

# Building Better Futures

UNHCR works in both direct and catalytic mode in support of States, hosting communities, refugees, internally displaced, and stateless persons. It operationalizes cooperation between the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding communities; the UN system more broadly; civil society; and others in strategy development, planning and programming. The groundwork for comprehensive solutions is being laid through the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, the potential inclusion of refugees in national systems, new approaches to international responsibility-sharing, strengthened international cooperation, and a broader acknowledgement of the multi-dimensional layers that solutions entail.

With the affirmation of the Global Compact, States and partners embraced a revitalized approach to forced displacement, opening pathways for more predictable responses to refugee situations and a stronger focus on solutions from the onset of a crisis. Efforts to ease pressure on host countries will continue in 2020-2021, including through the dedicated financing facilities launched by the World Bank. Significant legal and policy developments have also occurred in some of the countries applying a Comprehensive Refugee Response (CRR) approach. Examples of more systematic incorporation of refugees into development planning; national health, education or civil documentation systems; or livelihood opportunities through more regular employment, freedom of movement, or reduced encampment are particularly noteworthy.

The adoption of the CRR approach at national and regional levels has been accompanied by renewed enthusiasm among many States to offer more opportunities for resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees.

*Aloïse Biyangambozi, a Burundian refugee who came to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016, benefits from agricultural empowerment.*

© UNHCR/John Wessels

UNHCR's experience and available evidence suggests that measures enabling inclusion, self-reliance and resilience, and promoting investment in human capital development, can result in positive outcomes for local economies and the welfare of refugee households. This potentially lessens the fiscal and other costs related to the protection and hosting of refugees and reduces aid dependency. This is important as the numbers of those in exile for over five years will likely grow in the coming years due to the persistent inability to end the conflicts and violence driving current displacement.

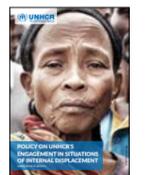
Refugees who acquire assets, capital, skills and knowledge during their exile will be better equipped to sustain their return and reintegration. They are also able to contribute not only to local economic and social recovery in their home country, but also often to deepen and retain important links to their place of exile. Allowing marginalized populations to contribute to, and benefit from, inclusion in sustainable social and economic development processes is also at the heart of the pledge of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to "leave no one behind."

Finally, echoing the spirit of the Global Compact, the High Commissioner issued a new IDP Policy in September 2019 which commits UNHCR to prioritizing actions that contribute to conditions conducive for safe, dignified and comprehensive solutions to internal displacement.

## In this chapter

- Local integration and voluntary repatriation
- Resettlement and complementary pathways
- Access to quality education
- Livelihoods and economic inclusion
- Cities and urban refugees
- Energy and environmental protection

The new Policy on "UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement"



## LOCAL INTEGRATION AND VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION



Somali refugees boarding a plane that will take them back to Somalia from Dadaab, Kenya. More than 80,000 Somali refugees have returned home from Dadaab since UNHCR started its voluntary repatriation programme in December 2014.

### 2020 TARGETS

**42** situations where conditions permit local integration of refugees will be supported.

**10** countries will be supported on housing, land and property, and documentation rights for refugees and IDPs.

**9** intention surveys will be completed.

The Global Compact on Refugees highlights the importance of promoting appropriate conditions for the voluntary, safe and dignified repatriation of people of concern. UNHCR and its partners are increasingly facing scenarios where peace and security are not completely established but where local circumstances may be evolving positively. This can result in refugees returning, sometimes under pressure, in adverse conditions. In this context, UNHCR will ensure that the best protection results are achieved for people of concern, with approaches tailored to the different needs and realities of operational contexts. This will be done by conducting regular consultations with people of concern to maintain an up-to-date overview and analysis of their needs, protection situation and intentions,

as well as perspectives on solutions. For instance, return monitoring found that a large portion of refugees who returned to Burundi between mid-2017 and 2019 did not possess civil documentation and had limited access to basic social services and judicial and legal remedies on return. These results will inform UNHCR and partners' planning in 2020-2021, in countries of asylum and origin. UNHCR also engaged in a multi-year collaboration with FAO, UNDP and UNFPA aimed at improving access to social services, security, justice and livelihood opportunities for returnees and local communities.

