

With You

The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is a United Nations organization with a mandate to protect refugees and seek durable solutions for them.

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2023 Summer

Vol. 49



UNHCR at a Glance*



* Source: 2022 UNHCR Global Report

** Number of forcibly displaced and stateless people: 112.6 mil.

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Cover Story



Two friends during their afterschool program in Peru, which brings together both local children and Venezuelan refugee and migrant children for help with homework and also football training.
© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

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#Hashtag Challenge

- 1) Take a picture of the cover of the With You 2023 Summer issue and post it on your social media (Instagram, Facebook, blogs, etc.) channels with hashtags [#UNHCR](#) and [#Withrefugees](#).
- 2) Send a text message about your post with the photo attached to 1666-5398 for a chance to win a special gift, the memoir of UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Jung Woo-sung, "If you could see what I have seen."

Valid until Friday, 25 August 2023

Two Brothers Are Reunited with Their Family

UNHCR staff managed to trace two brothers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who had been separated from their mother and siblings for nearly three years without knowing if they were alive or dead. The family had an emotional reunion at Lindela holding facility in South Africa, ahead of their voluntary repatriation flight to Kinshasa.



© UNHCR/Zsolt Balla



© UNHCR/Zsolt Balla



© UNHCR/Zsolt Balla

Thank you for helping refugees around the world
reunite with loved ones!

A World Where Refugees Are Always Included, Hope Away from Home

How open are you to
“those who are different from you”?

Refugees are ordinary people just like us,
even though they are living under extraordinary conditions
owing to conflict, violence, and persecution.

We captured the moments of “hope”
that they encounter, away from home,
with the power of inclusion and solidarity.

Students during a break time in UNHCR-supported primary school in Nigeria. Cameroonian refugees and locals are studying and playing together in this school, where out of over 630 pupils, almost 570 are refugees. © UNHCR/Lucy Agiende

Moments of Hope



© UNHCR/Pauline Omagwa

David, a Congolese refugee, and Mayiel, a South Sudanese refugee, attend school together in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. They have been friends for three years, and share a desk and textbooks.



© UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

Two friends take a moment out of their afterschool program to pose for a portrait. The after-school program in the northern Peruvian beach town brings together both local and Venezuelan refugee and migrant children for help with homework and football training. The program not only helps knit closer ties between the children but is also key to allowing parents to thrive professionally by allowing them to work a full day without having to come home early to care for their children. This is particularly valuable to Venezuelan refugee and migrant parents, who often lack a wider family support network.



© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



© UNHCR/Saikat Mojumder

UNHCR Rwanda is expanding its Sport for Protection programs so that more primary school students, both refugee and Rwandan children, can play, shine, and grow together.

Sumaya, 5, a Rohingya refugee girl in the Kutupalong refugee camp, Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, has both a physical disability and is on the autism spectrum. Sumaya needs special care in her everyday life and is being supported by UNHCR and its health partners.



© UNHCR/Max-Michel Kolijn

A Syrian refugee family resettled in Sweden from Lebanon through UNHCR looks through a family photo album together envisioning a new future.

A Rwandan and a refugee met through the marshland farming project. Not only do they work together, but they have become the best of friends. Thanks to the project implemented by UNHCR in collaboration with the Rwandan central government and local authorities, with financial support from UNHCR's partner, IKEA, refugees along with Rwandan farmers could improve their skills, grow their own produce to feed their families, and contributed to the local economy while becoming self-reliant.



© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



© UNHCR/Jaime Giménez

Refugee children from Venezuela join hands with Ecuadorian children as a sign of their trust in a better future, during an art workshop organized by UNHCR in Huaquillas, a city in south-west Ecuador, on the border of Peru.

On World Refugee Day last year, refugees, internally displaced people and the host community all came together to the UNHCR-supported community center in Damascus. They enjoyed dancing, painting, singing, and paying tribute to the resilience of refugees all around the globe.



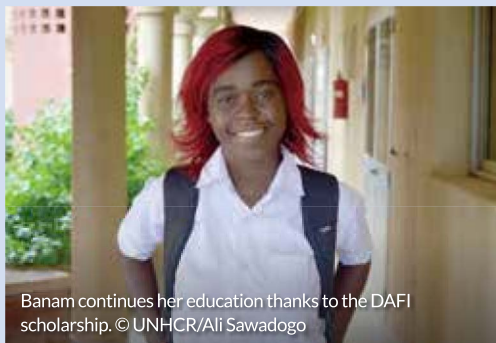
© UNHCR/Ola Kabalan

Stories of “Hope” Around the World

We share stories of refugees who have found hope in places away from home through opportunities for education, jobs, and livelihoods, and neighbors who support them.



