



# With you

## What's Inside

### **LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND IN THE BARMM REGION**

You have helped ensure that people at risk of statelessness in the Philippines are protected and not left behind.

### **UKRAINE'S REFUGEES FINDING SAFETY AWAY FROM HOME**

Your commitment and solidarity help address the specific needs of people forced to flee.

### **BE LIKE YOUR IDOL**

Read about how a K-Pop fan has been inspired to help build better futures for the most vulnerable.



UNHCR provides support to the local government unit of Upi in the distribution of the birth certificates to a family in Upi, Maguindanao, Philippines. © UNHCR/Angelica Almario

***Dear valued donor,***

You have shown unparalleled generosity in the first quarter of 2023. We get to continue doing our work because of your support.

We may have experienced various challenges the past three months – from the devastating Türkiye-Syria earthquakes in early February to the continuous provisions of winter support to Ukraine – but you have never failed to show that you stand with the most vulnerable.

In this newsletter, you will find how you have helped our fellow Filipinos who are at risk of statelessness, those affected by the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria, and the people forced to flee Ukraine. Because of you, Genevie and her family secured their birth certificates for the first time. You have contributed to the growing needs of Syrians who are struggling under immense challenges. Mothers like Darya and Albina from Ukraine have found safety for their family. They are optimistic towards a better tomorrow with your support.

We admire your incredible compassion and action the past quarter. We hope you will be with us until the end of this year. With your support, we can be prepared for any emergency that may happen.

**Thank you so much for making a lifesaving difference for millions of people in need.**

***Maraming salamat,  
Your UNHCR Philippines family***

# Leaving no one behind in the BARMM region

Genevie arrived at the ceremonial handover of birth certificates in the People's Hall with her parents and younger sibling. In more than 30 years of living in Upi, Maguindanao, it was the first time the family got to visit the municipal office. Everything from this experience was exciting for Genevie—from being able to see a new side of her hometown to finally acquiring her birth certificate.

Genevie finished primary school, but she had to delay her education due to the lack of a birth certificate needed to continue for seventh grade.

“

*I was not accepted by the school because I don't have a birth documentation.*

*That's the only thing left to get enrolled.*



© UNHCR/Angelica Almarino

Currently, Genevie helps her family in making ends meet by selling their family's crops in the community market, but Genevie's ultimate childhood dream is to finish her education and become a teacher. When asked why, she shared that she wanted to help her family and make life a little more bearable for them.

## ABOUT THE #IBELONG CAMPAIGN

*Launched in November 2014, the #IBelong Campaign aims to end statelessness within 10 years, by identifying and protecting stateless people, resolving existing situations of statelessness, and preventing the emergence of new cases.*

*Through legal advocacy and awareness-raising, UNHCR works with government and partners around the globe, including the Philippines, towards achieving the Campaign goals.*

With the help of the birth registration initiative by UNHCR and other partners such as UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD), Genevie and over 600 individuals from Maguindanao received their birth documentation for free in March 2023. With her birth certificate on-hand, Genevie is more confident than ever.

*“Now that I have a birth certificate, I have new hopes and dreams for myself.”*

The successful implementation of the UNHCR-UNICEF birth registration project in Maguindanao is due to the commitment and support of the local government of Upi and the Ministry of Social Services and Development (MSSD) in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Through this collaboration, the children and families who were previously unregistered since birth – like Genevie and her family – now have a legal proof of their identity on paper. At the same time, they can finally enjoy the same rights and protection from having full documentation.



© UNHCR/Angelica Almarino

*With the unending support of donors like you, UNHCR can ensure that people at risk of statelessness in the Philippines and around the world are **protected** and **not left behind**. Your meaningful generosity gives them renewed hopes and dreams, and a **chance to say that they finally belong**.*

# 12 YEARS OF SYRIA CRISIS



After 12 years of crisis in Syria, the humanitarian needs are at their highest levels.



More than **6.8 million** Syrians are internally displaced

Even though the Syria crisis is the world's largest refugee crisis, the situation has largely dropped out of the news agenda and **funding levels have not been a match to the growing needs.**



More than **5.5 million** Syrians are still refugees in the five neighbouring countries

With every passing year, life has become harder for Syrians inside and outside their country.

## TÜRKIYE-SYRIA EARTHQUAKES

The earthquakes – which struck in the peak of winter – impacted over 17 million people in both Türkiye and Syria. More than 50,000 people had lost their lives across both countries, and tens of thousands were injured.

With your support, UNHCR has supported national and local earthquake response efforts by quickly mobilising life-saving assistance and protection services since day one.

### In Türkiye



More than **305,000** core relief items (CRI) and shelter were provided to those affected.



UNHCR teams continue to work with local authorities to carry out **assessments, identify needs,** and **monitor population movements,** including refugee movements from earthquake-affected provinces.

### In Syria



**187,000** people have been reached CRI kits, with thousands more being distributed every week.



Over **280,000** people have also been reached with psychological first aid, mental health support, counselling, and referrals to specialist services.

