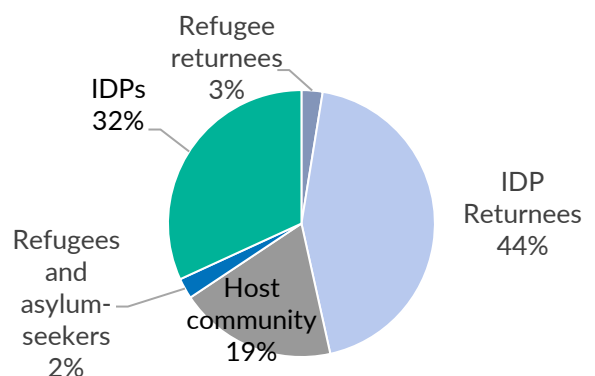
January – September 2023



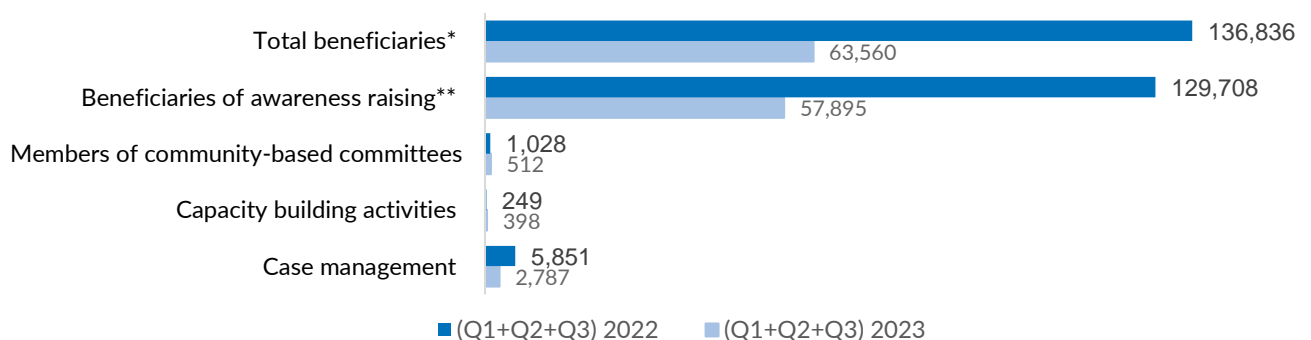
63,560 individuals reached with GBV prevention and response services.



Population groups benefiting from services.



14 Governorates | **114** Community Centres | **85** Committees



* Total beneficiaries number in 2023 is smaller compared with same reported period in 2022, as UNHCR prioritized life-saving activities during the earthquake response.

** The number of beneficiaries of awareness-raising sessions is less than that of (Q1+Q2+Q3) 2022 due to a change to the curricula-based approach (see 'Awareness-raising' section below).



Case management

UNHCR's survivor-centred approach to GBV case management seeks to empower the survivor by prioritizing the survivor's rights, needs, and wishes. This is done through ensuring that survivors have access to appropriate, accessible, and quality support services including health care, psychological and social support, and legal services. In line with the guiding principles on protection and applying the survivor-centred approach, UNHCR and its partners tailor each service to the needs of each survivor based on their wishes.

Between January and September 2023, UNHCR and its partners identified and supported **2,787** GBV survivors through survivor-centred and multi-sectoral case management services.



Community engagement

Women's committees comprising women of all ages and backgrounds play a central role in GBV awareness-raising and community mobilization. Women's committees were created to strengthen the role of women in decision-making within their communities.

Women's committees focus on the promotion of gender equality, sensitization through awareness-raising in GBV prevention and response, women's legal rights, and available services. The committees also coordinate with UNHCR to assist vulnerable women in finding work. Between January and September 2023, UNHCR supported **101** women's committees (**1,030** women) spread across the different governorates.

Men's engagement in GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response continued during 2023 by enhancing the role of men in preventing and responding to GBV as well as in challenging deep-seated cultural norms and power structures. From January to September 2023, UNHCR supported **12** men committees (**112** men) that are agents of change to support the empowerment of women and challenge harmful practices.



Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising is a fundamental component of UNHCR's GBV prevention strategy to enhance gender equality and gender inclusion. Awareness-raising fosters communication and information exchange to improve mutual understanding of GBV and the related harms within the communities, as well as available services, especially to GBV survivors, and promote change in attitudes and behaviour.

UNHCR has started shifting the modality of awareness-raising from individual sessions to a curricula-based approach. This enables specialized staff to work closely with the same group of people throughout the implementation of the curriculum, allowing them to measure the attitude and behavioural change of the participants through a pre- and post-impact assessment. Following the training series in the first half of 2023, one partner started implementing "The Girl Shine" curriculum in different locations/governorates (Rural Damascus, As-Sweida, Dara'a, Homs, Hama, Idleb, Aleppo). The " Girl Shine" program addresses issues related to gender inequality within family structures, impacting the experiences of adolescent girls regarding gender-based violence. It works to change norms and attitudes within families to provide greater protection for teenage girls. Additionally, it addresses power dynamics between caregivers and adolescent girls. As of the end of the reported period, a total of 26 groups were targeted;

including **17** groups targeting adolescent girls alongside seven **groups of** female caregivers and **two groups of** male caregivers. During the third quarter (June – September 2023) UNHCR and its partners conducted **2,275** awareness sessions in community centres, schools, and collective shelters, among other locations reaching **25,278** individuals. Topics of the sessions were selected based on the needs, including life skills for women, gender equality for children, cyber risks and online harassment for adolescents, forms of domestic violence and its impact on men, the impact of natural disasters on family dynamics and gender roles among others.



Capacity-building

UNHCR trained **312** individuals (88 males and 224 females) including partner staff and outreach volunteers on GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response including the basic concepts of GBV, psychological first aid, and safe referral.

Additionally, **four** “Girl Shine” programme trainings took place between May and August 2023 in Damascus, Homs, Aleppo, and Qamishli, with the participation of **86** people including UNHCR and partners’ staff. The participants will be leading the rollout of the programme and facilitating “Girl Shine” groups within the community. The trainings were followed by **four** online coaching sessions to provide practical discussions and support on challenges faced by the facilitators, share experiences and solutions, and to ensure the safe inclusion of girls and caretakers in the curriculum.