

HELP SAFEGUARD A
FUTURE FOR REFUGEES.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

“Peace is much more than just the absence of war. It is a state in which no people of any country, in fact no group of people of any kind, lives in fear or in need.”

Gerrit Jan van Heuven Goedhart, the first UN High Commissioner accepting the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of UNHCR in 1954.

Front & Back Cover / A girl carries her little sister outside a school that has been turned into a collective shelter in Maysaloon district, Aleppo, Syria, where they are staying after the devastating earthquakes that struck south-eastern Türkiye and northern Syria on 6 February. © UNHCR/Hameed Maarouf

This page / Collapsed buildings and wreckage are visible all over Hatay city in Türkiye.
© UNHCR/Emrah Gürel



Three years became seven decades

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, was established by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1950 to help Europeans displaced by the conflict of the Second World War. UNHCR was only supposed to last three years. More than 70 years later tens of millions of people are now displaced worldwide. We remain the leading organization charged with helping refugees and other forcibly displaced people rebuild their lives in the wake of crisis.

With over 129 million people around the world now displaced, our work has never been more important or relevant. We provide help, hope and home to people who have been forced to flee by violence, conflict and persecution.

Djoda Marie, 60, looks after her grandchildren at their makeshift shelter where they have lived for the past one and a half months. Their village of Tougoude, which is near the capital N'Djamena in Chad, is situated 1km away. Recent flood water quickly engulfed homes, forcing the whole community to relocate to higher ground, where they must now wait until the flood waters disperse.



One world

Ann Atkinson remembers sitting in a darkened movie theatre at just five years old, intently watching the grainy, black-and-white newsreels of refugees fleeing Poland and Czechoslovakia in the aftermath of the Second World War.

“I didn’t know what I was seeing until later.”

The long lines of grim-faced people, many carrying their meagre worldly possessions on their backs, had a far-reaching impact on her. Ann believes that despite the geographical distance from regions that need our help, we are all connected. Today she is a dedicated UNHCR donor. Ann has also put a gift to support refugees in the future, in her will.

“I began to learn that we are all in one world.”



Ann Atkinson, UNHCR Legacy Donor

A helping hand

Canadians have been at the forefront of UNHCR's work since its inception. We have rallied to help in various emergencies where people were in dire situations, supporting with access to clean water, warmth, food, shelter, cash transfers, medical and basic household supplies. In recent years we have shown notable leadership in the resettlement of refugees. In fact, since 1959, Canada has resettled over 700,000 refugees from around the world. Canadians have also pioneered the private sponsorship of refugees, which has become a model and inspiration for other nations to follow.

Karen Whiting, an Assistant Representative for Protection, says that every individual refugee story strikes her on a personal level. "Every day that I work for UNHCR, I am struck by the fact that as a Canadian, I have been incredibly lucky to benefit from a stable and secure situation growing up and for me and my family to be able to thrive. This should be the right of everyone, everywhere."

29-year-old Dawa Wonya receives a set of core relief items from UNHCR Field Associate, Mohamed Arke. In response to floods that swept across South Sudan towards the end of 2019, affecting close to one million people, UNHCR distributed core relief items to refugee hosting communities in Maban.



© UNHCR/Mary Sanyu Osire



© UNHCR/Ola Kabalan

More vital than ever

A UNHCR officer runs beside a child who recently returned in Homs city, Syria. UNHCR continues to help Syrians displaced at home and abroad as well as supporting voluntarily returning residents to reintegrate back into their communities.

There is little sign of the tide of displacement ebbing. Today, many families around the world are facing impossible choices. Conflict, violence, and persecution mean that for some children, women and men they are no longer safe in their homes. Meanwhile, growing numbers of people are facing floods, droughts, and other emergencies.

More than 129 million people worldwide have had to flee their homes and search for somewhere safer to stay. This is a record high and, in a world that feels increasingly unstable, forced displacement is expected to rise.

Through presence in 382 locations in 122 countries, we deliver lifesaving assistance in emergencies, safeguard fundamental human rights, and help find long-term solutions.

"With displacement reaching levels the world has never seen, and the compounding pressures of conflict, climate change, and economic instability forcing more families away from their homes each year, humanitarian support is more critical than ever. If recent years have taught us anything, it's that we are one global community, bound by a shared humanity and a shared responsibility for one another's wellbeing."

– Nader El Nakib, Head of Private Sector Partnerships, UNHCR Canada

The need grows

Meanwhile the gap between the demand and resources available continues to grow. Annual funding needs are increasing. While we rely heavily on contributions from governments, we also need continued support and generosity from people around the world.

Tamara is 89 years old. She and Volodymyr, her 60-year old son are currently hosted in a collective centre in Dnipro, Ukraine. Both were evacuated at the beginning of February from Chasiv Yar, near Bakhmut in Donetsk Oblast where they lived for months under constant shelling.



© UNHCR/Alina Kovalenko



An Afghan student in primary grade poses for the camera at a girl's primary school in New Saranan refugee village, Balochistan, Pakistan.

© UNHCR/Mercury Transformations

A gift in your will can help someone use their skills to find new purpose

Claire Weeks and her husband, Peter Wing, have a strong sense of social responsibility. They're grateful for their lives in Canada, and honour that by supporting regional, national and international humanitarian and other charitable organizations. They're both retired physicians, living in Vancouver. Claire and Peter have named UNHCR in their will.



Claire Weeks and Peter Wing

“It just feels like the right decision for us,” Claire says. “My heart really goes out to refugees. I think they have an extremely hard time amongst all of the populations in difficulty. You look at people who were very highly skilled in their own countries and were forced to live in dire conditions, not practicing or sharing their skills. I think it’s a very sad situation and UNHCR is doing a terrific job under the circumstances.”

You can support families seeking asylum

Gulamabbas Najafi, understands what it’s like to be a refugee. In 1972, during Idi Amin’s dictatorship, Najafi and his family were forced to flee their homeland.

“You are expelled overnight. You don’t know where you are going to end up,” he recalls. “We left with only a few small belongings in a suitcase and hardly \$50.”

He feels blessed to be living in Canada. After fleeing Uganda, he and his family arrived in England as refugees. An accountant working in senior management, Gulumabbas eventually immigrated to Canada, where he now lives and works. He believes that refugees who are given an opportunity will pay it forward. “Given a chance, these people really flourish and then will continue in the cause of charity, because they themselves have come as refugees.”

You can be there to welcome families starting a new life

Gulamabbas’s belief is clearly illustrated in the story of how one Canadian community opened their arms to people in need of a home. Forty years ago, Father Gauthier, a priest at a church near Edmonton, Alberta, asked for volunteers to help sponsor a family of Vietnamese refugees. Though Vicky and Leona were two busy young mothers with children of their own, they didn’t hesitate to help. Soon after, they were matched with Huong Tran, a Vietnamese widow with six children. The family had languished for months in a Malaysian refugee camp.

Vicky and Leona’s families and the Trans became close friends, celebrating birthdays and weddings together. The youngest Tran daughter, Nhung, became a doctor. Inspired by the kindness her family was shown and saddened by the images of war in Syria in 2015, Nhung became a refugee sponsor. Decades after her family came to Canada through the kindness of two strangers, Nhung was able to extend the circle of generosity – she welcomed two Syrian families through private sponsorship.

About 40 years ago Edmontonian Leona Heuver (far left) helped to sponsor Vietnamese refugee Huong Tran (2nd left) and her five children, including Nhung Tran-Davies (middle). In turn, Dr. Tran-Davies is now helping to sponsor a Syrian family, including Somaya Alchabli (far right), holding her daughter Jenna.



© UNHCR/Jimmy Jeong



You can give in concrete ways

Graham Knope and his wife Carol Miller have put a gift in their will to UNHCR so that they can continue to provide immediate assistance in the future.

