



Annual review 2022

Global Compact Communication on progress
Reporting period: January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022.



Delhi, India
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Snapshots from 2022



North West Syria
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Esmeraldas, Ecuador
©UNHCR/Jaime Giménez



Kristinehamn, Sweden
©Amir Nabizadeh



Isla de Providencia, Colombia
©Made in Paradise Films



North West Syria
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Iquique, Chile
©UNHCR/Paulina Oñate



South Sudan
©UNHCR/Anthony Karumba

2022 figures at a glance

12,272

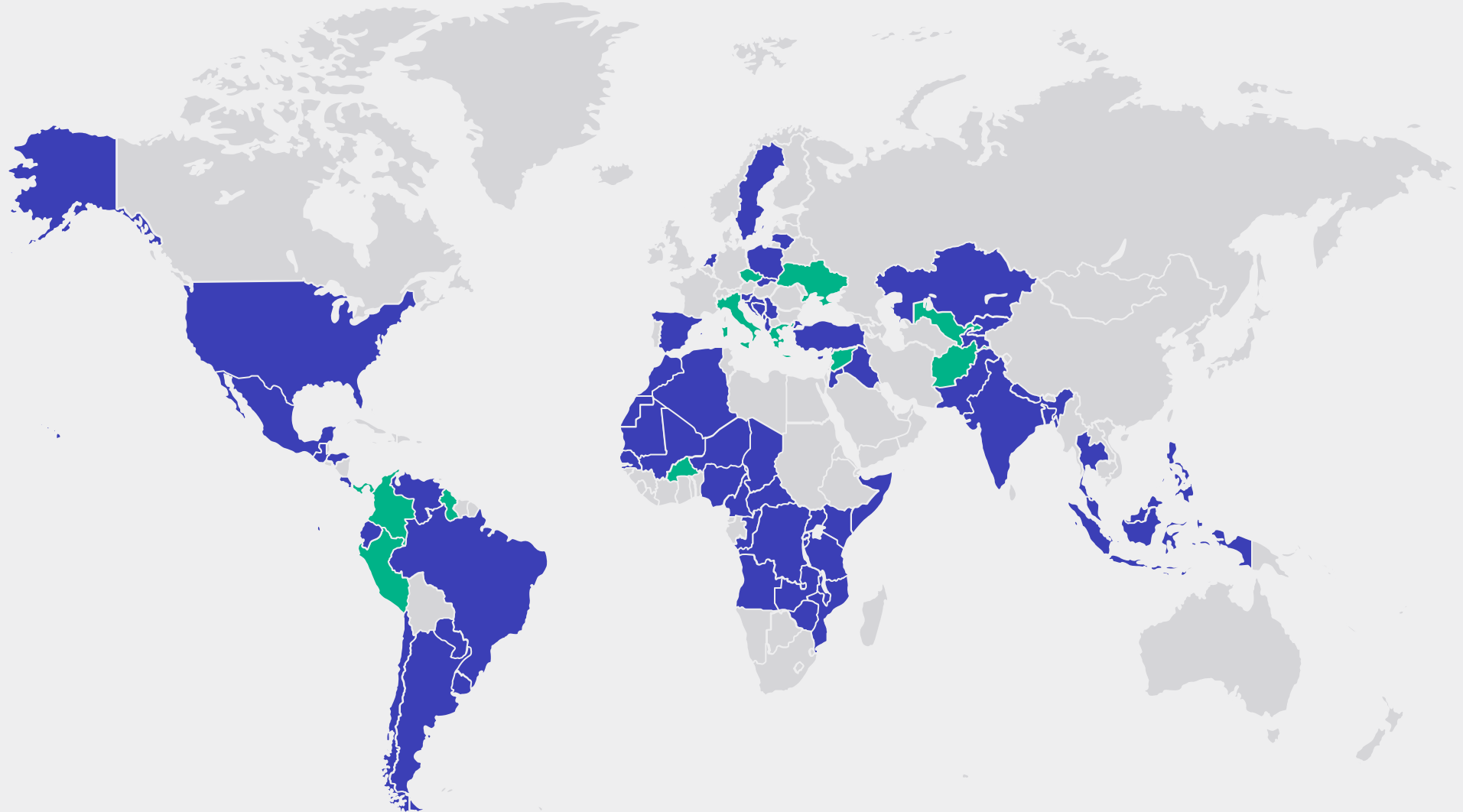
people were vaccinated in *RHU Structure* vaccination hubs across India (pg. 17).

