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Refugee-news

UNHCR International reports on how we're helping refugees around the world



You have made a difference

A special message from UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres:

"These past few weeks I have been overwhelmed with the sheer generosity of those who have chosen to support UNHCR and make private donations to our emergency responses in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is because of your support that we are able to continue our work and assist those displaced by these recent upheavals in violence.

I recently traveled to Pakistan to assess and provide support to our emergency response to the continuing

June 2009

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UNHCR in the press

> [Plastic Sheeting in the Wind](#)

Based on an award-winning novel of the same name, the new Japanese TV series is a drama about UNHCR's Tokyo

displacement crisis which has now exceeded 2 million people."

[> Read more about my mission](#)

[> Who is an internally displaced person](#)

office, recreated in astonishing detail set in the suburbs of Tokyo. The new show was reported on *Reuters*.

Hear their stories

When fighting broke out in Pakistan's Swat Valley, Said, a 20 year-old factory worker thought the rocket fire and fighting near his home wouldn't last long. "There was fighting in my village, rockets. Many people were killed. We thought the situation would get better in 2 or 3 days but it did not. We took advantage of the lifting of the curfew for some hours to leave Mingora and walked to Jalozai camp."



[> Watch others tell their stories](#)

World Refugee Day 2009

On World Refugee Day, 20 June, we honor the millions of forcibly uprooted people whose lives often hang in the balance. During the week of World Refugee Day, various events will take place around the world to celebrate this day.

In Washington D.C., a reception at the National Geographic Society will be held on Thursday 18 June. The event will be hosted by Good Will Ambassador Angelina Jolie and the High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. Among the guests will be US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.



Visit UNHCR.ORG starting 16 June for a complete list of events around the world

Other events around the world will include the Spain Refugee Film Festival in Madrid, a simulated "Refugee Run" in Hong Kong, and a free concert with "Sierra Leone's Refugee All-Stars" in New York City.

Emergency photo gallery special: Pakistan and Sri Lanka

As Sri Lanka's three-decade long civil war comes to an end, and as another in Pakistan rages on, the reality remains the same for those forced to flee. These are the images of war, displacement, and lives that may never be the same.



[> Sri Lanka Gallery](#)

[> Pakistan Gallery](#)

Escalating violence displaces Somalis

Since the beginning of May, an escalation in fighting has forced more than 67,000 people from Somalia's capital Mogadishu. Those who are able to make the thirty kilometer journey to makeshift camps in the Afgooye corridor, southwest of Mogadishu, join another estimated 400,000 already displaced Somalis. Along with our local partners we are distributing desperately needed emergency supplies including shelter and other basic aid to these camps.



[> More on this story](#)

More challenges to come in Sri Lanka

As the war in Sri Lanka that has displaced an estimated 280,000 people comes to a close, UNHCR's challenges on the ground have only just begun. Just as quickly as the fighting ended, an estimated additional 80,000 people fled the former conflict zone. The coming weeks will be crucial to our efforts as the new arrivals as well as those already receiving UNHCR assistance, are in great need of emergency aid.

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