Banam's story: blossoming hope with higher education



Banam continues her education thanks to the DAFI scholarship. © UNHCR/Ali Sawadogo



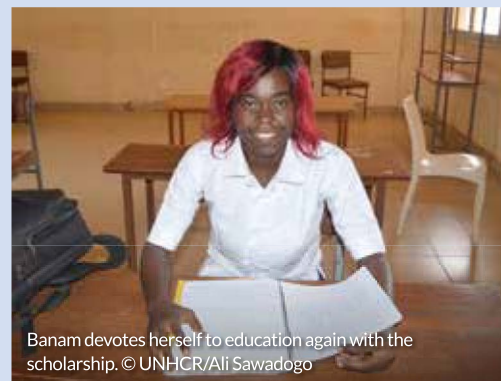
Read more about Banam's story

Banam is once again able to devote herself to her studies. The impact of a DAFI scholarship can be life-long. Mbabazi Mugemana, 45, has been a refugee since the 1994 Rwanda genocide. DAFI support ensured that the talented high school student was able to become a successful graduate and, in the two decades since, he has earned a master's degree, forged a career as a teacher, educational consultant, and community leader, and is currently pursuing a PhD. **“It is not only the scholarship,”** Mugemana says, **“we received training and coaching on how to be in life, in an enterprise, how to seek employment, everything.”**

The DAFI Tertiary Scholarship program—funded primarily by the German Government with support from Denmark, the Czech Republic, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and private donors—has enabled 21,500 refugees to enroll in higher education globally since 1992.

After surviving a brutal rebel assault on the church where she worshipped, Ornella Banam escaped the civil war in the Central African Republic in 2014, fleeing to Burkina Faso. Once there, she managed to continue her studies, hoping to become a nutritionist. However, when her father died two years later, she could no longer afford the fees and had to drop out of college. In 2021, Banam was selected for the DAFI (Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative) scholarship program, allowing her to resume higher education in Côte d'Ivoire. **“This scholarship restored the hope I had lost five years earlier,”** says the 30-year-old. **“I saw my dream shattered, but thanks to this opportunity, I am newly optimistic.”**

Like many others in the DAFI program, Banam's dream stems from her own experience of growing up in a country where poverty is rife and food often short. **“Malnutrition is the leading cause of infant mortality in the world, particularly in my country,”** she says, adding that she wants **“to care for children suffering from malnutrition around the world.”** With the DAFI scholarship covering the cost of her tuition fees, rent, and living expenses,



Banam devotes herself to education again with the scholarship. © UNHCR/Ali Sawadogo

Maria's story: creating hope through an entrepreneurship support program



Read more about Maria's story



Maria runs a successful dough business thanks to entrepreneurship training. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso



Maria makes a dough sheet. © UNHCR/Nicolo Filippo Rosso

Five years ago, Maria fled Venezuela for southern Peru after her young child contracted severe nephritis. Although Maria had a university degree in special education and years-worth of experience working in business administration in her native country, when she first arrived in Peru, she found herself with no choice but to accept an off-the-books position, helping out at a dentist's office. The pay was so low, she and her infant son had to live in the office and soon found themselves on the street.

Maria was determined to avoid experiencing a similar situation in the future. The key, she decided, was to become her own boss. **“Having your own business gives you a much firmer foundation.”**

Maria decided to set up a small business selling ready-to-use pastry dough for empanadas*. But even her previous experience in business administration failed to prepare her for the overwhelming challenge of starting a business in a new country. Dipping deep into her savings, she managed to buy the basic equipment—an electric mixer and dough sheeter—to be able to start selling premade sheets of empanada dough to a handful of clients. Despite putting in seemingly endless long hours, she was just scraping by.

It was not until she was accepted into an entrepreneurship mentorship course that Maria realized she could take her small business to the next level. “I had been working for a year...without any sort of organization or order,” she recalled. “I didn't realize how small my profit margins were.

I was barely earning enough to get by.... But the mentorship opened my eyes and made me see that I could do more and grow more.”

Run by a partner agency with support from UNHCR, the mentorship provides basic training on such crucial business skills as finance and marketing. Since the program started in April 2021, it has helped give around 140 fledgling refugee and migrant entrepreneurs the skills they need to not only survive but thrive.

“Most have problems with the finance portion because they are either afraid to charge too much or because they fail to take into account such expenses as the raw material, the labor, or the electricity it takes to make their product.” That changes, one of the program's mentors said, when they see the numbers in front of them, in stark black and white.

Maria, the entrepreneur behind the dough company, De Masa, said the training program had helped her double her turnover, which in turn allowed her to hire a full-time employee – a fellow Venezuelan woman. **“It [the mentorship program] has really been fundamental, just fundamental for the business,”** said Maria.

* A dish that is baked or fried by folding the dough in half with various filling ingredients inside the dough

Pierre and Zacharie's story: a land where hope grows



Pierre, a Burundian refugee © UNHCR/Aline Irakarama



Read more
about Pierre and
Zacharie's story

The sound of a lively song floats down a hill where a group of Burundian refugees and their Congolese neighbors are farming together in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Zacharie, a local Congolese of 25 years, proudly shows off the land he is cultivating in the Tabac Congo locality.

"I became interested in agriculture by watching Burundian refugees farming and growing tomatoes, cabbages, onions, and aubergines. A few years ago, there were very few of these vegetables in the local market." His Burundian friend, Pierre, 41, nods in agreement. "When I was working in a field, Zacharie would often stop by and ask a lot of questions. He seemed interested in my work. One day, I asked him to join me in harvesting vegetables."

Pierre adds that the generosity of the local Congolese community has encouraged him and many other Burundian refugees to build lives for themselves in the Tabac Congo area, where they found safety after fleeing Burundi's post-election violence in June 2015.