12,526

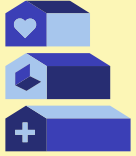
shelters delivered to 13 countries in 2022.

80,663

shelters delivered 2015-2022.



The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Many of the global sustainability challenges and calls for action are described in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Launched in 2015, the SDGs provide an inspiring framework for collective action. They guide us as we develop Better Shelter, set ambitions, and engage with our partners. We have focused our efforts and reporting on four goals: 9, 11, 13 and 17.



United Nations
Global Compact

We are a member of the United Nations Global Compact

Which helps us align our strategies and operations with SDGs on human rights, labor, the environment, and anti-corruption. Since 2019 we report on sustainability in our annual reports.



Vision and aspiration for 2030



Vision

A world in which all people have a safe and dignified place to call home.

Mission

To provide a range of temporary shelter structures that offer displaced people safety and dignity on their path toward a peaceful life in a permanent home.

Sectors



Health



Protection



Education



Shelter

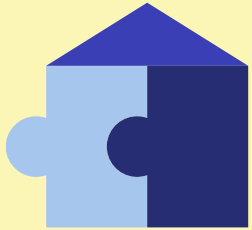
2030 goal

By 2030, we will have provided safe and dignified shelters, classrooms, and clinics to

1 million

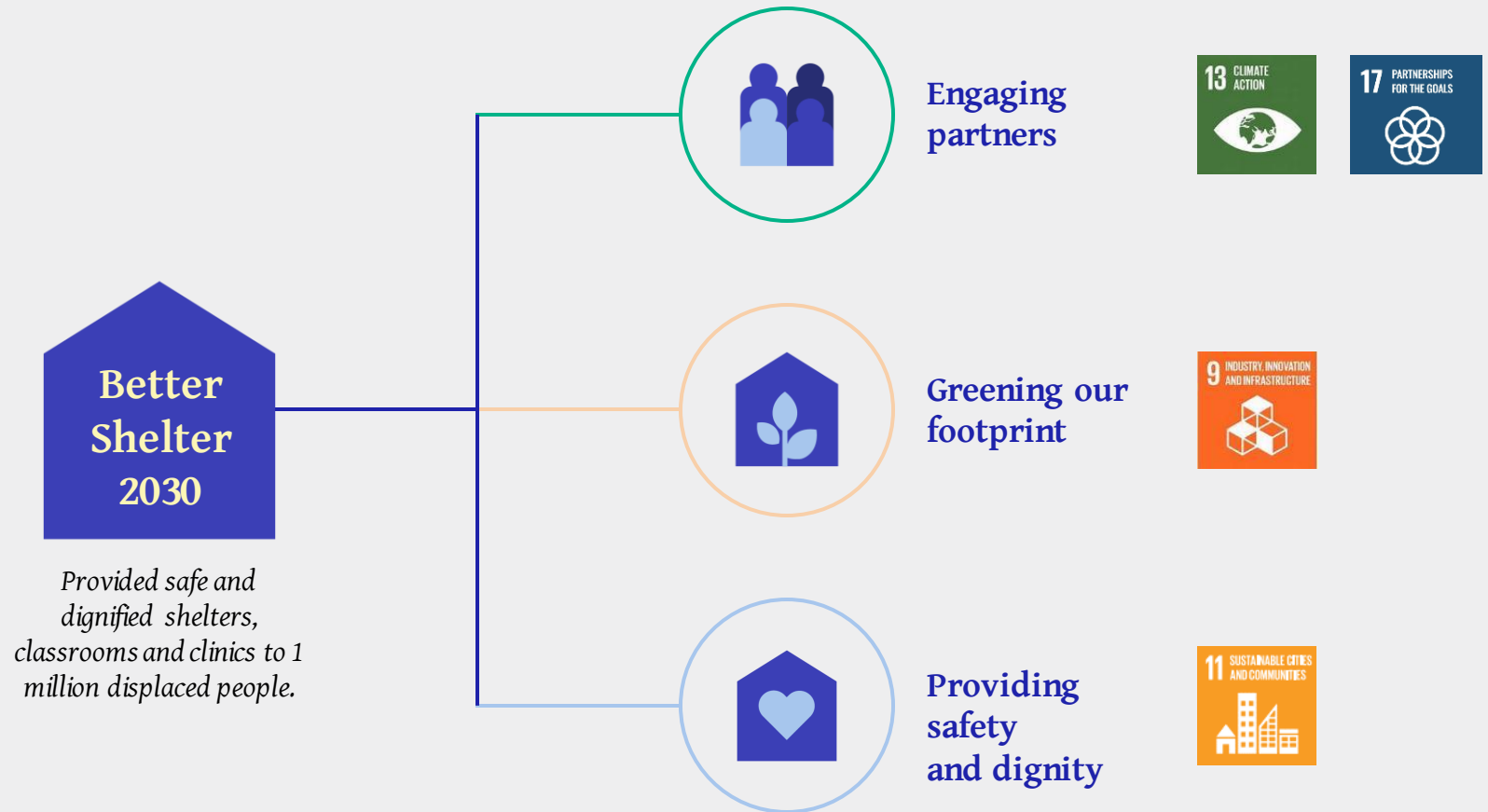
displaced people.

