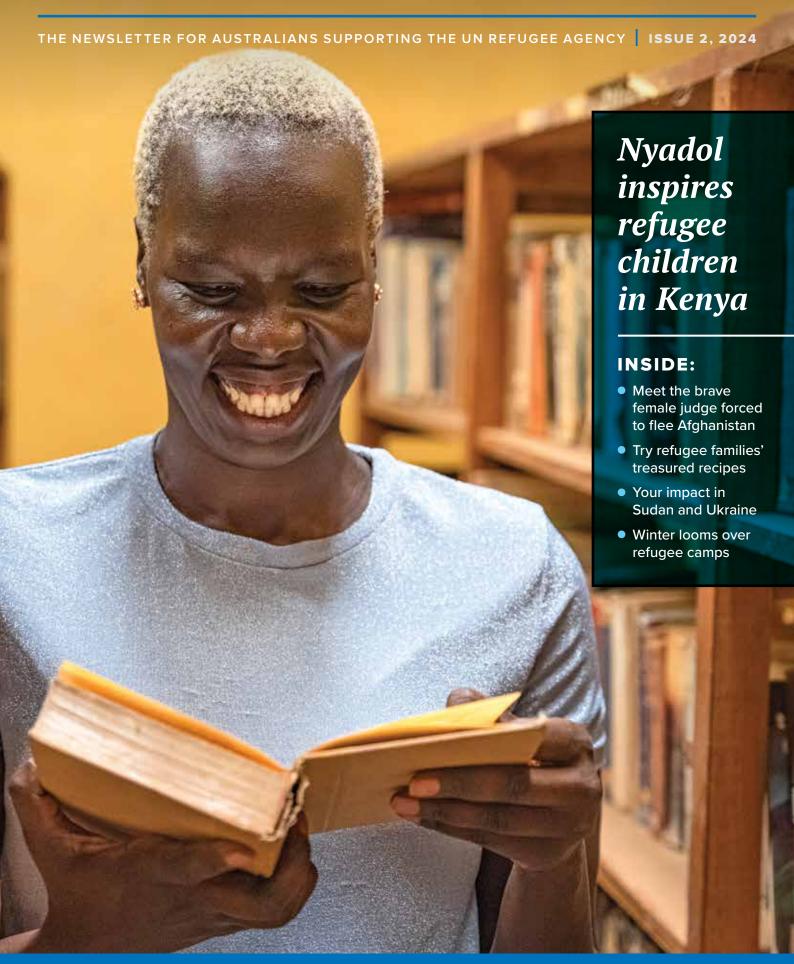


With You



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PUBLISHED BY

Australia for UNHCR PO Box Q428 Queen Victoria Building NSW 1230, Australia

- **T:** 1300 361 288
- **E:** info@unrefugees.org.au
- W: unrefugees.org.au
- f australia4unhcr
- @ @australiaforunhcr
- @UNrefugees
- Australia for UNHCR ABN 35 092 843 322

ON THE COVER:

Kenya, where she nurtured a love of reading as a child.





Dear supporters,

This issue of With You is full of incredible stories of current and former refugees who have overcome immense difficulties to rebuild their lives.

Australia for UNHCR recently travelled to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya with lawyer and human rights advocate, Nyadol Nyuon OAM. Nyadol spent much of her childhood in the camp before coming to Australia as a 17-year-old. Nyadol credits her inspiring and ambitious teachers at Kakuma Secondary School – some of whom were refugees themselves – for much of her success today. Her visit not only raised awareness about the importance of supporting Kakuma's underfunded schools, but also inspired the next generation of refugee children to dream big.

It's hard to believe it's been more than three years since the Taliban retook power in Afghanistan. Many of you responded generously, helping UNHCR provide emergency aid to those who needed it most. Judge Farah Altaf Atahee was at work in Kabul when the Taliban took the city. She was educating male judges about legislation that had criminalised violence against women for the first time. Judge Atahee managed to escape Afghanistan with her husband and three children, and now lives in western Sydney, where she is striving to rebuild her legal career.

Meanwhile, Somali refugee Elias Nunow Hirab is lighting up his new community in Ethiopia – literally. Elias is part of a solar energy cooperative in Melkadida refugee camp, providing clean energy for households and businesses. The solar grid in Melkadida is just one example of how UNHCR is working with displaced communities to develop climate-smart solutions.

While the weather is warming up here in Australia, refugees on the other side of the world are bracing for freezing conditions. Winter is a life-threatening emergency for displaced people living in flimsy tents that provide no respite from cold, wind, rain and snow. Refugee children like Azzam, a 13-year-old Syrian boy living in Lebanon, are counting on UNHCR to help them survive this winter.

Refugees contribute so much to this country. One of the things that unites us all is food. I'm thrilled to share that Australia for UNHCR has launched a cookbook called Flavours of Hope, featuring 20 delicious recipes from current and former refugees. I hope you enjoy trying out these dishes and sharing them with family and friends.

