

Providing Adequate Shelter for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

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Keywords: Shelter, Refugees, International, UNHCR.

Abstract: Currently, there are increasingly numbers of forcibly displaced people around the world, which indicates a severe issue regarding on the difficulties in fundraising and how to tackle with this problem. Thus, this paper was committed to analysis some challenges based on the current situations, where contribution, problems and suggestions of each challenge were listed and analyzed. And the result was finally concluded in the last section.

1. Current situations

According to 2018 UNHCR, there are 68.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, among which 40 million internally displaced people, 25.4 million refugees and 85% of the world's displaced people are in developing countries.[1] This fact has illustrated some difficulties in fundraising. For instance, as of early August 2018, the Joint Response Plan (JRP) remains just 32 per cent funded. Thus, some measures were taken to conquer these difficulties. So far, UNHCR is appealing for US\$238.8 million as part of its Supplementary Appeal for 2018 in order to continue to respond to the needs of hundreds of thousands of refugees. And in Africa alone, 1 million refugees and more than 9 million IDPs have been identified as needing shelter related assistance in 2018. Moreover, 60 percent of worldwide refugees are situated in Africa and are currently established in urban areas.

Ten facts about refugees in South Africa are as follow:1. The majority of refugees in South Africa come from countries in Northern Africa. 2. Refugees flee their countries for many reasons. 3. Refugees often face violence or treacherous terrain while crossing the border. 4. The South African government is required to protect all refugees. 5. South Africa does not have any refugee camps. 6. Gaining refugee status requires lots of paperwork. 7. It costs nothing to apply for refugee status. 8. South Africa has more refugees than it can handle. 9. Refugees have to fend off xenophobic attacks. 10. There are refugee supporters in South Africa.

2. Structure Challenge

2.1 Camp for short-term cases

(1) Contribution

In this case, the UNHCR provides tents, distribute plastic sheeting and develop emergency strategies, tools and guidelines in emergency aid for those who need it most. UNHCR also provides materials such as plastic sheeting and matting that can be used to make a simple shelter. And in more protracted situations, UNHCR funds the rehabilitation of communal shelters or construction of new homes, provide the displaced with the materials they need to build a home themselves under self-help schemes, and co-leads the Global Shelter Cluster with the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).[2] They plans to develop community-oriented police systems equipped to manage multi-cultural populations, civil registration and land management systems that recognize the rights of newcomers;

and social services and justice systems that take into account the specific needs of displaced communities can all support sustainable local integration in the long-run, while providing better protection to people of concern in the early days of an emergency. [3] Furthermore, Global Shelter Coalition (led by UNHCR) has delivered 128,451 emergency shelters to 642,255 people around the world.

(2) Problems

Analyzing the contributions and current situations, the problems are indicated as well. Dispersed settlement and lack of permission (IDP) are the first and foremost. In the next place, tents and camps for emergency cases can't withstand extreme weather and can't serve as a long-term response and cost a lot of funds. Furthermore, much of funding from developed countries is not totally used on refugees' problems.[4]

(3) Suggestion

Based on the problems, it is advised to encourage UNHCR to launch enhanced screening processes at border areas and strengthen the cooperation between UNHCR and local enterprises like IKEA in replacing tents with a Better Shelter which can easily be dismantled, moved and reassembled and adapted to different needs and areas of use.[5] Moreover, use tents as an emergency response of influx of refugees for 1-2 days, then recycle the tents for next emergency and replace with the Better Shelters until refugees get the permission into local shelter. Furthermore, ask funding reception countries to send a financial report annually to UNHCR under the Monitoring and Evaluation program. Mobilizing the general public to ensure that as many people as possible understand what it means to be forced to leave your home and the importance of accessing UNHCR's safe, dignified and sustainable shelter solutions.

