This report provides a global overview on the level of progress achieved in the implementation of UNHCR’s Policy on Alternatives to Camps (hereafter “the Policy”). The survey is based on data received from UNHCR country operations who assessed the status of their implementation using the Diagnostic Tool in connection with the planning exercise for the biennium 2018-2019. Information was received from 79 countries, covering just under 10 million refugees and asylum seekers across 120 Population Planning Groups (PPGs). With the exception of the first chart, data reflects the proportion of the responses in terms of Population Planning Groups and not the percentage of refugees per se.

1. SETTLEMENT OPTIONS

**In order to implement the Policy**, UNHCR should work towards enabling refugees to settle in communities or facilitate the transformation of camps into sustainable settlements that are anchored within the framework of national development planning and housing, land and property laws and linked to host communities and the local economy, infrastructure and service delivery systems.

A camp is any purpose built, planned and managed location where refugees are accommodated and receive assistance from government and humanitarian agencies. For the purpose of the survey, the definition of camp applies not only to planned and managed camps but also to informal and self-settled camps, transit sites, collective centres, evacuation centres or reception centres.

37% of population groups are reported as residing exclusively in privately hosted individual accommodation; 39% of population groups reside in a combination of settlement types, i.e. in settlement options which combine in different degrees planned camps, reception centres or transit sites, privately hosted individual accommodation, collective centres and informal/self-managed settlements.

A challenging context continues to prevent the pursuit of alternatives to camps in 16% of operations (consistent with last year’s data).

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**Estimated percentage of refugees living in / out of camps**

- Living in camps: 31%
- Living outside of camps: 69%

**Typologies of refugee settlements**

- Planned / managed camps, 15%
- Collective centre(s), 1%
- Reception / transit camp, 2%
- Informal / self-managed settlements, 6%
- Privately hosted individual accommodation, 37%

**Global trend of refugee population living in / out of camps over the last three years**

- 2015: 30% in camps, 70% outside
- 2016: 28% in camps, 72% outside
- 2017: 31% in camps, 69% outside

**Trend of refugee population outside of camps**

- Africa: 2015: 90%, 2016: 85%, 2017: 80%
- Americas: 2015: 85%, 2016: 80%, 2017: 75%
- Asia: 2015: 80%, 2016: 75%, 2017: 70%
- Europe: 2015: 75%, 2016: 70%, 2017: 65%
- MENA: 2015: 70%, 2016: 65%, 2017: 60%

**Pursuing alternatives to reduce camp population**

- Yes: 32%
- No: 16%
- N/A (currently no camps): 52%
2. CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

The implementation of the Policy requires UNHCR operations to undertake an in depth analysis of the potential for pursuing alternatives to camps when undertaking contingency planning and emergency preparedness actions for a possible future refugee influx, and also in relation to existing refugee camps or camp-like facilities or structures.

Emergency response foresees a combination of different settlement options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>52%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The majority of operations in Africa (65%), in MENA (59%), and in Europe (54%), foresee a variety of settlement options as part of their response strategies in the event of an emergency. Settlement options may include: spontaneous rural settlement, spontaneous urban settlement, planned camps, hosting arrangements, collective centres and rented accommodation.

Contingency plan includes information on host population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, it includes information about the absorption capacity of local population, its willingness to host refugees and its needs</th>
<th>30%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the absorption capacity of the local population</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the local population's willingness to host refugees</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the needs of the local population</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, it doesn’t include information on host population</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

48% of the operations have contingency plans in place to manage refugee influx. These are developed collaboratively with partners, the host government and local authorities.

3. LEGAL BACKGROUND

In order to implement the Policy, UNHCR should seek to promote an enabling protection environment where the legal, policy and administrative framework of the host country provides refugees with freedom of movement and residence, permission to work, and access to basic services and social “safety nets” as members of the communities where they are living.

Operations where refugees can enjoy a range of rights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes, it includes information about the absorption capacity of local population, its willingness to host refugees and its needs</th>
<th>In law, policy &amp; practice 55%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the absorption capacity of the local population</td>
<td>In practice but not under national law 23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the local population's willingness to host refugees</td>
<td>In law &amp; policy only 5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it includes information about the needs of the local population</td>
<td>No 17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No, it doesn’t include information on host population</td>
<td>In practice but not under national law 26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In law, policy &amp; practice 46%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In law but not under national law 10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In practice but not under national law 43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In law, policy &amp; practice 43%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In practice but not under national law 21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In law &amp; policy only 18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In practice but not under national law 21%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The global results show an improvement of 7% since last year (in practice and/or in law), both for the enjoyment of the right to work, and for the right to own or rent land.

