2021 in numbers

People and operations management

On 31 December 2021, there were 1,317 staff working at the UN Office at Geneva, including temporary staff, of 100 nationalities, from a wide range of professional backgrounds. 46% of UN Geneva staff were female and 54% were male.

Payroll services provided for nearly 6,000 UN system staff

Administrative and operational support provided to more than 40 UN system entities in Europe and their field offices around the world

The Human Resources Management Service provided:

- General human resources management
- Policy and legal services
- Learning and training activities
- Medical and welfare services

The Client Support Centre responded to more than 11,000 phone calls and 76,000 remote service requests.

The Financial Resources Management Service supported:

- Accounts and trust fund management
- Treasury
- Payroll and accounts payable
- Budget
- Procurements valued at approximately $224,043,000
- The purchase of commodities from vendors from over 35 different countries
- The processing of an average of 23,000 payments per month

More than 171,660 items of incoming and outgoing mail and diplomatic pouches processed on behalf of Geneva-based UN entities

The United Nations Staff Mutual Insurance Society against Sickness and Accident provided medical insurance for staff, retirees, and their dependents – a total of over 32,000 persons.

Security and safety

214,259 pedestrians and 154,901 vehicles screened at the Palais des Nations by the Security and Safety Service

32,579 identification badges issued by the Pass and Identification Unit

374 protective operations coordinated

2,463 hours of training provided

Environmental awareness

2,166 tons of CO2 equivalent emitted by UN Geneva. Most of these emissions were due to consumption of natural gas and other fuel for heating. Through a carbon-offset programme, UN Geneva is climate-neutral.

296 tons of waste produced by UN Geneva, of which 98% was reused, recycled, composted, incinerated or recovered

507,539 m³ of water used by UN Geneva

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41% of meetings included interpretation services.

401 summary records produced

70,543,915 words translated

40 weekly briefings to update Strategic Heritage Plan focal points on renovation progress

Over 300 staff attended a series of virtual Strategic Heritage Plan open day events on topics such as landscaping, the design features of Building H, and heritage protection.

51 tours of Building H for staff, plus 9 protocol tours, for a total of 343 people

More than 1,200 staff moved into the new Building H.

Conference management

5,298 meetings organized, of which

- 2,382 were in person
- 43% were virtual
- 2,480 were hybrid

41% of meetings included interpretation services.

401 summary records produced

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Director-General

Chaired 5 meetings of the Security Management Team

Gave 2 briefing sessions to regional groups

Welcomed 50 high-level visitors at UN Geneva, including Heads of State and Government, 27 foreign ministers, 2 representatives of royal families and 8 representatives of the Swiss authorities. The Secretary-General visited twice and the Deputy Secretary-General visited once.

Peace talks

UN Geneva hosted talks to advance peace processes in Cyprus, Libya and Syria and in the context of the Geneva International Discussions:

- Geneva International Discussions: 4 rounds in March, June, October and December
- Informal 5+1 meeting on Cyprus: April
- 5+5 Joint Military Commission (Libya): October
- Syrian Constitutional Committee: January and October

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3,385 attendees at 50 Knowledge and Learning Commons sessions
22 online learning resource guides and 11 conference primers for diplomats and delegates produced by the Knowledge and Learning Commons

3,298 representatives of 748 NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council accredited to UN Geneva

2021 IN NUMBERS

Learning and development
3,446 participants in 311 language training courses, with 239 students in Arabic, 219 students in Chinese, 548 students in English, 1,567 students in French, 503 students in Russian and 574 students in Spanish

3,390 participants in management and communication training activities across 74 training workshops, 13 lunchtime learning events, 3 outreach workshops and 148 hours of coaching

158 candidates sat exams in 38 sessions.

65% of participants in the activities of the Centre for Learning and Multilingualism were female and 35% were male.

