

# the reality of refuge

how can we adopt a more humane response to a humanitarian crisis?

## refugee

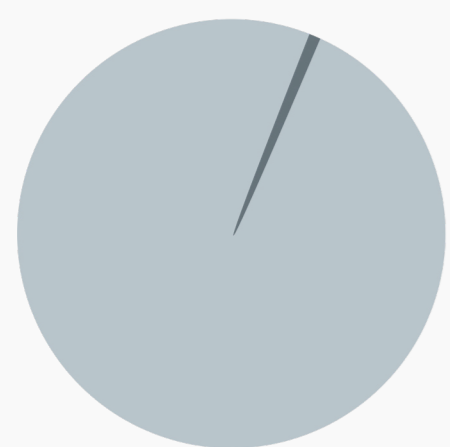
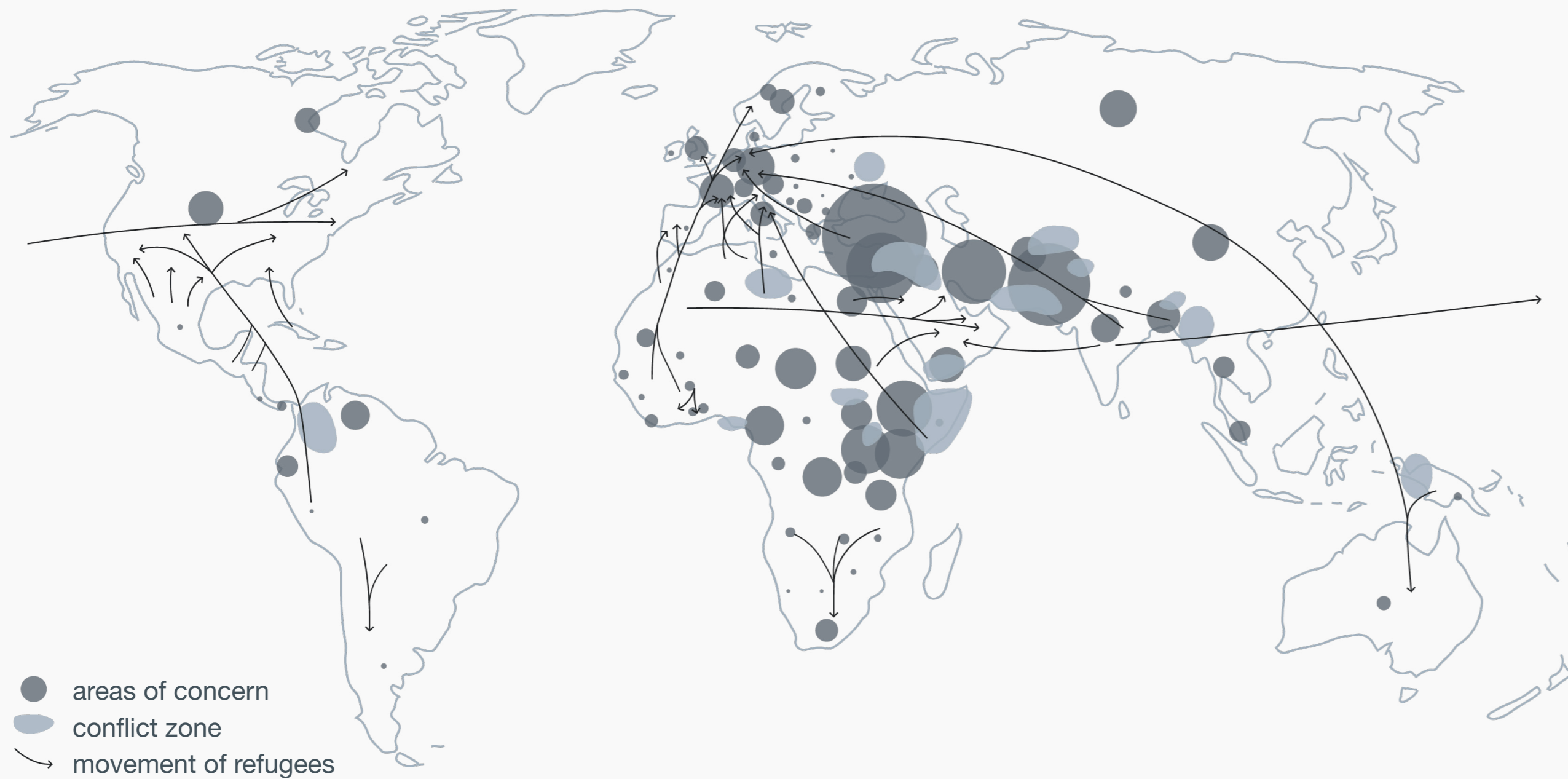
“someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion”  
(UNHCR, 1951)