While the majority of population groups (71% in America and 89% in Europe) can choose their place of residence in law, policy and practice, only 19% of population groups are able to do so in Asia, where the 57% can only choose their place of residence in practice, but not under national law.
4. ADVOCACY

Implementation of the Policy relies on the development of outcome-based advocacy strategies, where appropriate, which respond to the perspectives and concerns of host governments and communities, and complement appeals to state responsibility and a rights-based approach with policy arguments, based upon research, data and evidence, that alternatives to camps produce better outcomes for both refugees and the host communities.

Outcome-based advocacy strategy in place

- 56% no
- 44% yes

While a majority of operations lack an outcome-based advocacy strategy, particularly in the MENA region and the Americas, in Africa 68% of the operations do have such a strategy in place.

A majority of operations (87%, consistent with 2015 data) analyze the barriers that may impede refugees’ enjoyment of their socio-economic rights in host countries, where such barriers exist. These analyses typically examine legal, procedural and practical aspects, and help inform advocacy activities, such as meetings with government counterparts.

Advocacy for enabling legislation conducted

- 73% yes
- 15% partly
- 14% no

The proportion of operations engaged in advocacy for enabling legislation has grown from 75% to 86% over the past year. The areas of legislation concerned include access to land, to housing, and to finance, freedom of movement, and enjoying the right to work.

5. SECURITY

UNHCR operations should engage with national authorities at all levels to ensure that legitimate security issues can be addressed effectively to pave the way for alternatives to camps and ensure that protection concerns are addressed in a manner that respects the specific status and rights of refugees.

Security conditions are favourable to alternatives to camps

- 71% yes
- 22% n/a
- 7% no

Regardless of what laws are in place, it is considered that the security conditions in hosting countries are adequate for refugees to settle safely outside of camps. While the results are consistent with last year’s data (applicable to 70% of population groups globally on average), the results are lower in Asia, where security conditions are considered safe for 48% of population groups.

Across the majority of operations worldwide, UNHCR engages with refugees to reinforce their understanding of their rights and obligations (in 89% operations), and engages with national authorities to reinforce their understanding of the specific status and rights of refugees (in 88% of operations).

UNHCR promotes refugees’ awareness of their rights and obligations

- YES 89%
- NO 3%
- N/A 8%

UNHCR engages with national authorities to reinforce their understanding of the specific status of refugees

- YES 88%
- NO 5%
- N/A 7%
6. DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Implementation of the Policy requires UNHCR to undertake planning on the basis of data, information and analysis related to refugees and host communities supported by effective information management systems, and better use of available macroeconomic and community-level data.

Refugees’ individual location data is recorded and updated (regional differences)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Only recorded</th>
<th>Yes, recorded and updated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The data show an improvement in the coverage of persons of concern with updated information on their geographical location (6% increase in the past year).

7. COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION

Implementation of the Policy calls for strengthening of community-based protection, monitoring, outreach and case management, including increased direct engagement with refugee and host communities, in order to overcome the challenges that arise with dispersed populations; and to ensure that potential specific needs of refugees are identified and met in service delivery.

Refugee access to national child protection services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Services</th>
<th>Yes, all the time</th>
<th>Yes, most of the time</th>
<th>Yes, some of the time</th>
<th>No, very rarely</th>
<th>No, never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UNHCR Protection Strategies present options for increasing the involvement of national authorities in the protection of refugee and asylum seeker children, including from SGBV and for education.

A slight improvement in access to national child protection services is observed since last years. Access is observed to be most consistent for refugee populations in the EU, Africa, and the Americas.

UNHCR programmes are equally accessible to all age, gender and diversity groups

In spite of the challenges that arise with dispersed population, 72% of the operations where the majority of refugees is currently living outside of camps ensure equal access to all diversity groups. The overall proportion of operations ensuring equal access to diversity groups is on the increase since last year. Diversity groups include persons with disabilities, members of ethnic communities, and LGBTI individuals.

