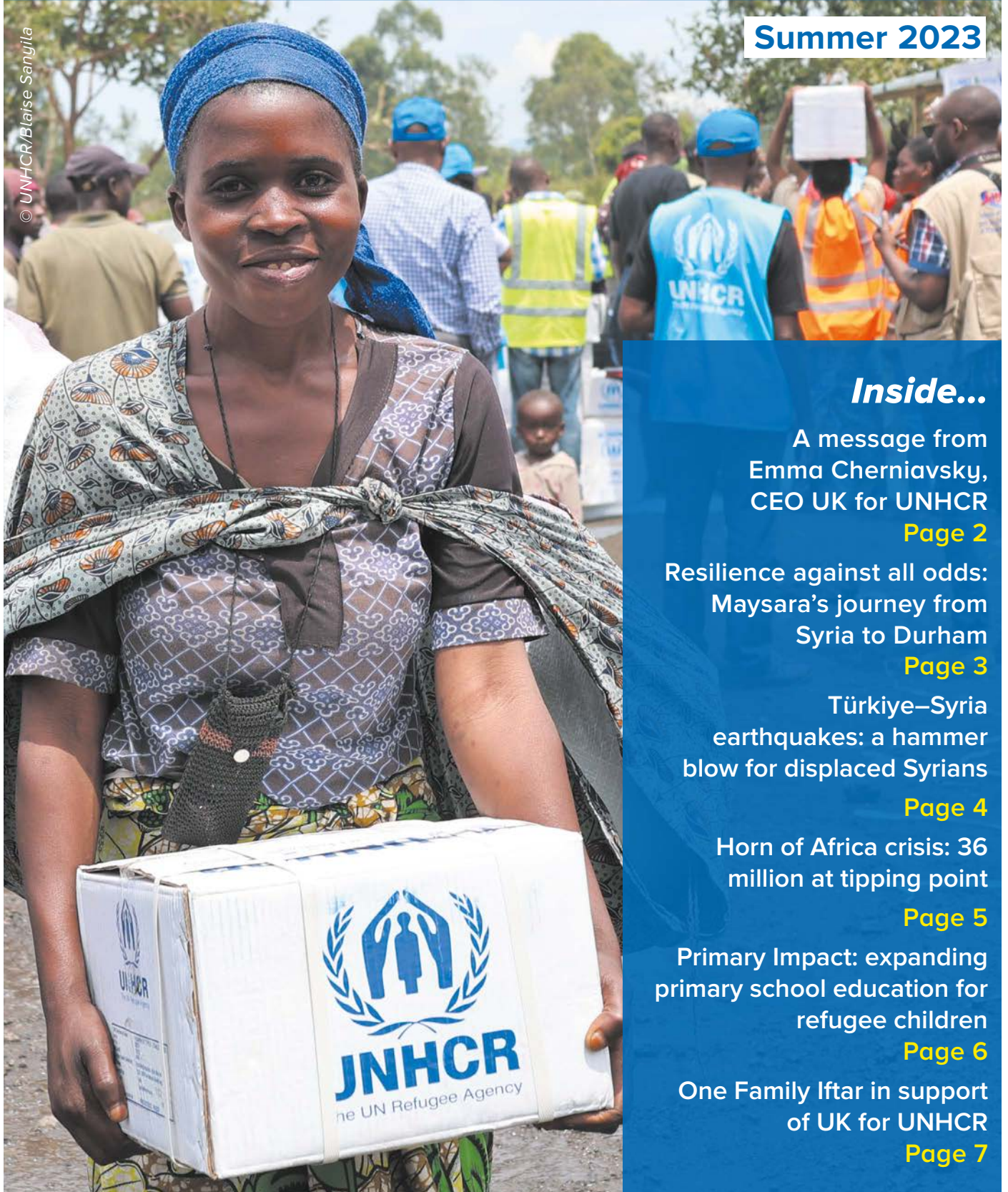


Philanthropy Newsletter

Summer 2023



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"We don't have much to put on our plates, but clean plates and pans are a guarantee of good health. These kits are a good start for us in meeting our multiple needs." Vumillya 35 years old, mother of 6 children. Following armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNHCR is distributing emergency core relief items as well as shelter, cash and protection interventions.

