



## The Urgent Need for Shelter

### Shelter . . .

It is a home. A place of refuge. A place of safety.

It is more than a roof over your head. It is a place of memories, protection, and security. It is a place for family and friends where hardship can stay at the door.

Refugees need shelter.

Most refugees abandon their home because they are frightened for their lives, or for the lives of their family. They are afraid of further persecution. Without options, they run. Quite simply, when they cross a border, they become refugees. Refugees are the world's homeless people, living with nothing because of their political or religious affiliations, their gender, or merely their ancestry.

Typically, refugees and other displaced people leave their homes in such haste that they only have the most rudimentary possessions with them...a blanket and a cooking pot, perhaps. Naturally, their first concern is for their families. They only take whatever goods they can carry. As soon as they reach a place of safety, they try to build a shelter.

The UN Refugee Agency knows that shelter, food and water are the first needs of every refugee. In emergencies, tens of thousands of people might arrive in vacant locations, where others have chosen not to live because of harsh climate or no means of sustenance. In these windblown plains, deserts and exposed areas, shelter becomes that much more important.

In order to help refugees who face these most dire situations, **we need the help of every humanitarian on the planet.**

We need people to understand that refugees are victims of circumstances beyond their control. We need to explain that frightened, impoverished and often undernourished refugees are deserving of our kindness and understanding. We need to communicate that the UN Refugee Agency has been given a mandate by the international community to provide protection, food, water, shelter and hope for all refugees, without exception.

We need people to make donations to support the work of the UN Refugee Agency.

In Canada's harsh climate we understand the value of shelter. We also appreciate our safety, and how fortunate we are to live without fear of persecution and mass violence. We are in a unique position to help provide refugees with shelter right now.

It is vital work that cannot be left undone. And your understanding and assistance can make all the difference to a refugee with no place to call home.