

Children of undocumented Afghans are able to access the public education system in Iran.



Providing for Essential needs

Faced with a rising number of complex displacement challenges, UNHCR is constantly searching for more effective ways to provide essential - at times life-saving - goods and services to refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless people and others of concern. Annual assessments among these groups continue to reveal critical needs, which UNHCR then seeks to meet by means of innovative programmes and strategies.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SECURITY

Improvements in the assessment, monitoring and evaluation of nutrition programmes have provided UNHCR and its partners with the data they need to plan more effective interventions. Of the 22 nutrition surveys that UNHCR has conducted in 2010, many revealed subpar rates of anaemia. In light of this information, the focus of UNHCR's nutrition and food security programmes in 2011 will be on feeding infants and young children, on addressing

micronutrient deficiencies with new interventions and products, and on reducing global acute malnutrition.

For many years, UNHCR has worked closely with WFP in order to improve nutrition and food security among displaced populations. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations, which outlines a clear division of roles and responsibilities, is currently being revised to reflect the humanitarian reform process, the use of new micronutrient products, and increased cooperation in the provision of food aid in urban settings.

In 2010, UNHCR and WFP have intensified their collaboration in selected countries facing protracted

refugee situations. Joint assessment missions, which are undertaken in all major operations at least once every two years, have been carried out in 11 countries during the year. Similar activities will continue in 2011, with an emphasis on food security in urban settings, on certain cash and food voucher programmes, and on self-reliance projects.

The two agencies will continue to support each other through joint resource mobilization, enhanced regional coordination, and joint donor briefings. Joint high-level field missions, such as the visit in July 2010 by the heads of the two agencies to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, will continue in the future.

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SHELTER AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE

The need for adequate housing and living space is among the most basic human requirements. Sound camp construction, appropriate shelter and other infrastructure are essential if lives are to be saved, health risks reduced and populations protected from extreme weather conditions. UNHCR's shelter and physical planning interventions in 2010 have had a direct and positive impact on the welfare of refugees and other persons of concern in camps and settlements, as well as in urban areas.

But there are more needs to be addressed. The comprehensive needs assessment undertaken in 2010 highlighted continuing gaps in infrastructure and shelter among populations of concern. UNHCR will make the provision of adequate shelter a major priority in 2011, especially in protracted refugee situations.

The context of humanitarian operations, including emergencies, has changed dramatically in recent years. Security and other risks have reduced access to affected populations, while ever-larger numbers of refugees and IDPs live outside camps. At the same time, urban displacement, whether caused by natural disasters or conflict, has become a major aspect of humanitarian crises. UNHCR recognizes that in all circumstances, solutions in terms of shelter and camp planning must be locally acceptable.

UNHCR will pursue four strategic shelter objectives in 2011: delivery of effective and timely field support in emergencies; development of staff capacity, both within UNHCR and among its partners; provision of policy guidance and leadership; and construction of strategic partnerships with relevant actors. In pursuit of these goals, UNHCR will place particular emphasis on:

- Carrying out surveys and analysis of shelter and physical planning interventions in priority countries, including gathering baseline data and conducting qualitative assessments,

identifying gaps for priority interventions, and gauging the need to redesign and rehabilitate camps.

- Providing timely and efficient shelter solutions in emergencies, with complementary strategies in logistics, procurement and the warehousing of shelter and non-food items.
- Establishing monitoring and data collection systems, including a measurable set of global indicators in priority countries, in cooperation with physical planners and shelter experts.
- Providing direct support to field operations in developing comprehensive shelter strategies, conducting assessments to aid the search for appropriate shelter solutions, analysing the shelter and physical planning aspects of operations, and providing other inputs to enhance the quality of shelter programmes.
- Improving, through research and development, the *Shelter and Non-Food Items Solutions Tool Box* for emergencies.
- Strengthening partnerships with key technical partners, including IFRC, ICRC, UN-Habitat, the Inter-Agency Technical Committee and others involved in shelter programmes.
- Improving in-house technical and stand-by capacity with trained human resources that can be deployed rapidly to meet operational demands. The existing stand-by agreements with RedR Australia, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UN Volunteers, Irish Aid, Swedish Rescue Service and Contingencies Agency and Canadem helped UNHCR to deploy technical staff to a number of operations in 2010.
- Providing leadership in its capacity as lead agency for emergency shelter in conflict-induced complex situations.

