As long as there have been wars, persecution and intolerance, there have been refugees.

They are of every race and religion and can be found in every part of the world.

Forced to flee out of fear for their lives and liberty, refugees often give up everything – home, belongings, family and country – for an uncertain future in a strange land.

Their plight is one of the great tragedies of our time and their fate is linked to political and human rights questions that are of concern to each and every one of us.

You can help.

Refugee projects around the world that need your support
What is it like to be a refugee?

Refugees are ordinary people who have lost everything. But they can regain their livelihood, their homes and their dignity – with your help.

Stay or leave?

Sarajevo. Because of hardships involved, most people become refugees only after a long and agonising appraisal.

Some people become refugees in an instant, as a matter of life or death.

Rwanda on 6 April 1994, when an estimated 250,000 Rwandans swept into Tanzania over a 24-hour period in the largest and fastest refugee exodus in modern history.

Some people are uprooted when political changes turn their home into a foreign country.

Many Russian nationals who spent years – sometimes their entire lives – in other republics of the former Soviet Union now feel compelled to return to Russia.
Most refugees are innocent bystanders caught up in regional conflicts too violent to ignore.

Refugees from Burundi. About 80% are women, children and elderly people.

Some refugee camps are virtual cities, housing hundreds of thousands of refugees.

During the latter half of July 1994, nearly 1.5 million Rwandans fled.

Most refugees want nothing more than to go home.

Some refugees can return when conditions in their countries stabilise. Tajiks leaving Afghanistan for home.
UNHCR at a glance

When first set up by the United Nations General Assembly in 1951, UNHCR was charged with resettling 1.2 million European refugees left homeless in the aftermath of World War II. Today, UNHCR cares for 22 million people in over 140 countries. Around 80 percent are women and children.

The nature of conflicts which cause people to flee has changed considerably in recent years. Most hostilities now are internal, often with regional and sometimes international linkages.

At the outset, UNHCR was envisioned as a temporary office. Nearly 50 years later, it has become one of the world’s principal humanitarian agencies, with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and offices in over 120 countries. Approximately four-fifths of our 4,400-member staff work in the field, often in isolated, difficult and dangerous conditions.

Refugee protection... a basic right

Most people can look to their own government to guarantee and protect their basic human rights and physical security. But in the case of refugees, the country of origin has proved itself unable or unwilling to protect these rights.

UNHCR is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to ensure that refugees are protected by their country of asylum, and to assist governments in that task.
Refugees

Persons outside their country of origin who are unable or unwilling to return, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution.

Returnees

Persons who were of concern to UNHCR when outside of their country of origin and who remain so for a limited period after their return.

Internally displaced persons

Persons displaced by conflict within their country. UNHCR has been mandated to assist some groups of internally displaced.

Asylum seekers

Persons who have left their countries of origin and have applied for recognition as refugees in other countries and whose applications are still pending.

Others of concern

Persons who are in a refugee-like situation but who have not been formally recognised as refugees. This covers, among others, victims of war in the former Yugoslavia and various groups in the CIS countries.

Where they are located

North America 5.8%
Asia 33.3%
Africa 33%
Europe 27.1%
Latin America/Caribbean 0.5%
Oceania 0.3%

Financial requirements from 1985 to 1999

$445 million

Note: All but a small fraction of UNHCR’s budget comes from voluntary contributions — mostly from governments, but also from non-governmental organisations, trusts, foundations, corporations and individuals.
Where help was needed in the past years

Bosnia and Herzegovina
UNHCR’s airlift to Sarajevo was the longest-running humanitarian air bridge in history. The airlift began in July 1992 and ended in January 1996. More than 2.7 million men, women and children were helped.

Africa’s Great Lakes
Beginning in 1994 UNHCR provided humanitarian aid to over 1.7 million Rwandan refugees during the crisis in the Great Lakes region. In 1996 and 1997, most of these people returned home to Rwanda.

Northern Iraq
In 1991, UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance to some 500,000 Iraqi Kurds displaced after the Persian Gulf War.

