

A UNHCR staff member with South Sudanese refugees at the Dzaipie reception centre in Uganda.



UNHCR / F. NOY

# UNHCR'S Mission

The High Commissioner for Refugees is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems.

UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. In its efforts to achieve this objective, the Office strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle permanently in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight.



UNHCR's Executive Committee and the UN General Assembly have authorized involvement with other groups. These include former refugees who have returned to their homeland; internally displaced

people; and people who are stateless or whose nationality is disputed.

The Office seeks to reduce situations of forced displacement by encouraging States and other institutions to create conditions which are conducive to the protection of human rights and the peaceful resolution of disputes. In all of its activities, it pays particular attention to the needs of children and seeks to promote the equal rights of women and girls.

The Office works in partnership with governments, regional organizations, international and non-governmental organizations. It is committed to the principle of participation, believing that refugees and others who benefit from the organization's activities should be consulted over decisions which affect their lives. ■

## Basic Facts

-  **54,945,467:** People of concern to the High Commissioner
-  **3,355,409,303:** Total 2014 UNHCR expenditure (USD)
-  **127:** Countries in which UNHCR was present in 2014
-  **462:** Locations where UNHCR was present
-  **7,750:** Total number of UNHCR regular staff members
-  **6,806:** Regular staff members in the Field

-  **944:** Regular staff members in Headquarters functions (Geneva, Budapest, Brussels, Copenhagen and New York)
-  **1 per 7,090:** Ratio of staff members to people of concern
-  **59:** Junior Professional Officers
-  **720:** NGOs working with UNHCR
-  **148:** States parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol
-  **94:** Members of the Executive Committee