2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

OVERVIEW OF UNHCR WASH PROGRAMMES 2022

32 COUNTRIES
delivering UNHCR WASH programmes

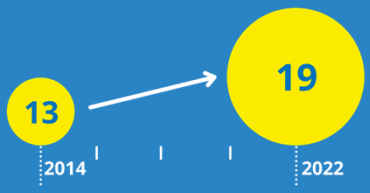
152 SETTLEMENTS
hosting over 4,4 million refugees reporting to the WASH Monitoring System

19
Litres of water per person per day

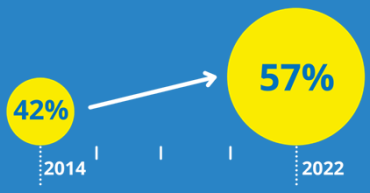
14
Persons per toilet

13
Operations with Smart Water Sensors

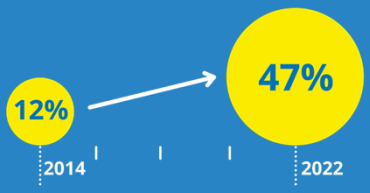
Access to water
(litres per person per day)



Access to soap
(% of households with soap)



Access to sanitation
(% of households with HH toilets)



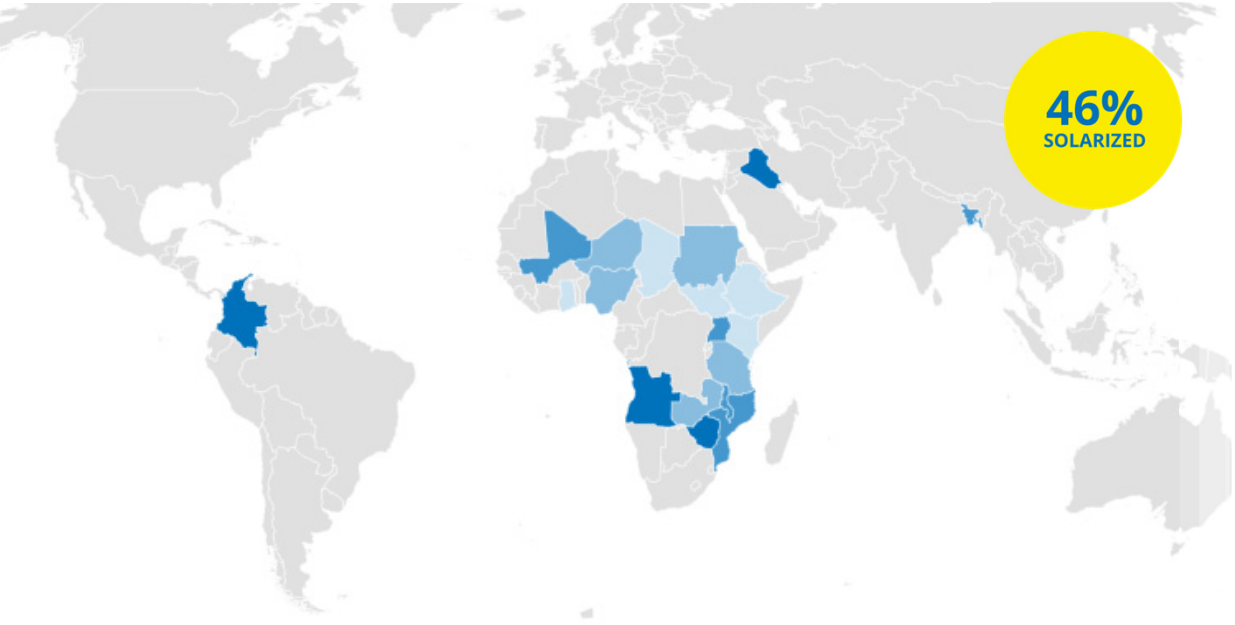
46% of UNHCR's boreholes solarized, with over 25,000 tons of CO_2 saved per year

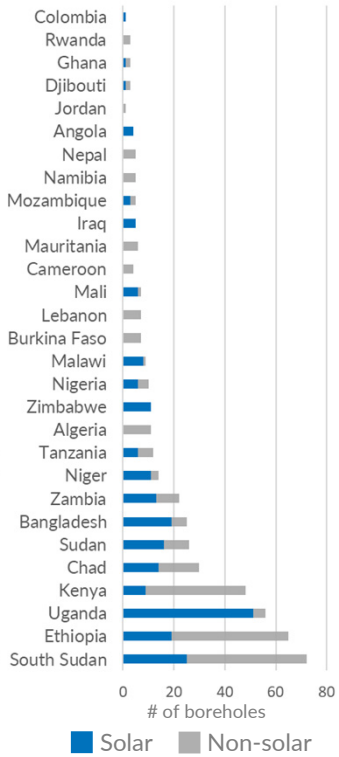
Smart Water Sensors (SWS) for increased climate resilience scaled up to **13 operations**

The largest UNHCR WASH responses are in **Bangladesh, Chad, Ethiopia and Sudan**

23 country operations report into the WASH Monitoring System, covering 153 settlements

SOLARIZED BOREHOLES IN UNHCR OPERATIONS





Proportion of boreholes solarized: 100% | 75 – 99% | 50 – 74% | <50%

Information based on data submitted to UNHCR's WASH Monitoring Systems (WMS) and Borehole Database. Data changes on regular basis as more data is reported in the system.

