你好，祝福你！
不丹难民小孩的祝福

Namaste!
Greetings from Bhutanese refugee children

Without us, refugees can experience dangerous gaps in vital aid. With us, they can get the all-round, practical assistance and protection they so desperately need.
Pakistan's Flood Emergency

Pakistan's worst flood in history left a forth of the country under water and more than 20 million people in need of urgent assistance. Described by the UN Secretary General as a 'tsunami in slow motion', the huge wall of water took more than a month to make its way to the Arabian Sea, submerging towns and villages, drowning livestock and leaving families struggling to survive on isolated pockets of land without shelter, food, medicines or clean drinking water.

This crisis will not recede with the flood waters. Millions have lost their homes and livelihoods and face the threat of waterborne disease. UNHCR faces the enormous challenge of rebuilding damaged refugee facilities and stockpiles and coordinating protection services for the displaced. The agency continues to call for urgent support to provide shelter and assistance for people in need.

UNHCR uses a home-made raft to ferry tents and non-food items to families across the flooded Swat River. The difficult logistics of the relief operation have been further complicated by the destruction of roads and bridges. Relief agencies have had to find creative ways to reach people in desperate need of assistance.

In Balochistan, a man tries to salvage personal belongings from the ruins of his home. UNHCR has provided tents, plastic tarpaulins and transitional shelters to 358,000 homeless families in four affected provinces.

Thank you to all our supporters who have responded generously to our Pakistan Emergency Appeal.
A truck convoy prepares to deliver non-food relief to flood victims in the Charsada district in north-west Pakistan. With the help of its supporters, UNHCR is able to provide 1.5 million people with basic household items like blankets, quilts, mattresses, stoves and kitchen sets.

Wells have been contaminated, leaving millions without clean water. As a frontline measure, UNHCR has provided more than 703,943 jerry cans and plastic buckets. The agency is also distributing tonnes of soap and mosquito nets to help prevent diarrhoea diseases and malaria.

To support the flood victims, the Pakistan community in Hong Kong organized a fundraising luncheon on 21 September 2010. It was a very successful event and was attended by many guests from different sectors in Hong Kong. During the luncheon, a fashion show, silent and live auctions were held. The organizer also updated the latest situation in flood affected areas with a video show. Donations collected from this event (HK$1.8 million) were contributed to UNHCR's relief effort in Pakistan. The event does not only help UNHCR raise fund for its emergency projects in Pakistan, but also raise public awareness about this humanitarian crisis among Hong Kong citizens.

A displaced Pakistani receives assistance from UNHCR. Many of the agency’s relief operations have targeted vulnerable groups like refugees and displaced people, the elderly and mothers with young children, ensuring them access to relief and support services.

For support to refugees, the Hong Kong community organized a fundraising luncheon. The event was held on 21 September 2010. It was attended by many guests from different sectors in Hong Kong. During the luncheon, a fashion show, silent and live auctions were held. The organizer also updated the latest situation in flood affected areas with a video show. Donations collected from this event (HK$1.8 million) were contributed to UNHCR’s relief effort in Pakistan. The event does not only help UNHCR raise fund for its emergency projects in Pakistan, but also raise public awareness about this humanitarian crisis among Hong Kong citizens.
In early October, I visited some refugee camps in Bhutan, located in a remote area in eastern part of Nepal. The camps were very quiet. In a small market, people were selling a variety of vegetables. The children were quite shy but all wore beautiful smiles on their faces. Like in other villages, people led a simple rural life here but what made them different from other villagers nearby is their refugee status. They had come from Bhutan for protection some years ago. UNHCR has been there to protect the refugees from Bhutan since 1992. A resettlement program was started in 2007 as a durable solution for these protracted refugees. Since then, over one third of the refugees have started new lives in other countries.

Rosina Shing, UNHCR Fundraising Manager

Cultural Orientation class student, Nar year 71

Life after moving permanently to a country with a totally different culture is something refugees cannot even imagine. Whilst English classes are important to improve communication skills, cultural orientation is no less important to adapting to a new life. For example, how to use the shower, understanding road signs and the general social life in other countries are also important elements of the training.

In the last session of the cultural orientation class, refugees learn how to check in for a flight, immigration procedure and the situation on the plane. The trainers remind that in the small space of a plane, they should be careful to avoid hitting other people when they stretch. “Is funny face a stretching exercise?” asked Nar and the class burst into laughter. Nar also had a big smiling face when he showed us his first certificate he ever received.

“Everything in the cultural orientation class is interesting! Now I know how to take the public transportation and how to get a job. I learned that entering into other peoples’ houses without notifying the owner is illegal in USA. It is so different from what we experience here but I believe I will adapt to the new life soon.” Nar is not young but he is confident in his future – to live on his own, support himself and his family.
A medical doctor trained in Tianjin, Dr. Pooja Thapa
It is amazing to meet someone who speaks Putonghua in the Nepal refugee camps. Dr. Pooja spent four years to get her degree in medicine and surgery in Tianjin Medical University. After working for one year in Kathmandu, she became the only doctor in the priority health care center. Other than consultation, she has to manage a medical team of 56 refugees and is also responsible for its administration. With a lack of medical facilities and medicine, she can only provide treatment for simple health problems. "I had no idea about refugees in Nepal before I worked in the camps. After 18 months, I am glad I can help the refugees, especially the refugees from Bhutan who are in a protracted situation. I hope the international community can help them more, both in terms of living condition and health issues."