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Kitchen kits for camp-based refugees are transported along a river in the Republic of the Congo.

UNHCR / F. NOY

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Implementation of UNHCR's Strategic Plan for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Promotion (2011-2013) will begin in priority refugee operations in 2011. The aim is to meet WASH needs in a progressive manner over the next three years. A new monitoring and evaluation system will also be introduced in 2011 to ensure that the design and implementation of these life-saving programmes is based on sound premises. WASH partnerships with relevant bilateral organizations and academic institutions will be strengthened.

UNHCR will also seek closer collaboration with the private sector on WASH activities in 2011. Cooperation will also continue through the inter-agency WASH cluster and with UN-Water, a mechanism to improve coordination and coherence among UN entities engaged in water and sanitation projects. Finally, greater emphasis will be placed on hygiene promotion. Guidelines on the subject will be finalized and shared with field offices as part of the plan to mainstream this important activity.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Working closely with governments and other partners, UNHCR aims to ensure access to affordable public health care for people of concern in cities and towns. Its focus is on access to emergency and primary health care services, including national immunization programmes for infants and children, HIV and reproductive health services, and mental health and psychosocial support programmes.

In all its operations, UNHCR will reinforce efforts to improve primary health care, establish standard operating procedures for laboratory facilities and drug management, and consolidate medical referral systems. Malaria and tuberculosis programmes will be strengthened through links with national programmes.

Monitoring and surveillance will be improved through the new web-based Health Information System (HIS). This allows for the management and analysis of public health and HIV and AIDS information from a range of sources. Users in the Field will analyse and test the HIS, and new mechanisms will be developed to monitor access to urban health services.

HIV AND AIDS AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

In 2011, UNHCR will continue to promote and support integrated sexual and reproductive health programmes. It will work to increase access to emergency obstetric and neonatal care, expand family planning activities, and strengthen linkages with HIV and AIDS programmes. Interventions will aim at making progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and fulfilling strategic priorities.

UNHCR will continue implementing HIV and AIDS programmes in line with its Strategic Plan for HIV (2008-2012) and the Global Strategic Priorities, which emphasize prevention and protection. The target for 2011 is to ensure that at least 85 per cent of refugees have access to anti-retroviral treatment when it is available to surrounding host communities. UNHCR will consolidate and improve HIV programmes in refugee operations, expand similar programmes for IDPs, urban refugees and returnees, and build the capacity of its staff and partners in this area.

In addition, UNHCR's HIV programmes in 2011 will have a strong focus on vulnerable and at-risk groups. The Office will advocate for the inclusion of persons of concern in national HIV and AIDS programmes, and work with others to implement the revised IASC guidelines on addressing HIV in humanitarian settings.

To integrate HIV policies into all its programmes, UNHCR will expand strategic partnerships with UNAIDS and other relevant stakeholders. It will participate in the implementation of the UNAIDS 2010-2011 Unified Budget and Work Plan, and seek to ensure that the health needs of refugees and others of concern are given due attention by UNAIDS's board, and in implementing the new UNAIDS Strategic Plan.

EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Though considerable progress has been made in improving access to education for refugees in recent years, many challenges remain.

A comprehensive report for 2009 highlighted that the enrolment rate for primary education had increased from 69 per cent to 77 per cent in camps, and from 69 per cent to 71 per cent in urban areas, but that at the secondary level it remained as low as 36 per cent. Girls' enrolment in camp settings had reached 74 per cent at primary level and 35 per cent in secondary school. Major obstacles included insufficient schools and classrooms, a lack of qualified teachers, certification, language issues, unsafe learning environments, and bleak livelihood prospects.

UNHCR seeks to ensure that all persons of concern enjoy the right to education, and will work towards the targets set in its Global Strategic Priorities as it implements its education strategy for 2010-2012. For 2011, progress will be reviewed in 12 priority countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, (eastern) Chad, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mauritania, (eastern) Sudan, Uganda, Turkey and Yemen.

To strengthen staff capacity in this area, a Training-of-Trainers Facilitation Guide has been developed. The guide focuses on educational programming, assessments, planning, strategy development and monitoring. Field offices will be supported through the deployment of education officers. An education e-learning programme on safe learning environments has also been developed and will be shared with staff and partners (see below).

