

2022



**Humanitarian  
Response  
Division**

# **2022 Surge Annual Report**



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# UNFPA Surge

The UNFPA **Surge Team** is part of the **Humanitarian Response Division (HRD)** assisting in coordination, mobilization and deployment of emergency human resources. We manage one of UNFPA's key corporate crisis response tools and systems through the **Global Emergency Response Roster**.

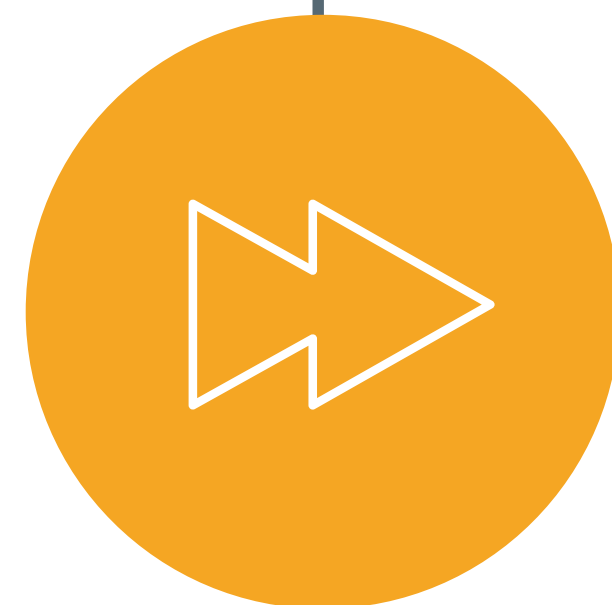


Our key outcome areas



## Readiness

Increase the number of humanitarian experts



## Responsiveness

Ensure Country Offices have adequate staff



## Duty of Care

Ensure health, safety, security and wellbeing of responders



## Global Humanitarian Capacity

Help close the humanitarian response skills gap

### Global Emergency Response Roster

Screened database of **438** humanitarian specialists in all major areas requested by our country offices.

In **2022**, we deployed **167** technical experts to **30** countries. Most requested and deployed profiles were:

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)  
47%

Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH)  
20%

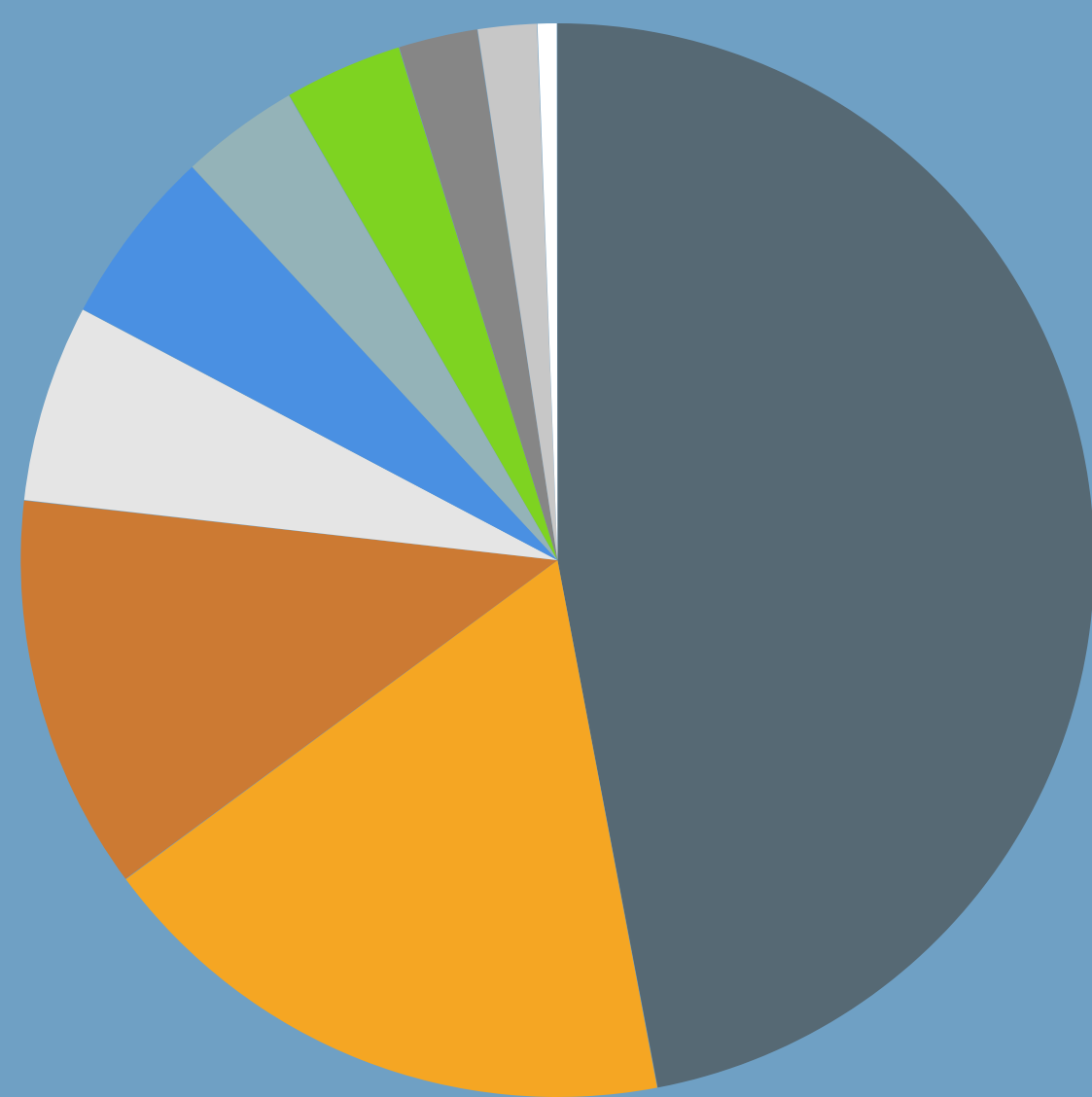


# 2022 Overview

The unprecedented frequency, intensity, and scale of humanitarian emergencies in recent years have dramatically amplified the risks facing women, girls and young people. One in three women and girls globally experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, with devastating immediate and long-term impacts on their physical and mental health, education and livelihoods. This increased demand for UNFPA to respond to humanitarian situations has led to a doubling of the organization's humanitarian requirements, from COVID-19 impacting responsiveness and global demand for SRH and GBV experts, to increased IASC scale-up emergencies, more is expected of UNFPA than ever before to provide life-saving assistance.