With his wife and four children, Pierre had used the cover of night to reach the border city of Uvira, in the DRC's South Kivu Province before taking a boat south on Lake Tanganyika, until they reached Kalemie. Devastated at having left everything behind, he never imagined at the time that he would be able to rebuild his life.

"The first days were not easy, but we arrived here with other families who were able to speak Swahili. That helped us in finding some small jobs to slowly earn a living and put a roof over our heads," recalls Pierre. "The first months we were living with other families in a small shelter. I work hard, have my own house now, and **try to give back to the community that has hosted us for so long.**"

Before he met Pierre, Zacharie was also struggling to get by on small jobs like producing palm oil for cooking. What started as a seasonal job working alongside Pierre soon became full-time. **With Pierre's support, Zacharie has learnt techniques for growing vegetables and now rents a small piece of land that he farms, earning some money to take care of his family.**

"I learnt everything from scratch – from ploughing the field, to selecting the right seeds and tools to farm," says Zacharie.



Zacharie grows vegetables with skills learned from Pierre
© UNHCR/Aline Irakarama

He adds that the COVID-19 pandemic and rising costs have created additional challenges. For his part, Pierre has learned Swahili from Zacharie to fit in while engaged in farming. "Every day is a struggle, but we have to put food on the table. Good quality seeds have become expensive, and we often lack land where we can cultivate with adequate tools."

UNHCR and its partners are trying to address some of these obstacles by providing refugees with agricultural tools and seeds and advocating with local authorities for access to arable land.

Pierre and his fellow refugee farmers dream of gaining access to more agricultural land and tools in order to plant and produce a wider variety of vegetables to be sold at the local market. Meanwhile, they have shared their farming knowledge with over 40 young Congolese like Zacharie.

The hard work and skills of refugees are recognized and appreciated by many in the area.

"We appreciate their solidarity and willingness to teach others," says a local chief in one of the villages. **"We buy fresh produce from traders at the local market who in turn buy the vegetables directly from Pierre and other refugee farmers."**

"I often take my friends to the fields, especially during the harvest season, to encourage them to start farming," says Zacharie. **"Seeing Pierre and his family accomplish so much in a foreign country has taught us a lot."**

The story of Agnieszka: a Polish volunteer at the center for sharing hope



Agnieszka has been a volunteer for 25 years.
© UNHCR/Anna Liminowicz



Read more about
Agnieszka's story

In February 2022, when the war begun in Ukraine, Agnieszka immediately began organizing humanitarian aid for refugees. Today, almost a year on, she runs two popular help points in Krakow. At "Soup for Ukraine", refugees receive hot food, and at 'Łagiewnicka Point', which resembles a shop but where everything is free for those who need it, refugees can choose from donated clothes, food, hygiene products, prams, and cots.

"You have to take care of guests," says Agnieszka, referring to the refugees. **"I can't ignore their suffering. I just must help. That's my nature."**

In the first months of the refugee influx, ordinary Polish citizens such as Agnieszka rushed to help. In **April 2022, a public polling institute reported that close to two-thirds of Poles had at least one person from their household who helped refugees from Ukraine without receiving any remuneration.**

Agnieszka works for a foundation and is no stranger to volunteering, having previously helped others for 25 years. Despite that experience, she says she is surprised at how willing people are to pitch in, and how quickly things can be arranged, often with "a single phone call". But demand is high, and some items run out very quickly, she says. Łagiewnicka Point is visited by around 200 people each day, but lately, on winter days, up to 350 people turn up. Inside, there is constant movement: volunteers sorting items, and refugees choosing what they need.

"Now it is winter, we see more people are coming for assistance," says Agnieszka. **"They are mostly new arrivals for whom it's even harder to find accommodation and jobs. They need support to help them back on their feet."**

What We Do

UNHCR helps people who cannot return home owing to conflict and persecution, rebuild their lives by facilitating access to education and work. This also helps displaced people regain a sense of purpose and become part of the communities they now live in.

In addition, we take an age-, gender-, and diversity-conscious approach to ensure that no one is excluded and support is available without discrimination. At the same time, we work with governments and the international community to find long-term solutions.



Read more about UNHCR activities



A student studies at a primary school in Afghanistan built with UNHCR support. © UNHCR/Chinar Media



An Afghan student goes to a primary school in Pakistan. © UNHCR/Mercury Transformations



1 Education

Nearly half of the world's refugees are under 18 years of age, and when children and young people are forced to flee, they can miss out on years of schooling. School offers a stable and safe environment for children and can help protect them from forced recruitment into armed groups or child labor. In the long term, education helps people to rebuild their communities, and pursue productive, meaningful lives.

UNHCR partners with governments and international organizations to ensure quality protective education for refugee children and young people everywhere. The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants recognizes education as a critical element of the international refugee response. Furthermore, Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims to deliver "inclusive and quality education for all and to promote lifelong learning".



2 Livelihoods

After fleeing war or persecution, one of the most effective ways in which people can rebuild their lives with dignity and peace is through the opportunity to work and earn a living. Through decent work, refugees and displaced people can provide for their families' needs, maintain their dignity, and be empowered to shape their future. Being able to work and making use of their skills and talents also allows refugees to contribute to their host communities.

