

A photograph showing a woman on the right, wearing a patterned scarf and a dark jacket, handing a black plastic case with a gas canister on top to a young woman on the left. The young woman is wearing a black jacket with a white fur collar. They are standing in a line of people in what appears to be a refugee camp or a similar setting. In the background, there are wooden buildings and a cloudy sky. The overall tone is somber and documentary.

# Annual Report 2024



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



**THIS PAGE** Maria Justo, a Venezuelan doctor, poses with her daughter on the banks of the Tukesa river before boarding a boat that will take them to the Lajas Blancas migration reception post. Bajo Chiquito, Panama, October 2024. (Nadege Mazars/HIAS)

**COVER** Power of Women, HIAS Ukraine’s partner organisation, distributes cooking kits to 210 families impacted by conflict. Donetsk Oblast, Ukraine, November 5, 2024. (Power of Women/HIAS Ukraine)

## Contents

<b>3</b>	Foreword	<b>13</b>	Neighbours
<b>4</b>	Global Impact in 2024	<b>14</b>	Programmes and Activities
<b>6</b>	Ukraine	<b>16</b>	Financial Report
<b>8</b>	Chad	<b>16</b>	Donors
<b>10</b>	Darién Gap	<b>16</b>	Leadership
<b>12</b>	Welcome Circles	<b>17</b>	How You Can Help





HIAS workers deliver  
Passover supplies to  
refugees in Romania.

**Rooted in Jewish values, shaped by history, and guided by humanitarian principles, HIAS delivers essential support to displaced people worldwide. We help crisis-affected individuals rebuild their lives in safety and dignity, while advocating for their rights and inclusion.**

HIAS Europe works closely with Jewish communities, organisations, and activists across the continent to foster welcome and solidarity. We also bring a Jewish perspective to European debates on forced migration and humanitarian response.

This report outlines the scope and impact of HIAS Europe’s work in 2024, focusing on three main pillars:

- 1** Delivering humanitarian aid to displaced populations across 15 countries.
- 2** Mobilising Jewish communities in Europe in support of refugees.
- 3** Advocating for EU policies rooted in human rights and compassion.

In 2024, HIAS Europe operated in: Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

# Foreword

2024 will be remembered as an extraordinarily challenging year for refugees, asylum seekers, and displaced persons. By the end of the year, the total number of people forced to flee their homes exceeded a grim milestone: 120 million.

A chief cause of displacement has been the war in Ukraine—though it may have faded from headlines, the suffering it has caused has not. Together with our partners, HIAS Europe has continued to support displaced Ukrainians both inside the country and across Europe, working hand-in-hand with Jewish communities throughout the continent to offer support and hope.

In Sudan, violence has driven almost 15 million people from their homes. Almost one million have fled into Chad, where our teams are on the ground, helping the most vulnerable refugees survive and rebuild.

The Israel-Gaza conflict has brought devastating levels of destruction and displacement. In Israel, HIAS has worked with local organisations to support affected communities, including asylum seekers and other people who were already living on the margins.

And across Europe, the rise in antisemitism, anti-immigrant rhetoric, and greater political polarisation has threatened not only the social inclusion of minority communities but

the very idea of a compassionate society. In response, we have stepped up our work to build bridges—especially between Jewish and migrant communities—and promote our values.

**In response to these challenges, HIAS Europe programmes and services reached more than half a million people in 2024.**

This past year has indeed been one of profound challenges and extraordinary resilience. In response to these challenges, HIAS Europe programmes and services reached more than half a million people in 2024. At the same time, the HIAS Europe Board and staff embarked on a strategic review to ensure we continue maximising the impact of our humanitarian work—in partnership with the European Jewish community and European Institutions.

Even at a time of uncertainty and rising polarisation, we will maintain our unwavering commitment to defending human rights, building bridges, and standing alongside those who are displaced, true to the values that have guided us for more than a century.

**Ruth Ringer**  
Board Chair

**Ilan Cohn**  
Director

# Global Impact in 2024

## Global Humanitarian Assistance to Displaced People and Host Communities

 **538,340**

People reached through services including legal counselling, economic inclusion, protection from violence against women and girls, community-based mental health and psychosocial support.

**134,693** 

People reached through community and child protection services.

 **61,033**

People provided cash-based assistance.

**10,400** 

People reached in emergencies, including individuals affected by storm Boris and floods in Romania in September.