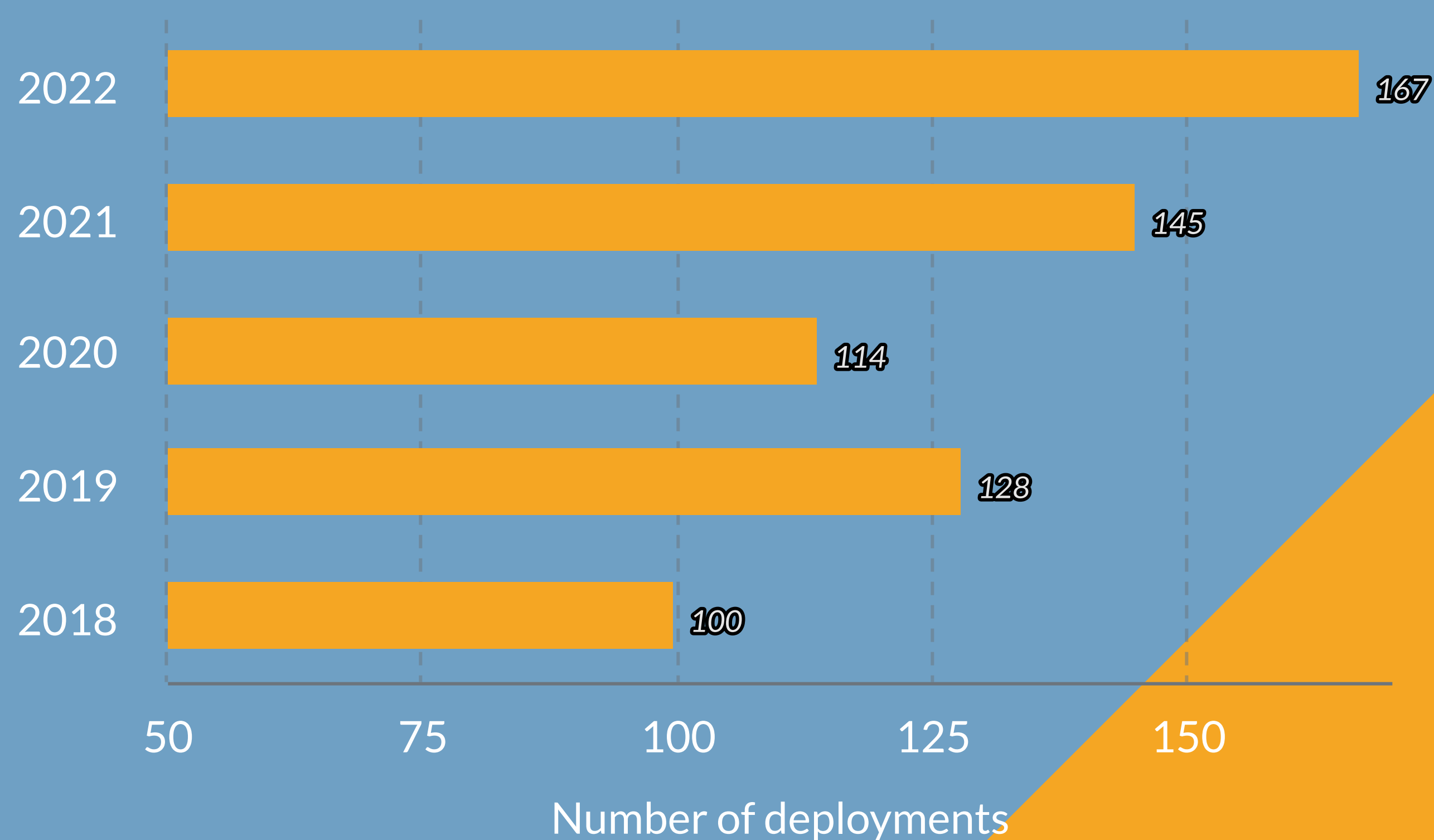
## Deployments by functional area



- GBV (47.02%)   ■ SRH (17.86%)   ■ LOGS (11.9%)
- HC (5.95%)   ■ COMMS (5.36%)   ■ MHPSS (3.57%)
- M&E (3.57%)   ■ OPS & HR (2.38%)   ■ CVA (1.79%)
- Security (0.6%)

GBV - Gender-Based Violence  
 SRH - Sexual & Reproductive Health  
 LOGS - Logistics/Procurement  
 HC - Humanitarian Coordinator  
 COMMS - Communications  
 MHPSS - Mental Health & Psychosocial Support  
 M&E - Monitoring & Evaluation  
 OPS/HR - Operations/Human Resources  
 CVA - Cash Voucher Assistance