Thank you for your ongoing support – it's making a real difference.

Yours sincerely,



Trudi Mitchell, CEO



Flavours of Hope

HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED YOUR FREE COPY OF OUR COOKBOOK YET?

*lavours of Hope is our cookbook celebrating the power of food to connect us all. The book features treasured family recipes selected by current or former refugees.

Food helps displaced people hold on to their traditions while rebuilding their lives far from home. Some even transform their love of cooking into businesses - starting successful cafés and restaurants that employ other refugees and enrich local communities.

Mariia Mykytiuk is one of the talented cooks featured in the book. Marija fled Ukraine and now lives in Australia with her children, Anastasiia and Kyrylo. In Flavours of Hope, she shares her mother's recipe for syrnyky, or ricotta pancakes.

"This dish connects us to our life in Ukraine before the war displaced us from our home," says Mariia. "It reminds us of being together as a family. We'd eat it together on the weekends with my husband who is still in Ukraine fighting in the war now."

From Syria to Sierra Leone, Ukraine to Afghanistan, Flavours of Hope takes you on a culinary journey around the world.

Includes 20 delicious recipes:

- Thuy's Vietnamese pho
- Hamed's Persian fish with herb pilaf
- Akec's South Sudanese stew
- Nayran's Syrian spinach pastries

Download it now at unrefugees.org.au/cook

REFUGEE SPOTLIGHT

Syrnyky (ricotta pancakes)

INGREDIENTS

- 500g ricotta
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp flour
- 2 tsp sugar
- Handful of raisins
- Extra flour to dust board/bench
- 1 tbsp butter
- Icing sugar to dust
- Raspberries/blueberries, sour cream and mint to serve

METHOD

Separate the egg yolks from whites. Discard the egg whites. Add ricotta and egg yolks to a bowl and mix together well. Add flour followed by sugar and raisins and mix together.

Flour a board or bench. Use your hands to form small, round cakes (roughly 5 centimetres wide) from the batter. Lightly pat both sides of the cakes in the flour.

Add butter to a pan on low heat. Add cakes. When lightly browned, flip over to cook the other side.

Decorate finished cakes with dusted icing sugar, raspberries/ blueberries and sour cream. Garnish with mint.





he last six months have seen a series of devastating attacks on vulnerable Ukrainians. In May, a major offensive forced around 10,000 people to evacuate from frontline communities in Kharkiv region - mostly older people and people with disabilities who were unable to flee earlier in the war.

This was followed by the tragic attack on Kyiv on 8 July that damaged the country's largest children's hospital. Dozens of people were killed or injured in the attack. Around 600 people, including children receiving lifesaving treatment, had to evacuate.

Residents who live near the hospital were also affected. Nataliia Simykina, 83, lives alone in Kyiv with her chihuahua.

"I struggle with technology, so my neighbours tell me about air raids and missile threats," says Nataliia. "They pulled me out of my apartment and took me to the shelter with my dog. At one point, I heard explosions. Four of them were so powerful that the walls trembled in our shelter.

My neighbours are going to help me fix the windows with the materials you provided.

"When the air raid was over and we got out of the shelter. I saw the damaged houses and the broken windows in my apartment. I had only one thought: I was lucky to be alive."

With support from generous donors like you, UNHCR remains on the ground in Kyiv, Kharkiv and beyond, delivering essential aid. This includes shelter, cash assistance, emergency supplies, counselling and legal advice.

For people like Nataliia, it also includes building materials so they can make vital repairs to their homes.

"I am very thankful for your support," says Nataliia. "My neighbours are going to help me fix the windows with the materials you provided. Now I have hope that I can continue living in my house and stay warm during the upcoming winter."

>> IN 2024, YOU'VE **HELPED UNHCR REACH:**



300.000 PEOPLE WITH CASH **ASSISTANCE**

to cover rent, bills, food, medicine and other essentials



140,000 PEOPLE WITH ESSENTIAL ITEMS such as winter clothing, blankets and hygiene kits



73,000 PEOPLE WITH EMERGENCY SHELTER and

housing support such as rental subsidies and building materials



abra had to abandon her food business and trek for seven hours in blazing heat to reach the border with Chad. Her family spent months at a transit site at the border before relocating to a refugee camp.

Thanks to your generous donations, Sabra and her family have received emergency shelter and can access safe drinking water.

"We have much more privacy and security now, and it's starting to feel like a home," says Sabra. "At the border, we did not have regular access to water. Now, my eldest daughter and I can easily walk to fetch water every day."

Sabra is among 10 million people who have been displaced, either inside Sudan or across borders,

since conflict broke out in April 2023. The situation remains dire, with families facing ongoing conflict as well as starvation and disease.

But with your help, UNHCR is providing vulnerable communities with relief items, medical supplies, shelter and clean water. The agency is also distributing emergency cash - a lifeline that helps hungry families purchase food and other basics.

Your generous support has helped people like Sabra feel less anxious about the future. Sabra and her daughters take comfort in art and have started decorating their yard with stones.

"I have less to worry about now, and I want something beautiful in my new home, something I can do with my girls," Sabra says.

>> WITH YOUR SUPPORT, **UNHCR IS PROVIDING:**



SHELTER from harsh weather, including floods



EMERGENCY SUPPLIES including sleeping mats, blankets and mosquito nets



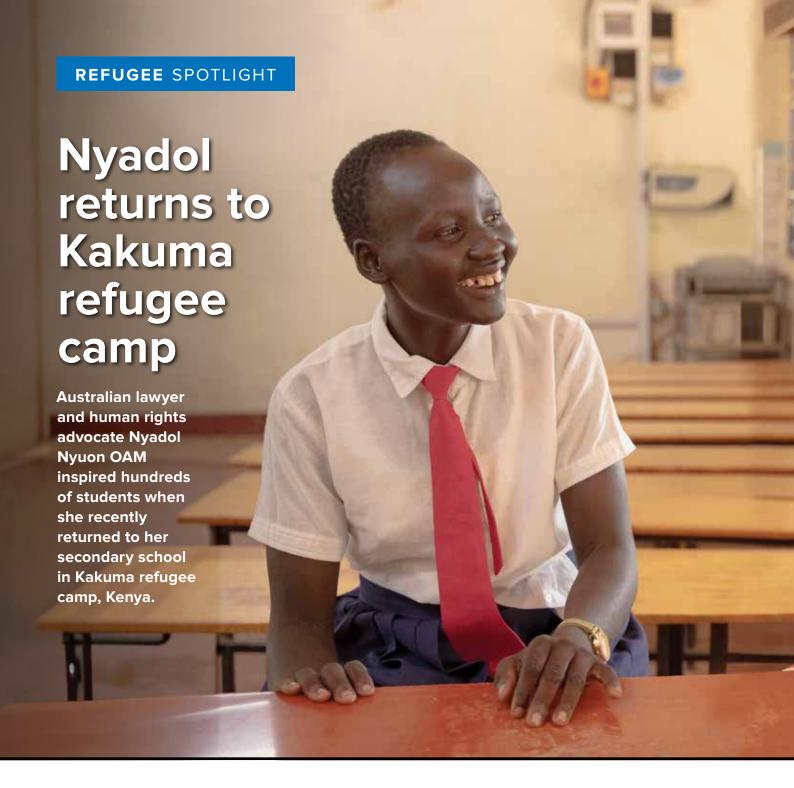
CLEAN WATER, SANITATION and **HYGIENE KITS**



CASH ASSISTANCE to help families buy food and other essentials



MALNUTRITION SCREENING and **HEALTHCARE**



yadol's family is originally from South Sudan. Her father died there, fighting for an independent country, and Nyadol grew up in Kakuma, where she completed most of her primary and secondary education. She left in 2005 when she, her mother and her siblings received humanitarian visas to Australia.

Nyadol always knew she would return to Kakuma one day. But travelling back almost two decades later with Australia for UNHCR, she was astonished to see how much had changed. The camp

has expanded enormously in 20 years, and it took some time for Nyadol to find her old home.

The one place that was almost exactly as she remembered? The library.

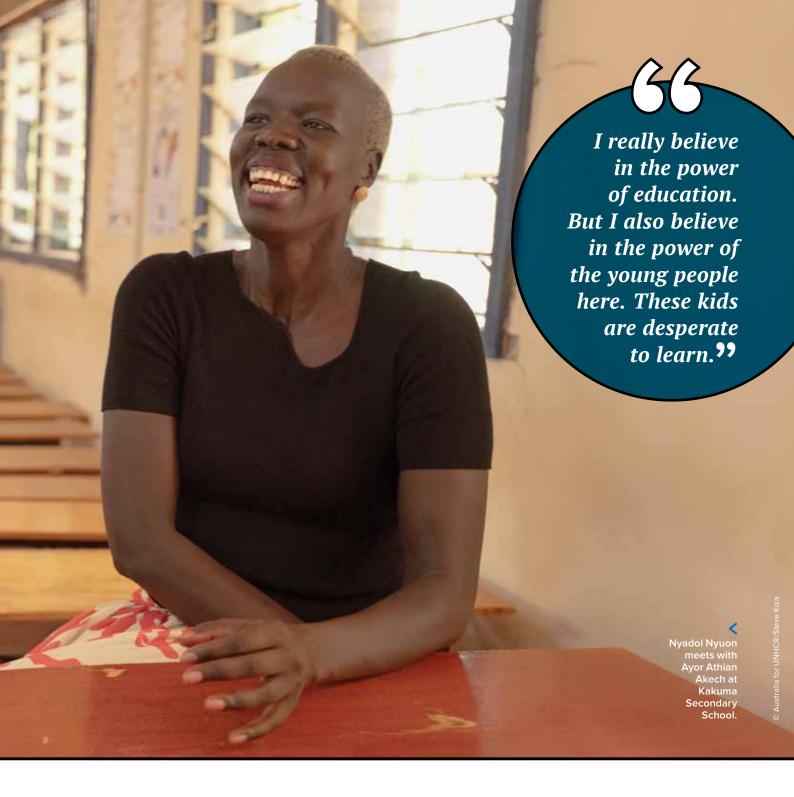
As a child, Nyadol spent countless hours in a small library established by Ethiopian refugees. She says that reading changed her life.