## Ukraine Crisis Response

 **51,800**

People reached

**54**

People relocated



**606**

People helped by Welcome Circles

## Humanitarian Programming Reach



**15**  
countries

Chad, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Greece, Guyana, Kenya, Mexico, Moldova, Panama, Peru, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, and Venezuela.





Ukraine

# Responding to a Prolonged Crisis

As the full-scale war in Ukraine approached its three-year mark, the humanitarian situation remained dire. In 2024, approximately 3.6 million people were internally displaced within Ukraine, and over 6.8 million had sought refuge abroad, predominantly in Europe. 14.6 million individuals were in need of humanitarian assistance.

Throughout the year, HIAS continued to support those affected by the war, providing vital services to 51,800 individuals across Ukraine and neighbouring countries Romania, Poland, and Moldova. Our efforts focused on delivering protection services, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), cash assistance, and legal aid.

## Supporting Domestic Violence Survivors in Ukraine and Moldova

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

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

One of the eight grass-roots partner organisations, 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.

Through this programme, HIAS will support over 20,000 refugees and survivors of violence, fostering resilience and recovery among the most vulnerable populations.

**LEFT** Staff from HIAS Europe and HIAS Ukraine visits the implementation sites of partner organisations in Odesa, Mykolaiv, Dnipro, and Kherson Oblasts, March 2024. (Yurly Turkey/HIAS Europe)

**RIGHT** Power of Women, one of HIAS Ukraine's partner organisations, carries out an MHPSS workshop for women and girls affected by conflict in Donetsk Oblast, July 2024. (Pablo Amigo de Dani/HIAS)



### 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



**14.6 million**

Individuals in need of humanitarian assistance due to the full-scale war in Ukraine, both within Ukraine and abroad



**51,800**

Individuals reached by HIAS' vital services across Ukraine and neighbouring countries Romania, Poland, and Moldova



**20,000**

Refugees and survivors of violence supported by HIAS programming in Ukraine and Moldova





Chad

# Bearing the Burden of Sudan's War

More than a year after civil conflict erupted in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, and quickly spread throughout the country, violence had displaced almost 15 million Sudanese people, both internally and across borders. Over 938,000 have fled to Chad, a nation already hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees from previous crises and struggling with extreme poverty, climate change, and insecurity.

Chad is one of the poorest countries in the world, and the strain of the Sudanese refugee influx, joining over 180,000 refugees from other countries and 215,000 internally displaced Chadians, has pushed local resources to the brink.

HIAS has worked in Chad since 2005 and was one of the first organisations to respond to the new wave of displacement. In 2024,

our field offices operated across 13 refugee camps along Chad's eastern border with Sudan, delivering protection services and emergency support to both refugees and host communities.

We used a comprehensive approach that combined emergency food and essential item distribution with mental health and psychosocial support, child protection, and tailored services for survivors of violence. Refugee women received support to launch small businesses and rebuild their economic independence, while local communities and displaced populations participated in training to prevent conflict and promote peaceful coexistence.

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

**BELOW** HIAS staff carry out a field visit to the Camp d'Aboutengué refugee camp in Chad to connect with community leaders, provide MHPSS support, and monitor progress of participants, June 2024. (Kouakaine Moundi/HIAS)

## Voices from the Camps

**“The journey was extremely exhausting, but we have to put our lives above the material.”**

— **Aché Juma Yaya**, 27, fled from Tabarik, Sudan, with her mother after witnessing the destruction of her village and faced discrimination in the camp.

**“Resilience is our greatest weapon against adversity.”**

— **Allahwiya Attahir**, a young mother of three from Al Geneina, recalls the fear and fatigue of fleeing her home. When she reached the Gaga camp, HIAS provided her family with emergency supplies.







Darién Gap

# Humanitarian Action on a Deadly Route

The Darién Gap—a dense, mountainous jungle between Colombia and Panama—has become one of the most perilous migration routes in the world. In 2024, over 300,000 people took the treacherous journey, coming from Venezuela, Haiti, and countries across sub-Saharan Africa, fleeing economic collapse, violence, climate disasters, and political repression.

For those making this journey, the dangers are many. Flash floods, wild animals, and dehydration are constant threats. Many face extortion, theft, and sexual violence along the way, and access to even basic medical care is often non-existent. Once they emerge from the jungle, exhausted and traumatised, many find that healthcare, protection, and shelter systems are already overwhelmed.

## A Regional Lifeline for People on the Move

In 2024, HIAS and Médecins du Monde (MdM) teamed up to launch a response across the Darién region in Colombia, Panama, and Costa Rica. Funded by the European Union, the project will support 39,000 people in need, especially the most vulnerable: children and women.

The needs are overwhelming. Many who attempt the crossing arrive dehydrated, injured, and deeply traumatised. Access to healthcare is nearly non-existent, while people at high risk face an increased threat of violence and abuse.

Together, HIAS and MdM are filling critical gaps. Along key points of the route, teams are providing medical care, mental health support, and services for survivors of violence. There's also help with sexual and reproductive health needs, legal advice, and safe referrals for people who need longer-term support.

But this isn't just about immediate aid—it's also about dignity. The project helps raise awareness about the rights of people on the move and pushes back against the stigma and xenophobia they face by working closely with local communities and frontline responders.

**LEFT** 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 counter after crossing the Darién gap, October 2024. (David Quijano/HIAS)

**RIGHT** 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)



### 2024 BY THE NUMBERS



**300,000**

Individuals undertook the treacherous journey through the Darién Gap, one of the world's most perilous migration routes



**39,000**

Individuals in need who will receive support from HIAS and Médecins du Monde across the Darién region





Welcome Circles

## The End of a Chapter, Not the Story

The HIAS Welcome Circle programme, launched in Europe to help Ukrainian refugees in the aftermath of Russia's invasion, formally concluded in September 2024 after more than two years of community-driven support. The project worked with Jewish communities and volunteers to help displaced Ukrainians build new lives across Europe, with a strong focus on dignity, integration, and long-term self-sufficiency.

A total of 17 Welcome Circles were established in 12 countries. From Athens to Vienna, Lisbon to Warsaw, the circles helped more than 1,200 newcomers access housing, healthcare, education, language classes, and job opportunities, with the help of 204 dedicated volunteers.

By the time the programme closed in 2024, most participating families were fully self-sufficient, nearly half had moved into independent

housing, the majority of children attended school in person, and two-thirds of adults were enrolled in local language courses.

Impressive results, but a key strength of the programme was its focus on inclusion. All newcomers—regardless of religious background—were supported in connecting with local and Jewish community life, encouraging the emergence of well-organised Ukrainian community networks in many cities.

The programme's legacy lives on in the lives it changed, and in the communities that proved welcome isn't just a word, but an act of solidarity.

**ABOVE** Anastasia, a Ukrainian refugee, visits her hosts Bernard and Talia Dan after having moved out and found her own apartment in Brussels. (Justin Jin for HIAS)



Neighbours

## Fighting Hate, One Conversation at a Time

Launched in 2022 and funded by the European Commission, the Neighbours project set out to counter antisemitism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia by building bridges between Jewish communities and their migrant and Muslim neighbours. Over two years, HIAS Europe and the European Union of Progressive Judaism supported eight Jewish congregations in six countries to open their doors, share experiences, and foster interfaith understanding.

In 2024, the project wrapped up, with a total of 4,880 students having visited synagogues across Europe, and the eight interfaith coalitions had mobilised more than 3,000 people, including local community members and faith-based organisations.

More than 80 people, including community leaders and educators, gathered at a closing conference in Amsterdam to celebrate the project's achievements and discuss future strategies for tackling hate through education and partnership.

Though the project has ended, its legacy continues—in the connections made, the conversations started, and the growing movement across Europe for inclusive, welcoming communities.

**ABOVE** Facilitators lead local students in an open group discussion about being Jewish at the Know Your Neighbour pilot project launch at the International Jewish Center (IJC), a liberal Jewish synagogue, in Brussels. (Meiron Avidan/HIAS)



# Programmes and Activities in 2024



## Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

164,989

People provided with mental health support, counselling and training.

## Violence Against Women and Girls

120,200

People reached through protection and prevention activities.



## Legal Services

 19,837

People offered legal counselling, advice, and training.



## Economic Inclusion

 12,237

People offered training and support for self-sufficiency, employment, and entrepreneurship.