## Number of deployments over last 5 years

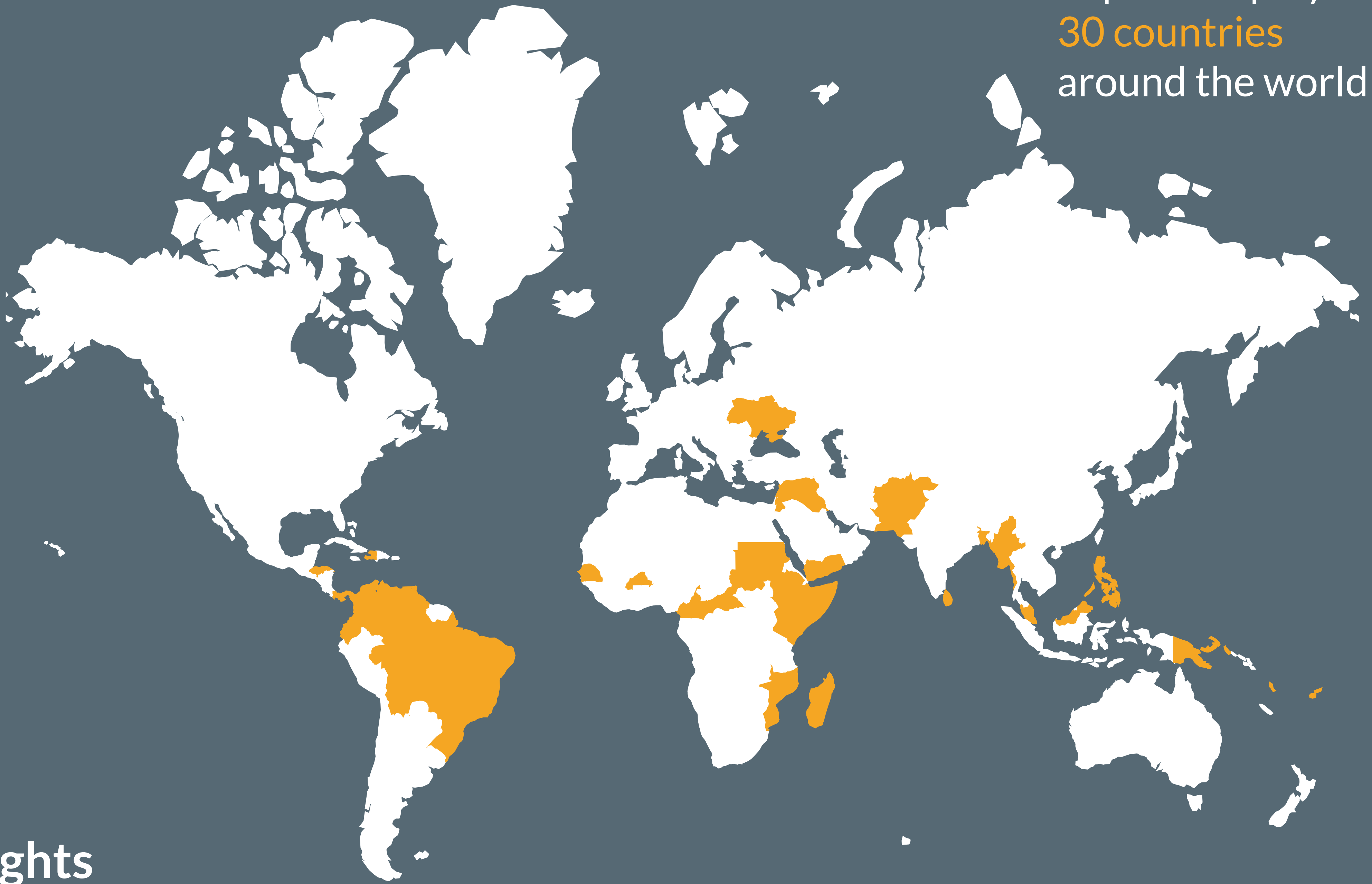




# Where we work

deployments by country

Experts deployed to **30 countries** around the world



## Highlights

**21 experts**

deployed in response to crisis in Tigray, Ethiopia

**96%**

Requests successfully staffed in 2022

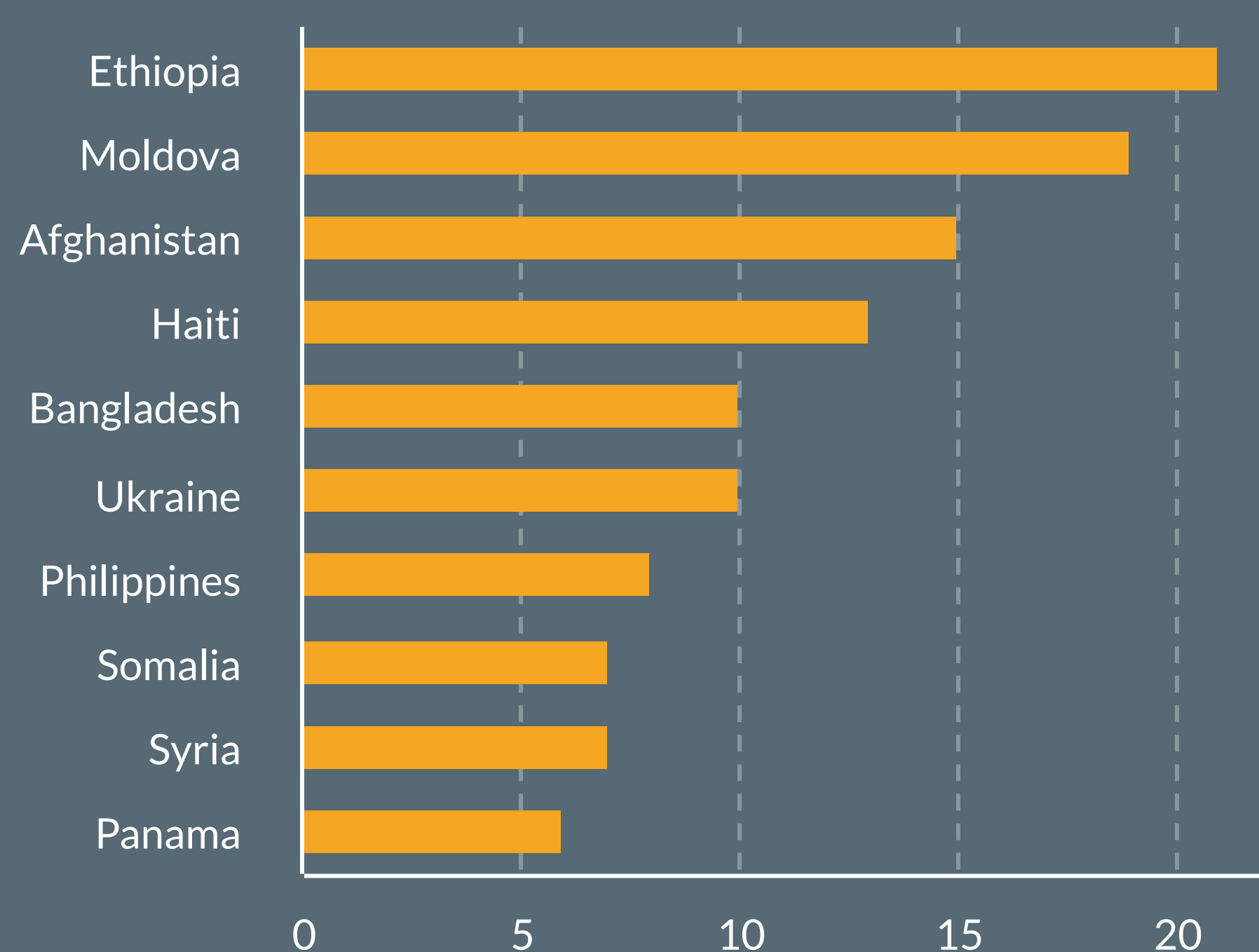
