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**Update on global programmes****A. Introduction**

The number of people forced to flee their homes has increased every year over the past decade and currently stands at over 100 million people. Within this context, UNHCR has implemented its global programmes in the following areas: livelihoods and economic inclusion; education; food security; cash-based interventions; public health, including nutrition and mental health and psychosocial support; water, sanitation and hygiene; shelter and settlements; and energy and the environment. UNHCR also co-led the global shelter cluster and the global camp coordination and camp management cluster. This paper provides an update on the progress achieved in these areas in 2021 and 2022.

**B. Updates on technical sectors***Livelihood and economic inclusion*

UNHCR continues to build capacity and advocate financial inclusion of forcibly displaced persons. In 2022, the Division of Resilience and Solutions delivered two workshops with regulators and financial institutions with the aim of improving access to formal financial services for refugees and other forcibly displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. UNHCR and the United Nations Capital Development Fund also finalized a market assessment of the financial services needs of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Central African Republic.

UNHCR supported the Poverty Alleviation Coalition in its pledge to reach 500,000 households in 35 countries by 2025, while seeking growth and inclusion into national programmes. A randomized control trial undertaken in 2022 of a Graduation Approach programme in Mozambique, conducted by the London School of Economics and Political Sciences and UNHCR, showed positive changes in incomes for host communities and refugees compared to the control group (up 85 per cent for host community households and a 61 per cent increase for refugees).

UNHCR is focusing on inclusion of refugees in scalable, climate sensitive and market-oriented agriculture programmes globally. As an innovative, low-cost, green approach to improve food security and income levels for refugees and host communities, the World Bank and UNHCR introduced insect farming for food, feed and fertilizers in Malawi, South Sudan and Zimbabwe in 2022. Research on insect farming conducted by the World Bank in 13 countries in Africa and has shown great potential for increased incomes and contribution to local economies, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, protecting land and water resources, as well as supporting waste management.

*Education*

Through the Educate A Child programme supported by Education Above All, UNHCR has enrolled nearly 150,000 out-of-school children in primary education across 15 operations globally. With regard to tertiary education, the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, known as the DAFI scholarship programme, celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2022 with roughly 8,000 students enrolled in 55 countries. UNHCR continues to

advocate expanded access across the pillars of the 15by30 Roadmap, including through a multi-country study of good practices in technical and vocational education, technical support for the launch of new third-country education pathways, and a multi-country round-table meeting on connected higher education in West and Central Africa. At the third annual World Higher Education Conference in May 2022, UNHCR, over 20 partners and a delegation of 12 refugee student leaders delivered sessions advocating refugee inclusion in higher education.

UNHCR supported country operations and regional bureaux in strengthening education data management systems to enhance the availability and quality of data on education access and participation, while also addressing the dire need for data on learning.

UNHCR worked closely with the global education cluster to strengthen coordination processes. This has paid dividends in the support to the Ukraine response, facilitating an exchange of information between the response inside and outside Ukraine.

As part of the new digital transformation strategy, UNHCR continues to pursue greater digital inclusion of refugees, through targeted expansion of connected education programmes with an additional 58 public schools receiving digital learning investments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

### *Nutrition and food security*

In 2022, UNHCR worked in partnership with other United Nations agencies to advance efforts to reduce child wasting through the development of country roadmaps under the Global Action Plan on Wasting. UNHCR contributed data and analytics to profile refugee food security and nutrition in the 2022 Global Report on Food Crises, a multi-stakeholder analysis to monitor global food crises and inform preparedness, prevention and response.

Refugee food and nutrition security remains a growing concern due to the combined impact of reduced humanitarian funding, economic shocks, including those caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), ongoing conflict, limited refugee rights, including lack of legal access to land, employment, livelihood opportunities and freedom of movement in many contexts. In 2022, UNHCR supported programmes to treat and prevent undernutrition, including through community-based management of acute malnutrition (over 98,000 children admitted for treatment from January to July 2022 in 11 countries); promotion and protection of infant and young child feeding, provision of nutrition assessment, counselling, and support for identified vulnerable groups including pregnant, lactating and people living with chronic diseases such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

UNHCR expanded its collaboration with the World Food Programme (WFP), including through the Joint UNHCR/WFP Hub, as well as on joint assessments and analyses to inform targeted food assistance and collective efforts to support longer-term self-reliance and inclusion. The Hub's support to several countries including Jordan, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda and Zambia has resulted in a growing evidence base on refugee vulnerabilities and strategies to ensure the most vulnerable are assisted. The Hub led joint trainings on targeting support at global and regional level to build capacity and understanding across the organizations.

