

The Standby Partnership Network



2025 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Standby Partnership Network	3
Foreword	5
Network Strategy 2026-2028	6
2025 Achievements	8
SBP Network 2025 Overview	12
Strengthening the Network	13
Regular Activities and Events	14
Impact in Action	16
UN Agency Reflections	26
SBP Network Partners	27

Standby Partnership Network

Who we are

The Standby Partnership Network (SBP Network) was founded in 2013 as a platform for all United Nations Agencies, Funds, Offices and Programmes, deploying NGOs, Governments, and private sector organisations that hold an active Standby Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to deploy expertise to emergency responses.

How we work

The SBP Network works towards the current Network Strategy (2026-2028), and is led by a Steering Committee comprising three United Nations and three deploying organisations.

Members contribute to the achievement of the Network Strategy through their deployment programmes, partnerships and operations. Members also contribute to joint goals of the Network through in-kind and financial support, participation in the Working Groups, the Steering Committee, Annual and Mid-Annual Consultations, sharing common data and analysis, emergency coordination mechanisms for scale-up emergencies and engagement with the Standby Partnership Network Secretariat.

“We envision a world where strong partnerships and synergies enable the timely mobilization of high-quality expertise to strengthen emergency operations—reducing suffering and improving outcomes where support is most needed.”

Standby Partnership Network Strategy 2026-2028

Foreword

In 2025, public funding for humanitarian action experienced its sharpest contraction ever, reducing 23.1%*—making it an exceptionally challenging year across the sector. Against this backdrop, Standby Partnership Network members delivered an outstanding contribution, demonstrating resilience, adaptability, and sustained operational impact.

Funding uncertainty, reduction in programmes and staffing and restructuring process saw a decline in new Standby Partnership requests coming from UN agencies. For similar reasons, UN agencies reported a higher need in extending existing deployments, underscoring the critical importance of continuity in rapidly evolving responses. Crucially, fewer requests did not translate into reduced impact. On the contrary, a 5% increase in the met rate, flexibility in accommodating extensions, and longer deployments led to an increase in the total number of days delivered. The number of active deployees rose to 1,106 in 2025 (up from 1,024 in 2024), contributing an increased in-kind value of USD 72.5 million—clear evidence of the operational stability and strength under pressure of Standby Partnerships. Operational evidence confirms the high value of these deployments, including ongoing support to the Sudan crisis and neighbouring countries highlighted in the [Sudan Plus joint evaluation](#), where the overall result was “very high achievement” of results.

Throughout 2025, the Standby Partnership Network further strengthened its impact and sustainability. Measurement frameworks were enhanced through a new evaluation template, while visibility increased through reporting and social media communications, as well as an online LinkedIn deployee community. Bilateral agreements were updated in line with best practices on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, staff supporting deployees undertook Operational Debriefing training, and the Duty of Care and MEAL Working Groups continued to produce sector-leading guidance. Members collaborated to develop the Strategic Framework 2026–2028, setting ambitious goals to ensure the rapid deployment of skilled, diverse personnel supported by agile and effective partnerships—ready to respond to evolving challenges in funding, access, and security.

These results are a testament to the extraordinary efforts of Standby Deployees, deploying organisations, United Nations colleagues, and committed donors. In a year defined by constraint and uncertainty, the Standby Partnership Network not only delivered—it continued to stand as a reliable, effective partnership to deliver expertise where it was needed most.

Samantha Ronda
Co-Chair Standby Partnership Network
Deployments and Partnerships Analyst
United Nations Development Programme

Sandra Cats
Co-Chair Standby Partnership Network
Advisor Dutch Surge Support
Netherlands Enterprise Agency

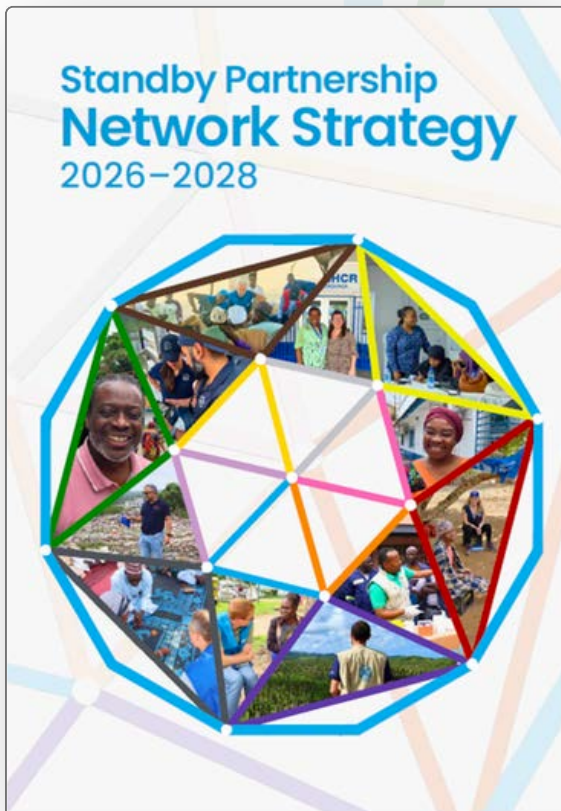
*Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 'International aid fell sharply in 2025, says OECD' (Press Release, 9 April 2026)

Network Strategy 2026–2028

In 2025, the Standby Partnership Network members developed the Network Strategy 2026-2028.

