

IKEA makes record donation to refugee camp

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The IKEA Foundation -- founded by Ingvar Kamprad -- has donated 62 million dollar to the U.N. refugee agency in a move to expand the world's largest refugee complex in Dadaab, Kenya.

"The donation, which will be staggered over three years, is the largest private donation that the UN refugee agency has received in its 60-year history, and the first time that a private body has chosen to directly support a major refugee complex," UNHCR spokesman Adrian Edwards said in Geneva on Tuesday.

Originally designed for 90,000 people the refugee complex now hosts a population of approximately 440,000 refugees, 150,000 of whom have arrived in the last three months.

The IKEA Foundation donation will immediately help UNHCR expand its life-saving help for people already arrived at the camp.

"Supporting UNHCR, both immediately and over the long term, is one of the most effective ways to immediately make a difference in the lives of thousands of refugee children and their families", said Per Heggnes, chief executive officer of the IKEA Foundation.

Edwards said the donation was examined with "due diligence" before it was accepted. He also told the AP that the agency was well aware of the claims in a new book by a respected Swedish author and journalist that the IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad's youth ties with Nazi groups extended beyond what he'd previously acknowledged.