

# HIAS stands for a world in which forcibly displaced people find welcome, safety, and opportunity.

**OPPOSITE** Participants of a HIAS economic inclusion program show off products that they are selling and repairing at the Danamadja returnee's site in Chad, October 2024. (Kouakaine Moundi/HIAS)

**FRONT COVER** Crisitiani Zabaleta, age 20, and her two children are Venezuelan and live in Acandí, Colombia, where they have benefited from HIAS assistance, in particular to carry out nationalization procedures. (Nadege Mazars/HIAS)



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Guided and inspired by our Jewish values and history, and working with host communities, HIAS provides vital services to refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced and stateless people around the world and advocates for their fundamental right to rebuild their lives.

This report lays out the key activities in 2024. These include:

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

In 2024, HIAS worked in: Aruba, Austria, Belgium, Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, The Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela.

**ABOVE** Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union arrive at JFK Airport in New York City, 1981. (HIAS)

# **Foreword**

2024 will be remembered as a year of change and upheaval around the world—of elections, wars, and a landscape that became even more challenging for the world's most vulnerable. It was also a year in which the global population of forcibly displaced people rose to its highest number ever: more than 122 million.

HIAS, no doubt, is needed more than ever. As of this writing, in mid-2025, we face a set of extraordinary challenges brought by political change in the United States. The new administration in the United States has halted the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP), drastically cut foreign aid spending, removed legal protections for vulnerable populations, and begun shrinking the policies that protect displaced communities. These changes have imposed severe difficulties on displaced people and the organizations, like HIAS, that exist to support them.

We are proud to report that HIAS has not allowed these actions to deter us from our mission. HIAS continues to advocate and engage Jewish communities in order to prioritize welcome. We have also carried on our vital work in providing protection, mental health support, and economic empowerment for refugee populations around the world. It is the kind of work that HIAS has done for over a century. And, with your support, we'll do it for at least a century more. We envision a world where refugees can thrive where they are.

In the following pages, you'll read about our important work in 2024 that reached more than 1.2 million people in the United States and globally. Behind this statistic are the millions more whose lives are transformed by the ability of refugees to seek safety and opportunity on welcoming shores at their moment of peril. It is for them that we, at HIAS, persist in our work.