We work with governments to advocate for refugees' right to work in host countries, and help refugees develop skills and find employment opportunities, such as running a small farm, opening their own business, or as an employee in a local business or company. We support refugees' resilience and self-reliance through various programs, such as inclusive market systems and financial services, the Poverty Alleviation Coalition, agriculture and food security, social protection, and the MADE51* platform.

* An initiative to support refugee livelihoods and self-reliance by connecting refugees possessing artisan skills with social enterprises to design, develop, produce, and sell products.



Ugandan refugees make bracelets in the Kakuma refugee camp. © UNHCR/Loduye Ghaisen



A woman learns food processing as part of the livelihood support program. © UNHCR/Modesta Ndubi



3 Public health

Good health is an essential requirement for refugees to be able to rebuild their lives. However, years or decades of forced displacement can take a significant toll on an individual's health and wellbeing.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for people of all ages, in part through universal health coverage. Universal health coverage enables people to experience healthcare that is affordable and of adequate quality. It should cover essential promotive, preventive, curative, palliative, and rehabilitative health services. UNHCR works with governments and partner organizations to provide emergency health care, improve local health services accessed by refugee and host country communities, and advocate for the full inclusion of refugees in national health care systems, in line with the goal of universal health coverage. Since the onset of the pandemic, UNHCR has consistently worked to ensure that refugees are included in national COVID-19 planning and response policies.



4 Long-term solutions

Since the inception of UNHCR, seeking long-term solutions for refugees has been central to our mandate. A solution that marks the end of the refugee and displacement situation is when an individual is able to safely return to their home or they are granted a new nationality. With a permanent home, they can finally leave uncertainty behind and, with their family, begin to rebuild their lives in peace, dignity, and with renewed hope for the future.

UNHCR works with governments and the international community to support refugees in finding a place to call home. This can include voluntary repatriation back to their home country, when safe to do so, integration within the current host country, or resettlement in a third country.



A child gets a nutrition/medical check in a refugee camp in Ethiopia. © UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil



A baby gets a polio vaccine in a medical clinic in the Azraq refugee camp. © UNHCR/Christopher Herwig



An Afghan returnee family visits the UNHCR support center. © UNHCR/Caroline Gluck



A family returned from Tanzania to Burundi. © UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Refugees in the World, Refugees Among Us



Burundian refugees cross the border to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR/Eduardo Soteras Jalil

Refugees in the World

The number of people forced to flee their homes owing to protracted conflict and violence around the world, including the war in Ukraine earlier this year has exceeded 100 million in 2023. That means 1 in 80 people in the world are forcibly displaced. Fleeing their homes, they either stay in other safer areas of their country, or cross the border and live under the protection of a neighboring country until they can return home again. Most refugees in neighboring countries continue their lives as refugees with the hope of returning to their home country one day, whereas some are granted citizenship in the host country. According

to UNHCR, 1.1 million refugees have been granted citizenship in the last 10 years while living in the country they fled to.

Rarely, they move to a more distant country or resettle in a third country, accounting for less than 1% of the world's refugees. In 2022, more than 110,000 people applied for resettlement with the help of UNHCR, and more than 58,000 of them left for countries including the U.S., Canada, and Germany. The reasons reported for the resettlement included the need for legal and physical protection, having survived violence and torture, and a safer environment for women and girls.

Forcibly displaced people

 **over 100 mil.**

Refugees granted citizenship

 **1.1 mil.**

The ratio of forcibly displaced people to the world's population

 **1/80**

The ratio of resettlement applications among worldwide refugees

 **less than 1 %**



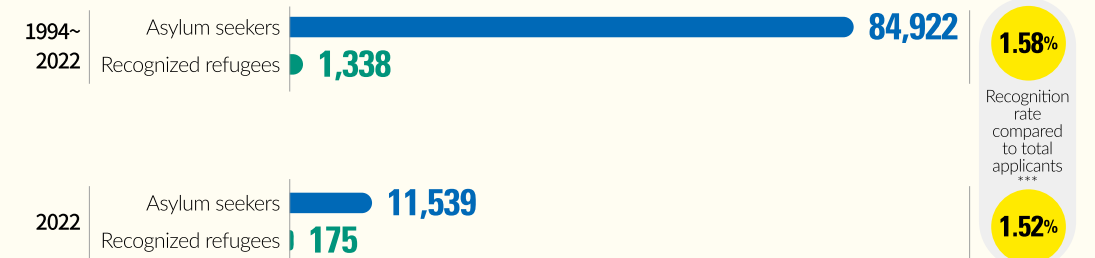
Read 2022 Global Trends Report (English)

Refugees in Korea

According to data from the Ministry of Justice of Korea*, the number of asylum seekers has been steadily growing in the country since 2010, reaching 11,539 cases in 2022. Since Korea began to accept refugees in 1994, a total of 1,338 out of 84,922 applicants have

been granted refugee status as of 2022, with 175 being accepted in 2022 alone. Meanwhile, a total of 2,485 people were granted humanitarian stay permits** between 1994 and 2022, with 67 granted in 2022 alone.

Asylum seekers and recognized refugees (from 1994 to 2022)



* Source: Ministry of Justice immigration statistics, Immigration Data and Statistics Bulletin, December 2022

** A person granted a humanitarian stay permit (humanitarian status holder) refers to a foreign national who does not qualify as a refugee but for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that their life or personal freedom may be egregiously violated by torture, other inhumane treatment, punishment or other circumstances.