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you for your support and solidarity at this time of crisis. Your continued support to displaced people is as important today as it has ever been, and we are grateful for your partnership.

**Deadly attacks continue to hit various regions in Ukraine.**

Heavy fighting and hostilities over the past weeks are taking a heavy toll on civilians.

Despite tremendous challenges, local authorities, volunteer groups, and the UN and humanitarian partners are making every effort to support people affected by the war.



 **UKRAINE**

© UNHCR/Colin Delfosse

**More than half a million people have been reached with assistance this 2023.**



**302,807**

received protection information, counselling, and support



**155,038**

individuals received cash assistance



**221,331**

people reached with essential items, including in hard-to-access areas



**32,602**

people received shelter support



**26,522**

safe access to multi-sectoral services

**Your ongoing support to people who are facing life-threatening needs is extremely important. Thank you for your generosity.**

*Source: UNHCR Ukraine Weekly Update, 22 March 2023*

# Ukraine's refugees find long-term support in Europe's host countries

“

We hope we'll be able to return home one day.

Darya and her daughter



When Darya, a 36-year-old mother of two, arrived in Poland from Ukraine last March, she was one of some 300,000 Ukrainian refugees who received cash assistance of up to 700 Polish zloty (US \$157) per person each month from UNHCR, to meet their immediate needs for a period of three months.

**“I used it to cover our everyday expenses. I could buy things my children needed, like food, clothes, or toys. Everything they needed,”** Darya says.

Despite missing their home – and their father who stayed behind in Ukraine – the children have settled into their new lives. **“It's all good,”** she says, but adds that her family still hopes to return to Ukraine someday.

## Finding safety away from home

Albina, a 77-year-old retired factory worker from the industrial city of Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine, fled to Slovakia last March with her daughter Viktoria, son-in-law Viktor, and grandson Yevhen. They are some of the 100,000 who have been granted temporary protection by the government, in line with an EU-wide directive that gives those fleeing the war in Ukraine access to social services and the labour market without having to go through lengthy asylum procedures.

**“We are very grateful to Slovakia for receiving us,”** she says. **“We have a place to live, we have food. What is most important is that here we live in peace and safety.”**

Soon after arriving, Albina and her family were among 30,000 of the most vulnerable people in Slovakia who received cash assistance from UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations, as well as being provided emergency accommodation.

Albina is still processing the upheaval of being forced to flee her home, but she tries to be optimistic. Slovakia is not home, but it will do for now, she says.

“

I love life,  
I want to live.  
The morning  
will come, a new  
day will come,  
everything  
will be good.

Albina



Source: Ukraine's refugees find long-term support in Europe's host countries, 30 March 2023

The transition from **emergency to long-term assistance** is an important step towards sustainable support for the 5 million Ukrainian refugees across Europe registered in national protection schemes.

It also allows UNHCR to focus additional support on the most vulnerable refugees and to address specific needs such as preventing and responding to **gender-based violence**.

# BE LIKE YOUR IDOL

Angelica Roque, a process analyst and a huge K-Pop fan, has always wanted to donate once she has the means to help. Inspired mostly by her K-Pop idols to give back to the community, she signed up to become a UNHCR monthly donor.

Angelica started being a fan way back in 2011. To continue embracing the K-Pop fandom culture of donating to charities, she decided to support different organizations including UNHCR.

*“It was during my university days, that I’ve decided that I will start donating once I’ve started earning... I got inspired by the K-Pop idols that I like that time, and if I’m not mistaken it was **Yoon-A of Girls’ Generation**,”* she recalls.

Her commitment to reach the most vulnerable families enables us to have a sustained pipeline of support for them. *“I hope that they can get the life/community that they deserve. I hope there will come a point that we don’t have to worry about families getting displaced.”*

From being an average teenage K-Pop fan, Angelica is now part of an even bigger and meaningful community. She is now helping build better futures for people who need help the most.



“**Being a donor feels rewarding.**”

Angelica



## Does your idol inspire you to do great things, too?



You can start a ripple of kindness in your community by holding a fundraiser to spread awareness on the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable families on behalf of your idol/s.

**Scan to connect and partner with us!**

## Drop us a note and share your journey as a UNHCR supporter.

*This will be featured in the donor newsletter and website, and inspire many more people to join in the cause.*

**Share your donor journey today**





UNHCR / Anna Liminowicz



© UNHCR/Eislin Monahan / Liminowicz



[donate.unhcr.org/ukraine](https://donate.unhcr.org/ukraine)

**IMMEDIATE SHELTER ASSISTANCE,  
PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT, AND  
BASIC SUPPLIES ARE **URGENTLY**  
**NEEDED IN UKRAINE.****

*We need your help to reach more people in need.*

**STAY INFORMED WITH UPDATES**



UNHCRPhilippines



[unhcr.org/ph](https://unhcr.org/ph)



unhcrph



[phimapsfr@unhcr.org](mailto:phimapsfr@unhcr.org)