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# 1.212 million

**Total people reached** 



**250K** 

**Community and child** protection services



49K

empowerment



290K

Mental health support



44K

**Food distribution after** emergencies



**261K** 

Legal services



**♥ 307K** 

and response

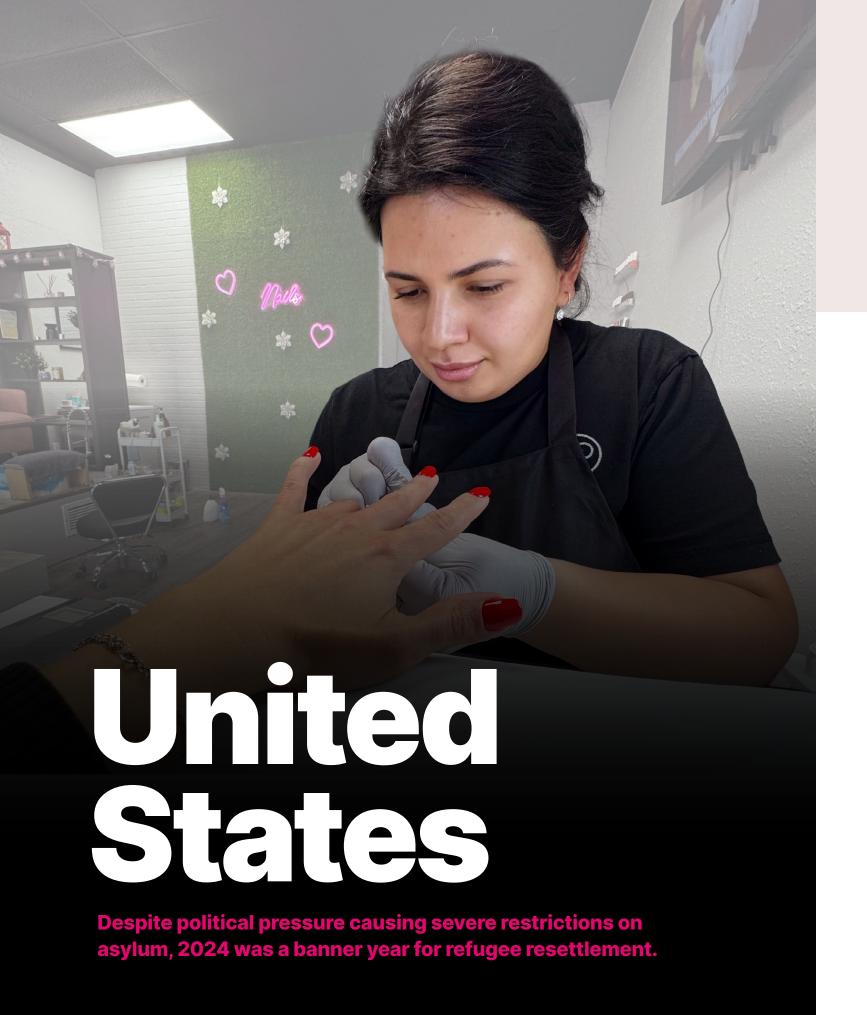


143K

**Cash distribution** 

Migrants descend from "piraguas" (wooden canoes) after a two-hour river trip from Bajo Chiquito to Lajas Blancas Temporary Reception Migration Station, the first indigenous village they encounter after crossing the Darién Gap, October 2024. (David Quijano/HIAS)





**2024 was a banner year** for refugee resettlement. For the first time in three decades, the U.S. resettled more than 100,000 refugees in a single year through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Responding to global crises, the U.S. also welcomed displaced people through humanitarian parole programs designed to release the burden on the U.S.-Mexico border and the asylum system. However, while such programs thrived, political pressure led to severe restrictions on asylum at the border.

HIAS, in partnership with resettlement agencies across the country, resettled 12,000 refugees in 2024. In addition, we provided integration services to a quarter of a million more and significantly expanded our work with private sponsorship. HIAS also launched the Economic Advancement Fund, which enhanced financial opportunities for refugee entrepreneurs so that they could grow their business.

### **IMPACT STORY**

# **A Timely Grant Helped** a Ukrainian Refugee **Kickstart Her Nail Salon**

For refugee entrepreneurs, gaining access to capital can be a challenge. HIAS' Economic Advancement Fund is designed to address this problem by providing resources to refugees so that they can grow their businesses.

Lyudmila Nikohosian is the owner and manager of Nails by Mila, a Ukrainian-style nail salon that specializes in intensive nail care and professional manicure and pedicure services. A lawyer by training, she began work as a nail technician in Clearwater, Florida, in 2022, before opening her own salon in May 2024. Upon opening her business, she realized that the previous tenant had removed the water heater, forcing her to purchase her own at significant expense. The Braun Foundation and a loan from the EAF allowed her to cover basic expenses during the initial months of her business. The grant was part of \$54,000 pledged by the foundation and EAF, providing crucial capital to 11 businesses across the United States.

"I was able to make upgrades to my salon and create a more welcoming and efficient environment for my clients," Nikohosian said. "These improvements are steps toward my dream of expanding the salon and hiring additional staff."

**LEFT** Lyudmila Nikohosian, who opened her business Nails by Mila in 2024, provides nail services to a client. (Courtesy of Lyudmila Nikohosian)

### By the Numbers



192

**Entrepreneurs assisted** through the Economic **Advancement Fund** 



15,000

Hours of pro-bono legal support



906

**Clients represented** in New York and Washington, D.C. areas



The civil war in Sudan that began in April 2023 continued throughout 2024, exacerbating what has become the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Fighting between the Sudanese government and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has killed tens of thousands and displaced millions more around the country. Since the war's onset, more than 1 million Sudanese refugees have crossed the country's western border with Chad in search of safety, joining a population that settled in the region during previous crises.

HIAS, which has maintained a presence in Chad for 20 years, was active in 13 different refugee camps. Our staff oversaw food distribution to over 75,000 people and helped more than 24,000 others with protection against violence and child protection services.

### **IMPACT STORY**

# **Through Selling** Vegetables, a **Sudanese Mother Sheds Her Sadness**

Sara\* fled Sudan with her mother and two children in April 2023, and her husband followed shortly thereafter. Even before her flight, Sara had endured significant trauma in her life: She experienced genital mutilation at age 15 and then was raped. She was also abused by her husband.

In Chad, Sara sought help from HIAS—and her life has changed completely. Now divorced, Sara sells vegetables in the Arkoum Camp. She plans to save up for a vehicle, which would help her expand her business.

"HIAS came to my rescue, providing essential mental health support," she said. "Later, I also received help in the form of cash and food distributed during emergencies. This support profoundly changed my life: I was able to shake off the sadness that was weighing me down and regain a certain stability."

\* Name changed to protect anonymity.

LEFT HIAS Chad staff carry out a technical visit to the Camp d'Aboutengué refugee camp, June 2024. (Moundi Kouakaine)

### By the Numbers



20

Years that HIAS has maintained a presence in Chad



13

Chad refugee camps in which HIAS was active in 2024



75,000

Individuals reached by HIAS' food distribution programming in Chad in 2024



By the end of 2024, full-scale war in Ukraine was approaching its third anniversary — with no end in sight. 3.6 million people remained displaced within Ukraine while nearly twice as many sought refuge abroad. Over 14 million people within the country continue to require assistance.

In 2024, HIAS assisted over 50,000 people in Ukraine as well as Ukrainian refugees in Poland, Romania, and Moldova. Our staff provided direct case management, mental health services, and support for safe spaces for women and girls. HIAS also worked closely with civil society organizations to build local capacity to address humanitarian needs, distribute emergency items, and provide legal and mental health aid.

### **IMPACT STORY**

# **Supporting Survivors in Ukraine** and Moldova

In September 2024, HIAS launched a new program, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, to strengthen the capacities of women-led organizations (WLOs) in Ukraine and Moldova, putting them in the best condition to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to survivors of violence. This project addressed the heightened risks faced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas, where access to support services is often limited.

The program offered training and resources to WLOs, enabling them to deliver mental health services, distribute hygiene and dignity kits, and conduct advocacy campaigns. By empowering local organizations, HIAS ensured a sustainable and community-driven response to violence against women and girls.

One of the eight grassroots partner organizations, Power of Women, has been instrumental in reaching affected communities. In November, they coordinated the distribution of cooking kits to 210 families, ensuring children in conflict-affected areas had access to food despite electricity outages.

**LEFT** Power of Women, HIAS Ukraine's partner organization, distributes cooking kits to 210 families impacted by conflict. Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, November 2024. (Power of Women/HIAS Ukraine)

### By the Numbers



### 3.6M

Individuals remained displaced within Ukraine in 2024



### 14M

**People within Ukraine** continued to require assistance in 2024



### 50,000

Total individuals assisted by HIAS in Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian refugees in surrounding countries, in 2024



More than 300,000 people passed through the Darién Gap between Colombia and Panama in 2024. Though this figure represents a significant decline from 2023, it is nonetheless significant, presenting countries throughout the Latin America and Caribbean region with major challenges in serving a growing population of displaced people. In August of last year, HIAS and partner organizations launched an initiative to provide health care — including mental health care — services to those who have traversed the route. HIAS programming directly and indirectly reached some 60,000 people throughout the region last year. Our staff developed a multi-country approach to prevent violence against women and girls in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, working with local leaders in each country to create safe spaces and community-based support networks.

### **IMPACT STORY**

# **Helping Displaced People Find a Home** in Guatemala

When Deisy Castillo\*, a 30-year-old from Guatemala with two young children, became a victim of violence, she urgently needed to find accommodation in Guatemala City — but she had no idea how to find a place to stay.

It was at this moment when an emergency housing program established by HIAS with Airbnb's support stepped up to provide Deisy and her family with a safe place — one that felt like home.