Refugee resilience shines despite new and ongoing crises

A message from Emma Cherniavsky, CEO UK for UNHCR



Olena, 51, fled Eastern Ukraine last spring with her children. She lost her husband to the war and, like many displaced Ukrainians, is now displaced far from home and trying to rebuild her family's lives. Here Olena attends a cookery class which enables displaced women to come together to learn local recipes and build new friendships.

Welcome to the summer 2023 edition of our Philanthropy Newsletter. I would like to start by offering my heartfelt thanks for your continued solidarity with refugees. Sadly, this year has once again seen the world's forcibly displaced being pushed to the brink - both through new emergencies and continued, protracted conflicts.

On February 6th, just five weeks into the new year, we witnessed devastating earthquakes in Türkiye–Syria. To date, the earthquakes have claimed more than 55,000 lives. Many of those affected were already displaced either within Syria or across the border into Türkiye due to the Syrian conflict – now entering its 13th year. However, I am pleased to say that thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have raised over £4 million towards UNHCR's emergency response. This timely support and solidarity has allowed UNHCR to rapidly scale up its programmes and deliver lifesaving assistance and protection to earthquake survivors. The urgent and flexible funding that we received was critical to this first phase of the response – which has seen thousands of core relief items, health kits, essential shelter supplies and protection services provided to displaced families.

In January, I visited UNHCR programmes in Ukraine and Romania and saw first-hand the sadness and ongoing struggle faced by those displaced by the war. At the same time, I was struck by the astounding resilience and

courage displayed by many of the refugee families I met, such as Olena from Eastern Ukraine pictured above. Many refugee women are now single heads of household and often responsible for the wellbeing and care of two, or even three generations. Each person I met shared the same hope: for this war to end and to return to their homes, their lives and their loved ones. I also heard many speak of the impact of UNHCR's humanitarian, cash assistance and community support programmes – which in 2022 alone reached more than 4 million people impacted by the war against Ukraine.

The escalating violence in Sudan is a new emergency, which could have a devastating impact for the people of Sudan and neighbouring countries. UNHCR teams are on the ground delivering assistance to displaced families, whilst our High Commissioner is advocating for a peaceful resolution to the crisis.

As we approach World Refugee Day on June 20th, it is our hope that you will come together with us to celebrate the strength and resilience of refugees worldwide.

Thank you for your continued and valued partnership with UK for UNHCR.



Emma Cherniavsky
Chief Executive Officer
United Kingdom for UNHCR

Resilience against all odds: Maysara's journey from Syria to Durham

Maysara and his family were forced to flee Syria when he was 13 years old. When the conflict broke out in 2011, they went to Lebanon and ended up staying there for six years. Here, Maysara tells us more about the conflict he had to witness as a child, his journey as a refugee, and his resilience to continue his education against all odds.

I still remember every small detail about that day. We really didn't want to flee our home even though people kept warning us that our village would be attacked.

It was 6 o'clock on a very cold and dark morning in January. My father decided that we needed to flee our village when he knew that my uncle and his family were fleeing. We could hear the loud noises of vehicles and tanks getting closer – it was terrifying.

They were attacking the village near us. I saw it with my own eyes from the roof of my house. The whole village was completely destroyed in a matter of two hours.

We knew we would be next if we didn't leave. So, we fled and left everything behind. We didn't take anything with us except our IDs.

The journey from my village to Lebanon was the hardest. We didn't know if we were going to make it out of there alive. We went first to Idlib, where my sister lives, and we bought bus tickets to go to Beirut. There were checkpoints in almost every direction. We could hear the airstrikes around us and see the destruction. On top of that, it was freezing, and the snow had covered the roads.

After more than a day of travelling, we reached the Lebanese borders. It was such a huge relief.

When we arrived in Beirut, I couldn't go back to school. Lebanon was extremely expensive compared to Syria and I had to drop out and work to support my family. It was a hard phase in my life – I remember waking up every morning sad because I couldn't go to school.

Staying in Lebanon was becoming harder. We faced a lot of racism there as Syrians. Some people there called me "the Syrian" instead of using my actual name. They would also ask me questions such as: "What are you doing here? Why don't you go back to your country?" or "Why are you stealing our jobs and our houses?"