Focus areas



To respond to the significant challenges and trends impacting Better Shelter,

we have identified three corresponding focus areas to help us reach our vision. The focus areas link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Statement of continued support to the UN Global Compact



At the time of writing, my team and I were busy supporting partners in Türkiye and Syria, implementing 5000 shelters donated by the IKEA Foundation to offer a home to those affected by the recent earthquake. Although we are far from meeting the region's needs, we are pleased to support thousands of families with the help of local and global partners, logistics support from IKEA, and mattresses provided by IKANO.

The devastating war in Ukraine marked the year 2022. We supplied the Swedish Contingencies Agency, MSB, with 4000 shelters funded by ECHO but encountered new challenges because of Ukraine's cold weather. To address this, we collaborated with MSB to create a winterising kit, now used in many shelters across Ukraine. We are still advocating for Ukrainians. The war must end.

In June 2022, we held a workshop in Madrid with the Norman Foster Foundation, supported by Holcim. A group of brilliant architecture scholars created new temporary shelter forms with input from the Better Shelter team and experts in the field. During the week, I had the privilege of moderating an inspiring discussion about humanitarian architecture between Lord Norman Foster and Shigeru Ban.

I believe in cross-disciplinary collaboration as we learn so much and develop new ways of working through these crucial partnerships. During 2022, we launched many initiatives within product development and sustainability, which you can read further about in this report and can see the results in the coming years.

Last year, we supported our partner SEEDS, who designed and constructed a school from RHU Structure frames. It was beautiful to witness the positive effects that upgrading a school in a Delhi slum has had on the community. Not only does it allow 200 children to attend school, but it also helps small businesses survive the difficult pandemic years, and the whole community now comes together for various activities in the school building. I am concerned about the many challenges the world is facing. Political leaders, global companies and civil society must do everything possible to prevent a climate catastrophe.

We must all continue to stand up for justice and democratic values. At Better Shelter, we have just launched our Impact Plan 2030, incorporating sustainable goals and strategies for the coming years. As an incurable optimist, I am curious to see the beautiful future we will create together. Finally, I want to thank all the people and partners we work with daily.



Johan Karlsson

Managing Director,
Better Shelter
April 2023



North West Syria
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Who we are



Better Shelter is an independent non-profit organisation based in Sweden, free from any political or religious affiliations. Our goal is to provide displaced persons with safe, dignified and hopeful shelters that lead them towards a more stable life in a permanent home of their own.

Despite our growth in scale, our small team remains committed to supporting our partners and delivering our shelters globally from our warehouses in Poland, Türkiye, and Panama.

Since 2015, we have delivered over 80,000 shelters to emergency, crisis, and development programmes in over 80 countries. Our collaborations with humanitarian NGOs and INGOs, UN bodies, philanthropic foundations, and academic institutions, including the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, the IKEA Foundation, and the Aga Khan Agency for Habitat, have enabled us to impact the lives of hundreds of thousands of displaced persons.

Human rights





Shelter is a human right.

Shelter is more than just four walls and a roof. For people affected by conflict or disasters, shelter plays a critical role in supporting their journey towards a hopeful future. We believe that shelter is a powerful tool that fosters safety and dignity, healing, livelihood, community and resilience.