The strategy sets out the collective direction for the Standby Partnership Network over the period 2026–2028. It reflects a growing commitment among partners not only to maintain the efficiency and effectiveness of deployments, but to go further, ensuring that the system remains agile, impact-driven, and strategically positioned within the global humanitarian response ecosystem. It also acknowledges the need to demonstrate value in a context of funding scarcity, shifting key donor dynamics, and increasing demand for expert-driven support.

Developed through extensive consultation with key Standby Partnership Network members, this strategy reaffirms the enduring strengths of the SBP model—**agility, speed, quality, flexibility, partnership and accountability**—while setting out core objectives that will guide our joint efforts.



Purpose

By harnessing trusted partnerships, the Standby Partnership Network enables a rapid, timely, agile, and sustainable deployment mechanism that strengthens emergency responses to better support the people we serve, with particular attention to inclusiveness and gender equality.

Goal

To ensure that the Standby Partnership Network remains impactful, agile, and relevant by mobilizing effective expert deployments, strengthening partnerships, and promoting sustainable knowledge sharing in response to emergencies.

Specific Objectives



Temesgen Endale demonstrating the use of color comparators
Photo credit: Ing'utu/UNICEF Zambia

Specific Objective 1: Strengthened Partnerships

Strengthen coordination, collaboration, and knowledge sharing across the Standby Partnership Network by leveraging trusted partnerships to identify best practices, expand joint initiatives, and promote shared learning.

Specific Objective 2: Deploying Excellence

Enhance the quality, technical expertise, speed, relevance and impact of expert deployments by applying clear standards, streamlining deployment processes and tools, and systematically measuring deployment outcomes and overall support under the SBP mechanism.



Training of MHPSS trainers in Chad
Photo credit: Karl-Max Nodjiram/NIRVANA

Specific Objective 3: Amplified Reach

Expand advocacy and visibility to strengthen and promote the value of the Standby Partnership Network and of the SBP mechanism, among existing and emerging supporters, stakeholders and sectors with the aim of securing greater funding, enhancing recognition within the UN and beyond, and improving the Network's overall effectiveness and agility.



Veolia Foundation Aquaforce 5000 installation, South Sudan
Photo credit: Veolia Foundation

2025 Achievements Requests



78

UN Country Offices and Regional Offices requesting SBP deployees

764

new requests for expertise submitted during 2025

Crisis hotspots: South Sudan, Sudan, Chad, Ukraine and State of Palestine saw significant requests for experts



TOP 5

Requested profiles: Protection, WASH, Information Management, Health, and Logistics

80%

of deployment requests were met by the Standby Partnership Network



UNICEF was the largest requester of standby experts in 2025, followed by UNFPA, WFP, WHO and UNHCR

In 2025, the Standby Partnership Network saw a decrease in the number of requests (764 down from 1006 in 2024) coming from UN agencies as funding cuts, the Humanitarian Reset and UN80 processes affected reaching out for new deployees. UN agencies reported higher number of extension requests, evidencing the importance of maintaining continuity in responses in flux.

While some individual deploying organisations saw their funding affected, overall the pool of deploying organisations maintained their existing high level of support, resulting in **5% increase in the met rate**, as well as exercising flexibility when considering extension requests.

Deployments



151,739

days were delivered to response operations by deployees

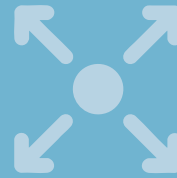


1109

new and continuing **deployees** in the field during 2025

TOP 5

Deploying organisations: **NORCAP, MCF, CANADEM, DRC** and **SDC** led the charge in new deployments

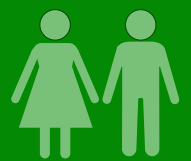


91

nationalities deployed worldwide – **51%** of the experts came from the **Global South**

34%

of deployees were **women**, which has remained steady over past three years and remains a priority



