

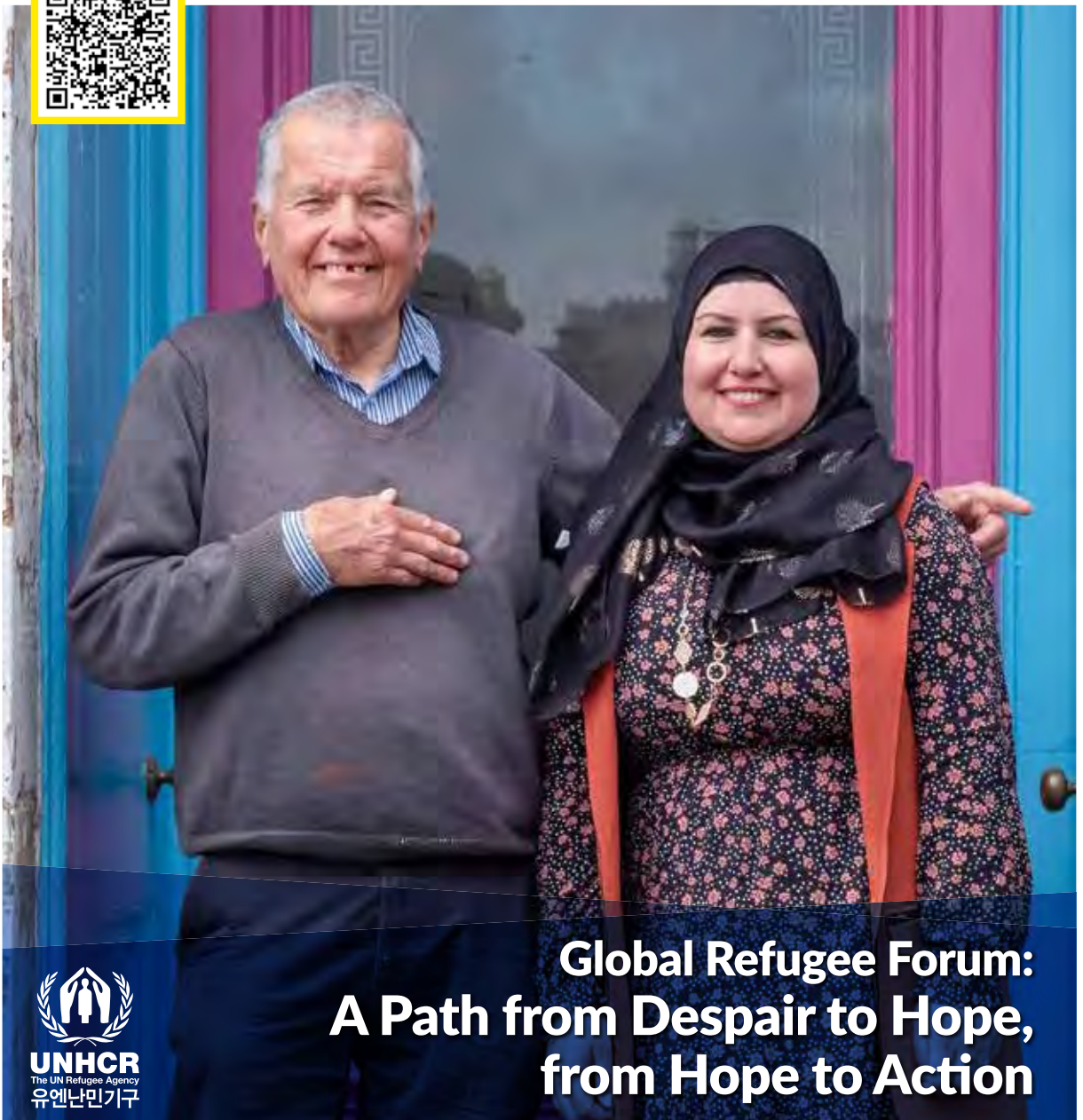
With You

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 Winter

Vol. 51



**Global Refugee Forum:
A Path from Despair to Hope,
from Hope to Action**

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




Syrian refugee Wafa (right) with his friend and English teacher David. Wafa's family lived in Iraq before resettling in Scotland, where she helps newly arrived refugees to settle while volunteering in a local charity shop. Expanding access to third-country solutions, including resettlement, is one of the four key objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees. © UNHCR/Andrew Testa

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Shukria Wants to Become a Midwife to Prevent Maternal and Child Deaths



© UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

In a one-room, mud-built house in the beautiful but remote village high in the Qazan Valley in Afghanistan, mother-of-two Rahela calmly recounts how she lost her third child due to a miscarriage a few months earlier. The 24-year-old woke in the middle of the night with contractions and bleeding six months into her pregnancy. With no village midwife, she and her family had to make their way to the nearest health clinic, around two hours away.

"I had a lot of pain and bleeding," said Rahela. "My baby died in my womb because we walked a lot of the way."

Stories like hers are, unfortunately, not uncommon in the rugged, mountainous provinces of Bamyan and Daikundi, especially during the harsh winters when heavy snowfall and avalanches can cut off villages from roads and services for months. Afghanistan has one of the world's highest child and maternal mortality rates. In 2020, the World Health Organization estimated that 24 Afghan women died daily in childbirth or pregnancy.

The young midwife trainees in a two-year diploma program supported by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, are all too familiar with similar cases. The 80 women participating in the midwife program are from low-income families and remote communities. They are all highly motivated, particularly because this training is one of the few opportunities still available for Afghan women to continue studying since it falls under the health sector, which is exempted from bans introduced by the Afghan de facto authorities in 2021, barring women from many areas of work and from attending school or university after Grade 6. A field officer with UNHCR's partner, Watan Social and Technical Service Association (WSTA), which runs the midwifery program, said that when the project was first announced, they were inundated with applications. "Even now, every day, hundreds of girls come to the office asking if we have another program so they can participate." The good news is that UNHCR plans to run another two-year program in the two provinces and hopes to start similar courses in other provinces in 2024.