## aims

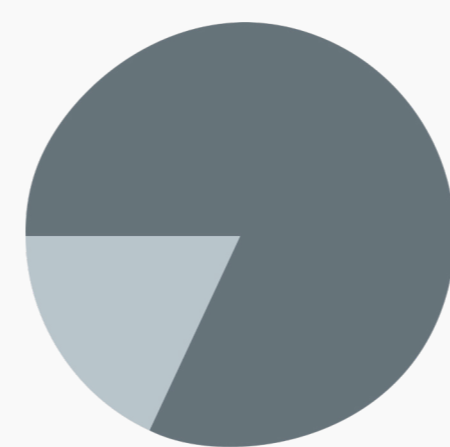
- 01 to understand why existing responses to the refugee crisis are temporary and evaluate to what extents they are successful
- 02 to evaluate whether an architectural approach could better cater to the life of a refugee in a refugee camp

## method

using data from the UNHCR and existing literature by members of the field to understand and critique the current global responses to the refugee crisis



**1%** of world population is forcibly displaced  
(UNHCR, 2020)



**80%** of refugees are hosted in countries neighbouring their country of origin  
(UNHCR, 2020)

## shelter

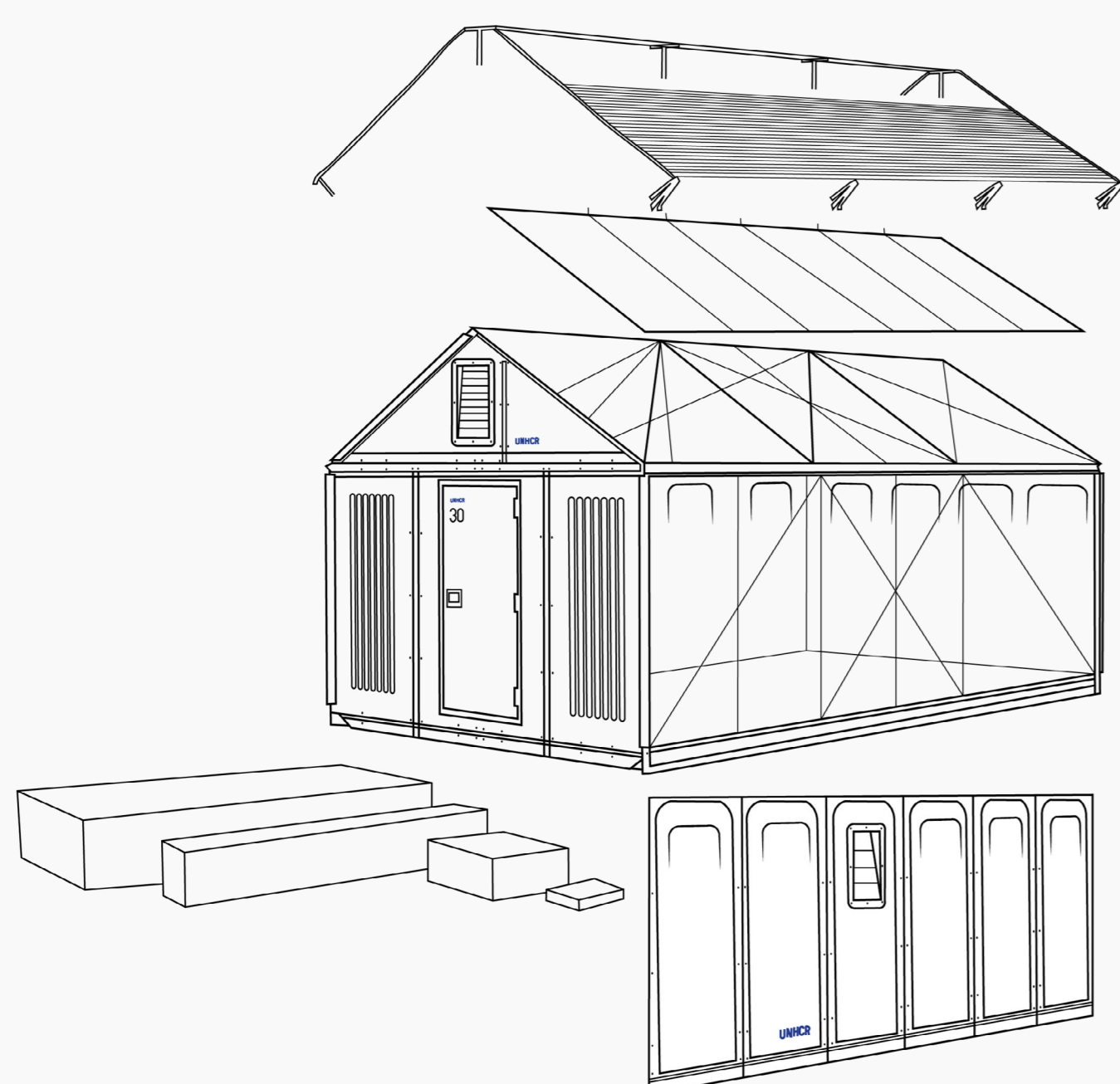
governments resist offering long term solutions, instead supporting temporary, lightweight and easily dismantled shelters. an increasing number of displaced people paired with decreasing resources means these shelters are rarely replaced with more durable, long lasting alternatives

