

With you

Standing in Solidarity #WithRefugees

What's Inside?

- The Gift of Shelter
- Global Displacement Continues to Rise

**Responding to the
defining crisis of our time**

**“Now, more than ever,
your support is more
important.”**



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Every time I witness simple and spontaneous acts of compassion to help displaced families, I am filled with courage and hope that supporters like you will not leave behind those who have lost everything to war conflict, persecution, violence, and natural disasters.

The duty to protect displaced families and violence may seem an immense and daunting task, but the committed support of donors like you who continue to stand **#WithRefugees** inspire us to work harder for the families we serve and to help them rebuild their lives.

Now, more than ever, your support is more important.

This June, UNHCR launched a new report indicating that the staggering human cost of war, conflict, and violence continued to rise throughout 2016. When last year ended, there were **65.6 million people** living in displacement.

This number includes the 426,000 internally displaced persons, refugees, and asylum-seekers who are of concern to UNHCR here in the Philippines.

The number of individuals displaced by war, conflict or persecution has been hitting unprecedented levels for 3 years now. Millions of mothers, fathers, sons and daughters face an uncertain future – and one family torn apart by war and conflict is one too many.

By any measure, 65.6 million is an unacceptable number and it speaks louder than ever to the need for solidarity and common purpose in preventing conflict and resolving crises.

UNHCR remains committed to providing displaced families with life-saving protection and durable solutions, but we are unable to do this alone.

Every peso you have donated has given a lifeline to women, men, and children who have been forced to flee. More importantly, your generous gift has given them hope that the future holds more than fear, violence, and displacement.

You have given them not just shelter or safety, but also the renewed courage to start over and dream for a better future.

This newsletter highlights how, with you, we can reach out to more vulnerable communities, give life-saving protection and shelter, foster partnerships to deliver solutions, and share the gift of hope.

I have been a humanitarian worker for 20 years and have stood witness to how the generosity and compassion of supporters like you create tremendous impact on saving lives and protecting futures.

Thank you for standing by our side. On behalf of the UNHCR family here in the Philippines, thank you for standing **#WithRefugees**.

Yours sincerely,


Yasser Saad
Head of Office
UNHCR Philippines



World Refugee Day 2017: Film Screening Invites Filipinos to Stand #WithRefugees

On this year's World Refugee Day, UNHCR Philippines held a special film screening of a documentary about the previously untold story of how 1300 Jews were able to flee to the Philippines to escape Nazi persecution.

In commemoration of World Refugee Day 2017, UNHCR Philippines held a special screening of "Rescue in the Philippines: Refuge from the Holocaust" last 20 June in Greenbelt 3, Makati City.

Through heart-wrenching accounts from survivors, the documentary recounted how Philippine President Manuel L. Quezon, US High Commissioner Paul McNutt, Army Colonel Dwight Eisenhower, and the five Frieder brothers planned for the rescue of European Jews and their families.

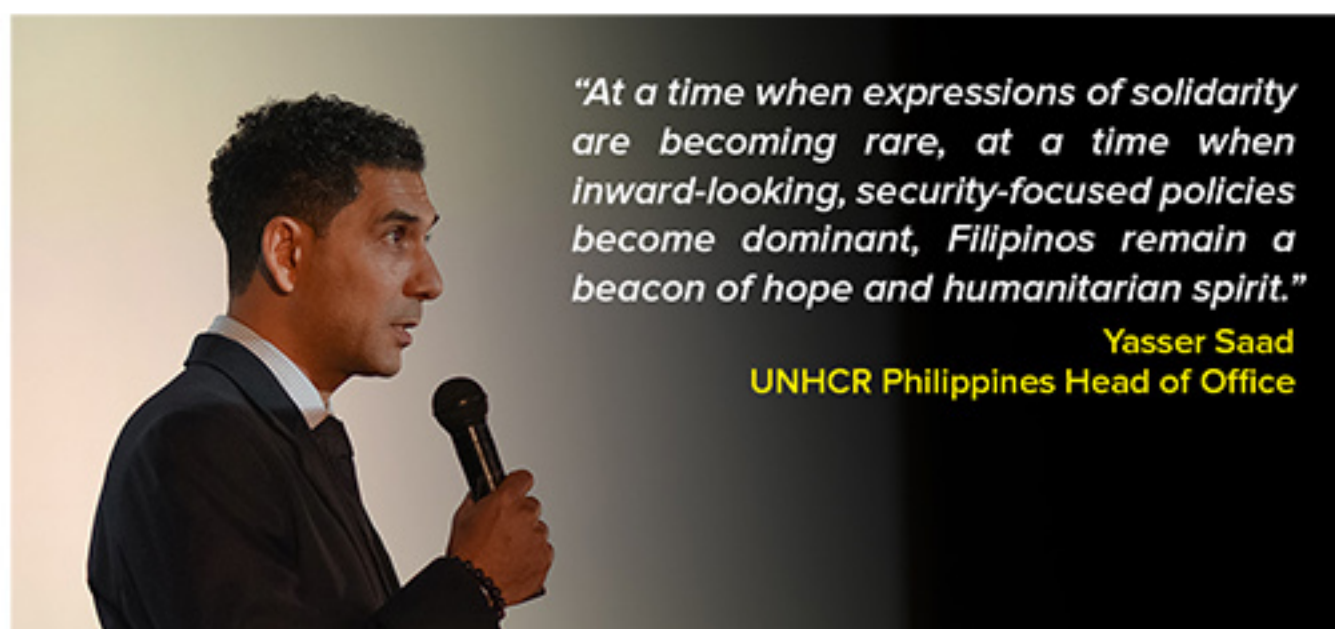
With current global displacement figures hitting unprecedented numbers, the film screening invited guests to honor the courage and resilience of refugees and internally displaced families all over the globe. The documentary also served to remind Filipinos of the country's rich humanitarian history.

In attendance during the film screening were President Quezon's sole surviving child Zenaida "Nini" Quezon-Avanceña, his grandson and prolific writer and television host Manuel "Manolo" L. Quezon III, and broadcast journalist Atom Arullo, who was introduced for the first time by UNHCR Philippines as its advocate.

Yasser Saad, UNHCR Philippines Head of National Office, said that the documentary offered the audience the unique opportunity to recall the country's rich history of providing humanitarian support.

The Global Trends Report recently released by UNHCR showed that as of the end of 2016, 65.6 million live in displacement. "By any measure, this is an unacceptable number and it speaks louder than ever to the need for solidarity and common purpose in preventing and resolving crises. It also shows the urgent need to ensure that displaced families are protected and cared for until solutions are found," said Mr. Saad.

Mr. Arullo, who also serves as an advocate for UNHCR Philippines, also addressed the audience during the event. "The numbers we've heard today paint a picture of a crisis that may seem too big to comprehend," described Mr. Arullo, who has extensively covered forced displacement in the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan. He, however, encouraged the audience to contribute to making a difference.



"At a time when expressions of solidarity are becoming rare, at a time when inward-looking, security-focused policies become dominant, Filipinos remain a beacon of hope and humanitarian spirit."

Yasser Saad
UNHCR Philippines Head of Office

This message was echoed by President Quezon's grandson Manolo who emphasized the importance of compassion. "You do not have to have a religion or a nationality to understand that basic compulsion that should be in every one of us," he said.



"The story you will see tonight is of opening doors—so that those who have nothing may have something and those who have lost everything may have a tomorrow, with children, with families, with security, and with hope."

Manolo Quezon
Writer, Television Host, Historian
Grandson of President Manuel L. Quezon



"As a journalist, I have also witnessed that no action is ever too small. All of us can act as individuals, either through a donation or an expression of solidarity; every action counts. The world needs a collective commitment to help those fleeing conflict, violence, persecution, and natural disasters."

Atom Arullo
UNHCR Advocate
Broadcast Journalist

In his final remark, Mr. Quezon, who is also featured in the documentary, added: "Thank you for standing with refugees tonight and may this story compel you to make that stand in the times needed—in your lives and in your circle of friends."



UNHCR Philippines Head of Office Yasser Saad and UNHCR Philippines Advocate Atom Arullo invite Filipinos to stand in solidarity #WithRefugees.



UNHCR thanks the Ayala Malls Cinemas for generously supporting the #WithRefugees campaign and World Refugee Day.

STANDING #WITHREFUGEES: A Safe Place to Call Home

A year ago, we launched our global shelter campaign to provide life-saving shelter to refugee families forced to flee home. With your help, we can ensure that there will be Nobody Left Outside.

What does it mean to be a refugee?

Having a place to call home means being able to sleep soundly and safely at night, together with family and loved ones. When families escape war, conflict, and violence, they are often forced to abandon this assurance of safety and protection.

They also leave behind everything: their belongings, careers, and education. They are forced to leave behind their friends, their hopes and their dreams.

Every minute, at least 20 persons are forced to flee home and make the difficult choice of facing a future unknown. One way to help them rebuild is through the gift of shelter.

THE IMPORTANCE OF SHELTER

Shelter is fundamental to life. Be it a tent, temporary house or a home, it is the essential building block to help millions of displaced people survive and recover after conflict, violence and persecution.

With the Syria conflict now in its seventh year and escalating emergencies in countries like Yemen, Iraq, and South Sudan, the need to shelter those forced to flee is as critical as ever.



Shelter protects health

Families are at risk of disease and epidemics when sleeping out in the open. When refugees do not have shelter, hygiene deteriorates--affecting not only the immune system but also people's dignity.



Shelter gives safety & dignity

Without shelter, the risk of sexual violence grows exponentially, since women and girls are exposed and have no privacy. Shelter not only physically improves a woman's degree of safety, it helps them feel safe, which is vital for peace of mind and mental well-being.



Shelter helps life resume

All the things we take for granted--the daily routines that make life what it is--are impossible without shelter. Shelter gives people the security and breathing space to resume their lives.

NOBODY LEFT OUTSIDE: Shelter Solutions Around the World

Sheltering large numbers of people across vastly different countries and environments is a huge challenge. To address this, thanks to the support of donors like you, UNHCR has developed a range of shelter solutions that provide families across the world with both physical and emotional protection and a space to rebuild their lives.

WHAT UNHCR WAS ABLE TO DO IN 2016, THANKS TO YOU:



GREECE

UNHCR is assisting people in need in Greece, as refugees and migrants continue to risk their lives in a desperate bid to reach Europe.



LEBANON

UNHCR is helping to repair small shelters and provide weatherproofing and insulation kits for Syrian refugees living in poor conditions



IRAQ

Your donations have helped UNHCR fund work like the repairing of 1,355 homes for people returning home or displaced and living in poor conditions.



11,878 vulnerable people were given shelter
5,000 were placed in unused hotel accommodation & given access to basic needs



146,000 refugees were given weather-proofing shelter kits that contains tarpaulin and plywood, lockable doors, insulation foam and building tools.



9,000 people's shelters were repaired, giving them a safe place to stay with their families

“Shelter is the foundation stone for refugees to survive and recover, and should be considered a non-negotiable human right. As we tackle worldwide displacement on a level not seen since World War II, no refugee should be left outside.”

- Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

“I get to give people a home, every day.”



TOM CORCORAN

Meet Tom: On the front lines of giving hope and shelter



For over 25 years, Tom Corcoran has devoted himself to protecting people and the environment. As a UNHCR Shelter Specialist, Tom has worked to shelter and protect Burundian refugees who have fled to Tanzania, to escape violence in their country.

Together with refugees, he develops sustainable shelter solutions that give people a safe place to sleep while minimising the impact on the environment. None of this would be possible without the donations of people like you.

Refugees from Burundi have been arriving in Tanzania since 2015. What is UNHCR doing to help shelter them?

Normally in an emergency situation the solution is to supply tents, but tents are very expensive. If you can supply a plastic sheet/ tarpaulin and construct a similar quality of shelter from local materials, you can save a lot of money, which means you can provide more shelter for people. In Tanzania, in six months, we built somewhere around 12,000 shelters.

Why is it important to engage the refugee community when developing shelter solutions?

Working with the community is critical. If you don't develop ownership and involve people, the project fails. If you engage people, you can create shelters at scale, at a lower cost – if people build their own shelter, they then know how to maintain it and they look after it. There's no other way to shelter large numbers of people successfully.

What happens after the initial emergency stage?

Tents last about 6-12 months, and emergency shelters about 12 months. UNHCR always plans to build better, more durable shelters that'll last the length of the emergency. At this time in Tanzania we have no way of knowing how long the crisis causing people to flee from Burundi will last, but we prepare for the longer term – we know people could be in refugee camps for 10 years or more – so we want to build the most durable shelters and we want to build them as quickly as possible.

Why do you like your job and working with refugees?

It's very rewarding. I get to give people a home, every day. It's not an engineering job per se. It's a very social job, it's very much about working with people, about using the resources you have to creatively find sustainable solutions. We try and meet a different standard, not an engineering standard, but a standard of comfort for people. We take what we have from the surrounding area and turn it into something that's durable and acceptable for the community. We get to give people security, a sense of home, at a time when that basic protection has been taken from them. It's good helping people, you can see the impact straight away.

WAR, VIOLENCE, PERSECUTION PUSH DISPLACEMENT TO NEW UNPRECEDENTED HIGHS

By the time you finish reading this sentence, someone has been forced to flee home because of war, conflict, violence, and persecution.

According to a report UNHCR published this June, new displacement has hit record-high, with one person every 3 seconds becoming displaced.

UNHCR's new Global Trends Report, the organization's major annual survey of the state of displacement, also said that more people than ever has forcibly displaced. At the end of 2016, there were **65.6 million people forcibly displaced worldwide – some 300,000 more than a year earlier.**

This total represents an enormous number of people needing protection worldwide.

The figure of 65.6 million comprises three important components: First is refugee numbers, which at 22.5 million are the highest ever seen, with Syria remaining as the world's primary driver of the global refugee crisis (5.5 million).

Second is displacement of people inside their own countries, whose numbers were 40.3 million at the end of 2016 compared to 40.8 million a year earlier. Syria and Iraq were the biggest internal displacement situations.

Third is asylum seekers, people who have fled their country and are seeking international protection as refugees. As of the end of 2016 the number of people seeking asylum globally was 2.8 million.

This adds up to an immense human cost of war and persecution globally: 65.6 million means that on average one in every 113 people worldwide is today someone who is displaced.

"By any measure this is an unacceptable number, and it speaks louder than ever to the need for solidarity and common purpose in preventing and resolving crises, and ensuring protected and cared for while solutions are pursued," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT: AT A GLANCE



1 in 113 people
worldwide today is someone
who is displaced



20
new displacements per minute
(or 1 every 3 seconds)

55%

More than half (55 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries:

Syrian Arab Republic	(5.5 million)
Afghanistan	(2.5 million)
South Sudan	(1.4 million)

75,000
unaccompanied
or separated
children



In the **Philippines**, the total population of concern to UNHCR was at **426,651**, composed of 434 refugees, 3,120 asylum seekers, 87,418 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 255,626 returned IDPs, and 80,053 other persons of concern.



To get a copy of UNHCR's latest Global Trends Report, please visit unhcr.org/ph/publications

"When we stand together **#WithRefugees**, we also stand for respect and diversity for all."

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi



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Visit the new **UNHCR Philippines website!**

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