

# Settlement Terminology in Displacement Settings: A Guidance for UNHCR Operations



**April 2026**

## Contents

Purpose.....	3
References .....	3
Summary Table.....	4
1. SETTLEMENT RELATED TERMS .....	5
Sites .....	5
Settlements .....	5
Formal Settlements.....	5
Camps.....	7
Sustainable Human Settlements .....	8
2. APPROACHES .....	9
UNHCR Master Plan Approach.....	9
Integrated Settlement Approach .....	10
People-In-Place Approach (World Bank).....	11
Villagization .....	12
Bibliography .....	13



Figure 2: Aerial photo of Mahama refugee settlement, Rwanda (2024). ©UNHCR/ Lilly Carlisle

## Purpose

This document has been prepared by UNHCR to clarify key settlement related terms and approaches used in displacement contexts. It explains how globally recognized terminology related to spaces where forcibly displaced people settle is understood and applied in UNHCR operations, and outlines settlement-related approaches used by partners, including their applicability, complementarities, and limitations. In addition, it offers guidance on where the use of each approach is recommended- and where it is not.

Over time, several terms have been used, sometimes inconsistently, leading to confusion as approaches to settlements for forcibly displaced people have evolved. This guidance therefore does not seek to redefine existing sectoral terminology, but to offer clarity on how globally recognized definitions are understood and applied within UNHCR's operational context, and how they align with - or differ from - terminology used by partners such as UN-Habitat and the World Bank. In practice, how these terms are applied may have diverse nuances, and may vary based on operational realities and translations in different languages. This document does not replace the Emergency Handbook, where additional [emergency-specific typologies](#) are included but not covered here.

UN-Habitat is referenced as the UN's mandated lead agency on Human Settlements<sup>1</sup> and a key partner with UNHCR on settlement analysis and spatial planning, while the World Bank's Urban Practice is included for its "people-in-place" and broader urban development frameworks that compliment UNHCR's settlement planning work.

Beyond clarifying terminology, the document aims to encourage a shift in mindset toward more coherent, integrated, people-centered, and forward-looking approaches in the way settlement planning is understood and practiced in displacement contexts.

The document is intended for UNHCR staff, government counterparts, partners, and other practitioners involved in settlement planning, coordination, programming, and policy dialogue. For brevity, "forcibly displaced people" refers collectively to asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons.

## References

The definitions compiled here draw from established UNHCR guidance, inter-agency definitions and globally recognized references across the humanitarian and development sectors, while acknowledging that they may require contextualization in diverse operational settings. Such multiple sources include the **UNHCR Master Plan Approach**, the **Sphere Standards**, Shelter Cluster-related documentation among others. It also reflects UNHCR policies and guidance issued over recent years- such as the **Policy on Alternatives to Camps**- and complements information provided in the **UNHCR Emergency Handbook**, notably the entries on **Settlement Typologies in Emergencies**, **Formal Settlements** and **Informal Settlements**.

---

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), established in 1978, is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlement development. The organization's mandate is outlined in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat Agenda, Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and Resolution 56/206. Source: [UN-Habitat](#)

## Summary Table

Term	Short explanation
<b>Sites</b>	UNHCR uses this term to refer to a defined location where displaced people reside or <b>may</b> potentially be hosted. It does not convey any inherent physical features, layout or service conditions.
<b>Settlements</b>	Umbrella term used for all geographical areas where people live, encompassing both the space and the community that forms within it, irrespective of their displacement status.
<b>Formal Settlements</b>	A settlement officially recognized by the authorities, planned and purpose-built for forcibly displaced people, offering shelter, centralized services including protection services for the most vulnerable while being anchored in existing services and communities.
<b>Informal Settlements</b>	Spontaneous, self-established, undesignated and unplanned areas where displaced people - often alongside local communities - seek safety and a place to live but face insecure tenure, inadequate services, and exclusion from national/locally available services, including protection services.
<b>Camps</b>	A variant of a formal settlement. Used when conditions meet its definition: communal displacement site intended to be of temporary nature and as a last resort when accommodation alternatives for forcibly displaced people are not available. They are created to address immediate basic accommodation and other needs; with no/restricted freedom of movement and choice of residence; no/limited interaction with host community; no/limited opportunities to access local services and self-reliance; and with basic services established and run by humanitarian actors parallel or alternative to national systems.
<b>Sustainable Human Settlements</b>	Inclusive, resilient urban or rural areas, designed to meet the long-term accommodation, protection, assistance, and solution needs of forcibly displaced and host communities through comprehensive planning, governance, and services.
Approach	Short explanation
<b>Master Plan Approach</b>	Basic urban planning principles applied when establishing Formal Settlements, as well as when transforming them, including camps, into Sustainable Human Settlements
<b>Integrated Settlement Approach</b>	A planning framework that ensures displaced and host communities have equal access to infrastructure, opportunities, and cohesive, sustainable settlement development.
<b>People in Place approach (World Bank)</b>	Used by the World Bank to link the needs of displaced and host communities with the characteristics of the places they live, combining people-based and place-based approaches.
<b>Villagization</b>	Carries historically negative connotations, associated with government-led policies entailing the forced relocation of dispersed populations into concentrated and planned villages. It is a synonym of encampment due to emphasis on control, surveillance, and restricted mobility.

