



Safeguarding Fundamental Rights

Children play in front of their damaged family home in the old city of Aleppo, the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria).

Conflict, violence and persecution continue to drive unprecedented levels of forced displacement with more than 67 million people affected worldwide—in particular in the regions and countries that neighbour today's conflicts, where the majority of the world's refugees live.

The changing scale and scope of displacement has generated a spike in global attention, including political and public support. There are persistent challenges in connection with more complex, irregular movements of refugees

and migrants than ever before, including that of addressing smuggling and human trafficking. In recent years, a growing focus on border control and damaging narratives around people on the move have had a direct impact on refugees. While many host countries have generally maintained open borders, showing remarkable commitment and generosity towards those in need of international protection, their capacities are overstretched. In some instances, protection space has shrunk, and serious gaps have emerged in asylum and reception systems.

The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants (see *Glossary*) acknowledged the need to address more effectively the underlying root causes and drivers of displacement, as well as to advance on solutions as early as possible to avoid creating situations of protracted displacement. These needs include strengthening the rule of law, promoting good governance systems based on inclusivity, ensuring access to justice, supporting legislative frameworks that are applied fairly, building effective and accountable institutions, and undertaking reform in the security sector. None of this is easy, it requires far-sighted leadership, collaboration and comprehensive approaches, by all involved, to overcome the challenges and seize the opportunities associated with human mobility today.

UNHCR seeks to deepen its partnerships with States, other international organizations, financial institutions, the private sector and

civil society. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Office's consultative work to develop and implement the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF, see *Glossary*), and in laying the foundation for a global compact on refugees in 2018 (see chapter on *Exploring new approaches and expanding partnerships* and *Glossary*).

This chapter outlines the challenges and opportunities facing UNHCR today as it seeks to ensure and provide international protection for refugees and other people of concern, as well as respect the human rights of all people on the move. It also provides an overview of the Office's work to prevent and resolve statelessness; its efforts to strengthen and improve its response to the growing protection and assistance needs of IDPs, and to facilitate solutions to their plight; and its engagement in climate change and disaster displacement.

ENSURING ACCESS TO PROTECTION



A South Sudanese mother and child wait to be registered at Imvepi settlement in northern Uganda.

UNHCR works to promote greater respect for the rights of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, stateless persons and others of concern. Despite the introduction of restrictive asylum policies and practices in some regions—such as border closures, detention, and legal and procedural impediments—there has been a movement towards greater collaboration and solidarity with asylum countries. The New York Declaration provides an opening for this constructive engagement and calls upon UNHCR to apply the CRRF in different situations and to develop a global compact on refugees in 2018. This process affords a critical opportunity for the Office to support States in identifying and agreeing on concrete measures to protect displaced people. This includes building upon good practices implemented through the CRRF together with key host countries.

as restricting access to fair procedures and protection. UNHCR will continue advocating for the rights and protection of refugees by supporting the development of refugee law. This will include supporting global, regional and national treaty and legislative processes as well as engaging with the judiciary and judicial proceedings. The Office will conduct and issue relevant legal and policy research and guidance, supporting the UNHCR's Executive Committee to develop its "conclusions on international protection", and providing legal advice to UNHCR country operations and partners to enhance the effectiveness of their advocacy efforts.

International human rights standards can complement and strengthen international, regional and national refugee law, in addition to other applicable legal

“The scope and severity of global refugee crises which led to the adoption of the Declaration a year ago have not abated one bit. Refugees are fleeing for their lives in even larger numbers, to some of the poorest countries in the world. We have a collective and moral responsibility to strengthen our response to refugee movements, while redoubling efforts to address their causes.”

—Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Many challenges to the proper interpretation and application of international refugee law are related to issues of eligibility for refugee status, access to fair and efficient procedures, and rights that should ordinarily be extended to refugees. These rights include not penalizing refugees for their irregular entry, upholding refugees' right to work and their right to family life, as well

frameworks. By engaging with human rights mechanisms, States and other partners, UNHCR works to ensure legal instruments reflect and contribute to the progressive development of international refugee law and improve the protection of people under its mandate. It also promotes their inclusion in national systems.

Building and strengthening fair and efficient asylum procedures

With the number of asylum-seekers increasing globally, as well as concerns about how to effectively manage population movements made up of both refugees and migrants, UNHCR continues to engage with States on building and strengthening national systems for refugee status determination (RSD). UNHCR's refugee status determination is part of a broader set of protection and solutions strategies, where it remains a tool to identify international protection needs and facilitate solutions. It applies in contexts where States assume their responsibilities to undertake refugee status determination, or are transitioning away from UNHCR procedures; in countries where UNHCR conducts it under its mandate; as well as through projects to improve State refugee status determination decision-making and to develop quality assurance systems.

Recognizing that only a State can ensure comprehensive refugee protection and durable solutions, UNHCR will continue to promote more sustainable asylum procedures, focus on quality and efficiency, help with the revision of legal frameworks, or work with civil society and development counterparts. To gain efficiency, the Office will support States in streamlining case processing procedures for relevant people of concern, and providing information on countries of origin to assist decision-makers.

Where there is an ongoing transition of responsibility or refugee status determination from UNHCR to the State, the Office will engage in measured, sustainable capacity development, looking at the entirety of the asylum system. UNHCR's experience has shown that gradual transitions, embedded in the rule of law and supported by strong State institutions, are the most successful and sustainable. The Office has recently welcomed several States' expressions of intent to increase their engagement and responsibility for refugee status determination and related refugee protection functions, and will work with them in 2018 to ensure it becomes a reality.

UNHCR will review its operational engagement where the Office continues undertaking refugee status determination under its mandate, to ensure it is conducted only when necessary and effective, and through appropriate channelling. That includes group-based status determination or other protection-sensitive stay arrangements not requiring refugee status determination. When refugee status determination is considered the most appropriate protection response, UNHCR will continue using differentiated case processing modalities, such as accelerated or simplified procedures, to ensure its resources are used in the most efficient way possible, while still maintaining high levels of quality and integrity.

ANTICIPATED AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN 2018

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN 2018

FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPED OR STRENGTHENED. UNHCR WILL:

Advocate the adoption or revision of laws consistent with international standards

Provide technical advice to States to enact new or revised legislation and policy guidance that incorporates protection standards.