### *Cash-based interventions*

In 2021, UNHCR delivered \$670 million in cash, of which 95 per cent was unrestricted, to some 9.3 million people in 100 countries.. UNHCR is increasingly using cash-based assistance in emergency contexts. The largest UNHCR operations delivering cash assistance were in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, , Mexico, Somalia and Yemen. In response to developments in Ukraine, UNHCR delivered cash inside Ukraine and to over 400,000 people in Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

In 2021, 6 million persons of concern to UNHCR accessed digital payments of which 25 per cent were deposited in their own bank or mobile money accounts. Access to bank accounts and mobile money are important pathways to financial inclusion. The United

Nations Common Cash Statement resulted in common transfer mechanisms in over 25 countries. UNHCR implemented CashAssist, its cash management system, to 31 countries. Over 60 countries conducted post-distribution monitoring using the UNHCR corporate tool. Going forward, UNHCR will focus on the implementation of its new cash-based intervention policy 2022-2026, which aims to leverage cash as a key modality that promotes protection and inclusion, while providing efficient and effective coordination of the delivery of cash assistance together with partners.

*Public health (including mental health and psychosocial support)*

UNHCR's biannual health inclusion survey of 49 countries showed promising progress in overall inclusion of refugees in national policies. Seventy-seven per cent included refugees in the national health plans, an increase from 62 per cent in 2019. All countries reported that refugees could access primary health facilities, with 94 per cent under the same conditions as nationals. Inclusion was less strong for secondary care with 17 per cent of countries reporting either no or unequal access compared to nationals and often requiring additional UNHCR support. Fifty-nine per cent of countries reported having a national health insurance scheme or system, of which 41 per cent included refugees in 2021.

UNHCR focused on continuity of services and access to testing and care of those affected by COVID-19 and confirmed vaccination of refugees and other persons of concern in 153 countries. As of August 2022, 10.52 million vaccine doses have been distributed to approximately 6.08 million refugees and other persons of concern in 70 countries. Despite progress, many refugee-hosting low-income countries are far below the global target of 70 per cent population coverage by June 2022). UNHCR continues concerted efforts and engagement with governments, partners and the Access and Delivery Partnership to accelerate national and subnational rollouts. Malaria remained a major cause of morbidity and mortality, especially among refugees in sub-Saharan Africa. UNHCR released updated guidance for country operations to strengthen malaria prevention and control.

Missions were undertaken to Poland, Moldova and Romania to support public health systems and mental health and psychosocial support as part of the Ukraine refugee response. UNHCR deployed senior staff members specialized in public health and mental health and psychosocial support to the inter-agency regional health antenna in Kraków, Poland to work alongside the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control in developing tools, accessing gaps and providing technical support.

Collaboration with WHO, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) on finalizing the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Minimum Services Package for emergencies is ongoing, with an expected release date in late 2022. The six year Scaling up Psychological Interventions with Syrian Refugees (STRENGTHS) consortium, was finalized in the Middle East and North Africa region and Europe. The preliminary findings show that brief counselling by trained non-specialists, including by refugees themselves, can reduce anxiety and depression in refugees (with positive results in Jordan and the Netherlands) and secondly, that treatment adherence is a major challenge.

Countries, including Cameroon, Chad, Ethiopia, Niger and Uganda were supported to adopt high impact health interventions, such as training and equipping of community health workers to conduct home visits for the newborns; and support to training of health providers in managing obstetric complications. These efforts contributed to saving maternal and newborn lives as well as strengthening health and community systems. Practical evidence-based operational guidance for UNHCR and partner staff members on maternal and newborn health was updated. These guidelines aim to further prevent and manage common complications that represent the key causes of most maternal and newborn deaths. As part of the roll-out strategy of these new guidelines, technical support was provided to country operations and regional bureaux including Bangladesh, Lebanon, and the regions of Eastern, Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes, West and Central Africa and Southern Africa.

UNHCR collaborated with UNFPA to expand the reach of its joint training package, designed to improve staff capacity for programming, monitoring and evaluation of activities related to sexual and reproductive health.

As a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNHCR worked with partners to scale up services. Twenty-six UNHCR country operations in five regions received funding to implement evidence-based programming to improve HIV prevention, treatment and care (including prevention of mother to child transmissions and pediatric care), enhance community-led responses, strengthen integration into primary healthcare and advance gender equality. Sex and age disaggregated data highlights differences in access to HIV and sexual and reproductive health services. For children and adolescents under 18, 73 per cent of those on treatment are male; greater effort is needed to understand and eliminate barriers faced by adolescent females in accessing treatment.

