

2015 Global Strategy Implementation Report



Public Health
Settlement and Shelter
Livelihoods
Safe Access to Fuel and Energy

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EMMANUEL. Mtabila Camp, Tanzania. Emmanuel is 9 years-old and was born in Mtabila camp. In front of his empty house, Emmanuel is busy dismantling a well-crafted wooden bike. "This bike is very important to me. I did it myself, it took me 3 days to prepare the wood and cut it in the right dimensions to assemble. I used to watch people going around riding bikes, and now I have my own! I will keep all the pieces so that I can rebuild it in Burundi. There I want to go to a technical school and study to be a mechanic." Photo taken 22 Nov. 2012.

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COVER PAGE:

Thailand / Karenni refugees / Nomeh is 70 years old and is a Karenni refugee from Myanmar. Along with her daughter and grandchildren she lives at the Ban Mai Noi Soi camp in Northern Thailand/ UNHCR / S. Rich / November 2013

Graphic Design: Alessandro Mannocchi / Rome

Introduction

Global Strategies – 2015 Progress at a Glance

Public Health:

UNHCR achieved acceptable mortality rates for children under five years old in 98 per cent of its operations worldwide,¹ an improvement from 93 per cent in 2014.

Settlement and Shelter:

17 out of 25 operations with a shelter budget over USD 1 million have now developed comprehensive context-specific shelter strategies.

Livelihoods:

97 UNHCR operations have compliance plans in place for achieving the mandatory minimum criteria for livelihoods programming.

Safe Access to Fuel and Energy:

UNHCR operations in ten countries have developed and adopted comprehensive energy strategies, an improvement from five plans in 2014.

In 2014, UNHCR launched four five-year global strategies for public health, settlement and shelter, livelihoods and safe access to fuel and energy. The strategies set the direction of UNHCR's work in these core areas from 2014 through to 2018. Informed by UNHCR's *2014 Policy on Alternatives to Camps* and *Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas*², the Office implements the strategies in close coordination with other global strategies and frameworks, such as those on education, child protection and sexual and gender-based violence.

Building on the *2014 Global Strategy Implementation Report*³, this report presents key results and actions achieved in the second year of the implementation of the strategies and illustrates the progress being achieved through successful and innovative examples from field operations. It also highlights some of the challenges with the implementation of the strategies and future priorities.

In 2015, a common focus has been to meet effectively the rapidly increasing needs of refugees and others of concern in emergency situations, while at the same time ensuring quality interventions anchored in data, evidence and analysis. UNHCR paid particular attention to building solid foundations for the implementation of the global strategies at field level through country-specific plans and expanded partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, refugees are increasingly accessing services in national service delivery systems, including for health care, and job opportunities in the private sector. UNHCR and partners also continued innovating together, contributing with new technical solutions and prototypes in areas such as water, sanitation and shelter and energy, leading to a more effective use of resources and technology. Overall, 2015 saw greater investment in displacement by development actors and encouraging demonstrations of solidarity by many host countries.

UNHCR's Division of Programme Support and Management provides consistent support to the field operations in implementing the strategies, including through the deployment of technical experts, tools and guidance, training, mobilization of new partners and donors and the development of robust monitoring systems for effective measurement.

1 Data collected as at December 2015 through UNHCR's health information system, Twine (twine.unhcr.org), at 144 monitored sites, including in operations responding to the refugee crises in Burundi, Nigeria and Yemen.

2 <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/54d9c7686.html>

3 <http://www.unhcr.org/5500592c9.html>

Global Strategy for Public Health

Public Health; HIV and Reproductive Health; Food Security and Nutrition; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Vision: All refugees are able to fulfil their rights in accessing life-saving and essential health care, HIV prevention, protection and treatment, reproductive health services, food security and nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene services.

The lives of many refugees continue to be affected by disease, malnutrition and food insecurity, and by a lack of access in some areas to health, nutrition, water and sanitation services. The implementation of the Strategy guides the response to these challenges by adapting approaches and interventions to the specific contexts.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS

Evidence-based programming and close monitoring of the health situation of refugees remained a central element of strategy implementation. UNHCR achieved acceptable mortality rates among children under five years old in 98 per cent of its operations worldwide,¹ an improvement from 93 per cent in 2014. The coverage of measles vaccinations among refugees improved from 85% in 2014, reaching 90.2% in 2015. Refugee women enjoyed enhanced access to safe birth delivery in 2015, with nine out of ten women having full access, up from eight out of ten women in 2014.

Globally, refugees had access to an average of 20 litres of water per person per day, meeting the minimum standard of 20 litres per person per day and the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day. An overall global average of 16 persons per latrine was achieved, exceeding the minimum standard of 20 persons per latrine. 2015 saw eight new disease outbreaks, including a cholera outbreak among Burundian refugees in Tanzania. Through rapid relocation of the refugees and well-coordinated health, WASH and logistical support, UNHCR and partners managed to control the outbreak with overall fatality rates kept below the accepted threshold.

UNHCR and partners conducted nutrition surveys² in 84 sites. The results highlight remaining concern about the level of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) and long term anaemia and stunting levels amongst refugee children. Nevertheless, during the year, UNHCR also achieved remarkable decrease in levels of anaemia and stabilized malnutrition situations in many locations. The *UNHCR Public Health 2015 Annual Global Overview*³ provides detailed results and analysis from UNHCR's public health programmes in 2015.

In 2015, UNHCR developed a Public Health and WASH strategy for the Europe situation to ensure coherent and effective interventions in the region. Globally, five operations developed country-specific strategies setting out a road map for mainstreaming refugees into national health care systems and structures. Together with the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Office continued to advocate the rights of forcibly displaced persons living with HIV.

