# Engineering a better life

## Questions:

**Why has Amna become a refugee?**

Because of the civil war in Syria

**What is meant by the term ‘refugee’?**

Someone who fled their home because of lack of safety, caused by prosecution, war, sexuality, religion or something similar.

**Where and how does Amna live now?**

Amna now lives in Lebanon. She lives in a single room ‘sturdy building’ as the text says.

**In which way is Amna’s family better off than many other refugees?**

She does not live in a tent, but in a sturdy building. This means it is much more durable than the tents.

**Who is Johan Karlsson and what is his aim?**

He is a project manager at Refugee Housing Unit, a company that builds houses for refugees. He wants to build home for refugees.

**What has IKEA got to do with the Syrian refugees?**

IKEA helps design and build the houses.

**What was taken into consideration when it came to developing the new shelters? Explain materials and assembly.**

It should be more like a house, made from strong materials instead of a fabric. It is also possible to control temperature, and gain electricity from solar panels.

**What was Karlsson’s biggest worry and what actually happened?**

He thought that the refugees would not be able to put together the IKEA homes. Instead the refugees picked it up very fast and had soon assembled a dozen homes.

**What is characteristic of Visible Good shelters?**

Withstood tornadoes in Oklahoma in 2013, survived temperatures of -51C and winds of more than 151km/h. None of the parts weigh more than 21kg and a shelter takes 30 minutes to assemble. It doesn’t require any tools to build a shelter.

**What does the concept ‘home’ mean to you?**

A place you always feel safe. A place that is yours.

**What are three ways engineers are improving the design of refugee shelters?**

The door can be places anywhere to accommodate different cultures, they can be build without tools and making them of materials that can withstand UV rays.

## Phrases:

**Urban slum:**

A slum within an urban area. Buildings often made of tin.

**A sturdy building:**

A strong building, a robust building.

**Temporary:**

Something that doesn’t last forever.

**A (country’s) capital:**

The main city, often also the biggest one. Parliaments and other governing bodies will often be

placed here.

**The estimated 16.7 million refugees:**

The Syrian refugees, both internal and external refugees.

**Makeshift:**

Homemade.

**Inexpensive:**

Something that does not cost a lot of money.

**His biggest concern:**

What he worries the most about.

**It does not concern you:**

It is none of your business.

**Disaster:**

When something goes terribly wrong.