Undertake court interventions to advance the development and consistent interpretation and/or application of relevant legal standards.

Support advocacy by country operations with 40 country-specific submissions to the Universal Periodic Review and 120 treaty monitoring bodies respectively.

Develop, publish and disseminate guidance on international refugee protection

In cooperation with partners, develop legal guidance on related issues to international protection, such as the non-penalization of refugees for irregular entry; the right to work; the right to family life and fair and efficient RSD procedures.

FAIR PROTECTION PROCESS AND DOCUMENTATION

ACCESS TO, AND QUALITY OF, STATUS DETERMINATION PROCEDURES IMPROVED. UNHCR WILL:

Further develop and oversee the implementation of policies, guidance, standards and procedures relating to RSD

Build capacity and provide legal, procedural and strategic case processing advice—including through quality assurance initiatives—to States with national RSD systems, or those taking on more responsibility for it.

Undertake RSD, under UNHCR's mandate, when it is a necessary and effective element of its protection response.

Provide guidance to governments, staff and other stakeholders in asylum/RSD procedures on applying the exclusion criteria of the 1951 Convention, to ensure the integrity of asylum procedures. Develop guidance on security-related provisions of the 1951 Convention to address concerns while maintaining vital standards of refugee protection, in line with international law.

Undertake protection support missions to critical RSD operations.

Strengthen the capacity of UNHCR RSD staff and operations, including through deployments

Develop and deliver RSD-specific training, including up to 3 sessions of the RSD learning programme, benefitting up to 90 UNHCR staff members.

Introduce and roll out an online induction training module for new RSD eligibility officers.

Support UNHCR staff in individual case processing with specialized interview training. Roll out e-learning materials and sessions of the newly-developed learning programme on interview techniques.

Deploy RSD experts to support mandate RSD country operations.

Provide access to decision-makers on asylum claims with up-to-date country of origin information and country-specific policy guidance

Publish eligibility guidelines and other country-specific guidance on major countries of origin.

Specific country of origin reports will be commissioned from independent organizations with expertise in such research.

Maintain up-to-date country of origin information on the Refworld website for governments, UNHCR staff and other stakeholders working on asylum/RSD procedures.

Alternatives to detention



Central American children play football outside the compound where they live in Tenosique, Tabasco, Mexico. Entire families from the North of Central America (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala) are now fleeing their homes in search of safety in neighbouring countries. The region's rampant violence is prompting a neglected refugee crisis.

As part of UNHCR's "Global strategy - beyond detention 2014-2019", participating countries are encouraged to develop stronger data collection and monitoring systems, and to systematically report on all instances of immigration detention.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants, including children, are detained for immigration-related reasons, representing a growing human rights challenge. Detention has devastating consequences for people, their families and communities, and represents huge costs for States.

In line with its "Global strategy - beyond detention 2014-2019" UNHCR will continue working towards three goals:

- Ensuring alternatives to detention are available to asylum-seekers.
- Ending child detention.
- Promoting adequate conditions to ensure detention is used only as a last resort and that it meets international standards.

UNHCR works in partnership with national authorities to address these goals through for example, key advocacy interventions, the development of alternatives to detention, and the strengthening of national monitoring abilities.

In partnership with States and civil society organizations, UNHCR's strategy has been rolled out in 20 focus countries—Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechia, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Since 2014, its implementation has resulted in a 14 per cent decrease in the number of children

detained in the focus countries, as well as the introduction of alternatives to detention in 10 countries in coordination with civil society and national counterparts.

In collaboration with the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, UNHCR has also launched a project to protect and prevent the detention of children. In 2018, the project will be

expanded, with learning tools being developed for States and other partners on the fundamentals of immigration detention and child protection. The Office also seeks to build States' capacities to create new care arrangements and community-based alternatives to detention for children and their families, in selected country operations in the Balkans, the Middle East, North America and South-East Asia.

ANTICIPATED AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN 2018

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN 2018

FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPED OR STRENGTHENED. UNHCR WILL:

Advocate relevant legal and policy frameworks related to detention and alternatives to detention, in accordance with international standards

- Provide technical advice to the 20 focus countries to encourage the enactment of new or revised legislation with improved detention safeguards, including alternatives to detention.
- Implement and evaluate progress of national plans of action developed in the 20 focus countries.
- Implement 3 learning programmes on detention monitoring and alternatives to detention.
- Conduct 3 global workshops associated to these learning programmes in Asia and the Pacific and the Americas regions.
- Organize a global roundtable on the reception of children and alternatives to detention for them.

Work towards ending the detention of children

- Provide technical advice to governments and other stakeholders on child-appropriate alternatives to detention.
- Develop child protection tools in the context of detention, such as best interests' assessments and referral mechanisms, to prevent detaining asylum-seeking children.
- Pilot project(s) and study visits on reception and alternatives to detention for children and families with national authorities and partners.

Addressing and responding to mixed movements



Afghan refugees and Pakistani migrants huddle around a fire behind an abandoned warehouse. They are stuck in transit in Belgrade, Serbia.

Although most refugees worldwide sought protection in neighbouring countries, many moved further afield, often alongside migrants. The two groups face many of the same risks in what are extremely dangerous journeys that expose them to a wide range of abuse, including risk of prolonged separation from family members, being kidnapped, detained in poor conditions and for long periods, physical and sexual abuse, torture, and being extorted by smugglers and criminal gangs.

Mixed movements that include significant numbers of people of concern to UNHCR are now occurring in several regions, across the central Mediterranean into southern Europe from northern Africa—a situation serious enough to prompt the

nomination of a UNHCR Special Envoy in 2017—as well as from the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa towards southern Africa, across the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to Yemen, and from Latin and Central America towards North America.

Recognizing the complexity and realities of mixed movements today, UNHCR will support, wherever possible, measures that reduce the need for people to undertake these dangerous journeys, by increasing protection and opportunities where people are from. Where movements are occurring, the Office will help offer safe and regular opportunities for migration, providing more pathways for safety and protection for asylum-seekers and refugees.