"The accommodation they provided us with was great and we felt really comfortable in the apartment," said Deisy. "The woman that received me took her time to explain things to me, to greet me. In a hotel, you wouldn't find this help so easily."

Since 2018, HIAS has collaborated with Airbnb to provide emergency accommodation to refugees, asylum seekers and other people in need of a welcoming place to stay. The program also provides complementary humanitarian assistance in areas such as mental health support and violence prevention.

\* Name changed to protect anonymity.

**LEFT** Nohora, 37, a migrant from Venezuela, poses with her two sons at the Center for Temporary Attention to Migrants (CATEM) in Costa Rica, October 2024. (Nadege Mazars/HIAS)

### **By the Numbers**



300.000

People passed through the Darién Gap in 2024



60,000

Individuals reached in 2024 by HIAS programming throughout Latin America and the Caribbean



21,000

People reached by HIAS mental health services in 2024

### **Core Programs**

# **Legal Support**

HIAS provides legal support to help displaced people know their rights, have access to protective services—including health, employment, and social services—and help them navigate the often-complicated legal systems that lead to permanent status and security. We support displaced people to understand their legal options, make informed decisions, and be able to advocate for themselves. HIAS Legal Support teams help clients apply for asylum and other forms of humanitarian and immigration relief to achieve their goals of finding safety, security, and stability. We provide holistic support to our clients through wraparound services that transcend basic legal support.

In 2024, HIAS helped more than a quarter of a million displaced people around the world access protective services, understand their rights, and navigate complex legal systems to find permanent security. We organized Know Your Rights workshops in 15 countries, empowering forcibly displaced people with knowledge so they can advocate and make decisions for themselves. We also provided individual representation for 906 low-income immigrants in New York, Washington, D.C.; Maryland and Virginia; provided strategic litigation in Israel to advance rights to remove employment restrictions, advocate for fair asylum policies, access healthcare and social rights and ensure the continuation of group protection for Ukrainian refugees; and oversaw pro bono partnerships in the United States totaling more than 15,000 hours of legal services, valued at \$13.7 million.

### 250K

Displaced people assisted worldwide by HIAS legal services in 2024

### 906

Low-income immigrants received individual representation from HIAS in New York and the DC metro area

### **15**

Countries in which HIAS organized Know Your Rights workshops



### IMPACT STORY

### **HIAS Greece**

In 2018, a group of refugees from Afghanistan were viciously attacked in Greece, leading to the arrest of several perpetrators. Six years later, the Court of Mytilene, capital city of Lesvos, convicted the defendants for causing dangerous bodily harm with a racist motive to the refugees, who were represented by HIAS Greece. The case marked a milestone in one significant respect: It was the first time the Court of Mytilene acknowledged racism as a motive during an attack on refugees. In a time when xenophobia is rising across Europe, securing a conviction in such a case proved to be a remarkable achievement — and a prime example of what HIAS' legal support work is capable of.

HIAS Greece also represented a photojournalist in Lesvos who was attacked by a crowd after he filmed them hurling insults and threats at asylum seekers arriving on a dinghy. The Court of Mytilene found the defendants guilty of coercion with racist intent, public incitement to violence, as well as dangerous bodily harm and property damage. The ruling marks the first time that a Greek court reached a conviction for public incitement to violence against refugees in a public space.

**ABOVE** A beneficiary from Syria meets with a staff attorney at the HIAS office in Mytilene, Greece. (Loulou d'Aki for HIAS)

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# **Economic Empowerment and Inclusion**

Through HIAS' economic empowerment work, we help ensure that refugees have safe opportunities to earn sustainable

income and contribute to their communities. We equip displaced people with the skills, tools, and knowledge needed to navigate local labor markets

through job readiness workshops, vocational training, and financial literacy programs. We also provide seed funding, credit-building tools, and business development support to help displaced individuals launch and grow small businesses, fostering long-term economic stability.

### IMPACT STORY

# Anna Fuklieva, Romania



When I arrived in Bucharest after fleeing Ukraine, there were many challenges: the high cost of living, a foreign language, and searching for a job in a new field. The first few months in Romania were trying. My education and professional experience were closely linked to the Ukrainian legal system, making my skills practically inapplicable in Romania. The language barrier only exacerbated the situation, making the job search even more difficult.

