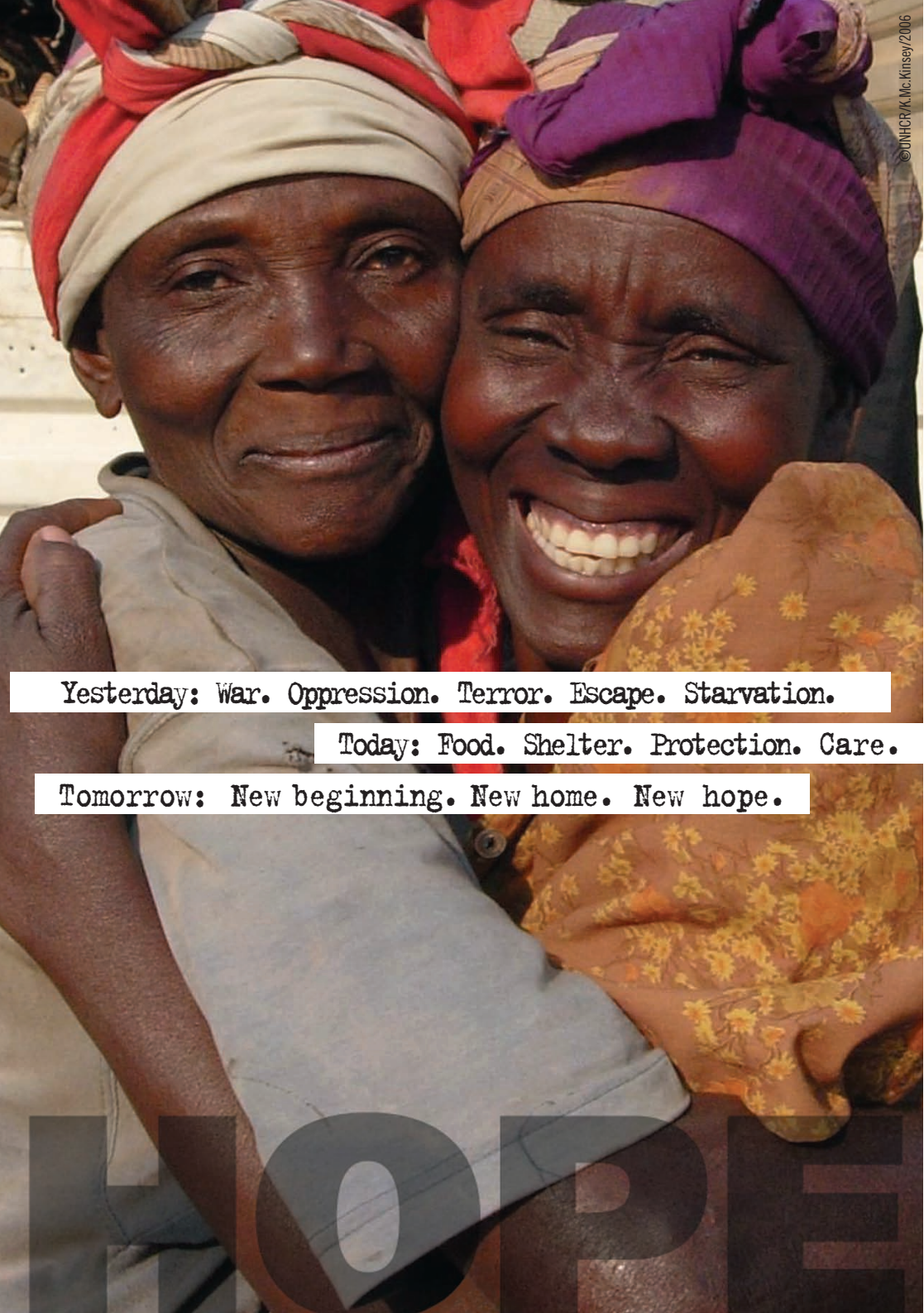


I HOPE THEY WON'T KILL ME **I HOPE**
NOBODY'S FOLLOWING ME **I HOPE** I DON'T
STEP ON A LAND MINE **I HOPE** I FIND
SOME WATER SOON **I HOPE** I DON'T DIE
OUT HERE **I HOPE** SOMEONE WILL FIND
ME **I HOPE** THE U.N. CAN HELP ME
I HOPE THEY'VE GOT FOOD AND
SHELTER **I HOPE** THEY CAN HELP ME
FIND MY FAMILY **I HOPE** WE'LL BE
ABLE TO GO BACK ONE DAY **I HOPE**
WE FIND A PLACE TO CALL HOME
I HOPE WE LEARN TO FIT IN **I HOPE**
WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE HERE
I HOPE WE NEVER, EVER, HAVE TO RUN AGAIN!