# 1. SETTLEMENT RELATED TERMS

## Sites

*“Site” is a generic term that refers to any identifiable location; It does not, on its own, imply specific physical characteristics, a particular layout, or the delivery or availability of any services.*

The term “site” is used by UNHCR for operational purposes, for a location where forcibly displaced people may reside and where services are provided or expected to be provided. The term ‘site’ may also be used for a location being assessed for its potential to host forcibly displaced people. For example, the [Multi-sectoral Site Assessment Form](#) developed by UNHCR, serves to evaluate the suitability of a proposed location to host forcibly displaced people.

UN-Habitat similarly defines a “site”<sup>2</sup> as a position, situation, or specific location of a parcel of land, including a plot intended or suitable for development. This broader spatial definition aligns with UNHCR’s understanding by emphasizing that a site is fundamentally a geographic reference point, not a settlement synonym. Therefore, because of its generality, the term “site” should not use as a substitute for more specific terms such as “camp” or “settlement”, which carry distinct, operational, legal and programmatic parameters.

## Settlements

*In displacement contexts” **Settlement**” is used as broad term to identify the geographical area in which forcibly displaced people settle, for short or long periods, as well as the social relationships, networks, and governance structures that develop within that space. It also encompasses those settlements where forcibly displaced and host community populations live, either separately or together.*

Settlement is a very broad term that refers to the geographical area in which households have settled, and how they are spatially distributed and related to one another. UNHCR aligns with UN Habitat that defines settlement<sup>3</sup> as the area and location of dwelling units and systems to maintain them, emphasizing its role as a physical and functional living environment. Settlements can be **urban** or **rural**, **temporary** or **permanent**, **formal** or **informal**. Their scale and complexity can range from a small number of dwellings grouped together, to large towns and cities.

Most importantly, a settlement shapes how households interact to form communities and must therefore respond to the diverse needs and aspirations of its residents, in relation to their age, gender characteristics, which relate to their perception of safety and security, access to services, economic opportunities, socio-cultural habits, skills, among others. The term is used as a neutral spatial term, without specific references to standards, level of formality, legal recognition, planning, or service provision.

## Formal Settlements

***Formal Settlements**<sup>4</sup> in displacement contexts are planned settlements officially established and recognized by the authorities to host people affected by crises and disasters, addressing through organized services their immediate or longer-term needs. Formal Settlements provide access to protection and other basic services such as health, education, water, housing and others, typically coordinated by local governments, and delivered by them with the support of humanitarian, development and other actors, civil society organizations and partners.*

<sup>2</sup> UN-Habitat, *Multilingual Glossary of Human Settlements Terms*, 1992., p. 123

<sup>3</sup> UN-Habitat, *Multilingual Glossary of Human Settlements Terms*, 1992., p. 120

<sup>4</sup> As per the Emergency Handbook, Formal Settlements are “Planned settlements where official land is allocated for a group of asylum seekers, refugees or IDPs. They are accommodated in on purpose-built settlements with access to facilities and services. An official management entity is assigned. Camps are a type of formal settlement.” Source: UNHCR, *Settlement Typologies in Emergencies*, 2025.

Formal settlements are designed to foster **self-reliance**, favor the **inclusion of the forcibly displaced people in host communities** and local services, and support their **potential evolution into sustainable human settlements** (see below). Formal settlements should **be planned jointly with the authorities and developed using sustainability, inclusion and appropriate urban planning principles**, aligned with the principles of [UNHCR Master Plan Approach](#). They feature designed layouts that accommodate housing, infrastructure, and access to health, education, WASH and other essential services, while providing access to, or creating the potential for, livelihoods, and socio-economic interactions. To the extent possible, formal settlements are connected to national systems and avoid creating parallel structures that are unsustainable in the longer run.

