

2017 IMPACT REPORT

A special update
for our valued donors



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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In 2017, you did something amazing.

By supporting UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, you delivered assistance to families who have been forced to flee war or persecution in their time of greatest need. Thanks to you, we made sure that they received shelter, essential supplies such as blankets and kitchen supplies, food, clean water, and access to vital services. Together, we also helped to protect their rights and give them a safe place to call home.

None of this would be possible without the support of generous, caring donors like you. This report showcases the lasting impact that our supporters made in 2017 on the lives of women, men and children who have lost so much.

From all of us here at UNHCR, **thank you** for all you do.

“Through determined action, we can truly share responsibility in addressing the plight of the uprooted - and offer them the prospect of a better future.”

**Filippo Grandi,
UN High Commissioner
for Refugees**

365 days together

At UNHCR, everything we do helps protect people forced to flee their homes. Our teams work in some 130 countries worldwide, protecting and caring for millions every day. Your thoughtful and generous support makes this possible. Here's a look at the events and emergencies that marked 2017 and how we responded, together.

January Braving the Cold

As temperatures in many regions drop below freezing, families fleeing war or persecution brace for a long winter away from home. In Greece, UNHCR transfers hundreds of people to better accommodation, while in Serbia, we work with partners to distribute critical winter supplies like thermal blankets and warm clothing.



© UNHCR/Daniel Etter

February Crisis in South Sudan

As violence surges in South Sudan, the number of refugees fleeing for safety tops 1.5 million. This makes it the largest refugee crisis in Africa. Women and children make up 86 per cent of refugees arriving in Uganda. UNHCR teams on the ground do all they can to help meet their basic needs, thanks to donors like you.

March Six years of war in Syria

Six years since the start of the Syria conflict, UNHCR urges the international community to increase support to help offset the suffering of millions of innocent civilians. "Ultimately, Syria's conflict isn't about numbers – it's about people," says UN Refugee Chief Filippo Grandi. "Families have been torn apart, innocent civilians killed, houses destroyed, businesses and livelihoods shattered."

May A children's crisis

After three years of escalating conflict in South Sudan, the number of children fleeing the nation in search of safety tops one million – 62 per cent of all South Sudanese refugees. Most arrive in Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Sudan, and over 75,000 children have crossed South Sudan's borders on their own. UNHCR staff are on the frontlines, providing life-saving assistance to children and families as they arrive.



© UNHCR/David Azia

April Starvation threatens millions

Conflict and drought in the Horn of Africa, Yemen and Nigeria put families at risk of starvation, including refugees and people displaced in their own country. Over 20 million people in Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia and Yemen experience or are at risk of famine. With your help, UNHCR and partners race to deliver emergency nutrition, health care, water and protection to displaced families.

June Record forced displacement

Our latest Global Trends report reveals that one person is forced to flee their home every three seconds, on average. That equates to an unprecedented 65.6 million people uprooted by conflict and persecution at the end of 2016. June also marks the end of Ramadan – a time for reflection, gathering and giving for communities across the Muslim world. UNHCR helps lift spirits with food distributions and gatherings for refugees, while calling for people to donate their alms (or 'zakat') to help refugees in the Middle East. Thanks to generous individuals, foundations and corporate partners, the 2017 Ramadan campaign raised over \$4 million in support of refugee families.



© UNHCR/Roger Arnold

August Rohingya emergency

Fresh violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state sends women, men and children fleeing to neighbouring Bangladesh – walking for days through jungles and mountains or braving dangerous sea voyages to escape. By the end of the 2017, it will have become the world's fastest-growing refugee crisis. In the first 100 days, thanks to your generosity, UNHCR airlifts and ships emergency life-saving aid – including 178,000 blankets and 36,000 kitchen sets – and provides access to water and toilets to over 100,000 people, as well as medical attention and counselling to nearly 60,000.

July Families return to Mosul

The Iraqi government declares victory in Mosul, a city battered by fighting. Displaced residents begin repairing their war-damaged homes, as well as reopening shops and businesses. UNHCR steps up support for those returning home, distributing shelter kits and cash assistance to the most vulnerable families.

September Somali refugees return home

More than 100 refugees leave Yemen, in the first UNHCR-assisted spontaneous return for Somali refugees. Given the current life-threatening conditions in Yemen, UNHCR is supporting the voluntary return of Somali refugees, who make up 91 per cent of Yemen's 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers. We provide support for up to 10,000 refugees who have decided to return while continuing to assist those who remain in Yemen.