Mozambique
UNHCR directly assisted nearly 400,000 refugees to return home to Mozambique; the organisation also spent an estimated $100 million on development and reintegration programmes to help them restart their lives.

Cambodia
After twelve years of war, UNHCR was able to assist in the repatriation of 370,000 refugees.

Afghanistan
Since 1989, UNHCR has assisted almost 2.6 million Afghan refugees to return home from Pakistan and Iran.

Vietnam
Under UNHCR sponsorship 109,000 Vietnamese boat people returned to their country.

Mali and Liberia
UNHCR is playing a vital role in peace and reconciliation through its reintegration programmes; over half a million refugees returned home.

Caucasus
In the newly independent states of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, UNHCR is assisting some 450,000 refugees and asylum seekers and nearly 970,000 internally displaced persons.

Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua
UNHCR and the UNDP assisted a total of 1.9 million people, refugees and internally displaced persons, to return home.
There are many needs that cannot be met without your assistance.

Almost all the refugees in the world can use your help. We offer projects for education, health care, water, shelter, rehabilitating a damaged environment, special assistance for women and children. UNHCR addresses these needs, all over the world.

Projects that need your support

For refugees returning home to villages and towns with a destroyed infrastructure, we have many community-based projects that need your support.

We can match your interests and objectives from more than 10,000 projects available each year. They have budgets from $1,000 to over $200,000, with many available for less than $10,000.

Those illustrated on the following pages are examples of what is needed and what can be done with your help.

Health centre in Rwanda supported by a major pharmaceutical firm is an example of the many available projects.
Primary education is a basic right for all children. Refugee boys and girls included. They are often 50 percent of the refugee population in camps or regions. Needs are great. Even a basic school building is often missing. The children also need books, slates, as well as school furniture.

School construction
$10,000 to $100,000

Teaching equipment
$4,000 to $12,000

School furniture
$2,700 to $6,500

Bhutanese refugee children in Nepal, learning Sanskrit. The classrooms are basic and often need repair. Additional classrooms should be built and more teaching kits for the children are needed.

Additional classrooms
$400 each, $4,000 to $34,400

Classroom repairs
$4,350 to $7,500

Classroom teaching kits
$5,000 to $14,500

Many Guatemalan children have returned home with their families from asylum in Mexico. UNHCR supports basic schools in the villages where they return.

Educational aids for teachers
$4,500 to $40,000
Vocational training for young refugee men and women can either take place in a refugee camp or elsewhere in the country of asylum. Here, for example, an Afghan refugee in Pakistan attends a local carpentry trade school. Such training, given where possible, ensures that the years as a refugee are not entirely lost. And of course, skills are learned that will benefit others once repatriation is possible.

Trade school for young adults
$14,000 to $23,000

Grant for young men and women to attend vocational school
$3,000 to $50,000

Education is sometimes the only activity with roots to the life a child led when forced to flee. It continues in refugee areas as soon as food, shelter, health support are assured.

Building schools
$10,000 to $100,000

Education Projects

- Building schools
- Rebuilding destroyed schools
- Basic kits for students
- Textbooks
- Training grants for vocational schools
- Vocational school equipment
- Salaries for vocational school trainers
- Blackboards
- School furniture: desks, chairs
- Teachers’ houses
- Teachers’ training books
- Books for foreign language training
- Pre-school supplies for children
- Sports field reconstruction
- Sports equipment: balls, nets, etc.
One of the urgent projects is the procurement of mobile health clinics that can move to refugee population centres and, as in the case above, be used for refugees returning home.

**Mobile clinic**
$20,000 to $30,000

**Pharmaceutical products for the clinic**
$3,500 to $6,000

**Basic medical examination equipment**
$2,500 to $20,000

Within the UNHCR micro-projects programme, we construct and equip dispensaries that improve the living conditions for returnees and the communities they return to.

**Construction of a dispensary**
$15,000 to $30,000

**Core equipment for a dispensary**
$9,000 to $30,000

**One equipped ambulance vehicle**
$30,000 to $35,000
Medical assistance often comes from the hosting communities near refugee centres.