Assam, India
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“The inside area of the Structure is quite big. The foundation is strong, and it gets easy to store things inside.”

- Diman Nayak, resident

In 2022, a harsh torrential rain season led to devastating floods that destroyed thousands of homes in rural Assam, India.

The NGO SEEDS provided RHU Structures to families displaced by the flooding, and together with the SEEDS field team, built new shelters using local techniques and materials. What were initially intended as emergency shelters, now turned into long-term housing, and a hopeful future for the community who lost nearly everything to the floods.

Rural community constructed local shelters after the storm

Country:
India

Sector:
Shelter

Partner:
SEEDS

Support provided by Better Shelter:
Design & Planning, Communication



©MSB – The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

Through rescEU, an enhancement of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, the European Commission funded 4,000 RHUs to be used across Europe to increase transitional sheltering capacity.

These stockpile RHUs will be able to shelter 20,000 people, equipped with beds, lighting, a heat source, and electricity.

In March 2022, MSB personnel were trained on RHU installation at the MSB warehouse in Kristinehamn, Sweden.

Throughout the year, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap – MSB) delivered and assembled shelters in several regions of Ukraine to offer people a warm place to rest for a while, or a place to live, while restoring their homes destroyed in the war.

Winterised shelters for Ukrainians

Country:
Ukraine

Sector:
Shelter, Protection

Partner:

The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency – Myndigheten för Samhällsskydd och Beredskap (MSB), Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)

Support provided by Better Shelter:

Design & Planning, Capacity Building, Assurance, Communications, Logistics, Warehousing



Education is a human right.

By providing a space for learning, our shelters promote education as a tool to empower children. Our partners' education initiatives restore regular schooling as a priority in childhood development, following the disruption of education during displacement. More than just a place for learning, our shelters serve as classrooms to provide a safe space as children are particularly vulnerable to domestic abuse, sexual violence, human trafficking and forced recruitment.





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“We needed this shelter to shield our children from any weather, especially during rainy days. This school is in an open area, which can drench the children and their books in the rain. But with this shelter installed in our community school, we can safely teach our children.”

- Miss Urmila, a teacher at Van Phool

To improve the learning conditions of 200 students, the NGO SEEDS built a transitional extension to the Van Phool open air community school within the Yamuna Khadar slum cluster in East Delhi.

For this project, the RHU Structure was deployed and upgraded with local materials, including bamboo to build walls.

Since the school had been operating without walls or a roof since 2020, it was crucial to protect the students from extreme weather conditions, especially during the monsoon season.

200 children returned to school in East Delhi

Overview

Country:
India

Sector:
Education

Partner:
SEEDS

Support provided by Better Shelter:
Design & Planning, Capacity Building, Assurance, Communications, Logistics, Donor matching, Funding



Health is a human right.

There is a critical need for medical support structures around the world, and especially in regions with precarious health services. Through partnerships with medical NGOs, thousands of our shelters have been deployed as medical facilities to increase the access of health services for the populations who are in most need of vital care. Our shelters nurture both short-term and long-term mental and physical wellbeing by enabling access to basic sanitary health services.





©UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

Peru is host to one of the largest populations of Venezuelan refugees, second only to Colombia. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, UNHCR has supported Peru by providing RHUs to increase healthcare access for both host and refugee communities.

In August 2022, UNHCR provided 16 RHUs to four health facilities to increase treatment capacity in La Libertad, ultimately benefitting more than 10,000 patients. The RHUs served as triage, medical consultation and treatment spaces.

So far, UNHCR has donated 206 RHUs to the Peruvian Ministry of Health, supporting the distribution of health services in districts hosting a high Venezuelan population.

Critical health care for Venezuelan refugees in Peru

Country:
Peru

Sector:
Health

Partner:
UNHCR

Support provided by Better Shelter:
Capacity building



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“SEEDS provided us with the Structure vaccination kiosks which were extremely useful in managing the people that would come for vaccinations daily and prevent overcrowding at the healthcare centres.”

- Dr. Rajeev Dixit, District COVID-19 Surveillance Office,
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

SEEDS launched a Covid-19 vaccination drive in 2021 to level the rural-urban access curve in India.

