

How your donations are helping to shelter refugees

Shelter Campaign Update



**NOBODY
LEFT
OUTSIDE**
When people are forced to flee
you can help shelter them

Contents

Responding to the defining crisis of our time	4
How your donations have helped	6
A world of shelter solutions	8
Meet refugee families you have helped	12
Your donations in action: Sheltering fleeing families in Tanzania	16

Design: Tom Fincham.
Cover image: © UNHCR/Sebastian Rich.

“Shelter is the foundation stone for refugees to survive and recover, and should be considered a non-negotiable human right. As we tackle worldwide displacement on a level not seen since World War II, no refugee should be left outside.”

Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees



Responding to the defining crisis of our time

Your donations give fleeing families a precious gift: a safe place to sleep again.

Shelter is fundamental to life. Be it a tent, temporary house or a home, it is the essential building block to help millions of displaced people survive and recover after conflict, violence and persecution.

With the Syria conflict now in its seventh year and escalating emergencies in countries like South Sudan, Yemen and Iraq, the need to shelter those forced to flee is as critical as ever.

Displacement has become one of the defining crises of our time.

Today, the situation has reached tipping point, leaving the lives of millions hanging in the balance.

That is why, in May 2016, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, launched a global campaign to raise funds to shelter people who have been forced to flee their homes, like Hamid, Fatma and their family.

Thanks to caring people like you, over US\$10 million have been raised in the ten months since the campaign launched. **Your donations are helping to shelter families across the world.**

Thank you for standing with refugees and providing safe shelter to families in their time of greatest need.



Your generous donations help families like Hamid and Fatma's, here with two of their children, Bilal (7) and Faride (14), outside their UNHCR shelter in Al Jamea'a camp, Iraq.

How your donations have helped

UNHCR shelter programmes are chronically underfunded, leaving some of the world's most vulnerable people struggling to cope. Without a safe place to call home, these families are forced to make desperate choices just to survive from one day to the next.

In less than a year, your donations have already started to change lives. Generous people like you have donated over US\$10 million to the campaign, helping UNHCR shelter hundreds of thousands of vulnerable children, women and men.

By supporting our global campaign, you help shelter families in their time of greatest need. Here are just a few examples of what UNHCR has been able to do in 2016 – thanks to you and supporters like you:

Transport, distribute, **10,510**  family tents in Tanzania and put up

Repair collective shelters to provide a safe place to stay for **9,000** people in Iraq

Distribute shelter kits to help **146,740** people in Lebanon weatherproof their shelters 

Build semi-permanent shelters for **46,863** people in Tanzania and Rwanda


Give refuge to **1,504** people in transit shelters in Mexico 

House **11,878** vulnerable people, like unaccompanied children, in Greece in rental apartments with carers

Help **136,240** refugees in Jordan keep a roof over their heads through direct cash support for rent and other essentials 

DID YOU KNOW?

 UNHCR is on the ground in **128** countries

 UNHCR can intervene within the first **72** hours of a refugee emergency. Right after a crisis, tents are often the lightest, cheapest, fastest way to shelter people.

You have helped people just like Jacqueline, who fled violence in Burundi and now lives in a UNHCR family shelter in Nyarugusu camp, Tanzania.

A world of shelter solutions

Sheltering large numbers of people across vastly different countries and environments is a huge challenge. To address this, thanks to the support of donors like you, **UNHCR has developed a range of shelter solutions that provide families across the world with both physical and emotional protection and a space to rebuild their lives.** Your donations to the global shelter campaign are helping UNHCR shelter people who have been forced to flee their homes in both emergency and longer-term situations.

GREECE

UNHCR is assisting people in need in Greece, as refugees and migrants continue to risk their lives in a desperate bid to reach Europe. In 2016, with the support of donors like you, UNHCR helped shelter 11,878 of the most vulnerable people in apartments. We also placed nearly 5,000 people in unused hotel accommodation and made sure they had access to food, hygiene items, basic social support, as well as medical, legal and psychosocial support.



Refugees board a coach to be taken to a nearby hotel.