The term “**formal**” in this definition refers to land that has been deliberately allocated and planned by statutory or customary authorities to host forcibly displaced populations and applies specifically to forced **displacement contexts**. In broader land-tenure discussions, terms like “formal” and “informal” may carry different meanings (e.g. statutory vs customary systems), and may refer to legally recognized, regulated areas with secure tenure and compliance with planning systems, whereas in displacement contexts UNHCR uses “formal settlement” to describe land officially allocated and planned by authorities to host forcibly displaced populations.

UNHCR acknowledges that formal settlements may still be **temporary in nature**, since forcibly displaced people will ideally return voluntarily to areas/country of origin once conditions allow them to do in safety and with dignity.

## Informal Settlements

*An **Informal settlement** in displacement contexts is where a group of forcibly displaced people settle in self-identified, spontaneous sites, usually on land which has not been legally or formally authorized for, and/or designated to accommodate them. Informal settlements can be located on state-owned, private or communal land, and can take form regardless of whether negotiations have taken place with the local population and/or landowners and local or national authorities.*

Forcibly displaced people choose to spontaneously settle in such locations often because they believe they can better meet their safety and assistance needs and/or it allows them to remain closer to their place of origin, while in some cases their choice is shaped by security constraints, logistical factors, or other limited alternatives.

Informal Settlements often lack access to centralized protection systems and are often *characterized by insecure tenure, inadequate or absent basic services, limited or no presence of authorities, and the lack of guaranteed safety, security, or access to protection services*, comprehensive humanitarian assistance, /or other services typically provided by host governments and local service providers, largely due to the informal status of the settlement.

Informal settlements are not planned: their residents shape the land, available space and related services (e.g. water and sanitation facilities, pathways) based on their resources. They may exist even before a displacement crisis occurs, reflecting a long-standing pattern of marginalization affecting low-income populations. Their residents are often a mix of forcibly displaced people and locals.

UNHCR’s definition of informal settlements in displacement contexts aligns closely with UN Habitat definition<sup>5</sup>, which describes Informal settlements as residential areas where residents lack secure land or housing tenure, have limited access to basic services and infrastructure, and often live in housing that does not meet planning or building standards - often in hazardous locations.

<sup>5</sup> According to UN Habitat “Informal settlements are residential areas where 1) inhabitants have no security of tenure vis-à-vis the land or dwellings they inhabit, with modalities ranging from squatting to informal rental housing, 2) the neighborhoods usually lack, or are cut off from, basic services and city infrastructure and 3) the housing may not comply with current planning and building regulations, and is often situated in geographically and environmentally hazardous areas. In addition, informal settlements can be a form of real estate speculation for all income levels of urban residents, affluent and poor. Slums are the most deprived and excluded form of informal settlements characterized by poverty and large agglomerations of dilapidated housing often located in the most hazardous urban land. In addition to tenure insecurity, slum dwellers lack formal supply of basic infrastructure and services, public space and green areas, and are constantly exposed to eviction, disease and violence.”. Source: [Habitat III Issue Paper 22, 2015](#)

## Camps

A **camp** is a **variant** of formal settlement typically conceived as **temporary, emergency** measure to meet the immediate needs of forcibly displaced people. Camps are characterized by **restrictions** on rights like freedom of movement, as well as socio-economic interactions and opportunities for self-reliance, and temporary services provided by the international community and local humanitarian actors to meet life-saving needs of their residents, but without due consideration for a responsible inclusion into national and local services.

The distinction between **camps** and **formal settlements** may at times be nuanced, as terminology varies across regions, languages, cultures and contexts. While both are **formally recognized**, camps emphasize confinement and are not designed with sustainability in mind. Camps often remain disconnected from local infrastructure and services; thus shelter, WASH, health and education are provided by humanitarian actors, reinforcing dependency rather than enabling displaced people to access national systems, enjoy opportunities for self-reliance, interact with local communities, contribute to local economies.

While camps exist, due to legal or administrative limitations on freedom of movement for forcibly displaced people, or due to security concerns from the authorities, they should be considered as a last resort, in line with **UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps**. Advocacy with authorities and development actors should be undertaken to gradually upgrade camps, promote a series of right-based and other principles, so that they can evolve **into more sustainable settlements**. This entails first and foremost to enable freedom of movement and choice of residence; to improve access to local services at the same level as nationals or non-displaced local communities; and to strengthen economic and livelihood opportunities for both displaced and host populations; and to reform legal and policy frameworks. This will be necessary for displaced people to reduce their dependence on humanitarian aid. Converting camps into sustainable human settlements will often require substantial reforms to the legal and policy framework, as well as financial, human and time resources.

