



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency



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DIP

Partnership on Forced Displacement

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) work together for displaced people and their host communities.

Strengthening governments to prevent, prepare, respond and recover is needed more than ever as forced displacement hits record highs.

Cover photograph: UNDP/Aurélia Rusek

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Introduction

Bringing together humanitarian, development and peacebuilding, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) work together for people forcibly displaced from their homes and for the communities that take them in.

One percent of the world's population has fled as a result of conflict or persecution, the average length of their displacement is 17 years and more than eight of every 10 refugees are in developing countries. Forced displacement is driven by a web of social, economic, environmental, human rights, political and security issues.

Coordination between humanitarian and development actions is required to resolve such complex crises. UNDP and UNHCR have worked together since the 1960s, especially where people are vulnerable, marginalised or suffer abuse and where mass displacements give rise to social tensions or exceed the capacity of the host or return state to manage.

A Global Joint-Action Plan was launched in 2017, supporting governments to include refugees in their planning and programming on governance, rule of law, access to justice, peacebuilding, internal displacement, livelihoods and preparedness.

In 2018 in the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), governments agreed to greater international cooperation to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives. That cooperation is vital. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) say that forced displacement “threatens to reverse the development progress made in recent decades.”

Building on the Global Joint-Action Plan, UNDP and UNHCR are launching the Global Joint Initiative for Inclusion and Solutions. They will strengthen joint programming, focusing on preparedness before a crisis; protection, assistance and recovery during a crisis; and stabilisation and development afterwards.

Together, UNDP and UNHCR will go beyond reacting to events, instead reducing risks and supporting institutions, so nobody is left behind.



UNHCR/Oksana Parafeniuk

Snapshot on forced displacement

- Over the last ten years, the global population of people forced to flee has grown from 43.3 million to 80 million, a record high.
- Crises in Syria, Myanmar, South Sudan, Ukraine, Venezuela, Yemen and the Democratic Republic of Congo have forced millions from their homes.
- Climate change and environmental degradation could result in anywhere between 25 million and one billion displaced people by 2050.
- Only 3.9 million refugees were able to return to their country of origin in the last 10 years, compared to almost 10 million refugees who had returned home during the previous decade.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the needs of displaced populations, while also making those needs more difficult to address.
- Sixty percent of refugees originate from just five countries, while almost two-thirds of refugees reside in just 10 countries, nine of which are developing countries.

Our collaboration

“Humanitarian and development actors will work together from the outset of a refugee situation and in protracted situations.”

Global Compact on Refugees in 2018

UNHCR and UNDP set out a vision of enhanced collaboration in 2017 in the Global Joint-Action Plan. Together, they are working to strengthen policy and programmatic coordination at the global, regional and country level.

The plan covers Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. It focuses on the rule of law, local governance, peacebuilding, the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, internal displacement and livelihoods. The plan also involves regional work including in and around Syria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Action Plan has led to the development of a Joint Sustainable Development Goals Tool for Forced Displacement and Stateless Contexts and a Joint Theory of Change on Protracted Displacement Framework for country offices.



UNHCR/Anthony Karumba

Timeline

1960s

- UNDP and UNHCR work begins on rural integration of refugees in Africa.

1984

- The 2nd International Conference of Assistance to Refugees in Africa (ICARA).

1987

- First global cooperation agreement.

1989

- The International Conference on Central America Refugees (CIREFCA).

1997

- Follow-up agreement to global cooperation agreement of 1987.

2011

- UNHCR and UNDP designated to provide technical expertise and support for durable solutions on forced displacement.

2016

- At the World Humanitarian Summit, UNDP and UNHCR endorsed the “Commitment to Action”.
- The New York Declaration laid out a vision for a more comprehensive response to forced displacement crises, known as the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

2017

- UNDP and UNHCR Communiqué leading to the Global Joint-Action Plan.

2021

- New Global Joint Initiative for Inclusion and Solutions.

Our plans on inclusion and solutions

At the Global Refugee Forum in 2019, UNDP committed to working with UNHCR and governments, justice, security and human rights actors, the private sector, civil society, host communities and displaced populations on:

- Addressing root causes of forced displacement;
- The UNDP-UNHCR Rule of Law and Local Governance Partnership Framework;
- Promoting decent work through innovative digital initiatives.

In response, UNDP and UNHCR are launching a Global Joint Initiative for Inclusion and Solutions for refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons and host communities, supporting them with protection, safeguarding their freedom and human rights and promoting durable solutions. It will include multi-year implementation of joint humanitarian, development and peace programming.



UNHCR/Steve Forrest



UNHCR/Sebastian Rich

UNDP and UNHCR will also deepen their partnership on the three regional support platforms: the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), the IGAD Support Platform for Somali Refugees and Returnees and the Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework for the Americas (MIRPS). In addition to providing direct support to priority country offices and regional bureaux on developing and implementing the collaboration, the Global Joint Initiative will:

- Increase UNDP and UNHCR joint assessments and analysis. Digital innovations will document the experiences of refugees and communities in countries of origin and across borders;
- Establish common standards for UNDP and UNHCR interventions. This includes tools and training on protection, the rule of law, local governance, access to basic services, livelihoods, economic inclusion and social cohesion;
- Combine innovations by host communities and refugees with real-time data to identify, test and scale up solutions through a joint “Solutions Facility for Refugees and Host Communities”;
- Link up country and regional teams on preparedness before a crisis occurs; protection, assistance and recovery during displacement; and transition to solutions in the aftermath – recovery, stabilization, development.

UNDP and UNHCR around the World

The joint work between UNDP and UNHCR aims at supporting host governments in the identification and implementation of sustainable solutions for all displacement-affected communities.

Ongoing collaborations

Refugee Response Plans (RRPs) are inter-agency plans fostering humanitarian and development programming in the country of asylum. Led by the UNHCR, they bring together host government, the UN/ Humanitarian Country Team, other international organizations, civil society, development and financial institutions and the private sector.

Similarly, under the coordination of the UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinators, the Regional Refugee Response Plans (RRRP) are developed when refugees from a country flee to more than one country of asylum. UNDP has joined with UNHCR to ensure a stronger focus of the RRRPs on resilience and development, supporting regional and country level analysis of the drivers of displacement.

UNDP and UNHCR strengthened collaboration across the RRRPs for refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi and Nigeria, resulting in the development of joint projects that are being implemented in 11 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The RRRP for the Democratic Republic of Congo includes Angola, Burundi, DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Zambia and the RRRP for Nigeria includes Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria. Rwanda, Tanzania, the DRC and Uganda are also part of the RRRP for Burundi, ensuring a coordinated response to the needs of Burundian refugees in the region.

UNDP is collaborating in three regional support platforms for governments convened by UNHCR as mandated by the Global Compact on Refugees.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The IGAD Support Platform launched in 2019 brings together education, livelihoods and self-reliance and health for refugees and host communities. UNDP is a core group member of the IGAD Support Platform.



UNDP Afghanistan/S. Omer Sadaat

UNDP is also a Core Group member of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR), a regional support platform creating an environment for voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration inside Afghanistan, while also easing pressure on the host communities. Covering Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran, UNHCR and UNDP are ensuring that national peace and development plans target high priority areas of returns to Afghanistan.

The Comprehensive Regional Protection and Solutions Framework, known by its Spanish acronym MIRPS, supports responsibility sharing on forced displacement in Central America and Mexico. UNDP and UNHCR are jointly designing a toolkit for local authorities to support the local development planning through the inclusion of the rule of law, e-governance and socio-economic integration of people on the move. The countries that are currently part of the support platform are Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Mexico.

UNDP and UNHCR work together on national level programmes supporting over 30 countries by improving access to basic services, strengthening local governance, improving protection and the rule of law, increasing employment and livelihoods and enhancing social cohesion.



Key

♂ Access to Basic Services/
Local Governance

⚖ Protection/Rule of Law

👛 Employment and Livelihoods

🤝 Social cohesion

Africa

- ① Angola ⚖👛
- ② Cameroon 👛🤝
- ③ Chad 👛⚖
- ④ Cote d'Ivoire 👛🤝⚖
- ⑤ DRC ⚖🤝👛
- ⑥ Ethiopia ⚖👛
- ⑦ Kenya 👛
- ⑧ Nigeria 👛
- ⑨ Niger 👛🤝
- ⑩ Rwanda 👛⚖
- ⑪ Uganda 👛⚖
- ⑫ Zambia 👛

Arab States

- ⑬ Egypt 👛🤝
- ⑭ Jordan 👛
- ⑮ Lebanon 👛⚖🤝♂
- ⑯ Somalia 👛⚖🤝
- ⑰ Sudan 👛⚖🤝♂
- ⑱ Syria 👛

Asia and the Pacific

- ⑲ Afghanistan 👛♂
- ⑳ Bangladesh 👛
- ㉑ Myanmar 👛♂♂

Europe and Central Asia

- ㉒ Turkey 👛⚖🤝♂

Latin America and the Caribbean

- ㉓ Brazil 👛
- ㉔ Colombia 🤝👛⚖
- ㉕ Costa Rica ⚖
- ㉖ Ecuador 👛
- ㉗ El Salvador ⚖🤝♂
- ㉘ Guatemala 🤝♂
- ㉙ Honduras 🤝♂
- ㉚ Peru 👛⚖
- ㉛ Trinidad and Tobago 👛

The regional response to the conflict in Syria

The largest regional response is to the impact of the civil war in Syria. The conflict has left millions of Syrian refugees in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.