The New York Declaration envisages that migration experts, including UNHCR, contribute to the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, and that they elaborate on non-binding principles on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations. The Office will develop and reinforce existing bilateral partnerships to promote the wider application of all relevant international and regional instruments and norms relating to mixed movement,

and to encourage the adoption of more coherent, comprehensive and better coordinated approaches to the issue of international migration. Partnerships of particular importance include IOM, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the Global Migration Group—an inter-agency group assembling heads of UN agencies, including IOM, as well as the World Bank.



Solomon, a fourteen-year-old Eritrean refugee stands outside a refugee shelter in Milan, Italy, where he has been living alone, hoping to reach his aunt in Holland.

A child's journey to reach loved ones in Europe

Solomon was just 10 years old when he was forced to flee his home in Eritrea. He was exploited by smugglers as he travelled through Sudan and Libya in the hope of reaching Europe. “We got sold in the Sahara then again in Libya where we stayed for seven months,” he says. “It was very difficult, very difficult. You give up on your life. They made us pay a lot of money. One buys you then sells you, then another one sells you.” Now 14, he has been living alone in a transit reception facility for months and he is still waiting to be reunited with his beloved aunt in Holland.

Solomon is one of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children reaching Italy by sea. Many have experienced a wide range of abuse on the way, including sexual and gender-based violence, and been forced to deal with psychological and physical issues alone. Despite the high number of eligible applicants, like Solomon, only a few isolated cases of relocation of minors from Italy have succeeded. UNHCR has called on countries to simplify the process of reuniting refugees with families and speed up the relocation of unaccompanied children.

ANTICIPATED AREAS
OF INTERVENTION IN 2018KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
TARGETED IN 2018

FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPED OR STRENGTHENED. UNHCR WILL:

Advocate migration management policies, practices and debates to consider the particular needs and rights of people in need of international protection

Engage with inter-agency migration forums such as the Global Migration Group, the Global Forum on Migration and Development and other organizations dealing with mixed movements.

Engage in the development of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration until its adoption and, thereafter, for its implementation.

Develop the capacity of States and partners to meet asylum and mixed flow management challenges in a protection-sensitive manner

Provide guidance, technical advice and deliver training on law and policy issues related to mixed movements, including through engagement in inter-agency forums, such as the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

Develop guidance and contribute to initiatives directed at remedying existing protection gaps, including new forms of displacement not addressed by the international refugee protection regime.

Prepare and disseminate legal and policy guidance on topical issues related to mixed movement, such as trafficking, rescue and interception at sea.

PROVIDING PROTECTION RESPONSES



A UNHCR staff member speaks to Charity Gala, a South Sudanese refugee with special needs, at her home in the Bidibidi refugee settlement in Yumbe District, northern Uganda.

Identifying and meeting
the needs of people at
heightened risk

Displacement can often exacerbate protection risks and create barriers to accessing rights—including the right to participate in decisions affecting one's life. Vulnerable women and children at risk, unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV, see *Glossary*), people with disabilities, people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, minority groups and other diverse groups can be exposed to greater risk. Protection responses must take into account the specific needs as well as skills and capacities of asylum-seekers, refugees, IDPs and stateless persons, among others. This includes prioritizing the protection of people most at risk and promoting gender equality in different regions worldwide.

UNHCR applies a community-based protection approach (see *Glossary*) to achieve protection outcomes for communities, including people with specific needs and is accountable to the people it serves. This approach facilitates the empowerment of communities to exercise their rights with dignity and safety. It is therefore a means of engaging crisis-affected communities in identifying the protection risks of greatest concern to the community, exploring the causes and consequences, jointly identifying prevention and response strategies and building on the existing resources, skills and capacities of all members in the community.

Implementing this approach requires building the capacity of partners to establish relationships with displaced and host communities, and working together with them to develop effective responses with and for the communities. With a view to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the commitment to “leave no one behind”, UNHCR will continue to place particular attention on people with specific needs. The Office will further strengthen its capacity to embed an age, gender and diversity approach across all operational areas so that UNHCR programmes are inclusive of all people within communities. The Office will also expand the reach and roll out the newly-developed capacity building programme on community-based protection and on accountability to affected populations.

Enhancing protection of people at heightened risk

Approximately half of the world's refugees are **children**, many of whom were forced to flee their homes without their parents or were separated during flight, and who face heightened protection risks.

In line with the New York Declaration and the CRRF, UNHCR's child protection programming approaches are being redirected from a narrower focus on child protection "issues" to one of strengthening child protection systems. This approach may help to develop partnerships with development actors as well as promote the inclusion of children of concern to UNHCR into national services and programmes, and also strengthen community-based child protection mechanisms.

In 2018, UNHCR will continue investing in initiatives and programmes with and for young people, and through the Youth Initiative Fund will support 20 projects initiated and led by youth. It will ensure children and young people are part of the consultations on the global compact on refugees and the CRRF, and enhance its inter-agency efforts to place child protection at the heart of both processes by contributing to the "Initiative for child rights in the global compacts". Together with its partners, UNHCR is seeking solutions for children on the move—including facilitating family reunification, scholarships and other pathways for solutions—and aims to ensure they can access national protection systems. UNHCR's engagement with the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and its effort to build on the SDGs as part of the global compact on refugees, will focus on creating opportunities to better include children on the move in national child protection and education systems. The Office will strengthen its individual child protection case management by rolling out revised guidelines for determining the best interests of the child as well as a new training package for caseworkers.

Forcibly displaced **lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people** constitute another group at heightened risk, facing daily violence, discrimination and persecution in many parts of the world, those protection concerns are exacerbated as a result of displacement and lack of supportive networks. UNHCR recently developed a learning programme which has enhanced staff ability to expand the protection space for LGBTI people, for example by promoting the use of respectful terminology and effective methods of communication, creating safe spaces where people can express their concerns confidentially, without fear of judgment or reprisal and identifying and responding to the particular risks faced by this group. A training of trainers was developed in 2017 in order to increase UNHCR's training capacity on this topic. In 2018, UNHCR will develop an online version of this training to broaden its reach.

People with disabilities also face specific protection risks and barriers to accessing protection and assistance. Their specific needs cannot be addressed in isolation. Instead, the inclusion of people with disabilities must be systematic and considered central to all programming, as well as a responsibility of all staff and partners. One of UNHCR's key priorities in this regard is to strengthen partnerships with organizations of people with disabilities at a country, regional and global level. During 2017, UNHCR finalized an e-learning on working with people with disabilities in situations of forced displacement; and UNHCR continues to engage actively in the IASC Task Team on inclusion of people with disabilities in humanitarian action. During 2018, UNHCR will continue working towards improving the identification of people with disabilities through existing data collection processes.