*** This may not be the same as the recognition rate of completed cases.



Read more about info from MOJ (Ministry of Justice)



Read more about refugee data from UNHCR Data Finder (English)

With the arrival of Yemeni refugees in 2018 and Afghan special contributors in 2021, the story of refugees is no longer about a country far away; it is about our neighbors who have entered our lives.

No one chooses to be a refugee. These are people who have been labeled "refugees" under unforeseeable circumstances, but who are capable of rebuilding their lives and contributing fully to society if they are given the opportunity and access to basic rights

such as education, employment, housing, and healthcare where they are resettled. They may have left their homes empty-handed, but they are people just like us, with their own unique set of knowledge and skills, experiences, talents, and potential.

We are envisioning a world where we live together with refugees.



Your Donation Makes a Difference

See photos of the changes you have enabled.

(Updates based on UNHCR operations, April~June 2023)

1 Ukraine

The destruction of the Kakhovka dam on June 6 has resulted in the extensive flooding of settlements in the region, including 80 towns and villages, affecting thousands of people. UNHCR has delivered emergency supplies, including jerry cans, hygiene kits, and bedding items to the worst-affected areas alongside psychosocial support.



A village impacted by massive flooding, following the destruction of Kakhovka dam © UNHCR/Octavian Mohorea



UNHCR delivers aid to those impacted in Kherson. © UNHCR/Octavian Mohorea

3 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Cyclical violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has left 6.2 million people internally displaced, living in dire living conditions, and facing human rights violations, including gender-based violence. In and around Goma, North Kivu, more than 600,000 displaced people are sheltering in makeshift structures that are ill-equipped to withstand the extreme weather conditions. UNHCR is providing them with blankets, tarpaulins, emergency shelter, and psychosocial support.

“I’m already putting this bucket to good use.”

– Tukuze, IDP, DRC –

“Even though we don’t have much to eat, clean plates and pots ensure our health. These kits have helped us make a fresh start.”

– Vumiliya, IDP, DRC –



An IDP receives relief items. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila



An IDP receives relief items. © UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila

2 Syria

16 May marked the 100th day following the Türkiye-Syria earthquake, which killed thousands and forcibly displaced millions. It was also the 99th day of life for Khodor, who was born the day after the quake. UNHCR has stayed on the ground, helping Khodor’s family live in temporary communal facilities in Syria’s Hama governorate, while continuing its reconstruction efforts for the quake-affected population.



Khodor’s mother talks with a UNHCR staff member. © UNHCR/Saad Sawas

Watch a video on how your donation uses



4 Ethiopia

Armed clashes in the Laascaanood region of Somalia that took place in February have displaced thousands, with 100,000 fleeing to Ethiopia’s Somali region. UNHCR provided free vaccinations to refugees who had recently entered Ethiopia, working with the health workers in Mirqaan, and dozens of refugees were vaccinated against measles and COVID-19. In addition, we provided a generator to a local health clinic to help them expand health services. We worked with our partners to deliver emergency items to the refugees and protect the separated families.



A Somali child gets vaccinated against measles. © UNHCR/Diana Díaz

5 Brazil

We have worked with the Brazilian government for the past five years to voluntarily relocate Venezuelan refugees and migrants from the border state of Roraima to other Brazilian cities, helping over 100,000 people improve their quality of life and find better opportunities through self-reliance and integration. Women and children account for about 80% of the beneficiaries.



A Venezuelan family moves to another city for a new start. © UNHCR/Allana Ferreira

6 Rwanda

We supported a sports program* in the Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda, wherein about half of the total refugee population is under the age of 18, by purchasing soccer balls, volleyballs, rugby balls, footballs, sports mats, whistles, and referee uniforms with the help of Korean supporters.

“At the Mahama refugee camp, the sports program is based on the children’s application, where they choose the sport they want to play, form a team, and are assigned a coach. Soccer is the most popular sport, whereas the girls are interested in modern dance, traditional dance, and volleyball. “Sit ball,” a type of volleyball played by people with disabilities, and taekwondo are also very popular! Sporting goods are stored in a warehouse in the refugee camp. The coaches keep a log of their use and ensure that they are returned, and because it is for communal use, dirty clothes, and shoes are cleaned and stored.”

– Local sports coordinator in Rwanda –
UNHCR/Blaise Sanyila



Read more about the donation outcomes



The sports program coordination officer shows sports items supported in the Mahama refugee camp. © UNHCR/Mahama Community-based Social Media Influencers



Refugee children play soccer with sports items supported by Korean donors. © UNHCR/Mahama Community-based Social Media Influencers

* As this is a separate initiative by UNHCR Korea, the support period may differ from other regions.



Source: Daum Movie

The Swimmers:

A journey to escape war and chase a dream, from swimming for survival to swimming for hope

"Swim for all of us"



What are your dreams, hopes, and life goals?

Have you ever had them dashed in an instant?

We introduce to you a special movie, The Swimmers, based on a true story of Yusra Mardini, a Syrian refugee who nearly lost her life during a near-death escape, only to rediscover hope and embark on a new journey toward her dreams.

