



UNHCR 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 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.

A UNHCR staff member listens attentively to an older woman in Al Mazrak IDP Camp in Yemen.

2011 Awards for Excellence in Field Service

UNHCR staff are at the forefront of humanitarian crises across the world. In 2011, UNHCR gave special recognition to contributions by the following individuals and teams:

Achievements in Protection

The staff of UNHCR Kyrgyzstan for introducing a toll-free Protection Help Line and providing thousands of legal consultations to assist people to obtain civil status and property documents to enable the reintegration of people affected by the violence of June 2010.

Mr. Rocco Nuri for his work at the Libyan/Tunisian border and for his achievements in liaising with the media and partners in Zarsis during the emergency response.

Achievements as a Head of sub-office

Ms. Ita Schuette for her dedicated leadership of Field Office Peja/Pec (Kosovo operation) and her achievements in expanding housing assistance projects for internally displaced persons.

Achievements as a Representative

Ms. Renata Dubini for inspiring her colleagues in the Syrian Arab Republic to use their abilities, values and imagination to make a difference to the lives of refugees.

Team Achievements in Field Operations

The national staff of UNHCR Greece for their dedicated efforts to provide effective protection to asylum-seekers.

The staff of UNHCR Sri Lanka, in particular the national staff in the north, for protecting and assisting internally displaced persons in the midst of a conflict situation.

Team Achievements in Gender

The teams in Colombia, Finland, India, Jordan, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia for engaging more than 1,000 displaced and refugee women and girls, as well as 200 men and boys, in a series of regional dialogues.

Achievement in Innovation

The team of the Data Management Unit in Iraq for the creation of the Project Tracking Database, which uses Google Earth to map the locations and movements of populations of concern, as well as of UNHCR assets and project activities.

Mr. Mohammad Faisal in Headquarters for his unique contribution to staff welfare through the use of Skype.

Basic Facts

- Persons of concern to the High Commissioner: **35,438,870**
- Total 2011 UNHCR expenditure (USD): **2,181,099,327**
- Number of countries in which UNHCR is present: **125**
- Number of UNHCR offices worldwide: **412**
- UNHCR regular staff members: **6,696**
- Staff members in the Field: **5,827**
- Staff members at Headquarters (including Budapest Global Service Centre Staff): **869**
- Ratio of staff members to people of concern: **1 per 5,292**
- Number of NGOs working as implementing partners: **762**
- Number of Junior Professional Officers: **73**
- States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol: **149**
- Members of the Executive Committee: **85**