"I used to come here and borrow books," said Nyadol as she examined the shelves. "It meant the world to me as a refugee kid. It gave me an

escape. Books can look simple but they are very powerful. I would not have become a lawyer without this place. It showed me through books what I could do."

Kakuma is located in northern Kenya and hosts almost 300,000 refugees from countries including Somalia, Burundi, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This includes 98,000 children who are enrolled in primary or secondary school.

Schools in Kakuma don't receive government support and rely



entirely on international donors. The average class in Kakuma has more than 100 pupils. There aren't enough teachers, textbooks or toilets. Girls face additional challenges, including less time to study than boys due to domestic responsibilities.

Despite these challenges, students are motivated and enthusiastic.

"Education is very important," says Ayor Athian Akech, a South Sudanese refugee who aspires to become a lawyer like Nyadol. "It can help you to not only change your family, but our world."

Nyadol credits much of her success to the education she received in Kakuma.

"We had amazing teachers in Kakuma Secondary School," she says. "They saw far beyond you being a refugee."

Now Nyadol is raising funds and awareness in Australia to ensure more resources and support for refugee children in Kakuma. "I really believe in the power of education. But I also believe in the power of the young people here. These kids are desperate to learn. They are excited to learn. They've got dreams. They ask wonderful questions.

"There's so much going on that makes you feel powerless. You wonder whether anything you do makes a change. This makes a change. Real change." ■

Visit unrefugees.org.au/nyadol to learn more about Nyadol's campaign and to watch a film about her return to the camp.



On the day the Taliban retook power, Judge Farah Altaf Atahee went into hiding. She had sentenced members of the Taliban to prison for kidnapping and bombing. She had travelled the country, educating other judges about landmark legislation criminalising violence against women. Suddenly, she was in imminent danger.

With help from the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ), Judge Atahee fled Afghanistan with her family. She is among 17 female judges who have found safety here in Australia. Here, she shares her remarkable story in her own words.

y mother was a lawyer and a university professor, and she inspired me to pursue a legal career. I earned my master's degree in law at the University of Kabul. After that, I studied a second master's specialising in international law. After passing a special exam, I enrolled in a judiciary course. There were 25 women and 100 men in this course. It was my dream to become a judge.

After graduating, I started working in the special criminal court. I handled difficult cases such as Taliban kidnappings and suicide attacks. It was really stressful, especially as a young woman. I received different kinds of threats, like phone calls. I couldn't travel to work by court car with male colleagues, in case the Taliban identified us.

Even though the work was stressful, I really enjoyed it. Traditionally, people in Afghanistan think the judiciary is just for men and women don't deserve such high positions. Getting this higher responsibility as a judge made me confident and determined to prove that women can do the same as men. It also made my mother very proud and she encouraged me.

In 2015, I was appointed as a trainer. My role involved educating other judges and lawyers, male and female, about new legislation preventing violence against women.

This was the first Afghan law criminalising rape, child marriage, forced marriage, forced immolation and other acts of violence.

I travelled through Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Herat and other provinces to conduct training and help overcome resistance to this law.

On 15 August 2021, I was in Kabul presenting my work. The security guards came and said I had to leave. I knew my life was in danger because I was the only female trainer among nine male colleagues. I didn't take anything, not even my laptop. I just went straight home.

My husband, who was also a judge, said we had to get to the airport and leave for our safety, but we couldn't evacuate. I can't express in words what happened that day.

A few days later, I got a message from IAWJ, saying they would help get my family out. They arranged safe houses until, in October 2021, we were able to fly from Mazar to Athens. We were there for almost four months. We didn't know where we'd end up, but then we got offers from Canada and Australia. We had just one night to decide.

It was an exciting time for us, but we didn't know what to expect. I'm very lucky to be in Australia.

Those previous months had really damaged us. The Taliban had searched my house three times, so I was worrying about my family all the time, especially my two youngest sisters.

I had no English when I first came, so I started to learn English at TAFE. I worked as a paralegal at Minter

Ellison for a while and now I'm studying for a Diploma of Law through the Legal Professional Admission Board. It's a really hard course but hopefully I can pass. English is one of the biggest challenges – having the higher-level English needed for law. I am also studying for a PhD in private law through Azad University in Iran.

It took a lifetime to earn my place as a professional in Afghanistan. I want to establish my career here. It might take a long time, or it might be impossible, but I hope to work as a lawyer in Australia.