To address the need for secondary education opportunities for the large number of young people who are not in school, distance learning programmes, computer technology and vocational training will be improved. Monitoring the progress of educational programmes remains a crucial part of UNHCR's

activities; the recommendations arising from an evaluation of educational programmes undertaken in 2010 will guide UNHCR's interventions in this area in 2011.

DAFI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) is the sole UNHCR scholarship programme providing educational opportunities at the tertiary level for young refugees. The programme has now expanded to some 40 countries worldwide. In addition, the DAFI for Return Programme, launched in 2008, has provided qualified human resources to UNHCR-supported repatriation



operations. The programme will continue in 2011.

The main objective of the DAFI scholarship programme is to enhance refugees'

self-reliance through higher education, as part of a broader UNHCR strategy to promote durable solutions. DAFI focuses mainly on degree subjects enabling young refugees to contribute to the reconstruction, peace, stability and rehabilitation of their home countries after their repatriation.

In 2011, UNHCR will help some 1,800 students to obtain their first university degrees. Since 2008, a limited number of scholarships for master's degrees have also been available for refugee students in sub-Saharan Africa.

To monitor and build on the success of the DAFI programme, more emphasis will be placed on assessing the success of DAFI graduates. UNHCR supports DAFI clubs, which foster a strong student and alumni network. The DAFI updated database has been amended to include information on students after their graduation.

SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

To enhance education for girls, UNHCR works with partners to enhance safe learning environments through monitoring, reporting and referral mechanisms. An e-learning package on safe learning environments has now been completed and will be implemented in priority countries in 2011. UNHCR will also organize regional workshops to raise awareness of the importance of safe learning environments, and to promote wide use of the e-learning tool.

NINEMILLION.ORG

The ninemillion.org campaign, established in 2006 with Nike, Microsoft and other private corporations as partners, is a major pillar in support of UNHCR's education strategy and its efforts to reach the targets set in its Global Strategic Priorities. In 2011, funding from the ninemillion.org campaign will focus particularly on post-primary education, girls' education and sports. The campaign will continue to train teachers, provide teaching and learning materials and promote safe learning environments, in addition to supporting improvements in infrastructure and in non-formal education, such as literacy courses.

ENVIRONMENT

More than 10 million refugees and IDPs in the world today have no access to electricity. Most of them depend on biomass, particularly for cooking, heating and lighting at home. This massive use of natural resources contributes to deforestation and increases carbon emissions, aggravating environmental risks.

Refugees and IDPs tend to use energy sources with which they are familiar and which are readily available in the areas where they have settled. In most situations, particularly in developing countries, this means heavy reliance on

firewood and, to a lesser extent, charcoal. Many UNHCR operations are located in resource-poor and environmentally fragile areas. In such situations, displaced people can damage the environment, as they compete with local communities for scarce natural resources. Governments and local host communities are understandably concerned about such degradation, especially when large refugee populations are in close proximity to ecologically fragile areas, or contribute to the depletion of natural resources.

Moreover, the risks endured by women and girls while collecting firewood constitute one of the most challenging and serious protection issues for UNHCR. The risks include the dangers of attack, harassment and sexual and gender-based violence. In recognition of the connection between its protection mandate and the preservation of the environment, UNHCR will continue to give priority to environmental conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in its field operations. In 2011, the Office will bolster its efforts to ensure that natural resources and the shared environment are protected as it provides assistance to people of concern by:

- Promoting innovative energy solutions in refugee camps, especially by lighting public areas using solar energy.
- Promoting environmentally-friendly construction, domestic lighting and cooking techniques and devices, including solar-powered lights, cookers and energy-efficient stoves, replacing the consumption of wood, wherever possible, to reduce deforestation.
- Working with governments and other partners to promote reforestation in refugee-hosting areas.

- Training displaced and local populations in sustainable land use and agriculture, to improve household incomes and nutrition, while preserving the environment.
- Devising community-based environmental action plans and rehabilitating camps that have been closed, so that useful facilities and assets can be handed over to host communities.
- Carrying out environmental-impact assessments and disseminating environment-related guidelines and tools to field operations.
- Strengthening collaboration with other agencies concerned with environmental management, particularly through cluster arrangements and other UN coordination mechanisms such as the Delivering as One initiative.
- Working with private donors on renewable energy, and carrying out pilot projects that benefit from their expertise and technology. ■