KEY CHALLENGES

With the growing number of refugees, the demands on health services have significantly increased. New and ongoing crises have stretched the capacities of UNHCR and its partners. The variety of interventions in different settings, like on the Balkan route, calls for quick adaptation and allocation of resources in a relevant and timely manner.

The Strategy and the *UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps* support synergies with national development planning by contributing to local infrastructure and bringing refugees within national social protection and service delivery systems. Several factors affect the level of access to national health care amongst refugees, including the government position on levels of coverage for health and social services in the country of asylum and varying funding mechanisms.

1 Data collected as at December 2015 through UNHCR's health information system, Twine (twine.unhcr.org), at 144 monitored sites, including in operations responding to the refugee crises in Burundi, Nigeria and Yemen.

2 sens.unhcr.org

3 <http://twine.unhcr.org/ar2015/>

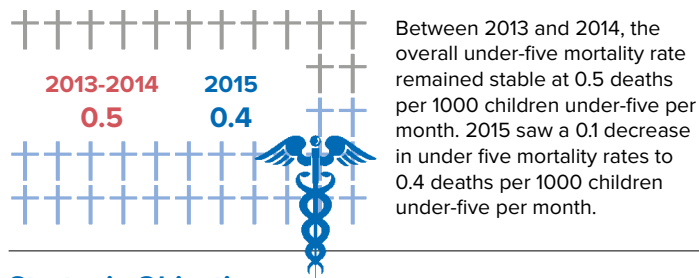
HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM (HIS) COUNTRIES

This report does not account for all countries globally in which UNHCR has public health programmes, but the 24 that are using the health information system for refugee camps.

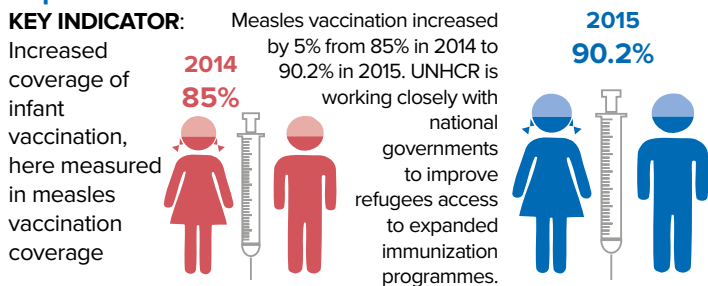
Progress on Implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Global Strategy for Public Health

Strategic Objective: Improve access to quality primary health care programmes

KEY INDICATOR: Improve access to quality health care by persons of concern, measured in under-5 mortality rate



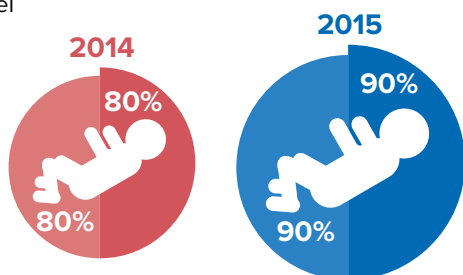
Strategic Objective: Improve childhood survival



Strategic Objective - HIV and Reproductive Health: Improve access to comprehensive reproductive health, maternal and new-born health services

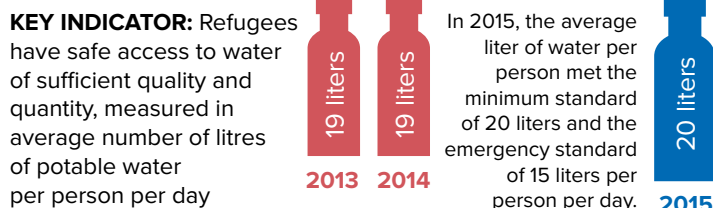
KEY INDICATOR: Proportion of births attended by skilled personnel

Access to skilled birth attendance increased by 10% to 90%. UNHCR continued to support access to comprehensive reproductive health services.



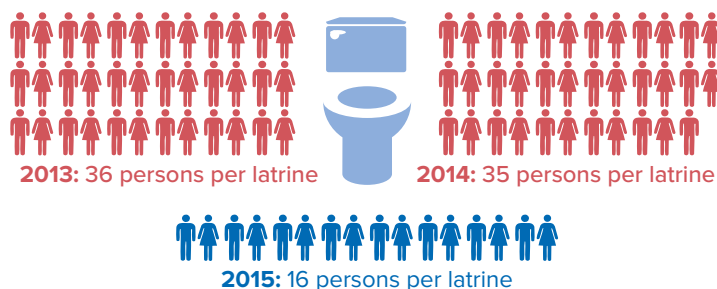
Strategic Objective - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

#1) Supply of potable water increased or maintained



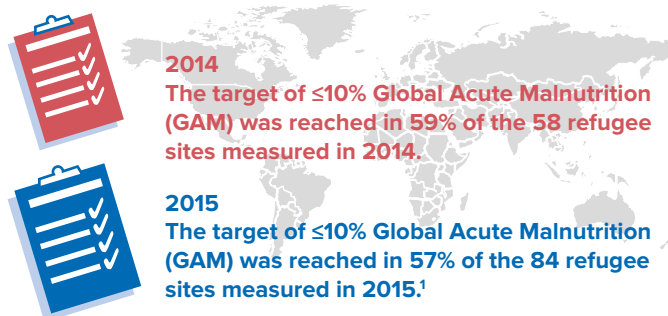
2) Improve safe access to quality sanitation

KEY INDICATOR: Refugees have safe access to quality sanitation, measured in number of persons per communal toilets/latrines



Strategic Objective - Food Security and Nutrition

KEY INDICATOR: Effective provision of up-to-date food security and nutrition information and analysis



¹ Please note the figures for 2015 are based upon preliminary data

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Health insurance for 1 million Refugees in Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran signed a tripartite agreement with the Iranian Health Insurance Organization and UNHCR, which ensures the inclusion of nearly 1 million Afghan and Iraqi refugees in the government-sponsored Universal Public Health Insurance Scheme, opening access to health care services in all public hospitals affiliated with the Ministry of Health.

