



Philippines

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Philippines Office Newsletter, 2022 - Volume 3

With you

What's Inside

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

UNHCR has rapidly scaled up its emergency operations in countries like Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Yemen. Your support allows us to give life-saving assistance to as many people as possible.

FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

With the help of donors from around the world, UNHCR continues to bring humanitarian aid to millions in Pakistan who are in urgent need of protection.

HOW YOU ARE HELPING DELIVER DURABLE SOLUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Your support opens pathways to learning and long-lasting solutions to internally displaced communities and refugees who have been welcomed to the Philippines.

Like many individuals who were displaced by Super Typhoon Rai (Odette) in December, nothing is holding back Maribeth Yuntas from rebuilding her community. © UNHCR/Martin San Diego



Rosemarie Goryod is only one of 1.5 million individuals in the Caraga region whose lives have been upended by Super Typhoon Rai (Odette). Rosemarie is with UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Atom Araullo in her temporary shelter in Barangay Mabua, a coastal community in Surigao City. She expressed her family's desire to permanently relocate to a safer place. © UNHCR/Martin San Diego

Dear valued donor,

Your continued support to forcibly displaced communities is as important today as it has ever been.

This past month, many of us had to weather the worsening effects of the climate crisis. We saw how catastrophic calamities have brought destruction and suffering to many. For communities already displaced by conflict, the effects of climate change are magnified. Lives and livelihoods hang in the balance, and it is only with your support and solidarity that we can reach those most in need.

Through this newsletter, we are sharing the impact of your generosity to people forced to flee because of conflict and climate emergencies around the world. With the same kindness you have shown families in Ukraine and Afghanistan, many of you did not hesitate to respond to the call for additional support when emergency aid was needed for flood-affected communities in Pakistan.

Here in the Philippines, your support has helped bring solutions to the plight of internally displaced communities in Mindanao – from life-saving shelter items that have helped typhoon survivors in their recovery to durable solutions that have improved their access to learning, health services, disaster preparedness, and livelihood. Your support also paved the way for six Rohingya refugees to be given a safe pathway to come and stay in the Philippines through a landmark educational program.

As we brace ourselves for the last two months of the year, as well as the challenges brought by continued conflicts and the climate crisis, we are thankful that we can count on your support to ensure that the most vulnerable do not get left behind.

Thank you for helping us reach those who need help the most—we continue to reach thousands more each day with your compassion.

**Kind regards,
Your UNHCR Philippines family**

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

UKRAINE. Eight months after the onset of the international armed conflict, **more than 7 million refugees** from Ukraine are now hosted in countries across Europe and **6.24 million** more have been forced to leave their homes inside Ukraine.

As of 19 October 2022, over **2.48 million people** were reached with assistance and our teams remain on the ground to reach more people in need, especially for the coming winter.

811,179

people received **targeted protection assistance** and information at border points, reception, and collective centres and through mobile teams and hotlines

236,589

people received assistance through 391 humanitarian convoys delivered to hard-hit areas

874,007

people received essential food and non-food items, and winter clothes

81,754

safe access to multi-sectoral services at the site level

612,917

individuals received cash assistance to support basic needs

102,934

received shelter support through interventions for collective centres and damaged homes



** Source: UNHCR Ukraine Operational Response Delivery Update - 19 October 2022*



** Source: UNHCR Afghanistan Situation Update - 1 September 2022*

AFGHANISTAN. The country faces an unprecedented humanitarian and economic crisis. High levels of poverty, spiraling food insecurity, dangerous levels of malnutrition, and eroded livelihood opportunities continue to threaten the population, as well as displacement, increasingly complex protection needs, and natural disasters such as drought, floods and earthquakes. With your support, we are able to aid 2.9 million people and we get to **stay and deliver for those still remaining in the country.**

31 out of 34

provinces reached

2.6 million

persons potentially benefiting from activities in 55 PARRs

2.2 million

persons benefited from community-based interventions

881,100

individuals assessed

439,600

persons assisted with cash assistance

243,700

persons benefited from in-kind and other individual assistance

YEMEN. Extreme climate events and the war in Ukraine are having a devastating impact on world food supplies – but in Yemen it follows seven years of conflict and economic instability.

UNHCR has been working on the frontline in Yemen, since before the crisis began, providing support and cash assistance to people who have been forced to flee. In 2021 alone, we provided cash assistance to over **1 million displaced Yemenis** to help them buy the food their families urgently needed.

We could not have done it without your generosity and compassion.





FLOODS IN PAKISTAN

The unprecedented flooding in Pakistan is threatening millions of lives. **Extreme and intense rainfall is expected to continue in the coming months**, leaving over 6 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

With the help of donors, UNHCR is supporting the government-led response alongside other national and international partners across several sectors to respond to refugee and host community needs. Since the beginning of the floods, UNHCR – as the protection sector lead – has been coordinating with other partners to mainstream protection in the humanitarian response. The immediate priority is to provide assistance to the worst flood-hit areas with relief items to address urgent needs. **We can only do this with your support.**

KEY RESPONSE FIGURES

Authorities and humanitarian agencies like UNHCR are racing against time to reach the affected population.



Over 1.1 million core relief items (CRIs), including tents, have been delivered to authorities out of the planned 1.2 million for distribution to flood-affected areas



All **22** airlifts transporting CRIs from Dubai have arrived in Karachi and transported to Humanitarian Response Facility in Sukkur



Buckets, sleeping mats, and tarpaulins are being coordinated to be transferred by sea



Additional trucks are en route from UNHCR's regional hub in Uzbekistan



UNHCR and partners have also begun rolling out **cash assistance** to flood-affected people

AFFECTED POPULATION



7.9 million people are reportedly displaced as a result of the heavy rains and floods

598,000 people living in relief camps



Over 2 million damaged and destroyed houses

*Source: Pakistan: 2022 Monsoon Floods - Situation Report No. 7 (As of 23 September 2022)

*Source: UNHCR Flood Response in Pakistan Update # 2 (As of 23 Sep 2022)

The impacts of climate change do not discriminate between citizens and refugees

Across Pakistan, there are countless stories of people whose lives have been upended by the catastrophic flooding in the country.

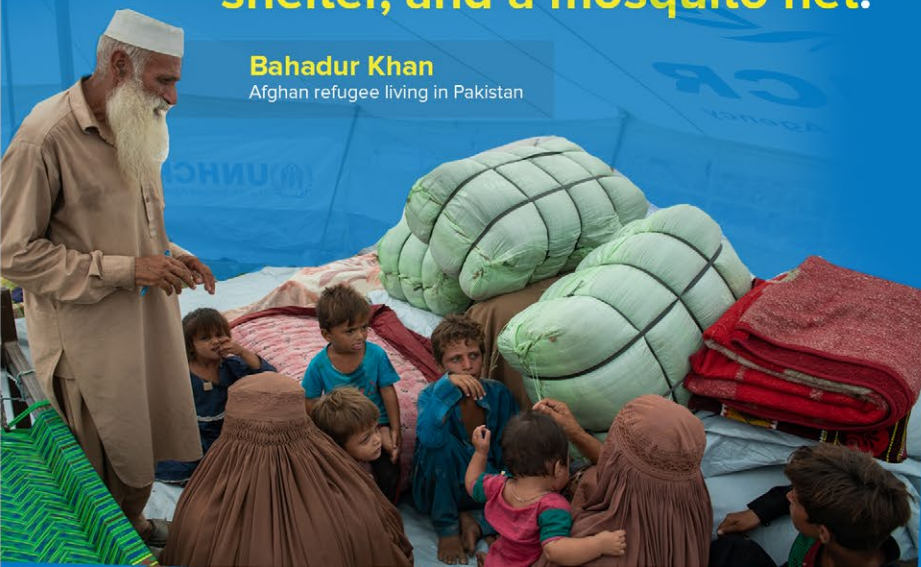
Pakistan has hosted Afghan refugees for more than 40 years, and today hosts around **1.3 million Afghan refugees**. An estimated **800,000 refugees** are hosted in more than 40 ‘calamity hit’ districts.

Bahadur Khan, one of over 2,000 Afghan refugees living in Khesghi Refugee Village in Pakistan, and his family had weathered the torrential downpours of Pakistan’s annual monsoon since its onset in June, but he was not prepared for the dramatic surging of the Kabul River last 27 August. **It was the third time the 60-year-old grandfather has been uprooted in his life.**

The next morning, staff from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, arrived and provided a tent.

“When we left our homes, we went to the nearby higher grounds where we spent the night in the open. **We are thankful for the tents, shelter, and a mosquito net.**

Bahadur Khan
Afghan refugee living in Pakistan



Local Pakistani communities have also been devastated. The flood waters came in the dead of night, rushing through his home at 3AM.

“We left everything behind. Our rooms were totally damaged. We don’t have a bed and I’m worried... Now that our house is damaged, we have to rebuild,” shared Saleem Khan, a 25 year old farmer.

UNHCR is supporting community members displaced by the monsoon flooding with tents, sleeping mats, blankets, plastic sheeting, buckets and kitchen sets.



The UNHCR team also provided the displaced citizens with shelter. Both Saleem and Bahadur — citizen and refugee — now live in the same location and share the same hardships.

Your support will continue to bring hope to people forced to flee during climate emergencies.

Building a safe haven for the most vulnerable

There was a palpable excitement in the air as the residents of Barangay Milaya gathered around their newly refurbished multi-purpose learning center on the morning of 20th August 2022.

As Maja Baeña, their community representative, cut the ribbon to symbolize the facility's opening, they thought about the many activities they had already planned. In a few weeks, they will use it as venue for a festival to showcase their harvest of corn, rice, cassava, and sugarcane. Livelihood trainings and learning sessions have also been planned for youth and adults alike.



Maja during the handover of the facility together with UNHCR Philippines, Community and Family Services International, and representatives from the local government unit. © UNHCR/Mohammad Tajallih Basman

Since it was first built in 2018, the facility has served multiple purposes, but it is only now that it finally has sturdier and newly painted walls, a new door, durable roofing materials, a communal latrine, and equipment that's useful for different activities. Thanks to the continuous support of UNHCR donors, the Barangay Milaya Multipurpose Learning Center is now a fully functional facility that can serve as the community's sanctuary for many years to come.

Coming together to protect people forced to flee

Through the years, Barangay Milaya in Wao, Lanao del Sur, has become a safe haven not just for its residents but also for vulnerable communities displaced by conflict and calamity. When the Marawi conflict in 2017 forced thousands to leave their homes behind and find safety elsewhere, Barangay Milaya was one of the communities that welcomed them. The community has also hosted families from nearby mountain barangays when they are displaced during landslides.

The generosity shown by the people of Barangay Milaya shines through despite the challenges that they also face. Located approximately 17 kilometers from the town proper, the community has a high poverty incidence, and due to its remoteness, they have limited access to basic and protective services.

Maja recalls that for the longest time, their barangay did not have a proper facility for them to gather and conduct meetings and trainings. *"Malaking tulong ito sa mga activities namin dito sa community. Mas makakagawa na kami ng mga events namin na hindi pinoproblema kung saan gaganapin,"* she said. A returning Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who volunteered to be one of the community's leaders, Maja has helped connect her barangay to long-lasting solutions.

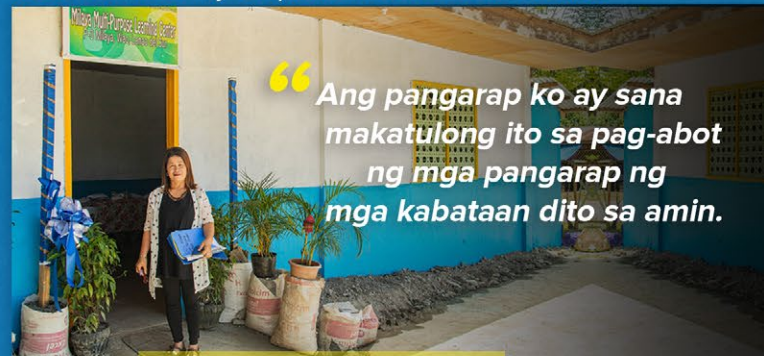
In 2018, the multipurpose learning center first came to fruition as a quick impact project implemented by UNHCR and partners together with the community. It was initially built as a venue for addressing issues and concerns, as well as for holding trainings and social gatherings. Back then, the walls were only made of bamboo, but it quickly became a sanctuary for many.

Every time Barangay Milaya hosts people forced to flee from neighboring barangays, the facility served as temporary shelter as well as a kitchen where they can prepare meals for their internally displaced neighbors. When the COVID-19 pandemic greatly impacted their community, the structure was also converted into an isolation facility.

Inspiring the next generation

The newly improved fully concrete facility benefits more than 2,000 residents of Barangay Milaya, as well as the displaced families that they host during times of emergency. It inspires the residents, including the youth, to organize more activities for the betterment of their community. Their next goal is to come up with an income-generating project to maintain the facility and sustain their initiatives.

As a learning hub and gathering place for the children, youth, and adults of Barangay Milaya – the facility will continue to serve as the venue of multiple activities that foster community empowerment and resilience.



With your support, UNHCR has implemented more than 230 quick impact projects (QIPs) across Mindanao. QIPs are low-cost, high-impact projects that promote community empowerment, foster peaceful co-existence, and strengthen resilience for thousands of internally displaced people in Mindanao.

Philippines welcomes Rohingya refugees through complementary pathways programme

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, together with the Government of the Philippines, recently welcomed six Rohingya refugees to the country as part of the Philippines' pilot Complementary Pathways (CPATH) programme.



What is the CPath programme?

CPATH gives select Rohingya youth a safe pathway to come and stay in the Philippines to ensure their protection and access to basic rights. Through academic scholarships from partner institutions, CPATH equips refugees with tools for self-reliance and helps them build better futures for themselves and their communities.

When did this programme start?

The Philippines first pledged to create alternative pathways for the admission of refugees during the Global Refugee Forum in 2019. The CPATH programme was formalized three years later by the Government's Inter-Agency Committee on the Complementary Pathways Program (IACCP) through the leadership of the Department of Justice Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit (DOJ-RSPPU). The first batch of refugees arrived in Manila on 30 August and 6 September 2022.

How many refugees are part of the first batch?

Six Rohingya refugees have been offered full board scholarships for the full duration of their education (4-5 years) by CPATH partner academic institutions.

“ For now, the CPATH programme may be modest in its number of beneficiaries, but they are assured of a programme that will provide them with a deeper and more substantive form of assistance that will help them be self-reliant and self-sustaining.

- KIRA AZUCENA
Assistant Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs

“ The past three years of developing this programme and preparing for its implementation has been a journey of forming and strengthening collaborations among the Government and civil society in the realization of a whole of society approach [to refugee protection].

- CHIEF STATE COUNSEL GEORGE ORTHA II
Head of the Department of Justice Refugees and Stateless Persons Protection Unit (DOJ-RSPPU)

“ We fervently wish that this path you will take allows you to realize your dreams...May you be a catalyst in shaping the lives of hope for your families and bring forth positive change to your communities in the future.

- MARIA ERMINA VALDEAVILLA-GALLARDO
Head of National Office, UNHCR Philippines

Share your donor journey

Scan the QR code and make your donor journey more meaningful.



Anthony Guevarra, a seafarer who cares deeply for his colleagues and the people around him, is one of UNHCR's monthly donors who are giving a sustained pipeline of support to the most vulnerable forcibly displaced families.

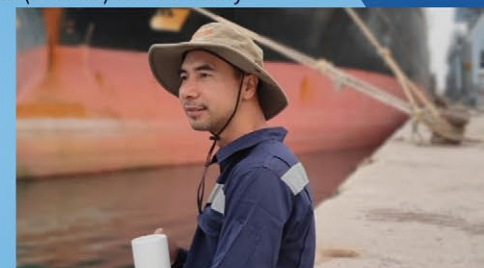
“The first time I learned about UNHCR was through Facebook, during the Marawi conflict in Mindanao. It really broke my heart to see families with children fleeing away from their homes,” he says. Since then, Anthony has been closely following UNHCR's work in Mindanao through social media updates. In December 2021, when Super typhoon Rai (Odette) left so many areas devastated and so many families without homes, Anthony decided to give monthly to UNHCR to help families in their long-term recovery.

Anthony believes that courting donations through a trustworthy organization is the best way to reach the most vulnerable families, as he really sees the impact of his support and the vital role UNHCR plays. **“I feel like I belong to the UNHCR family through the constant emails and updates about the people I help,”** he adds.

A few months after Odette, the conflict in Ukraine broke out and Anthony saw how this affected so many lives. **“I keep praying for those families that have been forcibly displaced to find a safe and comfortable haven that will truly embrace them as their own,”** he says. Seeing that the situation continued to escalate and heeding UNHCR's call for support, Anthony was moved to give an additional monthly pledge, this time for the Ukraine emergency response.

Today, Anthony's committed support for two campaigns – helping families both in the Philippines and in Ukraine – enables a sustained pipeline of resources to respond to growing needs. Together with UNHCR's family of givers, Anthony helps provide displaced families with ongoing relief and protection, and hope for a better future.

Anthony shares, **“Giving is a form of caring that gives me overwhelming joy. Most importantly, I want to give glory and honor to our Lord God.”**



“ I keep praying for those families that have been forcibly displaced to find a safe and comfortable haven that will truly embrace them as their own.

Anthony Guevarra
UNHCR Monthly Donor



© UNHCR/Mihai von Eremia



MILLIONS WHO HAVE FLED THE CURRENT WAR IN UKRAINE ARE FACING THEIR FIRST WINTER IN DISPLACEMENT, AMID DESTROYED HOMES.

Give an additional gift to help families survive the harsh winter.

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