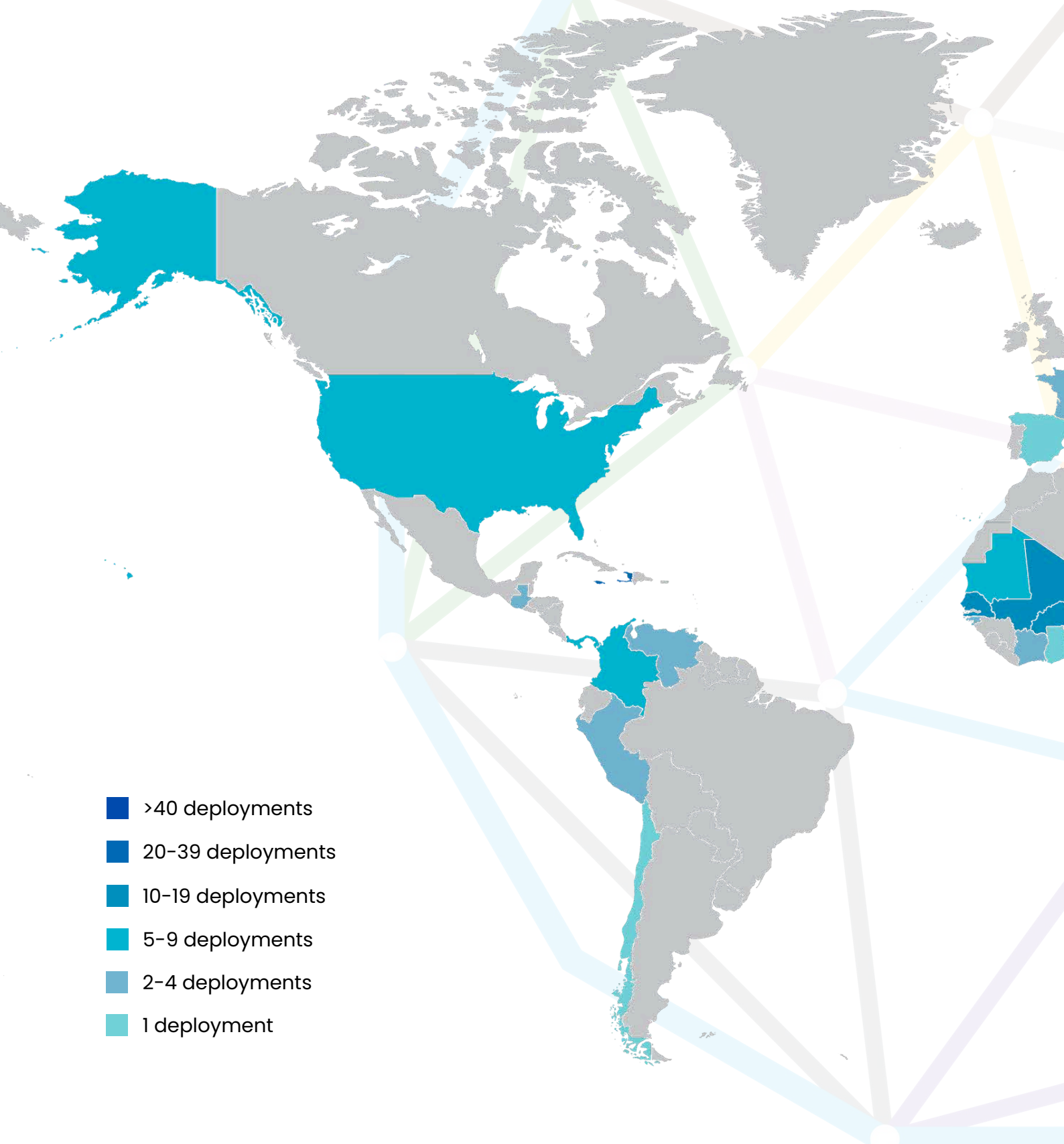
\$72.5 MILLION

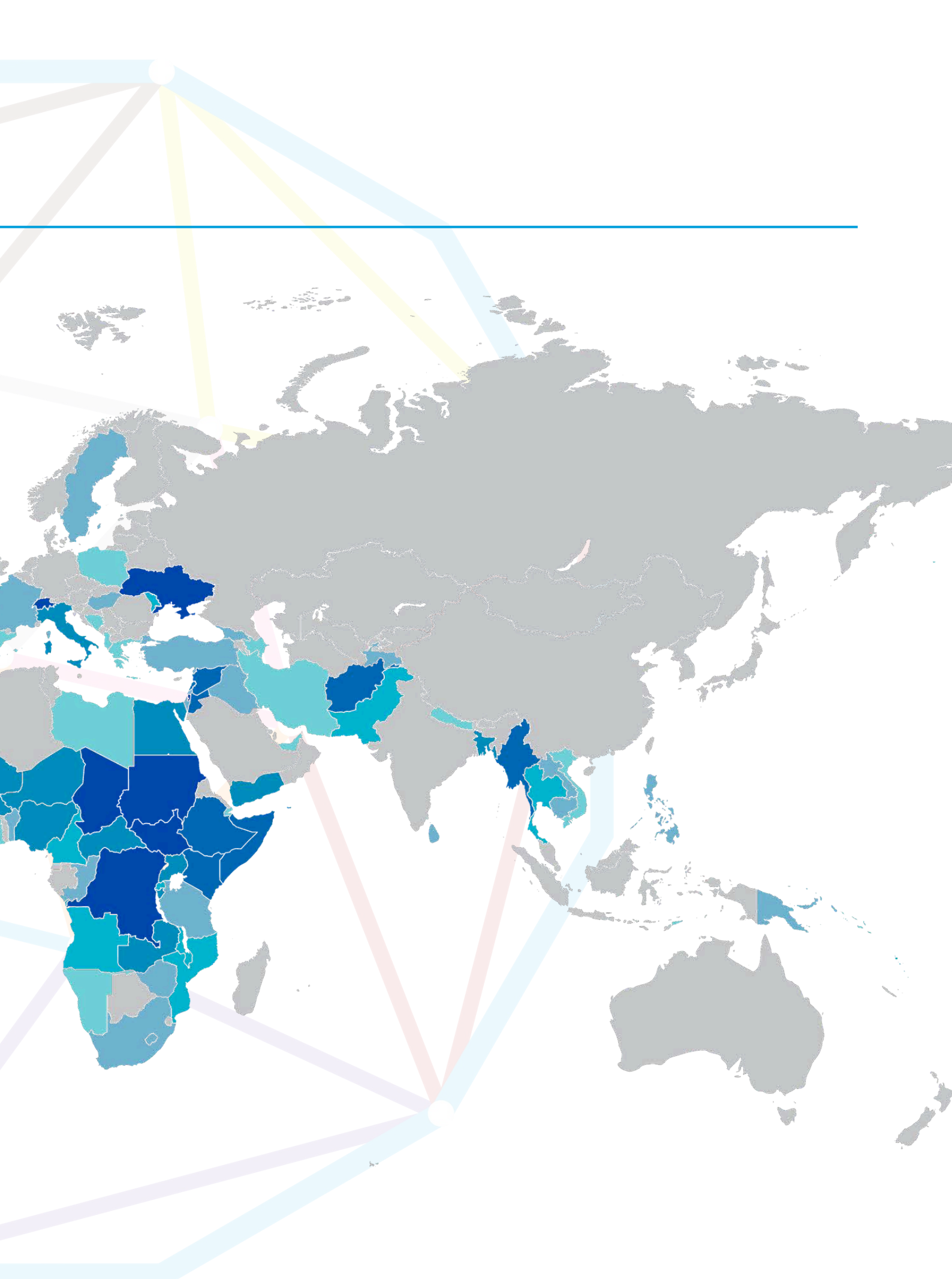
equivalent support provided by Standby Partners in humanitarian, development, and health emergencies contexts

Despite the lower number of requests, a higher met rate and longer deployments through extensions saw an **increase in the number of days delivered to emergency responses**. Overall, there were more deployees active in 2025 (1106) than in 2024 (1024), demonstrating the operational stability of the mechanism.

The total number of nationalities represented among newly deployed experts rose further to 91 in 2025 (81 in 2023 and 87 in 2024), reflecting growing global reach. The proportion of deployees from the Global South remained steady at 51% and the percentage of deployees deployed within their region of nationality was steady at 28%, underscoring the Network's commitment to regional expertise and contextual knowledge.

2025 Achievements Countries Supported





Standby Partnership Network 2025 Overview

Conclusion of the 2023–2025 Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework 2023-2025 concluded and the Network reviewed its progress against the previous objectives:



Enhancing the **coordination**, **advocacy**, and **visibility** of Standby Partnerships



Improving the **quality** of deployments through development and adoption of best practice



Improving the measurement of **needs** and **gaps**, as well as the personnel available

The review found a steady positive impact across humanitarian, development, and public health contexts, while noting staffing gaps for parts of the three year period and the absence of a formal funding structure. The review recommended donor diversification and resource mobilization, and increasing visibility of SBP contributions. It also captured members' perceptions of the Network's value-add, informing the 2026–2028 planning process.

Governance

The 2025 Steering Committee was led by Co-Chairs International Organization for Migration (IOM) and IMMAP Inc, transitioning in September to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

2025 saw the graduation of IMMAP Inc, RedR Australia and the World Health Organisation (WHO) from Steering Committee roles, and the commencement of terms from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

Throughout 2025, Help.NGO continued to serve as Treasurer.

Strengthening the Network

New Partnerships

In 2025, the Standby Partnership Network welcomed two new member organisations:

- *The United Nations Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen (OESGY) who signed with RedR Australia and*
- *REACT who signed with WFP.*

Additionally, the following Standby Partnership Network members signed new partnerships:

- *The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and the Centre for International Peace Operations Germany (ZIF)*
- *The United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) and MapAction*
- *The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Centre for International Peace Operations Germany (ZIF)*
- *The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UK-Med*
- *The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Australia Assists*
- *The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)*
- *The World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF)*



Standby Partnership Network Annual Consultations 2025
Photo credit: Evin Joyce

Regular Activities & Events

Annual Consultations

The Standby Partnership Network Annual Consultations 2025 were held in May in Geneva, Switzerland, during Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW). The event brought together 84 participants demonstrating the SBP Network's growing engagement. The Consultations provided a platform for strategic dialogue amid the US funding freeze. The programme covered Network updates, funding discussions, a joint session with the International Humanitarian Partnership (IHP) on the value of external operational partnerships to UN emergency operations, the Sudan Plus evaluation results and brainstorming for the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan.

Mid-Annual Consultations

The Mid-Annual Consultations 2025 were held virtually from 17–25 September, convening 108 participants. The event opened with a panel of experienced deployees sharing insights on measuring deployment impacts beyond the terms of reference. Members examined sector-wide changes, including humanitarian reform, localisation, and challenges in recruitment and roster management. Internal standards were also addressed, focusing on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), establishing a membership validation process, and advancing Duty of Care measures for incident coordination. The SBP Network's new draft three-year Strategic Framework was presented and refined.

Duty of Care Working Group

With 24 active members and the leadership of the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and NORCAP the working group ran the 2025 cohort of Operational Debriefers Training, strengthened PSEA standards through the adoption of a Model Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) clause and implementation guidance, held informational sessions with the Core Humanitarian Standard on the Harmonised Reporting Tool, Interpol on international background checks, The IASC MHPSS Reference Group on Staff Wellbeing Guidance and held member discussion sessions on insurance standards, national deployees, major incident management and low performance management.

Operational Debrief Training

The Operational Debrief Training developed by the Standby Partnership Network’s Duty of Care Working Group in partnership with training organisation The Humanitarian opened the second cohort of trainees in 2025. The course aims to build on the skills of staff interacting and supporting deployees along the course of a deployment, and in particular by improving debriefing outcomes for the organisation, the debriefer, and the deployee. The course comprises self-paced e-modules followed by online coaching and simulation sessions. It contributes to the Core Humanitarian Standard Commitment that communities interact with well-managed personnel, and in particular: *8.3 Ensure all staff and volunteers have the necessary support, skills, and competencies to fulfil their roles and responsibilities effectively and accountably.*

MEAL Working Group

The Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) Working Group had 17 active member organisations in 2025. Under the Co-Chairs of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office United Kingdom (FCDO UK), the group advanced four workstreams, including refining deployment data collection, developing a management response to the Joint Monitoring Missions (JMM), planning the 2026 JMM, finalising the Sudan Plus evaluation, and improving the results and performance evaluation. The group also focused on knowledge management sessions led by members on best practices related to post-deployment surveys.

Sudan Plus Evaluation

In April 2025, the Standby Partnership Network published the Sudan Plus Joint Monitoring Mission report. It assessed the extent to which the SBP mechanism and the SBP Network as a whole supported the humanitarian response in Sudan, cross-border operations, and neighbouring countries—both before and after the activation of the System-Wide Scale-Up. Given the protracted nature of the crisis, the mission also examined emerging and future needs to sustain the ongoing response.

The overall results were “very high achievement”—deployees played a vital role by supporting UN Country Offices in the delivery of life-saving services and coordination of emergency responses; offering technical guidance in highly specialised areas; strengthening the capacity of government and local actors to lead humanitarian efforts; monitoring the implementation of emergency interventions; and building the capabilities of national staff, local stakeholders, and partners.

Impact in Action

Coordinating Gender Based Violence Responses in Gaza



UNFPA GBV AoR Coordinator Florence Aliba (third from left) during a visit to a Women and Girls Safe Space
Photo credit: UNFPA Gaza

The need for multisectoral services including health services, psychosocial support, safety and livelihood support in Gaza for survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), caregivers, and frontline workers is critical.

Florence Aliba's extensive experience in coordinating GBV responses in complex humanitarian settings such as South Sudan, Cameroon and Yemen made her the right person to deploy to UNFPA through CANADEM to coordinate organisations and local responders in GBV prevention and response.

Given high transportation costs and dangerous travel conditions, Florence provided on-site technical guidance and training to local women led organisations wherever possible, but also adapted case management training to a remote delivery, allowing partners to learn how to support survivors over the phone. Most partners were national organisations whose staff were themselves affected, and having to move constantly due to the conflict. It became necessary to track partner staff as they also shifted their services with them, including safe spaces for women and girls, psychosocial support, case management and dignity kits.

While conditions remain difficult and in particular during her first deployment supplies to respond were extremely limited, Florence's coordination through the GBV AoR means that survivors and the most vulnerable populations in Gaza are at the forefront of assistance.

"I have come with the commitment to focus on integrating GBV risk mitigation within other sectors and ensure that GBV survivors and people who are the most vulnerable, are at the top of service delivery,"

Ms. Florence Aliba, GBV AoR Coordinator

Water supply in Bangladesh

Adrian Denyer of the Global WASH Cluster Field Support Team was deployed by OXFAM with WASH Sector colleagues in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh. Three camps were affected by a "mega-fire" in 2021, in which 45,000 Rohingya lost their homes, with an associated average response cost of USD 931 per person.

Adrian's deployment enabled the WASH sector to successfully advocate to donors and WASH sector and Emergency Response Plan (ERP) partners to adapt existing camp water supply networks to provide enhanced water supply for fire-fighting in the camps to reduce fire hazard risk in the camps in future.



Adrian Denyer with WASH Sector colleagues in Cox's Bazar Bangladesh at a water connection point in Camp 8W
Photo credit: Adrian Denyer

Localisation and Finance in Colombia

Localization and Finance are key topics for OCHA and its Standby Partner the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) with growing relevance in today's context of financial cuts and the call for more localized, adapted humanitarian action.

Colombia is one of four pilot countries of the Flagship initiative aiming at a transformed humanitarian system with an increased focus on communities and enhanced local participation, and Eveline Studer was deployed to support the initiative.

Together over 330 NGO/CBOs were mapped out, and after an intense due diligence process for eligible partners, 11 projects were selected summing up USD3.5 million, fostering participation of local organizations through micro-grants and partnerships.

“My assignment focused on two aspects: strengthen Colombian organizations fostering localization and support the fund as focal person for Colombia. I was fortunate to start with a solid baseline: a national localization strategy was already developed and endorsed by the humanitarian country team, a Localization working group (WG) representing national NGOs and community-based organizations (CBO) was initiated and for the RHPF LAC USD3.5 million had been raised from donors for its launch.”

Ms. Eveline Studer, Localization and Finance Advisor



Eveline Studer (right) engaging in fruitful collaboration with the Colombian leaders of the Localisation Working Group
Photo credit: OCHA Colombia

Women and Peacebuilding in Yemen



Photo credit: Earvin Perias WFP

Afrah Nasser was deployed to the United Nations Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen (OSEGY) based in Amman, Jordan to advance the Women, Peace, and Security agenda through Australia Assists.

Afrah helps design and implement activities to ensure women’s perspectives and leadership are integrated into peacebuilding efforts in Yemen, where women have historically been excluded from formal peace processes.

“Women are central to social cohesion in their communities, and their involvement ensures that peace agreements are more comprehensive, inclusive, and resilient.”

Ms. Afrah Nasser, Women, Peace, and Security Advisor

Partnering with the Government for a Climate-Ready future in Cameroon

Cameroon continues to face complex and prolonged humanitarian crisis driven by conflict, displacement, food insecurity, and climate shocks. Overlapping crises, compounded by rising prices and the effects of climate change on agriculture, have left more than three million people food insecure.



Robert Kalega (far right) takes part in consultations with communities who had been affected by the 2024 floods to develop flood preparedness planning in the Kousseri sub-division, Far North region of Cameroon.
Photo credit: Mr Alain Okomo Croix Rouge Cameroon

Danish Refugee Council (DRC) deployed Robert Kalega through the Standby Partnership Network to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Cameroon as a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Officer. His assignment supports the Government of Cameroon in implementing and operationalising climate actions, disaster preparedness and early warning systems.

“Climate change cannot be addressed in isolation; it must be integrated into humanitarian and development programmes from the design stage through implementation.”

Mr. Robert Kalega, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Officer

Robert’s deployment has strengthened both government and partner efforts to build more effective early warning systems for responses to climate crisis such as drought and floods.

Conflict, Climate and Cholera



Photo credit: Reginald Ramos

Dhruva Majagaiyan is a WASH Specialist deployed to the World Health Organization's Regional Hub in Amman, Jordan to respond to cholera outbreaks across the conflict and climate-affected countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, and Lebanon.

Dhruva's deployment through Australia Assists, focuses on providing technical guidance to strengthen water, sanitation, and hygiene systems, promoting the coordination of regional responses, and improving healthcare facility standards to prevent the spread of cholera.

Food assistance in Uganda

In July 2024, Rolf Lienekogel was deployed by Germany's Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) to support the World Food Programme (WFP) Uganda in scaling up cash-based assistance. But his mission quickly shifted. By January 2025, news broke that major donors were pulling back, forcing WFP to reduce food aid for over 1.6 million refugees.

In a packed community hall in northern Uganda, Rolf and his colleagues faced one of the hardest conversations of their careers. Refugee leaders sat across from them, waiting to hear why food rations were being slashed—again. Some asked if their children would still eat. Others demanded to know why their families were no longer considered “vulnerable enough.”

These emotionally charged meetings became the centerpiece of a humanitarian reckoning in Uganda, which hosts more than 1.9 million refugees—more than any other country in Africa. Transparency in the approach and process became essential. Rolf and his colleagues had many meetings with refugee leaders, community groups, and national authorities. They explained the funding shortfall, the criteria, and the appeals process for those who felt wrongly excluded.

“We were very transparent,” he said. “It was important to have these conversations, though they weren’t easy. My priority was to ensure the scarce resources reached those most in need. I’m absolutely sure we did everything we could in making sure what funding we have goes to those who need it most. And you hope donors will see that and step up.”

Mr. Rolf Lienekogel, Cash Based Transfer Expert



Rolf discussing the challenges reported by refugees through the helpdesk with local NGO colleagues.
Photo credit: Angella Gitta/WFP Uganda

Rigorous quality reporting in Gaza



Photo credit: Helia Farahnoosh Wick

“I am especially proud of my contribution in ensuring our humanitarian reports captured the centrality of protection and a people-centred approach. In a fast-paced environment, analysis can easily fall behind numbers rather than the human realities they represent. I hope the future will bring stronger platforms where the lived stories of the communities we serve can inform humanitarian decision-making, while also standing as testimony to the magnitude of the crisis and our collective duty to protect, uphold, and advocate for the rights and dignity of those affected.”

**Ms. Helia Faranoosh Wick, Humanitarian Affairs Officer
Deployed by MCF to OCHA**

Helping communities to heal in Chad

Shelter, clean water, food – these are obvious life-saving responses to people who have fled their homes, but responding to people’s mental health and psychosocial needs has to be also thought of as a first line response.

“Not being able to sleep, wash yourself, having no access to loved ones, not being able to feed your family – of course this causes mental and psychosocial distress.”

Ms. Zena Awad, MHPSS Specialist

Zena Awad was deployed by the Dutch Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Surge Mechanism roster on three deployments in the last year all in support of the response to the Sudan crisis, including six months in South Sudan with the Health Cluster and WHO, one month to supporting the response in Sudan with the Protection Cluster and UNHCR, and finally two months in eastern Chad with UNHCR. In all three countries, Zena’s focus was on making her contribution sustainable through supporting local partners to engage in MHPSS coordination, providing capacity building in three national languages and integrating MHPSS across multiple sectors and clusters – ensuring that it continues to be central to first line responders, and across interventions in health, education and protection.



Zena (far right) undertaking training of trainers on mental health and psychosocial support
Photo credit: Karl-Max Nodjiram/NIRVANA

Zena's connection with the Inter Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) Reference Group on MHPSS meant that she could roll out the MHPSS Minimum Service Package (MSP) of tools and approaches, ensuring consistency, quality and harmonisation of MHPSS approaches in emergency settings.

“MHPSS is much broader than people generally think – it is about the whole spectrum of coping with stress and adversity. How do we help people access information and essential services, protect dignity, strengthen resilience, provide safe spaces, facilitate social integration, social support mechanisms and enhance social cohesion, restore trust, reduce stigma, and give people back a sense of agency over their own wellbeing. It involves interventions in every sector helping a community to heal.”

Ms. Zena Awad, MHPSS Specialist

Training of Trainers focused on what was needed in the local contexts – such as psychological first aid, how to support children of different ages, selfcare promotion for staff, and referrals pathways. The first training in French trained national staff of local partners and health authorities, and a few from INGOs and UN agencies. The second in Arabic trained 29 Sudanese refugee community mobilisers who were teachers, doctors and social workers in Sudan. The trainings were transformative for participants, who were equipped with the tools and skills to not only support their communities themselves but also to train others – the week after Zena's departure a cascade training was conducted by 4 of the Sudanese now-certified trainers, targeting Sudanese community leaders, and supported by Action Contre la Faim (ACF), Nirvana and African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD).

Local leadership in Niger

In conflict-affected Tillaberi, Niger, humanitarian needs are evolving in a complex environment where the Government, with the support of partners, continues to lead efforts to ensure assistance reaches vulnerable communities.

The Centre for International Peace Operation (ZIF) deployed Maren Rahlf to UNICEF Niger to strengthen national and local partnerships that can reach vulnerable communities. From her first weeks, she put localisation principles into practice—visiting field offices, meeting partners, and strengthening locally led planning and decision-making within Government-led coordination frameworks. She worked closely with national and local Government authorities, alongside local NGOs, youth and women's associations, and community leaders to build a collaborative approach to humanitarian assistance.



Photo credit: Maren Rahlf

“We are really sitting at the table and developing something together. This builds trust in partnerships that go beyond mere project implementation. When there is trust we can work in complementarity rather than in competition. It also helps ensure that communities shape every stage of the programme cycle.”

Ms. Maren Rahlf, Localisation Specialist

Water filtration in South Sudan

In December 2025, Veolia Foundation deployed five experts to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in Bentiu and Malakal to install Aquaforce 7500 units which filter water without high environmental impacts, maintenance costs and dependence on chemicals. Each unit can provide 20 litres of drinking water per day to 7,500 people.

“By reducing the need for fuel and chemicals, we’re cutting costs, protecting the environment, and strengthening local capacity to manage water services independently.”

Mr. Josep de Trincheria, WASH Specialist



Veolia Foundation employees fill the carbon filter with bags of activated carbon in the Aquaforce 5000 unit in South Malakal, South Sudan.
Photo credit: Veolia Foundation



Women from refugee and host communities in Farchana making clay fuel-efficient stoves to reduce GBV risks linked to firewood collection
Photo credit: Issa Bani Cheikh /Chadian Red Cross

Boosting GBV response in Chad

Chad hosts nearly a third of all Sudanese refugees –60% of them children. To strengthen the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response, UNICEF deployed Rosaline Bawe through the Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF).

Rosaline worked in Farchana alongside the Chad Red Cross, UNHCR, UNFPA and local NGOs, filling critical gaps in GBV prevention through community engagement efforts reaching over 124,000 individuals with tailored messaging on GBV risk, services, PSEA and protection mechanisms.

Rosaline’s impact continues past her deployment Risk mitigation community initiatives she helped seed—like “Girls with a Future,” which empowers adolescent girls and boys to produce and sell fuel briquettes and the production of fuel-efficient stoves—continue to thrive. These efforts reduce unsafe six-hour firewood trips for girls and help them stay in school, while strengthening community resilience and support for GBV survivors.

UN Agency Reflections

“The Standby Partnership is more than a network; it is a lifeline. By streamlining expert deployments, it allows UNFPA to bypass operational bottlenecks and focus on what matters: delivering essential health and protection services. In these difficult times, Standby Partnership support is the engine that enables us to reach vulnerable women and girls with the urgency they deserve.”

Dusan Jovanovic, UNFPA Surge Manager

“In 2025, Standby Partner deployments played a critical role in helping IOM expand timely, accountable and climate-resilient WASH support for crisis-affected populations. Beyond surge capacity, these partnerships strengthened technical coordination, field support, and collective humanitarian action across the sector.”

Antonio Torres, IOM Global WASH Coordinator

“The SBP mechanism has proven over the last decade and beyond to be a highly successful, impactful, agile, and fit-for-purpose modality for humanitarian surge support. Although this is my first year serving as Chief of Section for the unit that manages Standby Partnerships in UNICEF, I have been a user of this mechanism for many years, both at the regional and field level. Seeing it now from a different perspective has been truly inspiring. I continue to be impressed by how this Network operates: a community of highly committed professionals, organizations, and donors working together under one shared mandate and vision, constantly challenging themselves to provide timely, effective, and high-quality surge capacity to humanitarian operations worldwide.

Within UNICEF, I can confidently say that we are relying more and more on this mechanism as emergencies become increasingly complex and demanding. As I begin this new chapter in my career, I sincerely hope to contribute to the Network with the same level of passion, commitment, and professionalism that I see reflected in the thousands of experts deployed through our partners every year.”

Michele Messina, UNICEF Chief of People-Centered Humanitarian Partnerships

Thank you to the active members of the Standby Partnership Network

...To the sending agencies and donors that deployed their standby experts:



...And to the UN agencies that hosted these experts:



This publication was developed by the Standby Partnership Network Secretariat. Report design by Help.NGO.

Data in this report are drawn from statistics submitted by Standby Partnership Network members, from data as at 31 January 2026.

All figures are stated in United States Dollars.

Cover photo: Rosaline Bawe conducting awareness on GBV risks with 210 women and adolescent girls in Farchana camp, strengthening knowledge on safety, protection and available services.

Photo credit: Adoum Gamane/Chadian Red Cross

@Standby Partnership Network. All Rights Reserved.



info@standbypartnership.org



www.standbypartnership.org



[standby-partnership-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/standby-partnership-network)