Promoting gender equality



Humanitarian crises tend to impact women, men, girls and boys in different ways, often changing social and cultural structures, and redefining the roles taken on by women and men. Inequality begins long before crises occur, contributing to the widespread disadvantages that limit access to, and control of, resources—both social and economic. This leads to cycles of poverty and marginalization.

UNHCR has been integrating gender equality in its work to create positive protection and solutions outcomes for women, girls, boys and men. It considers their specific needs, challenges and capacities. Notably, the Office has mainstreamed the equal and active participation of women and girls in decision-making processes, ensuring individual registration for females, and preventing and responding to SGBV (see *Responding with lifesaving support* chapter). Strengthening and exploring new

opportunities to address gender inequalities that people of concern experience on a regular basis is still necessary, however.

In 2018, UNHCR will help its country operations to strengthen gender equality-related outcomes for people of concern. Priorities include supporting staff in country operations with expertise on gender equality to strengthen the implementation of UNHCR's "Commitments to Refugee Women" and improve the collection, analysis and use of sex- and age-disaggregated data in a manner that is focused on impact and outcomes for women and girls of concern. It will also increase its expertise in promoting self-reliance and empowerment for women and girls, in collaboration with key partners, including States. UNHCR will also finalize a gender equality e-learning course, addressing how to incorporate gender equality into daily work; and strengthen gender focal points.

Efforts will be made, in particular, to ensure a standardization of terms of reference for gender focal points, along with inclusion of these roles and responsibilities within existing job descriptions. Gender equality learning programmes will be offered to different regions to develop internal capacity on gender equality integration.

In response to the needs identified by the 2016 “UNHCR review of gender equality in operations”, and those expressed by

colleagues working on gender equality, the Office will continue developing a compendium of relevant existing gender equality tools, and finalize additional ones. These will include an introduction package for UNHCR gender focal points; a series of practical checklists on how to integrate gender equality in the UNHCR management cycle; and a practical guide to increase the equal and active participation of women of concern in leadership and management structures.

ANTICIPATED AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN 2018

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN 2018

PROTECTION OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

ENHANCE COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND EMPOWERMENT. UNHCR WILL:

Strengthen country operation capacity to design, implement, monitor and evaluate protection and assistance programmes, in close collaboration with people of concern

Expand newly developed community-based protection learning programme and on-line versions of community-based protection learning programme and accountability to affected population to reach out to more UNHCR and partner staff.

Collect and share good practice examples and learning among field operations for mutual learning.

Identify and strengthen partnership opportunities and linkages between community-based protection and other functional areas.

Strengthen UNHCR’s participatory approach and promote methods for meeting commitments to accountability to affected populations

Provide technical support to country operations to improve the components of accountability: participation and inclusion; communication and transparency; feedback and response; and organizational learning and adaptation.

Develop an online accountability to affected population e-learning.

PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE. UNHCR WILL:

Strengthen child protection programming in emergencies

Deploy 2 child protection officers at the onset of emergencies to establish quality child protection programmes.

Support 4 emergency situations through child protection deployments, the development of operational tools, and regional—or country-specific strategies.

Strengthen capacity for the protection of children

Provide operational and technical support to at least 15 country operations through the deployment of child protection experts.

Develop and implement child protection strategies in 20 country operations based on UNHCR’s child protection framework.

Organize 4 regional workshops for UNHCR and partner staff on UNHCR’s revised best interest determination guidelines and new child protection caseworker training package.

Deliver inter-agency training on child protection in refugee situations for 25 child protection and education professionals.

25 UNHCR staff members will complete UNHCR’s child protection learning programme.

Reinforce programming for adolescents and youths

Support 20 youth-initiated and led protection projects through a Youth Initiative Fund.

Support 4 country operations to develop strategic action plans for adolescents and youth.

Strategically engage UNHCR’s Global Youth Advisory Council in policy and advocacy forums.

Advocate and strengthen partnerships around children on the move

Support country operations to engage with the “Global partnership to end violence against children”, to ensure national action plans include refugee, IDP and stateless children.

Include strong provisions for the protection of children, adolescents and youth in the global compact on refugees and strengthen national child protection systems will be a key element of CRRF implementation.

Incorporate specific reference to refugee children on inter-agency tools and policies.

Strengthen active participation of people with specific needs—LGBTI people, people with disabilities, older people, ethnic, religious, linguistic minorities among other groups—in programming

Enhance participation of people with specific needs in the processes of CRRF roll-out and development of the global compact on refugees.

Build capacity of UNHCR staff and partners to ensure equal access to protection and assistance and address protection risks facing people with specific needs

Roll out globally an online learning programmes on the community-based protection approach, the inclusion of people with disabilities and protection of LGBTI people.

Disseminate good practice examples and learning to country operations.

STRENGTHEN GENDER EQUALITY KNOWLEDGE, SUPPORT AND CAPACITY. UNHCR WILL:

Develop and implement gender equality policy, guidance and good practices

Strengthen implementation of the 2001 UNHCR “Commitments to Refugee Women”.

Develop and distribute to UNHCR staff and partners tools on gender equality.

Disseminate good practice reports on gender equality programming in the Middle East and North Africa and the Asia and the Pacific regions.

Provide gender equality capacity building to UNHCR staff

Strengthen the gender focal point system, including by delivering the finalized gender equality learning programme to UNHCR staff and partners.

Launch a 2-hour gender equality e-learning course with a campaign to get UNHCR staff and partners to take the course.

Provide gender equality technical expertise

Support UNHCR operations, in particular gender focal points, with ongoing mentoring and technical expertise, including through targeted missions.

Identity management, registration and profiling



UNHCR staff scan the irises of Syrian children in Cairo, Egypt, as part of a registration process. More than four million refugees and asylum-seekers have been biometrically registered by 42 operations, using either UNHCR's biometric identity management system (BIMS) or IrisGuard in the Syria situation.

UNHCR is making biometrics a “routine and regular” part of registration and expanding biometrics in refugee registration to at least 75 country operations by 2020.