I heard about HIAS and their refugee support programs, and that gave me hope. I participated in various seminars and trainings organized by HIAS Romania, which helped me better understand how I could apply my skills and knowledge in a new country.

What I found particularly valuable was the training on building a business in Romania and studying labor law, which gave me an understanding of the basics of entrepreneurship and labor relations in Romania. Thanks to language courses, educational programs, and job placement assistance from HIAS, I was not only able to adapt to a new life, but also to change my profession. HIAS was a pillar for me, offering informational support and concrete integration programs.



Individuals participate in a mental health workshop organized by HIAS in Turbo, Colombia, October 2024. (Nadège Mazars/HIAS)

# Mental Health Support

HIAS' community-based mental health and psychosocial services (MHPSS) promote the well-being of individuals, families, and communities affected by crisis and conflict so they could heal and rebuild their lives. Our programs reached 290,000 people across 18 countries.

In Mexico, HIAS provided mental health support to women, adolescents, and families to strengthen emotional identification and regulation, increase coping mechanisms, and reinforce support networks among peers and service providers. And in Poland, HIAS partnered with Moderna Charitable Foundation to support Ukrainian newcomers with community-based mental health and trauma response, assisting over 350 newcomers with critical support. Eighty percent of participants reported improved wellbeing.

18

Countries reached by HIAS' mental health programming

**350** 

Ukrainian newcomers assisted in Poland through a HIAS partnership

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Individuals participate in the 'Entre Nosotras' program, which trains community leaders to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls, in Esmeraldas, Ecuador, August 2024. (David Quijano/HIAS)

# **Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls**

HIAS programs aiming to prevent violence against women and girls focus on reducing the risk of sexual exploitation, trafficking, and many forms of violence. These lifesaving programs ensure that all survivors can access services and improve their safety and wellbeing.

In Latin America, HIAS staff in Colombia and Panama served over 50,000 people crossing the Darién Gap with emergency assistance, addressing the specific needs of women and girls. HIAS also developed a multi-country approach teaching local leaders how to develop safe spaces and community-based support networks, training 209 leaders in Colombia and Ecuador. In Kenya, with the support of Ipsos and UNHCR, HIAS maintained a safe house for at-risk urban refugees with extreme security concerns, hosting 20-30 vulnerable people at a time - mostly women and children.

### 50,000

Individuals assisted in the Darién Gap by HIAS staff in **Colombia and Panama** 

209

Local leaders in Colombia and Ecuador trained on developing support networks

# **Advocacy**

Advocacy is fundamental to our work. With the Jewish community beside us, HIAS stands up for the rights of forcibly displaced people globally. We work with grassroots advocates, Jewish community organizations, opinion leaders, legislators, and policymakers to protect and advance fair and humane refugee and asylum policies in the U.S. and around the world. Our advocacy work plays an essential role in promoting the importance of welcoming the stranger.

In 2024, following concentrated outreach to key congressional leaders, the Lautenberg Amendment was reauthorized and extended, allowing for religious minorities from Iran to come to the U.S. HIAS also facilitated a delegation of seven women-led organizations from Ukraine at the Commission of the Status of Women in New York. As anti-immigrant sentiment played a significant role in elections around the world in 2024—in many cases resulting in policies that restricted access to safety and rights for refugees and displaced people — HIAS stood firm in our core principles and continued to stand with the people we serve.

With the Jewish community beside us, HIAS stands up for the rights of forcibly displaced people globally.

Rabbi David Mason of HIAS+JCORE, Monim Haroon of HIAS Israel, and Noah Gottschalk of HIAS' policy and advcoacy team convene in New York for a meeting with the UK mission on Sudan and Chad, May 2024. (HIAS)





A HIAS Welcome Corps group in Denver, Colorado, welcomes Rohan from Lebanon as they sponsor him to resettle in the United States, June 2024. (Meredith Levy/HIAS)

# Refugee Resettlement

In 2024, the United States Refugee Admissions Program reached a historic milestone: resettling over 100,000 refugees for the first time since 1995. HIAS was a vital part of this effort, resettling over 12,000 people during the calendar year through our network of 30 resettlement partners—local Jewish and secular service agencies. HIAS also continued to be a leader in the fast-growing field of private sponsorship, supporting Jewish, interfaith, and refugee diaspora groups as they resettled refugees. Through our Welcome Corps, Welcome Circle, and Community Co-Sponsorship programs, HIAS mobilized Jewish, interfaith, and secular groups to take an active role in resettling their new neighbors, supporting the integration of refugees. In 2024, HIAS supported 121 private sponsorship groups across 22 states, welcoming 254 refugees.

12,000

Individuals resettled by HIAS in 2024 through our network of 30 resettlement partners

254

Refugees welcomed by 121 HIAS-supported private sponsorship groups

# **Community Engagement**



HIAS leads the Jewish mobilization for refugees and asylum seekers in the U.S. We educate, organize, and mobilize American Jews to put their values into action and fight for refugees.

HIAS equips clergy, leadership, congregations, and individuals with the tools and ideas to fight for the rights of refugees and asylum seekers locally and hold elected officials accountable.

HIAS orchestrated two Jewish clergy delegations to the U.S.-Mexico border, and one high-level delegation of Jewish clergy and leaders to Capitol Hill. HIAS held the sixth annual Refugee Shabbat, which included participation by 300 congregations in the U.S. and across the world. Congregations and individuals learned about and reaffirmed their support for refugees, asylum seekers, and other forcibly displaced people. More than 600 members of the clergy have joined HIAS' Clergy Council, where they advocate for refugee rights.

### 300

Congregations participated in HIAS' sixth annual Refugee Shabbat, in the U.S and across the world

### 600+

Members of the clergy have joined HIAS' **Clergy Countil** 

A delegation of Jewish clergy and HIAS staff gather at the U.S.-Mexico border in December 2024.



### **Our Affiliates**

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 (Los Gatos)

### 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)

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

Temple B'nai Israel (Oklahoma City)

### Pennsylvania

Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg

HIAS Pennsylvania (Philadelphia)

Jewish Family and Community Services (Pittsburgh)

### **Rhode Island**

Refugee Dream Center (Providence)

### Texas

HIAS Austin

**Endeavors (Austin)** 

### Washington

Jewish Family Service of Seattle (Kent)

### Wisconsin

**Jewish Social Services** of Madison

## **Financials**

HIAS' 2024 audited Financial Report is available here on our website.



# **The Power of Partnership**



At its core, HIAS' work has always been about something simple and profound: keeping families together, safe, and free.

Whether it's a mother building a new life after escaping violence, or a child reunited with their grandparents after years in limbo, the impact of our work is not measured in countries or case counts — it's in the lives held whole, the dignity restored, and the futures made possible.

In 2024, HIAS stood firm in a world increasingly shaped by fear and fragmentation. We showed up in shelters, in courtrooms, and in the streets. We showed up when governments faltered, when legal protections vanished, and when it would have been easier to look away.

This work is not just humanitarian—it's deeply personal. For more than a century, HIAS has been a lifeline for people seeking safety, and a moral voice when it mattered most. That hasn't changed.

With your partnership, we will continue to act boldly, rooted in our Jewish and humanitarian values, so that more families can write the next chapter of their lives in safety, together.



# **How You Can Help**



### **Donate**

Help make a difference for refugees. Support our work with a gift today: hias.org/donate



### **Take Action**

Advocate for refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced people around the world: hias.org/take-action



### **Stay Informed**

Sign up for our newsletter at hias.org/newsletter



### Volunteer

Learn about volunteer opportunities at hias.org/volunteer



### **Join the Conversation**

@HIASrefugees: LinkedIn | Instagram | Facebook | BSKY

Women take part in a workshop HIAS organized at the Center for Temporary Attention to Migrants (CATEM) in Paso Canoas, Costa Rica, October 2024. (Nadege Mazars/HIAS)



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