

# Glossary

## 4Rs

*Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction*  
- In post-conflict situations in countries of origin, UNHCR proposes the 4Rs concept, bringing together humanitarian and development actors and funds. It aims to ensure linkages between all four processes so as to prevent the recurrence of mass outflows, facilitate sustainable repatriation and help create good local governance.

## Acquis

Used in the EU context to refer to the “acquired” or agreed set of instruments relating to cooperation on asylum matters.

## Agenda for Protection

A declaration of States Parties and a programme of action comprising six goals to improve the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers around the world, agreed by UNHCR and States as part of the Global Consultations process, endorsed by the Executive Committee in October 2002, and welcomed by the General Assembly.

## Asylum

The grant, by a State, of protection on its territory to persons from another State who are fleeing persecution or serious danger. Asylum encompasses a variety of elements, including *non-refoulement*, permission to remain on the territory of the asylum country and humane standards of treatment.

## Asylum-seeker

An individual who is seeking international protection. In countries with individualized procedures, an asylum-seeker is someone whose claim has not yet been finally decided on by the country in which the claim is submitted. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum-seeker.

## Cartagena Declaration on Refugees

A Declaration adopted by a colloquium of experts from the Americas in November 1984. The Declaration enlarges the 1951 Convention definition of refugee to include “persons who have fled their country because their lives, safety or freedom have been threatened by generalized violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violation of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order.” While the Declaration is not a treaty, its provisions are respected across Central America. Its refugee definition has been incorporated in the legislation of all but one of the Central American and Caribbean countries and several Latin American countries.

## Cessation Clauses

Legal provisions that set out the conditions in which refugee status comes to an end because it is no longer needed or justified. Cessation clauses are found in Article 1 (C) of the 1951 Convention and in Article I(4) of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention.

## Children

Persons who are below the legal age of majority and are therefore not legally independent. This term includes adolescents. Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a “child” is a person who is below the age of eighteen, unless the applicable law sets a lower age.

## Cluster Leadership Approach

The “cluster leadership approach” is part of the overall UN-led humanitarian reform process initiated in 2005 aimed at improving the effectiveness of humanitarian response through improving the predictability and accountability of humanitarian actions. It was adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee as a mechanism that would address identified gaps in response and enhance the quality of humanitarian actions by strengthening partnerships between

UN agencies, the Red Cross movement, international organizations and NGOs and through enhanced coordination of response in the areas where this is required.

UNHCR has taken responsibilities as cluster lead for emergency shelter, camp coordination and management and protection in situations of conflict-related internal displacement.

### **Community-based approach**

An inclusive partnership strategy that recognizes and builds on the capacities and resources of people of concern, enabling their participation throughout the programme cycle to ensure their protection and sustainable ownership.

### **Complementary food**

Food items provided by UNHCR in addition to the basic food ration supplied by WFP.

### **Complementary protection**

Formal permission, under national law or practice, to reside in a country extended by that country to persons who are in need of international protection even though they do not qualify for 1951 Convention refugee status.

### **Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness**

A treaty that provides for the acquisition of nationality by those who would otherwise be stateless and who have an appropriate link with the State through birth on the territory or through descent from a national. The Convention also provides for the retention of nationality by those who would become stateless if they were to lose the State's nationality. UNHCR has been mandated with specific functions under Article 11 of this Convention.

### **Convention Plus**

An initiative presented by the High Commissioner in 2002 to improve refugee protection worldwide and to facilitate the resolution of refugee problems by responsibility- and burden-sharing through multilateral special agreements on issues such as secondary movement, resettlement and the link between assistance and development.

### **Convention refugees**

Persons recognized as refugees by States under the eligibility criteria in Article 1 of the 1951 Convention, and entitled to the enjoyment of a variety of rights under that treaty.

### **Convention relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention)**

This treaty establishes the most widely applicable framework for the protection of refugees. The Convention was adopted in July 1951 and entered into force in April 1954. Article 1 of the Convention limits its scope to "events occurring before 1 January 1951" but this restriction was removed by the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees. As of 1 March 2006, there are 146 States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol.