For Shukria, one of the midwife trainees, this home visit only strengthens her resolve to return to the community as a fully trained midwife. "Whenever I come to the village and see mothers like Rahela, I'm motivated to work harder and study more, so I can become a good midwife and prevent the deaths of mothers and children," she said.



Shukria's story
(English)



Global Refugee Forum

The Second Global Refugee Forum 2023 took place in December in Geneva, Switzerland.

Global Refugee Forum: the world's largest international gathering on refugees

Held every four years, the Global Refugee Forum is the world's largest international gathering on refugees, designed to support the practical implementation of the objectives set out in the Global Compact on Refugees: The Global Refugee Forum provides a venue for governments and stakeholders to announce concrete pledges and contributions, share progress and best practices, and examine challenges and opportunities.

Background of the Global Refugee Forum: The New York Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees



New York
Declaration (English)

New York Declaration

As mass displacement across the world continues, usually low- and middle-income countries shoulder much of the responsibility for refugees. The New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants is a historic milestone in international solidarity and refugee protection, laying out a vision for a more predictable and comprehensive response to the global refugee crisis and calling for increased support for refugees and refugee-hosting countries. In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants**. The Member States agreed that **protecting refugees forced to flee and supporting the countries that shelter them are shared international responsibilities and must be borne more equitably and predictably**.

UNHCR has been tasked with **developing a new Global Compact on Refugees, in consultation with governments and other stakeholders, based on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)** set out in the New York Declaration (Annex I). The Global Compact for Refugees results from extensive consultations led for over two years by UNHCR with Member States, international organizations, refugees, civil society, the private sector, and experts, building on the achievements and lessons learned since the pilot of the CRRF.

“The New York Declaration marks a political commitment of unprecedented force and resonance. It fills what has been a perennial gap in the international protection system – that of truly sharing responsibility for refugees.”

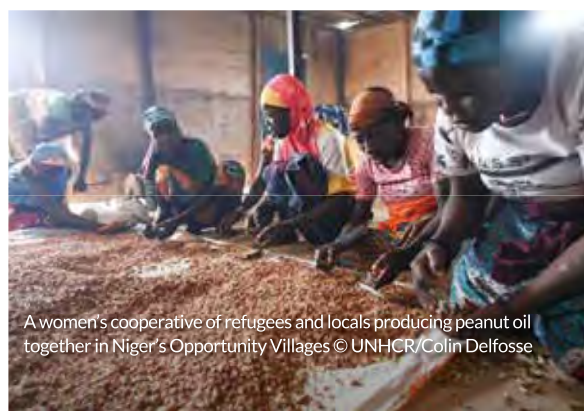
– UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi –



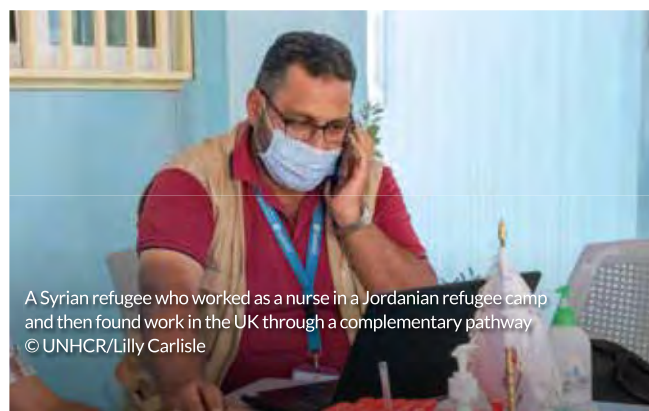
A Burundian refugee sells vegetables in a market in Kenya with the help of UNHCR © UNHCR/Pauline Omagwa



Rohingya women making masks as part of a skills development initiative in a refugee camp © UNHCR/Kamrul Hasan



A women's cooperative of refugees and locals producing peanut oil together in Niger's Opportunity Villages © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse



A Syrian refugee who worked as a nurse in a Jordanian refugee camp and then found work in the UK through a complementary pathway © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle



A Syrian refugee resettled in Scotland and working in a shop for a local charity © UNHCR/Andrew Testa



UNHCR assisting returnees traveling from Angola to the Democratic Republic of Congo © UNHCR/Lina Ferreira

The Four Key Objectives of the Global Compact for Refugees:



① Ease the pressures on host countries



② Enhance refugee self-reliance



③ Expand access to third-country solutions



④ Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity

September 2016

New York Declaration on Refugees and Migrants Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly

December 2018

Global Compact on Refugees Approved by the UN General Assembly

December 2019

The first Global Compact on Refugees was held

December 2023

The 2nd Global Compact on Refugees was held

Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)

On 17 December 2018, the United Nations General Assembly affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees. It provides a blueprint for governments, international organizations, and other stakeholders to ensure that host communities get the support they need and that refugees can lead productive lives. It constitutes a unique opportunity to transform the way the world responds to refugee situations, benefiting both refugees and the communities that host them.



Global Compact on
Refugees (English)

“Inclusion” is key to the Global Compact on Refugees. At the crux of the CRRF and the GCR is the idea that refugees should be included in communities from the very beginning. When refugees gain access to education and labor markets, they can build their skills and become self-reliant, contributing to local economies, and fueling the development of the communities hosting them. Allowing refugees to live together with the community can help refugees not only survive but thrive, reducing the risk of prolonged displacement and refugees' reliance on humanitarian assistance.

The First Global Refugee Forum (2019)

The first Global Refugee Forum took place on 16 (advance session), 17, and 18 December 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland, co-hosted by UNHCR and Switzerland and co-convened by Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Pakistan, and Turkey. States and other stakeholders demonstrated leadership, vision, and ambition to share the responsibility for refugees by announcing pledges to improve the lives of refugees and their host communities. Participants also shared good practices illustrating how the Global Compact is already making a difference worldwide.

Reflecting the importance of the occasion, the Forum was attended by approximately 3,000 participants, including four heads of state or government, more than 90 officials at the ministerial level, the Secretary-General

of the United Nations, approximately 55 international organizations, representatives of more than 130 companies and foundations, approximately 250 civil society organizations and some 70 refugees, generating considerable interest from the public at extensive and positive media coverage around the world.