Identity management

The establishment, preservation and management of digital identities is central to UNHCR's mandate and underpins all aspects of protection, assistance and solutions work. The empowerment of people of concern is one of UNHCR's core identity management objectives. The Office is strengthening its identity management—including through its collaboration with governments and partners on data sharing, interoperability and building national capacities for identity management, consistent with data privacy and data protection principles. The Office aims to design and develop scaled solutions, including to enable refugees to access and manage their own digital identity.

UNHCR will use new and emerging technologies to develop digital identity capacity for refugees and stateless persons, who may otherwise be unable to prove their identity. Such systems will empower people by providing them with access to, and agency over, their identity data, and by increasing the opportunities for self-reliance and economic participation available to them.

Registration

Registration of refugees and asylum-seekers is primarily the responsibility of the host State. In 2018, UNHCR will deepen its partnership with the World Bank and other key agencies to strengthen and build the civil registration and national identification capacity of States. The priority is to ensure

the inclusion of displaced, marginalized and vulnerable people—in particular refugees and stateless persons. In addition to developing operational guidance for field operations to support States taking on this responsibility, UNHCR will also ensure its activities are well integrated into efforts to achieve SDG 16.9, providing a legal identity for all by 2030.

UNHCR will continue supporting country operations, including in emergency situations, with ongoing registration and verification exercises. It will continue developing a roster of skilled staff who can be deployed worldwide, with other priorities including speeding up the deployment rate of tools, such as biometrics. The Office will also centrally manage a stockpile of registration equipment and supplies and establish a global user support unit to offer real-time assistance with UNHCR registration and case management tools. Biometric registration will be at the heart of a comprehensive package of support, enabling the Office to monitor the needs of those fleeing, the aid they are receiving, and the impact it is having.

UNHCR's policy and operational guidance is being updated to reflect operational and technological developments, and changing inter-agency collaboration. A new policy will harmonize and unify all identity management activities. Complementing the policy, and supporting its implementation, an updated handbook for registration will be phased in.

The deployment of *proGres* v4 and the biometric identity management system will help ensure the right assistance is received by the right beneficiaries, and will improve data quality and analysis globally. UNHCR will maximize its programmes' reach and build efficiencies through appropriate inter-agency data sharing and interoperability. Among other examples, this will facilitate the targeted distribution of assistance by WFP to people of concern to UNHCR. Similarly, secure data sharing between UNHCR and governments, guided by the 2015 Policy on the Protection of Personal data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR, will increase efficiency and protect the integrity of registration systems in host

In tandem, the Office is accelerating implementation of the updated case management tool, *proGres* v4, which will have been deployed to around 45 operations by the end of 2017, and to CRRF roll-out countries to the extent possible in 2018.



In Bangladesh, a UNHCR volunteer meets Rohingya refugee families in their shelters and enters their family data into a mobile phone application.

UNHCR teams gather baseline data to help thousands of Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, UNHCR has been working with the Government in the first stage of a new “family counting” exercise to collect data on the estimated 536,000 newly-arrived refugees and their needs. UNHCR volunteers meet families in their shelters and enter their family data into a mobile phone application. Families are asked a set of questions, including composition, sex, ages, date of arrival, and area of origin in Myanmar. This data, including a photo of the family, is uploaded into the application, together with a basic indicator of the family's location based on zones and GPS coordinates of the family's residence. This data can be collected via a smartphone even without Internet connectivity.

The exercise will enable the Government, UNHCR, and other agencies to have a better understanding of the size and breakdown of the population and where they are located. It is key for getting the right aid to the right people. It will also help flag refugees with special protection needs, such as single mothers, people with disabilities, or children and elderly refugees who are on their own.

States, as well as processing carried out by resettlement States.

Profiling the needs of people of concern

Of particular importance is social and economic information about people of concern to increase understanding of their needs and ensure responses to those needs are relevant and comprehensive. However, the collection and dissemination of data on refugees and IDPs is challenging, given their mobility, and the lack of agreed international standards. Some countries also lack the capacity to collect and disseminate high-quality data, requiring assistance and guidance to do so.

UNHCR is aware that it needs to adapt its existing tools and knowledge, and adopt new data collection methods. In 2018, the Office will not only continue working with traditional partners, such as the Joint IDP Profiling Service, but also seek new opportunities with other aid agency partners, the private sector and academic institutions to build a more complete profile of the population it seeks to support, with a view to bridging the gap between humanitarian and development responses. In addition, the Office will also use data and social media analysis to improve the understanding of the profile of affected populations, providing the humanitarian and development communities with information to support advocacy, activities and solutions.

ANTICIPATED AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN 2018

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN 2018

FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

QUALITY OF REGISTRATION AND PROFILING IMPROVED OR MAINTAINED. UNHCR WILL:

Build capacity and provide support on registration activities

Deliver at least 1 emergency and 1 strategic registration training, and maintain an active global roster for the deployment of skilled staff to support registration, biometrics and identity management needs in country operations.

Issue a policy on registration and identity management, and commence the phased publication of an updated handbook for registration.

Improve identity management

Expand the deployment and support of biometrics and case management tools to at least 15 new operations and launch a user support unit.

Pilot an improved data-sharing system between UNHCR and resettlement States, facilitating the secure transmission of biometrics and case data.

Develop a proof of concept digital identity system to provide people of concern with access to their data, access to services, and to facilitate legal identity.

Better data collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination for populations of concern, and active UNHCR engagement in data revolution

Develop new tools and capacity for data collection, analysis, storage and sharing.

Develop information and data management tools and practices for population data in IDP situations, for protection monitoring and for cash.

Promote greater engagement of national statistical offices in statistics and data for people of concern to UNHCR

Approve international standards for refugee statistics and support national statistical offices in their implementation, including collection of data relevant to reporting on SDG indicators.

Improve evidence in support of enhanced decision-making

Implement a standard approach for household surveys to ensure quality and comparability of data to support targeting and assessments.

PREVENTING AND ENDING STATELESSNESS



Mahamadhoussen Chamimakatomme, 58 years old, stateless, Karana Community, Madagascar.

Statelessness is a global problem with devastating impacts on millions of people. Living without a nationality can mean a life without education, health care, legal employment, and the ability to move freely. Statelessness can, however, be resolved where there is sufficient political will and support for States to do so. Since the launch of the #IBelong Campaign to end statelessness by 2024, significant progress has been made in some parts of the world. Many States have implemented or developed the types of reforms and national action plans needed to address statelessness, while others have granted or confirmed nationality to hundreds or thousands of stateless persons in 2016 alone.