### UNHCR lightweight emergency tent



£75  
41.5kg  
16.5m<sup>2</sup>  
hosts 4-5 people  
2 windows  
2 vents  
designed to last 1 year

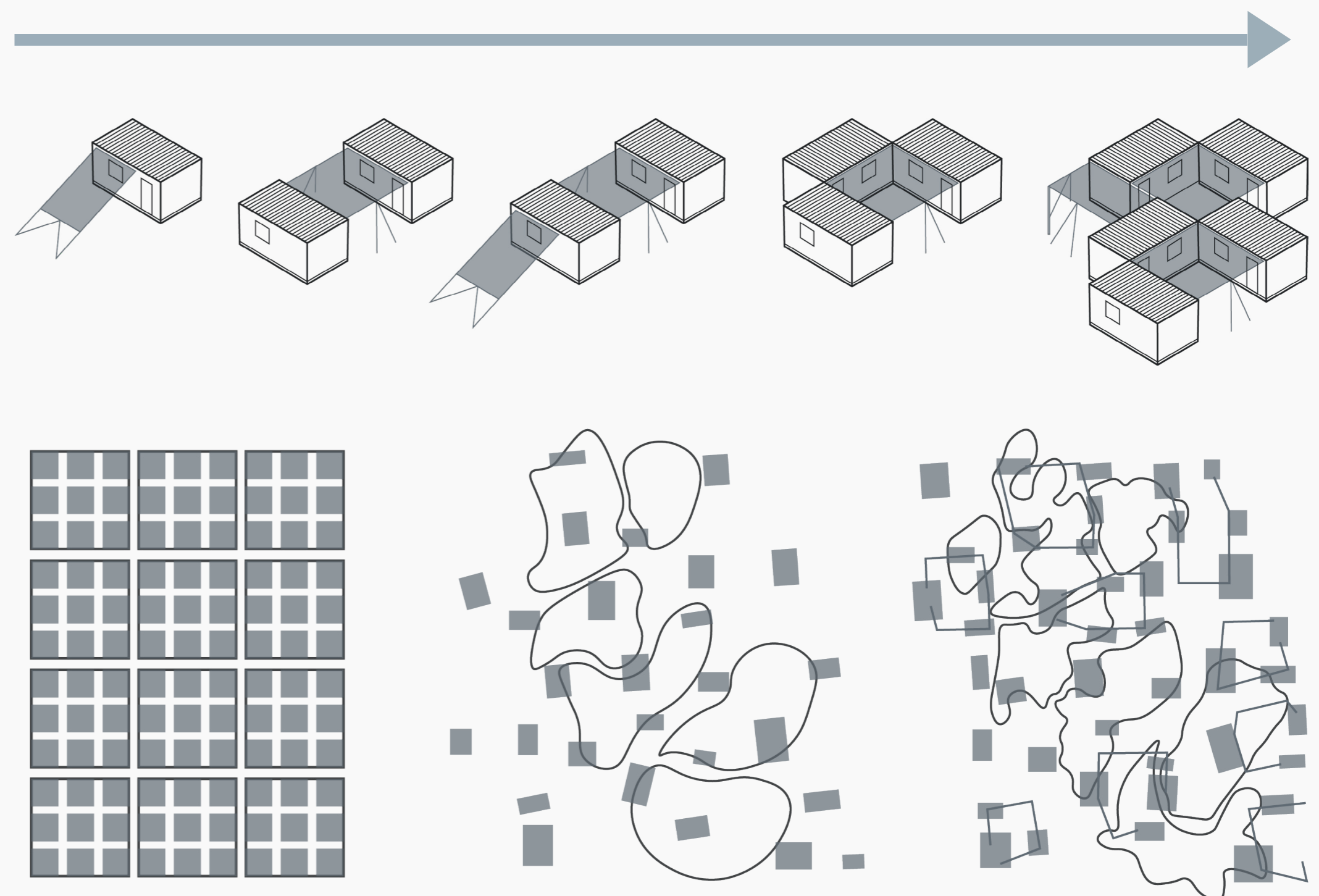
### UNHCR & IKEA Foundation 'Better Shelter'



£1025  
160kg  
17.5m<sup>2</sup>  
4 windows  
4 vents  
hosts 5 people  
solar powered lamp  
lockable door  
easily assembled by group of 4 in 5-6 hours without need for electricity  
designed to last 3 years with basic maintenance

## camp

in both planned and makeshift camps, refugees appropriate and adapt their surroundings by reconfiguring shelters to form spaces fulfilling their psychological, social and cultural needs



## conclusion

an architectural approach, established on the assumption of permanence, which serves as a long-term event, rather than a short-term object

ideally, refugees are granted a voice in the design of their built environment so that design benefits from both the built quality architecture offers and the personal assets, experiences and impressions of refugees