**29 experts**

deployed for the Ukraine regional response

**4 months**

average length of a deployment

## Top 10 countries by number of deployed experts

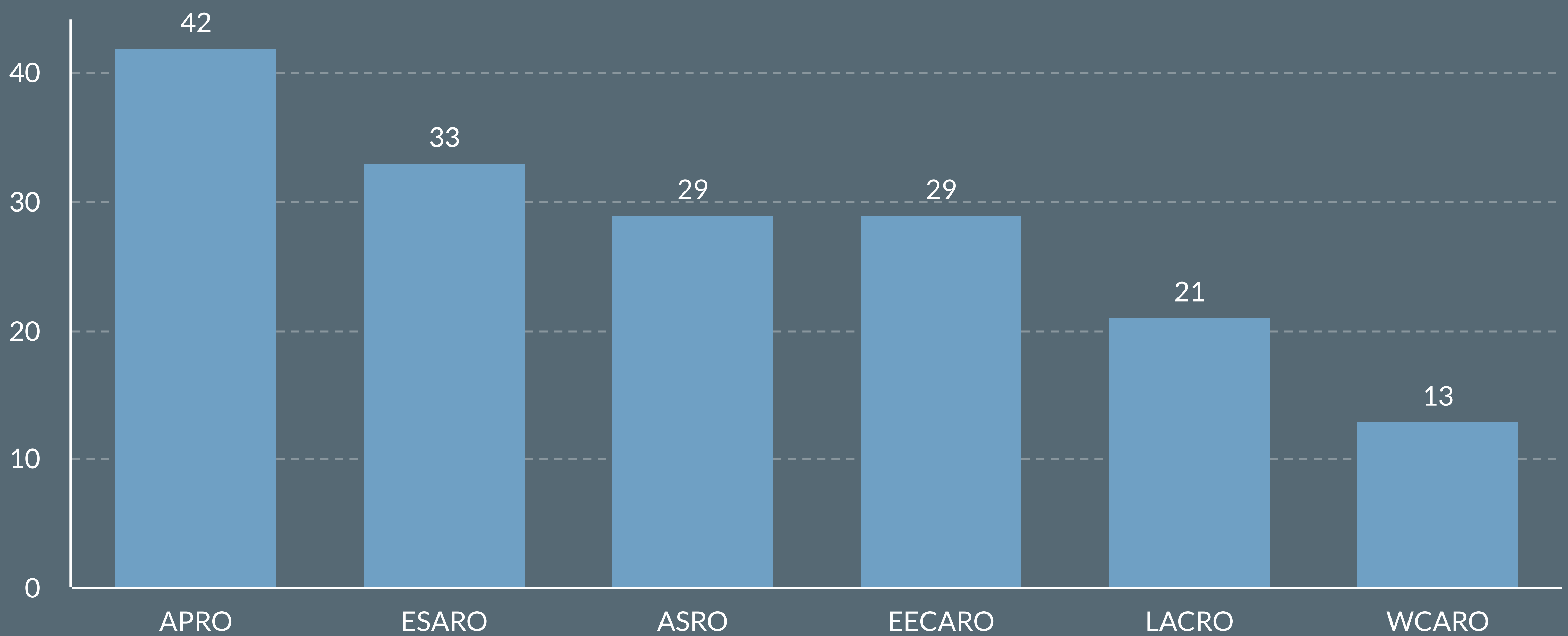




# Deployments

Each emergency is unique and so is the response. Surge experts are selected and deployed with these needs in mind.