The refugees who attended the Forum noted the unprecedented depth of their engagement in both the preparations for this global discussion of refugee issues and the event itself, as well as the pledges they made to contribute to implementing the Global Compact on Refugees.



2019 Global Refugee Forum (English)



Officials presenting the outcomes of the first Global Refugee Forum © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

The Second Global Refugee Forum (2023)

The Global Refugee Forum 2023 took place from 13 to 15 December in Geneva, Switzerland, co-convened by Colombia, France, Japan, Jordan, and Uganda and co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR. The keywords of the Forum were Action, Unity, and Impact.

The Korean delegation consists of various stakeholders, including government agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and KOICA, the Korea Council for International Development Cooperation (KCOC), representatives of eight Korean religions (Confucianism, Christianity, Buddhism, Won Buddhism, Chöndogyo, Catholicism, Ethnic Religions, and Islam), and the Korean Council for Religious Peace (KCRP). In particular, the Korean religious community made a joint pledge will on the theme of “living together” at the Global Refugee Forum. Eight Korean religious denominations and the KCRP made pledge to join the solidarity and efforts of the international community, including UNHCR, by promoting a balanced awareness and understanding of refugee issues and leading solidarity among all sectors of society based on the agreement that inclusion and solidarity for “living together” are more important than ever.



A UNHCR flag flies over a bridge in Geneva to commemorate the first Global Refugee Forum © UNHCR/Mark Henley



2023 Global Refugee Forum (English)

2023 Nansen Refugee Award

The 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award ceremony took place on 13 December, on the opening night of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), to celebrate the exceptional work of the Global Laureate and the four Regional Winners. The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award honors individuals, groups and organizations who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect refugees, displaced and stateless people. Established in 1954, the award celebrates the legacy of Fridtjof Nansen, who made significant contributions to shaping refugee law and improving the treatment of refugees as the first High Commissioner for Refugees for the League of Nations. The global winner of the 2022 Nansen Refugee Award was the former Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel.



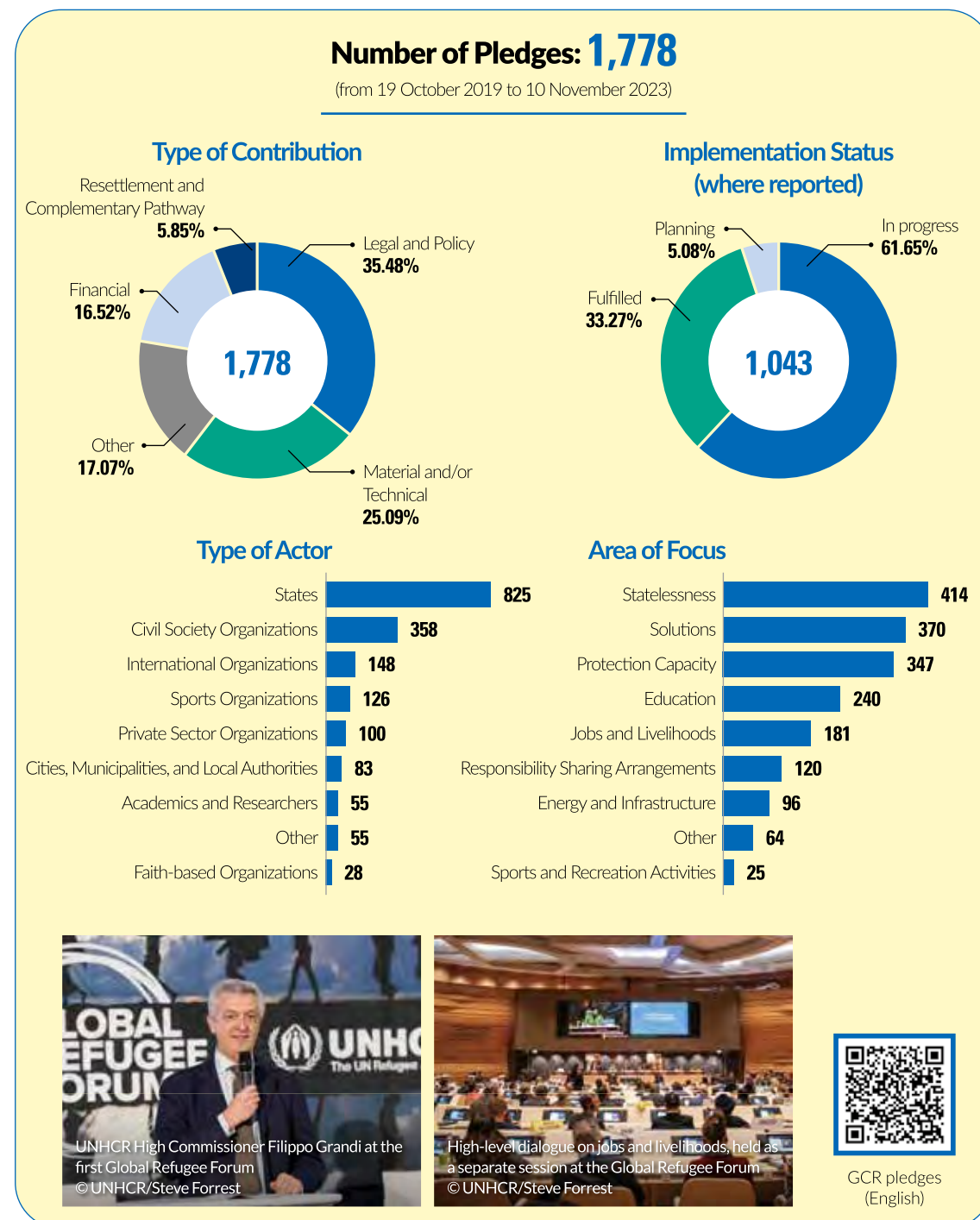
2023 Nansen Refugee Award (English)



Ceremony for the 2022 Nansen Refugee Award © UNHCR/Mark Henley

GCR Pledges

Pledges are specific commitments made by countries, organizations, businesses, academia, and refugees to advance the goals of the Global Compact on Refugees. As of 10 November, Global Compact on Refugees pledges include the following types of contributions and areas of focus:



Special Feature-Global Refugee Forum

Afghan human rights advocate helps Portuguese city embrace fellow refugees



Sediqa spent seven years at an NGO defending the human rights of some of the country's most vulnerable women and girls. For Sediqa, her work was more than a job. It was a calling. However, after the 2021 takeover by the current de facto authorities, Sediqa had to escape to safety in Portugal. "As a woman, I lost everything – my rights, my job, my education, everything," she said.

