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**UNICEF Regional Director for
Europe & Central Asia, Afshan Khan
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As we seek to support refugees and the communities that host them, we must take infrastructure into account — and move from delivering aid in the short term, to ending need in the long term. To leave something behind that can support development and progress in the years to come.

An excellent example is water and sanitation. In poor and vulnerable communities, these systems are often fragile. The impacts of climate change exacerbate this. Extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods can degrade and destroy the water and sanitation facilities, leading to diseases like cholera, crop failures and food insecurity.

At UNICEF, we're focused on strengthening these services for the future. This means ensuring that WASH services incorporate both sustainable energy to power equipment and ensure access, but also climate-resilient measures that will help these systems withstand sudden climate shocks.

One example is our work on solar water pumping programmes in over 35 countries — an effective way to ensure safe and efficient delivery of water to children and communities.

Inspired by examples like this, and our long history of working with partners to address the WASH needs of refugees and other vulnerable populations, our collective WASH pledge is as follows:

- To support the national development of planning and financing of WASH services for entire communities, including refugees and IDPs — as demanded by SDG 6.
- To support the implementation of resilient and sustainable WASH systems that address water scarcity and climate change, and leverage renewable energy options.
- To support data collection, monitoring and reporting to highlight inequalities in access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, ensuring that refugees and vulnerable groups are not ‘Left behind.’

- And to support the removal of legal barriers and social discrimination and promote equality of access to safely managed water and sanitation services for both refugees and host communities.

UNICEF will continue seeking out solutions like this that will not only serve the immediate needs of refugees — but the long-term needs of communities and countries. And do so with our many partners.

Thank you.
