Virtual meeting of the Group of Friends of the Platform on Disaster Displacement

Andrew Harper - Special Advisor on Climate Action Shahrzad Tadjbakhsh - DIP, Law and Policy, Deputy Director UNHCR





#### UNHCR'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE PLATFORM ON DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND IOM

## **UNHCR's Partnership with the PDD**

- UNHCR actively supports the work of the Nansen Initiative since 2012, the Protection Agenda adopted by 109 States adopted by 109 States in 2016, and its follow-up, the PDD
- Together with IOM, UNHCR is a Standing Invitee of the PDD Steering Group and a member of the PDD Advisory Committee.
- PDD Strategic Framework and Workplan are in line with UNHCR's work on displacement, environment, disasters and climate change
- Working together on GCR, WIM, Sendai, PDD Workplan, PDD communication, joint project in West Africa and the Sahel
- This collaborative work enhances greater inter-agency collaboration



# **UNHCR's Contribution to the PDD**

- UNHCR brings its expertise to many activities within the PDD four strategic priorities in partnership with others and in coordination with IOM
- UNHCR focuses on its protection mandate and policy development
- Published "In Harm's Way" CCDD nexus interacts with violence, reaffirmed relevance of refugee instruments
- UNHCR's contribution supported by a dedicated JPO working closely with PDD, IOM (2019-2021) funded by France, the Office of the Special Advisor on Climate Action, Division of International Protection and a worldwide network
- Regular reporting of UNHCR engagement to PDD
- Thematic communication on social media and website



# Key Highlights in 2019-2020

- Joint advocacy, participation and organization of events such as Climate Action Summit, COP, TFD – December 2019
- PDD High Level Breakfast with the High Commissioner, organized by France as PDD Chair – 8 November 2019
- High Commissioner and IOM DG's participation to the PDD Steering Group meeting – 2 July 2019
- Joint project development in West Africa and the Sahel with PDD, IOM
- Joint project proposal to the MPTF in 2020
- MOU between UNHCR and PDD in 2020





#### UNHCR'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK ON CLIMATE ACTION





## **Key Points on Disaster Displacement**

- Displaced communities among most vulnerable to CC
- CC is a threat multiplier that will lead to increased displacement/ refugees
- Slow onset (e.g. drought), extreme weather events (e.g. storms)
- Impact of CC on operations
  - > Need to mitigate negative impact, support adaptation, preparedness
  - > Clean energy, environmental projects
- Environmental Footprint "Greening the Blue"
  - Internal sustainability, environmental inventory



Three decades of development on Climate Change and Disaster Displacement at UNHCR and a new evolving context

- UNHCR works on this thematic since the 1990's
- Part of UNHCR Strategic Priorities 2017-2022
- Many publications, a dedicated webpage
- A dedicated SA appointed in Jan 2020 and Office created
- Need for a longer-term vision to respond to new challenges



## **UNHCR's Priorities for Climate Action**

- Avert, minimize and address disaster displacement
- Anticipatory action and strategic engagement
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes
- Greening UNHCR operations incl. host communities
- Clean energy and technology
- "Climate lens" for decision-making (timeliness, scale, impact)
- Collaboration, community, donor/private sector engagement



## UNHCR's Strategic Framework on Climate Action

 Legal and Normative Approach
 Operational Response
 Environmental Footprint





#### **Pillar I. Legal and Normative Approach**

Support access to protection for those displaced in the context of CCDD through guiding the interpretation and application of relevant and policy frameworks, developing guidance and catalyzing international discussions.

- 1951 Refugee Convention: where persecution risks result from/are increased by disaster or CC effects
- Kampala Convention: outlines responsibilities on the part of states with respect to IDPs including those displaced by natural or human made disasters associated with climate change
- The definition extends to persons fleeing "events seriously disturbing public order":
  1969 OAU Convention; 1984 Cartagena Declaration



# **Pillar II. Operational Response**



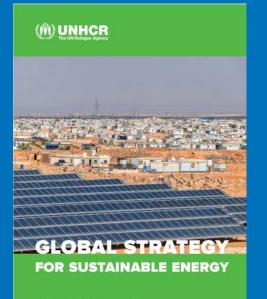
- Preserve and rehabilitate the environment and mitigate environmental degradation in displacement settings
- Strengthen preparedness for engagement in disaster situations
- Protection and assistance to people displaced by disasters linked to natural hazards (IASC GPC, good offices, IDP policy)
- Enhance the resilience of displaced people and affected host communities to climate and environmental risks







# **Global Strategy on Sustainable Energy**



A UNHCR STRATEGY 2019-2024

#### VISION

'All refugees, host communities and support structures should be able to satisfy their energy needs in a sustainable manner, without fear or risks to their health, well-being and personal security, while ensuring the least possible environmental impact.'



# Pillar III. UNHCR's Environmental Footprint ("Greening the Blue")

Improve UNHCR's environmental sustainability by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and minimizing negative impacts on the environment





# **Portfolio Overview**

	Project	Project Overview	Timeline	Remarks
Тор 3 1. 📦	UNHCR Green Box	To measure power consumption globally as a first step to migrating offices from fossil fuel to renewable energy	Initial roll started. Meter roll out to complete Q3 2021	Partnership with NORCAP for technical energy audit support
2.	UNHCR Green Fund	A revolving fund of \$4M, provided by SIDA to migrate 10 key UNHCR sites to renewable energy using PPAs.	Q4/20-Q3/21 procurement; Q4/21 first power purchase agreement	Will converge with Green Box project conceptually
3.	UNHCR Green Data	Build online tools for data collection and analysis on travel, vehicles, buildings; Implementing auto inventory and EMS	Annual process for Inventory; Data collection ongoing/real-time	
Other projects				
4.	Communication & Outreach	Develop policies on waste, water and emissions; Greening UNHCR meetings; Voluntary staff meetings, donor outreach	On a regular basis	
5.	Collaboration	Participate in inter-agency networks	On a regular basis	



# Thank you



30 October 2020