With their experience in relief efforts following natural disasters, SEEDS leveraged their tools to reach distant and remote communities with limited access to vaccines.

SEEDS installed 18 RHU Structure kiosks in Uttarakhand and Bihar. By the end of the drive in 2022, 12,272 people were vaccinated, most of whom were women, young and elderly.

Since the drive was made in partnership with state level governments, vaccines were free. An achievement made possible by the 33 doctors and nurses who administered the vaccines.

More than 12,000 vaccinated in SEEDS campaign

Country:
India

Sector:
Health

Partner:
SEEDS

Insert title here:

Technical support, Capacity building, In-kind donation, Communication



Protection is a human right.

Whether in response to displacement caused by natural disasters or violent conflict, we have supported missions in some of the world's most severe crises.

One of the key functions of our shelters is to ensure that its residents are safe and protected so that they can live in peace and work towards their vision for the future. Our shelters are equipped with several features which mitigate security risks and strengthens protections for its residents, with particular attention to the most vulnerable populations.



©Better Shelter

In 2022, as part of their response to the border crisis, UNHCR and UNICEF implemented measures to provide aid and support at the Medyka reception centre.

The multi-agency collaboration installed two Relief Housing Units (RHUs) which served as hubs for protection offices and child-friendly spaces, known as Blue Dots. These RHUs offer a range of services to arriving Ukrainians, including meals, accommodation, vital care, consultations on migration status, and psychosocial counseling.

Particular attention has been paid to the well-being and protection of children, with UNHCR and UNICEF jointly managing the RHUs and equipping them with child-friendly furniture and play items.

This has helped to create a safe and welcoming environment for children at the centre and underscores our commitment to upholding their rights and providing for their needs.

Blue Dot RHUs provide essential services to Ukrainian refugees at Polish border

Country:
Poland

Sector:
Protection

Partner:
UNHCR and UNICEF

Support by Better Shelter:
Communication

Environment



North West Syria
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Environment

We have commissioned a third-party Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) of the Relief Housing Unit.

Results

- ✓ One Relief Housing Unit is approximately **530 kg* CO₂ equivalents**. The expected life span of the shelter is at least **3 years**, and the steel frame is expected to withhold substantially longer: for up to **10 years**.
- ✓ The carbon intensity varies between components, but the steel parts are relatively carbon intensive.
- ✓ The Better Shelter team has been trained to use the complex tool for assessing future shelter designs as well as sourcing and supply chain models.

About

- ✓ The LCA measures the CO₂ footprint of one Relief Housing Unit (RHU), using the software OneClick LCA and the database Ecoinvent 3.
- ✓ The carbon footprint results constitute a type II self-declared environmental declaration following ISO 14021:2016.
- ✓ The analysis is based on LCA methodology defined by ISO 14040 and 14044.
- ✓ The LCA is conducted as a cradle-to-gate analysis (A1-A3) since this is deemed to contribute to most of the carbon footprint of an RHU.

*The included components in the calculations constitute around 90 % of the total shelter mass (kg) and include all relevant components from a carbon footprint perspective, excluding the Solar PV Panel.



	Carbon Footprint, GWP fossil (kg CO2eq.)		Mass (kg)	
Metal Frame	153	29%	56	38%
Roof & Wall Panel	211	40%	51	35%
Door	45	9%	8	5%
Cardboard Box	11	2%	18	12%
Other	108	20%	15	10%
Total	528	100%	148	100%

Environment



Product improvements conducted during 2022

Reengineered walls and roof

- ✓ We developed sandwich panels in a **mono-material**, meaning that all panel layers are made of the same plastic (PP) to allow for easier direct recycling and increased recyclability of scrap in production, as well as better indoor climate and thermal comfort and improved possibility for recycling in production. We plan to incorporate the new panel material into production during 2023.

Stepping away from single-use plastics

- ✓ In 2022, we decided that all single-use plastic inside the packed shelter will be removed or replaced by more sustainable options by 2025.

No more bromines

- ✓ Changes to the bromine-free mono-material in the panels and replacing injection moulded parts with recycled material will increase **the recycled/scrap material** used in the RHU from 25% of the unit weight to **36%**.