In 2020-2021, UNHCR will also continue to provide counselling and information through various means, including organizing "go-and-see" visits for refugees to observe

conditions in countries of origin for themselves. The development of tripartite agreements between UNHCR and the concerned governments, has also proved valuable as a way of ensuring recognition of civil status documents and education titles issued in the country of asylum. Where conditions permit, they can also facilitate working with a wide range of stakeholders to address possible obstacles to return and create conditions conducive to the safe, voluntary, dignified and sustainable repatriation. In internal displacement contexts, intention surveys will continue to explore the short and longer-term intentions of IDPs. These surveys are often initiated and implemented by UNHCR-led protection and CCCM clusters, in partnership with other humanitarian actors.

UNHCR will scale up its efforts on housing, land and property (HLP) rights in 2020-2021 to support countries of origin reintegrate citizens and address any barriers impeding sustainable reintegration. The Office will analyze returnees' HLP issues and develop or foster suitable programming that makes return and reintegration sustainable. Examples of this include analyzing and supporting returnees' access to social and affordable housing and land allocation programmes in return contexts, as well as supporting the establishment of enhancement mechanisms for restitution and resolution of HLP-related disputes. In internal displacement settings, HLP challenges are often cited by IDPs as an impediment to their local integration and a significant barrier to return to their areas of origin. UNHCR-led protection clusters—and UNHCR's own programming—will continue to prioritize security of tenure in displacement settings by providing legal assistance to IDPs and returnees to obtain HLP-related documents and access HLP restitution and compensation mechanisms where their homes are occupied by others,

damaged or destroyed. Also, UNHCR-led shelter clusters—and UNHCR as an operational partner—will ensure that HLP considerations are taken into account in shelter rehabilitation activities.

Promoting access to civil documentation will continue to form a core element of UNHCR's protection programming in internal displacement contexts, as without such documentation IDPs often cannot exercise their fundamental rights—including freedom of movement and residence—which in turn impedes their pursuit and achievement of durable solutions.

UNHCR will continue its work on local integration and solutions, taking advantage of the momentum offered by the Global Compact and by the Global Refugee Forum. UNHCR will focus on civil registration, documentation and on promoting legal stay options for refugees and asylum-seekers in several countries. This will build upon the progress made in the Americas, where procedures in Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador and El Salvador for refugees to convert their temporary migratory status into permanent residency were successfully established. UNHCR will assist governments opting to provide local integration or local solutions for people of concern by sharing good practices, analysis and lessons learned on HLP, access to employment, education, health, mobility and social protection.

The Office will also provide technical support for law and policy changes related to procedures for naturalization and other residence options for refugees. In addition, UNHCR will advance its #WithRefugees Campaign and build partnerships with municipalities and local authorities to form the necessary capacity and experience to contribute to successful local integration, through access to social protection schemes on the same level of nationals with regards to housing, food and subsidies.

Read more about the Global Refugee Forum here.



 **RESETTLEMENT AND COMPLEMENTARY PATHWAYS**



Lorca Fakir stands in front of a statue in her new hometown, Dunshaughlin, County Meath, Ireland, a rural town piloting a citizen-led resettlement programme.

**2020 TARGETS**

**70,000** refugees will be resettled through UNHCR.

**31** countries will receive UNHCR submissions.

**140,000** refugees will be admitted to third countries through complementary pathways.

UNHCR's resettlement portal available here.



Resettlement is an invaluable lifesaving protection tool for refugees whose life, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental human rights are at risk in the country where they sought refuge. It provides refugees with a durable solution and serves as a responsibility-sharing mechanism by signaling support for countries hosting large refugee populations.

Global resettlement needs have more than doubled since 2014, however, opportunities have dropped by more than 50% since 2016.

While more than 328,000 refugees were resettled between 2015 and 2018, the projected numbers of those in need of resettlement (1.44 million people for 2020, or some 7% of the global refugee population) significantly outweigh currently available places.

While the single largest group in need of resettlement in 2020 will be Syrians, the needs remain high in Africa, with an estimated 667,000 refugees from 32 different countries of asylum.

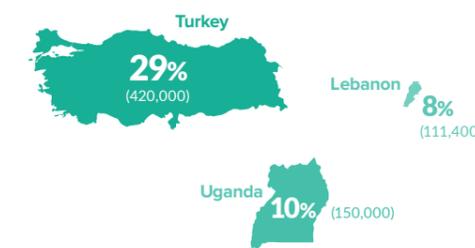
**Global refugee resettlement to scale**

**1.44 million** refugees will be in need of resettlement globally in 2020  This represents **7%** of the global refugee population

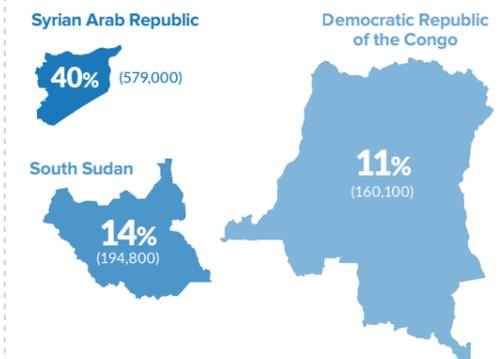
**2x** Global resettlement needs have more than **doubled** since 2014

**50%** Resettlement opportunities have halved since 2016

**THE TOP 3 COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM** account for **47%** of global resettlement needs



**THE TOP 3 NATIONALITIES** account for **65%** of global resettlement needs



Complementary pathways for admission are safe and regulated avenues for refugees that complement resettlement by providing lawful stay in a third country where their international protection needs are met. Examples include humanitarian admission, private or community sponsorship programmes, family reunification, as well as third-country education and employment opportunities. However, despite their proven utility and the increasingly wide range of actors

promoting and advancing complementary pathways, refugees still face a multitude of legal, administrative and practical obstacles in accessing them.

One of the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees is to expand refugees' access to third-country solutions as a means of achieving comprehensive refugee responses. The Global Compact envisages the development of a "Three-Year (2019-2021) Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways" to increase

The Three-Year (2019-2021) Strategy on Resettlement and Complementary Pathways.



**Solutions |** The Global Refugee Forum will seek to make progress towards finding solutions for refugees. This includes promoting enabling conditions for voluntary, safe and dignified return and repatriation and support for the sustainable reintegration of returnees; enabling local integration and local solutions; resettlement; and complementary pathways. For the latter, this will be primarily through galvanizing support for the Three-Year Strategy.



the number of resettlement spaces and resettlement countries, and improve the availability and predictability of complementary pathways.

Launched in 2019, the Strategy will guide UNHCR and partners' activities as they address challenges and leverage opportunities for expansion of third country solutions. The aim is to expand third-country solutions so that, by the end of 2028, 3 million refugees benefit from effective protection and solutions through resettlement (1 million refugees) in 50 resettlement countries and complementary pathways (2 million refugees).

As the Strategy is rolled out, UNHCR aims to have 70,000 refugees resettled to 31 resettlement countries in 2020, along with 140,000 refugee admissions through complementary pathways. To achieve these targets, UNHCR will enhance its operational capacity, including through the use of innovative processing

methodologies and leveraging data and evidence to monitor global progress against submission targets.

To maximize the strategic impact of the limited places available, in 2020 UNHCR will prioritize for resettlement those who have the greatest protection risks across priority situations. Those are the central Mediterranean situation; Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey in the context of the Syria situation; and the 14 Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) countries across Africa and the Americas (see the *Africa and the Americas* regional summaries).

Building on the achievements made within the Syria and the Central Mediterranean Core Groups, UNHCR and resettlement states will work under the auspices of the newly-established Priority Situations Core Group to implement effective responses to the needs in these two situations. The group will play a critical role in optimizing and coordinating support for resettlement

and complementary pathways, as well as maximizing the strategic impact of resettlement in these priority situations.