While Sediqa was fortunate enough to settle in the small Portuguese city of Fundão, she was concerned about how she would ever find work in this distant country whose language she did not speak. However, she now works as an intercultural mediator in Fundão. This city of 30,000 has seen its population dwindle since the 1960s, when a pattern of rural-to-urban migration began and has continued ever since.

"We have lost almost half of the population" since 1960, said Fundão's mayor, Paulo Fernandes. As young people are the most likely to decamp in search of better opportunities in the big cities or abroad, Fundão's remaining residents are disproportionately elderly. The dearth of working-age people means that local businesses have long struggled to recruit and retain personnel. Consequently, the city hopes to attract refugees and migrants by providing them a multipronged support structure. The team of cultural mediators to which Sediqa belongs has dedicated staff that serves the city's Ukrainian, Brazilian, South Asian, African, and Afghan communities, helping new arrivals

negotiate administrative hurdles and access documentation and jobs, as well as essential services such as schooling and health care. In addition, Fundão has created a "migrant center" on the outskirts of town to provide not only essentials such as rooms and lodging but also childcare, counseling, and a host of cultural activities for approximately 200 refugees and migrants.

Today, 7 percent of residents are foreign-born, Fernandes said, adding, "We want

to give opportunities for people to build a life project in our community. [That they can] not only recover, physically and mentally, but are able to access a decent home and a decent job and become complete citizens of our community."

Fundão is a shining example of how refugees and the communities welcoming them can benefit from inclusive policies and practices, boosting the self-reliance of new arrivals and reinvigorating local economies.

Sediqa says working as a cultural mediator has once again given her life meaning. "I came from this situation (and) now I am able to help other people. I feel proud."



Watch a video on Sediqa's story



Sediqa's story (English)





Special Feature-Global Refugee Forum

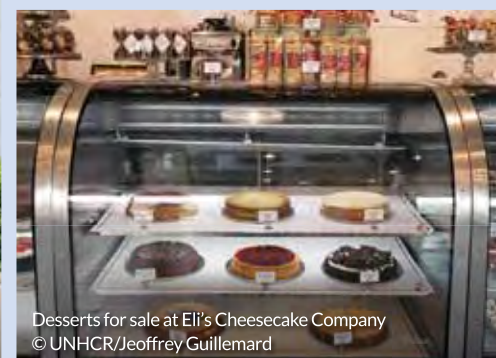
A sweet journey with refugees, Eli's Cheesecake Company's secret recipe



Entrance to the building of Eli's Cheesecake Company © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



A portrait of the company's founder, Eli Schulman © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



Desserts for sale at Eli's Cheesecake Company © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

Eli Schulman, the visionary founder of Eli's Cheesecake Company in Chicago, was known not only for his tasty baked confections but also for living by a timeless creed: "Treat others as if you were the other." His philosophy became a guiding ethos for the company. Over the past four decades, it has helped transform the lives of resettled refugees in the city. Through its partnerships with resettlement agencies, refugees account for an impressive 30 percent of their workforce. Eli himself was the son of Czech refugees. Marc Schulman, President and CEO of Eli's Cheesecake Company, carrying the torch as Eli's only child, underscores this heritage. "Our grandparents came to the United States in the early 20th century as refugees. Many of our now leaders in the company came to us as refugees. We've grown together and we've really seen the great impact of having such talented, dedicated people in the Eli's community."

One such remarkable story is Elias Kasongo, a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the early 1990s, he fled conflict in his country and went to Zambia, where he stayed in a refugee camp for four years before being resettled in Chicago, Illinois. There, his resettlement caseworker found him an opportunity with Eli's Cheesecake.

He started out washing cake dishes, but as his English improved, he advanced into various roles, including crust-making, sanitation, prep cooking, and, eventually, the front office. Today, Elias is the Vice President of Purchasing, overseeing millions of dollars' worth of ingredient purchases for the company. For Elias and many of his colleagues, Eli's Cheesecake is more than just a workplace; it's a second family. "As a refugee, you come [to] a place where you don't know anybody, and Eli's became a place where I felt at home. I had no relatives, no friends, nothing. Eli's became home for me," he said.

The loyalty of its employees, some of whom have been with the company for decades, is a testament to the success of its



Employees Bashkim and Vlora, a refugee couple from Kosovo © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



approach. The fact that people have stayed so long shows that Eli's approach was right. This summer, his son, John, joined the company as an intern, continuing the legacy of Eli's Cheesecake as a family business into the next generation.

"Eli's doesn't just provide a paycheck; they gift a sense of belonging, purpose, and hope," said a representative from a refugee resettlement organization that has worked with the company for decades.

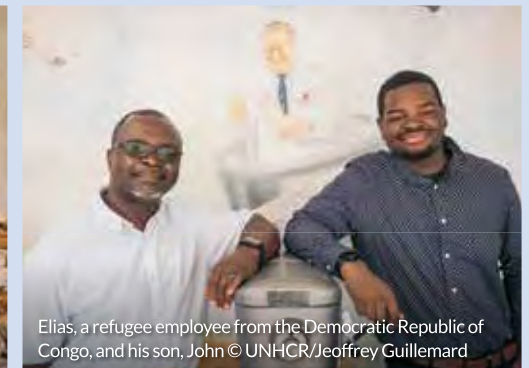
For Marc Schulman, staying true to his father's principles and empowering refugees has proven to be a recipe for success that he believes others should follow. "Our recommendation to any business is that it's really worth the investment."



Watch a video on Eli's Company's story



Eli's Company's story (English)



Elias, a refugee employee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and his son, John © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



Elias inspects the facilities © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



Jane, a refugee employee from the Democratic Republic of Congo © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard



Bashkim oversees work as a manager © UNHCR/Jeoffrey Guillemard

Your Donation Makes a Difference 2

Your generous support allows us to protect and support refugees around the globe. See photos of the difference you've made!

Updates based on UNHCR operations, October–November 2023



Watch a video on how your donation uses

1 Libya

One month after a tropical storm caused flooding in northeastern Libya on September 10, UNHCR delivered relief items such as blankets, jerrycans, kitchen sets, solar lamps, and plastic sheets to more than 52,000 people. Furthermore, an inter-agency response reached 146,000 people with hygiene kits, food, and core relief items.



53 tons of relief supplies arrive in Libya © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi



UNHCR delivers relief supplies to affected areas © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

“There was nothing left in my house. I am very thankful for receiving these mattresses and kitchen items, but I miss my house, my furniture, my own kitchen. I would give anything to get our home back.”

– Flood survivor, Ikhlas (* Name changed for protection reasons.) –



A refugee camp in Kenya hit by heavy rains © UNHCR/Mohamed Aden Maalim

2 East Africa

Thousands of displaced families, including refugees in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, are on the move yet again, escaping severe floods caused by ongoing heavy rains. In Somalia, an estimated 800,000 people have been displaced from their homes since early November, and nearly 500,000 people have been affected by flooding in Ethiopia's Somali region. UNHCR is delivering relief items, including dignity kits, to the displaced, while sandbags have been provided to protect people from flood waters. We are also providing cash assistance to help people buy materials to repair or reinforce their shelters and meet other urgent needs.

3 Bangladesh

There are 100 community counselors—80 of them refugees trained by the UN Refugee Agency—and 182 community psychosocial volunteers, who form the backbone of UNHCR's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). Community counselors provide one-on-one counseling, while psychosocial volunteers run group awareness sessions on topics such as better parenting and anger management, reaching over 150,000 refugees. UNHCR also operates the only two in-patient mental health facilities within the camps through a partner.

“We hear from so many of our volunteers what a difference mental health support makes.”

– Hivine Ali, UNHCR's MHPSS officer –



UNHCR and partner agency staff at a medical clinic in the Rohingya refugee camp © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin



Psychosocial volunteers conducting a group session in a refugee camp © UNHCR/Fahima Tajrin



A UNHCR staff member provides counseling and hotline information to a refugee arriving in Armenia © UNHCR/Karen Minasyan



Relief supplies for refugees arriving in Armenia © UNHCR/Karen Minasyan

4 Armenia

As the decades-long conflict intensifies, over 100,000 people have fled to Armenia from Azerbaijan's Karabakh since 24 September. UNHCR has been present in Armenia for 30 years and has stayed on the ground since day one, declaring Armenia as an Emergency Level 1 area on 28 September. As of late October, UNHCR had delivered more than 15,000 relief items, including folding beds, mattresses, blankets, pillows, linens, hygiene items, and kitchen utensils. It has also supported over 1,400 emergency consultations seeking help and information through its hotline.

“I will never forget the moment when we reached the village of Kornidzor on the Armenian border. I always saw it in the movies where people in extremely difficult situations ... are approached by aid workers. I would have never thought that I would also be approached by aid workers saying, ‘How can I help you?’”

– Karin, an Azerbaijani –



UNHCR provides assistance to earthquake-affected areas
© UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production



UNHCR steps up activities in border areas
© UNHCR/Oxygen Empire Media Production

6 Syria

Ahead of the onset of winter, we are distributing winter supplies to vulnerable populations in Aleppo, including blankets, tarps, adult winter jackets, children's clothing kits, and carpets. We are also continuing our efforts to repair and rehabilitate homes damaged during the long civil war. Mousa, 82, is one of the beneficiaries. When he and his wife recently returned home after being displaced to different parts of the country, their home was empty, with no doors or windows, let alone any traces of life. UNHCR worked with a partner to install doors and windows for the couple to make their home safer and warmer.

“Last winter I filled the gaps in the windows with bricks, but this winter I hope to feel warmth from the newly installed doors and windows.”

– Mousa, a Syrian returnee –

5 Afghanistan

In October, three earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater hit Afghanistan's Herat province. As of 17 November, one month after the earthquakes, UNHCR had delivered 1,921 emergency shelters, 18,656 blankets, 5,308 cooking gas canisters and buckets, 10,616 jerrycans, 5,138 kitchen sets, 10,603 plastic sheets, 9,962 sanitary napkins, 25,885 bars of soap, and more than 10,000 solar lamps while working with humanitarian organizations to provide prioritized protection and assistance to people whose homes were damaged during the winter season (October to March). UNHCR also worked with community volunteers to conduct around 40 awareness and information counseling sessions for 3,300 people. Meanwhile, following the repatriation plan for illegal aliens announced by the Pakistani government in early October, we are stepping up our efforts in border areas, including protection monitoring.

“We lost ten family members in the earthquake, including seven of my nephews.”

– Zahir, an earthquake survivor –



UNHCR distributes winter supplies in Aleppo
© UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf



Moussa and his wife © UNHCR/Vivian Tou'meh

Donation Agreement Form

Bring warmth to refugee families this winter.



Donate

A family in Bamyan, Afghanistan © UNHCR/Julian Busch

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

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Address

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Select Campaign ☐ Winter Campaign ☐ The Most Needed

Amount ☐ With 2,000,000 KRW, you can support insulating a typical home in Ukraine, enabling families to maintain a warm home during the winter months.
☐ With 1,500,000 KRW, you can support a refugee family in Jordan in repairing its shelter in preparation for the winter.
☐ With 400,000 KRW, you can support winter cash assistance for a family in Afghanistan, allowing them to buy food, fuel, and warm supplies to meet their most urgent needs in winter.
☐ With 200,000 KRW, you can support a family in Lebanon with winter emergency relief items such as blankets and warm clothes.
☐ I will donate 30,000 KRW every month.
☐ Others (☐ Regular ☐ One-off) _____ KRW

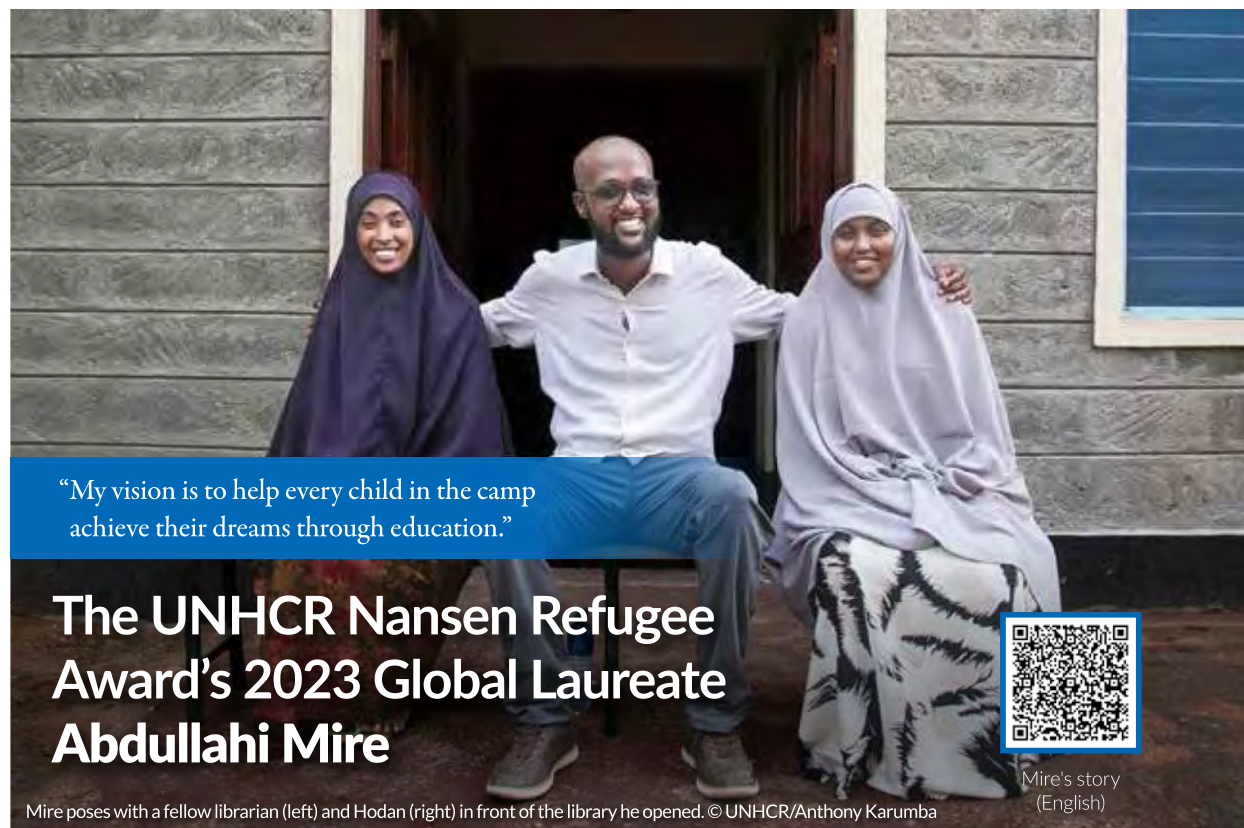
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These serve as examples of the usage of funds. For more details, please refer to page 14~16 of this newsletter.

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The Nansen Refugee Prize is awarded annually to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding service to the cause of refugees around the world, and this year, it was awarded to Abdullahi Mire, a Somali refugee-turned-journalist who has advocated for the education of children in Kenyan refugee camps.

Childhood in the Refugee Camp

“I was a curious child. I was eager to learn how to read the alphabet,” he recalls. It was 1991, when he was just three, and his family had just settled in the camp after fleeing the civil war in Somalia. Mire's parents hoped to return home after a short period. They never imagined that Dadaab would become their home for more than two decades or that it would help shape their young son into a respected journalist and an award-winning advocate for refugees. Growing up in one of the world's largest refugee camps, Mire quickly grasped that education offered a way out

of the challenges of camp life. “The first day in school was exciting,” he says. “From the word go I knew what I wanted. I knew this [new] page I was starting in school was something that would change my life... My journey started from there.”

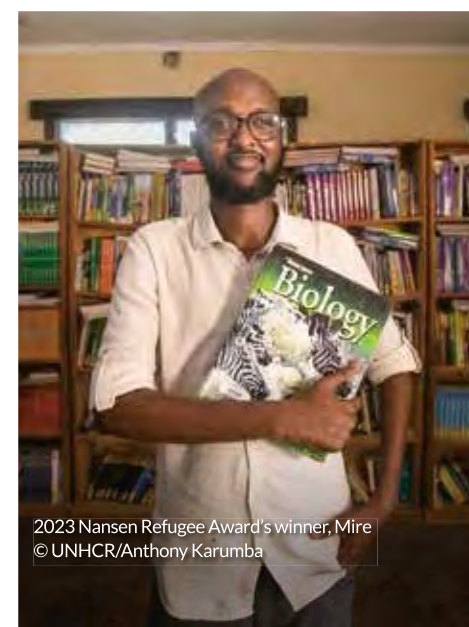
After completing high school, he won a competitive scholarship to study public relations at Kenyatta University in Dadaab. After graduating from university, he did not turn his back on other young refugees in the camp. He set up the Refugee Youth Education Hub (RYEH), a refugee-led organization that supports refugee students with books and other learning materials. RYEH has since supplied over 100,000 books donated by education charities and former Dadaab refugees to support schools in the camp and to establish three public libraries. The organization also advocates for the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Kenya and supports refugee women in the camp to access livelihoods and job opportunities.

2023 Nansen Refugee Award

In recognition of his innovative campaign to champion refugee education in Kenya, Mire has been selected as the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award's 2023 Global Laureate. “I never thought I would achieve this milestone,” Mire says. “I dedicate this award to every displaced child who, like me, was forced to flee their home. This is to give them hope and a reason to keep dreaming.”

As soon as Mire graduated from university, he began to report stories about his fellow refugees in the camp, which were published by international media outlets. “I became the voice of my community,” he says.

In 2017, while he was on a reporting assignment in Hagadera secondary school, Mire was approached by a young female student who told him about the dire need for books in the camp, particularly for girls. “Her name was Hodan Bashir,” he says. “She told me that her dream was to become a doctor, but the fact that she shared one biology book with 15 other girls was very disappointing.”



Dadaab Book Drive

Inspired by her story, Mire started a drive to collect books for schools in the camp. Using social media and mobilizing his networks, including with members of the Somali diaspora, he managed to collect more than 20,000 books in the campaign's first phase. Hodan was among the first students to receive some books. She now works as a trainee nurse in the maternity ward at the camp's main hospital, pursuing her dream of becoming a doctor.

“It all started with that one biology book,” she says. “I got that book because my brother Abdullahi Mire assisted me ... He gave me advice that I read this book so that I [could] get a good grade and reach my ambition, and now I am here, helping the mothers and babies.”

Mire's ultimate goal is to put a book in the hands of every child in Dadaab. “In the camp, everything is temporary. The only thing that is a passport out of the challenges is education,” he says. “My vision is to help every child in the camp achieve their dreams through education.”

UNHCR Learning Center: Q&A

Q UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Neil Gaiman released a book of poetry for refugees!

In October, world-renowned British author Neil Gaiman published a book of poetry for refugees called *What You Need to Be Warm*. The story behind the collection of poems and illustrations by 13 illustrators about hope, memories, and welcome dates back to 2019, when Neil Gaiman asked his Twitter followers, "What reminds you of warmth?" and the thousands of responses he received were turned into poems.

The following year, his artwork was knitted into a giant, three-meter-long Solidarity Scarf and animated with artwork donated through the #DrawForRefugees campaign. With Neil Gaiman as UNHCR's Goodwill

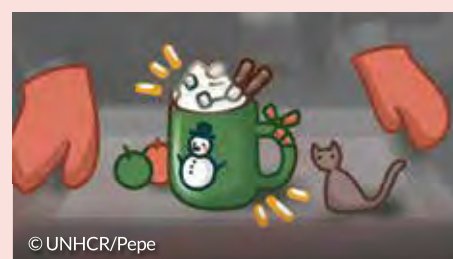
Ambassador, we hope you'll join us in spreading warmth to refugees worldwide as we head into winter.



Solidarity Scarves made by Syrian refugee women
© UNHCR/Jordi Matas



Neil Gaiman's story (English)



Q Jon Fosse's Trilogy wins the 2023 Nobel Prize in Literature

The Nobel Prize for Literature, announced in October, was awarded to Norwegian playwright and novelist Jon Fosse, whose innovative plays and prose have "put the unspeakable into words," according to the Swedish Academy of Sciences. After winning the Nobel Prize, his works have also attracted great attention in Korea. Consisting of three novellas (*Wakefulness*, *Olav's Dreams*, and *Weariness*), his trilogy tells the story of Asle and Alida, young lovers with no place in the world, who flee their home by boat and find a place in a new city, perhaps paralleling the refugees of our time. Following three interconnected stories, Yon Fosse captures simple and holy love, lonely hopes and frustrations, things that fade, and things that last forever through the lives and deaths of the poor and miserable. Why not think about the big questions that Yon Fosse poses through his novel, which flows like music, like a long poem?



Source: Naver Book

Q Five ways UNHCR is greening its supply chain



UNHCR's eco-friendly supply chain (English)

We are changing how we provide protection and deliver assistance to reduce the carbon footprint from our relief items by 20 percent by 2025.

① Redesigning emergency relief items

So far, six items—blankets, sleeping mats, jerrycans, buckets, solar lamps, and kitchen sets—have been redesigned. The biggest change has been replacing virgin plastics* with recycled materials. Our new thermal blankets, for example, are made from 100 percent recycled plastic. These changes have also reduced costs and carbon emissions, meaning we can provide more support to displaced people.

② Using more sustainable packaging

We are reducing the amount of packaging wherever possible and replacing single-use plastics with biodegradable materials. For example, instead of putting cooking sets in plastic bags, we separate and protect them with brown paper. Even the blue ink used to print the UNHCR logo on boxes has been replaced with brown and black ink, a small change that has significantly reduced emissions and costs.

③ Working with local suppliers

UNHCR already buys between 50 and 60 percent of its goods from local suppliers to limit emissions from international transportation and support local economies. The challenge now is working with those suppliers to ensure that the products we buy from them are made locally and sustainably. Considerations

such as using recycled materials and renewable energy sources now form part of our global criteria for selecting and evaluating suppliers.

④ Reducing waste

Minimizing and managing waste generated by relief items involves collaborating with suppliers, staff, other humanitarian agencies, and refugees. Many refugees are already involved in efforts to recycle, repair, and repurpose these items. Meanwhile, part of the ongoing redesign efforts includes making items more durable or easily repairable so they will last longer. Items will also be labeled with a QR code that provides information on what they are made of and how they can be recycled.

⑤ Collaboration

UNHCR's supply chain forms part of a much wider humanitarian aid system. This means the work to reduce our environmental impact cannot occur in isolation. We are collaborating with other UN agencies and NGOs to achieve consensus on the best approaches and establish industry standards.

* More carbon-intensive plastics produced directly from crude oil or natural gas, with no recycled content.



Supply team at UNHCR's Hungarian warehouse © UNHCR/Timea Vanka



Supply staff at UNHCR's Hungarian warehouse © UNHCR/Timea Vanka

Global

Joint statement on the Israel- Palestinian situation

“We need an immediate humanitarian ceasefire”

On 5 November, UNHCR High Commissioner Filippo Grandi—as part of a council of international organizations—issued a joint statement (see QR code above) with the heads of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) urging an immediate ceasefire.

