

Vodafone statement

5th October 2015

As a company, Vodafone believes that diversity and freedom of individuals to move between countries strengthens societies and economies. However, European nations' individual responses to the current refugee challenge are a matter for sovereign governments and their people.

For our part, we believe our company has a responsibility to utilise communication technologies to address some of the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges and to enhance people's quality of life.

The Vodafone Foundation has worked with UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees) since 2013 to improve education for young refugees living in long-term refugee camps in countries where Vodafone operates. To date, our [Instant Network Schools programme](#) has been rolled out to 18 schools in refugee camps across South Sudan, Kenya and the DRC, helping more than 26,000 children and 500 teachers.

We have also worked with NGO TSF (Télécoms Sans Frontières) and other partners including Huawei for over ten years to develop and deploy our emergency Instant Network – a portable mobile phone network which packs in to three cases, weighs less than 100kg and can be taken on commercial flights – in response to humanitarian disaster situations. This has included [Typhoon Haiyan](#) in the Philippines in December 2013, where it enabled 1.4 million text messages and 443,288 calls in 29 days. We also developed an Instant Network Mini which fits into a backpack and was deployed to [Nepal](#) following the earthquake in April 2015.

In Europe, the Foundation is in discussions with UNHCR to look at potential points for intervention and support. In addition:

- our partner TSF is using Vodafone Foundation funds to deploy to the border between Macedonia and Serbia to offer free wifi to refugees in that region;
- our Instant Network team of volunteers is on standby should their support and expertise be required; and
- the Instant Network team is also working at the request of UNHCR on an SMS info campaign for refugees and with additional dedicated free helplines.

Our operating companies and Foundations in Europe and adjacent markets are also responding to the refugee situation at a local level.