Radically improved recyclability

- ✓ We mapped the recycled content used in parts of the RHU, data which we will incorporate in future LCAs.
- ✓ We prepared to replace the plastic materials used in injection moulded parts with **100% recycled material** – changes to be incorporated into production in 2023.
- ✓ The change will increase direct recyclable material from approximately 60% of the unit weight to about **90%**.



Labour



Delhi, India
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Labour



We respect and promote fundamental human rights.



We promote equal opportunities.



We have zero tolerance for any kind of discrimination.



Our collective agreement upholds employees' right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.



We have a systematic work environment management plan.



Delhi, India
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Anti Corruption



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©MSB – The Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency

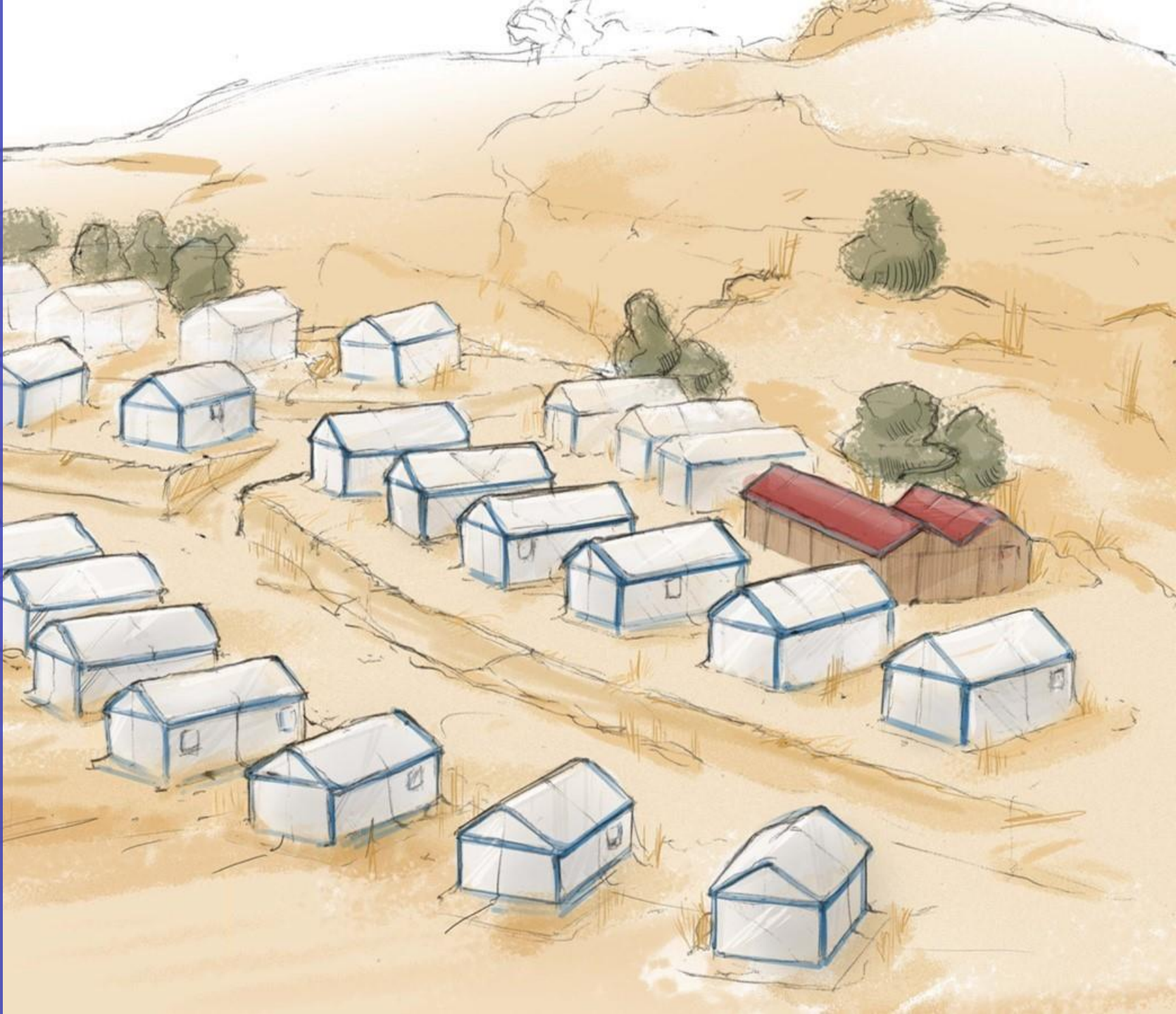


Better Shelter is committed to counteracting any form of corrupt behavior, as outlined in our Ethical Framework. We only collaborate with trusted partners, with established anti corruption policies.

