

Symposium on UNHCR

Overview: This guide will help you develop a comprehensive presentation (either for the “virtual symposium” or as a live presentation) on UNHCR activities. Plan your site or presentation carefully and research thoroughly to provide useful and accurate information. You might want to divide the work up among members of the group to better utilize your time for both the research phase and the presentation phase of your project.

Directions: In your groups, use the following guide to research your topic area. Present your information in creative ways incorporating maps, charts, and graphs, pictures, political cartoons, and video where appropriate. Use the appropriate resources listed below to help you with your research.

TOPIC 1: What is UNHCR?

- History of UNHCR
- **UNHCR’s mandate**
- Geographic areas where UNHCR works or has worked in the past

TOPIC 2: How do people become refugees?

- Overview of the Universal Declarations of Human Rights, with special focus on Article 14 of the UDHR
- The definition of a refugee and its differentiation with internally displaced persons and asylum seekers
- Becoming a refugee
- Initial loss of basic human rights
- Avoid being captured
- Fleeing the country
- Life in a refugee camp

TOPIC 3: UNHCR’s Mandate

- Refugee Protection: physical safety and legal protection
- Meeting immediate needs once safe in a refugee camp
- Durable Solutions (repatriation, local integration, resettlement)

TOPIC 4: Emergency situations where UNHCR is currently operating (Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan , Pakistan, Somalia, Colombia and Democratic Republic of the Congo)



- The estimated number of refugees and internally displaced persons in these countries
- Reasons refugee situations exist in each country
- Services offered for refugees in each country

TOPIC 5: Women and Children

- Status of women and children as refugees
- How UNHCR helps children
- UNHCR assistance programs for women
- Success stories: Women and children who have improved their lives

