

With you

What's Inside

#ENDSTATELESSNESS

With your support, UNHCR Philippines continues to reach out to populations at risk of statelessness in the farthest communities through the birth registration initiative.

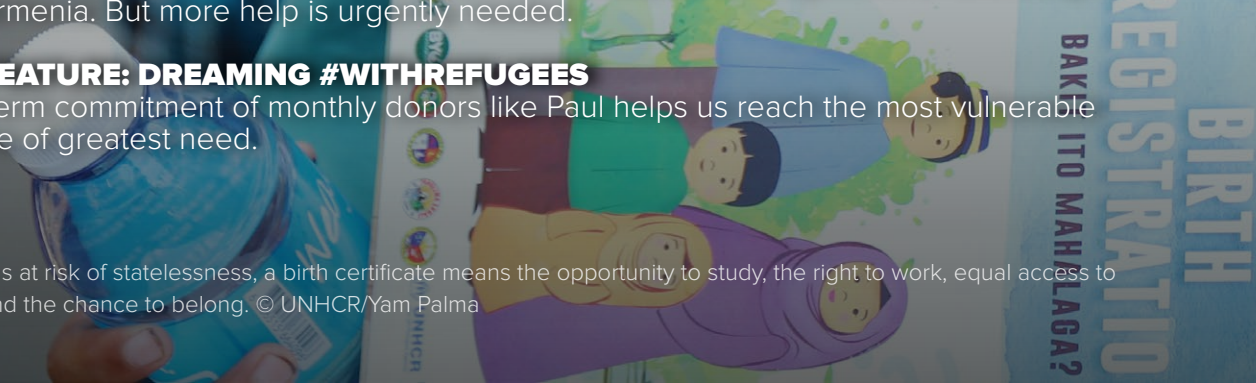
RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AROUND THE WORLD

UNHCR is delivering life-saving aid to flood survivors in Libya and refugees who have sought safety in Armenia. But more help is urgently needed.

DONOR FEATURE: DREAMING #WITHREFUGEES

The long-term commitment of monthly donors like Paul helps us reach the most vulnerable at their time of greatest need.

For populations at risk of statelessness, a birth certificate means the opportunity to study, the right to work, equal access to health care, and the chance to belong. © UNHCR/Yam Palma





Dear valued donor,

Thank you for your kind support, which makes a world of difference for the most vulnerable communities here in the Philippines and around the world.

Your generosity ensures that there is sustainable funding to provide **long-term assistance** and help forcibly displaced and stateless people rebuild their lives.

In this newsletter, we would like to share what your kindness means to the people you are helping:

For **populations at risk of statelessness in the Bangsamoro region** in Mindanao, your support means they will soon have birth certificates that gives them a legal identity and

improves their access to education, livelihood, and other social services.

For those displaced and impacted by the **devastating flooding in eastern Libya** and the **humanitarian emergency in Armenia**, your support means we can immediately respond with critical aid.

UNHCR's life-saving work is possible because you have chosen to stand #WithRefugees and people forced to flee. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and solidarity.

**Maraming salamat,
Your UNHCR Philippines family**

#EndStatelessness #IBelong

UNHCR's **birth registration** efforts have reached populations at risk of statelessness in far-flung communities in **Maguindanao, Basilan, Tawi-Tawi** and **Sulu**, thanks to the support of donors and partners UNICEF Philippines, Ministry of Social Services and Development-BARMM, and the local government units.



Over **1,300 Sama Bajaus** and unregistered children in the context of **displacement due to armed conflict** and their families have registered their birth in the last month. A birth certificate gives them a legal identity and improved access to **education, livelihood, health care**, and other **social services**.

This forms part of the birth registration initiative in line with the Philippines' implementation of its **National Action Plan (NAP) to #EndStatelessness** as well as the **UNHCR-UNICEF Joint Strategy to Ending Childhood Statelessness**.



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LIBYA FLOODS EMERGENCY

On 10 September 2023, **Storm Daniel** – a hybrid tropical cyclone and mid-latitude storm known as a ‘medicade’ – made landfall in Libya causing severe weather conditions, including strong winds and sudden heavy rainfall affecting several northeastern areas of Libya.

The catastrophic floods have caused **mass displacement**, adding to the number of people who were already displaced before Storm Daniel hit the country. **Thank you for helping UNHCR respond to this emergency.**

AFFECTED POPULATION



42,000 people are newly displaced as a result of the floods

4,000 people have died and thousands remain missing

50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR in Libya

46,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were hosted in eastern Libya even before the storm and floods

KEY RESPONSE FIGURES

Your support has already reached vulnerable families who lost their homes, including those in the hardest hit city of Derna.