UNHCR supported improved health-related data collection including successful piloting of the online medical referral database in Bangladesh, Malaysia and the United Republic of Tanzania; support to the health access and utilization survey in Pakistan and implementation of the new COVID-19 case and vaccination reporting tool linked to an online interactive dashboard. Moreover, UNHCR continued to strengthen routine monitoring by enhancing the integrated refugee health information system platform. Remote trainings for UNHCR and partners staff members were conducted in 10 countries. UNHCR promotes the use of the health access and utilization survey to facilitate access of health information of refugees in urban settings.

### *Energy, environment, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene*

UNHCR has provided access to energy for cooking, lighting, and communal facilities serving up to 2.7 million people in 26 countries. UNHCR implemented programmes in 18 countries, enhancing clean cooking in nine countries, while launching the Refugee Environmental Protection Fund to invest in impactful long-term reforestation and cleaner cooking programmes in climate-vulnerable refugee situations. In 14 countries, UNHCR programmes provided access to basic lighting and connectivity services, including through the procurement of more than 1.3 million solar lanterns and solar street lights for persons of concern to UNHCR and their host communities.

By the end of 2021, UNHCR had solarized 192 water producing boreholes, representing roughly 40 per cent of its boreholes worldwide. To accelerate the solarization of boreholes in refugee sites, UNHCR established Project Flow in 2021. This initiative utilizes a revolving financing mechanism to support water pumping systems' solarization and targets 180 boreholes in the next 10 years. Employing solar water pumping has financial advantages as it allows for cost efficiencies and provides environmental benefits, avoiding up to 380,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions over 15 years by shifting from fossil fuels to solar energy.

In collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), UNHCR provided context-specific guidance to support emergency and protracted settlements through geospatial and hydrological site analyses. These initiatives were undertaken in 27 settlements in 15 countries, benefiting over 1.65 million people.

In keeping with the UNHCR operational strategy for climate resilience and environmental sustainability 2022-2025, new eco-friendly specifications and technical processes were applied in designing standard and multipurpose sleeping mats. Approximately 90 per cent less water is used in making recycled mats versus mats from virgin materials, saving 15.3 litres of water per mat during production. The sustainability of refugee housing units in six operations was analysed, with additional work carried out to improve the generic refugee housing unit using local materials.

Through the Geneva Technical Hub, established in 2021 with the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, UNHCR collaborates with technical experts and Swiss academia to provide technical support and capacity-building to operations on complex technical problems. One significant output of the Geneva Technical Hub is the establishment and use of the Rapid Groundwater Potential Mapping tool, a methodology which greatly increases the probability of finding sustainable water sources and has been used for 13 refugee operations to date.

*Global shelter cluster*

In 2021, UNHCR led 19 out of 31 cluster or cluster-like mechanisms. The UNHCR-led shelter clusters provided shelter and non-food items to over 10.6 million internally displaced people through 470 partners in conflict situations, representing 54 per cent of all internally displaced people assisted with shelter and non-food items globally. Earmarked support also allowed the clustered to mobilize collective efforts towards greener and climate-smart humanitarian shelter and settlement responses.

The cluster conducted a review of its information management work and developed its information management and assessment toolkit. During 2021, the global shelter cluster team increased its capacity with new focal points for the prevention of gender-based violence; for advocacy and research; a roving cluster coordinator and a roving information management officer. Overall, support to field clusters, including missions and remote support, totaled 774 days.

*Camp coordination and camp management cluster*

In 2021, over 12 million people were targeted through humanitarian response plans by the cluster and cluster-like mechanisms across 22 operations. In 2021, two new clusters and one working group were activated, while two additional clusters have been activated in 2022;. Overall, UNHCR leads and co-leads 18 clusters and cluster-like mechanisms.

In 2021 the global cluster strategy for camp coordination and camp management was revised and updated to cover the years 2021- 2023. In 2022, the global cluster was able to hold its annual meeting in-person, with over 100 participants, and with panel sessions broadcast for those not able to attend in-person.

Cluster capacity-building and coaching work has continued,, with the recruitment of additional staff member to provide support to mitigating risks related togender-based violence,. The global cluster team has also been working on reviewing and updating the cluster coordination toolkit to further support country clusters.