December First evacuation of refugees from Libya

The first group of 162 refugees from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen – including single mothers, children on their own and disabled people – are safely evacuated from Libya to Italy. All are in need of health care and counselling after being held captive in inhumane conditions and undergoing abuse from traffickers, smugglers and others on dangerous journeys across Africa. The group is accompanied from detention facilities by Libya-based UNHCR staff and flown to Italy, where our teams welcome and give them information. More evacuations follow.

© UNHCR/Alessandro Penso

October Civil registration for refugees in Ethiopia

In a historic first, Ethiopia begins civil registration for refugees – allowing refugees to register life events such as birth, death and marriage. This was made possible following an amendment to existing legislation by Ethiopia's government, which UNHCR and UNICEF helped prepare. Registering a birth establishes a child's legal identity and is critical to guaranteeing basic human rights.

November Jordan's Zaatari camp goes green

Jordan's Zaatari camp inaugurates its newly constructed solar plant, the largest ever built in a refugee camp. Funded by the German Government, the plant will bring free and clean energy to 80,000 Syrian refugees and the host community. It will improve living conditions and safety in the camp, reduce CO2 emissions by 13,000 tons per year, and increase access to electricity from 8 to 14 hours per day. This follows the opening of a solar farm in Jordan's Azraq refugee camp earlier in the year, funded by the IKEA Foundation's Brighter Lives for Refugees campaign.

Bangladesh Rohingya emergency – your questions, answered

You've seen the images on the news. Since August 2017, brutal violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state has sent men, women and children fleeing for their lives. Here's what you need to know about the world's fastest-growing refugee emergency.

671,000

Rohingya refugees estimated to have fled to Bangladesh since late August 2017*

Nearly **80%** are women and children

Most arrive **on foot** and by **boat**

**As of February 2018*



WHO ARE THE ROHINGYA?

The Rohingya are a stateless Muslim minority in Myanmar who have faced discrimination and extreme poverty for decades. They have not been allowed to exercise their basic rights, including the freedom to move, right to education, work and other social, civil and political rights. The Rohingya fleeing Myanmar are now stateless refugees, making them even more vulnerable.

WHAT CONDITION ARE REFUGEES ARRIVING IN WHEN THEY REACH BANGLADESH?

People are arriving exhausted, hungry and in desperate need of shelter. The vast majority are women including mothers with new-born babies, families with children. Most have walked for days through jungles and mountains with little or no food. Thousands have resorted to desperate means to flee Myanmar, risking their lives on flimsy rafts. Many have died trying to reach safety.



HOW ARE YOUR DONATIONS HELPING UNHCR RESPOND?

With the help of supporters like you, UNHCR is on the ground doing all we can to help: providing urgently-needed shelter, access to clean water, medical care and more. Airlifting life-saving aid including blankets, sleeping mats, tents, kitchen sets and jerry cans for water. Working around the clock with the Bangladeshi government and partners to respond to the massive needs, including developing the Kutupalong refugee camp area – now the largest refugee settlement in the world. In less than six months, together with partners, we helped provide essentials including:

“There is so much work to be done [...] but that means there is so much opportunity to make a real difference. Every donation you make counts.”



UNHCR
Emergency
Response
Coordinator
Joung-ah
Ghedini-Williams



108,433
Plastic sheets



46,958
Buckets



44,071
Kitchen Set



86,867
Mosquito Nets



217,932
Blankets



87,978
Jerry Cans



217,720
Sleeping Mat

More than 20 airlifts

carrying life-saving aid sent
by UNHCR since August

Over 200 UNHCR staff
on the ground

More than 155,000
refugees reached with
medical care

231,000 refugees
given access to clean water**

**As of January 2018



Key figures at a glance

If you were forced to flee your home to escape war or persecution, wouldn't you hope someone would extend a helping hand? In 2017, you did just that.

By donating to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, you have helped save lives, protect rights and build a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people. Together, we are responding to refugee crises around the world, making a real, lasting impact on the lives of men, women and children forced from the place they call 'home.'

THE CONTEXT:

65.6 million

forcibly displaced people worldwide, including nearly 22.5 million refugees – over half of whom are



children

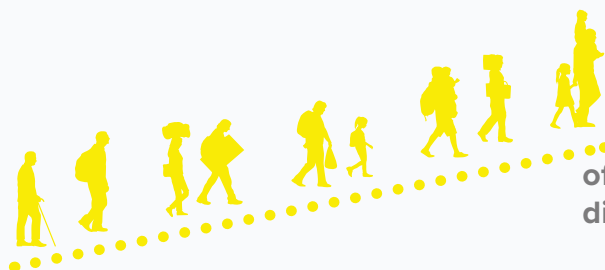
20

Nearly **people** forcibly displaced every minute

55%

of all refugees come from three countries:

Syria, Afghanistan & South Sudan



Almost 60%

of the world's displaced hosted in

Africa and the Middle East

DID YOU KNOW?