The report provides an overview of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) service provision in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR's) operations. It highlights key achievements in UNHCR's global efforts to ensure universal and equitable access to water, sanitation and hygiene services that are environmentally sustainable to refugees and the surrounding communities.

WASH in refugee emergencies

Since January 2022, **Uganda** has received over 146,000 new arrivals from South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. UNHCR and its partners supplied water at an average of 17 litres per person through over 200 motorized water systems, out of which 95% are solar-hybrid systems, and over 1,000 handpumps. During the year 12 new water sources were established. Further, floods in West-Nile impacted over 10,000 individuals and left their latrines destroyed.

In response to the urgent water needs of refugees in **Ethiopia**, UNHCR drilled 2 boreholes in the Amhara region and participated in a joint UNICEF-UNHCR refugees and returnees areawide WASH service needs assessment in Woreda, amongst other WASH activities. To promote peaceful co-existence in these locations, water was provided to both refugees and surrounding host communities. As a response to the drought and severe water shortage in the Somali region, UNHCR and UNICEF signed an UN-to-UN agreement to improve water supply for over 167,000 IDPs and host community members.

In the **DRC**, UNHCR continued to provide water to over 150,000 refugees from Central African Republic and South Sudan scattered along the northwestern DRC border, and Burundian refugees at the southeastern border. An average of 15 litres of water per person per day is provided, with additional solarized borehole projects established to improve access to water.

In the **Republic of Congo**, 5 new boreholes with manual pumps were established and several water points rehabilitated to improve access to water. These activities resulted in improved service levels with an average of 14.5 litres of water provided per person per day.

Improved emergency latrine slabs better suited for refugee emergencies, developed through a project funded by the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**, were shipped to Sudan (2,700), Uganda (120) and Nigeria (100). These slabs come with self-closing mechanisms that improves user experience and overall hygiene.

Responding to disease outbreaks

In 2022 Cholera outbreaks have been reported in Cameroon, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi and Niger. WASH played a pivotal role in outbreak prevention and control. WASH response measures included increasing supply of water, reinforcing water chlorination, latrine construction, disinfection of latrines, and soap distribution.

Climate smart WASH responses

By the end of 2022, UNHCR has solarized 229 boreholes, representing 46 % of

boreholes in UNHCR's operations. Feasibility assessments for borehole solarization started in six operations, with funding from Project Flow. Some 180 boreholes will be solarized through a revolving financing mechanism in the next 10 years.

Real-Time Monitoring of WASH infrastructure and services was scaled-up to 13 country operations. With strategically located **Smart Water Sensors (SWS)**, the trends and gaps in water systems efficiency, sustainable use of groundwater and water quality can be monitored from a distance. This data and analyses provide strong evidence which enables optimization of e.g., water supply networks, resulting in reduced costs and saved water.

In **Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh**, UNHCR implemented two large scale faecal sludge plants to safely manage human waste of almost 400,000 refugees and mitigate the environmental impacts in a cost-effective manner. This approach provides better quality control of the treatment process in comparison with the several on-site sanitation facilities used previously.

WASH response to climate change

Maratane refugee camp in Mozambique was affected by tropical depressions Anna and cyclone Gombe. Toilets were damaged and pro-active community awareness was raised to prevent the outbreak of waterborne diseases. A partnership was signed with UniLurio to assess and support UNHCR in realignment of the settlement mapping, including addressing realignment for areas that are prone to flood.

Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia were affected by severe drought during 2022. In Dadaab, Kenya, and Ethiopia, UNHCR extended its emergency outreach to the worst affected surrounding communities and supported water access and storage and rehabilitated water sources and networks.

In the **Gedaref sites in Sudan**, in collaboration with Settlement Planners, implementation of flood adaptation measures, such as improvement of surface runoff drainage and reinforcement and raising of roads, began in 2021 and was finalized in 2022.

Inclusion into national water and sanitation services

UNHCR continues to support with **refugee inclusion into the national WASH service systems and institutions**. By the end of 2022, one settlement in Uganda was fully handed over to the district water authorities. Plans are made for an additional three settlements. Similarly in Ethiopia, refugee inclusion into national WASH systems continued. In close collaboration with the government, UNICEF and KFW Development Bank the detailed technical studies were completed, and water source development begun in the Somali Region. In Sudan refugee inclusion in national WASH systems progressed as well, as the technical studies were finalized, and water source development begun in Wad Sherife and Girba settlements in Eastern Sudan.

Cash assistance has been a crucial safety net for refugees and IDPs, allowing them to meet their immediate basic needs. In 2022, food, rent, hygiene items (29%),

and health were the largest expenditure categories in most operations: 14% % of the cash assistance recipients used cash for utilities and bills and 12% for water.

Collaboration and partnerships

Technical experts and Swiss academia from the SDC funded **Geneva Technical Hub (GTH)**, provided extensive support on hydrogeology, water resources, water network optimization and sanitation. Field missions were conducted in Chad and Nigeria and remote support was provided to 14 operations. In Chad efficiency of water systems was assessed to enable decision-making for solarization, and a hydrogeology and solar pumping workshop was conducted to enable colleagues to apply best practices on ground. Technical design to protect critical WASH infrastructure from flash floods were developed and several guidelines on improved sanitation are being drafted.

Under the UNICEF-UNHCR Blueprint initiative joint 'WASH in Emergencies' regional trainings were organized e.g., in Dakar and Nairobi, as well as two joint online 'Community of Practice' webinars to WASH staff in both organizations.

New arrivals fetching water in Dagahaley in Kenya. © UNHCR/Charity Nzomo

UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

WASH
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