Of critical importance will be UNHCR's long-standing work with NGO partners to enhance the timely and effective deployment of an affiliate workforce to in-country offices under the global resettlement deployment scheme. UNHCR will also support operations and enhance the quality and integrity of its global resettlement programme by providing policy and operational guidance and extending oversight, monitoring and capacity-building.

To advance complementary pathways, as foreseen in the strategy, UNHCR will build partnerships and enhance its operational capacity through the strengthening of internal processes and systems and the development of operational guidelines for UNHCR's engagement in complementary pathways.

UNHCR will continue working with the OECD to better collect complementary pathways-related data and update the 2018 "OECD-UNHCR Study on third country solutions for refugees". UNHCR will also step up its engagement in the development of a comprehensive database on existing complementary pathway programmes to facilitate refugee access to them.

UNHCR will also proceed with the establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group on complementary pathways, as well as setting up task forces to guide the development of these various pathways. These coordination mechanisms will lead in developing standards for complementary pathways, piloting new pathways, and supporting national actors in expanding these opportunities.

The 2018 "OECD-UNHCR study on third country solutions for refugees".



Read more on the global resettlement deployment scheme here.



© UNHCR/Alamy Africa



### Sustainable Resettlement and Complementary Pathways Initiative

The "Sustainable resettlement and complementary pathways initiative" (the CRISP) is a joint UNHCR and IOM-led, multi-stakeholder initiative to support States and key actors to establish, expand or renew resettlement programmes and advance complementary pathways. In line with the Three-Year Strategy, it provides relevant stakeholders with specific and focused capacity-building activities at the local, national, regional and global levels. It emphasizes systems building, quality, sustainable programmes and

enhanced coordination and partnerships. The CRISP draws and builds on lessons from past experiences and initiatives, such as the Emerging Resettlement Countries Joint Support Mechanism implemented between 2016 and 2019.



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### Eritrean minors reunited with mother after eight-year odyssey

Kedija\*, 15, and Yonas, 12, survived kidnapping, detention, and a failed sea crossing before finally rejoining their mother in Switzerland. As they languished in a detention centre in the Libyan city of Misrata, Kedija and her brother Yonas's epic attempt to reunite with their mother in Switzerland after eight years of separation had appeared doomed.

*"Despite being separated for more than eight years, I never lost hope of being reunited with my kids again."*  
—Semira, a refugee in Switzerland, and mother of Kedija and Yonas.

For UNHCR, it all began with a phone call to staff in Libya from the International Social Service, a Swiss-based NGO specialized in child protection issues, whom Semira had contacted for help. With just their names and an out of date photo to identify them by, UNHCR staff and their NGO partners in Libya began scouring detention centers but, with an estimated 3,900 refugees and asylum-seekers being held in dozens of official detention centres across the country, and others falling prey to armed groups and human traffickers, the chances of finding them were slim.



\*All names have been changed for protection purposes.

## ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION

### 2020 TARGETS

**403,000** children aged 3-5 will be enrolled in early childhood education.

**1.9 million** children will be enrolled in primary education.

**182,900** students will be enrolled in lower and upper secondary education.

**12,800** people of concern will receive tertiary education scholarships.

**960** educational facilities will be constructed or improved.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims for free and quality pre-primary, primary, secondary, literacy and skills-focused education, leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes. It also underscores the importance of equitable access for all learners of all ages. However, in 2018—the last year for which there was confirmed data—at least 35% of refugee children were not attending primary school programmes and at least 75% of adolescents were not attending secondary school. Although significant progress has been made in the past two years, particularly in tertiary education, only 3% of refugees were enrolled in tertiary education globally.

regardless of legal status, gender or disability; and to enable learners to use their education toward sustainable futures.

Refugee Education 2030 contributes directly to the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees, namely, to ease pressures on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity. The overarching goal for 2030 is to close the enrolment gap between displaced children and the rest of the population. Indeed, to achieve the goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education, greater inclusion of displaced populations and the host communities that welcome them is necessary.