Over 39,000 people have been assisted with core relief items (CRIs) and hygiene kits, including 17,500 people in Derna



Medical supplies for up to **10,000 people** arrived in Benghazi on 21 September and will be distributed to individuals in need



2 generators and rubble halls arrived in Benghazi to support the Ministry of Health's emergency response for an estimated **2,000 people**



There are plans for a **2nd airlift** in the coming week, transporting further relief items



UNHCR continues to reach out to refugees and asylum-seekers in the affected areas and assess their needs. To date, some **1,100** refugees and asylum-seekers have been reached

*Source: UNHCR Libya Flash Update # 5 (2 October 2023)

With your help, UNHCR has distributed **emergency supplies** including blankets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and hygiene kits. Your gifts are also providing shelter, medicine, and power generators to affected communities.



UNHCR teams distribute hygiene kits, blankets, and other relief items to families displaced by the floods in Al Marj, eastern Libya. Photo: © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

Survivors find strength in community

When UNHCR's Assistant Chief of mission in Libya Rana G. Ksaifi visited survivors in the wake of deadly floods, she heard harrowing stories of loss but also witnessed great courage and resilience as communities rally to help.

“ I know that so many others have, like me, lost what mattered most in their lives. **I know their pain, and they know mine.** We will help each other learn how to cope with our pain.

- Amal

“ There was nothing left in my house. I am very thankful for receiving these mattresses and kitchen items, but I miss my house, my furniture, my own kitchen... **I would give anything to get our home back.**

- Ikhlas

“ Hearing the accounts and seeing the **incredible dignity and strength of survivors** like Amal and Ikhlas in the face of such tragedy has only increased the resolve of me and the rest of the UNHCR team in Libya to do everything we can to help them recover.

RANA G. KSAIFI
UNHCR Libya



ARMENIA EMERGENCY

As decades-long crisis flared up again, tens of thousands of refugees are fleeing to Armenia.

More than **100,000 refugees** have arrived in **Goris, Armenia**. People arriving at the borders are exhausted and traumatized, in need of emergency relief and psychosocial care. Shelter support is urgently needed to make sure people are not left out on the streets. Thousands more people are arriving by the day, with the majority being older people, women and children.

Thanks to the support of donors and partners, UNHCR is providing immediate assistance to new arrivals. We've already delivered critical supplies like bedding and mattresses as part of the government-led response. In coordination with local authorities and our partners, we are preparing shipments of more items to help people affected and their host families. **But we need your help to do more – and be ready in case the situation worsens.**



© UNHCR/Karen Minasyan

SERGEY, 58, is pictured with some of his children. They have left most of their belongings behind and have arrived with very little.

“ We don’t have anywhere to go. We lost everything we had, absolutely everything. And there is no heating, and we don’t have enough warm clothes with us. And now we don’t know what to do, we don’t know where to go.”



SEDA, 72, who fled to Goris together with her son, is among tens of thousands of refugees who have arrived in the small border town in less than a week.

“ Over 100,000 refugees have now arrived in Armenia from Karabakh. Many are hungry, exhausted and need immediate assistance. UNHCR and other humanitarian partners are stepping up their support to the Armenian authorities, but international help is very urgently required.”

- FILIPPO GRANDI

UN High Commissioner for Refugees



© UNHCR/Karen Minasyan

❖❖ Dreaming #WithRefugees ❖❖

Paul Anthony Empenado describes himself as **“a simple person with big dreams.”** An engineer by profession, he worked hard to carve a path for himself in life, but his aspirations extend far beyond his personal success as he yearns to make a positive impact in the world.

In 2018, Paul's journey towards fulfilling his dreams took an unexpected turn when he encountered a UNHCR booth and decided to become a monthly donor to support refugees and people forced to flee. For him, donating to UNHCR as a portion of his tithes is also a **“way of giving back to our Lord God all the blessings He had given me and my family. Because everything I have and achieve comes from Him.”**



Throughout his journey as a monthly donor of seven years and counting, Paul continues to be **“amazed at how UNHCR is able to help different people all over the world.”** He is deeply moved by the dedication of UNHCR staff who venture into dangerous territories, risking their lives to assist refugees and vulnerable communities.

When we lend our arms to help, we don't choose who to help. UNHCR helps people not just in our own country, but also in neighboring countries who badly need support.

In his quiet moments of prayer, Paul extends his heartfelt wishes for those forced to flee. **“I pray for these forcibly displaced families to have hope in life wherever they'll go despite the struggles and conflicts they've experienced. With my giving, may they feel blessed and know that they're not alone, that we are here to embrace and help them with open arms.”**

Being a UNHCR donor gave Paul the opportunity to step out of his comfort zone and expand his dreams to include those who need help the most. He wishes for more opportunities to volunteer his time, skills, and talent in other UNHCR programs, and appreciates the updates from the ground and inspiring stories of people that he has been able to reach. **“We really need to spread love, hope, compassion, and good news in our complicated world,”** he says.

Paul Anthony Empenado
UNHCR Monthly Donor since 2018



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





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ARMENIA EMERGENCY:

FAMILIES FORCED TO FLEE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Over 100,000 refugees have fled to Armenia. They are traumatized, exhausted and hungry, and need urgent life-saving assistance.

donate.unhcr.org/armenia

STAY INFORMED WITH UPDATES