## Community Engagement

### NEIGHBOURS

3,100

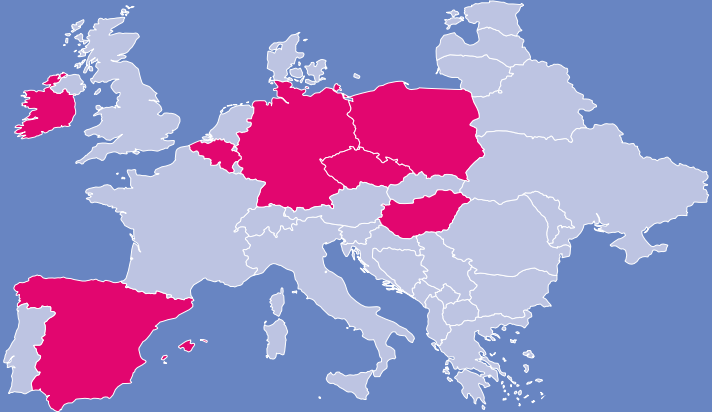


Youths took part in synagogue visits, and **8 partner congregations** reached more than **3,000 people** in their communities with interfaith activities.

### WELCOME CIRCLES

606

Ukrainian refugees in Europe integrated with the assistance of Jewish volunteers in **10 circles**, in **7 different countries** (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Poland, Spain).



## Refugee Resettlement

54



Ukrainians relocated from Poland and Moldova to Europe, Canada, and the United States.

## Advocacy



HIAS Europe’s advocacy focuses in 2024 included: EU asylum reform implementation; durable solutions and protection for displaced Ukrainians; humanitarian budget increase; climate displacement and forgotten crises; support of local actors and women-led organisations; migration safe pathways.



# Financial Report

FISCAL YEAR 2024

Assets	
Fixed Assets	2.835 €
Financial Assets	9.000 €
Current Assets	
Income Receivable	384.925 €
Cash at Bank	868.579 €
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1.265.340 €</b>

Liabilities	
Capital and Reserves	480.755 €
Current Liabilities	
Deferred Income	311.909 €
Payments due to Suppliers	313.903 €
Accrued Staff Costs	158.773 €
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>1.265.340 €</b>

Profit and Loss	
Balance Brought Forward	511.604 €
Revenue 2024	10.188.793 €
Expenses 2024	10.219.642 €
Surplus Carried Forward	480.755 €
Revenue	
Funding from HIAS Inc., grants and donations	10.069.224 €
Currency Exchange gains	119.569 €
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>10.188.793 €</b>

Expenditure	
Donations to HIAS Country Offices and Other Beneficiaries	8.296.326 €
Staff Costs	1.506.896 €
Services and Other Goods	335.236 €
Asset Depreciation	3.817 €
Bank Charges and Currency Exchange Losses	77.367 €
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>10.219.642 €</b>

## Donors

**Institutional Donors:** Amna; Anthony & Jeanne Pritzker Family Foundation; Circle of Service Foundation; Episcopal Relief & Development, European Commission’s Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO); European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)/Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI); German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO); GiveDirectly; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC); Islamic Relief USA (IRUSA); Jewish Federation of North America (JFNA); La Luz Philanthropy; McMaster University; Moderna; Open Society Foundations; Rockefeller Brothers Fund; Swedish Association for Sexuality Education

(RFSU); UJA Federation; Ukraine Humanitarian Fund of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA); United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); United States Embassy in Greece; UN Women; US Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL); US Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM); World Health Organization (WHO).

**Private donors:** Thank you to the numerous private donors, including many members of the Belgian Jewish community, who donated money for emergency response activities.

## Leadership

Ilan Cohn (Director); Board Members: Ruth Ringer (Chair of the Board); Bill Echikson, Donatella Soria, Jonathan Faull, Yohan Benizri, Robert Krengel

**IMAGE AT RIGHT** Refugees and migrants wait their turn for piraguas to transport them from Bajo Chiquito to Lajas Blancas, Panama, October 2024. (David Quijano/HIAS)



# How You Can Help



**Donate**  
Visit: [hias.org/donate-europe](https://hias.org/donate-europe)



**Stay Informed**  
Sign up for our newsletter: [hias.org/newsletter-europe](https://hias.org/newsletter-europe)



**Follow Us**  
@hiaseurope: [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Facebook](#)





**European Headquarters**

Brussels, Belgium

[hiaseurope@hias.org](mailto:hiaseurope@hias.org)

[hiaseurope.org](http://hiaseurope.org)