LEBANON

In Lebanon, UNHCR is helping to repair small shelters and provide weatherproofing and insulation kits for Syrian refugees living in poor conditions, benefiting 162,875 people in 2016 alone. With your support, we have distributed much-needed weatherproofing shelter kits to over 146,000 refugees living in informal settlements. Each kit contains tarpaulin and plywood (to protect from rain and reinforce roofs), lockable doors, insulation foam and building tools.

JORDAN



Your generous donations help Syrian refugee families in Jordan cover the cost of basic life essentials like rent.

IRAQ

In Iraq, your donations have helped UNHCR fund work like the repairing of 1,355 homes for people returning home or displaced and living in poor conditions. You also helped us repair collective shelters, giving 9,000 people a safe place to stay with their families. Each shelter can house three or more families and has shared cooking and bathroom facilities.

In Jordan, UNHCR is providing vital cash assistance to help very vulnerable families pay their rent, ensuring they have a safe place to live. About 80% of Syrian refugees in Jordan live in cities and towns, where they struggle to rent even the most basic accommodation. In 2016, UNHCR reached 136,240 of the most vulnerable refugees through cash assistance.

MEXICO

In Mexico, UNHCR has given refuge in transit shelters to 1,504 people fleeing gang violence and persecution in Central America this past year. We are also expanding four longer term shelters and helping to build a new one, to provide much needed support to even more people in great need. This center will have specific areas for families, children (including those fleeing alone or separated from family), and a set of rooms for those fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation – the first of its kind in Mexico.



You give families fleeing violence and persecution a safe place to stay in UNHCR-supported shelters, like this one in central Mexico.



RWANDA

In Rwanda, thanks to donors like you, UNHCR has funded the building of dual shelters benefiting 10,084 people in 2016. These innovative ‘back to back’ shelters provide families with a robust, semi-permanent durable home (lasting 5-7 years) and good access to water and sanitation. They also save land by using mud bricks instead of wood poles.



TANZANIA

UNHCR is providing emergency shelter and immediate lifesaving support to Burundians fleeing terrible violence in their country. Tents and temporary shelters are often the first response in an emergency. Later, temporary shelters can be transformed into semi-permanent shelters with mud brick and corrugated iron roofs, which cost less and last longer. In 2016, UNHCR supported 89,365 refugees in three camps in Tanzania by distributing family tents and semi-permanent shelters.

Meet refugee families you have helped

Only with your support can UNHCR achieve the ambitious goal to shelter millions of refugees. And we are already seeing the difference you make to families across the world, people with dreams and hopes just like you. Read on to find out how your donations and support are helping us shelter families like Rafea's in Lebanon and Emmanuel's in Tanzania.

RAFAA'S STORY: BUILDING FOUR WALLS

Rafea, her husband and their four children left Syria four years ago with just the clothes on their backs.

They found safety in Lebanon but with so many refugees arriving in the country, accommodation was stretched and home became a small, wall-less shack in a banana field.

The small nation of Lebanon hosts over one million Syrian refugees. With no official camps, refugee families like Rafea's struggle to cope in run down housing or live in makeshift settlements on the edge of towns and villages. With your support, UNHCR's shelter teams have prioritised the most vulnerable families and provided shelter solutions that will dramatically improve their lives.

Thanks to UNHCR shelter teams – and generous supporters like you – today, Rafea's shelter is weather-proof, dry and warm.

"In the winter it was hell," says Rafea, describing the shelter. "There was no kitchen, no toilet. During the winter, there was so much water coming

in. It was so hot in summer. I was very happy when I got the shelter assistance we needed."

"The walls protect us from extreme heat, extreme cold and the rain. They also give us a sense of privacy. Before everyone stayed in one room, including my mother-in-law."

"We feel much more comfortable here now that we are under this roof. Now things will be better. We will be able to stay warm."

"We feel much more comfortable here now that we are under this roof."

To date in Lebanon, UNHCR has provided weatherproofing and insulation kits to improve tents and settlements to over 29,000 families and helped repair over 3,000 partially constructed buildings in exchange for landlords providing free or reduced rent to refugees.

In Lebanon, your donations help shelter Syrian refugees like Rafea (28), here with son Amar (4) in the shelter UNHCR and a local partner have helped renovate.



EMMANUEL'S STORY: FINDING LIFE AWAY FROM HOME

Fearing for their lives, Emmanuel fled violence in Burundi in late 2015, with his wife Estherine and their twins Benny and Kehveh. His family is one of the many thousands that have fled to Tanzania in search of safety.

“Before leaving Burundi, I was scared, because there was a lot of insecurity. That’s why we decided to leave our country,” says Emmanuel.

The young family found safety and protection with UNHCR at Nduta refugee camp in Tanzania and have worked hard to make their family shelter into a home away from home.

“When I arrived at the border, I thought a lot about things because it’s the first time I’m a refugee. I wondered how I could live in a strange country,” says Emmanuel, *“But now I see that life goes on.”*

Thanks to the support of donors like you, Emmanuel’s family received a life-saving shelter from UNHCR.

“When I received a family shelter, I was overjoyed, I thanked God because my family had a place to settle in and life could continue.”

“When I received the shelter, I was overjoyed [...] because my family had a place to settle in and life could continue.”

“The family shelter is very important as it gives you security, protection, a safe space for your things. When you have a shelter, you have an address and that gives you an identity. If you have problems you can get help. People also know where you are, they can find you.”

“Having a house also means shelter. Right now it’s the rainy season, so having a house

means we can shelter from the rain.”

With your support, UNHCR teams on the ground are providing refugees like Emmanuel and his family with both tents and semi-permanent shelters, to protect their families. In 2016, we sheltered almost 18,000 refugee families in three different refugee camps.

Emmanuel, Estherine and their twin boys Benny and Kehveh outside their UNHCR family shelter in Nduta refugee camp, Tanzania.



Meet Tom: Sheltering fleeing families in Tanzania

For over 25 years, Tom Corcoran has devoted himself to protecting people and the environment. As a UNHCR Shelter Specialist, Tom has worked to shelter and protect Burundian refugees who have fled to Tanzania, to escape violence in their country. Together with refugees, he develops sustainable shelter solutions that give people a safe place to sleep while minimising the impact on the environment. **None of this would be possible without the donations of people like you.**

Refugees from Burundi have been arriving in Tanzania since 2015. What is UNHCR doing to help shelter them?

Tom: *“Normally in an emergency situation the solution is to supply tents, but tents are very expensive. If you can supply a plastic sheet/ tarpaulin and construct a similar quality of shelter from local materials, you can save a lot of money, which means you can provide more shelter for people. In Tanzania, in six months, we built somewhere around 12,000 shelters.”*

Why is it important to engage the refugee community when developing shelter solutions?

Tom: *“Working with the community is critical. If you don’t develop ownership and involve people, the project fails. If you engage people, you can create shelters at scale, at a lower cost – if people build their own shelter, they then know how to maintain it and they look after it. There’s no other way to shelter large numbers of people successfully.”*

What happens after the initial emergency stage?

Tom: *“Tents last about 6-12 months, and emergency shelters about 12 months. UNHCR always plans to build better, more durable shelters that’ll last the length of the emergency. At this time in Tanzania we have no way of knowing how long the crisis causing people to flee from*

Burundi will last, but we prepare for the longer term – we know people could be in refugee camps for 10 years or more – so we want to build the most durable shelters and we want to build them as quickly as possible.”

Why do you like your job and working with refugees?

Tom: *“It’s very rewarding. **I get to give people a home, every day.** It’s not an engineering job per se. It’s a very social job, it’s very much about working with people, about using the resources you have to creatively find sustainable solutions. We try and meet a different standard, not an engineering standard, but a standard of comfort for people. We take what we have from the surrounding area and turn it into something that’s durable and acceptable for the community. **We get to give people security, a sense of home, at a time when that basic protection has been taken from them. It’s good helping people, you can see the impact straight away.**”*

“We get to give people a sense of home, at a time when that basic protection has been taken from them.”



Your donations help UNHCR Shelter Specialists like Tom Corcoran give refugees a home and hope for the future.





NOBODY LEFT OUTSIDE

When people are forced to flee
you can help shelter them