Means are in place through which refugees and host populations can directly engage with UNHCR

UNHCR has almost doubled its efforts to establish communication channels for both refugees and host communities since last year (from 16% to 28% of population groups), although communication channels are still predominantly in place for refugees across all regions.
8. ECONOMIC SITUATION

The Policy calls for enabling of refugees to build sustainable livelihoods through market-based livelihoods strategies that are informed by market assessments and by analyses of the capacities, assets, and mobility of refugees.

Context specific livelihoods strategic plan developed

- Yes: 26%
- In progress: 34%
- No: 40%

Livelihoods market analysis conducted in the last two years

- Yes: 35%
- No: 62.5%
- Lack of information: 2.5%

Socio-economic assessment of refugee population conducted

- Yes, for the majority of the refugees: 30%
- Yes, partial: 33%
- No: 37%

UNHCR operations are gradually increasing the use of socio-economic assessments to inform programmes that promote the economic inclusion of refugees (up to 30% from 26% the previous year). These assessments, along with market analyses, are critical steps for developing robust livelihood strategies and informing the targeting of assistance.

9. DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES

The Policy calls for adaptation of service delivery through mainstreaming within national, local and community-based systems and structures and the further development of new models and approaches, such as the use of mobile teams, strengthened procedures for the targeting of assistance, enhanced referral mechanisms, enrollment of refugees in health insurance schemes and the greater use of cash-based interventions.

Criteria for targeted assistance developed

- 29% in none
- 23% in less than three sectors
- 48% in at least three sectors

Minimum standards adapted to those in hosting countries and countries of origin

- Yes: 83%
- No: 17%

UNHCR adapts minimum standards (including SPHERE standards) for key services such as education, health, nutrition and WASH to standards in the countries of asylum and in countries of origin.

Operations where refugees are integrated into national health care system.

- MENA: Yes 41%, Party 41%
- Europe: Yes 71%
- Asia: Yes 64%
- Americas: Yes 55%
- Africa: Yes 27%

Operations where refugees have access to the formal national education system

- Yes, to primary, secondary and tertiary education: 67.5%
- No, refugees attend school in a parallel system accredited by the MoE or their home country: 3.3%
- No, refugees attend school in a parallel system not accredited: 7.5%
- Other: 3.3%

Cash-based interventions provided

- Livelihoods: 11%
- Food/nutrition: 11%
- Education: 2%
- Health: 2%
- Shelter: 1%
- Other: 29%

The volume of cash-based interventions has more than doubled from 2015 to 2016, exceeding in-kind assistance, and reaching 2.5M displaced persons in over 60 operations. A majority (44%) of operations provide multi-purpose cash assistance (up from 28% two years ago).
10. DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The Policy calls for synergizing with national development planning and international development cooperation in order to achieve efficiencies and greater lasting impact for refugees and host communities, including in areas such as education, healthcare, nutrition, water, sanitation, housing, energy and employment.

Refugees integrated into national development plans

- 11% yes
- 37% no
- 33% partly
- 8% n/a
- 11% other

Refugees integrated in local development plans

- 14% yes
- 39% no
- 31% partly
- 8% n/a
- 33% other

The results for integration into both local and national development plans remain consistent with data from previous years.

11. PARTNERS

The Policy calls for creation of adapted partnership models that expand collaboration with relevant national authorities, civil society actors and the private sector, as well as with development oriented UN agencies and others, both globally and through their national programmes, within the framework of a Refugee Coordination Model and with the objective of complementing, reinforcing and creating synergies with UNHCR's programmes.

Frequent contact with relevant Ministries

- 2015: 36% yes, 64% no
- 2016: 78% yes, 22% no
- 2017: 84% yes, 11% no

The number of operations holding regular meetings with all relevant line ministries, including health, education and protection related, has increased from 36% in 2015 to 84% in 2017. The majority of the operations (62%) meet with relevant ministries at the least every three months, while 23% of them hold such meetings at least every month.

Sufficient coordination capacity in place (self-assessed)

- Yes: 61.7%
- Partly: 36.7%
- No: 1.7%

Refugees are included in UNCT priorities

- MENA: 53% yes, 23% indirectly
- Europe: 14% yes, 39% indirectly, 46% no
- Asia: 24% yes, 24% indirectly, 52% no
- Americas: 14% yes, 36% indirectly, 50% no
- Africa: 13% no, 42% indirectly, 45% no