- ✓ We do not accept gifts, benefits, reimbursements, or entertainment.
- ✓ We do not accept bribes, kickbacks and similar undisclosed monetary items.
- ✓ We request that all suppliers sign our ethical framework to ensure these standards are respected throughout our value chain.

- ✓ Better Shelter has several mechanisms in place, such as authorisation grids and payment control methods, to ensure that the organization's standards on anti-corruption are met.
- ✓ Our internal open communication policy enables assured and confidential reporting of misconduct, allowing us to address deficiencies with training on remediation good practice.

Innovation



Innovation

During 2022, we conducted a pre-study on how to adapt our product portfolio to global humanitarian trends of climate change, localisation, performance and linkage between emergency aid and early recovery. A broadened product portfolio based on a modular and versatile frame will be developed in the coming years, offering different shelter options depending on additional needs.



During the pre-study in 2022, we decided on the focus areas for innovation, which will be conceptualised in 2023. The goal is to make our shelters more sustainable and improve several aspects of safety, versatility, ease of assembly, and more.

Sustainability

- ✓ Reduce the number of parts and material (mass)
- ✓ Extend life expectancy
- ✓ Improve repairability and upgradability
- ✓ Further enable use of local materials
- ✓ Improve recyclability
- ✓ Choose materials to minimize CO2 impact
- ✓ Use LCA software to inform design decisions
- ✓ Adapt to UN sustainability goals
- ✓ Optimize for fill rate on inbound and outbound
- ✓ Further adapt to an incremental shelter approach
- ✓ Select materials suitable for upcycling and recycling
- ✓ Design to allow for future upgrades to more sustainable materials
- ✓ Provide various shelter options for different contexts

Additional focus areas

- Safety and dignity
- Thermal comfort
- Modularity
- Versatility
- Cost
- Optimize for production
- Ease of assembly

Media



North West Syria
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FAST COMPANY



Exhibitions, talks, and lectures



Exhibitions, talks, and lectures

In 2022, Better Shelter collaborated with new partners in the humanitarian community and private sector, raising important conversations about shelter solutions, sustainable development, and the state of the 100 million displaced people around the world.



©Norman Foster Foundation

Norman Foster Foundation Shelters Workshop

At the first Norman Foster Foundation Shelters Workshop in June 2022, Managing Director Johan Karlsson mentored ten scholars exploring new humanitarian shelter ideas and participated in the public debate with Norman Foster and Shigeru Ban.



©Seoul Design Award

Seoul Design Award

In October 2022, Better Shelter participated in the fourth Seoul Design Award Conference, highlighting the importance of cross-sector and civil society engagement in sustainable development. Johan Karlsson spoke virtually about community-led humanitarian action.



©Better Shelter

Open House Geneva

Throughout the summer of 2022, an RHU was exhibited at the Open House Geneva multidisciplinary pavilion, bringing together innovative and original forms of housing from the worlds of art, architecture and design.



©Ruth Clark

Victoria & Albert Museum

An RHU wall was displayed alongside plastic products used in all areas of life in the *Plastic: Remaking Our World* exhibition at the V&A Dundee. The exhibition demonstrated the scope of plastic innovation, while highlighting the efforts made to control the continued production of excessive plastic waste.

Snapshots from 2022



Barma, Afghanistan
©UNHCR/Oxygen Film Studios (AFG)



North West Syria
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Delhi, India
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Isla de Providencia, Colombia
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Agadez, Niger
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About



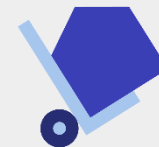
Better Shelter is a Swedish non-profit organization committed to increasing the safety and dignity of forcibly-displaced persons



We provide reliable temporary shelter solutions and infrastructure, training and technical support to partner organisations worldwide.



Founded in partnership with the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, and the IKEA Foundation.



We have delivered >80 000 shelters to 80 countries.
Middle East, Africa, Europe, South East Asia and Americas.