In 2015, the international community instituted a new comprehensive approach to meet the challenges facing the countries so generously hosting Syrian refugees. The Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) combined humanitarian and development responses into a single plan under the leadership of UNHCR and UNDP.

The 3RP has led the way in terms of the international community's support to national efforts to deal with the impact of the crisis in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. It addresses the protection and humanitarian needs of refugees as well the resilience, stabilization and development needs of impacted people and institutions.

National leadership and capacities are at the forefront, with 270 UN agencies, international and national NGOs and other partners in a supporting role. Key results include:

- Partners have reached 1.9 million people with food assistance, enrolled 1.1 million children in education and provided 3.4 million consultations in primary health care.
- Half a million people have received cash assistance, over 44,000 individuals helped into employment and 76,920 work permits issued to Syrian refugees in Jordan since 2016.
- Over 3.4 million children were reached with protection programming in 2019.
- Partners have worked to reduce the percentage of Syrian children born in the region without any form of identity documents from 35 percent in 2012 to 3.3 percent in 2019.
- Civil documentation remains vital to enable access to education, healthcare and employment; innovations include pioneering the use of Iris Biometrics to conduct registration and operations.
- Partners have increased the support for strengthening public institutions across the region. Spending on resilience has doubled from 2015 to 2019, reaching \$1.07 billion.
- Vulnerable communities in Lebanon have been supported with over 1,150 projects, helping to alleviate resource pressure and address the immediate needs of municipalities.

The 3RP represents a paradigm shift by combining humanitarian and development capacities, innovation, and resources.

“I hope that the lessons we are learning in the Middle East today can be transferred to other crises and allow for an earlier linkage between relief and development actions in any response to forced displacement,” said António Guterres, UN Secretary General.

Turkey

Turkey hosts the largest number of refugees in the world, including 3.6 million Syrians. The large number of refugees has increased competition over access to services as well as jobs and livelihoods opportunities, impacting social cohesion.

Under the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), UNDP and UNHCR aim to create job opportunities for Syrian refugees and host communities in Turkey. This is done through enterprise development, building institutional infrastructure and enhancing business initiatives to employ Syrians and host community members.

The project has developed the capacity of *Şanlıurfa Technopark* by strengthening its service delivery strategy, sectoral focus, business model and service packages. The project supported businesses through mentoring programmes, training and enhancing business and supply chain relations. The project included a job fair to increase the awareness around refugee employment, work permit procedures and to highlight incentives for businesses and entrepreneurs to employ Syrian refugees.

Sene Abuhammed, 27, is one of the 3.6 million Syrians refugees in Turkey. Four years ago, she fled from Hama to Turkey and now lives in Şanlıurfa with her family. She came across the vocational trainings of the Strengthening Social Stability in Southeast Anatolia Region Project.

With the daily wage she earned during the summer cotton harvest, she rented land and started to cultivate and sell vegetables. The trainings she received on organic fertilization and irrigation allowed her to grow her business to the next level. “Turkey has become a home for us and allowed us to earn an income” she says. “My family would face more challenges without my support. I want to work.”



UNDP Türkiye/Gözde Doğan

Lebanon

Lebanon hosts 1.5 million Syrians fleeing conflict. Over the last two years, refugee-host community relations have been deteriorating, with 43 percent of the population reporting negative relations in August 2020 in comparison to 21 percent in July 2018. Tensions are rooted in lack of access to services provision, job competition, and to historical grievances between the communities.

Under Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP), UNDP and UNHCR have established a Tensions Monitoring System to collect data, analyse and provide feedback and recommendations. The findings are shared with the government at national and regional level where recommendations are fed back into the response. They serve as an early warning system to ramp up conflict prevention.

Working with the Ministry of Education, UNDP and UNHCR implemented their Violence Free Schools Initiative in 15 schools in Bekaa. Students, teachers, school administrations and parents were trained on peacebuilding. They developed Code of Conducts for Non-Violence and rehabilitated the schools to become violence-free spaces.