**GIVING 19 MILLION
REFUGEES
REASON TO HOPE**





Yesterday: War. Oppression. Terror. Escape. Starvation.

Today: Food. Shelter. Protection. Care.

Tomorrow: New beginning. New home. New hope.

HOPE

Yesterday: War. Oppression.

Terror. Escape. Starvation.



Imagine that you're living in a remote rural village, quietly preparing the mid-day meal. Its aroma mingles with the wood smoke that rises slowly in the still air. Your family will be in from the fields soon, clamouring to be fed. Life is hard, you think, but good.

Suddenly, the peace is shattered. Hooves thunder, bullets fly, machetes flash, houses crackle and burn. Terrified, you run like you've never run before, barefoot, into the stony desert, praying you're not being pursued. Days go by. Bruised and bleeding, racked with thirst, you scabble in the dirt for roots and insects. You've reached the end of your endurance.

Then, miraculously, you hear kind, reassuring voices. You're given food, water and the shelter of a tent. You look around. As far as the eye can see there are thousands just like you -- alone, bewildered, but safe.

Yes, you are a refugee. You have nothing. Nothing, that is, except the one possession that nobody can take away: hope. The indestructible hope of one day finding a place to rebuild your life. A place to call home.





Today: Food. Shelter.

Protection. Care.



What is a refugee? International law defines refugees as people who are unable or unwilling to return to their countries because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on their race, religion, nationality, political opinion or social group. What international law does not describe is the sheer strength of spirit that keeps their hopes alive, wherever they are.

Most of the world's refugees are women and children, and on World Refugee Day in particular, we celebrate the tenacity and quiet strength of the millions of mothers and wives who hold their families together in the most difficult circumstances. They make sure the flame of hope is never extinguished. They are true heroes, and they deserve our respect.

UNHCR is one of the world's principal humanitarian agencies. Our staff of 6,700, many of whom face extreme danger, are helping 19 million refugees, displaced persons, asylum seekers, returnees and stateless people in 117 countries on five continents by providing food, shelter, protection and the means to realize their hopes for a secure and stable future.



Tomorrow: New beginning.

The cornerstone of UNHCR's work is to ensure respect and recognition of the basic human rights of refugees, including their ability to seek asylum and to make certain that no-one is returned involuntarily to a country where there is reason to believe their life is in danger.

New home. New hope.

And we need to look for a "durable solution" through which refugees are either able to return home safely, or successfully integrate into their country of refuge, or resettle in another country. In each of these three options, our goal remains the same: to help refugees regain that most basic of human needs – a safe place where they can rebuild their lives in peace.



KEEPING THE FLAME OF HOPE ALIVE

We see on a daily basis the incredible courage and perseverance of refugees who have lost everything. For them, every day spent in exile or flight is a day too long. This is why World Refugee Day should be, for all of us, a time to pause and think. Because if they refuse to give up hope, how can we?

This 20 June, we ask you to remember the millions of refugees under our care in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America who are enduring the privations and restrictions of camp life. Remember, too, those who are back home trying to pick up the pieces of once-peaceful lives. And also those who can never go back, but are forced to

carve a new and unplanned future in an alien and not always welcoming community.

As different as all these millions are from each other -- from the fleeing African woman to the university professor whose political views amount to a death sentence -- one thing connects them: hope for a better future, and a chance to restore lasting peace to their lives.

Help us keep that flame of hope alive, not just on World Refugee Day, but every day. Please

get in touch with your national, regional or community organization working to help refugees, or log on to the website below.



www.unhcr.org