

GTH aims to improve the life of **People of Concern (POCs)** to UNHCR by assisting field operations to strengthen comprehensive responses and to test and roll out innovative solutions in collaboration with Swiss academia in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Shelter & Settlement, Energy & Environment.

GTH 2021-2024 5.7 Million CHF

## Lessons Learnt



**ADDED VALUE:** “GTH is adding value to UNHCR operations by providing sustainable, innovate, cost-effective and context-adapted technical solutions”

**APPROACH:** “Multisectoral and integrated approaches linking more sectors allow better outputs”

**KNOWLEDGE SHARING:** “Knowledge management requires a long-term and multi-actor strategy based on networking and a sharing concept”

**INNOVATION:** “Innovation through GTH recommendations is feasible when funding and iGTH helps to foster innovative technical solutions in displacement settings”

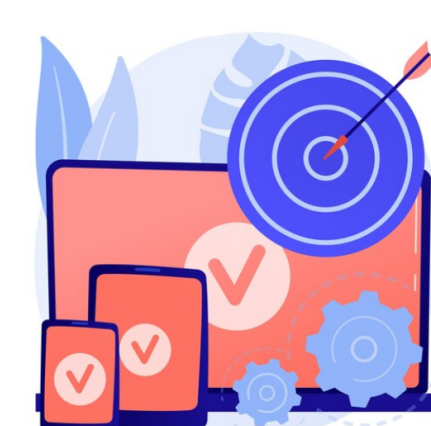
## Results

GTH is highly aligned with and relevant for the Global Compact on Refugees and the UNHCR operational strategy on climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022 – 2025.



The GTH is conceived to contribute to the Swiss strategy’s objective “saving lives, ensuring quality basic services and reducing the causes of forced displacement and irregular migration” especially in relation to providing quality basic services.

A recent review showed that vision of GTH has broad support from the involved stakeholders and GTH technical solutions to a wide extent meet expectation of UNHCR operational staff.



- The requests for technical solutions to challenging problems from the UNHCR field offices have been increasing over the two years in all the technical focus areas, proving a strong buy-in of GTH overall concept.
- After two years solutions from the cooperation with the research partners are emerging. Potential of academic partners could be explored further.
- The modalities of field support, operational guidance and capacity building are very suitable and appreciated.

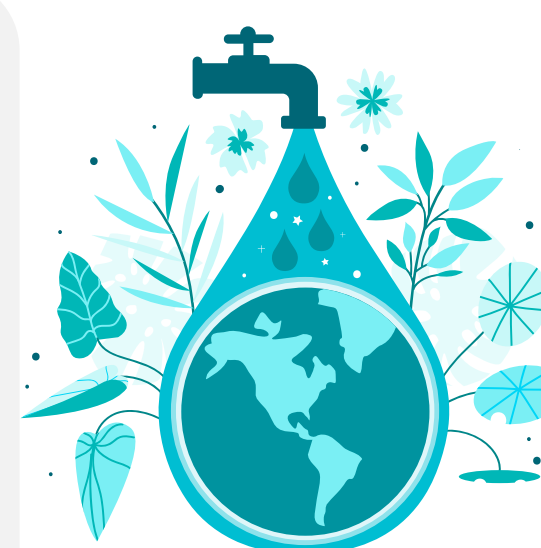


- The GTH is adding value through the knowledge transfer and technical solutions from the GTH experts to UNHCR staff at operational level.
- After an initial pilot phase, there is potential to expand to other like-minded organisations.
- A total of 19 recommendations were made for technical solutions to UNHCR regional bureaus and country offices. GTH will in 2024 focus on ensuring testing and implementation of the recommendations based on availability of funding.
- The transfer of knowledge has been done through on-the-job training during missions, online and in person training and testing of different tools. I.e. The climate change training in Geneva.

## Examples from GTH field missions

### Integrated approach applied through a joint mission

**Review on affordable and sustainable solutions for cooking in a refugee camp** - In arid and semi-arid areas biomass is a limited resource. Solutions for more efficient use of firewood or alternatives to firewood are therefore requested. Various environmental activities were ongoing but only at pilot scale level. LPG was already available in the camp, but use was limited due to high costs of buying a full gas cylinder. The GTH proposed solution was sale of smaller LPG portions through use of LPG handpumps which partially refills the gas cylinder. This solution is affordable and can contribute to both environmental sustainability and climate change. Even though LPG comes from fossil fuels the use is assessed to have less impact in the specific context compared to the impact of deforestation. GTH has assisted preparing a proposal for funding which is awaiting decision on approval.



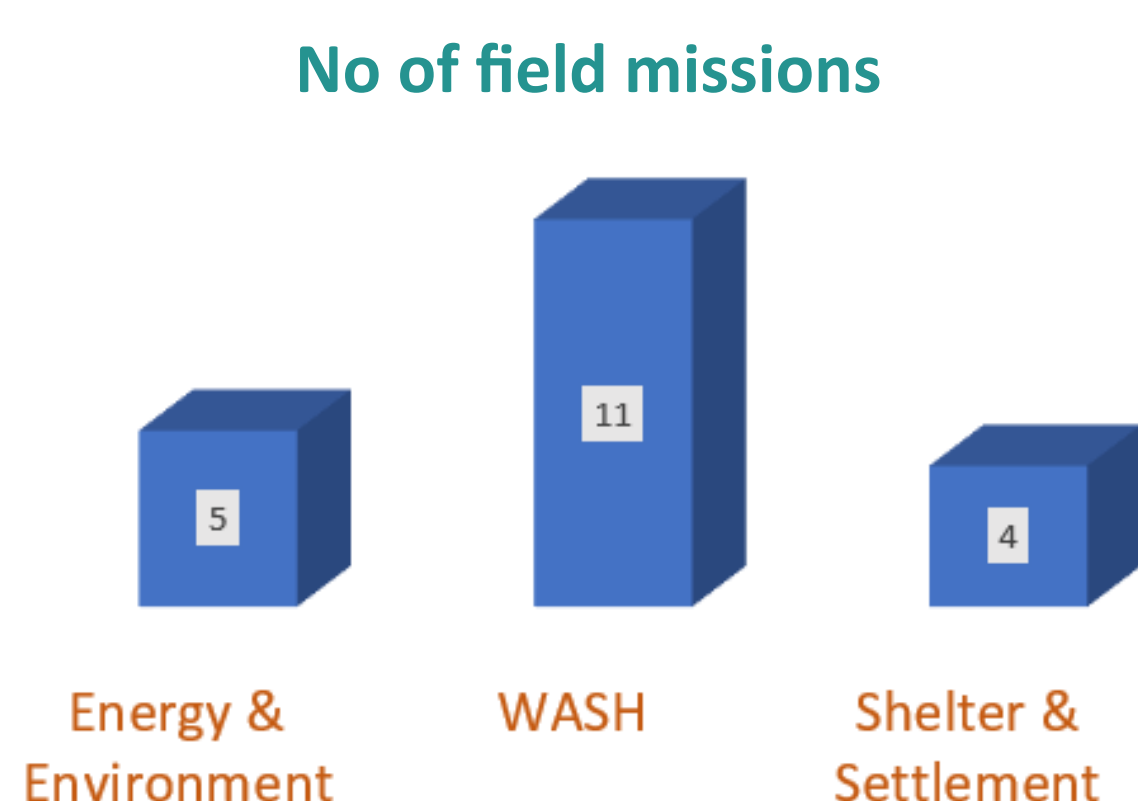
### Technical propositions and mobilization of funding

<b>Objective</b>	Improving the manure management from a large-scale, refugee-operated pig farm: Prevent environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>Technical propositions</b>	<p>All technical propositions from GTH included technical sketches, cost estimations and examples for equipment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Options for safe manure application in agriculture (for soil fertilization) have been outlined.</li> <li>Options for safe manure collection, storage and handling have been outlined.</li> <li>The importance of defining the biogas usage has been highlighted, and first exchanges with the pig farmer association and livelihood projects have been initiated and facilitated.</li> </ol>
<b>Mobilization of funding and implementation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Based on the technical propositions of the field mission, an application has been submitted to a UNHCR-internal fund for innovation and climate action.</li> <li>● The proposal has been awarded with USD 100'000.</li> <li>● Project implementation has started, with follow-up support from GTH.</li> </ul>

## UNHCR requests & GTH missions

Over the two years, GTH has provided field support to refugee camps through 20 different missions, of which a couple included more than one expert or experts' visits in a staggered manner.

The requests from the UNHCR field offices have been increasing over the two years in all the technical focus areas. Supply of expertise has not always matched with the area where technical support has been requested. From 2021 - 2023, GTH has received 173 requests. Of these requests 89 were in the WASH area and the energy & environment and shelter & settlement area received 42 requests each.



**Distribution of 173 requests received during 391 days**