Liaison with nongovernmental organizations
2,998 representatives of 748 NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council accredited to UN Geneva

Year Accredited representatives NGOs
2021 2,998 748
2020 3,950 1,153
2019 5,162 1,048

Communication and outreach
5.1 million engagements (the number of times social media users liked, commented on or shared @UNGeneva posts) across the five social media platforms

377 features, stories, studio messages, news edits and spots produced and distributed via UNHed

966 webcast videos produced

Podcast production:
• 49 episodes of the English-language news podcast UN Catch-Up
• 67 episodes of the French-language news podcast ONU Info Genève
• 25 episodes of The Next Page, the podcast on multilateralism

2,400 photos uploaded to UN Geneva’s Flickr page

460,850 unique visitors to ungeneva.org, who looked at a total of 1,662,717 pages

5,774 visitors to the Palais des Nations took a guided tour – physical or virtual

The SDG Lab
The SDG Lab The SDG Lab The SDG Lab

358 people from over 200 organizations make up the Geneva 2030 Ecosystem, a dynamic network dedicated to delivering the Sustainable Development Goals.

251 people subscribed to a social media group where information about resources and events relating to the Sustainable Development Goals is shared.

18 in-person and virtual briefings on the Sustainable Development Goals offered to 1,200 people, including diplomats, students and business executives.

9 modules in the SDG Lab Learning Journey, a resource to help individuals and organizations set up a lab of their own or take action around the Goals that matter to their community.

Conference on Disarmament
The Conference on Disarmament held 50 formal and 4 informal plenary meetings.

53 speakers of ministerial rank joined the high-level segment of the Conference.

SDG LAB
The SDG Lab

11 information programmes for a total of 738 university and graduate students

79 participants from 35 countries in the 59th Graduate Study Programme, the UN’s longest-running educational initiative

8 Cine-ONU sessions

99 hybrid biweekly press briefings

116 press conferences given by officials from UN agencies, programmes and funds, and Member States

SDG LAB
The SDG Lab

5,142 participants
3,950 attendees
2,998 organizations

5,142
3,950
2,998

15,000 maps scanned

800 unique visitors to the 50th Study Programme

1,153
1,048
748

36,556 repository records digitized

22,650 distributed, including the latest book on gender equality, Not a Woman’s Job?

148.8 million impressions (+44%)

1,774.100 followers across UN Geneva’s 5 main social media platforms as of 31 December:
• Twitter (English): 718,000 (+27%)
• Facebook: 669,000 (+44%)
• Instagram: 294,000 (+15%)
• LinkedIn: 60,000 (+30%)
• Twitter (French): 3,100 (+113%)

148.8 million impressions (the number of times @UNGeneva posts were seen by social media users) across the five social media platforms

1,048
748
9,664

2,650 distributed, including copies of Sakura, the latest book on gender equality.

42,791 answers provided

1,048
1,153
5,142

2,650 Perception Change Project publications distributed to the Geneva Red Cross and distributed to young children for Christmas

966 webcast videos produced

170 photo posts received over 170 photos from 71 entities, including 50 permanent missions and permanent observer offices, as well as UN agencies and partner organizations.

As of 2021, 90,000 Perception Change Project publications have been distributed, including 150 copies of Sakura, the latest book on gender equality.

2,650 Perception Change Project publications donated to the Geneva Red Cross and distributed to young children for Christmas

UN Documents uploaded online catalogue on-site users webcast videos

1,493
215
1,281
748

217,278 maps scanned

57,389 records digitized

Records and archives
1,281 answers provided through the “Ask an Archivist” online system

366 staff and external researchers assisted via phone and email

528 on-site visits to the Archives Reading Room

27,148 page views of Archives research guides

740,284 page views of the online Archives platform, catalogue and repository

36,866 records digitized

Library
400,000 uses of the Library’s online resources

12,000 library users

7,415 answers provided through the Library Virtual Reference Desk

42,791 online catalogue searches

178,278 views of research guides pages

532 access badge requests and

1,493 on-site users of the Library

9,664 UN documents uploaded to the Official Document System at the request of internal and external users

Total Digital Access to the League of Nations Archives Project
3,091,997 pages scanned, bringing the total number now scanned to more than 13,000,000 pages

15,000 maps scanned

Cultural activities
10 cultural activities at the Palais des Nations, attended by 800 people

2 online events that drew thousands of participants

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