In 2020, long-term pre-primary, primary and secondary education enrolment targets for 2030 will be established and measured at country-level against the official net enrolment reported for host communities. These will be disaggregated by gender to increase the visibility of gender equity gaps, and to account for children and youth with disabilities. With regard to tertiary education, a particular focus will be on supporting college-eligible refugees in tertiary, technical and vocational education and training and on connected higher-education programmes in host and third countries, and also to achieve equitable gender representation across tertiary enrolments.

“Refugee Education 2030: A Strategy for Refugee Inclusion” is UNHCR’s strategy to foster inclusion in equitable, quality education as this contributes directly to resilience, prepares children and youth for participation in cohesive societies and is the best policy option for refugees, displaced and stateless children and youth and their hosting communities. The strategic objectives of Refugee Education 2030 and UNHCR’s education programming are threefold: to promote equitable and sustainable inclusion in national education systems for refugees, asylum-seekers, returnees, stateless and IDPs; to foster safe, enabling environments that support learning for all students,

“Refugee education 2030: A strategy for refugee inclusion”



The tertiary education target for 2030 is to enroll 15% of college-eligible refugees in tertiary, technical and vocational education and training. A core component of recognizing this goal by 2030 is the expansion of the DAFI scholarship programme which, since 1992, has provided comprehensive financial, academic and social support to 15,500 qualified refugee youth pursuing an undergraduate degree in their first country of asylum. In 2020-2021, the DAFI programme will have a specific focus on gender parity and transition to employment for DAFI scholars (see also the *West and Central Africa* regional summary). The former includes extra support for mothers and pregnant women, working to adjust the age limit in the programme for women, and conducting targeted outreach to girls and young women.

With successful programmes in primary and tertiary enrolment established, in 2020, UNHCR will launch a multi-year secondary youth education initiative to boost enrolment and promote a successful transition to secondary school for refugee children. Pilot projects in Kenya, Pakistan, Rwanda, and Uganda will expand over the coming years with a focus on investing in teachers and schools. Investments will target teacher development, school improvement, and community schemes to encourage enrolment and financial support for refugee families. This initiative is aimed at refugees and host communities, so that all children benefit from new opportunities. Through boosting secondary-level enrolment, UNHCR aims to provide motivation for primary school retention and so facilitate more refugees and host community peers progressing to higher studies.

“Stepping up – Refugee education in crisis”



**Education |** The Global Refugee Forum seeks to include refugee children and youth in national education systems within three months from the onset of displacement to benefit from increased access to the full cycle of accredited quality early childhood development, primary and secondary education, along with increased access to tertiary and technical and vocational education opportunities. A Global Framework for Refugee Education has been developed by the GRF Education co-sponsorship alliance, which helps translate the refugee education strategy, “Refugee Education 2030: a strategy for refugee inclusion”, into a guidance for pledging on education.

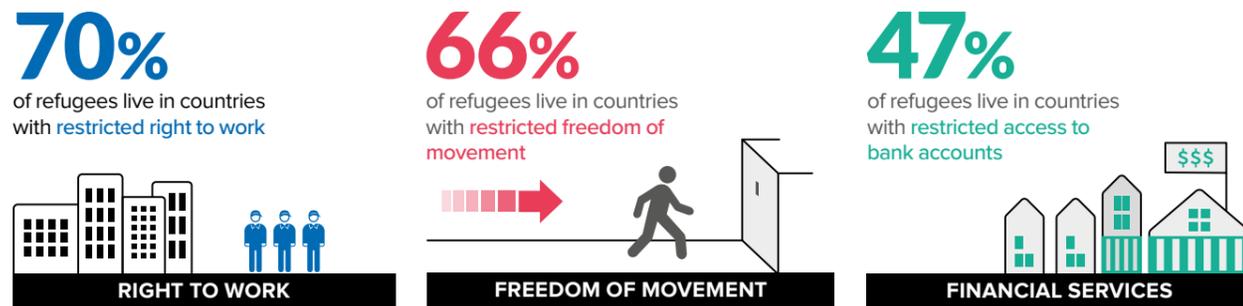


### Educate A Child Programme and Education Above All Foundation

In 2020, UNHCR and the Educate A Child and Education Above All Foundation intend to continue their long-standing partnership to give an expected 121,000 refugee children the opportunity to access primary education in 14 countries.



## LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION



### 2020 TARGETS

**40** countries will allow refugees access to microcredit loans from financial service providers.

**50,000** refugees and host community members in 5 countries will be included in the 18 to 36-month poverty alleviation programme.

**20** countries will enable refugee and host community artisans to access market opportunities.

In 2019, 70% of refugees lived in countries which restricted their right to work. Restricted freedom of movement and access to related rights, along with limited economic conditions in host communities, were other factors in creating unfavourable environments for refugee economic inclusion.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, in 2020, UNHCR will work with its partners to ease barriers to economic participation and increase the number of refugees included in local and national economies.

In Ethiopia for instance, the revised Refugee Proclamation issued in 2019 grants more rights to refugees. These rights include the freedom to move; access to education, employment, financial services, and lease irrigable land; and to engage in economic activities. This is part of the country's Jobs Compact that will create 100,000 jobs, 30% of which will be for refugees by 2020-2021. Through the Global Refugee Forum, UNHCR is reaching out to stakeholders to pledge concrete

contributions in support of the Jobs Compact. Similarly, UNHCR is supporting pledge development for the other Member States of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development to implement the national plans of action committed in the Kampala Declaration that include policy reforms and investment in economic development that will increase access to gainful employment for refugees and host communities.

In 2020-2021, UNHCR will focus economic inclusion efforts in at least 20 countries through interventions grounded on strong advocacy for policy reforms including the right to work and other enabling rights. Where the legal framework is in place, UNHCR will work closely with relevant actors to promote economic opportunities that will benefit refugees and host communities.

Through the Poverty Alleviation Coalition, UNHCR will enable sustainable livelihoods and alleviate the poverty of 500,000 refugees and host community households in 35 countries within 5 years. The Coalition

aims to raise \$70 million to implement the Graduation Approach, a sequenced, multi-sector intervention that supports the poorest and most vulnerable households to achieve sustained income and move out of extreme poverty within a specified period (18-36 months). Targeting for Graduation Approach programmes is context-specific and draws on the socioeconomic criteria established for existing cash-based interventions and other assistance programmes.

There is increasing interest in adopting the Graduation Approach. UNHCR intends to build upon the success to date by, for instance, the Ministry of Social and Economic Inclusion in Ecuador, the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, and the Food for Peace multi-year programme in Uganda—a US government initiative—where the Approach has already been adopted.

In collaboration with the UN Capital Development Fund, the Financial Sector

Deepening Africa, Sida, and Kiva, UNHCR will increase partnerships with financial service providers in at least 10 countries to enhance financial inclusion. Currently, microfinance institutions in 35 countries are providing microcredit loans to refugees. This will expand to more than 40 countries in 2020.

Through partnerships with retailers, social enterprises, development partners, including the World Fair Trade Organization, and donors, the MADE51 project will expand from 15 to 20 countries. MADE51 helps craftspeople fleeing conflict or persecution achieve independence by providing a global platform to market their crafts. By giving refugees the chance to work and earn, they can start rebuilding their lives. MADE51 aims to benefit at least 5,000 refugees and host community members in 2020. It will provide market access and increase the incomes of refugee and host community artisans, as well as their families. It will also support the growth of local social enterprises.

**Jobs and livelihoods** | The Global Refugee Forum will work towards the key outcomes of economic inclusion, job creation, local economic growth, enhanced protection, and preparations for solutions through a series of sub-themes and cross-cutting areas such as investment in economic development, private sector engagement and changes to legal frameworks.



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### Support graduation from dependency on non-contributory benefits

Transitioning families from short-term humanitarian assistance to longer-term social protection programmes has been pursued by UNHCR under the 1951 Refugee Convention and more recently to support objectives 1 and 2 of the Global Compact, particularly in contexts of protracted displacement.

