



The UN Refugee Agency

Innovation in Humanitarian Response

Danish Engineers Association

27 October 2020

An unprecedented number of displaced people globally

Background

79.5 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide at the end of 2019 as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. That is about 1% of the world's population.

The UN Refugee Agency leads international action to protect people forced to flee their homes because of conflict and persecution.

We have sheltered and supported families in every major displacement crisis and helped tens of millions of people rebuild their lives.



UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

UNHCR staff and Greece's Hellenic Coast Guard secure refugee children rescued from an inflatable raft in the Mediterranean Sea

70 years of humanitarian action

Who we are

We are dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees.

UNHCR has highly decentralized field operations worldwide.

Over 17,000 staff across 130 countries.

Our work is entirely non-political and humanitarian in nature, regardless of nationality, race, gender or religion.

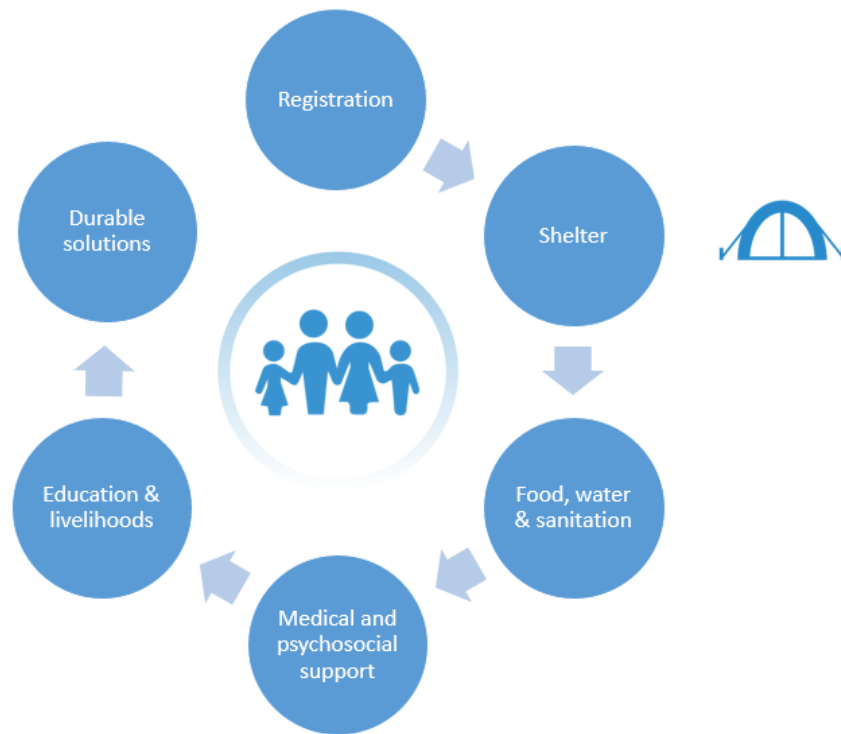


89 per cent of UNHCR staff are based in the field, working directly with those who live in 250 camp-based settlements as well as urban areas.

UNHCR supports refugees until a long-term solution is found

What we do

1. Survival - UNHCR leads life-saving assistance, including shelter, food, water and medical care.
2. Safeguarding fundamental rights - we ensure safety, documentation, access to education and skills.
3. Building better futures - we help families / individuals return home, when it is safe to do so, or settle.
4. On average a refugee is outside of their home country for 17 years.



UNHCR's innovative solutions to improve refugee lives

What we do

- Coordinate assistance in urban contexts online
- Measure and track vulnerability across time
- Greening refugee camps with community gardens
- Light up refugee camps with sustainable solar lighting
- Use agriculture and production techniques for school gardening (improved nutrition / livelihoods)
- Communicate in camps with social media and SMS technology
- Ensure targeted cash assistance using biometric technology

“

**Innovation means
being able to
respond
efficiently and
effectively
to people in need.**

Ronald de Jong, Chair of the Philips Foundation

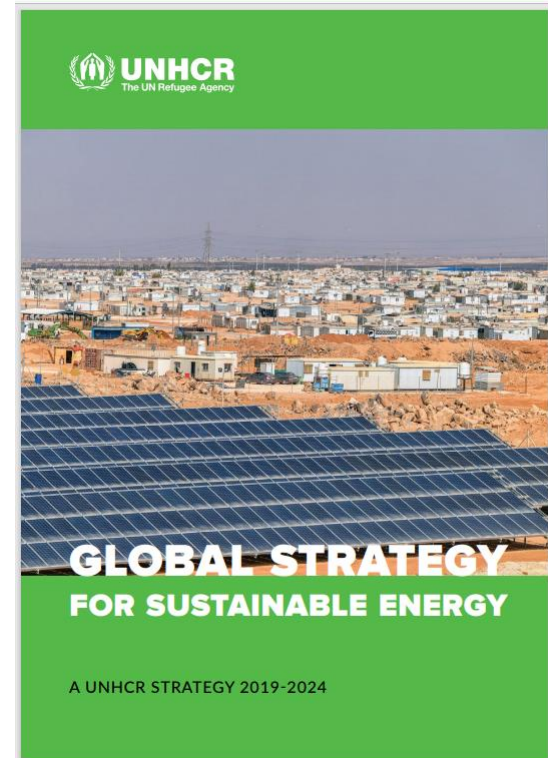
UNHCR
innovation

UNHCR Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy 2019 - 2024

The Strategy focuses on two mutually-reinforcing goals. Firstly, to improve refugees' protection and wellbeing; and secondly, to reduce the environmental impact of refugee operations through a transition to clean energy solutions.

The Strategy promotes four strategic action areas:

- Addressing refugee households' energy needs from the onset of an emergency;
- Improving access to sustainable, safe and affordable household cooking energy;
- Expanding sustainable household electrification;
- Expanding sustainable electrification of community and support facilities while limiting overall consumption.



UNHCR vision – first carbon neutral refugee camp

Vision:

Kakuma camp is the first carbon-neutral refugee camp where CO₂ emissions are reduced to a minimum, while all remaining CO₂ emissions are offset with climate protection measures.



Example of how the private sector can support

- Pilot initiative in Kakuma Refugee Camp through a smart energy system donated by Kube energy to increase energy efficiency and bring down the cost of solar energy installations.

Smart energy system

- Smart system increases the competitiveness of solar energy vs running diesel generators.
- Solar has a higher level of energy fluctuation compared to diesel.
- Improved efficiency with smart system will lead to increased deployment of renewable energy, as well as reduced environmental costs of installing large battery systems or running diesel generators.



Engagements opportunities for the private sector

Engagement opportunities

Global business partners, foundations and individuals commit to UNHCR core operations through:

- Cash donation
- Cause related marketing
- Gift in-kind
- Service, technical expertise or voice
- Staff, supplier and customer engagement
- Access to networks
- Creating new solutions together



UNHCR/ Diego Ibarra Sanchez

Private-sector support for UNHCR's work provided tarpaulins to shelter earthquake victims in Nepal whose homes had been destroyed.

“If we can harness the technical and financial capabilities of governments, businesses and unions and link them with the field presence and long experience of humanitarian agencies, we can create a powerful force for change.”

High Commissioner Filippo Grandi

