



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

2018 IMPACT REPORT

Celebrating what you,
our valued donors,
make possible



Introduction

Every two seconds, someone in the world is forced to flee home.

Having compassion and being able to put yourself in their shoes is important. But choosing to actually do something to help is simply amazing.

In 2018, you did just that. By generously giving to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, you helped save and rebuild lives, giving hope to refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people around the world.

Your impact can be traced to every corner of the planet, from bustling cities to remote desert camps where families seek shelter from war or persecution. This report showcases the difference donors like you made in 2018 on the lives of people forced to flee.

From all of us here at UNHCR, **THANK YOU** for your continued support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks to talented photographer Anna Hellge for the cover image of this report, as well as to all of the dedicated photographers and colleagues who bring our work to life and whose images and work are featured in this publication. All images copyright of UNHCR and commissioned photographers as referenced.

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VISION

A world where every person forced to flee can build a better future.



MISSION

UNHCR is dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.



FOCUS

Everything we do helps protect people forced to flee their homes.

UNHCR works in 138 countries worldwide, THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT.

Read about some of the impact donors like you are making.



COLOMBIA
PAGE 10

GUATEMALA
PAGE 7



MAURITANIA
PAGE 6



SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC (SYRIA)
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JORDAN
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YEMEN
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BANGLADESH
PAGE 8



DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO
PAGE 8

365 days together

By supporting UNHCR, you help protect and assist people who've been forced to flee war or persecution. Thanks to you, our teams are on the ground across the world, 365 days a year. Here's a look at events and emergencies that marked 2018 and how we responded, together.

January Violence in CAR displaces thousands

Thousands of people cross into Chad to flee fresh fighting in the Central African Republic (CAR) – pushing forced displacement to its highest level since the crisis began in 2013. Some 688,700 people were displaced inside CAR as of December 2017, while over half a million sought refuge in nearby countries. Yet, this remains one of the world's most forgotten crises. In Chad, UNHCR helps identify host villages where refugees can be safely relocated. Thanks to donors like you, we distribute food from a partner agency and deliver basic aid, including blankets and kitchen sets. “We abandoned everything,” says Anatol, who arrived with his family after walking for 24 hours. “UNHCR has given us food and assistance. That is a great relief to us.”



© UNHCR/Aristophane Ngaragoune

February Birth certificates for Malian refugee children

Mauritanian authorities start issuing birth certificates for some 7,600 Malian children born in Mbera camp, which is temporarily home to some 56,000 refugees from Mali. From now on, all newborns will be registered right away. Without birth certificates, children have no way to prove their identity and age. This impacts their ability to access basic services like education and can make it harder to identify cases of early and forced marriage. UNHCR and partners are working to identify and assist children at risk, while collaborating with Mauritanian authorities to strengthen their capacity to register refugees.

March Seven years of war in Syria

Seven years of fighting in Syria. Millions of people driven from their homes. “This seven-year war has left a colossal human tragedy in its wake,” says Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees. With your help, UNHCR continues to assist Syrian refugees in the region and people in need of protection inside Syria, even in remote areas. By the end of 2018, our teams had reached over 2.3 million people with protection services through 98 community centres, 26 satellite centres, 100 mobile units and 2,849 outreach volunteers in 12 governorates across Syria.

June Deadly eruptions in Guatemala

A volcano in Guatemala erupts with little warning, killing more than 100 people. Nearly 13,000 local residents living on the volcano's slopes are evacuated to safety. Thanks to generous donations from people like you, UNHCR acts fast to identify needs and assist survivors, by providing kits with solar lamps, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils and other basic supplies.



© UNHCR/Pablo Aaron Villagren Castellanos

April #WithRefugees tour raises global awareness

A worldwide tour launches with a day of sports in Jordan's Za'atari refugee camp, to raise awareness of the plight of people forced to flee. The tour includes various public events, including a refugee football match in Ireland and a photo exhibition in Paris, with the aim of showing solidarity with refugees. The initiative is part of UNHCR's #WithRefugees campaign, which calls for refugees to be able to live in safety, have access to education and be able to support their families.

May UNHCR Chief calls for 'compassionate action' during Ramadan

Ramadan is the most sacred and celebrated time of the year for Muslims worldwide, including those who find themselves forced to flee. But it can hold meaning for everyone as a time to show compassion, sympathy and generosity to those in need. At the start of Ramadan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi urges action on behalf of people forcibly uprooted or on the move. “To those who continue to show compassion and empathy and embody the true values of humanity: I am moved by your solidarity, generosity and hospitality. Together, we are powerful beyond measure.”



© UNHCR/Roger Arnold

August: Rohingya emergency, one year on

August marks a year since the start of one of the world's fastest-growing refugee crises, which saw more than 720,000 Rohingya refugees – over half of them children – flee violence in Myanmar for safety in Bangladesh. With your help, UNHCR continues to provide life-saving assistance to families in need. When monsoon storms loomed, UNHCR and partners raced to keep families in risky areas safe and dry, building or repairing shelters, paths and bridges. "Now we have bridges, better toilets, more food and drinking water," says Hafiz, who arrived in late 2017.

July Returning Congolese find homes in ruins

Since April, some 150,000 Congolese forced to flee ethnic violence have returned to Ituri province, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Many find their villages and homes reduced to ash – making them displaced again. One of the displaced is Rith, a 22-year-old mother of three. She fled after violence erupted in her hometown and hasn't been able to return since. "They burnt our house. They burnt everything," she says. UNHCR is providing emergency shelter to replace damage or destroyed houses, but lack of funds hampers efforts.

September Indonesia quake leaves 80,000 homeless

On 28 September, a devastating earthquake and tsunami strikes Indonesia, claiming over 2,000 lives. Entire villages are decimated and some 80,000 people are left with nowhere to live. With your help, UNHCR airlifts tents and emergency supplies to survivors, including sleeping mats, mosquito nets and solar lamps.



UNHCR/Andrew Kelly

December A new deal for refugees

In New York, the UN General Assembly agrees on a new deal for refugees. Known as the Global Compact on Refugees, this new framework aims to transform the way the world responds to refugee crises. It calls for a stronger global response where everyone plays a part by taking in refugees, investing in them and easing pressure on host countries – often among the poorest in the world. It also aims to help refugees become more self-reliant, so they can contribute to their own futures and the communities that welcome them.

October UNHCR intensifies aid to Venezuelans fleeing home

On a visit to Latin America, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi calls for greater support for the thousands of refugees and migrants arriving from Venezuela, many seeking international protection. Over three million Venezuelans have fled the deteriorating situation back home since 2014. The same month, thousands of children, women and men leave Honduras, heading north on a quest for safety from increasing crime and violence. With your help, UNHCR and partners work quickly to address the most basic and immediate needs of vulnerable families and individuals fleeing from Venezuela and countries like Honduras.

November Conflict escalates in Yemen

As fighting intensifies in Al Hudaydah, Yemen, UNHCR urgently appeals to all parties to protect civilians and aid workers, and re-open access to stockpiles of humanitarian aid. Yemen is facing a humanitarian catastrophe. Two million Yemenis have been displaced across the country – already one of the poorest in the Middle East. With your support, UNHCR is providing emergency cash assistance and other forms of aid. Since January 2018, we have distributed cash assistance – to pay for desperately-needed food and other essentials – to almost 250,000 displaced and conflict-affected Yemenis.

Venezuela crisis – your questions, answered

Did you know that last year 5,000 people fled Venezuela every day, on average? Here's what you need to know about the largest exodus in the recent history of Latin America, and what UNHCR is doing to help, with your support.



Over 3 Million
Over three million people have fled Venezuela since 2014

The vast majority are in countries within South America

Colombia and Peru
host the largest numbers of refugees and migrants from Venezuela

© UNHCR/Santiago Escobar-Jaramillo

WHY ARE THEY FLEEING?

Families are being compelled to leave Venezuela for nearby countries because of violence, insecurity, and lack of food, medicine and essential services. Host countries and communities in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and the southern Caribbean have been generously welcoming them but are increasingly overstretched.

WHAT CONDITION ARE REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS ARRIVING IN?

Many people are arriving scared, tired and in urgent need of assistance. The majority are families with children, pregnant women, elderly people and people with disabilities. Often obliged to take unofficial routes to reach safety, they can fall prey to smugglers, traffickers and irregular armed groups. As more and more families arrive with fewer resources, they are in immediate need of protection, shelter, food and medicine.

“We walked for 11 days and had to sleep outside. We left because they threatened to kill us. My brother was killed... They almost killed me.”

Ana, a Venezuelan woman in Ecuador

HOW ARE YOUR DONATIONS HELPING UNHCR RESPOND?

With your support, our teams are on the ground in 17 countries, protecting the most vulnerable people arriving from Venezuela with shelter, health care and documentation to allow them to access health and other services, so they are not left exposed and at risk. We are present along key borders, to help identify people who may need special help – like children arriving alone – and provide water and basic supplies to people who have just crossed. We have set up safe spaces for children and breastfeeding mothers at border crossing points and are advocating with host governments to make sure Venezuelan children can continue their education.

We work closely with host governments and partners to support refugees and migrants through registration and other initiatives. In Colombia, which has received over one million refugees and migrants from Venezuela, we have helped the government register more than 440,000 people, to better address their needs.

In Brazil, we have opened 13 temporary shelters, giving 6,000 people a safe place to sleep – thanks to generous supporters like you. Together, we are also helping to relocate refugees and migrants to other parts of the country with more job opportunities and services, so they can get back on their feet. Last year, over 4,000 Venezuelans were relocated to other cities with UNHCR support.

Response Efforts

6,000
people were given a safe place to sleep in 13 temporary shelters in Brazil.

4,000
Venezuelans were relocated to other cities in Brazil, with UNHCR support.

440,000
Venezuelans registered in Colombia, with help from UNHCR.



UNHCR ACNUR
Agência da ONU para Refugiados

“It took us over seven days to reach Peru. We had nothing to eat at the end. We tried to spare all for our son, but he also went over 24 hours without a bite. He is only three.” Gerardo, Venezuelan father in Peru

© UNHCR/Reynisson Damasceno

Key figures at a glance

THE CHALLENGE



68.5 million

forcibly displaced people worldwide, including nearly 25.4 million refugees

over **50%** of refugees are children



58% of refugees live in cities, not in camps or rural areas



57% of all refugees come from three countries: **Syria, Afghanistan & South Sudan**

85% of the world's displaced people are hosted in developing countries

OUR RESPONSE



138 countries in which UNHCR works worldwide, from major capitals to remote and often dangerous locations



90% of staff are based in the field, in direct contact with people in need



420 aid workers were deployed by UNHCR to emergencies in 2018, with many more specialist short-term staff also sent in to assist

YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

When you donate to UNHCR, you help bring care, comfort and hope to some of the world's most vulnerable people.

In 2018, committed donors like you went above and beyond, helping UNHCR respond to multiple crises across the globe. By extending a helping hand, you have helped save lives, protect rights, and build better futures for millions of people forced from home.

UNHCR is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions. In a world facing record displacement, your support matters now more than ever.

Your gift joins those of other supporters who are as dedicated to helping people forced to flee as you are.

On behalf of our staff worldwide and those we serve, thank you for all your support.

A global community of supporters and donors:

In 2018, some \$423 million was raised from more than 2 million generous, committed individual donors from over 75 countries, as well as foundations, corporate and philanthropist partners.



DELIVERING VITAL SUPPLIES AROUND THE WORLD

Imagine having to run for your life with only the clothes on your back. In times of crisis, people can be forced to flee home within minutes, leaving little or no time to take anything with them.

When they finally reach safety, UNHCR is there to help – thanks to the support of generous donors like you. Wherever needed, our teams rush in life-saving assistance including shelter, food, water and medical care. Together, we help provide families across the world with vital supplies like blankets to keep warm or jerry cans for storing water.

In 2018, thanks to caring donors like you, millions of items were shipped from our global network of warehouses or directly from our suppliers to ongoing operations and new emergencies, including:



Tents
26.908



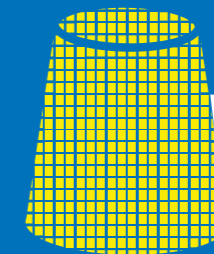
Kitchen sets
906.764



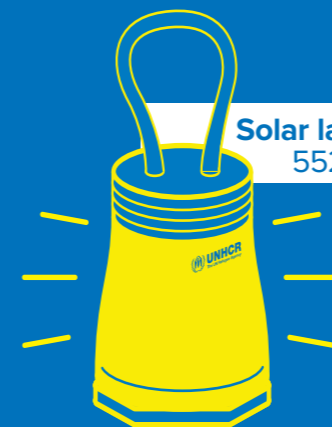
Jerry cans
921.398



Buckets
465.866



Mosquito nets
625.440

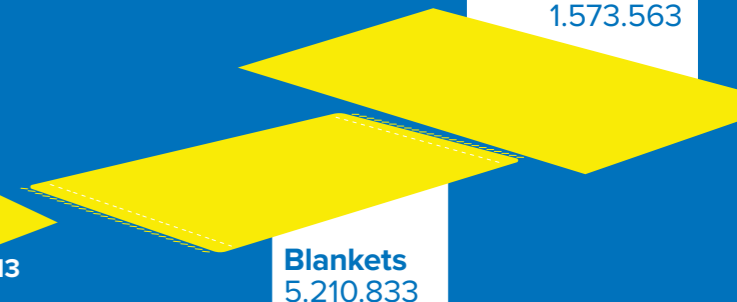


Solar lamps
552,901

Sleeping mats
2.649.146



Plastic sheets
1.573.563



Blankets
5.210.833



Did you know? Next year marks the 70th anniversary of UNHCR. The agency was created in 1950 to help Europeans uprooted by World War II. Since then, it has expanded dramatically to help millions of people around the world find safety and restart their lives.

unhcr.org



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