To explain why UNHCR—a leading emergency relief organization—is not on the ground in these crises, we need to go back to the founding of UNHCR. In 1949, the UN General Assembly established two refugee agencies, UNHCR and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), in response to different refugee crises and gave them complementary mandates to assist and protect refugees.

- **United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA):** UNRWA provides humanitarian assistance and protection to Palestinian refugees living in the Gaza Strip or West Bank in Palestine or the neighboring countries of Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, as well as essential services such as basic education, primary medical and mental health care, relief, and social services.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** Founded to help millions of people displaced by World War II, UNHCR works to protect the rights and well-being of forcibly displaced persons, including refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless persons around the world, currently in more than 135 countries, including Palestinian refugees living outside the five regions above.



Global news
(English)



Joint statement
(English)



UNRWA website
(English)



© UNHCR/Zasha Millan

Calling for safety and protection in the Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan

“Any return needs to be voluntary and done in a safe and orderly manner, with full respect for rights and protection of those in need”

- Philippa Candler, UNHCR Representative in Pakistan -

On 3 October, the Pakistani government officially announced its “Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Plan,” raising concerns that many Afghans will be affected, including an estimated 1.3 million undocumented Afghans in Pakistan. More than 330,000 Afghans are estimated to have returned between 1 October and 16 November, and UNHCR has designated Pakistan and Afghanistan as an Emergency Level 2 area and is calling on the Pakistani government to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable Afghans.

Transfer arrangements of asylum seekers and refugees must respect international refugee law

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is not a party to or involved in the Italy-Albania agreement, which was announced on Monday. UNHCR was not informed about or consulted on the contents of the agreement or its details. UNHCR’s longstanding position is that returns or transfers to safe third countries may only be considered appropriate if certain standards are met—in particular, that those countries fully respect the rights arising from the Refugee Convention and human rights obligations and if the agreement helps share the responsibility for refugees equitably among nations, rather than shifting it. UNHCR has continuously been calling for action to address the desperate situation in the Mediterranean and ensure solidarity, particularly with the most affected States. UNHCR is seeking to discuss further the details with the Italian and Albanian Governments.

UNHCR marks the 9th anniversary of its #IBelong campaign

In 2023, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Moldova introduced legislative safeguards to help prevent statelessness at birth. Portugal approved a legal framework regulating statelessness status, including establishing a statelessness determination procedure. North Macedonia amended its laws to allow stateless people to acquire nationality and ensure birth registration for all children born in the country regardless of whether their parents are undocumented or stateless. The Republic of the Congo has become the latest country to accede to the Statelessness Conventions. At least 4.4 million people in 95 countries are reported to be stateless or of undetermined nationality.



© UNHCR/Charity Nzomo



© UNHCR/Pauline Eluere

Hosting the 2023 Art Contest

UNHCR, together with its partner organization UNIQLO, is launching an art contest on the theme of “Hope Away from Home.” Over 4,000 young artists from refugee and host communities joined the art contest worldwide. The five winners’ designs will be turned into graphic t-shirts and will be available in select UNIQLO stores and UNHCR shops early next year. Here are some of the global winners and their descriptions.



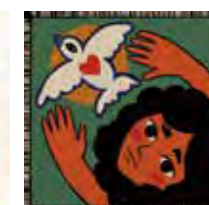
2023 Art Contest
(English)



Global Winners



© UNHCR/Asifwe



© UNHCR/Virag



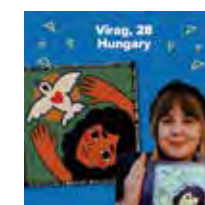
© UNHCR/Afya



© UNHCR/Mawardi



© UNHCR/Georgette



Virag, 28
Hungary

Title: “Wings of hope”

“Having met many inspiring asylum-seekers and refugees, I know how important ‘hope away from home’ is to rebuild one’s life in a new environment. My drawing aims to express the act of chasing this hope, and the heart symbolizes that it is very much possible to follow your dreams, even if you are far away from home.”



Asifwe, 14
Burundi/USA

Title: “Friend code”

“My drawing is a picture of my friend group from when I lived in Burundi. We all follow our friend code that says: ‘My friend squad comes first, and nobody can break us apart.’ My friends are a source of strength and hope for me. We may be separate, but I am sure we’re together in heart and that our memories will continue to live on.”

UNHCR Korea



Donation Receipts for 2023

We are so thankful to our supporters who have stood with refugees this year, and we would like to inform you about the receipt of your donation.



Read more about
donation receipts



Confirm personal information registration

If you have an accurate donor name and social security number registered by 31 December 2023, you can check your donation history through the simplification services for the year-end tax adjustment of Korea’s National Tax Service (individuals).

How to Issue a Donation Receipt

01

Simplification services for the year-end tax adjustment of Korea’s National Tax Service

Only individuals with accurate donor information (full name, resident registration number) will be able to view their records starting in mid-January 2024.

02

UNHCR Homepage

Available for viewing and printing out from 8 January 2024.

03

Fax, email, or mail

Available when you are unable to view or print from Hometax or UNHCR homepage. It will not be sent immediately but will be sent during business hours on weekdays.

Here are some heartwarming messages we received from our supporters in the With You newsletter throughout the year.

I'm looking forward to the day of world **peace**.

I hope my small act of giving can be a seed of **hope** for someone who is ill or struggling.

We're **happy** to be a part of a community that's connected to anyone, anywhere.

Thank you. Every time I see it, it really rings my heart. Even when I'm depressed, it gives me strength.

I pray that with the efforts of the UN, many refugees will be able to return to the lives they had as soon as possible.



Keep up the good work. I'm **grateful** that my small gesture has led to so much **love**. I pray that more people in the world will be **happy**.

It is a great comfort to know that we are **together**, even when the road ahead is dark! Thank you!



I'm **happy** to be a part of it, even if it's a small amount. **Thank you** for your hard work.

I hope that all the families in need around the world can live a **happy** life without hunger. We want everyone to be as **happy** as the bright faces in the photo.



Thank you to our donors for standing with refugees around the world throughout the year!

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, 5 January 2024

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



Survey



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