Notwithstanding the significant achievements of the past three years against the 10 actions in UNHCR's "Global action plan to end statelessness 2014-2024", more needs to be done to meet the ambitious targets of its 2020 milestones and to help States eradicate statelessness. In 2018, the #IBelong Campaign reaches midpoint but, despite a steady increase in accessions, the number of States parties to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions (see Annexes) remains short of the 2020 goals of 120 and 103 accessions respectively. UNHCR will convene a high-level event in 2019 to review progress achieved and encourage new pledges to prevent and reduce statelessness.

Since the launch in November 2014 of the #IBelong Campaign to End Statelessness by 2024 in November 2014, the number of States party to the 1954 Convention has increased from 83 to 89 and to the 1961 Convention from 61 to 70.

In 2015 and 2016, approximately 110,000 people who were formerly stateless or of undetermined nationality, acquired nationality or had their nationality confirmed.

Achieving solutions

Significant progress, such as legal reform and strengthened administrative capacity, has been made by many States around the world to resolve statelessness, including in the context of UNHCR's Campaign. Efforts have also led to the recognition of ethnic minorities as nationals and cooperation between States regarding nationality determination. Tangible results have been achieved in implementing activities to reduce statelessness, with relatively limited financial and human resources. The creation of new positions for regional statelessness officers in recent years has greatly strengthened UNHCR's dedicated capacity to provide guidance to States and partners seeking practical solutions to prevent and eradicate statelessness in different settings.

However, additional support will be needed to meet the objectives of the #IBelong Campaign and the "Global action plan to end statelessness 2014-2024". Moreover, as stated in the New York Declaration, statelessness can be a root cause of displacement that can, in turn, lead to further statelessness. As such, strengthened support to prevent statelessness falls within the scope of the global compact on refugees and requires States' attention when addressing forced displacement.

Despite progress, reform is yet to occur in a number of countries hosting major stateless populations. To achieve results in these situations, a continuous process involving technical assistance and advocacy is required along with reinvested support by UNHCR.

For instance, while there was some progress to remove gender discrimination from nationality laws in 2017, 25 States still do not allow mothers to confer nationality to their children on an equal basis with fathers. The Office will continue to advocate that change and offer States technical advice to encourage them to do so.

Seizing opportunities

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with its overarching aim "to leave no one behind", clearly applies to those who experience the many negative consequences of not being recognized as citizens of any country. Planning and implementation will consider the needs of stateless populations, and specific SDGs and targets will help prevent and reduce statelessness itself. In this sense, UNHCR is partnering with the World Bank's Identification for Development initiative, or ID4D, to draw attention to the importance of SDG 16.9, which calls on States to provide a legal identity, including birth registration, for all. The Office will continue its advocacy to ensure that civil registration and the collection and analysis of data on stateless persons are prioritized.

To commemorate the third anniversary of the Campaign, UNHCR will launch a thematic report on stateless minorities, highlighting the importance of equal nationality rights. In 2018, it will aim to strengthen the access of all minority groups to nationality by offering enhanced technical assistance to States, continuing its advocacy efforts, and implementing the joint strategies developed by the UNHCR-UNICEF "coalition on every child's right to a nationality".

Fostering partnerships to end statelessness

For each of the four areas of UNHCR's work on statelessness—identification, prevention, reduction and protection—the Office seeks to strengthen partnerships with other UN agencies, international and regional organizations, NGOs civil society groups, national human rights institutions, academics and legal associations, as well as financial institutions.

All of these partners can, in different ways, help leverage awareness and accelerate progress towards ending statelessness. UNHCR will also continue working with United Nations Member States and agencies as well as civil society to link statelessness advocacy efforts to relevant initiatives. The work of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the United Nations treaty bodies also provides important opportunities to advocate the prevention and resolution of statelessness, including in the context of the recommendations made to States during their Universal Periodic Review.

UNHCR has been strengthening cooperation with intergovernmental organizations, regionally and subregionally, and there are numerous opportunities for collaboration. In Africa, the "Abidjan declaration on the eradication of statelessness" now has an eight-year plan of action—the "Banjul plan of action on the eradication of statelessness". In 2015, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted a draft protocol

on the right to nationality, with input from UNHCR and other experts. This new instrument will be submitted for approval to African Union Member States in 2018. In addition, the 12 member States of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region also adopted a declaration to eradicate statelessness in 2017. In Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children has begun a three-year research and capacity-building project looking into the right to nationality, documentation and legal identity. In the Middle East, the recommendations from a meeting convened by the Arab League and UNHCR on "Belonging and legal identity", are expected to be formally adopted. Finally, in the Americas, 28 Latin American and Caribbean States adopted the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action in which they committed to eradicating statelessness by 2024.

ANTICIPATED AREAS OF INTERVENTION IN 2018

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS TARGETED IN 2018

FAVOURABLE PROTECTION ENVIRONMENT

LAW AND POLICY DEVELOPED OR STRENGTHENED. UNHCR WILL:

Advocate and provide technical advice to governments for reform of nationality laws, policies and procedures to close gaps that may lead to statelessness, to ensure that stateless persons can acquire a nationality	Encourage 12 States to take steps to improve their nationality laws, policies and procedures, to be more consistent with international standards on the prevention and reduction of statelessness.
Advocate and provide technical advice to governments for the introduction or improvement of statelessness determination procedures	Support 6 States to establish or improve statelessness determination procedures.
Advocate and provide technical advice to governments for the elimination of gender discrimination in nationality laws	Assist 6 States with the removal of gender discrimination from their nationality laws.

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS ACCEDED TO, RATIFIED OR STRENGTHENED. UNHCR WILL:

Promote accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Encourage States to accede to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions to increase the number of States party by 12 in total.
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FAIR PROTECTION PROCESSES AND DOCUMENTATION

IDENTIFICATION OF STATELESSNESS IMPROVED. UNHCR WILL:

Support identification/registration exercises and surveys to increase knowledge of the number of stateless persons, their situation and possible solutions	Improve quantitative and/or qualitative baseline data is available for 8 additional States.
Advocate and provide technical advice for improved statistics on stateless persons	Advocate to increase the number of countries for which UNHCR reports statistical data on stateless persons by 5.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

GREATERS REDUCTION OF STATELESSNESS IS ACHIEVED. UNHCR WILL:

Develop and implement strategies to address protracted situations of statelessness	Develop at least 5 multi-year solutions strategies to address protracted statelessness situations.
Assist stateless people, and those with undetermined nationality, to acquire or confirm their nationality	Support at least 100,000 stateless persons to acquire nationality or have it confirmed.
Provide training and technical advice to government officials on statelessness reduction measures, including the acquisition or confirmation of nationality by stateless persons and those with undetermined nationality.	Continue to deliver a dedicated course on statelessness at the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Provide technical advice on nationality laws to at least 25 countries to support legal reforms needed to prevent and reduce statelessness. Maintain the International Institute for Humanitarian Law course on statelessness. Partner with the University of Melbourne, Australia, on trainings and other practical initiatives aimed at reducing statelessness globally. Collaborate with civil society networks recently established in Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia and Southern Africa on statelessness.

ENGAGING IN SITUATIONS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT



Internally displaced children from Kasai Province play at the Orphanage of the Carmelites of St Joseph in Kananga, Lulua Province, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

UNHCR aims to engage in IDP situations in a predictable, coherent and sustainable manner and to ensure that protection is central to humanitarian action. As the global lead for three clusters—protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)—the Office is a major responder to internal displacement. It seeks to drive a holistic and integrated approach to the assistance and protection needs of conflict-affected IDPs and their host communities, but also communities unable to access their basic needs and rights and those in hard-to-reach, besieged areas and enclaves. UNHCR is also regularly called upon for analysis, advice, advocacy and support across a broad spectrum of protection issues that arise in humanitarian crises.

The year 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the “Guiding Principles on internal displacement”, which are widely recognized by States as providing an important framework for preventing, responding to and resolving internal displacement. The Guiding Principles recognize that IDPs, while not a separate legal category, have specific vulnerabilities and hence protection needs. With the number of IDPs surpassing 40 million today, this anniversary presents a critical opportunity for UNHCR to promote and support national, regional and global action towards significantly reducing displacement, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UNHCR engages in IDP situations in 29 countries with a total IDP population of 36.6 million.

Working across the displacement continuum

UNHCR's 2017-2021 Strategic Directions have committed the Office to working more systematically across the entire spectrum of displacement, including internal displacement. To make good on that commitment, in September 2017 UNHCR launched an operational review of its engagement in situations of internal displacement. This review made wide-ranging recommendations covering preparedness and emergency response through to disengagement and solutions. It called for the Office to ensure protection is central to any inter-agency response to internal displacement and, within that framework, demonstrate greater automaticity in its response, making UNHCR an even more reliable and predictable humanitarian actor.

The High Commissioner has appointed a Special Advisor on Internal Displacement to take forward the recommendations and, in 2018 and 2019, UNHCR will pursue the four priority actions that it deemed essential to achieving this transformation. These will be preparing and engaging early on in responses to IDP operations; changing the mindset of UNHCR staff in IDP operations, to ensure the Office responds immediately to protection risks as they arise, while simultaneously enabling others to intervene when appropriate; creating the evidence base needed for analysis and enhancing its responses; and removing internal barriers to achieving protection outcomes for all populations of concern.

The follow-up process, to be coordinated by the Special Advisor, will include working closely with country operations to develop protection and solutions strategies, address key operational challenges, and support and monitor compliance with the 2016 "Operational guidelines on UNHCR's engagement in situations of internal displacement". UNHCR will also update and revise its corporate policy on internal displacement to ensure full alignment with its Strategic Directions.

IDP law and policy

UNHCR will continue providing technical advice to States, in partnership with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs and other key stakeholders, to support the development and implementation of legal and institutional frameworks that prevent and respond to internal displacement and facilitate solutions.

It will also ensure greater cooperation and information-sharing among stakeholders and experts in IDP protection. In doing so, it will build on the momentum generated by the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the guiding principles in 2018 and the 10th anniversary of the Kampala Convention (OAU, see *Glossary*) in 2019. These normative developments recognize that displacement is a long-term and complex process requiring sound policy, law and capacity.

Solutions

Facilitating solutions and addressing protracted displacement will be important to UNHCR in 2018 and beyond. Through its operational engagement, the Office acts as a facilitator and catalyst for protection and solutions, developing strategies to enable local and national actors to take over its delivery and coordination as soon as possible. The Office will continue applying lessons learned from implementing the 2011 "Secretary-General's decision on durable solutions" and the additional framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict, by encouraging countries to design national strategies and take a leading role. Furthermore, UNHCR will continue to support the development of benchmarks for UNHCR's responsible disengagement in IDP situations, as recommended in the operational review.

Global Protection Cluster

UNHCR leads the global protection cluster (GPC), a network of UN agencies, NGOs and international organizations working on the protection of IDPs and others affected by conflict and natural disaster. Working alongside OHCHR, UNICEF and UN Women, it leads 25 of the 34 protection clusters, or other inter-agency protection coordination mechanisms, currently in place worldwide, including in the complex situations of Iraq, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen.

To maintain a coherent and integrated protection response in 2018, UNHCR will maintain its close cooperation with UNICEF, UNFPA, UNMAS and the Norwegian Refugee Council, which have specific areas of responsibility within the cluster for, respectively: child protection; gender-based violence; mine action; and housing, land and property. UNHCR will continue improving the quality of cluster leadership in the field and provide field support through an "operations cell" staffed by personnel from UNHCR, the Danish Refugee Council and the Protection Standby Capacity Project.

The "Global protection cluster strategic framework (2016-2019)" emphasizes the need for a stronger operational focus, the engagement of new partners and the adoption of innovative practices. In 2018, the framework will support four newly created task teams working on anti-trafficking, cash, protection, and information management. The launch of the cluster's protection innovation lab will also be held. Lastly, the GPC will reinforce its work with academia, pioneering an agreement with the universities in Aix-en-Provence, in France, and Essex, in the United Kingdom, to deliver protection courses and increase field clusters' use of legal clinics.

As cluster lead, UNHCR will continue promoting protection as central to humanitarian action. It will support the development of inter-agency policy, protection standards and guidance globally, and strengthen the role of field protection clusters. The GPC will reinforce the areas of law and policy, cash assistance, and protection information management in line with the Grand Bargain (see *Glossary*). The GPC will also continue increasing the breadth and depth of training it offers on protection, by developing an e-learning course on humanitarian protection and conducting joint trainings on crimes against humanity.

Global Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster

The global CCCM cluster is led by UNHCR in conflict situations and by IOM in natural disasters. It offers a range of support to national CCCM clusters, including guidance and tools, population data and site monitoring information management systems, and training materials for country operations. It also supports country offices by deploying rapid response teams and technical experts in emergencies. UNHCR leads (or co-leads) 10 of the 15 clusters and cluster-like coordination mechanisms currently active.

In 2018, the global CCCM cluster will focus on two overarching issues:

- Strengthening its efforts to reach collective outcomes through inter-cluster and multi-agency collaboration. In particular,

this means improving links between the coordination of assistance and services in camps and camp-like settings, and advocating the inclusion of displaced populations in national services.

- Making UNHCR's leadership of the CCCM cluster more predictable in terms of its objectives and delivering on expectations. This includes formalizing some of its working modalities and areas of responsibilities with other clusters, and developing strategic partnerships, particularly on development issues.

Following the first year of its Strategic Advisory Committee, which was established in 2016 to enhance the global CCCM cluster's transparency, inclusiveness and capacity to meet its global responsibilities, the cluster will evaluate improvements in its governance structure and renew its call for new members. In line with the objectives of the new five-year strategy put in place in 2017, existing and planned technical working groups on capacity-building, area-based approaches, remote management and participation will develop strategic guidance and tools. Missions to selected country operations will focus on good practices in population data management, preparedness and contingency planning, and standards monitoring, as well as the implementation of standards from the Sphere Project companion for the CCCM cluster. This undertaking to be published in 2018 with the revised Sphere Handbook is supported by the expert reference group established under the cluster.

Global Shelter Cluster

The global shelter cluster (GSC) is co-led, by UNHCR during conflict-related emergencies and by IFRC during natural disasters. The Office leads or co-leads 12 of the 27 shelter clusters currently active worldwide, including all those in the system-wide Level-3 emergencies (Iraq, Syria and Yemen). The GSC supports country-level shelter clusters mainly through the provision of immediate and medium-term surge support in coordination, technical assistance and information management, including through the deployment of trained and experienced shelter cluster coordinators, within 72 hours of a cluster being activated or after a scale-up request. Additionally, the GSC provides and disseminates global policy and technical guidance, offers targeted capacity building, facilitates assessments, evaluation and performance monitoring of country-level clusters and engages in advocacy on behalf of the shelter sector.

The GSC will implement its new strategy for 2018 to 2022, bolstering its capacity to support national clusters and sustaining its core services. As global co-lead, UNHCR supports the GSC's day-to-day activities, chairs its thematic technical working groups, and hosts 50 per cent of the GSC support team.

The GSC will strive to translate its Grand Bargain commitments, and those made at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, into practical activities that can be implemented by the national clusters and their partners. This includes promoting the localization of cluster coordination and response through meaningful engagement with subnational authorities and local organizations, encouraging the recruitment of national staff, and promoting local preparedness activities.

It will also strengthen its cash-for-shelter capacity by developing global guidance and tools, and deploying experts. Developing innovative approaches will require stronger engagement with academia, private sector and development actors, and more strategic advocacy messaging.

In 2018, UNHCR, in collaboration with the IFRC and Oxford Brookes University, will continue to host the Humanitarian Shelter Coordination course, which prepares around 50 professionals annually to take on coordination roles. The GSC will also remain engaged with those in country operations to improve the collection and dissemination of good practices, including through workshops, GSC events, specialized publications, such as "The shelter projects 2017-2018", as well as the "State of humanitarian shelter and settlement" report and its online platform (www.sheltercluster.org).

In the first seven months of 2017, 320 days of support were provided to camp coordination and camp management, mainly to national CCCM clusters through UNHCR missions.

ENGAGING IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT



Families affected by the ongoing drought in Somalia. "We moved from QolAde and we stayed at different locations until we moved to Wajaale district. We had 320 sheep, but only 100 are left. We just moved to this place, it is our second day here. I am here now with my daughter and her husband and child", says Sahra Ismael Elade, an internally displaced woman in Somaliland.

Climate change and disasters will continue to contribute to the scale and complexity of human displacement in the future. Their effects can exacerbate already fragile situations and can fuel conflict over depleted resources. People already displaced by conflict can be forced to move again when disasters strike, or be forced to move away from living areas because of the adverse effects of climate change. Their ability to return can also be limited if their homes become inhospitable.

As articulated in its Strategic Directions, UNHCR is committed to responding to climate change, disasters and displacement in two ways:

- Advancing legal, policy and practical solutions to protect people displaced by the effects of climate change and disasters.
- Contributing to inter-agency emergency response to natural disasters, particularly by providing protection leadership.

UNHCR will continue undertaking its collaborative research, analysis and consultations in areas where refugee law applies to climate change and disaster-related displacement, under international or regional instruments. UNHCR will also develop legal considerations on refugee protection in climate change and disaster contexts, and contribute to global policy processes, to ensure they are coherent and coordinated when responding to, and protecting, people displaced by climate change and disasters. This includes evaluating the role of human rights law, or researching protection needs arising from climate change, disaster, displacement and conflict; assessing effective practices on protection in the context of disasters and displacement; and applying regional refugee law in the context of climate change and disaster, following up the Brazil Declaration and Plan of Action, and pursuant to the OAU Convention (see *Glossary*).

UNHCR has gained substantive experience in averting and addressing displacement in the context of climate change and disaster, particularly with the development of normative standards relating to international protection needs. Its contribution to the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts will continue. The Office will also maintain its support to Parties of the UNFCCC, for consideration of human mobility in the climate change negotiations, and continue to contribute to the Advisory Group on Climate Change and Human Mobility.

Furthermore, UNHCR will continue to actively participate in the task force on displacement that was established under the Paris climate change agreement and was created to develop recommendations for integrated approaches that avert, minimize and address displacement linked to climate change and disasters by the end of 2018.