



GLOBAL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

PROGRESS REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The Global Strategic Priorities (GSPs) for the 2018-2019 biennium set out areas targeted by UNHCR to enhance protection for people of concern and find solutions for them.

The GSPs are divided into two categories: operational priorities for field operations and support and management priorities for core organizational functions.

The operational priorities influence the development and implementation of country-level plans by field operations and take into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The support and management GSPs reflect UNHCR's 2017-2021 Strategic Directions, as well as commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit and under the Grand Bargain.

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR continued strengthening broad range of partnerships within the humanitarian and development fields and the private sector.

UNHCR's operations collected and analysed programme implementation information and communicated progress and results through Focus, as well as through the organization's integrated refugee health information system.

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ACHIEVEMENTS

Continued efforts across core GSP areas prompted significant improvements in several areas. At the end of 2019, 149 States were party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, its 1967 Protocol, or both. The first Global Refugee Forum encouraged many States to address refugee protection in a more comprehensive manner. UNHCR led efforts to reinforce collaboration aimed at addressing internal displacement, including through the improvement of legislation and national policies in Ethiopia, Mali, the Philippines, Somalia and Syria. Angola acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, while Colombia and Malta acceded to the 1954 Convention. This brought to 94 the number of States party to the 1954 Convention, and 74 States to the 1961 Convention. Furthermore, the Kyrgyz Republic became the first country to resolve all known cases of statelessness on its territory, having granted nationality to 13,700 stateless persons over the last five years.

UNHCR registered over 8.8 million refugees in its digital population registration and identity management ecosystem (PRIMES) and strengthened its identity management capacity to achieve a 38%

expansion in coverage compared to 2018. Some 15,200 refugee housing units (RHUs) were deployed to 15 operations, 219,000 people of concern, (including some 90,020 IDPs) living in them by year's end.

UNHCR supported new and ongoing emergencies, dispatching \$30 million-worth of emergency core relief items from seven global stockpiles to 23 emergency-affected countries. Approximately \$650 million in cash assistance was distributed, an increase of 13% compared to 2018 and 50% compared to 2015. Of the cash provided by UNHCR, 95% was unrestricted in use.

UNHCR launched the Refugee Education 2030 strategy, and supported the launch of the Tertiary Refugee Student Network, a global network of refugee students committed to enabling 15% of all refugee students to access higher education by 2030. Supporting community empowerment and self-reliance, UNHCR invested in the capacities and skills of people of concern. UNHCR expanded its MADE51 multi-stakeholder initiative to provide refugee artisans with access to international markets developing refugee-made product lines in 15 countries.





CHALLENGES

Throughout 2019, UNHCR staff and partners planned, budgeted, implemented and adjusted strategies and plans tailored to their local context, applying those GSPs which were relevant, and reprioritizing in the face of unexpected developments. In some instances, reprioritization forced operations to address certain essential needs over others, due to a limited availability of resources. The main challenge, however, remained that of accommodating a comprehensive response with limited budgetary resources which, in 2019, left a 44% funding gap.

Limited resources resulted in cuts across the range of planned services and activities. They affected lifesaving assistance and support to basic needs, with cuts to food and nutritional assistance and a rise in food insecurity in places such as Chad, Cameroon, Malawi, Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan. They also

hampered progress achieved by both UNHCR and partners on the prevention, risk mitigation and response to sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies and protracted situations, with challenges such as lack of funding, access to justice for survivors, insecurity and limited and geographicallyfragmented services in certain locations. It affected as well UNHCR's work to promote solutions. In 2019, 63,726 refugees referred by UNHCR were resettled to 29 countries, a modest increase from 2018 which surpassed the target of 60,000 set out in the 'UNHCRs Three-Year Strategy'. Still, this represents less than 5% of the 1.4 million refugees estimated to be in need of resettlement. Although other durable solutions, such as local integration or repatriation, had some successes, none of them kept pace with needs, and in only in very few situations did conditions allow for voluntary return in safety and dignity.

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LEGISLATION ON REFUGEES

SEEK IMPROVEMENTS TO NATIONAL LAW AND POLICY IN 80 COUNTRIES SO AS TO BE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CONCERNING REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

IMPROVEMENTS IN 16 COUNTRIES (total of 80 countries)

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