A normal day in Syria, not so normal anymore

The movie begins in 2011 with an ordinary day in the lives of two sisters, Yusra and Sarah. On returning from a swim training session with their swim coach-father, a surprise birthday party is thrown for the younger sister, Yusra. Amidst all the singing and dancing, everyone in the family seems to be having a good time, but the footage of the protests against the president that her older sister, Sarah, is watching hints at the unstable social climate and the imminent danger to them.

Four years later, in 2015, the siblings are dancing on a rooftop and living the life of ordinary young people; however, the bombings on the other side of the building, the armed soldiers roaming the streets at all hours of the day, and the news of friends' deaths all around them cast a shadow of violence that has invaded their lives.

A pool is bombed, and they face death before their eyes

One day, at a swimming competition, a missile suddenly drops into the pool out of the blue, and the scene quickly turns into chaos. Not realizing it, Yusra continues to swim and comes face-to-face with a shell that enters the water. She is lucky to escape with her life, but after this near-death experience, the family decides to send the two sisters to Europe first.

Refugees from around the world gather in Türkiye

After arriving in Istanbul on a plane, the sisters and their cousin wander around before meeting a broker who offers to take them to the Greek island of Lesbos. They drive 10 hours to reach the shore and spend the night talking to refugees from Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea, and other countries who came on the same bus.

Leaving their fate up to an old rubber boat

The next morning, the broker forces people into a small dilapidated rubber boat, starts it up, and sends them away. The rubber boats, having exceeded their capacity, stall the open sea. In the stillness of the boat, water quickly begins to fill, and soon the engine stops. Panicked, people try to do everything they can.



A group of refugees in a boat arrives on the Lesbos Island of Greece. © UNHCR/Ivor Prickett

Two brave sisters guide a boat to Lesbos Island

As things do not seem to be getting any better, Sarah grabs hold of the ropes and jumps into the water. Yusra follows her sister and begins to swim, pushing the boat along, and other people who can swim join them. Then, dramatically, the boat starts up, and Yusra pushes through the water as best she can, concentrating like an athlete in a competition. Just as she is about to lose her mind, with memories of the family she left behind in Syria jumbled in her head, she hears someone shout that they can see land, and the rubber dinghy they are in arrives safely at the island of Lesbos.

"You're swimming for all of us.

**For Dad, for me, for Sven,
for Shada, for Rajan Haddad,
and for all the people who died trying to find a new life.
You swim for them.**

Remember, you're more than just an Olympic athlete."

- From the movie "The Swimmers" -



Yusra Mardini competed in the 100-meter freestyle at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. © UNHCR/Benjamin Loyseau

Again, in Greece, the never-ending journey of evacuation

After receiving relief supplies from humanitarian organizations, including the UNHCR, and taking a short break, the group decides to head to mainland Greece, traveling along the railways from city to city, from Greece through Macedonia, Serbia, Hungary, Austria, and on to Germany. Walking and sleeping on the streets, sometimes tricked by brokers, sometimes abandoned in remote locations, sometimes spotted by border guards—where and how does their harrowing journey end?

At this very moment, large numbers of refugees are continuing their perilous journey by sea, following the same route as Yusra. As of 11 June 2023, more than 71,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean to reach countries such as Italy, Greece, and Spain, and more than 1,000 of them have lost their lives or gone missing along the way.

This summer, why not take a moment to reflect on the plight of refugees while watching The Swimmers?



Yusra Mardini as UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador
© UNHCR/Susan Hopper

"This is a movie that anyone in the world can relate to.

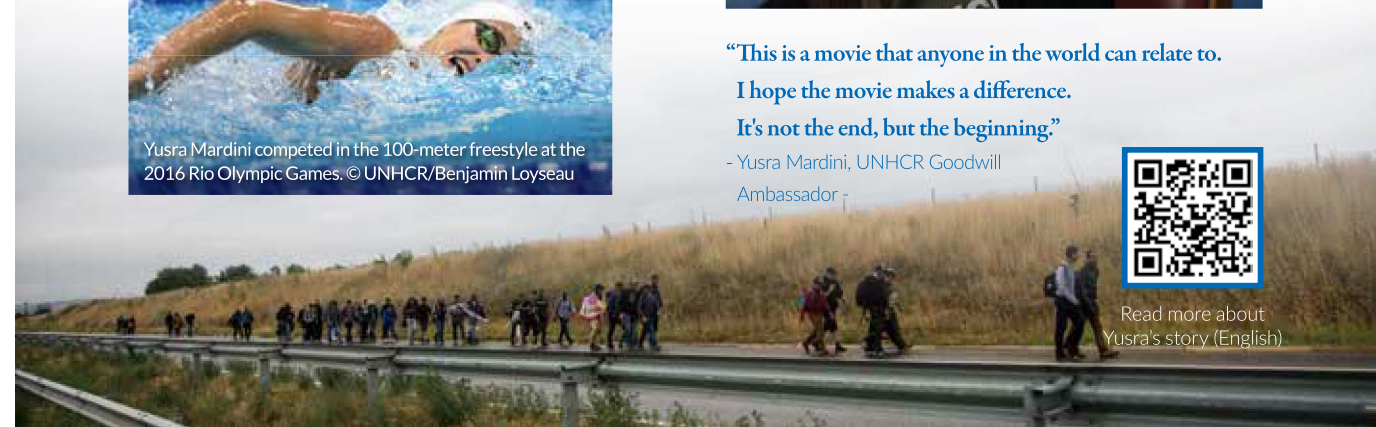
I hope the movie makes a difference.

It's not the end, but the beginning."

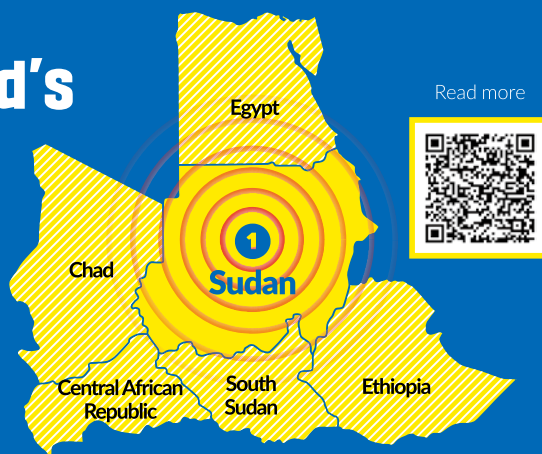
- Yusra Mardini, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador -



Read more about Yusra's story (English)



Updates from the World's Ongoing Emergencies



Sudan Emergency

Situation Update

More than three months into the armed conflict between government forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that started on 15 April, the number of people who have been forced to flee their homes in Sudan has exceeded 2.2 million as of 5 July, and more than 650,000 refugees have fled to neighboring countries (including returnees as of 11 July).

UNHCR in Action

On 17 May, Level 2 emergency was declared in Sudan and its neighboring countries, which have received large number of refugees in a short period of time. UNHCR is working with neighboring governments and partners to protect and assist refugees and displaced persons, ensuring that all those seeking safety and protection have access to their territory without discrimination.

1 Sudan

While monitoring the situation of refugees stranded in the capital city of Khartoum, we are providing them with protective counseling through emergency calls and helping them escape the conflict zone to find safety.



Egypt

We are providing emergency assistance at two key border points, helping refugees arriving in Cairo register and access education, healthcare, counseling, and psychosocial support. Child protection measures are also implemented, including "best interests of the child" and family tracing for children arriving alone or separated from their families.

South Sudan

With about 1,500 refugees arriving in South Sudan every day, transit centers near the border remain overcrowded and severely under-resourced. However, UNHCR is working with the Sudanese governments and partners to provide transportation to those who are heading home by land or river.

Chad

We have delivered relief supplies to 18,563 families (as of 11 June) and transported more than 26,000 newly arrived refugees on the border areas (as of 27 June) to refugee camps to help them access family tents, education, and health services.

Myanmar-Bangladesh Cyclone Mocha

Situation Update

On 14 May, Cyclone Mocha hit Sittwe in Rakhine State, Myanmar. Accompanied by strong winds and heavy rain, the cyclone caused landslides in some areas, destroying homes and infrastructure, and affecting 7.9 million people in Myanmar and 2.3 million in Bangladesh, including 930,000 Rohingya refugees.

UNHCR in Action

Level 2 emergency was declared in Myanmar and Bangladesh on 29 May, and UNHCR is working closely with other UN agencies, the governments of the affected countries, and the humanitarian community. In addition, we are assessing the damage and providing urgent assistance to refugees in the Cox's Bazaar area of Bangladesh, the world's largest refugee camp.



2 Myanmar

- We are stocking our warehouses with shelter materials, blankets, mattresses, cookware, mosquito nets, replacements for large weather-damaged Rub Halls, and repackaging damaged relief supplies.
- Advocating for "unimpeded humanitarian access," we are responsible for inventories, supply response, and transportation routes to ensure relief supplies reach affected areas.
- We have disseminated safety messages regarding the risk of landmines to the community via social media.



3 Bangladesh

- We have provided temporary housing to more than 4,505 families, prioritizing those with severely damaged homes.
- We are continuing to provide protective services to the community, including against gender-based violence, child protection, psychological first aid (PFA), legal assistance, and awareness sessions. PFA was implemented with 512 people, including children and people with disabilities.
- We have recovered 5 out of 11 health facilities damaged by the cyclone and repaired 70% of the water and sanitation (WASH) infrastructure in affected refugee camps.
- With trained refugee volunteers, we are extending our response in many areas.

Please join UNHCR in providing emergency relief on the frontlines around the world now.

You can find the application form on page 23.

UNHCR News

Global



© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno



© UNHCR/Samuel Otieno

Celebrating World Refugee Day 2023

On 20 June, various events were held worldwide showcasing the courage and resilience of refugees under the theme of "Hope Away from Home." In Warsaw, Poland, events were organized to celebrate the strength and resilience of refugees, including performances by Ukrainian musicians, art workshops, and sports activities. In Bangladesh refugee camps, there was a live art show by Rohingya musicians and an exhibition of work by Rohingya photographers. UNHCR also co-produced a series of short films with YouTube titled "We Were Here," to be released on World Refugee Day.



