



Sudanese refugees are registered at a transit site in northern Uganda before returning home to Southern Sudan.

Mission Statement

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 persons; 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

- Persons of concern to the High Commissioner: **36,460,330**
- Total 2011 UNHCR Budget (USD): **3,320,830,000**
- Number of countries in which UNHCR is present: **125**
- Number of UNHCR offices worldwide: **392**
- UNHCR regular staff members: **6,123**
- Staff members in the field: **5,264**
- Staff members at Headquarters: **859**
- Ratio of staff members to people of concern: **1 per 5,954**
- Number of NGOs working as implementing partners: **661**
- Number of Junior Professional Officers: **89**
- States parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol: **147**
- Members of the Executive Committee: **79**