2.2 Durable shelters for long-term cases

(1) Contributions:

In this case, the UNHCR implemented a new monitoring system to support the effective measurement of sectoral programs.[6] For Shelter design, modularity, safe and reliable, cost effective; focus specific needs are the utmost concerns. UNHCR also plans to launch "designing a home" thematic competitions among architects and students, in order to collect a set of designs for 'traditional homestead typologies' applicable in a range of climatic areas. The fund of Self-Standing tent testing in Burkina Faso is supported by (UNHCR/IFRC/ICRC), which led to the development of an improved design of the dome/tunnel tent including its technical specifications. Moreover, International Organization for Migration (IOM) provides emergency and humanitarian assistance to migrants and displaced people, enhancing preparedness and early warning systems, as well as initiating early recovery for disaster risk reduction and community stabilization in areas affected by natural and unnatural disasters.[7]

(2) Problems:

Analyzing the contributions and current situations, the problems are as follows:

1. Building long-term shelter faces great financial problems which both UN agency and refugees cannot afford.
2. The requirements on shelter of refugees are sometimes ignored.
3. Difficulty in providing enough shelter for an emergency refugee influx.
4. Some countries with low economy and large numbers of refugees lack a guiding strategy.
5. Tests on the innovative tents and shelters need to improve.
6. Training for different individuals.

(3) Suggestions

In order to cope with the problems analyzed above, it is advised to encourage cooperation between local governments and NGOs globally in providing solar energy, water purification products for refugee shelter (Example: SAFE shelter, USA), thus reducing energy consumption and saving money. Furthermore, it is also advisable to provide adult refugees with working opportunities in camps and encourage UNHCR to design and publish Shelter Standard operating Procedures to assist field teams in the development of shelter programs, in which shelter specialists must function as an integral part of the programming processes to ensure that shelter needs are given adequate priority while achieving protection goals. In addition, encouraging UNHCR to develop, maintain and disseminate a set of shelter models for emergency, transition and durable solution phases in urban and rural settlements and ensuring all country operations implementing shelter programmes have a shelter strategy are also important.

Finally, the UNHCR shall hold tenders with the name UN(HCR)iversity Shelter Competition for universities, where students are invited to design innovative shelter solutions. This can foster new approaches and raise awareness within the younger population. Each tender should have a thematic framework to facilitate shelter solutions specifically focusing on vulnerable groups. UNHCR shall invite UNICEF and the RHU to design the call for participation to the first UN(HCR)iversity Shelter Competition in 2020, with a special focus on shelter for children.

3. Individuation Challenge

3.1 Children

(1) Child-headed households

This challenge may lead to high risk of exploitation, violence, abuse, or even human trafficking. Thus, some measures have been taken in order to prevent and give protection.

(1). Central African Republic's Mixed Unit for Rapid Intervention and Repression of Sexual Violence to women and children (UMIRR), a national police unit that receives anti-trafficking training.

(2). Train children to seek legal support and guarantee their access to defend themselves.

(3). Gather CHHs together in a certain area, so that they can be organized and protected easier.

(4). UNHCR has called on countries to simplify the process of reuniting refugees with families and speed up the relocation of unaccompanied children.

To meet the emotion needs, it is advised to encourage further cooperation between UNHCR and IFRC (The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies) to judge, arrange as well as coordinate with qualified refugee caregivers to adopt children. Moreover, call for voluntary caregiving assistance such as accompaniment and provide elementary entertainment facilities around the refugee camps.

(2) Education

Currently, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, released a report today showing that more than half – 3.7 million – of the 6 million school-age children under its mandate have no school to go to. Some 1.75 million refugee children are not in primary school and 1.95 million refugee adolescents are not in secondary school, the report found. Refugees are five times more likely to be out of school than the global average. More than half the world's 7.4 million refugee children denied schooling UNHCR's Assistant High Commissioner for Protection. Of all the latest data, one statistic for refugees stands out: Today there are 4 million refugee children out of school.[8]

In according to what is mentioned above, it is advised to call for voluntary teachers and book donation. Cooperate with UNICEF to help children through support services. And model the existing initiatives to promote education of children by multiple methods, particularly by using digital tools.

3.2 Ethnicity and religion

Confliction between refugees and host populations

Recently, this confliction has become more and more obvious and severe, for instance, the Deadly Attacks Against Foreigners occurred in South Africa in September, 2018. And the Government of South Africa is doing everything in its power to contain the attacks, to assist people who have been affected and to protect all foreign nationals. President Jacob Zuma has created an Inter-Ministerial task force to address the spate of attacks against foreigners and directed the Police and Home Affairs officials to work with local officials to stop the attacks and enforce the Law.