In refugee contexts it is important to work towards an enabling environment for alternatives to camps and for the agreement of the hosting State to allow to the settling of refugees in local villages/towns even in the preparedness phase and before the onset of displacement, including a conducive legal and policy framework.

Advocacy for the inclusion of the forcibly displaced people in local villages/town should be made from the onset of a displacement situation. If it is not possible, for example due to a lack of capacity or insufficient infrastructure, it is recommended to at least advocate for the establishment of formal settlements and not camps.



Figure 3: Tunaydbah refugee camp, Sudan. (2021) © UNHCR/Joshua Werema

## Sustainable Human Settlements

UNHCR refers to **Sustainable Human Settlements** as urban and rural areas that are designed, developed, and governed in ways that create inclusive, safe, resilient communities for both forcibly displaced populations and their hosts. Sustainable Human Settlements are characterized by the capacity of forcibly displaced people to meet their protection, assistance and solution needs through freedom of movement and choice of residence<sup>6</sup>, access to rights, inclusion in national systems and services, and opportunities for self-reliance and social cohesion with local communities.

**Human settlements** is a broad term covering all physical spaces where humans live and interact, regardless of their size, density or form<sup>7</sup>.<sup>8</sup> According to **UN Habitat**<sup>7</sup>, *over time, human settlements have evolved from being survival-focused spaces to complex hubs of culture, economy, and governance, mirroring the dynamic interplay between human needs and aspirations. Their core functions include **protection, economic cooperation, resource management and social connectivity***<sup>7</sup>.

In displacement contexts, these systems and functions are often disrupted or placed under strain. Building on the UN-Habitat definition, a human settlements model stresses the importance of shifting the focus beyond short-term interventions (like emergency shelter and life-saving needs driven services) and instead strengthens the broader spatial, social, economic, and environmental foundations of communities. By embedding **sustainability** across these dimensions, displacement-affected areas can evolve into Sustainable Human Settlements. The **Sustainable Human Settlements** align humanitarian action with development goals, enabling both displaced populations and host communities to thrive in safe, inclusive, and dignified environments, holistically tackling the following areas:

1. Urban and Spatial Planning
2. Legislation, Policy and Governance<sup>9</sup>
3. Shelter & Housing
4. Basic Services, including water, sanitation, health, education, solid waste, sewerage management, renewable energy, physical and digital connectivity
5. Economy and Finance
6. Environmental Sustainability and disaster risk reduction

The principles of the Sustainable Human Settlement should also guide the transformation of temporary camps, formal and informal settlements into more sustainable, inclusive forms of settlement and planned urban areas. It should also support the shift from humanitarian-run systems to nationally administered governance frameworks like municipalities, fostering long-term resilience, community cohesion and self-reliance. This includes ensuring that the specific vulnerabilities and protection risks of individuals and groups at heightened risk are identified and addressed.

The design and development of Sustainable Human Settlements can draw on a range of approaches referenced in this document, including the Master Plan Approach, the Integrated Settlement Approach, and the People-in-Place approach.

<sup>6</sup> Provided for in Art. 26 of the 1951 **Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**, on Freedom of Movement, which states that “*Each Contracting State shall accord to refugees lawfully in its territory the right to choose their place of residence and to move freely within its territory, subject to any regulations applicable to aliens generally in the same circumstances.*” Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 28 July 1951, United Nations Treaty Series, vol. 189, p. 150, Art. 26.

<sup>7</sup> **United Nations (n.d.)**, Human settlements, <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-settlements>

<sup>8</sup> According to the UN Habitat definition, “**Human Settlement is the settlement of a group of persons in a specified place. A national system of settlements includes metropolitan areas, towns, villages, plantation estates, mining camps and recreation areas.**” (Source: UN-Habitat, Multilingual Glossary, 129). Subsequently, Human Settlements can be rural, urban or semiurban, permanent or temporary, mobile or sedentary, dispersed or agglomerated. They go beyond just towns, camps, and cities, highlighting the relationships and interconnectivity between different settlements along with their systems.

<sup>9</sup> Legal, policy and governance frameworks governing land, tenure, planning, service delivery and institutional coordination in displacement-affected settlements, as well as freedom of movement and choice of place of residence.

## 2. APPROACHES

### UNHCR Master Plan Approach

*The **UNHCR Master Plan Approach**<sup>10</sup> to settlement planning is a comprehensive framework for the spatial design of settlements in displacement settings. It effectively links humanitarian responses with development efforts, while it is mostly suitable for designing or upgrading formal settlements in rural or greenfield contexts.*

The Master Plan approach can serve as a strong basis for both planning formal settlements as well as transitioning camps, formal and informal settlements into Sustainable Human Settlements. It promotes multi-sectoral and integrated planning by linking shelter, infrastructure, WASH, health, education and livelihoods, ensuring that settlements evolve into inclusive, functional communities. Unlike emergency or short-term responses, the Masterplan Approach embeds a forward-looking perspective, aligned with national development goals and urban planning standards. Moreover, it incorporates spatial and environmental considerations and promotes the alignment of legal frameworks and tenure systems, facilitating an eventual transition to Sustainable Human Settlements.



Figure 4: Kalobeyei Settlement in Turkana West, Kenya (2020). © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, Masterplan Approach to Settlement Planning, 2019

## Integrated Settlement Approach

The *Integrated*<sup>11</sup> *Settlement Approach* is a *holistic planning framework* that guides Sustainable Human Settlements. The approach promotes three principles:

- **Breaking Silos** by addressing shelter and housing, basic and social services (WASH, education, health, etc.), economy and finance, policy and governance, urban planning and environmental considerations in a comprehensive manner, recognizing their interconnectedness.
- **Physical Integration** via shared and equitable access to services, infrastructure, and self-reliance opportunities for both forcibly displaced people and host communities.
- **Inclusive Communities** by advocacy for the forcibly displaced to settle within or in proximity to host communities, to enable service-sharing, strengthen social cohesion and generate shared development benefits.

UNHCR aligns with **UN-Habitat** that views displacement settings as part of broader urban and regional systems rather than isolated entities, and uses the Integrated Settlement Approach to bridge emergency response with sustainable development, following these key principles:

- **Multi-scalar approach** - Responses must span household-neighborhood-municipal-metropolitan to regional levels, reflecting the wider impact of displacement.
- **Connectivity is key** - Physical, social, and institutional linkages drive crisis response and recovery, and sustainability.
- **Local leadership and participation** - Local and regional authorities, alongside displaced and host communities, play a central role in coordinated and context driven solutions.
- **Environmental and climate resilience** - sustainable planning approaches mitigate risks and ensure long-term resilience and stability.



Figure 5: Aerial view of the "opportunity village" of Garin Kaka, in south central Niger. (2023) ©UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

<sup>11</sup> In this context, integration is understood as the spatial and institutional integration of displacement - affected settlements into their wider territorial, service, and governance systems, to support social cohesion and coexistence between displaced and host communities. It does not refer to integration as a durable solution for refugees.

## People-In-Place Approach (World Bank)

The “**People-in-Place**” approach combines the “people-based” approach, which focuses on addressing the specific vulnerabilities of the displaced and the needs of the host community, with the “place-based” approach, which focuses on the needs of the urban spaces within which they are located. The People-in-Place approach is therefore an integrated approach which considers both the needs of the “people” and the impacts on the “place” where they settle.

The People-in-Place<sup>12</sup> Approach is a holistic framework developed by the World Bank to address the complex realities of forced displacement. It recognizes that displaced populations and host communities interact within shared “urban” spaces, and that effective responses must consider both the needs of people and the characteristics of the places they inhabit. This approach is structured around **five interrelated dimensions**:

1. **Spatial** (Planning, land use, tenure security, etc.)
2. **Physical** (infrastructure, housing, services, etc.)
3. **Social** (safety, social cohesion, protection, etc.)
4. **Economic** (livelihoods, markets, financial services, etc.)
5. **Institutional** (governance, legal frameworks, etc.)

The People-in-Place approach aligns with Sustainable Human Settlements, because they both integrate people-based needs with the spatial, social, economic, and governance dimensions of the places where displaced and host communities live. It is particularly suited to urban and dispersed settings and naturally complements the Integrated Settlement Approach, which similarly emphasize holistic, multisectoral, and place-focused planning.

**Note on terminology:** The terms **urban** and **rural** may vary across institutional frameworks. The World Bank, UN-Habitat and other development partners apply the [Degree of Urbanization \(DEGURBA\)](#), a harmonized methodology, which classifies areas along an urban–rural continuum based on population density and built-up characteristics rather than administrative boundaries. This approach considers therefore “urban” as any sufficiently urbanized settlement - regardless of formal status- while “rural” is typically associated with low-density population and agriculture-based contexts. Based on this methodology, the World Bank and other development actors would classify large refugee camps/settlements as “urban”, even if placed in remote, rural areas (e.g. Kakuma, Kenya, Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh, M’berra, Mauritania etc.)



Figure 3: Mahama Refugee Settlement in Rwanda. (2024) © UNHCR

<sup>12</sup> The concept is referenced across several published and internal World Bank documents:

- Ijjasz-Vasquez, Goga & Hamilton, *Refugees and IDPs in Cities*, 2019.
- Goga et al., *Forced Displacement: An Agenda for Cities and Towns*, 2021.
- World Bank, *Gender and Forced Displacement in Cities*, 2023.

## Villagization

**Villagization**<sup>13</sup> refers in Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone contexts to the (often forcible) relocation of rural populations into planned, centralized settlements. The term is largely connected to the concept of encampment, due to its emphasis on control, surveillance, and restricted mobility. This approach has been used in history mainly across Africa for various political, economic, and ideological reasons, thus having a rather negative connotation.

Due to its historically negative connotations often linked to an involuntary relocation, such term and its approach are not recommended in displacement settings, as generally contrary to a right-based approach that uphold.

When considering hosting arrangements of forcibly displaced people in existing urban/rural areas, UNHCR shall refer to **inclusion, absorption, hosting, or settlement of forcibly displaced populations into existing villages or communities**. Such terms would exclude any link with coercive or involuntary movements and rather entail that forcibly displaced people can choose freely where to settle and can be supported to make an informed choice.



Figure 4: Refugees and their hosting communities live together in Gado Badzere, in eastern Cameroon. (2021)  
©UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

<sup>13</sup> **Villagization**: The (often compulsory or forcible) relocation of people to planned villages by government and military authorities, in an effort to exert control over previously scattered communities, or as part of a programme of collectivization of agriculture or other economic activity. **Oxford English Dictionary**, s.v. “Villagisation”, accessed July 2024. [villagization, n. meanings, etymology and more | Oxford English Dictionary](#)

## Bibliography

**Global Shelter Cluster.** (2020). *Settlement Approach Guidance Note*. [Link](#)

**Goga, S., et al.** (2021). *Forced Displacement: An Agenda for Cities and Towns* (Unpublished report). World Bank.

**Ijjasz-Vasquez, E., Goga, S., & Hamilton, E.** (2019, May 22). *Refugees and internally displaced persons in cities – The “hidden” side of forced displacement*. World Bank Blogs. [Link](#)

**Oxford English Dictionary.** (2024). *Villagization* (n.). In *OED Online*. (Referenced July 2024).

**Schell, J., Hilmi, M., & Hirano, S.** (2020). *Area-based approaches: An alternative in contexts of urban displacement*. *Forced Migration Review*, (63). [Link](#)

**Sphere Association.** (2018). *The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response* (4th ed.). [Link](#)

**United Nations.** (1951). *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*. [Link](#)

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).** (n.d.). *Mandate and role (UN system lead agency on human settlements)*. UN-Habitat. [Link](#)

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).** (1992). *Multilingual Glossary of Human Settlements Terms*. [Link](#)

**United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).** *Habitat III Issue Papers: 22 – Informal Settlements*. New York: United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), 31 May 2015. [Link](#)

**UN-Habitat & UNHCR.** (2020). *Settlement Profiling Tool: A spatial analysis framework for settlements accommodating displaced populations*. [Link](#)

**UNHCR.** (2014). *Policy on Alternatives to Camps*. [Link](#)

**UNHCR.** (2019). *The Masterplan Approach to Settlement Planning: Guiding Principles*. UNHCR Emergency Handbook. [Link](#)

**UNHCR.** (2024). *Guidance Package for UNHCR’s Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement* (2nd ed.). [Link](#)

**UNHCR.** (2025, June 26). *Settlement Typologies in Emergencies*. UNHCR Emergency Handbook. [Link](#)

**Urban Settlements Working Group** (2019), *Area-based Approaches in Urban Settings Compendium of Case Studies*. [Link](#)

**World Bank.** (2023). *Gender and Forced Displacement in Cities: Applying a People-in-Place Approach*. World Bank Group. [Link](#)

**World Bank; European Commission; FAO; UN-Habitat; ILO; OECD.** (2021). *Applying the Degree of Urbanisation: A Methodological Manual to Define Cities, Towns and Rural Areas for International Comparisons*. World Bank Group. [Link](#)