Deployments by region



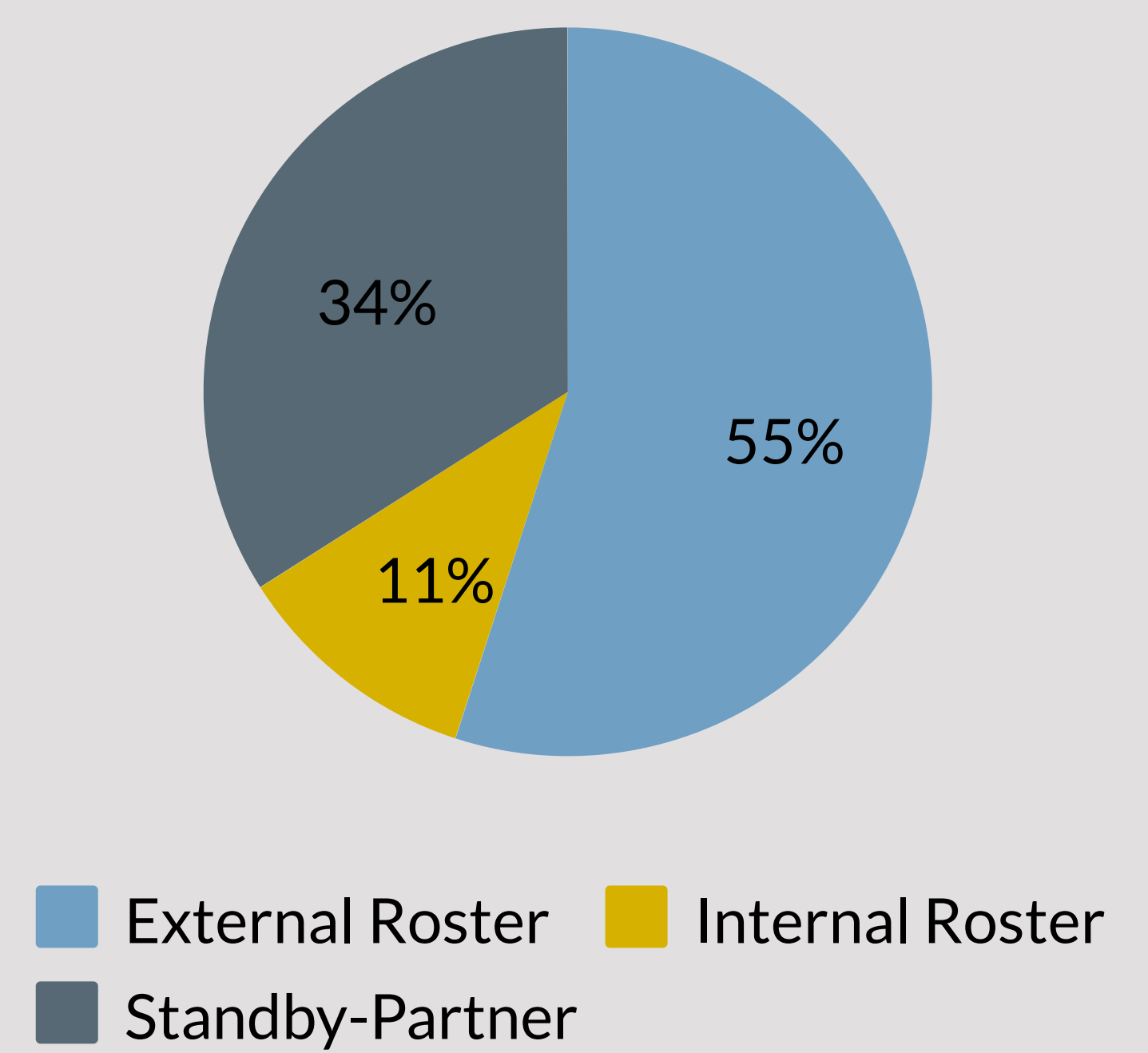
The Surge Team recruited and deployed experts contributing to humanitarian work in the amount equivalent to 684 work months or approximately:

 **\$10 M**

**54%**

of deployed experts are women

2022 deployments by source







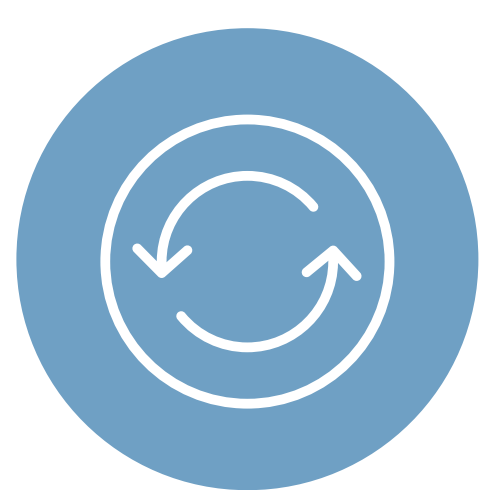
**66%**

of all rostered experts are female

Percentage of rostered experts by region



- East & Southern Africa (21%)
- Western Europe (18%)
- Asia & the Pacific (13%)
- Arab States (11%)
- West & Central Africa (11%)
- Eastern Europe & Central Asia (10%)
- North America (10%)
- Latin America & the Caribbean (6%)



**52%**

Experts on the Surge roster are from the Global South

Average time it takes to identify an expert

**2 days**

New Experts in 2022

**68**

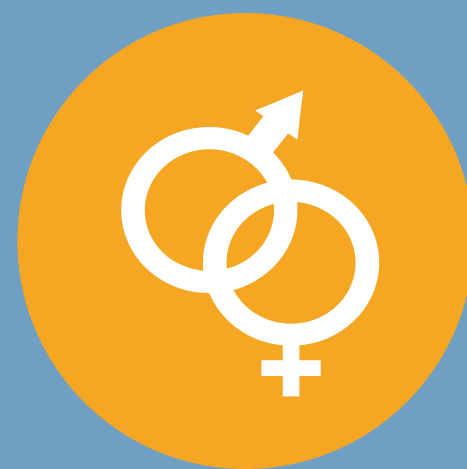
Experts coming from **104 countries**

# Surge Roster

The Global Emergency Response Roster is an important part of UNFPA's global humanitarian response system as an external source of expertise available to our field offices in time of emergencies.

Its main objective is to **deploy the right people at the right place and the right time.**

## MOST REQUESTED PROFILES



Gender Based Violence



Sexual and Reproductive Health



Emergency Response Coordination



Logistics



Mental Health and Psychosocial Support



Operations



# Stories from the field

By Salwa Moussa, Surge Communications Specialist, Ukraine

Being from Lebanon, I was used to political and security instability. So, when I joined UNFPA Iraq in 2017, my knowledge of familiar contexts allowed me shed light on the humanitarian situation especially after the Mosul crisis and the Yazidi genocide. My supervisor saw that passion in me and recommended I apply for the surge roster.

**The training itself was unique. I loved the pressure, working with teams with one aim: to deliver to those who need us the most without fear. We were all driven by that same passion.**

My first surge was to Ethiopia: 60 days of utmost intensity. One year later, the war in Ukraine started, and I knew this was an opportunity I should not miss. Why? Simply because all the countries I had previously worked in, were third world countries where human rights were not expected to be respected. I was determined to show how devastating war can be for people, especially women and girls, living in developed countries.



**the help of a stranger (who herself was injured and bleeding) and a doctor who was giving instructions online.**

Some of the most challenging issues in the field was the long distance we had to make to reach our destination given the destruction of roads, bridges and the closure of public transport. And yet, despite these challenges, UNFPA would make sure supplies for medicines and equipment were reaching hospitals, health points and mobile clinics so that women have access to safe birth. We'd increased our interventions on mental health, because the trauma was inexplicable and way beyond what Ukrainians thought possible. These interventions were/are truly critical for this proud population.