UNHCR works with governments and other development actors to include displaced people in both national and locally-led social protection systems, ensuring these efforts also lead to the scaling up of coverage to local residents. UNHCR will adapt and align its sector-specific projects to transition refugees from cash, non-food items and shelter support to social safety nets; from livelihoods and adult education or skills support to national public works and employment schemes; from sexual and gender-based violence and child protection services to national social welfare services; from health and nutrition support to health insurance schemes. It will also build scalable mechanisms into national social safety nets in case of family-level emergencies. UNHCR will expand its institutional partnerships with ILO, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank to reinforce operations addressing protracted displacement across the Sahel and Horn of Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and the Americas.

The Poverty Alleviation Coalition website is accessible here.



## CITIES AND URBAN REFUGEES



Venezuelan refugee Carlos and his family in their new home in São Paulo. Carlos was kidnapped in Maracay, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, but now, with the help of UNHCR and its partners, the family is rebuilding their lives in Brazil.

### 2020 TARGETS

**2** operations globally will be targeted for focused urban shelter and settlement response support.

**5** pilot countries will benefit from UNHCR’s “Rental assistance guidelines” in assisting the social inclusion of refugees and IDPs into existing rental market systems.

**Expand** the “Master Plan approach” to settlement planning across all settlement typologies, including the urban context.

**Develop** an interoperable geographic information system (GIS) digital platform to leverage geographic information from sites for all populations of concern.

The 2014 “UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps”



Urbanization is a defining characteristic of the world today, with greater numbers of people living in urban and peri-urban areas. This is also true of those who have been displaced with an estimated 61% of refugees residing in urban areas globally. Where relevant legal frameworks permit, life outside camps enables refugees to live more autonomously. They can pursue livelihoods or economic opportunities and access services, such as health and education, alongside the local community. There is growing evidence that refugees can stimulate local economies as both consumers and entrepreneurs.

UNHCR’s strategic approach to working in urban areas has evolved from its 2009 “Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas” to the 2014 “Policy on Alternatives to Camps”. More recent developments, including the Agenda for Sustainable Development—in particular, SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities; the New Urban Agenda; and the Global Compact on Refugees—provide strong impetus for a fresh look at these policies. The Global Compact recognizes that cities and local authorities—as those who receive, welcome and include refugees

—are key participants and stakeholders in comprehensive responses. Local communities are also engaged, as an influx of refugees into an urban context puts strain on existing host community services, such as housing, water services, local services and infrastructure. Through global declarations and campaigns—including the Global Parliament of Mayors and Global Mayors Forum; the Cities #WithRefugees campaign; and the creation of global policy fora addressing forced displacement and urbanization—more cities are committing to implement the Global Compact, such as Athens, Salt Lake City and Sao Paulo.

In 2020, UNHCR will support cities in these efforts. In Thessaloniki, for example, UNHCR participates in city-led urban refugee working groups, which include a range of public, private and civil society partners in a “whole-of-society” approach. In Central and North America, the Cities of Solidarity initiative will be piloted across several countries. Good practices and knowledge resources will be made available through a dedicated space within the GIS digital platform (eSite). UNHCR will deepen its engagement with city networks and mayoral fora, while also advocating that development actors address the challenges of refugee inclusion in local development plans, and by supporting them in their efforts.

UNHCR will strengthen key operational partnerships with development actors to enhance its urban response. Implementing the urban shelter and settlement guidance and tools developed with UN-Habitat aligns with UNHCR’s strategic shelter objectives and the Global Compact. New global priorities for collaboration are reflected in an updated global MoU with UN-Habitat from both an operational perspective (such as shelter and settlement, WASH, infrastructure and land), and a

policy perspective (such as data and SDG monitoring, preparedness and impact evaluation, overarching urban policy and the implementation of the Global Compact).

Building on best practices from recent shelter responses in the Mediterranean and Venezuela situations (see the *Europe and the Americas* regional summaries), appropriate use of cash-based interventions for urban accommodation will continue to be actively pursued. Wider dissemination of the recently developed “Rental assistance guidelines” will support social inclusion of people of concern into existing rental market systems, while being sensitive to rental market fluctuations that may be detrimental to host communities.