### **Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons**

A Convention that provides the definition of a stateless person and establishes a framework by which a stateless person who is lawfully resident in a State can have legal status. The Convention was adopted in September 1954 and entered into force in June 1960.

### **Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR)**

Additional development assistance for improved burden-sharing for countries hosting large numbers of refugees; promoting better quality of life and self-reliance for refugees pending different durable solutions; and a better quality of life for host communities.

### **Development through Local Integration (DLI)**

Where local integration of refugees in countries of asylum is a viable option, UNHCR proposes a DLI strategy to solicit additional development assistance aimed at attaining durable solutions for refugees through local integration.

### **Dublin II**

Effective from 1 September 2003, this European Council regulation provides the legal basis for establishing the criteria and mechanism for determining the State responsible for examining an asylum application by a third country national in one of the Member States of the EU (excluding Denmark), as well as in Iceland and Norway).

<b><u>Durable solutions</u></b>	Any means by which the situation of refugees can be satisfactorily and permanently resolved to enable them to live normal lives. UNHCR traditionally pursues the three durable solutions of voluntary repatriation, local integration, and resettlement.	<b><u>Good Humanitarian Donorship</u></b>	An initiative launched by donors in 2003 with the aim to improve their response to humanitarian crises.
<b><u>Exclusion clauses</u></b>	Legal provisions that deny the benefits of international protection to persons who would otherwise satisfy the criteria for refugee status. In the 1951 Convention, the exclusion clauses are found in Articles 1D, 1E and 1F. These clauses apply to the following categories: persons who are receiving protection or assistance from United Nations agencies other than UNHCR; persons who possess the rights and obligations attached to the possession of nationality of their country of residence; and persons in respect of whom there are serious reasons for considering that they have committed a crime against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity, a serious non-political crime, or acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.	<b><u>Group-based protection responses</u></b>	Approaches whereby the protection and assistance needs of refugees are met without previously determining their status on an individual basis. Appropriate where asylum-seekers arrive <i>en masse</i> and individualized procedures are neither feasible nor necessary (the cause of flight often being self-evident). The two main approaches are recognition of refugee status on a <i>prima facie</i> basis and temporary protection.
<b><u>Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme (ExCom)</u></b>	The Committee charged with approving UNHCR's assistance programmes, advising the High Commissioner on the exercise of his/her functions and overseeing the Office's finances and administration. ExCom is composed of representatives of 70 States with a demonstrated interest in refugee issues. Other States may attend, along with IGOs and NGOs, as observers.	<b><u>Groups with specific needs</u></b>	Individuals, families or groups requiring additional support to enable them overcome the challenges they face in accessing and enjoying their rights.
<b><u>Facilitated voluntary repatriation</u></b>	Even when conditions in the country of origin are too difficult or dangerous for the majority of refugees to return, UNHCR can assist ("facilitate") the repatriation of any refugees who make an informed and voluntary decision to return and request such assistance.	<b><u>Implementing partner</u></b>	Any organization or agency (e.g. governmental, non-governmental, intergovernmental, United Nations, multilateral) to which UNHCR delegates responsibility for the implementation of material assistance and provides funds for this purpose through a standard agreement.
<b><u>Gender-related persecution</u></b>	Persecution that targets or disproportionately affects a particular gender. Under certain factual circumstances, gender-related persecution may come within the refugee definition.	<b><u>Internally displaced person (IDP)</u></b>	An individual who has been forced or obliged to flee from the individual's home or place of habitual residence, "...in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflicts, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border" (according to the <i>Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement</i> ).
		<b><u>Internal flight alternative or relocation principle</u></b>	A factual determination that an asylum-seeker could have avoided persecution in the individual's country of origin by relocating to another part of the same country. The idea that refugees should first try to find a place within the country of origin where they would be safe, before seeking asylum outside the country - rests on understandings which are basically at odds with fundamental refugee protection principles. This term is not favoured by UNHCR as it is

	often used to limit access to status determination procedures or to deny refugee status. UNHCR's position is that the possibility of internal relocation is relevant to status determination only in certain limited cases and, even then, its application will depend on a full consideration of all aspects of the refugee claim.		resettlement opportunities in the region.
<b><u>International protection</u></b>	The actions by the international community on the basis of international law, aimed at protecting the fundamental rights of a specific category of persons outside their countries of origin, who lack the national protection of their own countries. See also "Protection" below.	<b><u>Migrants (Economic)</u></b>	Persons who leave their countries purely for economic reasons unrelated to the refugee definition, or in order to seek material improvements in their livelihood. Economic migrants do not fall within the criteria for refugee status and are therefore not entitled to benefit from international protection.
<b><u>Junior Professional Officer (JPO)</u></b>	Government-sponsored young professional working for UNHCR.	<b><u>OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa</u></b>	This regional complement to the 1951 Convention provides for a broader refugee definition. Adopted in 1969, the OAU Convention stipulates that the term "refugee" also "applies to those fleeing from external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or whole of the country of origin".
<b><u>Local integration</u></b>	A durable solution to the plight of refugees that involves their permanent settlement in the country in which they sought asylum.	<b><u>Operational partner</u></b>	Any organization or agency with which UNHCR collaborates to provide protection and assistance for refugees or other persons of concern to UNHCR, but which does not receive funds from UNHCR to implement activities on its behalf.
<b><u>Mandate Refugees</u></b>	Persons who are recognized as refugees by UNHCR acting under the authority of its Statute and relevant UN General Assembly resolutions. Mandate status is especially significant in States that are not parties of the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol.	<b><u>PHARE</u></b>	European Community assistance programme for economic restructuring in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.
<b><u>Management Systems Renewal Project (MSRP)</u></b>	UNHCR's computer systems for finance, supply chain, human resources and payroll.	<b><u>Prima facie refugees</u></b>	Persons recognised as refugees, by a State or UNHCR on the basis of objective criteria related to the circumstances in their country of origin that justify a presumption that they meet the criteria of the applicable refugee definition. See also Group-based protection responses.
<b><u>Mexico Plan of Action</u></b>	The Mexico Plan of Action, launched in 2004, aims to enhance international refugee protection in Latin America by further developing international refugee law, consolidating protection networks and improving the ability of States to provide effective protection to all persons in need of it. It focuses on durable solutions for urban refugees, in particular self-reliance, and the special needs of refugee women, the Colombian conflict and its impact, and solutions at border areas, as well as the use of	<b><u>Promoted voluntary repatriation</u></b>	Voluntary repatriation encouraged and organized by UNHCR when conditions are considered conducive to return in safety and with dignity (cf "facilitated" voluntary repatriation).
		<b><u>Protection</u></b>	All activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law (i.e., international

human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law).

### **Refoulement**

When used in relation to refugees and asylum-seekers, the removal of a person to a territory or frontiers of a territory where the person's life or freedom would be threatened on account of the person's race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. The duty of non-*refoulement* is a part of customary international law and is therefore binding on all States, whether or not they are parties to the 1951 Convention.

### **Refugee**

A person who meets the eligibility criteria under the applicable refugee definition, as provided for international or regional instruments, under UNHCR's mandate, and/or in national legislation.

### **Refugee Status Determination (RSD)**

*Legal and administrative procedures undertaken by States and/or UNHCR to determine whether an individual should be recognized as a refugee in accordance with national and international law.*

### **Reintegration**

A process which enables returnees to regain their physical, social, legal and material security needed to maintain life, livelihood and dignity and which eventually leads to the disappearance of any observable distinctions vis-à-vis their compatriots.

### **Resettlement**

The transfer of refugees from the country in which they have sought asylum to another State that has agreed to admit them. The refugees will usually be granted asylum or some other form of long-term resident rights and, in many cases, will have the opportunity to become naturalized citizens. For this reason, resettlement is a durable solution as well as a tool for the protection of refugees. It is also a practical example of international burden- and responsibility-sharing.