Read more about
WRD events (English)



Read more about
global news

Korea



© UNHCR

Hosted the second online film festival

From 9 to 23 June, UNHCR Korea hosted its second online film festival, offering free screenings of seven homegrown documentaries, including "Dodomu," based on Goodwill Ambassador Jung Woo-sung's mission to Poland. On 9 June, it hosted another screening of "Dodomu" to commemorate the festival, inviting officials from partner organizations. The event began with opening remarks by Ms. Hai Kyung Jun, Representative of UNHCR Korea, followed by congratulatory remarks by Ms. Kang Jooyeon, Director General of the International Organization Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and closing remarks by Mr. Lee Il, Chair of the Refugee Rights Network. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Refugee Rights Network also provided support for the online film festival, which debuted in 2022.



© UNHCR

A talk concert for World Refugee Day

On 20 June, UNHCR Korea held a talk concert with Korean youth at the Community House Masil to commemorate World Refugee Day. Under the theme "Hope Away from Home," refugee youth, Korean youth, UNHCR Korea Representative Hai Kyung Jun, and Goodwill Ambassador Jung Woo-sung participated as panelists facilitating an open and honest conversation about true social integration, with the audience exchanging their opinions freely.

Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Won Hee-ryong visits UNHCR's Poland office

On 22 May, Minister of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, Won Hee-ryong, visited the UNHCR Poland office and the Refugee Support Community Center, to listen to the current status of support for Ukrainian refugees living in Poland and to meet with Ukrainian refugees. On the same day, a group of accomplished staff members from the Korean Red Cross visited UNHCR headquarters in Geneva to learn more about the organization's role and activities, and to gain a better understanding of forced displacement around the world.



© UNHCR

Korea



© UNHCR

Chosun University donated to earthquake relief efforts in Türkiye

On 30 May, the Faculty Senate of Chosun University donated to the UNHCR for emergency relief in earthquake-stricken Türkiye and Syria at Chosun University's main building. The donation ceremony was attended by Park Hyun-joo, vice president of Chosun University, Kim Myung-sik, chairman of the Faculty Senate, Choi Jong-il, president of the Japanese Teachers' Association, Kim Cheol-soo, president of the Christian Fellowship, and members of the Faculty Senate.

Blue Ribbon Campaign

UNHCR Korea is leading a blue ribbon campaign symbolizing peace, wherein solidarity with refugees around the world is expressed by wearing a blue ribbon.



Join in the campaign

Career program for young job-seekers

Selected as a partner organization for the "Seoul-type Youth Intern Job Camp," organized by the Seoul Metropolitan Government, UNHCR Korea will be working with a total of five interns. In early July, we participated in promotional booth activities at the 16th International Organization Career Fair, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-hosted by the Seoul Metropolitan Government.



© UNHCR

Donation Agreement Form

If you would like to donate or make additional donations, please send a photo of the completed donation agreement form to 1666-5397.

Donor Information

Are you a regular donor of UNHCR ☐ Yes ☐ No — If yes, please fill out your name, date of birth, and mobile phone number only.

Name	Mobile phone number	Date of birth	Email
Address			

If you are a new donor, do you agree to receive information for donors from UNHCR Korea? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Information on your donations is used only for managing your own donation. Details on UNHCR personal information and collection can be viewed by clicking the "Privacy Policy" link at the bottom of UNHCR Korea's website (www.unhcr.or.kr).

Bank Account Information For a one-off donation, the amount will be withdrawn only once.

Do you want to use your existing donation account? ☐ Yes ☐ No — If 'Yes', please indicate the type of campaign and donation amount only.

Bank	Account Number	Account holder's name	Account holder's date of birth	provide your resident ID number if you wish to receive the donation receipt
Select Campaign	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudan Emergency	Amount	<input type="checkbox"/> With 1,000,000 KRW, you can provide cash assistance to enable a family in South Sudan to buy emergency shelter materials.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cyclone Mocha Emergency		<input type="checkbox"/> With 500,000 KRW, you can help three displaced families of five in Ethiopia to receive a kit of life-sustaining core relief items.	
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Most Needed		<input type="checkbox"/> With 200,000 KRW, you can provide two baby kits for a family in Chad.	
			<input type="checkbox"/> I will donate 30,000 KRW every month.	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Others (<input type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> One-off) _____ KRW		

*If you are making a regular donation on a monthly basis, the additional one-off donation will be made within 10 days of receiving the form. If the amount was not withdrawn successfully due to insufficient balance in the account or any other reasons, more attempts will be made later.
*Individual (including private business owners) and corporate donors can obtain a donation receipt in accordance with the Income Tax Act and Corporate Tax Act of the Republic of Korea.

These serve as examples of the usage of funds. For more details, please refer to page 16~17 of this newsletter.

I hereby consent to the collection of personal information and bank account information indicated above for the purpose of receiving donor services.

____ Year ____ Month ____ Day Account Holder's Name _____ (Signature/Seal)

HOPE AWAY FROM HOME

A world where
refugees are always included



© UNHCR/Pauline Omagwa

**Tell us what you think about the renewed With You newsletter
with a new look in 2023!**

We look forward to your valuable feedback and opinions to improve our newsletter.
We will send gifts to randomly selected survey respondents who complete the questionnaire by the deadline.

Deadline Friday, 25 August 2023

Method Scan the QR code on the right and complete the questionnaire on the linked web page.



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