In 2020, UNHCR will continue reinforcing efforts to re-think humanitarian settlement planning, while ensuring the design of humanitarian settlements supports the achievement of long-term, area-based development priorities, as outlined in national development plans and policies. Actioning the “Master Plan approach” to settlement planning, and using appropriate technology, tools and technical expertise, remains a priority. This will support the spatial design and development of forward-thinking humanitarian settlements that promote local development and the integration of people of concern. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring the approach is relevant across all settlements, including in urban contexts.

To ensure institutional coherence and clarity of approach in a decentralized organization, strong technical oversight and support will be provided to the regional bureaux and country operations. UNHCR aims to ensure urban shelter and settlement response tools and guidance are fully understood and applied in various contexts.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



The Prosopis Firewood Processing and Charcoal Briquette Production Scheme in Melkadida Camp, Ethiopia, provides alternative fuel options to reduce deforestation and pollution.

### 2020 TARGETS

**1.6 million** people of concern will have access to clean cooking fuel.

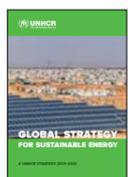
**2.5 million** people of concern will have access to a sustainable source of electricity.

**6,000** tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will be reduced by using cleaner sources of energy.

**50%** of UNHCR country offices will participate in the annual inventory for the UN's "Greening the blue" initiative.

**5,000** hectares of degraded land will be rehabilitated through reforestation activities in refugee-hosting areas.

The "Global strategy for sustainable energy 2019-2024"



Ensuring refugees have access to clean, affordable and reliable energy is an integral part of any humanitarian response. Moreover, meeting energy needs can provide significant benefits associated with protection, gender equality, food security, water, sanitation and health, education, livelihoods, connectivity and environmental protection.

In 2020-2021, UNHCR will continue to roll out its "Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy 2019-2024", focusing on four 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; and increasing sustainable electrification of community and support facilities, while limiting overall consumption.

In partnership with development and private sector actors, UNHCR will strengthen its technical expertise in field operations, and improve the delivery of energy and environmental programming that meets refugees' energy needs while ensuring the least possible environmental impact. This includes working with partners such as FAO, GIZ (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für*

*Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (German Agency for International Cooperation)), the Joint OCHA/UNEP Environment Unit, NORCAP, Practical Action, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency and WFP.

For instance, UNHCR and GIZ are working together towards reducing the carbon footprint of selected UNHCR operations—including Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda—and improving their access to sustainable energy. This initiative responds to UNHCR's climate responsibilities while providing clean and sustainable sources of energy to populations of concern in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Moreover, with the support of Sida, UNHCR is establishing a revolving fund that will help in-country staff partner with the private sector to transition to clean energy, phase out fossil fuels, and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

A critical step in improving UNHCR's own environmental performance is being able

to accurately measure and understand its environmental impact. In the last five years, the Office has participated in the UN's "Greening the blue" initiative by progressively rolling out environmental reporting to its country operations. In 2020, UNHCR is planning to assist 200 country offices as they report on their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, waste production and water use. Providing support and capacity-building for ever-better environmental monitoring will help highlight progress and identify opportunities for further improvement, inspiring further action for environmental sustainability. UNHCR also works with countries, refugees and host communities to build community-resilience through sustainable environmental management. In 2020, UNHCR, in partnership with Land Life Company, will expand its reforestation efforts for the rehabilitation of degraded land in refugee-hosting areas.

**Energy and infrastructure** | The Global Refugee Forum will serve as an opportunity to expand access to sustainable energy for refugees whilst mitigating and adapting to climate change through three pillars: energy provision (linked to SDG 7 on affordable and sustainable energy for refugees); essential services (energy, connectivity, environment, health, WASH, Shelter); and inclusion (in national structures and services).



### Dutch Postcode Lottery's Green Camp project

Since 2017, UNHCR and Land Life Company, supported by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery, have been building a "green" refugee camp in northern Cameroon, reforesting severely degraded lands in and around the camp with 40,000 trees—providing jobs, shade, health and food.

Other elements of the project include building sustainable, locally-sourced shelters and providing eco-friendly cooking alternatives to prevent further illegal logging. This unique project brings to life a new model on how to reduce the environmental footprint of humanitarian efforts, cut costs and, most importantly, improve the health and well-being of both the refugees and host communities.