After six years, UNHCR told us that we were eligible to seek asylum in the United Kingdom. I was really excited about moving there – starting a new life and going back to school after spending so many years away from it.



Moving to the UK came with its challenges – a new country, culture and language. Everything was hard to do at the beginning because I didn't know English. I didn't even know how to reply to the simplest conversations.

I have been in the UK for four years now and after taking the time to resettle, I wasn't going to let anything stand between me and my dream of going back to school. Although it was challenging, I knew I had to rely on myself in learning English – and that's exactly what I did.

I used to read children's books to learn English, and now I have two scholarships at Durham University. I'm studying Politics and International Relations; a major that I'm passionate about. I was able to achieve this after spending only two years in the UK.

As a refugee, I know for a fact that refugees are vulnerable, especially when they flee to another country that they know nothing about. They don't know where to go, how to get help or even do the simplest tasks like shopping.

By supporting refugees to integrate into their new communities, refugees will feel like they belong somewhere again, and they can start rebuilding a new life.

Maysara's story is testament to the millions of refugees globally who, despite barriers, strive tirelessly to pursue their right to education. As part of our commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 4 – ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all – UNHCR provides life changing education opportunities to enable young refugees to learn, thrive and meet their potential. You can read more about our newest education programme, Primary Impact, on page 6.

Türkiye–Syria earthquakes: a hammer blow for displaced Syrians

Early on 6th February, two powerful earthquakes of 7.7 and 7.5 magnitude struck Kahramanmaraş province in south-eastern Türkiye, causing devastation across the region. The earthquakes compound an already extremely vulnerable situation.



Syria: a crisis within a crisis

In Syria, the earthquakes have caused untold destruction in a country already devastated by 12 years of crisis. Following the earthquake, **an estimated 8.8 million individuals have been impacted.**

How UNHCR is responding:

UNHCR is coordinating the response with UN agencies and other humanitarian actors to deliver:

- **Core relief items:** over 217,000 people have been reached with core relief item kits including high-thermal blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, solar lamps and sleeping mats.
- **Shelter:** over 37,000 people have been reached with tents in north-west Syria.
- **Protection:** over 611,000 protection interventions have been carried out including child protection and activities to address gender-based violence, as well as legal and psychological support.

Türkiye: host to the world's largest refugee population

In Türkiye, **9.1 million people** over 11 hardest-hit provinces have been impacted by the earthquakes. Those living in the worst affected areas include 1.7 million refugees, most of whom are Syrian.

How UNHCR is responding:

The Turkish Government is leading the response, with UNHCR teams immediately mobilising in support of the authorities. UNHCR has prioritised the delivery of:

- **Core relief items:** over 1.3 million dispatched to Turkish authorities and partners including sanitary items, hygiene kits, high-thermal blankets and kitchen sets.
- **Shelter:** over 56,000 sleeping mats/mattresses, 45,000 sleeping bags and 34,700 tents dispatched.
- **Protection:** UNHCR has conducted protection assessments to identify specific needs including over 6,500 people receiving counselling.



UNHCR partner conducts psychological support activities with children at a school that has become a collective shelter in Aleppo, Syria. The activities aim to help them overcome their fears following the devastating earthquakes.

Thank you

We're grateful for everyone's timely generosity and support which has helped us to rapidly scale up programmes and deliver lifesaving assistance and protection to thousands of earthquake survivors. If you would like to learn more about our work with displaced people and refugees in Türkiye and Syria, please contact us.

Horn of Africa crisis: 36 million at tipping point

In January's Philanthropy Newsletter, we highlighted one of the world's forgotten crises, the Horn of Africa drought.

The Horn of Africa region has experienced the longest and most severe drought on record. With five consecutive rainy seasons with no rain, displacement continues to climb. UNHCR estimates that 36 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are now affected by this catastrophic drought amid scarce water resources, hunger, insecurity and conflict.

The escalating violence in Sudan is adding a further layer of complexity, with fighting forcing many to seek safety in neighbouring drought affected countries such as South Sudan and Ethiopia.

To learn more about this growing humanitarian crisis, Candice Demille-Knight, UK for UNHCR's Head of Philanthropy spoke to Mary-Sanyu Osire, UNHCR Associate External Relations Officer for Melkadida, Ethiopia.



1) The stories coming out of the Horn of Africa are deeply concerning. Are there any in particular that have stuck with you?