Access to Reproductive Health Care in Jordan

In November 2014, the Jordanian Ministry of Health withdrew free access to health services for Syrian refugees residing outside of camp. Uptake of ante- and postnatal care by the refugees subsequently fell due to high costs to access child delivery services. Cash-Based Interventions (CBIs) were viewed as a suitable way to support access to certain health services and were implemented in 2015. An initial evaluation⁴ indicates that CBIs are an efficient means to support access to certain reproductive health services in middle-income areas. Robust monitoring and evaluation of the outcomes will be essential as the initiative expands.

Improving Nutrition Outcomes in Rwanda

In 2012, nutrition surveys in Rwanda showed alarming anaemia levels well above critical levels of $\geq 40\%$ (target $< 20\%$) amongst children 6 – 59 months-old in the three camps hosting Congolese refugees. Stunting levels were serious (category above 35% against target $< 20\%$). In response, UNHCR embarked on a robust multi-sectoral action plan to reduce anaemia and micronutrient deficiencies, including through strengthening linkages between health, nutrition and reproductive health services, improving WASH and environmental conditions, bolstering Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and reinforcing malaria reduction strategies. Nutrition surveys in 2015 highlighted impressive results with an almost 30% reduction in anaemia and 25% reduction in stunting.

Cost-Reduction of WASH in Kenya

UNHCR is reducing operational costs for water supply systems by increasing the number of water pumping facilities powered with photovoltaic (solar) energy. During 2015, in Dadaab, Kenya, UNHCR converted 13 boreholes to solar-hybrid energy leading to 50% reduced fuel consumption when pumping water. Additional conversions are planned in Chad together with the documentation of the lessons learned.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support – Improving Capacities

In 2015, more than 270 staff of partner organizations working in refugee camps in Cameroon, Chad and Ethiopia completed a four-day training course on the *mhGAP Humanitarian Intervention Guide*⁵, developed with WHO in 2015. Health and community workers also benefitted from one day joint workshops to foster cooperation between clinical staff and the refugee workforce around mental health. The initiative has spurred significant attention to mental health in the three countries.

THE YEARS AHEAD

UNHCR will continue to focus on the quality of its programmes in both emergencies and protracted situations. By supporting governments in strengthening national social protection mechanisms, UNHCR will scale up the mainstreaming of refugees in these systems, notably in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East, building on lessons learned and recent expertise. UNHCR and partners will pursue a systematic approach to disease control through the early detection of outbreaks, community awareness, improved case management and cross-sectoral prevention-related activities. UNHCR will explore what the most appropriate approaches are, according to the context, for the targeting of food assistance in a challenging funding environment. By expanding partnerships, UNHCR will support country operations with adequate tools and technical knowledge to ensure quality public health, nutrition and WASH programmes.

4 <http://www.unhcr.org/568bce619.html>

5 <http://www.unhcr.org/5551b3fb4.html>



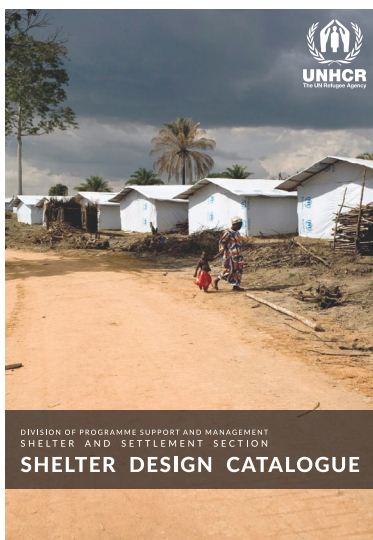
Global Strategy for Settlement and Shelter

Vision: All refugees are able to satisfy their settlement and shelter needs in a safe, dignified and sustainable manner wherever they live, be it in urban and rural settings.

In many contexts, refugees continue to struggle to find a home in a protected environment, particularly in view of the dramatic increase in displacement witnessed in the past years. While emphasising effective emergency response as the number one priority, the Strategy promotes holistic and integrated settlement and shelter solutions that better anchor refugees in the local context and build on their capacities.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS

By the end of 2015, 17 out of 25 operations with a shelter budget over USD 1 million had developed comprehensive context-specific shelter strategies, which are gradually enabling refugees to access increasingly sustainable settlements and shelters. A new Shelter Design Catalogue assists field staff in selecting the appropriate shelter.



Despite a focus on life-saving support in new emergencies, UNHCR continued to work in equally challenging protracted conflicts, such as in Syria, through the deployment of 68 settlement and shelter experts in 2015. In Europe, shelter experts provided support in terms of pre-positioning and implementation of winterization measures to ensure people were protected from the harsh winter conditions.

In line with the *Policy on Alternatives to Camps*, UNHCR sought integrated settlement approaches for refugees and others of concern through the implementation of the “master plan” approach in several operations. The approach, which was developed with Stanford University and Ennead Architects LLP in 2014, contributed to better anchoring refugees in the local context by seeking synergies with national development plans, including local infrastructure, markets, economies and culture.

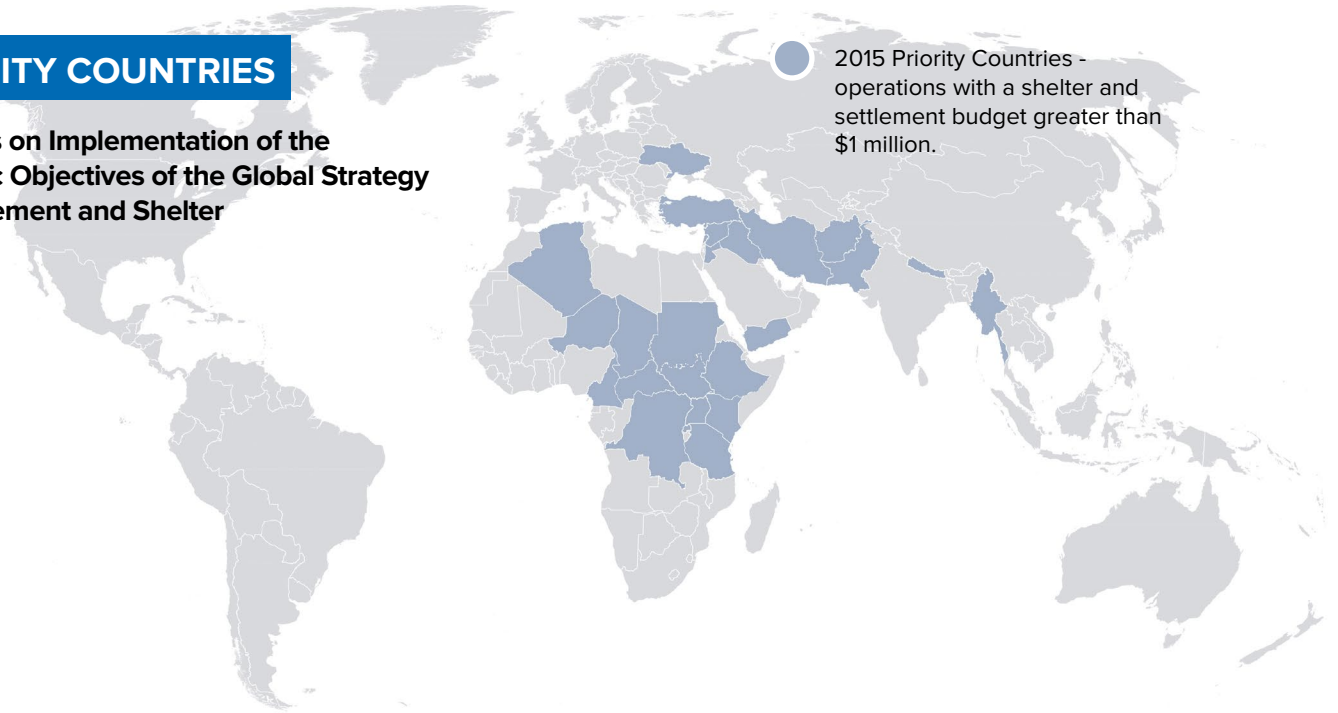
UNHCR invested significantly in research and development to improve existing shelter solutions and to develop new options. In 2015, the new self-standing tent developed with IFRC and ICRC underwent rigorous laboratory and field testing in Burkina Faso and Pakistan to ensure its safety, resistance and cultural suitability. The improved tent model will be available to operations worldwide in 2016.

Over 7,330 refugee housing units (RHU), developed in collaboration with Better Shelter SA and with the support of the IKEA Foundation, were deployed to eight field operations/countries, including Iraq, Djibouti and Greece. Through comprehensive “training of trainers”, UNHCR ensured wherever possible the involvement of communities in the construction of these shelters.

A main focus of this year’s implementation was capacity-building. UNHCR organized training for 55 UNHCR and partner staff on improved site planning and shelter responses. UNHCR also established a Technical Working Group to review the newly developed settlement toolkit prior to a global roll-out in 2016.

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

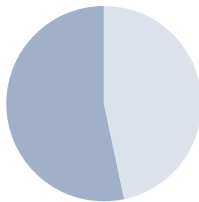
Progress on Implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Global Strategy for Settlement and Shelter



Strategic Objective 1 - Settlement: Enable refugees to access and live in dignity in secure settlements that improve their social, economic and environment quality of life as a community

KEY INDICATOR 1: # of experts having benefitted from dedicated settlement and shelter training

UNHCR trained 53.5% of its 2015 settlement and shelter workforce.



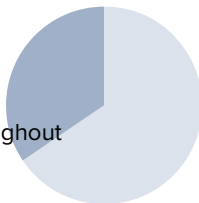
KEY INDICATOR 2: % of local staff included in training initiatives



Site Planning Training – September 2015 Switzerland

Throughout 2015, UNHCR conducted 3 settlement and shelter training events benefitting 55 experts worldwide using a standardized design toolkit

Out of the 55 experts trained throughout 2015, **31% were local staff.**



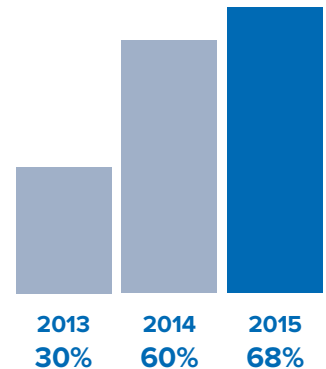
Strategic Objective 2 - Shelter: Enable refugees to access shelter and settlement solutions that provide privacy, security and protection from the elements, emotional support and a space to live and store belongings in a dignified manner

KEY INDICATOR: % of 2015 priority countries with validated shelter strategies

Shelter strategies developed in 2014: Burkina Faso, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, Yemen.

In 2015, the % of operations implementing a comprehensive strategy has increased to 68% of the priority countries.

Shelter strategies developed in 2015: **Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania**



Strategic Objectives 1+2: Settlement and Shelter

KEY INDICATOR 1: # of deployments to support emergency operations

UNHCR maintained strong direct expert support on shelter and settlement.



