



# Group of Friends Human Settlement The Global Refugee Forum 2023

## Overall purpose

The Human Settlement is an integrated approach to holistically link climate action, sustainable shelter and housing, safe access to sufficient water, sanitation, and hygiene, accelerated use of renewable energy, and improved environmental management for more resilient settlements for refugees and their hosting communities that withstand climate shocks.

With some 6,6 million refugees living in refugee camps and many urban refugees finding themselves in precarious situations, the Human Settlement group of friends is an effort by States, individuals, private sectors, NGOs and international organizations from all over the world to mobilize high quality, joint pledges and contributions to promote social and environmental human settlements approaches in key technical and infrastructural areas. The Group will further leverage the Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 as a key reflection and advocacy moment to advance the accommodation, WASH, energy, and natural resource management objectives as outlined in the Global Compact on Refugees commitments. A strong focus will be on climate change.

## Objectives of the roadmap

The Group aims to mobilize support for refugees and communities to live in resilient human settlements, providing a favorable environment to advance on equitable access to sustainable housing, safe WASH services and promote access to renewable energy, while being resilient against climate risks and environmental challenges.

The work of the group will work in the spirit of the

- UNHCR [Strategic Framework for Climate Action](#) and the [Operational Strategy for Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability](#)
- [SDG 6 on Clean water and sanitation](#) to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- [SDG 7 on Affordable and Clean energy](#) to Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- [SDG 11 on Sustainable cities and communities](#) to Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable” and “Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services

Pledges from donor countries, multilateral donors, foundations, academia and the private sector will focus on the following core areas:

- Commit to make all possible efforts to curb the devastating humanitarian consequences of the increasingly hostile and unpredictable climate emergency, and to focus on communities most in need of support

- Support to mitigate the impact of climate change in larger refugee settlements by including them in **national adaptation plans** and prevent the negative impact of droughts and/or increased flooding
- Support local governments and maximize resources for integrated human settlement planning and informed investments through **area-based approaches**
- Commit to the investment and capacities of refugee hosting countries, their regional and district water authorities to include into the local water services refugee settlement **water and sanitation systems**.
- Promote policy reforms and invest into **housing solutions** for refugees and urban poor with enhanced affordability and greater tenure security
- Leverage technical expertise and capacity building of local authorities to cope with **drought, floodings and other disasters** linked to climate change in refugee hosting areas
- As part of the clean energy challenge, build, enhance and promote the use of **renewable energy** and foster the access to energy for all.
- Promote research and learning

Specific pledges for exploration may be:

- Invest in the upgrade of 7 most at-risk settlements and the surrounding communities to mitigate the impact of drought or flooding
- Provide technical expertise in hazard analysis, mitigation measures and action plans for all refugee settlements and hosting communities.
- Promote and enhance the use of renewable energy and contribute to solarization of water systems
- Invest in the extension and sustainable management of water, wastewater and solid waste systems for refugees and hosting communities through support to local authorities, water utilities and other relevant service providers
- Support governments to include refugee hosting areas into national energy infrastructure expansion projects
- Take local action, together with refugee-led organizations and host communities, to combat the growing and disproportionate impacts of the climate emergency on the most vulnerable communities, through targeted programme interventions
- Invest and commit for inclusive gender sensitive accommodation and WASH services including girl-friendly school environments, hygiene needs, and that support the elderly and people with disabilities to access adequate housing and water and sanitation services.
- Greater commitment and investment by the private sector to support climate smart water services, including renewable energy sources, solarization, water system network maintenance and technologies for safe onsite sanitation solutions.

## Communications and proposed events

The road map and the establishment of the Human Settlement Group of Friends will be communicated through the informal preparatory meetings leading up to the GRF in December 2023. The purpose of the



group will be made public on the UNHCR GRF webpage as Human Settlement. The clean energy challenge will become a part of this group of friends, allowing for integrated technical approaches.

The group of friends will also be promoted in the UN Water conference (March 2023), the OCHA – UNEP Environment and Emergencies Forum (March 2023), the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (July 2023), the 2023 SDG Summit (September 2023), COP 28 (December 2023).

## List of participating stakeholders

Lead by UNHCR and UN Habitat (confirmed).

Other partners:

1. World Bank
2. BMZ/GIZ
3. SDC
4. IFRC
5. UNICEF
6. GPA
7. DSS Water
8. Deltares
9. DRC

## Workplan

- Quarterly meetings
- Meetings with small groups/individual Organisations to support pledge development