The resources we have far outstrip needs on the ground. Nuriya Mohamed Mursal's story highlights the desperation of the situation. For a variety of reasons, many children living within refugee camps in southeast Ethiopia are malnourished. A few months ago, UNHCR distributed money to caregivers of malnourished children.

The money was to help them buy nutritional food for their ailing children. Since there wasn't enough money to give to all malnourished children, only the ones in a dire situation received support. One of the caregivers who received money was Nuriya. Originally from Somalia, she has lived as a refugee in Ethiopia since 2011. When she was handed the money, she used some of it to buy her children food, and handed the rest to her neighbours whose children were also in dire need of food.

2) How are women and girls being affected by the Horn of Africa drought?

The drought and floods feed into a concoction of complexities, making an already difficult situation more unbearable. Both crises place women and girls in situations where they are forced to make impossible choices on a daily basis. For example, a few weeks ago, I met a 35-year-old woman called Shugriyo

Shubow. Shugriyo was forced to leave her children behind with a relative whilst she searched for a way of earning an income as she could not afford to feed them.

3) Refugees and IDPs in the Horn of Africa are on the frontlines of the climate crisis. How is UNHCR responding to ensure refugees and local communities can meet their needs sustainably?

The people who have contributed the least to climate change are paying the highest price.

The drought in the Horn of Africa is pushing people towards the brink of famine. Where possible, UNHCR is replacing material support with cash because it allows people to purchase exactly what they need, boosts the local economy, significantly reduces overhead costs and minimises protection concerns, especially when received digitally

UNHCR continues to invest at a significant scale in economically viable irrigation agriculture programmes aimed at withstanding climate shocks inherent in south-east Ethiopia, whilst contributing to the nutritional needs of refugees, local communities and internally displaced persons. These are critical foundational investments in climate adaptation and resilience but much more needs to be done amid climate change induced shocks, including severe drought and devastating flash floods.

4) What are the most pressing needs on the ground and how can people in the UK help?

When the first camp in Bokolmanyo was established in 2009, there was enough funding to meet most of the basic needs of refugees. Almost 15 years later, the population keeps growing against shrinking humanitarian funds. Consequently, one of the most critical needs is food. It's difficult to study at school, work on a farm, or run a business on an empty stomach. Although the Government of Ethiopia and humanitarian organisations have done a lot to avert famine, last year UNHCR received less than half of the required financial resources to respond to the drought. Food distributions only meet 50% of the minimum standards for survival. The impact of underfunding means that UNHCR assistance can only reach a tiny fraction of the most vulnerable refugee families, including those with serious protection needs.

Critical funding is needed to support communities to replace shock absorbers that were eroded following four seasons of failed rains. With just £69, UNHCR can cover the monthly food needs of an average household of five people.

Primary Impact: expanding primary school education for refugee children



A young Burundian refugee writes on a blackboard during a Kirundi language class taught by refugee teacher Nimbona Valyne, 26, at Jugudi Primary School in Nyarugusu Refugee Camp, Kigoma Province, western Tanzania.

UNHCR’s support spans from immediate emergency relief for civilians on the front lines of a humanitarian crisis, to helping those same displaced people rebuild their lives and look to a better future.

Education is one of the crucial ways in which we do this. Education has the power to transform lives and is essential to giving children and young people the best start in life. It helps them to develop their knowledge and learn ‘soft’ skills, which supports them to thrive and reach their potential. Importantly, education is a fundamental human right which empowers and protects.

At the end of 2021, **61 million children** of primary school age were out of school globally, with young refugee children more likely to be out of school than their non-refugee peers.

This is why in July 2023, UNHCR is pleased to launch **Primary Impact**, a four-year initiative which aims to remove the barriers to education young refugee children face. This will build upon the proven success and learnings of the hugely successful Educate A Child (EAC) Programme which since 2012, helped to enrol **1.46 million** primary school age children into school.