Impact of Support to the Field

Technical support contributed among other achievements to:

- The development and dissemination of winterization guidelines for Europe to ensure people were sheltered from the harsh weather conditions across the region.
- The deployment of over 7000 Refugee Housing Units to 8 different locations, ultimately providing shelter for over 35,000 people.
- The application of the Master Plan approach in 4 operations including Mozambique where the integration of refugees in the local development strategy is being pursued.
- The rehabilitation of several transit/reception centres across Europe. For example, in Presovo which is the main entry point for refugees to Serbia from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNHCR and partners rehabilitated run down buildings to accommodate refugees overnight.

KEY CHALLENGES

The sharp increase in the number and scale of emergencies worldwide placed a greater demand on resources for shelter and settlement. Although facilitating the transition to more sustainable solutions, comprehensive shelter strategies require predictable funding.

A key challenge in ensuring effective implementation of the Strategy is the availability and consistency of qualified technical staff throughout the duration of an emergency. While current capacity- building initiatives and standardized tools are progressively helping in closing the gap, mainstreaming technical capacity within operations beyond the emergency phase remains challenging.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD



Pursuing a Comprehensive Shelter Strategy in Rwanda

In Rwanda, the prompt deployment of technical specialists and the presence of partners enabled UNHCR to develop a comprehensive shelter strategy for Burundian refugees during the first month of the emergency, reducing the costly use of tents. These actions facilitated the construction of 1,151 double transitional shelters composed of timber, eucalyptus and mud, ensuring 11,510 refugees had access to safe and dignified living conditions.

Refugee Housing Unit in Djibouti

In Djibouti, UNHCR held extensive consultations with refugees, the host community and partners to establish a balanced composition of construction teams for the assembly of the Refugee Housing Unit as the primary shelter model. In addition to a “training of trainers”, this participatory approach at the early stages of the project greatly facilitated the prompt construction of 300 shelters in less than three weeks.

Integrated Settlements through the Master Plan Approach

UNHCR implemented the Master Plan Approach, which is a sustainable settlement approach seeking to anchor refugees within existing host communities, in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. In Mozambique, UNHCR established plans and implementation modalities proposing the integration of Maratane Refugee Camp into UN Habitat’s planned development strategy for the greater Nampula municipality area.

Facilitating Data Accuracy through Smartphones in Niger

In Niger, UNHCR supported the establishment of an emergency shelter needs assessment process through mobile smartphones and Open Data Kit (ODK) software which improved the accuracy of the needs determined by the Shelter Working Group and thus the precision of the response to the continuing influx of refugees from Nigeria.

THE YEARS AHEAD

UNHCR will continue to build technical capacity on shelter and settlement within UNHCR and among partners. Focused attention to data and evidence gathering will be central to enhancing the monitoring of the impact of interventions. UNHCR will standardize and make available vital tools, guidance and software and hardware design. Above all, UNHCR will strengthen support to shelter in urban settings, building on good practice examples on mapping housing availability, rental markets, limitation of availability and access to housing, taking into consideration challenges with application of Housing & Property law. An enhanced urban response also requires the development of a systematic approach towards cash for shelter as part of multi-purpose grants through the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures and expert support. UNHCR will expand the use of the “master plan” approach to additional countries and integrating it as an essential element of contingency planning and preparedness across field operations.



Global Strategy for Livelihoods

Vision: All persons of concern are able to make a safe and sustainable living that meets their basic needs, contributes to their dignity, and provides for the full enjoyment of human rights.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS

A majority of the world's refugees are not able to earn enough income to provide for their basic needs. Livelihoods are essential to protection and the attainment of durable solutions, whatever form they take.

The Strategy introduced new approaches to enabling self-reliance among refugees and others of concern, as well as partnerships with the private sector and development actors. It was operationalized in 2015 through the release of the *Operational Guidelines on the Minimum Criteria for Livelihoods Programming*¹, which require livelihoods programming to be grounded in baseline socio-economic and market assessments, supported and monitored by qualified experts and implemented through partners with appropriate expertise. At the end of 2015, 97 UNHCR operations had compliance plans in place for achieving the mandatory minimum criteria.

UNHCR is successfully implementing the “graduation approach”² in Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt and Zambia, which is a methodology that seeks to “graduate” people out of poverty through a targeted, sequenced and time-bound combination of comprehensive livelihoods support. These improvements in methodologies will enhance the impact of livelihoods programmes, with the ultimate objective of increasing the number of sustainably and safely employed or self-employed refugees and others of concern.

In countries including Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Zambia, UNHCR has assisted refugee artisans, pastoralists and farmers to participate in the economy of their host communities and, where feasible, to link them to regional, national and global value chains. In Burkina Faso, by the end of 2015, UNHCR had incorporated 2,800 refugees into the national milk value chain and some 50 artisans were producing export-ready items.

The Livelihoods Advisory Board is a high-level consultative group established in 2014 with the purpose of guiding and inspiring UNHCR's work on economic empowerment to self-reliance among refugees and others of concern. The first meeting, conducted in July 2014 led to a number of concrete recommendations that were instrumental for the work of the Livelihoods Unit. In 2015, the Advisory Board formed by key stakeholders including experts from BRAC University, the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), the Ford Foundation, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the Rockefeller Foundation, the SEEP Network and the University of Illinois, helped UNHCR to increase collaboration with experienced development actors, to learn more about market-based approaches to self-reliance initiatives, and to gain insights on recurring challenges.

UNHCR initiated research on the economic impact of refugees in Rwanda and South Africa to support evidence-based policy-making and the implementation of the *Policy on Alternatives to Camps*. UNHCR's growing collaboration with the World Bank resulted in joint studies on the challenges and opportunities with displacement, notably from a socio-economic perspective. In Uganda, the United Nations and the World Bank are jointly developing area-based development programming benefiting refugees and host communities.

KEY CHALLENGES

The protection environment for refugees is often challenging, with a legal, policy and administrative framework of the host country that may not provide refugees with the freedom of movement and permission to work.

Limited resources – financial and human - is often cited by operations as the largest limitation to designing, implementing and monitoring livelihoods programmes, and to advocating effectively with the host government for enhanced economic opportunities and access to work for refugees. UNHCR is however, increasingly recognizing the need for livelihoods experts and their number in the organization is growing.

1 <http://www.unhcr.org/54fd6cbe9.pdf>

2 <http://www.unhcr.org/55005bc39.pdf>

PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Progress on Implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Global Strategy for Livelihoods

2015 priority countries were selected based on factors including regional diversity, budgetary feasibility, technical capacity, and general commitment to developing livelihoods initiatives which will be scaled up globally in the future.

Strategic Objective 1: Promote the right to work and the right to development

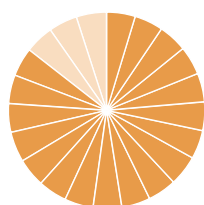
Priority countries where refugees have the right to work (in 2015)



16 of the 21 priority countries are signatories to the 1951 convention related to status of refugees.

Strategic Objective 2: Enable people to preserve and protect their productive assets as well as meet their immediate consumption needs

90% of the priority countries which have conducted a socio-economic assessment



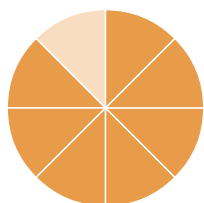
Priority countries with socio-economic baseline assessment:

Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Niger, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Baseline assessments are used to inform targeting and planning, and serve as the reference point for assessing future changes and impact resulting from the livelihoods intervention(s).

Strategic Objective 3: Develop and expand proven and innovative ways of supporting refugees' economic self-reliance

% of persons of concern (18-59 yrs) with own business / self-employed for more than 12 months



Priority countries that achieved over 80% of operation-specific target:

Chad, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Sudan, Uganda

UNHCR aims to promote self and wage employment through building skills and increasing opportunities, in, for example, agriculture, artisan markets, and entrepreneurship.

Strategic Objective 4: Improve planning, learning and practice on successful approaches to livelihoods development and their impact on self-reliance

81% of the 21 priority countries which have conducted a market assessment



Priority countries with market assessment:

Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Lebanon, Malaysia, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

Market assessments are used to inform UNHCR and partners about potential opportunities to access existing or create new markets for goods and services. Based on the findings of these assessments, operations can plan the most appropriate interventions to strengthen livelihoods programmes.

67% of the 21 priority countries which have developed a context-specific livelihoods strategic plan



Priority countries with validated context-specific livelihoods strategic plan:

Burkina Faso, Chad, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Niger, Pakistan, Sudan, Zambia

Multi-year strategic plans present clear objectives, a detailed outline of project interventions with well-defined target groups, and their logical sequence throughout the planning timeframe.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Maximising Artisan Skills in Burkina Faso

UNHCR estimates that 37% of Malian refugees are skilled artisans. A value chain analysis revealed high potential of the artisan sector to generate sustainable profits for refugees by addressing bottlenecks and challenges refugee artisans face in accessing tools, skills and markets. In 2015, UNHCR in Burkina Faso established an artisan project seeking to contribute to the socio-economic well-being and self-reliance of 1,000 Malian refugee artisans through product innovations, access to production and infrastructure, skills and entrepreneurial development, and linkages to local and international markets.

Graduation Approach - Moving people out of Poverty

UNHCR expanded implementation of the “graduation approach” to sustainable livelihoods at rural sites in Burkina Faso and Zambia. Pioneered by BRAC and piloted by the World Bank’s Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP) and the Ford Foundation, the “graduation approach” enables refugee and local families to progressively access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Preliminary results from the urban graduation approach pilots in Costa Rica, Ecuador and Egypt have been promising, with 19,980 people securing salaried employment or becoming self-employed. A mid-term evaluation of the **Egypt** programme showed that 754 participants have successfully been employed and 797 started their own business. The evaluation estimates that the average income per person per month has increased by about 18% in Cairo and 27% in Alexandria.

In **Costa Rica**, the protection and institutional impact of the “graduation approach” has been recognized at national level through its inclusion in the 2015-2018 National Development Plan and unanimous approval of the Social Presidential Council decrees recognizing UNHCR’s local integration programmes of “national interest” and the Council recommended the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding to grant refugees access to national programmes on poverty reduction, employability and development.

A Business Incubator Model in Ecuador

A Business Incubator Model developed by UNHCR in Ecuador, together with Pontifical Catholic University of Ecuador Esmeraldas, seeks to provide refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable populations with entrepreneurial skills to develop their businesses. This initiative has supported 28 enterprises with a failure rate of 14%, compared to the initial overall failure rate of 90% within the first two years for enterprises in Esmeraldas. On average, businesses supported by this initiative increased their income by 10%.

THE YEARS AHEAD

UNHCR will continue to advocate for the right to work for refugees. UNHCR and Trickle Up will further roll-out the “graduation approach” and develop related guidelines for urban settings. UNHCR, Trickle Up, BRAC, CGAP and ILO will also build livelihoods capacity of the UNHCR livelihoods staff through training on the “graduation approach” and the conduct of market assessments and value chain analyses. UNHCR will expand income-generating opportunities for refugees in artisan work globally, which is a growing sector in developing countries. Lack of access to financial services can prevent persons of concern from sustainably running their own businesses. UNHCR will work to develop guidelines and case studies for financial service providers interested in working with refugees with the aim to pursue a global credit guarantee facility that will bear 50% of the risk for financial service providers willing to work with refugees. The scheme foresees expert support to operations globally. UNHCR will also engage in an indicator revision process with the objective of providing a robust and comprehensive core set of performance and impact indicators that can be universally applied to livelihoods programmes over the next few years.

A refugee woman creates a new leather template.
After four years of exile, Malian refugee artisans
use their traditional skills to rebuild their lives.
They work in close collaboration with French
designers to learn modern techniques, design
and make quality products that will be sold on
international fair trade markets. © UNHCR / Paul
Absalon



Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE)

Vision: All refugees are able to satisfy their energy needs for cooking and lighting in a safe and sustainable manner, without fear or risk to their health, well-being and personal security.

RESULTS AND ACTION

Many refugees continue to suffer from limited access to energy, causing multiple health and safety risks and reducing time available for livelihood, educational, social and other activities. A key step in translating the SAFE strategy into action has been the elaboration of country-specific energy strategies. Within two years, UNHCR operations in ten countries have developed and adopted a SAFE Strategy to ensure a holistic approach to meeting the energy needs of refugees and host communities.

In 2015, UNHCR assessed the impact of the country-specific strategies adopted in 2014 in Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda. The results highlight that the new country strategies provide a credible reference point for UNHCR, governments, donors and partners for ensuring safe access to fuel and energy for refugees and their host communities. The Strategies have also given new impetus to the long delayed shift from over-reliance on firewood as the main source of cooking energy to other eco-friendly sources, notably in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Kenya.

Refugees in camps across Asia, Africa and the Middle East benefited from improved access to lighting, renewable energy and primary education through IKEA's "*Brighter lives for Refugees*" campaign. The DFID-supported Moving Energy Initiative (MEI) seeks to meet the energy needs of refugees and IDPs in a manner that reduces costs, is safe, and will benefit host communities. In Chad, the introduction of solar lamps under the Light Years Ahead project, resulted in a 50% reduction in lighting expenditures of households. The increase in solar street lamps from the baseline of 25% to 94% significantly improved the feeling of security at night amongst refugees. In 2015, 1,342 solar street lights were installed in the priority countries of Chad, Ethiopia and Kenya.

The recently established SAFE Advisory Board allows for guidance through external expertise and expanding partnerships. In order to build internal capacity, UNHCR, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, conducted an energy and environment's training, for participants from 17 country operations. The training enhanced the ability of colleagues based in the field to find new approaches to energy challenges, provided an introduction to the new monitoring and evaluation toolkit, and allowed the UNHCR to test a new information delivery model for trainings. The training was complemented by a project planning manual.

UNHCR has initiated a review process of its energy and environment indicators to improve measurement of the impact of the interventions under the Strategy. In collaboration with the Global Alliance for Cookstoves and Berkeley Air Monitoring, UNHCR is developing minimum standards for cooking technologies to be procured at various stages of emergency response.

KEY CHALLENGES

UNHCR's key challenge in implementing effective energy and environment programmes is a shortage of technical expertise within the organisation. Field level technical expertise is urgently needed to ensure that environmental management systems and energy interventions are implemented effectively and maintained in the short and long term.



A Syrian woman hangs her washing by the light of a solar street lamp in Azraq refugee camp. © UNHCR/Tanya Habjouqa

Further challenges are a lack of donor support and technical surge capacity for the integration of energy and environmental needs into UNHCR crisis response. Enhancing UNHCR's ability to address energy and environmental concerns from the outset of an emergency would allow cost effective prevention and mitigation measures to be taken immediately. Currently, delayed responses for environment and energy often commit UNHCR to more costly and less effective energy and environment programmes.

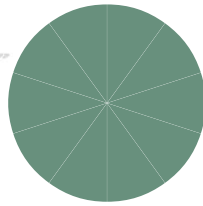
PRIORITY COUNTRIES

Progress on Implementation of the Strategic Objectives of the Global Strategy for Safe Access to Fuel and Energy

Strategic Objective 1: Integrate energy needs into emergency planning and response

KEY INDICATOR: # of priority countries with emergency contingency plans that include energy

10 out of 10 Priority Countries have emergency and contingency plans in place that foresee energy and environment programming

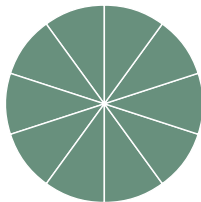


- In Kenya, some 3,162 refugees were provided with an energy saving stove and firewood as part of the emergency response.
- Responding to the Burundian emergency, UNHCR Rwanda has included solar lamps, cookstoves and Environmental Management Plans in its emergency response.
- South Sudanese refugee families in Ethiopia received clean cookstoves and solar lamps, including street lights, coupled with tree planting activities.

Strategic Objective 2: Support the achievement of identified energy goals through the development of comprehensive country programme strategies and action plans to meet refugees' energy needs

KEY INDICATOR: # of priority countries with validated strategies that address household and institutional energy needs

2014 Priority Countries that have Validated Energy Strategies in 2015
Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda



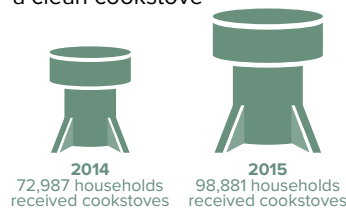
In the process of validating energy strategies in 2016
Djibouti, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda

- 5 out of 5 of the 2014 priority countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya and Rwanda) have validated their energy strategies.
- 5 out of 5 of the 2015 new priority countries (Djibouti, Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda) are in the process of validating their energy strategies.
- In total, 10 countries have adopted country SAFE Strategies.

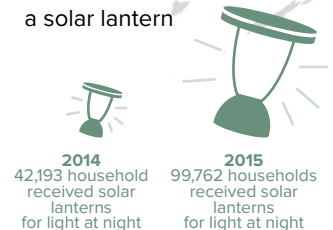
2015 Strategy Priority Countries - selected based on criteria, including the prioritisation of energy for persons of concern and the availability of resources and strategic opportunities in the operational setting.

Strategic Objective 3: Enable access to fuel-efficient technologies and renewable energy at the household level

KEY INDICATOR: # of households in priority countries that have received a clean cookstove



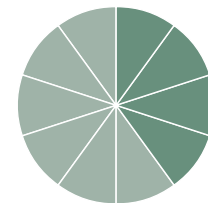
KEY INDICATOR: # of households in priority countries that have received a solar lantern



- In Ethiopia, 52% of the households received clean cookstoves and 66% received solar lamps.
- The introduction of solar lamps under the Light years Ahead project in Chad resulted in a 50% reduction in lighting expenditures of households, representing a monthly saving of 580 CHF. An increase in solar street lamps from the baseline of 25% to 94% significantly improved the feeling of security at night amongst refugees.

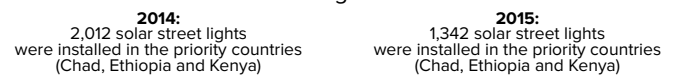
Strategic Objective 4: Increase support for institutional energy needs through fuel-efficient technologies and renewable energy

KEY INDICATOR: # of priority countries with school feeding programmes using institutional clean cookstoves



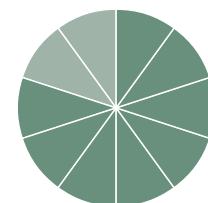
Using Institutional Cook-stoves
Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda

KEY INDICATOR: # of solar street lights installed



Strategic Objective 5: Promote community managed, multi-purpose and agroforestry activities as resource banks, both in and around settlements/camps

KEY INDICATOR: # of priority countries that have established productive forestry management plans as part of their country strategies.



Priority Countries with Tree Plantations
Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

Host Country Engagement in Kenya and Rwanda

In Kenya, the SAFE Strategy has attracted support from the County Government of Turkana, which has pledged to support implementation of some of its activities. In Rwanda, the government funds and distributes energy-saving cookstoves in two camps, and has repaired the refugee camp ravine that caused several casualties among refugee children.

Ethanol and Carbon Financing in Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, UNHCR made a complete shift from kerosene to ethanol in the Jijiga camps, and is now expanding this successful approach to three additional locations. Besides health and security benefits, the shift has resulted in a carbon financing project with an agreement signed with Project Gaia. The purpose of this agreement is to generate carbon credit emissions for the benefit of UNHCR as a result of the use of ethanol cook stoves in the camps. The revenue resulting from the sale of the carbon credit (80% of the income) will be channelled back to UNHCR Ethiopia as additional stoves, fuel or other services.

Solar Cooking in Burkina Faso

In Burkina Faso, solar cooking has for a long time been rejected by the communities because of approaches that were not accepted by the communities. Recently however, there has been a keen uptake by refugees and renewed interest in going forward with renewable energies. Proving its real value, some 13% of refugee families are currently using “Blazing Tube” solar cookers.

Testing of New Fuel and Energy Sources in Kenya and Chad

In Kenya, UNHCR is implementing a pilot project involving 1,000 families switching from the use of firewood to ethanol fuel. The project, which is due for evaluation in early 2016, has already shown positive outcomes, including for the environment. Other new trial projects initiated in Kenya include pilot testing of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)¹ for institutions and households in Dadaab. In addition to the health benefits stemming from clean energy, the use of LPG for cooking reduces the pressure on the environment and the tensions between refugees and the host community.

THE YEARS AHEAD

UNHCR will develop country strategies in additional countries while continuing the targeted support to the ten operations with country strategies in place. The support will focus on testing new and innovative technologies and approaches, documenting and sharing good practices, and advocating for prioritisation of energy and environment interventions for refugees. The Office will also broaden its potential funding base for environmental management, renewable energy and climate risk adaptation through newly developed funding institutions, as well as through carbon financing² schemes, which are being expanded to Ethiopia and Uganda.

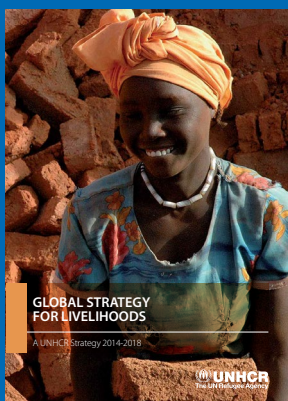
Under the DFID-supported MEI initiative, pilot projects during 2016 will aim to enhance access to energy for displaced populations in Burkina Faso, Jordan and Kenya. Renewable energy projects supported through the IKEA “Brighter Lives for Refugees” campaign will be expanded to Burkina Faso, Chad, Kenya, Nepal and Sudan in 2016. UNHCR will continue to pursue cost-effective energy solutions, including the solar power plants project in Jordan, funded by IKEA and the KfW Development Bank, which is expected to reduce the cost of electricity by US\$ 8.5 million per year and to lower carbon dioxide emissions from these facilities by more than 18,000 tonnes.

1 LPG is an alternative source of energy for cooking which use will replace and/or reduce the use of wood fuel.

2 www.unhcr.org/55005b069.pdf.



GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR LIVELIHOODS 2014-2018



Available
online:



www.unhcr.org/livelihoodsstrategy

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH 2014-2018



Available
online:



www.unhcr.org/phstrategy

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SAFE ACCESS TO FUEL AND ENERGY (SAFE) 2014-2018

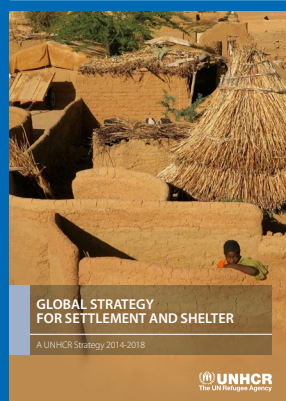


Available
online:



www.unhcr.org/energystrategy

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR SETTLEMENT AND SHELTER 2014-2018



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www.unhcr.org/shelterstrategy

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