

Geneva Technical Hub

11 June 2021

The Geneva Technical Hub (GTH) has been established to improve the lives of refugees, internally displaced persons and their host communities by enhancing the quality of technical programming in **disaster risk reduction (DRR), energy, environment, shelter, settlement planning, water, sanitation and hygiene**. The GTH aims to maximize our operational interventions through solutions-oriented approaches to technical problems that mainstream protection and take environmental considerations into account.

What will the GTH hub do?

We will **drive change, tackle complex technical problems** with new approaches through learning, and advancing **operational practice** through a **solutions-oriented approach**. We will bring **academics and practitioners together** to tackle issues and **find solutions** that work and **share lessons** learned.

THE SUPPORT OFFERED BY THE GTH:

- ❖ **Field support** - in a targeted and time-bound fashion, both directly and remotely.
- ❖ **Operational guidance** - tools and best practices being developed and rolled out.
- ❖ **Think tank** - in collaboration with academia, analyse, explore, develop and test new methods, products and solutions.
- ❖ **Capacity building** - to jointly learn and strengthen staff capacity.



Afghanistan. UNHCR installs solar-powered community water network. ©UNHCR/Mohammad Anwar Danishyar

WHICH ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS ARE PART OF THE GTH?

- **EPFL** - École Polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne
- **eawag** - Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology
- **ETH** - Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich

WHAT TECHNICAL ISSUES WILL BE TACKLED?

1. Support planning for **sustainable settlements** that are **resilient to climate change**.
2. Study sustainable and **environmentally friendly housing solutions**.
3. Improve **water safety planning**, supporting hydrogeological assessments, feasibility studies on solarization of boreholes and water network designs.
4. Improve safe and reliable access to energy and water in **schools and health centers**.
5. Foster the access to **clean cooking fuels and technologies**.
6. Enhance access to **sustainable electricity**.



Uganda. Solar power delivers clean water to South Sudanese refugees' doorstep. ©UNHCR/Michele Sibiloni

HOW DO I ASK FOR SUPPORT?

Please send an email to the technical support section: DRSTSS@unhcr.org