Primary Impact will **enrol at least 123,226 out of school refugee children in 14 countries not covered by the EAC programme and retain a further 300,000 primary age children in education during this period.**

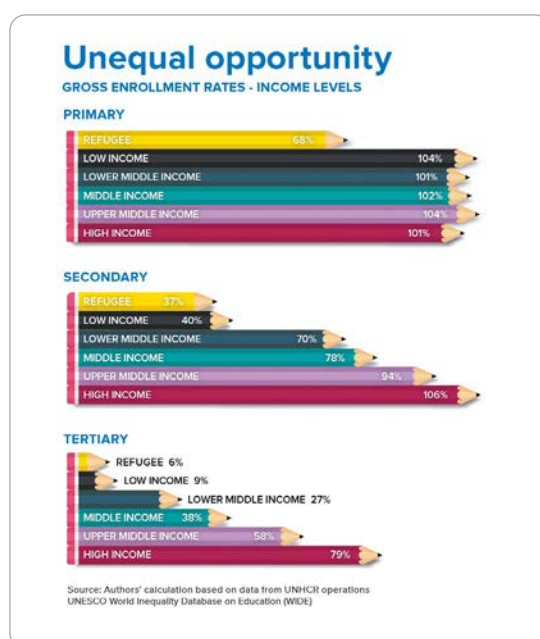
UNHCR understands that any impact it has through Primary Impact must be **sustainable and able to outlast UNHCR’s presence.** That is why we have identified four objectives which will help ensure the programme outlives UNHCR’s presence on the ground.

1) Improved access to primary education: through improved education infrastructure, financial assistance, and support for accelerated education and language programmes.

2) Improved teaching and learning resources: through increasing investments in teacher professional development and learning materials.

3) Improved engagement of educational stakeholders: UNHCR’s ability to collect disaggregated data will be rolled out in new implementation locations to monitor the programme’s successes and challenges.

4) Improved child wellbeing and resilience: to strengthen child wellbeing and resilience, the programme will utilise a variety of approaches, including the very successful Sport for Protection programme.



Support the next generation

With over 103 million displaced people in our world today, a whole generation of refugee children is at risk of missing out on school and slipping even further behind. **Investing in education, right from the start, is one of the best ways to secure the future of the next generation.**

UNHCR has secured \$31.3m (50%) for this project and now needs to raise the other half – \$31.3m – to ensure the project can be fully scaled up. **We are now looking for visionary funders, who want to have a real impact on the futures of young refugees, to join us by supporting this life changing programme with multi-year support.**

If you would like to learn more about how you can change lives through the gift of education, we would love to hear from you.

One Family Iftar in support of UK for UNHCR

This year, to mark Ramadan, we partnered with One Family Global for their black-tie Iftar, which is now in its fifth year and has historically raised funds for the charity's Refugee Fund.

We were delighted to be the 2023 charity partner focusing on raising essential funds for survivors of the Türkiye–Syria earthquake.

The inspiring evening, hosted by BBC & BT Sport presenter Reshmin Chowdhury, focused on the vital work of UNHCR, during which guests heard from One Family's Chairman, Sharif Banna, MBE, UK for UNHCR CEO Emma Cherniavsky and UNHCR's Global Spokesperson Shabia Mantoo.

Iftar at The Savoy, held at one of London's most prestigious hotels, was full of entertainment with appearances from

writer, actor and comedian Sukh Ojla; and a live auction led by British antiques expert and auctioneer Charlie Ross, who auctioned off once-in-a-lifetime experiences, including exclusive luxury island getaways. Global superstar, Mesut Kurtis, also performed a unique blend of Classical Ottoman and Sufi music.

We were thrilled to be joined by so many passionate guests, including former professional boxer, David Haye, model and entrepreneur Faryal Makhdoom, actor and writer Jassa Ahluwalia, Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Britain Zara Mohammed, among many other inspiring individuals.

Supported by headline partner – the fastest-growing British chai emporium – Chaiiwala, Iftar at The Savoy also saw collaborations with leading brands, including the Date Company London and luxury chocolatier, Maison Samadi.



Thank you for standing with refugees

We cannot thank you enough for your show of solidarity with displaced people. We look forward to continuing to work with you so that we can provide lifesaving and life changing support wherever and whenever it is needed across the globe. It is your empathy, generosity and motivation that helps us to make a difference.

If you would like more information on any of the topics mentioned or on any part of our work please do not hesitate to contact us via the contact details enclosed.

You can also find out more about our philanthropy programme at UK for UNHCR via unrefugees.org.uk/philanthropy

unrefugees.org.uk/philanthropy



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