

Beat: Miscellaneous

## FOR REFUGEES SWISS CANTON AARGAU TO PURCHASE IKEA-DESIGNED FLAT-PACK HOMES

### PROVIDING HOMES FOR 300 PEOPLE IN 2016

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**USPA NEWS** - A canton in Switzerland has said it is planning to buy Ikea-designed flat-pack homes to house asylum-seekers. Politicians in Aargau said the 17.5sq m homes had been tested to standards specified by the UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency...

A canton in Switzerland has said it is planning to buy Ikea-designed flat-pack homes to house asylum-seekers. Politicians in Aargau said the 17.5sq m homes had been tested to standards specified by the UNHCR, the UN's refugee agency. The shelters, which arrive in the same cardboard boxes as other large pieces of Ikea furniture, can be set up in four hours without any special tools.

Authorities will buy 200 of the houses and will set up 60 in an industrial estate near the town of Frick in 2016. The project will provide temporary shelter for up to 300 people, they said. Kit homes will be placed within two warehouses in the industrial zone...The units, which arrive in the same cardboard boxes as other large pieces of Ikea furniture, can be set up in four hours. The kits cost 1,200 Swiss francs each (£785), plus around 500 Swiss francs for furniture required. However, the shelters are not heated, nor do they have power connections. Meanwhile, the Swiss Defence Minister Ueli Maurer has suggested the country's network of nuclear fallout shelters are opened to house migrants. (Independent)

Switzerland's defence minister Ueli Maurer said in early October Switzerland's emergency public bunkers could provide shelter for up to 50,000 people. Switzerland said recently it was prepared to take in some 5,000 refugees in the next two years on the condition the Dublin system remains in place. September figures released by the Swiss Migration Office (SEM) show that a total of 3,899 asylum requests were placed in August, just three more than in July and hardly the influx experienced by other European countries.

A preliminary order of 10,000 shelters has been placed by the UN's refugee agency with Better Shelter, a Swedish social enterprise set up by IKEA's charitable foundation. The units will be distributed by the UN later this year to displaced families and communities in areas hit by conflict and natural disaster...The UN currently estimates that there are 3.9 million registered Syrian refugees fleeing the country's internal conflict, while in Vanuatu, some 75,000 people - more than a quarter of the population - require shelter after the Pacific island nation was hit by Cyclone Pam earlier this month. (Newsweek)

The shelters are made from lightweight foam panels and have a lockable door and four windows protected by mosquito nets. The steel frame can be disassembled and reassembled simply if the occupants need to move location. All components come packed in two cardboard boxes.

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