Dr. Pooja is a young medical chief in the camp and has to take care of many tasks at the same time. That is exactly the reason why it is so difficult to attract experienced doctors to work in the camp. I really appreciate her passion to help the refugees.

“My Life book” : Refugee children draw their memory and future

For most refugees, they apply for a better future for their children. Naturally, parents are concerned about how their children will adapt to the new environment. At the same time, they are also worried about losing their culture forever, especially among their children. In a specific project organized by UNHCR and its NGO partners to prepare refugee children for a new life each of them have received a sketch book in class. Children are asked to express their memories in the refugee camp, about their families, friends and school life through drawing. They will also draw to depict what will happen in the future, especially about the life in the new country where they resettle. Through the drawing exercise in “My Life book”, it is hoped that they will be psychologically well prepared to start a new life in a new place.

A new page for refugees from Bhutan

Since 1990, about 100,000 people fled from Bhutan due to ethnic tensions. Large numbers of refugees lived in ad-hoc encampments in desperate conditions in south-eastern Nepal. UNHCR launched a major emergency assistance programme and seven refugee camps were set up to provide refuge to these refugees. After 20 years, refugee children have grown up and the third generation was born in the camps. The hope to return home is still slim. UNHCR started to look for a durable solution. There was a breakthrough for the resettlement program in 2007 and since then the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands have accepted over 39,000 refugees from Bhutan. We hope we can help all refugees from Bhutan resettle and get a home within 5 years, bringing this - one of the most serious protracted refugee cases in the world - to an end.
Star Appeal

星願行動

Stepping into December reminds us that it’s time for family reunion and is also the precious moment in sharing the joy and happiness with our loved ones, our friends and working partners. However, there are millions of refugee children and their families in different parts of the world who are unable to return home. They have to stay in refugee camps until a durable solution, such as, resettlement is available.

By selecting a gift from UNHCR’s on-line Star Appeal: www.UNHCR.org.hk, you can help provide essential assistance to the world’s “forgotten refugees” - refugees who are trapped in situations that receive little or no public attention.

The purchase of one or more of our five gifts directs funds toward UNHCR projects. For example, by spending just HK$600 you can provide textbooks, exercise books and pencils for 10 students for a year. By purchasing warm blankets or an all season tent you’ll be contributing to our emergency relief projects. By purchasing seeds and tools, you’ll be directing funds towards agriculture and self-sufficiency projects and helping refugees to improve their malnutrition problem. And by purchasing a community well you will be contributing to our water projects for clean, safe drinking water.

Please act now, invite you families, friends, colleagues and working partners to join our Star Appeal online www.UNHCR.org.hk, and purchase a really special gift for the “forgotten refugees”, which can definitely make a change in their life.

Merry Christmas!

踏入十二月，濃厚的聖誕氣氛，處處提醒我們，又到了與家人、朋友和工作伙伴歡聚，共享快樂的時刻。然而，在世界其他角落，仍有數以百萬計難民兒童以及他們的家人不能回家，只能在難民營內無了期等待，盼望如重新安置的長遠解決方案出現。

請登入 www.UNHCR.org.hk，於網上選購一份特別意義的禮物，送給世界上被遺忘的難民兒童和他們的家庭，令他們從中受益。

您可以從我們提供的五項禮物中，選購一項或多項禮物送給難民。例如，只要港幣$600，您便能為十名難民學童提供一年所需的教科書、練習簿及鉛筆；只要購買保暖毛毯或全年適用的帳篷，您便能支援我們的緊急救援項目；只要購買種子和工具，您將能支援難民的農耕及自給自足項目，有助難民改善營養不良問題；只要購買一口社區水井，您便可以幫助難民獲得清潔和安全的飲用水。

請即行動！邀請您的家人、朋友、同事及工作夥伴，透過網上www.UNHCR.org.hk捐款，為『被遺忘的難民』送上一份特別的禮物，讓他們的生命得以改變！
World Food Day Fundraising Concert

This year, a group of musicians joined hands with UNHCR and sang for peace in the “World Food Day Fundraising Concert 2010” in Mega Box on the World Food Day to raise public awareness towards food insecurity which is affecting the lives of refugees. UNHCR would like to thank the listed supporters and volunteers for making this event a great success!
Q: Can you give a quick overview of the scope of this disaster?

It is such a calamity. It's like imagining oceans just opening up and swallowing the territory. It's hard to convey in words, pictures or even on television because you can't show what has happened under that water. People are camped out everywhere, along the roads, in public buildings and schools. It is mostly affecting tenant farmers, people who are very poor already.

Q: Do you have an individual story that encapsulates the sense of loss?

I saw a man take out a blanket - from the assistance package he had just received - and wrap it around his baby buffalo. It was surprising to me but it really shows how much people have lost, that this one animal meant so much to that family's survival.

Q: We are hearing news reports of waterborne disease.

People are definitely getting diarrhoea and obviously there is a real risk that they will begin to get seriously ill. Cholera is a real danger. Many of the wells are clogged with mud and even the remains of animals in many cases.

Q: So what would you say to donors as this appeal goes out around the world?

This is a massive crisis. It really was like a wall of water sweeping down upon these people. Many had to flee their homes in a matter of minutes. There is a massive need for things like blankets, plastic sheeting, quilts and dry bedding materials, kitchen sets - people have lost all their cooking materials - they have no means of boiling water or cooking their food. It's a crisis which, in many cases, has hit the poorest people. It's going to take a long time to get through, when you think about the sheer numbers of homes, of life stock that have been lost, the crops, the food supply - it's a terrible challenge.