UNHCR was created in 1950, to help Europeans uprooted by World War II. Since then, we've helped millions of people worldwide restart their lives.



THE RESPONSE:



UNHCR is on the ground responding in

130 countries



87%

of our staff are based in the field, in direct contact with people of concern



Our staff encompasses over

150 different nationalities

361 aid workers were deployed by UNHCR to emergencies in 2017, with many more specialist short term staff also sent in to assist

YOUR FUNDS IN ACTION

When you donate to UNHCR, you make a true difference in the lives of people forced to flee. You help save, protect and rebuild lives.

Nobody chooses to become a refugee, **but you have chosen to help**, giving care and hope to some of the world's most vulnerable people. In 2017, amazing donors like you stepped forward, helping UNHCR respond to ever-growing needs. From on-going crises to large-scale emergencies, we were there. Saving lives. Protecting rights. Building better futures.

UNHCR is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions. In a world facing record levels of displacement, your support matters now

more than ever. And for this, we want to express our **deepest gratitude**.

On behalf of our staff worldwide and those we serve, **thank you** for all your support.

A global community of supporters and donors:

In 2017, \$400 million was raised from almost 2 million committed individual donors from more than 50 countries, as well as foundations, corporate and philanthropist partners.

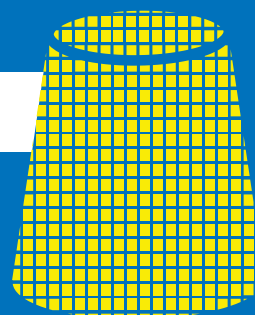
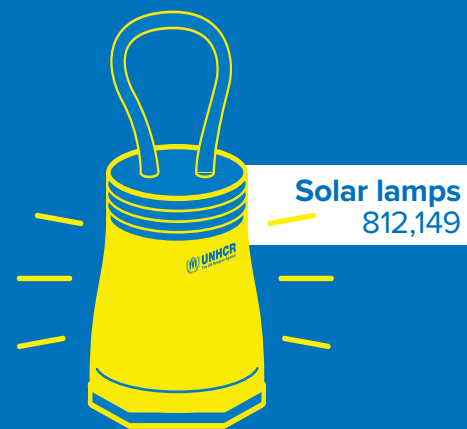


DELIVERING VITAL SUPPLIES

Core relief items sent for emergencies in 2017

If you had just a few minutes to leave your home, what would you take with you? People forced to flee war or persecution often leave everything behind to make the dangerous journey to safety. In times of crisis, UNHCR leads efforts to rush in life-saving assistance – including shelter, food, water and medical care.

When an emergency strikes, our network of warehouses and stockpiles – strategically located across Africa, Asia and Europe – ensures we can respond. In 2017, thanks to caring donors like you, millions of items were shipped from our warehouses, stockpiles and directly from suppliers, including:



Mosquito nets
594,671





Family tents
28,560

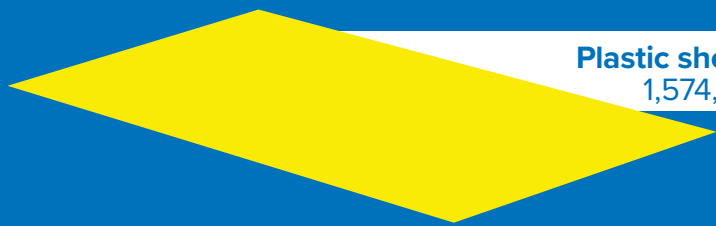
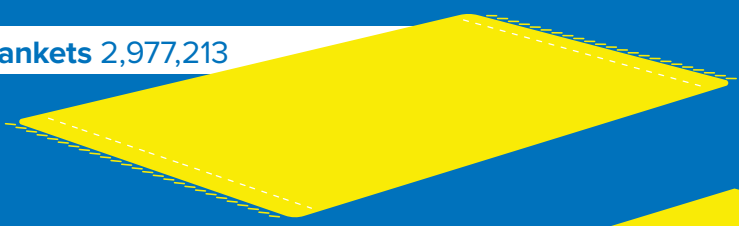


Kitchen sets
841,839



Buckets
267,872

Blankets 2,977,213



Plastic sheets
1,574,570

unhcr.org