**Salary for one doctor per year**
(local budget)
$6,000 to $9,000

**Salary for nurses**
$3,000 to $4,500

**Medical supplies for infants and children**
$5,000 to $15,000

A nurse analyses blood tests at a hospital rehabilitated by UNHCR as part of its efforts to encourage and facilitate the return of refugees.

**Medical analysis equipment**
$7,500 to $11,000

**Purchase of drugs, medicines and other consumable medical supplies**
$8,000 to $25,000

### Health care projects

- Medical equipment for clinics
- Mobile clinics
- Ambulances
- Rehabilitation of dispensaries
- Pharmaceutical products
- Salary for doctors, nurses, midwives
- Training for birth attendants
- Purchase of wheel-chairs
- Food kits for new-born children
- Prosthetic equipment
- First aid kits
- Hospital equipment for reproductive health clinics
- Improvement of facilities in orphanages
- Eyeglasses
- Extra vitamins for the elderly
- Medical examinations for repatriating refugees
Shallow wells are usually low-cost projects that help bring safe water to both camp and the returnee areas.

Shallow wells for drinking and agricultural water  
$10,000 to $40,000

Water purification systems  
$8,000 to $20,000

Pumps, reservoirs, pipe systems  
$30,000 to $45,000

Refugees and displaced persons returning home need a start to rebuild their lives. UNHCR supplies seeds and basic agricultural tools.

Corn seed  
$3,900 to $5,000

Agriculture tool kits  
$7,000 to $10,000

UNHCR often provides returnees with basic supplies for building their houses and the construction or rehabilitation of rural roads and bridges, allowing communities easier access to markets and medical care.

Shelter construction  
$10,000 to $100,000

Road and bridge construction  
$15,000 to $35,000
Returnees rebuilding their own houses.

*Roofing sheets and other construction supplies for houses in an entire village*  
$16,000 to $40,000

*Tool kits for building houses*  
$7,200 to $13,000

*Nails for building houses*  
$5,600 to $8,000

Returning refugees always need help to rebuild a normal life. If they have been farmers, we try to supply seeds and livestock, whether it be chickens, sheep or cattle.

*Small scale livestock*  
$4,000 to $10,000

*Buffalo for milk production centres*  
$3,000 to $24,000

Water, agriculture, shelter projects

- Deep and shallow water wells
- Hand pumps
- Septic tanks
- Grinding mills for corn and other produce
- Bridge construction
- Road repair and construction
- Agriculture tool kits
- Purchase of livestock
- Agricultural seeds
- Fruit trees for returning refugees
- Hand tools for building
- Roofing for new shelters
- Nails, wood, other building materials
- Construction of communal kitchens
- Knitting, sewing, tailoring supplies
- Sewing machines
Protecting and rebuilding the environment

Often the areas around refugee camps are deforested as a consequence of the search for firewood. Tree nurseries such as this can help re-create a healthy environment.

- **Tree nurseries**
  - $3,500 to $6,000

- **Land preparation for reforestation**
  - $8,000 to $14,000

As part of an energy reduction programme, UNHCR promotes the use of energy-saving stoves which can use far less wood than a traditional three-stone fire. The stoves here are mass-produced from clay for distribution to refugee camps in the region.

- **Promotion of energy saving techniques**
  - $4,000 to $9,000

Energy saving programmes are implemented to reduce energy consumption in refugee operations. This is one factor that has helped reduce firewood consumption from 3.5 kg/refugee/day to 2 kg in Tanzania for example.

- **50 refugee trainers in one year**
  - 1:2000 refugees to $12,000

- **Materials for training**
  -  $5,000 to $10,000

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- **Promotion of energy saving techniques**
  - $4,000 to $9,000
We try to raise awareness among refugee school children about environmental issues. This increases long-term understanding in the entire refugee population. Such programmes are successfully being carried out in Ethiopia, Liberia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

**Developing education materials with refugee teachers**
$5,000 to $7,000

**Printing materials**
$5,000 to $20,000

**Teacher training**
$4,000 to $6,000

There are many game reserves and other areas with environmental significance in African countries. They are of global value and have great potential for eco-tourism. It is vital to protect these areas at the outset of a refugee situation.

**Building game-posts**
$10,000 to $15,000

**Increasing patrolling (transport, salaries, tents)**
$30,000 to $50,000

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**Environment projects**

- Nurseries
- Land preparation for reforestation
- Tree planting
- Energy-saving stoves
- Education materials for schools
- Training teachers
- Protecting game reserves
- Map making
- Awareness-raising and information campaigns
Special projects to assist women

This training centre in a refugee camp helps women acquire new skills. What they learn – dress-making/sewing, hairdressing, carpentry – will enable them to open small businesses when they can return home.

**Equipment for dress-making**
$9,000 to $13,000

A traditional birth attendant examining a pregnant woman at a camp’s clinic.

**Salary for one midwife per year**
$2,400 to $7,000

**Training of birth attendants**
$4,500 to $9,000

**Bakery project for widows, others**
$3,600 to $11,000
More and more of our skills-building programmes prepare women to participate usefully in modern societies. Office skills are important and small business management courses will have lasting use.

**Books for secretarial students**
$2,500 to $5,000

**Teacher training courses**
$5,000 to $10,000

**Special projects for women**

Health care projects such as birth training, child care
Trauma counselling
Agriculture equipment to give women more time for family/income generation
Projects to help increase self-sufficiency
Books for secretarial skills
Teacher training courses to help attract girls to school

Corn grinding equipment for returning refugee women saves time to care for their children and also becomes an income generator.

**Corn grinding equipment**
$6,000 to $16,000
Conflicts in the African Great Lakes area resulted in thousands of fleeing refugee children becoming separated from their parents. Sponsors can help with projects that reunite separated children with their families.

Tracing materials such as photo equipment, posters and projects for radio broadcasting, foster family support $10,000 to $20,000

Adolescent refugees need assistance to promote their psycho-social well-being and improve life skills. Support is needed for training programmes, health awareness issues, youth clubs and recreational activities. Many projects are implemented by the youth themselves.

Programmes for adolescents $10,000 to $20,000

Sexual exploitation is a significant problem, especially in large refugee camps. Sponsors can help us fund information campaigns on sexually transmitted diseases, seminars on prevention of sexual violence, rehabilitation of abused girls, trauma recovery programmes, medical assistance.

Prevention of sexual exploitation, trauma recovery, rehabilitation $8,000 to $15,000
A special fund has been established to enable a refugee boy or girl in Africa to continue secondary education for grades 6 to 12 in the asylum country’s school system. Refugee camps usually have only lower grade primary education.

**Schooling support for a boy or girl**
- For one year, $1,000
- For three years, $3,000

We seek assistance for our programmes to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers as well as the reintegration of former child soldiers through psycho-social support, catch up education and other education/sensitisation projects.

**Prevention of child soldier recruitment, reintegration of former child soldiers**
- $15,000 to $20,000

**Special projects for children**

- African student scholarship fund
- Programmes to reunite children with their families
- Programmes to prevent sexual violence, counsel and support abused children, youth
- Prevention of recruitment of child soldiers through education and vocational training
- Rehabilitation of war-affected children through psycho-social programmes, catch up education, peace education
- Adolescent occupation programmes: youth clubs, sports, vocational and life-skills training
You are encouraged to discuss potential donations with our branch offices in your country or at headquarters in Geneva – addresses on following page.

When you tell us your budget and the sector or region you are interested in, we will select a project, among the ones that our field staff have identified as priorities, and will notify you on how your donation will be used.

Because administrative costs are only 10 percent, you can be sure that most of your donation will go directly to help refugees.

When the activity has taken place, we will send you a brief report and will do our best to send you snapshots taken by our field staff.

For donors from corporations, foundations or other organisations with employees, we welcome your own communications initiative about the project you support. We can help you with background information and photos for articles in your house magazines or newspapers as well as video documentary.

Your support does make a difference

On behalf of 22 million men, women and children in need, thank you.