

Policy Development and Evaluation Service: mission statement

The Policy Development and Evaluation Service (PDES) is committed to the systematic examination and assessment of UNHCR policies, programmes and practices. PDES also promotes rigorous research on issues related to the work of UNHCR, and encourages an active exchange of ideas and information between humanitarian practitioners, policymakers and the academic community. All of these activities are undertaken with the purpose of enhancing UNHCR's capacity to fulfil its mandate on behalf of refugees and other people of concern to the organization.

The work of PDES is guided by four fundamental principles:

Transparency. PDES activities will be undertaken in an open and transparent manner. Reports prepared and commissioned by the unit, as well as details of PDES's work programme, will be placed in the public domain and actively disseminated to interested parties.

Independence. PDES strives to provide an objective analysis of UNHCR's activities and performance. In accordance with this principle, the unit will make extensive use of independent consultants with proven expertise in the evaluation of humanitarian programmes.

Consultation. PDES will function in a consultative and participatory manner, soliciting the involvement of key stakeholders within and outside of the organization. PDES will make particular efforts to work in collaboration with partner organizations. The unit will also strive to ensure that beneficiary views are taken into account in the analysis and assessment of UNHCR's activities.

Relevance. The work of PDES will be relevant to UNHCR's operational needs and performance. The unit will place particular emphasis on the identification and dissemination of best practices and will strive to ensure that protection issues are effectively addressed in all of its evaluation and policy analysis activities. Every effort will be made to ensure that the unit's findings are incorporated into UNHCR's planning, programming and policymaking processes, thereby reinforcing the organization's ability to meet the needs of its beneficiaries.