3.3 Sexual and Gender-based violence (SGBV)

Existing system

In countries that are listed in the annual Report of the Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence, and in operations that receive refugees from those countries, UNHCR has an obligation to help coordinate, to collect and verify information, and participate in monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA). UNHCR usually collects data for MARA via its protection monitoring and information management systems. The information is submitted to women protection advisors (or their

equivalent) in peacekeeping missions, the MARA working group, or SGBV coordination structures at country level.

Suggestions

From the analysis of existing system above, it would be better if appealing volunteers to offer mental healthcare and relevant assistance, giving priority to resettlements demands of SGBV survivors, and monitoring workplaces and addressing instances of discrimination or SGBV

3.4 Overcrowding

Approximately a third of refugee households share basic lodgings with other families in overcrowded conditions currently. This can be a main cause of disease spread and interpersonal infringing. To cope with this issue, the measures suggested are as follows.

1. Prioritizing WASH demand in shelter design.
2. Building a system to balanced refugee arrangement, including collecting data about the capacity of host states and promoting targeted referrals.
3. Make refugees into several groups according to their individual condition and requirements.

4. Domestic xenophobia

The South African government aims to introduce educational activities in schools and other centers to promote a better understanding of refugees, asylum-seekers and other foreign nationals

Current situation

1. The attack of some Fulani herdsmen by some Ghanaians in 2016, and the attack of some Nigerians by some South Africans in February, 2017 in South Africa happened only in some parts of the respective countries.
2. The attack and mass murder of about 6 million Jews living in Europe, which was spearheaded by the Germans and led by Adolf Hitler during the Second World War. It was termed as the Jewish Holocaust.

5. Contributions

1. UNHCR prioritises and engages closely with South Africa's youth, usually at the forefront of xenophobia fueled looting and violence, on the plight, rights and obligations of refugees and other persons of concern.
2. UNHCR also supports public information and education campaigns on the plight, rights and obligations of refugees undertaken by the Department of Home Affairs, the Department of Social Development and respected human rights organisations. This is to ensure that communities are better informed about the reasons leading to refugee crises and the obligations South Africa has towards those seeking protection.[9]
3. South Africa: Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa, created an Inter-Ministerial task force to address domestic xenophobia and to enforce the Refugees Act (1998), which defines rights for refugees in South Africa.
4. The government of South Africa also adopted a non-encampment policy in 2017 with humanitarian, cost and security considerations in refugee camps.

6. Problem

1. The abuse of the laws of a country by immigrants.
The involvement of some foreigners in the elections or the perception of some citizens that some foreigners are involving themselves in their national and other elections. (Likely to bring attacks)
The illegal drug trade and some other illegal activities by some Nigerians in South Africa. (Brought some attacks)-Feb., 2017
2. Employment Deficit

South Africans continuously attack immigrants with their main reason that these immigrants are taking their jobs and thus making them jobless.

7. Suggestion

1. South Africa underlines the necessity of strengthening cultural curricula into adult basic education and training for citizens to deal with national xenophobia.

2. There should be an intensive education by the Civic education missions in the various countries like the National Commission on Civic Education (NCCE) in Ghana to help educate their citizens on how to treat and live with foreigners living among them in their respective countries.

3. A strengthen of the immigration laws of a country.

Aside that, the strengthen of the immigration laws will also help deter the immigrants from engaging in activities that they are not supposed to involve themselves in, such as elections, retail trade, illegal mining activities and others.

4. The strengthen of the laws of a country which protects immigrants.

It is important for the leaders of countries to strengthen the laws which protect immigrants so that citizens who want to attack immigrants will be deterred from doing that.

5. There should be a strict enforcement of the laws of the international bodies like the UN, ECOWAS, EU, AU and others to sanction member nations/countries who abuse foreigners living in their lands.

References

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[5] --- <http://bettershelter.org/>

[6] (UNHCR's Shelter and Settlement Section (SSS), established in 2011)

[7] <https://www.iom.int/countries/south-africa#eha>

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