“I would love to know that when my wife and I are not here, we’ll continue to help people in need. The work of UNHCR is vitally important, and so concrete. We want to be able to provide tents or latrines. We want to help by giving food and cash assistance. It’s practical – and lifesaving.”

“We’re pleased that our children are in our will, we want to share some of our estate with them. But we also have the opportunity, through a legacy gift, to help others in need too. To make a lasting difference for others. It’s often difficult to make major gifts during our lifetimes. Leaving a legacy gives us that opportunity and it is a privilege.” Graham Knope and Carol Miller

Your choices make a difference

Your decisions and actions today have important consequences for future generations and relief efforts. **You can choose a legacy of hope, one that helps refugees start over in the wake of crisis.**



Graham Knope and Carol Miller

Top Image / Internally displaced Mozambican, Isabella, 60, was relocated with her family to Savane settlement in Mozambique – where 3,000 people are still hosted – after Cyclone Idai badly impacted them in March 2019. Her family were given a plot of land to cultivate rice, maize, potatoes and vegetables. Isabella wants to return home but is too afraid.

You can be the one to:

Help UNHCR continue to respond with essential support to millions of people forced to flee their homes.

Help displaced people use their skills to find new purpose and rebuild their lives in dignity.

Help safeguard fundamental human rights while ensuring access for people seeking asylum.

Why choose a gift in your will?

Gifts in wills help make vital humanitarian work providing shelter, safety, and protection possible. Even a small proportion of your estate could help provide lifesaving support in years to come when people have lost their homes and livelihoods.

SIMPLE: A gift in your will is easy to arrange. Instruct your lawyer or notary to include a charitable donation to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees when allocating your estate assets.

CONVENIENT: A gift in your will is a straightforward way to make a significant impact. Your current assets, cash flow and lifestyle will not be affected by your choice for the future.

FLEXIBLE: Your gift can be a specific amount, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate (a gift after your debts have been paid and other gifts made).

TAX RELIEF: A gift in your will is a highly effective way to reduce taxes for your estate.

TAX PLANNING: UNHCR Canada issues a charitable tax receipt for the full value of your gift. This receipt reduces any tax payable on your final tax return. If your gift exceeds 100% of your net income, the excess may be carried back to the previous tax year or forward as part of a Graduated Rate Estate plan.

PEACE OF MIND: You can make changes to your will at any time.

Our promise for the future

People forced to flee their homes have made extraordinary efforts to survive. You can help support people to thrive, not just survive.

Your legacy gift can ensure your compassion will live on in providing protection and assistance to children, women and men uprooted from their homes.

Take the next steps

If you feel a legacy gift is right for you, speak to your lawyer or notary about drafting or revising your Will. Let your legal representative know that UNHCR Canada is a Qualified Donee, as defined by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and can issue charitable tax receipts.

Our address is **2 St. Clair Avenue East, Suite 702, Toronto, Ontario, M4T 2T5.**

Sample will wording

You can choose to leave United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees a specific sum of money, a percentage of your estate, or the residue of your estate.

Specific Amount: “I give to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees the sum of \$ ____ to be used for its general purposes.”

Percentage of Estate: “I give to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ____ percent of the value of my estate to be used for its general purposes.”

Residual Gift: “I give to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ____ percent of the rest, residue and remainder of my estate for its general purposes.”