I think one of my main contributions to the Country Office was supporting an already-existing strong Communications Team write about a crisis that hits too close to home; helping them detach from the anger and despair when writing and covering events or collecting stories. When we were in the field, I would see colleagues observe how we can get the impactful stories all while remaining as objective as possible. That is the most difficult part of our job because the only thing we want to do while taking interviews is hug the people and cry with them. I am so thankful for this experience.



Salwa & UNFPA staff in underground bunker. Kyiv, Ukraine

One of the things that touched me the most was the strength of my colleagues. Despite the fear and pain, they were going through, despite the losses in human lives they were experiencing, the loss of property, the instability, the displacement, the unknown; they'd put on a brave face, a shy smile – their attempt of lifting each other's spirits and give motivation – and show up to work, go to the field, and negotiate to ensure we reach the most vulnerable.

I saw colleagues break down but to lift themselves up shortly after remembering some kilometers away there was a woman delivering under shelling or in a shelter in horrendous and risky conditions and we needed to act and help. The human losses, the destruction, and the mounting insecurity only made them more determined to deliver and “fight” in their way: through humanitarian work.

**One of my favorite stories to write was the story of a mother who gave a complicated birth in a shelter in Mariupol thanks to**





Two young girls in a UNFPA Women's Friendly Safe Space in Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh

“Without surge, UNFPA would not be considered a humanitarian response UN agency, especially in the protracted crisis of the Rohingya refugees in Cox’s Bazar. In Cox's Bazar, because of the surge support , UNFPA is able to respond to different emergencies in a timely manner.”

- Roselidah Raphael, Head of Sub-Office, UNFPA Cox's Bazaar





# Stories from the field

"At the beginning of the assignment in Kabul, I was stressed considering the security situation and arrangements. It was difficult on a personal level as my wife was deployed in the peacekeeping mission in DRC and communication with the family was difficult due to the excessive workload and the time difference, these resulted in some moments of displeasure. However, with time I figured out the coping strategies to destress by cooking for myself and dedicating time during the weekends to communicate with family and friends which helped my mental health and kept me going.

**The surge opportunity helped me to improve my confidence in my skills, experience, and expertise and enhance my managerial skills.** In this period I have developed skills to manage the UNFPA Afghanistan humanitarian portfolio with more than \$70 million in funding, led the coordination of the RMNACAHiE WG, developed the procurement plan for reproductive health commodities and supplies (RHCS), secured multiple funding to sustain the SRHiE programming and contributed in many other initiatives.



Overall, the deployment was very smooth starting from the onboarding to the settling in the workplace. The Surge team and the CO colleagues were very accommodating. After 6 months of deployment, it feels very rewarding, especially for the association with the great work of UNFPA in Afghanistan in very difficult situations."

**- Sayantan Chowdhury, SRH in Emergencies Specialist, Afghanistan**

"I chose this particular assignment because of the scale and nature of the drought that Somalia has been facing over the past four decades. It has impacted approximately 7.8 million people. With more than 1 million displaced, over 80% of the total displaced are women and children, at-risk of famine unless a well-coordinated humanitarian assistance, it was impossible to ignore the request for this particular surge deployment



**- Farid Gul, GBV Sub-Cluster Coordinator, Somalia**

When I first arrived, I was was immeasurably affected by the scope and scale of the drought and the non-availability of food and water to regions that have been severely hit. The first two days, I stopped eating and relied heavily only on drinking water and tea.

The living conditions in the camps were appalling, increasing the risk of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Gender Based Violence. Humanitarian assistance distribution was being heavily influenced by clan and kinships, in most case this increased the vulnerability of the affected population, particularly women and girls.

**UNFPA is having a huge impact through its work as the lead UN agency in implementing GBV programmes as well as lead being the lead of the GBV AoR at the national and sub-national level.** We are mobilising resources both human and fund-wise to ensure scaling up GBV programmes. My priority during my mission as to build systems and tools and strengthen the GBV Coordination system that could effectively build the national capacity to manage and implement GBV programmes and measure impact in the long run."



# Stories from the field

"Ethiopia has been a challenging and unpredictable context to work in, which also creates a very interesting and complex environment for a Communication Specialist. Dealing with a great level of uncertainty, an ever-changing context with heightened pressure from different actors, increasing technical constraints to perform my job and the need to rebuild trust in humanitarianism, has resulted in a demanding, hands-on learning experience during my mission.

Women have been greatly affected across Ethiopia in imaginable ways; I have listened to stories of survivors of gender-based violence and pregnant women forced to deliver in the bush, fleeing from conflict, which have been difficult to digest.

I think on my encounter with Mulu and the story of her cousin forced to marry her rapist due to a harmful tradition still alive in some parts of Ethiopia or Melese, a 30-year-old mother mourning the loss of her second baby in an informal IDP camp in SNNP.

I don't know how these women have managed to tell me the atrocities that were committed against them. Although I have held my tears in on more than one occasion, I have to keep going because these stories need to be told.



As a Communications Specialist, narrating women's experiences of gendered violence or their struggle to access healthcare amid conflict has been central to advocacy efforts and incredibly challenging exercise. **Giving them platforms to use their voice, tell their stories and a means through which to demand their rights or a survivor-based solution to their needs, it has been critical during the emergency response. It has been mind-blowing to see how women show a remarkable resilience, strength and solidarity with each other even when despair and devastation are greatest."**