A lack of security and justice services and human rights violations committed by law enforcement institutions aggravate tensions. Working with the Ministry of Justice, the Community Security and Access to Justice Project strengthens the capacities of ministries and local institutions. This includes:

- Professionalization of municipal police and security forces;
- Improvement of the basic needs of prison population through better infrastructure;
- Reintegration of detainees and improved oversight mechanisms, including support to the National Preventive Mechanism against Torture;
- Free state legal aid services.

Results include:

- Ten percent increase in public satisfaction with the police and security forces;
- More than 100 municipalities adopting at least one element of the Strategic Framework for the Development of the Municipal Police;
- Legal aid project with the Bar Associations of Beirut and Tripoli.



UNDP/IS. Omer Sadaat

Afghanistan

Some seven million Afghans have returned home between 2002 and 2017. Reintegrating them is a major challenge, complicated further by a resurgence in fighting and COVID-19. The returnees need health services, education and shelter. Lack of job opportunities increases their poverty and exposes them to further displacement.

SSAR is the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees. Since 2012, it has focused on repatriation and reintegration, as well as investing in public services in Iran and Pakistan which host Afghan refugees.

In 2016, UNDP, ILO and UNHCR began the Support Afghanistan Livelihoods and Mobility (SALAM) project in the province of Nangahar to create long-term employment opportunities. UNDP identified promising jobs and then contracted out employment training and job placement. SALAM attracted private businesses by subsidizing returnees' and IDPs' salaries.

SALAM detailed for the first time in Afghanistan that despite continued insecurity, diverse actors can combine humanitarian and development action and support local solutions. By creating employment opportunities, SALAM showed that humanitarian and development actors can combine their areas of expertise in supporting governments.



UNHCR/Phil Behan

Myanmar

Following the outbreak of violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State in August 2017, more than 700,000 Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. Rakhine State is still home to some 600,000 stateless Rohingya, of which 130,000 are living in displacement camps in central Rakhine State as result of ethnic clashes in 2012.

In November 2017 and January 2018, the Governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed on arrangements for the repatriation of the refugees residing in Bangladesh. To support creating conditions conducive to eventual voluntary return in Rakhine State, UNHCR and UNDP signed an MoU with the Government of Myanmar in 2018.

UNHCR and UNDP support recovery and resilience-based development for the benefit of all communities living in Rakhine State. The project includes the renovation of schools and water supplies, rehabilitation of roads, installation of solar lights, income-generating activities, among others. It also includes two pilot projects that support the IDPs displaced in 2017 to return to their original house plots.

The completed projects from 2019 have benefited around 19,000 people. The 2020 projects will help 11,000 people. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, UNDP and UNHCR conducted public health campaigns in 40 villages. They provided mask-making kits to 20,000 people across Buthidaung and Maungdaw.

UNDP and UNHCR are pursuing an expansion of activities to address issues such as housing, land and property rights, good governance, access to justice and to enable the return of all displaced persons to their places of origin, including IDPs.

For progress to be sustainable, concrete measures need to be in place to allow all communities to participate in the civic, social and economic life of Rakhine State, including pathways to citizenship and the lifting of discriminatory movement restrictions.



UNHCR/Moise Amedje

Cameroon

The Boko Haram insurgency has impacted Cameroon, with around 116,000 Nigerian refugees and over 321,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the north of the country. They lack access to health, education and water, and livelihood activities are limited. The large number of people creates tension with the host community over resources.

UNDP and UNHCR agencies are working with the same populations, with UNHCR providing humanitarian and UNDP development assistance. The overall objective of the project is to strengthen peace. With a strong focus on social cohesion, these included aid kits and shelter, youth job creation, two mediation structures and the involvement of young people in peacebuilding.

“We arrived here after several attacks on our village by the Boko Haram. We cannot thank the community enough for the sacrifices they made for us and the land they’ve given,” said Adjida Fauzia, displaced after raids on her village.

“We have grown together. We farmed rice together successfully through a Ministry project. We had a lot of hope for the rice, sorghum and millet, but floods have washed everything away apart from the rice. The UNDP and UNHCR construction of a borehole in the village will help”.



UNDP DRC/Aude Rossignol

Democratic Republic of Congo

Widespread violence and lack of State authority in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) leads to people being forced from their homes, especially in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Kasai. The country also hosts half a million refugees from Rwanda, Burundi, Central African Republic and South Sudan. Nearly one million Congolese have found asylum in neighboring countries.

Most people forced from their homes lack access to land, shelter and basic social services. They are often victims of human rights violations. Their needs are enormous but humanitarian responses are stretched and need national and international development actions.

In addition to humanitarian assistance, UNDP and UNHCR build capacities of authorities including security forces, strengthening local governance and improving people's participation. Capacity building of governments includes on the decentralization of roles and responsibilities, on planning (local development plans, monitoring and evaluation tools, financial monitoring) and on community accountability.