### **Results-based management (RBM)**

A management philosophy and approach that emphasizes the achievement of results as the essential task of management.

### **Returnee**

An individual who was of concern to UNHCR when outside the individual's country of origin and who remains so for a limited period (usually two years) after returning home to the country of origin. It also applies to internally displaced persons who return home to their prior place of residence.

### **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**

Acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, that target individuals or groups of individuals on the basis of their gender.

### **Self-reliance**

In the refugee context, the ability of an asylum-seeker or refugee to provide for his/her own living needs and those of his/her dependants.

### **Sphere Project**

A project set up by several NGO consortia to develop a set of universal minimum standards in core areas of humanitarian assistance. Its aim is to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system in disaster response.

### **Stateless persons**

Persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law, including persons whose nationality is not established.

### **Surge Project**

The Surge Protection Capacity Project is UNHCR's response to increased and sudden temporary protection staffing needs in circumstances where the Office's own protection staffing capacity is insufficient. The Project's main feature is a roster of external candidates available for immediate deployment.

### **Söderköping Process**

An initiative launched by UNHCR and the Swedish Migration Board to promote dialogue on asylum and irregular migration issues among the countries situated along the eastern border of the European Union.

### **Temporary Protection**

An arrangement or device developed by States to offer protection of a temporary nature to persons arriving *en masse*, from situations of conflict or generalized

violence, without prior individual status determination. Temporary protection has been mostly used in industrialized States.

## **Trafficking (human)**

The organized illegal movement of persons for profit. The critical additional factor that distinguishes trafficking from migrant smuggling is the presence of force, coercion and/or deception throughout or at some stage in the process - such deception, force or coercion being used for the purpose of exploitation. While the additional elements that distinguish trafficking from migrant smuggling may sometimes be obvious, in many cases they are difficult to prove without active investigation.

## **Unaccompanied children**

Children who are not in the company of parents or another adult caregiver.

## **United Nations Security Phases**

The United Nations security plan is country-specific and takes into consideration the particular political, geographical and other circumstances of the duty station concerned. The UN utilizes a worldwide five-phase security management system. The five phases are:

Phase One – Precautionary: It is used to warn staff that the security situation in the country or a portion of the country is such that caution should be exercised. Travel to the duty station requires advance clearance from the Designated Official responsible for security.

Phase Two – Restricted Movement: Will be declared to signify that the situation warrants a much higher level of awareness and preparedness than the precautionary phase and to impose major restrictions on the movement of staff members and their eligible dependants who may be directed to remain at home unless otherwise instructed. Phase Two should be used as a transition measure. No travel to or within the country will occur unless specifically authorized by the Designated Official as essential travel.

Phase Three – Relocation: Indicates a substantial deterioration in the security situation, which may result

in the relocation of non-essential staff members or their eligible dependants. The determination of essential staff members for security purposes will be made by the Designated Official, and the Security Management Team.

Phase Four – Emergency Operations: All internationally recruited staff may be evacuated, apart from staff directly concerned with security matters, emergency or humanitarian relief operations. The purpose of Phase Four is to limit the numbers of international staff members at the duty station to those vital for emergency, humanitarian relief, security operations or any other operation deemed essential by the Secretary-General. All other internationally-recruited staff members will be relocated at this time.

Phase Five – Evacuation: Signifies that the situation has deteriorated to such a point that all remaining internationally recruited staff members are required to leave. Phase Five can only be declared with the approval of the Secretary-General.

## **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

The volunteer arm of the United Nations was created by the General Assembly in 1970 to serve as an operational partner in development cooperation at the request of UN member States. It deploys qualified volunteers to different UN organizations.

## **Voluntary repatriation**

Return to the country of origin based on the refugees' free and informed decision. Voluntary repatriation is one of the three durable solutions and may be organized (when it takes place under the auspices of the concerned governments and/or UNHCR) or spontaneous (the refugees return by their own means with no involvement of UNHCR and governments). See also "facilitated" and "promoted voluntary repatriation".