My two oldest daughters are in school - Sara is in Year Four and Maryam is in Year One. Aisha will start next year. The older ones don't know why they can't visit their cousins. I have trouble explaining what happened to them, but I encourage them all the time you have to study, you have to attain higher education.

Behind all our achievements here are our Australian friends – Gary Borg and his wife, Daria Walker. They helped us make a new life in a new country. They feel like our parents. We'll never forget this kindness.

Right now, female Afghan judges are dispersed all around the world. They are in Australia, Canada, US, Germany. But some are still in Pakistan or Afghanistan. They are suffering the worst conditions. They are imprisoned. They are hiding. They are not safe. I hope all Afghan judges – women and men, but especially the women - can get out of Afghanistan to a safe place like Australia.

Right now, women are banned from everything. They are wiped out from society. I'm hoping that Afghanistan will come back, that women will have the right to be educated, to work. I'm hoping for my colleagues, friends and family to be safe, to have the right to live like humans.

At the end of the day, I am grateful to the Australian Government for providing me with safe haven. I also appreciate the support of IAWJ, the Bar Association, Australian judges, and my friends Daria and Gary.

In the community



>> EDUCATION IN FOCUS ON WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Four hundred guests attended our World Refugee Day lunch in June to raise vital funds for children's education programs in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.

At the event, Nyadol Nyuon OAM, lawyer and former refugee, spoke about the quality education she received at Kakuma Secondary School.

"We were in a refugee camp competing with kids across the country who had the best facilities, but these teachers would not allow us to think we couldn't outperform them," she said.

Nyadol described the difference donors could make by helping to fund more teachers and textbooks for students living in Kakuma refugee camp.

Patil Hagob, a gifted pianist, fulfilled her dream of performing in front of a large audience. Patil was 11 when war broke out in her home of Aleppo in Syria. She played piano every day for six years while war raged on, promising herself that one day she would perform Chopin's Grande Valse Brillante for a crowd. She delivered a beautiful performance and spoke movingly about how UNHCR helps people rebuild their lives through education.

Guests also heard from Gillian Triggs, the former UN Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, on the need for multilateral support for refugees. The event was sponsored by First Sentier Investors, Teachers Health and EG.

>> RUNNING FOR REFUGEES

Rob Kolbe, an avid runner and UNHCR supporter, celebrated his 50th birthday by running 50km across the Harbour City, from Botany Bay to the Opera House. Rob was joined by friends and family along the way, each donating to support refugees in need.

"I really like to run and I really like to hang out with friends, especially while running," said Rob. "What better way to celebrate my birthday than to combine those things and help others? Especially because I can do it along the spectacular coast of Sydney."

Rob chose to fundraise for Australia for UNHCR because he wanted to respond to the growing needs of refugees and displaced people. "The circumstances refugees face are harrowing and simply terrible. Australia for UNHCR does an incredible job raising funds for this seemingly insurmountable need."

More than 150 people joined Team UNHCR for the biggest running events of the year, including City2Surf and the Sydney Marathon, raising vital funds to send life-saving aid to those in greatest need.



>> THE POWER OF **RUTH'S PLANTS**

Ruth Carter is a long-time supporter of Australia for UNHCR, donating regularly to help refugees in need.

The retired doctor loves to garden. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she decided to sell her plants to fundraise, drawing awareness to the plight of refugees with each sale. Ruth began selling plants with a simple honesty box for payments outside her home and later expanded to selling at markets. So far, Ruth has raised over \$11,000 to provide refugee families with life-saving aid.

"When lockdown ended, I realised how lucky I was to be able to go back to my normal life," said Ruth. "People in refugee camps can't do that. And people forget about them. I feel so strongly about it – that there's all these people from around the world forced to flee and people forget about them."

You can find Ruth's Plants at Newington Markets in Sydney every month or visit facebook.com/ RuthsBroms to find out more.





>> DANCESCAPE

This December, Sydney's Shivam School of Dance will perform DanceScape as a special fundraising event supporting UNHCR.

DanceScape will feature Bharathanatyam - a classical South Indian dance form. The Shivam School of Dance not only trains students in this style, but also encourages its dancers to use their skills to help others.

The event will raise money for UNHCR's work in the Middle East. UNHCR teams are on the ground in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and beyond, providing refugees and displaced families with emergency aid and long-term support.

"As war continues and humanitarian crises unfold in the Middle East, it is difficult to look past the suffering and desperation of innocent lives caught in the middle," says Saipriya Rahulan, founder and artistic director of Shivam School of Dance.

DanceScape will be performed at the Bryan Brown Theatre in Bankstown on Friday 6 December.

To purchase your tickets, scan the QR code or visit eventboss. com/events/dance-scape ■

>> DLA PIPER'S THREE CAPES TREK

Twenty-eight employees from DLA Piper Australia and New Zealand have completed a 48-kilometre trek across Tasmania's Three Capes, raising over \$200,000 to help refugees and host communities tackle environmental crises.

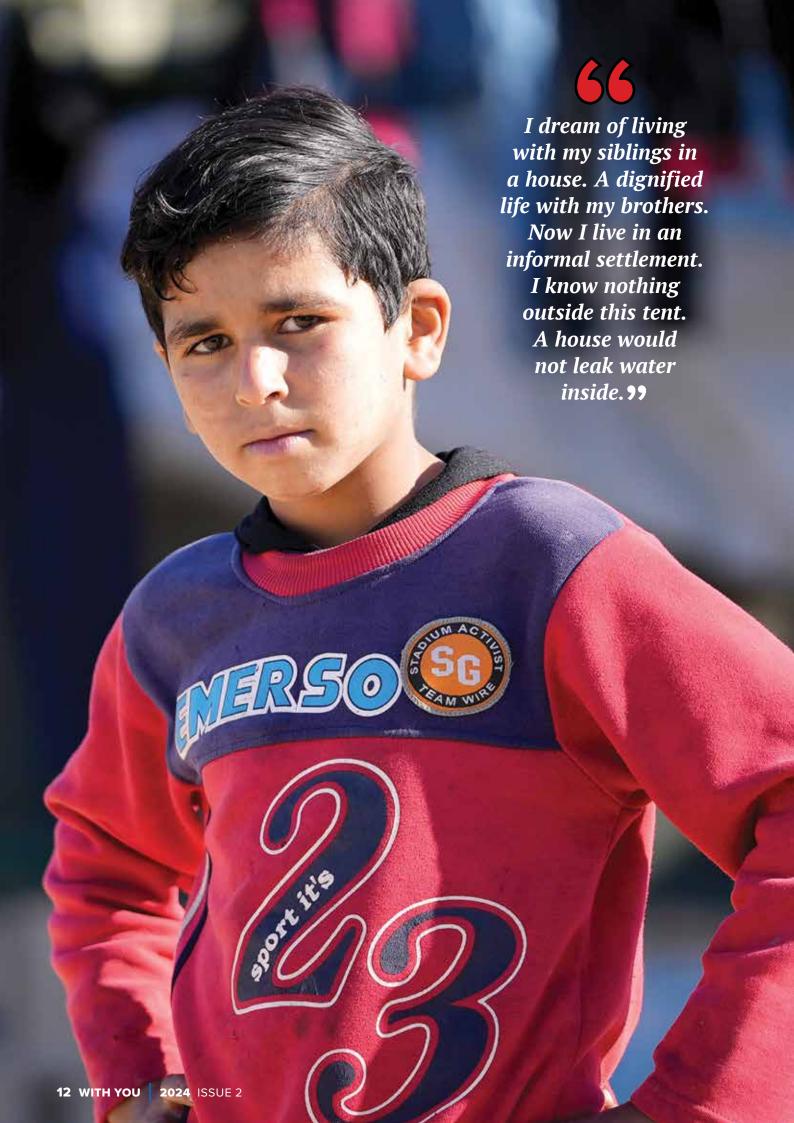
"Although the distance covered on the trek was difficult, I was surrounded by some of my biggest cheerleaders while training for it, which made it an incredibly fun experience," said Sarah McKenzie, DLA Piper Real Estate Solicitor.

DLA Piper has hosted various fundraising activities including bike rides, bake sales and trivia nights. These events not only raise funds but also provide opportunities for staff participation and team bonding.

DLA Piper is also a founding funder of UNHCR's Refugee Environmental Protection Fund, which supports long-term rehabilitation, reconstruction and risk reduction for refugee and host communities.

If your business would like to support refugees, please contact Anyier Yuol, Corporate Partnerships Manager, at ayuol@unrefugees.org.au





>> HOW UNHCR **IS HELPING**



WINTER SUPPLIES

Distributing winter essentials such as tarpaulins, thermal blankets, sleeping bags, warm jackets and stoves.



SHELTER

Upgrading refugee shelters, improving camp drainage, repairing damaged homes and distributing building materials.



CASH ASSISTANCE

Providing cash to help families cover the extra cost of winter, including bills, food, medicine and clothing.



Providing alternative energy sources such as generators, power banks and biomass briquettes for vulnerable households.



Winter is the next refugee crisis

Temperatures are about to plummet in the Northern Hemisphere, bringing even more suffering to displaced families.

illions of people who've fled conflict or persecution are bracing for freezing weather, including heavy snow and rain. These conditions can be lifethreatening for vulnerable families living in flimsy tents or homes badly damaged by shelling.

Azzam, a 13-year-old Syrian refugee living in a camp in Tripoli, Lebanon, yearns for better housing this winter.

"I dream of living with my siblings in a house," he says. "A dignified life with my brothers. Now I live in an informal settlement. I know nothing outside this tent. A house would not leak water inside."

Millions of Syrians share the same wishes for warmth, stability and a better future. Unfortunately, this winter they face mounting challenges, including ongoing conflict and rising poverty.

"Thirteen years [of war] were not easy," says Mohammed, another Syrian refugee living in an informal camp in Lebanon, where winter rains often flood tents. "No one is comfortable. It's indescribable. Life is really difficult."

The people of Ukraine are also bracing for harsh conditions. Temperatures drop below freezing and snowstorms can kill. Last winter, crucial energy infrastructure came under attack, plunging millions into darkness.

Many families are struggling to rebuild their homes following recent attacks and remain unprepared for winter.

Tetiana, a single mother of three, fled her village in Mykolaiv while it was under Russian occupation. When she returned, she found her home completely destroyed.

With UNHCR's support, Tetiana has made essential repairs to the roof and walls. However, she and her children still face danger.

"Before the war, the winter was much easier," she says. "The worst thing about winter is that you need firewood to heat your home. You can't go to the forest and get wood because it's dangerous. It's full of landmines. I am very scared to go out there. I really need help right now because I'm alone here with my children among the ruins."

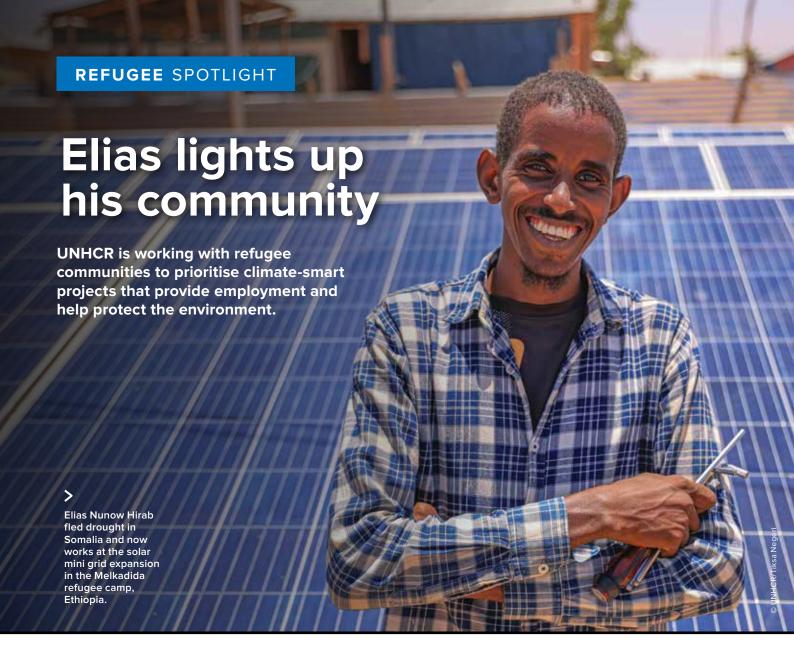
UNHCR is rushing to help displaced communities prepare before winter sets in. This includes upgrading camps to better cope with rain and snow, repairing homes, and distributing winter supplies such as heaters and blankets.

On a recent trip to Ukraine, Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees, reminded supporters of the need for additional aid ahead of winter.

"It's devastating to see that the war - with all its senseless destruction is continuing relentlessly," he said.

"Each time I'm in Ukraine, I'm struck by the resilience and determination of people. But our support is critical to help sustain their strength, including ensuring they are warm and safe in the gruelling winter ahead." ■

You can help refugees survive a harrowing winter. Please visit unrefugees.org.au/winterkills to send aid to displaced families.



he nearest electrical grid to Ethiopia's Melkadida refugee camp is more than 200 kilometres away. Yet, thanks to solar energy, this community now has power, light and business opportunities.

More than 200,000 refugees live in Melkadida, most of whom were forced to flee conflict and drought in Somalia. Elias Nunow Hirab arrived in 2011 when he was 14 years old.

"When I first came here, my mother started collecting firewood to sell, which kept us fed," says Elias. "She was able to pay my school fees."

A few years later, Elias was given the opportunity to take part in an electricity training program through a UNHCR partnership. He then helped form a cooperative with fellow refugees to install and manage solar-powered streetlights. When UNHCR's partner decided to invest in the area's first solar mini grid in 2020, Elias's cooperative helped build and operate the new energy system. It was designed to supply reliable, clean energy to local households and shops.

"The mini grid has brought so much happiness to the community," says Elias.

Among those benefiting is 27-yearold Zamzam Abdullah, a member of the host community who runs a small shop. The mother-of-five says that solar energy enables her to light her shop and refrigerate some of the produce she sells.

Around the world, refugees and displaced people are living on the frontlines of climate change. The majority of people fleeing persecution and conflict live in places with harsh natural

environments that are vulnerable to the worst effects of volatile weather.

Climate action is a priority for UNHCR. It is essential to its core mandate of protecting refugees and other displaced people. UNHCR is committed to assisting vulnerable communities right now, while also reducing future risks to both them and the environment.

UNHCR is working quickly to deliver climate projects that are innovative, targeted and holistic - with a commitment to solutions which are environmentally sustainable. They are already transforming lives and communities like Elias's, while also working to protect the planet from future harm.

Find out more about UNHCR's climate action projects and how you can support them: unrefugees.org.au/climate-action



Patience has faced staggering challenges, including displacement and discrimination. But with remarkable strength, the 24-year-old refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is creating a much brighter future.

atience never knew her father, who died before she was born. Her mother left when Patience was just eight; after that, she was raised by her older sisters in a refugee camp in Rwanda.

Unfortunately, Patience began to experience serious health problems from a young age. As a result, she faced social stigma and had to isolate herself.

"When I was about four years old, I suffered from rickets, causing dwarfism," says Patience. "I received surgery at the age of 12 which helped stop the disease, but I grew up in a lot of pain. Other children made fun of me, called me names and everything. It was very challenging. I was afraid to be seen in public, so I mostly stayed at home."

Patience used this as motivation to excel in her studies. At 16, she began attending a boarding school, where she found supportive friends and developed greater confidence.

"I wanted to prove to others that my height might be little, but my abilities aren't," she says. "At boarding school, I finally started

to feel like myself, to free myself from fear, to discover who I am."

After graduating high school, Patience had to relocate to a new camp, where she faced stigma once more. She was overjoyed when she learned that she had earned a UNHCR scholarship to attend university in Kigali.

"I was getting bullied once again and had to isolate myself in the house, so getting the scholarship was my escape. It was really exciting."

These scholarships are life-changing covering tuition, housing, food. books and other essential costs to help refugees earn a degree and transform their lives.

Young refugees like Patience face immense barriers to higher education. In Rwanda, refugees are not eligible for student loans, making courses unaffordable. Globally, just seven per cent of refugee youth are enrolled in higher education, compared to 40 per cent of non-refugee youth. Through its Aiming Higher

scholarship program, UNHCR aims to increase this to 15 per cent by 2030.

This year, UNHCR is also trialling a digital higher education program. This will enable more refugees to earn qualifications online from leading universities such as MIT and the University of Oxford.

With her scholarship, Patience enrolled in a finance degree at Kigali Independent University. She is now in her final year, writing a dissertation on e-banking and working as an intern in the university's finance department.

"Here, I can carry on with my life independently," says Patience. "On campus, students don't make fun of me... [The scholarship] has changed me and given me freedom. It has taken me out of the camp and has given me a reason to stay alive. It has raised me to a new level."

Patience is determined to find a job after she graduates, using the skills and connections university has given her. She also hopes more refugees will receive these life-changing opportunities.

"My message to my fellow refugees is: encourage everyone, never give up, be good to others... If I had given up, I would not be where I am today."

You can help more refugees like Patience access higher education and reach their potential. To find out more about Aiming Higher, please contact Aylin Salt on (02) 9276 6871 or email asalt@unrefugees.org.au

GIFTS IN WILLS

Why James chose to leave a transformational gift in his Will

James Richardson made the generous decision to continue supporting refugees beyond his lifetime. We spoke to James about why he chose to leave a gift in his Will to Australia for UNHCR and how this contribution can help refugees in the future.

While conflicts may persist, and that is both unfortunate and regrettable, there is always something we can do to help those affected. ??

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born in Melbourne in 1937 and am one of six siblings. I attended primary and secondary school there before moving on to the University of Melbourne, where I graduated with a degree in engineering in 1961.

I'm now a retired engineer, but I've always had a deep interest in human rights and a strong concern for those who've had more difficult lives than me. While I've worked hard to get to where I am, I recognise how fortunate I've been in my circumstances.

I am lucky to have been born in Australia, to grow up in a supportive home environment, and to have access to quality education and good job opportunities. Hundreds of millions of other people don't have this and I feel it is my duty to help others. I've met people whose extraordinary resilience in times of difficulty

motivates me to make a difference and press on through life.

Why did you choose to leave a gift in your Will to Australia for UNHCR?

James Richardson with

Aylin Salt, Australia for UNHCR Planned Giving Manager.

When I pass on, I'd like to think I can still do good work. By leaving a portion of my Will, I therefore know that the good work will continue even if I am no longer here. I don't want my efforts to stop when I'm gone. The news is filled with horrific stories from Ukraine to Sudan, and I think it's important to do my part in mitigating the problem and reducing the suffering of others. While I can't help everyone, I know that I can help some - and that's worth doing.

What would you say to someone considering leaving a gift in their Will to support refugees?

There's a profound sense of joy in knowing that your values and passions can live on beyond your time on this earth. While conflicts may persist, and that is both unfortunate and regrettable, there is always something we can do to help those affected. UNHCR is one of the great organisations dedicated to this important work.

How do you want to be remembered? One of the most inspiring ways to ensure your values live on is to leave a transformational gift in your Will, like James. For more information, please contact Aylin Salt, our Planned Giving Manager, on (02) 9276 6871 or asalt@unrefugees.org.au

