



UNHCR IDEAS

A SAFE FROM THE START CHALLENGE

UNHCR Ideas is UNHCR's premier online idea-management platform that uses Mindjet software to enable the UNHCR community, partners and refugees to generate innovative solutions to challenges in refugee protection and assistance. The platform is a space for humanitarians and beneficiaries to share their practical experience and first-hand knowledge in order to crowd-source relevant and innovative solutions to shared global challenges.

SAFE FROM THE START CHALLENGE: 15 AUGUST 2014

UNHCR promotes a community-based, highly interactive approach to addressing the challenge of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR SGBV Unit, the Energy and Environment Unit, Livelihoods and Innovation at HQ have teamed up to crowd-source bottom-up solutions in order to enhance SGBV prevention and response during emergencies. The focus of this challenge centers on the use of innovative renewable energy or livelihoods-based programs to empower and protect populations at risk of SGBV. The **Safe from the Start Challenge** will run from mid-August until early October 2014 and asks participants to find solutions for the challenge question:

What innovative energy and/or livelihoods programmes can most effectively protect persons of concern from sexual and gender-based violence at the onset of humanitarian emergencies?

Sexual and gender-based violence is violation of human rights and has a devastating long-term impact on the lives of people. All conflicts create conditions where women, men, girls and boys are vulnerable to SGBV. Ending SGBV is one of the most challenging yet fundamental goals of UNHCR; multi-sectoral SGBV programming at the onset of an emergency is a life-saving intervention as humanitarian crises unfold.

Safe from the Start is a joint US government-UNHCR partnership to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies. The initiative is designed to elicit creative programmes for SGBV prevention programming, with a broader aim to develop institutional best practices and replicable ways of engagement across sectors. UNHCR will build upon existing multi-sectoral prevention activities and fund innovative approaches that will broaden the way humanitarian agencies currently 'do business'.

What does "innovative" mean for the purpose of this Challenge? "Innovative" programmes can be entirely new, creative ideas, or can be simply good practices from one region or sector that you think could be adapted to another location or to the humanitarian context. We are looking for ideas that are sustainable, community-driven, and build upon current knowledge of the field and good practice. All ideas are welcome.

AFTER THE CHALLENGE

UNHCR's SGBV Unit, with funding from BPRM and support from UNHCR Innovation, the Energy & Environment Unit, and the Livelihoods Unit, will pursue research, testing, and piloting of the *Idea* in 2015. The participant who develops the winning *Idea* will be invited to join the project team to refine and test the solution, and will be recognized for their contribution to UNHCR Ideas. All contributions by early adopters and innovators will be highlighted through acknowledgment and recognition in public fora.