More information

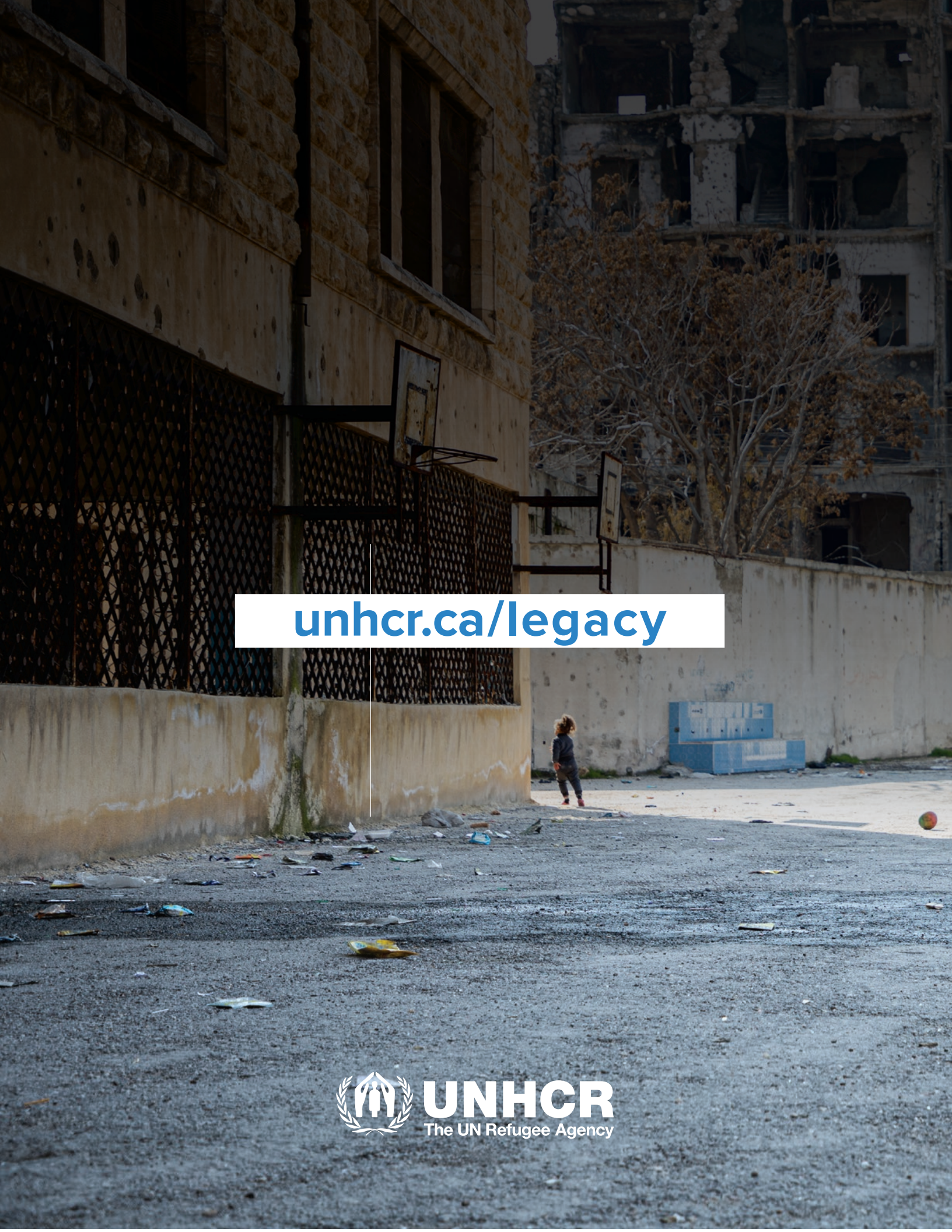
For more information on how your gift can make a significant difference for the future of displaced people around the world, please contact Kudzai Riva, Director of Planned Giving, at UNHCR Canada by e-mail at rivak@unhcr.org or by phone at **416-926-7974**.

We are happy to provide additional information on other giving ways to support refugees and displaced people. You can find further information on legacy gifts and download our bequest wording at unhcr.ca/legacy.

Finally, if you are comfortable letting us know, we would be honoured to hear about your legacy and thank you for being there for those who will need you in the future.

Help safeguard a future for refugees.

For more information, please visit unhcr.ca/legacy

A photograph of a child standing in a war-torn courtyard. The child is in the middle ground, facing away from the camera. The courtyard is paved with asphalt and littered with debris. In the background, there are damaged buildings, some with exposed brick and missing windows. A basketball hoop is visible on the left side of the frame. The overall atmosphere is somber and desolate.

unhcr.ca/legacy



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency