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Cover: HIAS staff distribute emergency food and non-food items (cleaning supplies, household items) to a community of displaced Eritrean families in Israel. (Sammy Voit for HIAS)

# HIAS stands for a world in which refugees find welcome, safety, and opportunity.

Guided and inspired by our Jewish values and history, as well as by humanitarian principles, HIAS provides vital services to refugees and asylum seekers in more than 20 countries worldwide, supports them while they rebuild their lives, and advocates for their fundamental rights.

In addition to its support for worldwide humanitarian operations, HIAS supports Jewish communities, organizations, and activists in their efforts to welcome and integrate refugees. HIAS has also emerged as a crucial voice in advocating for the rights of refugees and displaced people in the United States and around the world.

This report lays out the impact of HIAS' key activities in 2023. These include:

- 1. Resettling refugees across the United States in partnership with our network of affiliates.
- 2. Providing essential services to refugees and displaced people in more than 20 countries around the world.
- 3. Advocating for principled policies on asylum, migration, and humanitarian crises.

In 2023, HIAS worked in: Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela.

hias 2023 Annual Report



# Foreword

Dear friends,

In recent years, we have begun this letter by saying that the world faces an unprecedented challenge in addressing the needs of refugees and displaced people. This year is no exception. As of this writing, more than 120 million people around the world are displaced — more than the population of Egypt. The number is expected to reach 130 million by the end of 2024.

In addition to the still-ongoing war in Ukraine, 2023 witnessed the emergence of two new geopolitical flashpoints: civil conflict in Sudan and the humanitarian crises in Israel and Gaza. The turmoil in Sudan drove hundreds of thousands of refugees across the border into Chad, where HIAS — which has maintained a presence in the country for nearly two decades — was able to provide immediate assistance. And in the days following the horrific attack by Hamas against Israel on October 7, HIAS was on the ground, offering support to nearly a quarter million individuals displaced by the attacks. Our response to these crises reflects the successful collaboration between our Emergency Response team and staff at HIAS headquarters and in country offices.

These extraordinary events occurred amid a long list of other, ongoing challenges around the globe. Here in the United States, we've operated in close coordination with a network of affiliates to resettle refugees from all over the world to new homes. And, despite strong political headwinds, we have worked tirelessly to urge the U.S. government to establish more humane policies for refugees and to maintain our status as a refuge for asylum seekers who flee persecution for who they are.

In 2023, **the HIAS Foundation was also launched**, to ensure that our 120-year agency would continue to serve refugees long into the future.

These are uniquely perilous times for the world's displaced population. But at HIAS, we've continued to do what we've always done: provide services to refugees around the world in service to our mission, based on Jewish tradition, of welcoming the stranger. We're committed to doing the same in 2024 — and in the years to come.

Sincerely,



Mark Hetfield
President & CEO



Jeff Blattner Chair Emeritus

# HAS Global Impact in 2023

**Global Humanitarian Assistance to Refugees** 

# 2.3 million

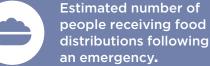
People reached through services including legal aid, economic inclusion, protection from gender-based violence, and community-based mental health and psychosocial support. 62% of people directly reached were women and girls.

People reached by HIAS emergency response around the world.



**379,100** 

307,000 =





### **Israel Emergency Response**



106,699

together with local partners in Israel.



People received mental health services in the aftermath of the October 7 attacks.



**3,201** 

People received cash distributions to meet their immediate needs.



**219,000** 

754,000



People accessed community/ child protection services during situations of displacement.

#### **Humanitarian Programming Reach**



HIAS performed services in 24 countries around the world: Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela.





# The October 7 attacks in Israel killed more than 1,200 people

On October 7, attacks in Israel killed more than 1,200 people and wounded many more. An estimated 250,000 Israelis were internally displaced. HIAS began an emergency response to give life-saving support, providing critical information to displaced Israelis and asylum seekers. HIAS and its partners then expanded the response to include cash assistance, food and household items, and psychosocial support services. The war and hostage crisis continue to have a devastating impact on all elements of Israeli society, including asylum seekers, many of whom were forced to leave their homes and relive past traumas triggered by the current violence.

The aftermath of the October 7 attacks has also had a devastasting effect on Gaza, where blockages of aid and the near complete destruction of infrastructure has resulted in a humanitarian catastrophe. HIAS continues to advocate for immediate, full, and sustained access to these communities and to call for all civilians to be protected.

### Help for Israel's Displaced

Together with Israeli organizations, HIAS has distributed food baskets, children's toys, clothing, diapers, and baby food; covered access to and transportation for medical treatment; and helped displaced Israelis and refugees get mental health counseling and treatment. HIAS works closely with the Jerusalem African Community Center, the only Jerusalem-based NGO dedicated to working with refugees and asylum seekers, offering psychosocial support, help with education, and special help for women. Mothers have had to cope with their own re-traumatization while helping their children manage the new situation. "We have an open and direct line to them," said Michal, 33, an asylum seeker who has been living in Israel for 13 years. "They help me feel safe."



# Over 554,000 Sudanese refugees settled in Chad

In April 2023, fighting broke out in Sudan's capital and soon spread across much of the country, forcing millions of people displaced by the conflict to flee to neighboring states. More than 554,000 newly arrived **Sudanese refugees settled in Chad**, one of the world's poorest countries, and already home to 400,000 persons displaced from Sudan during earlier crises.

HIAS has provided protection and services to refugees, displaced persons, and host communities in Chad for nearly 20 years, and runs field offices serving 13 refugee camps along the eastern border with Sudan.

With the partnership of WFP, Islamic Relief USA, GlobalMedic, and UNHCR, 108,795 households received cash-based transfers to purchase food.

With the partnership of WFP, Islamic Relief USA, GlobalMedic, and UNHCR, 108,795 households received cash-based transfers to purchase food.

#### **Getting the Support** Needed

One Sudanese refugee interviewed in a 200,000person camp in Adré, eastern Chad, described to HIAS' Emergency Response staff how difficult it was to sleep, given the overcrowded, makeshift shelters where families must squeeze into spaces measuring only about six square feet. "We sleep directly on the ground; I hold my child on my chest to protect him from the wet ground," he said. "When it rains, we cannot sleep and must stand for hours because the shelter floods. I got sick from lack of sleep and sleeping on the wet ground, and there is currently no medicine available."

Once settled in the camps, refugees must then consider building a sustainable life. To assist with this endeavor, HIAS launched a program to help refugee women carry out income-generating activities. Djimié Abakar Yacoub was one of 10 women to benefit from cash assistance equivalent to approximately \$125 per person, a sum that allowed her to launch a small business. Today, she sells tea, coffee, and donuts in the small camp market. "I am truly grateful to HIAS for its life-saving support," Djimié said.

### **U.S.-Mexico Border**

HIAS Mexico served 1,054 GBV survivors

— 10% from the LGBTQ+ population.

Nearly one in five of all displaced people reside within the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region, where HIAS operates over 75 offices in 11 countries. Most seek protection within other LAC countries, such as Colombia, Peru, and Mexico. For those seeking asylum in Mexico, or those who intend to continue their journeys north to seek asylum in the U.S., HIAS operates eight offices providing legal, mental health, and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention programs.



Migrant children play outside the Embajadores de Jesus migrant shelter in Tijuana, Baja California state, Mexico, on February 17, 2022. (Guillermo Arias for HIAS)

HIAS also advocates for fair and humane asylum policies in the United States. When the Biden administration proposed restrictive policies amounting to a virtual asylum ban in May 2023, HIAS mobilized our supporters to submit over 5,000 comments to the Federal Register — where government agency

rules, proposed rules, and public notices are published — calling on the administration to withdraw the proposed restrictions. As U.S. border policy shifts, HIAS' U.S. and Mexico operations work together to keep asylum seekers informed about their rights and responsibilities.

As displacement across Latin American countries rose to record levels in 2023, HIAS was there to provide women, children, and LGBTQ+ people in need with humanitarian assistance. Our field teams across the region provided GBV response, prevention, and mitigation services to refugee and migrant survivors of violence. This support helped stabilize survivors in emergency situations, while providing them with tools to increase their long-term resilience.

### A Refuge From Hate

Evelin, a transgender woman, was forced to flee multiple countries in Central America after experiencing transphobic abuse and death threats. "There's so much hate and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community," she said. "That's why I had to move again to find safety." Evelin received mental health support and GBV response services from HIAS Mexico in the city of Tapachula, where she is currently applying for asylum. She received individual support from a psychologist over several months. "Her help has made me feel very empowered, even after everything I've gone through," said Evelin.

# **Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis**

**131,000 people reached**, including **81,000 with MHPSS** activities.

In 2023, the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine continued to worsen: more than 6.3 million refugees from Ukraine were recorded in Europe at the end of 2023. HIAS and its longtime local partner Right to Protection (R2P) continued to coordinate on projects, while HIAS Ukraine helped HIAS become a leading organization in the areas of localization and working with women-led organizations. HIAS helped more than 100,000 displaced Ukrainians.



Tetyana Kotova, a HIAS MHPSS staffer, embraced a group of elderly refugees at a shelter in Lviv, Ukraine. (Paula Bronstein for HIAS)

## Finding a **New Family**

Anastasiia Ponomarenko made the difficult decision to leave her extended family behind and flee Ukraine in March 2023. With HIAS' help, she relocated from Poland to Brussels and connected with Talia and Bernard Dan, volunteers who are part of HIAS' Welcome Circles program, a partnership between HIAS Europe and local Jewish communities that expanded to Europe to address the influx of Ukrainians fleeing war. Volunteers help the newly arrived Ukrainians procure clothing, food, and furniture and enroll in language classes.

Ponomarenko, who struggled with trauma and depression, is living in an apartment and has been taking French classes so she can get a job. "They are the most beautiful people I have ever seen," she said of the Dans. "They are amazing. They helped me with everything."



# HAS Programs & Activities in 2023

### **Advocacy and Jewish Community Engagement**

**Legal Services** 

219,000 (\*\*)



People reached globally, directly and indirectly, through Legal



Actions taken by supporters advocating for displaced persons in the United States.

Messages sent to lawmakers by supporters advocating for displaced persons.



**Gender-Based Violence** 



(†) **533,000** 

People reached globally, directly and indirectly, through





People supported through resettlement activities

**Economic Inclusion** 

52,000



People reached globally, directly and indirectly, through EI activities.

**Emergency Response** 



354,180

People received food assistance through HIAS Food Security and Nutrition Programming.

**Mental Health & Psychosocial Support** 



People reached globally, directly and indirectly, through MHPSS activities.

#### **Global Advocacy**



With the Jewish community beside us, HIAS and our sister agencies HIAS Europe and HIAS-JCORE UK advocate for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced people around the world.

# Programs & Services

#### **Legal Services**

HIAS' legal protection programs are dedicated to ensuring that forcibly displaced people know their rights, have access to protection, and can navigate the often-complicated legal systems that offer the chance for permanent status and security. We are particularly focused on ensuring that the most vulnerable including children, survivors of torture or sexual and gender-based violence, refugees with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ refugees — can secure critical legal aid.

#### **GBV**

HIAS works with communities to reduce the risk of gender-based violence, increase support for survivors, and build partnerships with women-led organizations that promote and protect the rights of forcibly displaced women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people. We recognize the strength and resilience of all survivors and the diversity of experience and identities that confound one-size-fits-all solutions. HIAS' comprehensive case management services and referral networks with partners ensure a survivor-centered GBV response. The focus on GBV prevention addresses the roots of gender inequality, which perpetuate violence. HIAS is now a leader in GBV prevention programming in the humanitarian sector.

#### **MHPSS**

HIAS offers refugees access to free mental health and psychosocial support services. Our work promotes the well-being of individuals, families, and communities affected by crisis and conflict so they can heal and rebuild their lives. We train key community members to recognize emotional distress resulting from crisis or emergency, and to respond with empathy and respect. We promote a culturally sensitive approach to help people cope with adversity.



**Refugee Resettlement** 

Working with our network of local resettlement partners, HIAS welcomes refugees and helps them rebuild their lives in safety in communities across the United States. Through our private sponsorship and co-sponsorship programs, HIAS also mobilizes Jewish and interfaith communities to take an active role in resettling their new neighbors and supporting the integration of refugees.

#### **Economic Inclusion**

HIAS works with forcibly displaced people around the world to provide them with tools to start their own business or to find gainful employment. Our economic inclusion programs are holistic interventions that provide participants with complementary legal assistance, mental health support, and gender-based violence prevention services to guarantee longterm success. Initiatives such as our Entrepreneurship

**Emergency Response** 

clergy to the U.S.-Mexico border.

**Advocacy and Jewish** 

**Community Engagement** 

With the Jewish community beside us, HIAS and our

sister agencies HIAS Europe and HIAS-JCORE UK

advocate for the rights of refugees, asylum seekers,

and other forcibly displaced people around the world.

Through this work, we seek to create a world in which

all forcibly displaced people can rebuild their lives

and find welcome, safety, and opportunity. HIAS'

fifth annual Refugee Shabbat was the largest to date,

engaging communities across North, South, and

Central America, Europe, and Africa. In the U.S., HIAS

launched our Clergy Council with 450 members, led programs and webinars, and brought delegations of

support those displaced by war in Ukraine while initiating work for two new crises: civil conflict in Sudan and war between Israel and Hamas. Through its Emergency Response, HIAS provided support to hundreds of thousands of displaced people around the world.

In 2023, HIAS' Emergency Response continued to

The outbreak of civil war in Sudan displaced 8.6 million people, including hundreds of thousands who sought refuge at camps in neighboring Chad. In 2023, HIAS Chad's Emergency Response team provided 108,795 Sudanese refugee households with cashbased transfers to purchase food and essential items. After the October 7 attack on Israel, HIAS launched an Israel Emergency Response to support the more than 250,000 people in Israel that became internally displaced. Between October and December, 11,475 internally displaced people received meals and NFI (non-food item) kits from HIAS and partner organizations. Finally, our Ukraine Emergency Response program harnessed relationships with partner organizations across Europe to provide Ukrainian refugees with vital services in 2023.

A gender-based violence prevention and response program in Colombia. (Natalia Gardeazabal/HIAS Colombia)

School with a Gender Lens and our Employability Program help our participants become more self-sufficient and find economic stability. Our skills-training programs additionally teach transferrable skills while empowering participants to live lives free from violence.

# Affiliates

Our U.S. Resettlement Partners in 2023 included:

#### **Arizona**

Jewish Family & Children's Services of Southern Arizona (Tucson)

#### **California**

Jewish Family & Community Services East Bay (Concord)

Jewish Family & Children's Service of Long Beach and Orange County

Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley

#### Colorado

Jewish Family Service of Colorado (Denver)

#### **Connecticut**

**Jewish Family Services of Greenwich** 

#### **Delaware**

Jewish Family Services of Delaware (Wilmington)

#### **Florida**

**Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services** (Clearwater and North Port)

Jewish Community Services of South Florida (Miami)

#### Illinois

JCFS Chicago (Skokie)

#### Maine

**Jewish Community Alliance of Southern Maine** (Portland)

#### **Massachusetts**

Jewish Family Service of Metrowest (Framingham)
Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
(Springfield)

#### Michigan

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County (Ann Arbor)

#### **New York**

Jewish Family Services of Western New York (Buffalo and Niagara Falls)

Commonpoint Queens (New York City)

#### **North Carolina**

Carolina Refugee Resettlement Agency (Charlotte)

#### Ohio

May Dugan Center (Cleveland)

Jewish Family Services (Columbus)

Greater Toledo Newcomer Center powered by Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County

#### Oklahoma

The Synagogue | Congregation B'nai Emunah (Tulsa)

#### **Pennsylvania**

Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg HIAS Pennsylvania (Philadelphia) Jewish Family and Community Services

#### **Rhode Island**

Refugee Dream Center (Providence)

#### **Texas**

(Pittsburgh)

**HIAS Austin** 

#### Washington

Jewish Family Service of Greater Seattle (Kent)

#### Wisconsin

**Jewish Social Services of Madison** 

# Leadership

### **Executive Leadership Team**

**Cristina Garcia** 

Senior Vice President, LAC Programs

**Mark Hetfield** 

President and Chief Executive Officer

**Muluemebet Hunegnaw** 

Chief Transformation Officer

**Lucy Kiama** 

Deputy Regional Director, Africa and Eurasia

Rachel Levitan

Chief Global Policy and Advocacy Officer

**Rui Lopes** 

Chief Information Officer

Sabrina Lustgarten

Chief Operating Officer

**Raphael Marcus** 

Chief Programs Officer

**Beth Oppenheim** 

Chief External Relations Officer

**Jessica Reese** 

Chief Institutional Development Officer

**Alice Robertson** 

Chief People and Culture Officer

Alicia Wrenn

Vice President, Resettlement and Integration

**Merrill Zack** 

Chief Global Community Engagement Officer and Executive Director, HIAS NY

#### **HIAS Board of Directors**

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Board Chair

**Mark Hetfield** 

President and Chief Executive Officer

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Chair, Governance Committee

Julius Genachowski

**Julie Gersten** 

Co-Chair, DEI Subcommittee

Mitchell I. Gordon

Co-Chair, Development Committee

**Daniel Grossman** 

Chair, Resettlement Task Force

**Stafford Fitzgerald Haney** 

**Andrew Heinrich** 

**Gary Hirschberg** 

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Chair, Strategic Planning Working Group

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**Maharat Rori Picker Neiss** 

**Frank Risch** 

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Leon Rodriguez

Secretary-Treasurer; Chair, External Affairs Committee

Ilan Rosenberg

Chair, External Affairs Committee

Marc L. Silberberg

Vice Chair

**Rolf Stern** 

**Daniel Tavakoli** 

**Harley Ungar** 

Chair, Programs Commitee

# Financials

#### **Support and Revenue**

Total support and revenue	\$127,026,665
Service fee revenues and other revenues	\$251,755
Investment income designed for current operations	\$2,039,769
Migrant loan processing fees and repayments	\$199,481
Government grants	\$69,085,014
Operating grants	\$32,563,080
Contributions of nonfinancial assets	\$8,090,337
Contributions of cash and other financial assets	\$14,797,229

#### **Expenses**

#### Program Services - Refugee and Immigration Assistance

International Operations	\$69,357,636
Total Program Services	\$124,377,442

#### Supporting Services

Management and General Fundraising	\$18,927,221 \$4,723,400
Total Supporting Services	\$23,650,621

Total Operating Expenses	\$148,028,063
Change in Net Assets from Operations	(\$21.001.398)

#### **Non-Operating Activities**

Non-Operating Investment Income	\$3,540,227
Actuarial gain on split-interest agreements	\$369,292
Foreign currency adjustments	(\$3,278,837)
Change in pension obligations	\$831,039
Transfer to HIAS Foundation	(\$20,100,000)
Transfer to HIAS EAF	(\$413,540)
Total non-operating activities	(\$19,051,819)
Change in Net Assets	(\$40,053,217)
Net assets at the beginning of period	\$90,347,831
NET ASSETS AT END OF PERIOD	\$50,294,614

(HIAS' 2023 Fiscal Year. All amounts in US\$)

# How You Can Help

#### **Donate**

Visit: Donate hias.org/donate

#### **Stay Informed**

Sign up for our Newsletter hias.org/newsletter

#### Volunteer

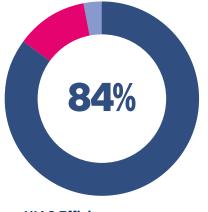
For more information, send us an email at: info@hias.org

#### **Follow Us**

LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook: @hias

# **Efficiency**

More than 8 out of every 10 dollars HIAS received went directly to our programs. HIAS is grateful for your support.



#### **HIAS Efficiency**

- Programs84.02%
- Management 12.79%
- Fundraising3.19%

# Our Supporters

Your support drives change in the struggle for justice and freedom for displaced persons around the world. Thank you for your partnership. The following generous donors contributed to HIAS in the 2023 fiscal year.\*\*

#### \$500,000+

AirBnB.org EGL Charitable Foundation

#### \$100,000 to \$499,999

Anonymous (3)

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Estate of Beatrice Steinhauser

Estate of Doris (Dvorah) S. Stoll in honor of Lieb Stoll

Estate of Herbert Zohn

#### HIAS Foundation Legacy Society

The HIAS Foundation Legacy Society is a tribute to the incredible individuals who stand alongside us in our mission. Your dedication to refugees and asylum seekers, evident through planned gifts to the HIAS Foundation or by including us in your estate plans, is truly remarkable. As valued members of the Legacy Society, your generosity and vision contribute to HIAS' 120-year legacy of humanitarian aid and advocacy for displaced persons worldwide.

Anonymous (41)

**Bobbie Abrams** 

Donald and Sandra Aronoff

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Harriet B. Wolf Leah Wolf and Elizabeth H. Ratte

Peter Wolf

#### \*Of Blessed Memory

\*\*Due to space limitations, the Annual Report lists donors who gave \$100,000 or more in 2023. Gifts under \$100,000 represent our largest category of supporters. We are deeply thankful to all of our donors and know that every gift makes an important difference. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this report. Should an error have occurred, please contact the Development Office at: development@hias.org





#### **Global Headquarters**

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