IKEA Foundation Supports Refugees Globally

(Conshohocken, PA – September 14, 2015) Today there are more refugees in the world than ever before. Millions of children and their families are forced to flee their homes because of war or persecution. Currently thousands of refugees are on the move in unprecedented numbers, creating the highest level of displacement since World War II.

The vast majority of refugees now travelling to Europe are leaving Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and Nigeria. The conflict in Syria alone has seen more than 4 million people flee the country.

What is IKEA doing to respond?
Globally, IKEA works through The IKEA Foundation who works with multiple partners to help refugee children and families: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Refugee Housing, Refugees United, Right to Play, UNHCR and UNICEF. Our work focuses on four areas: better homes and livelihoods for refugee families, improving education for children in refugee camps, reconnecting displaced families and sharing knowledge on disaster responses.

In July this year, the IKEA Foundation and UNHCR announced a grant of $42.5 million (€38 million). The grant for 2015-2017 aims to make refugees and heavily stretched host communities more resilient in Burkina Faso and Ethiopia by supporting self-reliance initiatives, improving basic services and fostering peaceful co-existence. IKEA Foundation also provides support to Syrian refugees in Jordan and Iraq. Our Brighter Lives for Refugees campaign also helps light up Syrian refugee camps in Jordan. We’ve sent lots of IKEA bedding, including thousands of mattresses and blankets, to Syrian refugees in Iraq.

In 2014, the IKEA Foundation committed $85.1 million (€76 million) to UNHCR to provide shelter, care and education to families and children in Ethiopia, Sudan and Bangladesh. The same year, IKEA launched a new in-store campaign, Brighter Lives for Refugees, to bring sustainable lighting, energy and education to refugee camps. The first campaign raised $8.6 million (€7.7 million) for UNHCR. In 2013, we donated 50,000 mattresses to UNHCR and $3.36 million (€3 million) to Médecins Sans Frontières to provide medical care for nearly 150,000 Syrian refugees.

The IKEA Foundation works with multiple partners to help refugee children and families: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Refugee Housing, Refugees United, Right to Play, UNHCR and UNICEF. Our work focuses on four areas: better homes and livelihoods for refugee families, improving education for children in refugee camps, reconnecting displaced families and sharing knowledge on disaster responses.

About IKEA Foundation
The IKEA Foundation aims to improve opportunities for children and youth in some of the world’s poorest communities by funding holistic, long-term programs that can create substantial, lasting change. The IKEA Foundation works with strong strategic partners applying innovative approaches to achieve large-scale results in four fundamental areas of a child’s life: a place to call home; a healthy start in life; a quality education; and a sustainable family income. Learn more at www.ikeafoundation.org and www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation