



Philippines

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)  
Philippines Office Newsletter, 2022 - Volume 2

# With you

## What's Inside

### 100 MILLION PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE

The latest Global Trends in Forced Displacement state that 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee – the most since World War II

### THE IMPACT OF YOUR SUPPORT IN UKRAINE AND AFGHANISTAN

With your support, UNHCR emergency teams continue to bring humanitarian assistance and protection in the face of ongoing and protracted emergencies

### WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022

In response to the call for greater solidarity, partners, donors, and supporters stood #WithRefugees – whoever they are, wherever they may come from, and whenever they are forced to flee



UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, is celebrating World Refugee Day in Côte d'Ivoire, alongside former refugees who have returned home ahead of the formal end of Ivorian refugee status later this month. He visits a hair salon started by Elodie Guei Sahe, who fled Côte d'Ivoire in 2011. She returned to her hometown, Bably-Vaya village, in 2020 and opened her salon with help from UNHCR. © UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

***Dear valued donor,***

The past month has reminded us that there has never been a more critical time than today for solidarity with and support for people forced to flee. As we grapple with staggering global displacement figures, **your unwavering commitment and generosity has shown that each individual truly carries the power to stand with refugees and help them survive, heal, and thrive.**

In this newsletter, you will read about the impact of your support to forcibly displaced families whose lives have been upended by one emergency after another. The Ukraine crisis has not only tipped the number of displaced globally to over 100 million, it has also had enormous regional and global repercussions, creating even more pressure for the world's most vulnerable. In Afghanistan, the worst earthquake to hit the country in the last twenty years is causing further suffering to already devastated communities.

Thanks to you, UNHCR teams have been able to respond with urgency and protect those who need our help the most.

While we have witnessed appalling new refugee situations and heartbreaking emergencies that are worsening existing humanitarian crises, we have also seen how individuals and communities have come together during World Refugee Day and beyond, to redouble efforts and pursue solutions for the displaced.

Your continued commitment is critical in sustaining a pipeline of life-saving support for the millions who, despite being displaced, relentlessly strive to improve and rebuild their lives.

***We are deeply grateful to you  
for choosing to stand with refugees  
and the forcibly displaced – whoever they are,  
wherever they come from,  
and whenever they are forced to flee.***

***Sincerely,  
Your UNHCR Philippines family***



**83 %**  
HOSTED IN LOW-  
AND MIDDLE-INCOME  
COUNTRIES

**69 %**  
ORIGINATED FROM  
JUST FIVE COUNTRIES

**41 %**  
OF ALL PEOPLE  
FORCED TO FLEE  
WERE CHILDREN

**1.5 M**  
CHILDREN BORN INTO  
REFUGEE LIFE BETWEEN  
2018-2021

Major hosting countries (2021)

	<b>Türkiye</b> 3.8 million
	<b>Colombia</b> 1.8 million
	<b>Uganda</b> 1.5 million
	<b>Pakistan</b> 1.5 million
	<b>Germany</b> 1.3 million

Major source countries (2021)

	<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b> 6.8 million
	<b>Venezuela</b> 4.6 million
	<b>Afghanistan</b> 2.7 million
	<b>South Sudan</b> 2.4 million
	<b>Myanmar</b> 1.2 million

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Every year of the last decade, the numbers have climbed. Either the international community comes together to **take action** to address this human tragedy, **resolve conflicts** and find **lasting solutions**, or this terrible trend will continue.

**FILIPPO GRANDI**

UN High Commissioner for Refugees

**23 MILLION**  
DISPLACED BY DISASTERS

The worsening climate crisis is resulting in extreme weather events like floods, storms, and droughts have forced people into displacement within their own countries.

*The largest displacements in the context of disasters in 2021 occurred in China (6.0 million), the Philippines (5.7 million) and India (4.9 million). Most disaster displacements during the year were temporary.*

**416,864**  
PERSONS OF CONCERN  
**IN THE PHILIPPINES**

*(refugees, asylum seekers, stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness, and internally displaced people)*

\* Source: Global Trends Forced Displacement 2021 Annex

# UKRAINE

Since the onset of the Russian invasion, nearly one-third of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes. This is the largest human displacement crisis in the world today. Four months since the war in Ukraine began, hostilities continue to escalate in eastern Ukraine causing destruction, civilian injuries and deaths. Amid growing humanitarian needs in the country UNHCR has remained and we have escalated our response to address the dire situation.

With your support, UNHCR has continued to expand the scale and reach of programmes, with the aim of delivering assistance and services as close as possible to the place where people are sheltering or have been displaced. UNHCR's response has now reached more than 1.5 million people with protection services, assistance through cash or essential items, and shelter support to repair or protect their damaged homes from the elements.

## RESPONSE AT A GLANCE



## KEY RESPONSE FIGURES

A total of **1.5 M people** reached with assistance to date



**369,900** people received targeted protection assistance and information at border points, transit, and reception centres and through hotlines.



**536,595** individuals enrolled to receive cash assistance and **366,262** individuals received their payments.



**571,099** people received essential items, clothes, shelter materials and food assistance.



**99,350** people have received assistance through **95** humanitarian convoys delivered to hard-hit areas.



**72,717** sleeping places created/improved in a total of **196** reception and collective centres.

Delivered with partners from 24 February to 27 June.

## UNHCR RESPONSE

- Food Assistance
- Protection Assistance
- Shelter Kits
- Multi-Purpose Cash
- Shelter NFI/Hygiene Items

## AFFECTED POPULATION

**6.3 million**

internally displaced people in Ukraine



**15.7 million**

people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection



**Blue Dots** are safe spaces for refugees from Ukraine that offer psychological help, group parenting activities, play areas for children, breastfeeding spaces, access to clean water, and access to wifi



\*Source: Ukraine Emergency: UNHCR Operational Response Delivery Updates (27 June 2022)

# AFGHANISTAN



“Families have lost loved ones, suffered injuries, and experienced significant trauma, while many people have lost their documents and children have been orphaned...”

- LEONARD ZULU, UNHCR Representative in Afghanistan



“UNHCR is intent on meeting the protection and assistance needs of people who have been affected by the earthquake, alongside its humanitarian partner agencies.”

- LEONARD ZULU, UNHCR Representative in Afghanistan

## KEY RESPONSE FIGURES

More than **12,000** people reached with assistance to date



**11,200** people reached with **1,600** shelter tents and non-food items in Khost and Pakitka provinces.



**10,500** vulnerable women and girls reached with **1,500** dignity kits.



UNHCR providing support in establishing a **tent health center**.



UNHCR providing **sustainable shelter and infrastructure**.

## AFFECTED POPULATION

**250,000** people affected

**36,000** houses were destroyed or badly damaged as a result of the earthquake

**770** people lost their lives

**1500** people wounded

Source: \*UNHCR Afghanistan External Update # 1,2,3



Earthquake survivors gather to await the distribution of essential relief items in Spera District, Khost Province. Following the magnitude 6.1 earthquake in southeastern Afghanistan on 22 June 2022, UNHCR teams have distributed life-saving aid in the form of shelter and household supplies like tents, blankets, jerry cans, plastic sheeting, kitchen utensils and solar lamps.

© UNHCR/Adnan Studio

# WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022

Whoever. Wherever. Whenever.  
Everyone has the right to seek safety.

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honour refugees around the globe. It falls each year on June 20 and celebrates the **strength** and **courage** of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. World Refugee Day is an occasion to build **empathy** and understanding for their plight and to recognize their resilience in rebuilding their lives.

As part of the annual commemoration, UNHCR Philippines organized a food festival on 19 June, with the support of the Legazpi Sunday Market in Makati City. A major component of the event is a "food challenge," where participants had to identify and purchase food from vendors that specialize in the cuisines of countries with current refugee crises or those of the countries of origin of previous waves of refugees who sought safety in the Philippines.



The challenge is meant to raise awareness about current refugee crises and the long humanitarian tradition of the Filipino people, who have consistently shown **compassion** for the forcibly displaced.



“

*Becoming a refugee is not a choice. But we all have a choice on whether to help or not.*

**Atom Araullo**

UNHCR Philippines Goodwill Ambassador



“

*The Philippines has been a leader in showing the world how compassion can be shown to refugees. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines kept its doors open to people fleeing conflict in Afghanistan and Ukraine, once again upholding its humanitarian commitments in the spirit of bayanihan.*

**Maria Ermina Valdeavilla-Gallardo**

UNHCR Philippines Head of National Office



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*As we commemorate World Refugee Day, I would like to honour the courage, strength and contributions of these refugees and displaced fathers and their families who have been forced to flee their homes.*

**Gustavo González**

UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines



## WORLD REFUGEE DAY VIRTUAL RUN 2022

Register at [app.takbo.ph](http://app.takbo.ph)

To honor the distance that refugees cover to reach safety, supporters can sign up for the challenge and complete a total mileage of **30K, 50K, 100K or 200K** from June 1 to July 15.

By joining this benefit run, supporters get a finisher's certificate, help bring people forced to flee one step closer to safety and recovery, and become part of a global movement of solidarity for refugees across the globe.

For this year, The Café Mediterranean refreshed their menu with the addition of their Solidarity Bowls. Customers can choose from eight varied bowls with just a little bit of everything – from hummus, fresh veggies and falafel to fish, chicken, lamb, and beef.

The Café Mediterranean has set a target to sell **3,000 Mediterranean bowls** where a percentage of the proceeds will support UNHCR's work in Syria and Afghanistan, and other emergency hotspots all over the world. Get a taste of this limited menu in any of The Café Mediterranean branch nearest you.

## THE CAFÉ MEDITERRANEAN



# FILIPINOS HAVE SHOWN THEIR SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES

This special campaign created a global movement of solidarity with refugees – and supporters from the Philippines joined, too!



Thank you for standing with the millions who have fled their homes!

## WORLD YOUTH ALLIANCE - PAREF SOUTHRIDGE



The team recently hosted an online beneficiary concert called Summertime Sessions to raise funds for forcibly displaced families from Ukraine. They were able to raise **PHP 62,500** for UNHCR's Ukraine Emergency Response.

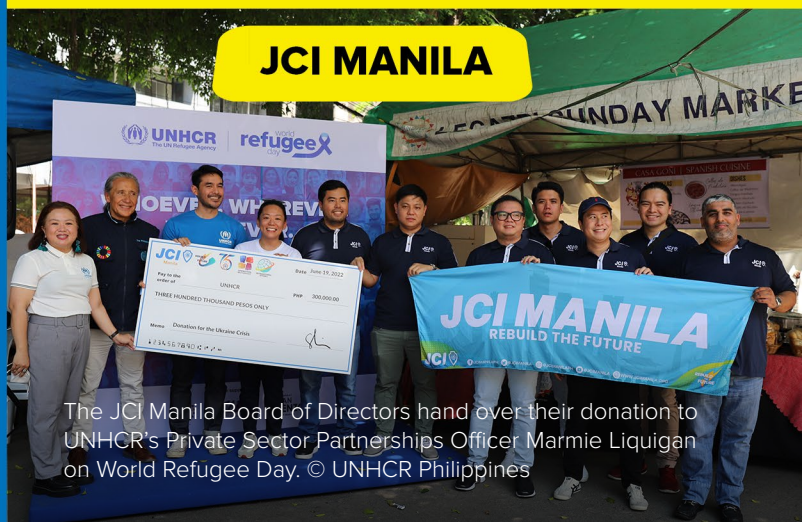
“Previously, our club had focused on more local beneficiaries, but this time we decided that we, too, must help our brothers and sisters outside the country... We wanted to help UNHCR succeed in helping as many people as they can to the best of their ability.”

UNHCR is extremely grateful for the active participation of the youth in raising awareness about people forced to flee their homes and for lending a helping hand.

The Junior Chamber International (JCI) Manila, an organization that brings together young men who want to flourish as leaders and make a difference in their communities, recently reactivated “Operation Brotherhood” to mobilize resources for Ukraine. Through their collective effort and with the support of nine local sister chapters, they have raised **PHP 300,000** and counting to provide life-saving assistance to those who have been forced to flee.

“We know that our donation is only a drop in the bucket in the grand scheme of things, but we want to help ensure that basic needs – such as water, food, medicine, protection services, and more – are being met.”

## JCI MANILA



The JCI Manila Board of Directors hand over their donation to UNHCR's Private Sector Partnerships Officer Marmie Liquigan on World Refugee Day. © UNHCR Philippines



**THE PEOPLE OF **AFGHANISTAN** ARE IN THE GRIP OF THE WORLD'S WORST CRISES.**

Natural disasters like earthquakes are shattering already devastated communities.

***[bit.ly/afghanistan-emergency](https://bit.ly/afghanistan-emergency)***

**STAY INFORMED WITH UPDATES**



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