**- Paula Fernandez Seijo, Communications Specialist, Northern Ethiopia**



# 2022 Surge workshops

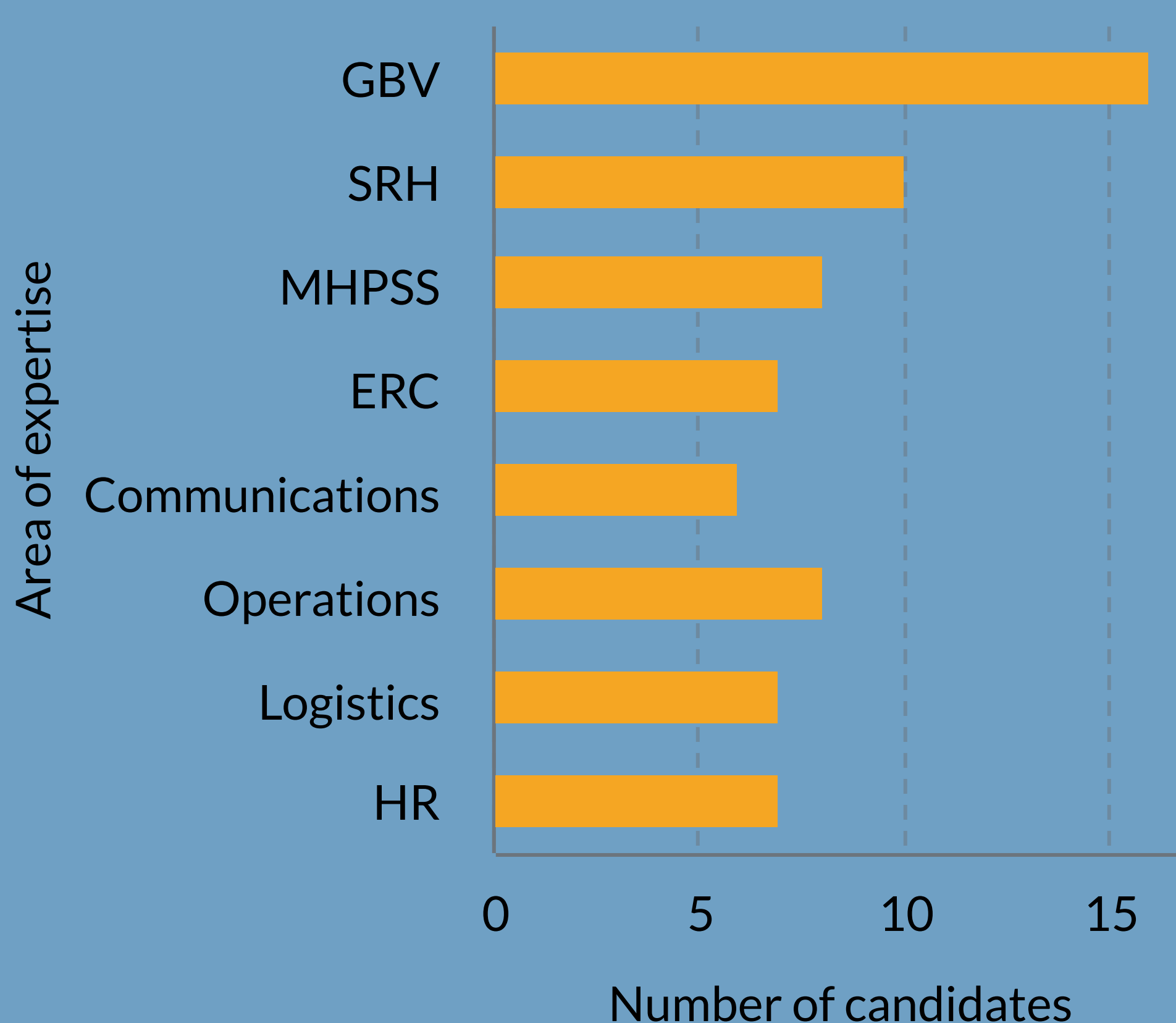


*The first cohort of the Surge Workshop in Brindisi, Italy since the global pandemic.*

**30**

Number of internal UNFPA staff added to the Surge Roster in 2022

## Participants by area of expertise



The Humanitarian Response Division organized two **Surge Workshops** in September 2022 in Brindisi, Italy which was the first on-site event since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Facilitated by **17 technical experts** each week, the humanitarian professionals went through a five-day learning workshop including a 3-day simulation exercise.

**Sixty eight** humanitarian experts were added to the Surge Roster which strengthened UNFPA's ability to respond quickly in humanitarian emergency contexts.



# 2022 Surge workshops



Group photo of participants and facilitators from the second week of the Surge Workshop 2022.

## Testimonials

*"I am genuinely grateful for this incredible immersive learning opportunity. I learnt a lot from peers and facilitators. Going home with sweet satisfaction about numerous insights that I am going to use in my work. I feel the entire Surge Workshop journey has been a great investment into my professional development."*

**"The workshop was an amazing exercise, I learned really a lot, especially about others' roles. I feel much more knowledgeable about UNFPA's mandate and role as a humanitarian actor, despite having worked for the organization for more than two years."**

*"I feel confident about my technical capacities. I had opportunities and the platform to ask questions on key areas where I needed clarifications and additional details."*



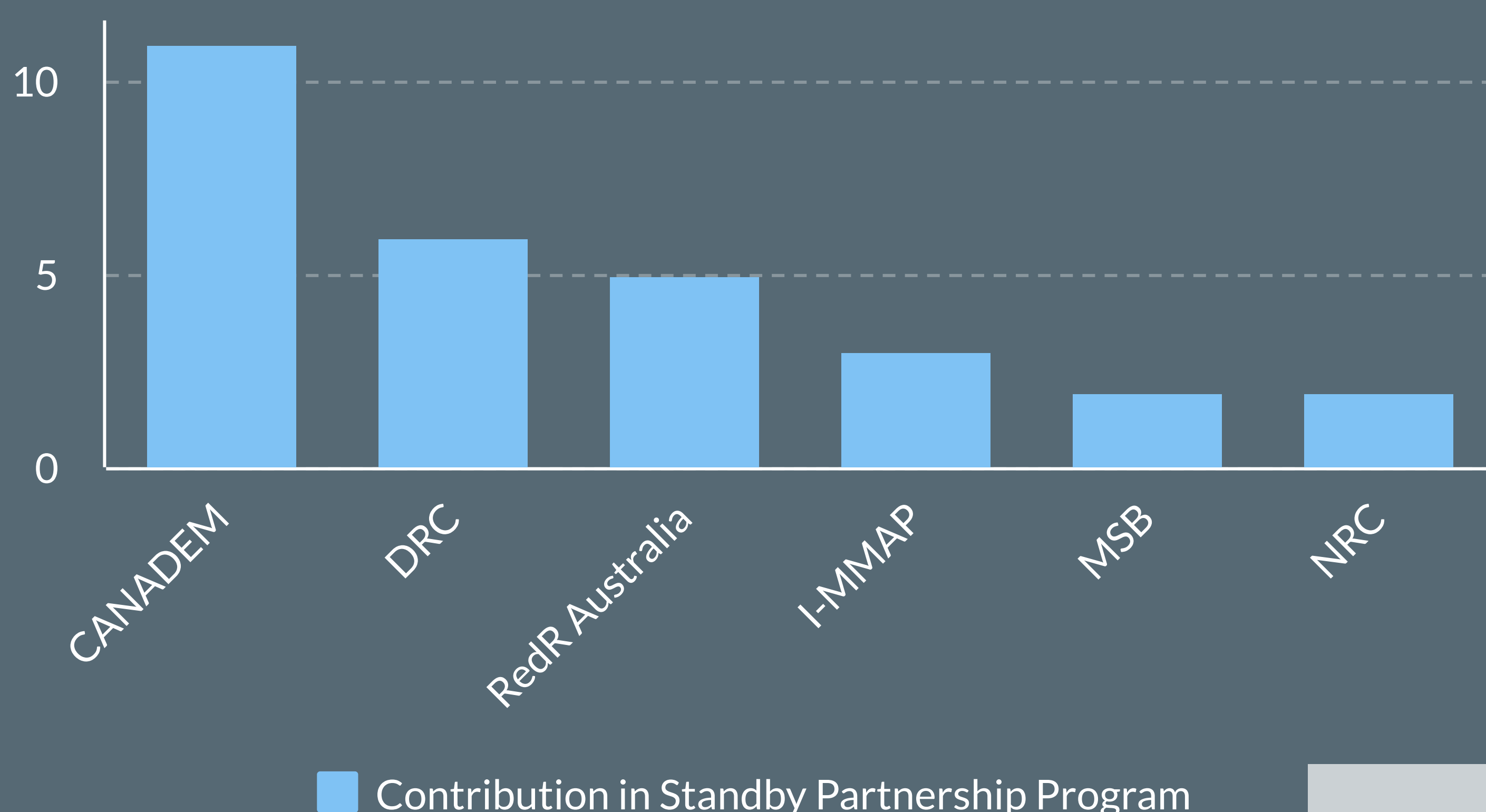
# Stand by Partnership

## Our SBP partners:

CANADEM, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, Foreign Commonwealth Development Office, RedR Australia, IMMAPP, Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

# US\$1.9 M

2022 in-kind contributions by standby partners



UNFPA holds Standby Partnership Agreements with external partners who provide short-term surge support to our humanitarian work. Standby Partners play a key role in strengthening our capacity during all aspects of emergencies. They maintain rosters of pre-screened experts who can be rapidly deployed to support.

About **39%** of all requests are funded by UNFPA's **Humanitarian Emergency Funds**, with **26%** of deployments sourced with funds from **country offices**. The remaining funds came through in-kind contributions from its **standby partners - 26%** and **USAID 11%**.

## Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID)

funded **15** Surge posts in 2022 making it the largest individual supporter of surge deployments

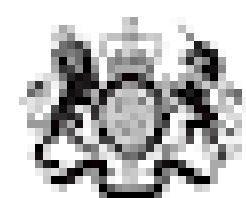


# We thank our partners



The success of our Surge response efforts at UNFPA continues to be firmly anchored in the strong relationships we have built with our Standby Partners (SBP). Throughout 2022, our partners, the Canadian International Civil Response Corps (CANADEM), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), iMAAP, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), RedR Australia and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB) continued to provide vital support to our country and regional offices supporting across 30 countries, with about 34% of all UNFPA deployments coming from our partners.

Outside of SBP, UNFPA surge deployments are also supported by Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of USAID. We are grateful for their support.



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

**redr**  
australia



Swedish Civil  
Contingencies  
Agency



**CANADEM**  
INTERNATIONAL CIVILIAN RESPONSE CORPS  
CORPS DE RÉACTION CIVILE INTERNATIONALE



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Better Data | Better Decisions | **Better Outcomes**



NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

“During the last several years, DRC has built a strong partnership with UNFPA and this is something that DRC highly appreciates. Deploying skilled experts to humanitarian emergencies around the world often comes with many challenges and, in our experience, it is extremely valuable that DRC can reach out to UNFPA when issues arise to work closely together and find the best solution.”

- Maria Dyhr Zangenberg, Programme & Operations Coordinator, Danish Refugee Council



# A special thank you to our staff!

We take this opportunity to once again thank our Regional and Country Offices for their support in releasing their staff to assist their fellow country offices in emergency situations.

At UNFPA, we respect that being responsive is a collective responsibility and undertaking with accountability shared at all levels. We also endorse the principle that our staff remain the first line of SURGE response when needing human resources during an emergency.

Mobilizing appropriately qualified staff is key in urgently assessing needs in the first few days of a response, help build local capacity, and ensures access to essential, life-saving SRH and GBV services to women and girls globally.

- ◆ **Bangladesh CO** provided M&E support to Ukraine
- ◆ **DR Congo CO** provided GBV support to Burkina Faso
- ◆ **EECA RO** provided GBV support to Moldova (Ukraine Response)
- ◆ **Gaziantep Office** provided Humanitarian Coordination support to Ukraine
- ◆ **Iraq CO** provided GBV support to Somalia
- ◆ **Iraq CO** provided Communications support to Ukraine
- ◆ **Iraq CO** provided SRH support to Moldova (Ukraine Response)
- ◆ **Kenya CO** provided Procurement support to Ukraine
- ◆ **Kosovo CO** provided SRH support to the Philippines
- ◆ **Somalia CO** provided GBV support to Bangladesh
- ◆ **South Sudan CO** provided Communications support to Afghanistan
- ◆ **Sudan CO** provided Operations support to Pakistan
- ◆ **Turkmenistan CO** provided Communications support to Moldova (Ukraine Response)
- ◆ **Uzbekistan CO** provided Operations support to Ukraine
- ◆ **Yemen CO** provided Security support to Ukraine





# Humanitarian Response Division Surge Team

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[unfpa.org/emergencies](http://unfpa.org/emergencies)

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