Police officers in different territories have been trained on the doctrine of proximity policing, respect and protection of human rights, responding to sexual and gender-based violence, maintaining public order and ensuring the security of the sites housing refugees and IDPs.



UNHCR

Colombia

Colombia has almost 8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflict. There are also approximately 1.7 million Venezuelans now in the country. Both Venezuelans displaced abroad and IDPs increase pressure on services, job opportunities and social cohesion.

Under the Government of Colombia's Territorial Development Plans (PDET), UNHCR and UNDP support economic recovery, reconciliation and peacebuilding. The joint project, Improving Durable Solutions and Peacebuilding through Human Security Business Partnerships in Post-Peace Agreement Colombia, helps communities advocate for their rights with institutions and the private sector, promotes employment, strengthens local government to promote income generation and protection, and it also analyses and disseminates knowledge.

The project strengthens development and peace through stakeholder platforms with the private sector, a network of universities and an IT platform for sharing training, information and opportunities for investment.

Examples include:

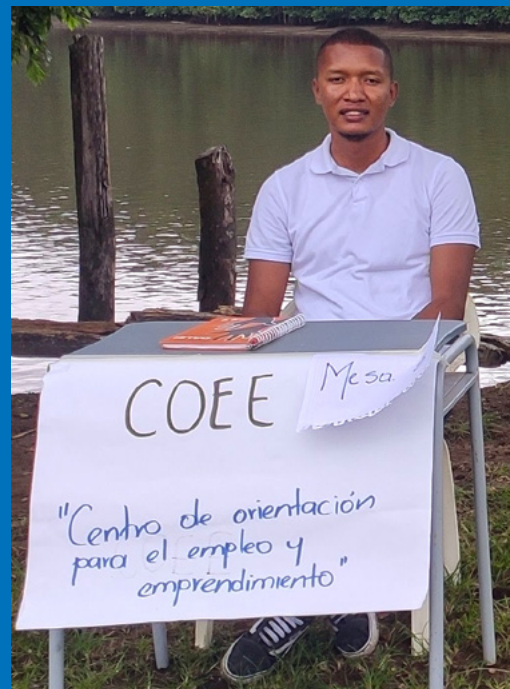
- The 'Río Tapaje Prodefensa' Community Council granted IDP families access to training for subsistence livelihoods, benefiting 120 people;
- An expo in Tumaco benefited 25 entrepreneurs with seed capital and technical assistance, prioritizing vulnerable groups;
- In four municipalities, a committee made up of institutions, private sector, academics and international cooperation was established to prioritize value chains;
- Around 15 sessions of the Territorial Roundtable of Guarantees for the Work of Human Rights Defenders, Leaders and Social Leaders of Antioquia were held;
- The creation of an academic network has been launched to promote research and reflections on how to improve partnerships to improve the peace.

Responding to the COVID-19 emergency, the project will reactivate local markets and support supply, distribution and marketing schemes for local product. The project will also support tracking of the pandemic in the community.

Edwin Cobo Cárdenas from Tumaco is an advisor to the Center for Employment and Entrepreneurship Orientation, which carried out an expo for the economic reactivation of the most vulnerable people.

"We focused on innovation, on reducing gaps, on the environment and on the most vulnerable communities. It helped people to have their own business and to generate employment," he said.

"The partnerships created between institutions, private sector, academy, civil society and international cooperation are fundamental for the reduction of poverty, unemployment and violence. We are taking people away from violence".



UNDP

Future plans

The number of people forced from their homes is the highest since the end of World War II. Climate change will only add to the number. Forced displacement risks reversing development gains and increases humanitarian needs. More investment is needed or we will face another decade of new and protracted displacement.

In emergencies, swift humanitarian action is essential to saving lives. But when people remain displaced for years, development programming is essential to ensuring sustainable solutions. When refugees and internally displaced people do not have freedom of movement or access to the labour market, when they and their children lack adequate education and training opportunities, the cycle of aid dependency and poverty is bound to continue.

Reversing these trends requires breaking down the artificial humanitarian-development divide, ensuring the inclusion of refugee-hosting areas in development programmes. UNDP and UNHCR have been working together for 60 years from the Great Lakes in Africa to the Syria conflict today. As the needs for their services grow, so has the pressure to be more focused, more connected and more effective.

The new UNDP-UNHCR Global Joint Initiative for Inclusion and Solutions is the next step in this evolution. Together, the UN agencies will carry out joint humanitarian, development and peace programming for refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities around the world.