

Issue 1, Spring 2022

RESPONDING TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS: INSPIRING STORIES



This Bulletin is published by the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration in collaboration with the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development

UPDATES & EVENTS

Editorial: Responding to the Refugee Crisis – Éditorial : Répondre à la crise des réfugiés - Editorial: Respondiendo a la crisis de los refugiados
Webinar on April 22 with the Rotary Peace Projects Incubator
Rotary International Convention in Houston – Convention du Rotary International à Houston – Convención de Rotary International en Houston
Becoming a member – Devenir membre – Convertirse en miembro

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS & FRIENDS

The Gift of Dignity, by William Crosby
The Rotary and ShelterBox Partnership, by Bill Tobin
The Rotary and Peace Corps Partnership, by Anthony Agnello
Books for Afghan Refugee Children, by Anthony Bloome

INSPIRING STORIES FROM ROTARY'S BLOGS

1 - Music Concerts Raise Money for Ukraine, by Olena Hiraishi
2 - Creating Scholarships for Afghan Refugees, by Ademar Bechtold and Quentin Wodon
3 - Austrian Aid Convoy Drives All Night to Deliver Supplies for Ukraine, by Sebastian Adami
4 - Editor of Rotary Magazine in Ukraine Thanks Rotary Network for its Help, with Mykola Stebljanko
5 - Ukrainian Describes Leaving Kyiv, Using Rotary Network to Help Others, by Iryna Bushmina
6 - How Rotary Community Corps Help Refugee Communities, by Tom Gump
7 - Supporting the Resettlement of Refugees, by Quentin Wodon
8 - ShelterBox's Response in Yemen, by Victoria Ifould

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS SERVING REFUGEES

Directory of Selected Nonprofit Organizations Based in the United States and Providing Services to Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Migrants, by Sarah Nadiv and Diane Rich

FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

The Rotary Foundation Creates Channel for Direct Humanitarian Support in Ukraine Region
The Crossing – Part I of an article published in the January 2022 edition of Rotary

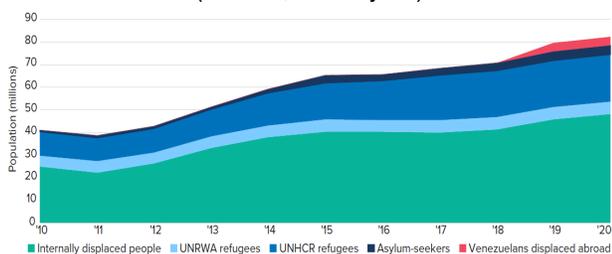
Editorial - Éditorial

Responding to the Refugee Crisis

By *Quentin Wodon, Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration*

UNHCR maintains estimates of the number of people who are forcibly displaced globally. From 1990 to 2011, despite some differences between the years, the number of forcibly displaced people stood for the most part at between 35 and 40 million. Over the last decade, that number has more than doubled, reaching 82.4 million at the end of 2020. Preliminary estimates from UNHCR suggested that the number had increased to 84 million by mid-2021.

Figure 1: Global Forced Displacement
(millions, end of year)



Source: UNHCR.

When new estimates are released for World Refugee Day in June 2022, the estimate is likely to be significantly higher due to two recent crises: the take-over of Afghanistan by the Taliban in August 2021 and the war in Ukraine this year, which alone has led to more than 10 million being displaced (including 4.8 million refugees, as shown in Table 1, and internally displaced persons not included in the Table).

Table 1: Total Refugee influx from Ukraine in neighboring countries (as of April 16, 2022)

Country	Refugees from Ukraine
Poland	2,744,778
Romania	732,473
Russian Federation	484,725
Hungary	454,098
Republic of Moldova	421,130
Slovakia	332,707
Belarus	22,827

Source: UNHCR.

Note: The total in the table is higher than the total number of refugees because it takes into account people crossing the border between Romania and Moldova.

While there is currently a substantial focus in the international community on the crisis in Ukraine given that fact that the war is a watershed event that has led to the largest number of refugees in Europe since World War II, one should not forget that the situation is dire in many other countries, with refugees from

those countries often living in even more precarious conditions than refugees from Ukraine. In its mid-year 2021 report, eight months before the war in Ukraine, UNHCR indicated that the countries with the largest number of refugees were Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan (with a further deterioration after the Taliban take-over), South Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic, and Eritrea.

Many of those countries also have a large number of internally displaced people (IDPs), but a particularly severe situation has also emerged in Ethiopia due to the conflict in the Tigray region.

Rotarians have been active supporting forcibly displaced people for a long time, but a year and a half ago, we thought it would be useful to join forces and share our experiences and lessons learned. We proposed the creation of a Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration, which was approved by the Board of Rotary International in November 2020. We work closely in partnership with the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development that was approved in June 2021. With Rotarian and non-Rotarian members from more than two dozen countries, we strive to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

This is our first newsletter or Bulletin, whose aim is to share experiences and lessons learned. The Bulletin will be published quarterly. It will welcome articles in English, French, and Spanish, so please do not hesitate to contact us to submit an article through our website at <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/> or by contacting me at rotarianeconomist@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can contact Diane Rich (Secretary for the RAG for Refugees) at diane.rish@gmail.com, and Sarah Nadiv (Secretary for the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development) at sarahnadiv@gmail.com.

Each Bulletin will include a section on updates and events. We have two events coming up: a webinar in partnership with the Rotary Peace Projects Incubator on Friday, April 22 at 17h00 CEST, and events (a breakout session, our annual meeting, and presence at our booth) at the Rotary International Convention in Houston in June. Please go to the respective articles for details on how to participate.

The Bulletin will welcome articles by our members or friends on topics related to development, as well as more focused articles on refugees, displacement, and migration. In this Bulletin, we have articles on the Rotary Peace Corps Partnership by Anthony Agnello, the Rotary and ShelterBox Partnership by Bill Tobin, the Gift of Dignity by William Crosby, and books for Afghan Refugees by Anthony Bloome.

Each Bulletin will feature one or two symposia or collection of resources on specific topics. In this first issue, we have two such collections. The first is a set of eight articles that were published in Rotary Voice and Service in Action, two blogs published by Rotary International. The articles provide inspiration for all of us on how to help refugees and displaced persons. In addition, thanks to Sarah Nadiv and Diane Rich, we also have basic information on a selection of reputable nonprofits in the United States that provide direct support to displaced persons. We thought this would be useful to those of you based in the United States who might want to support these organizations. The symposia and resources to be provided in one of our next issues of the Bulletin will be about education – so if you have interesting experiences or advice to share, please do contact us with a proposal for an article.

Finally, this issue of the Bulletin as well as future issues will include information from Rotary International. Two articles from Rotary International are included in this issue. The first article explains how individuals, Rotary clubs, and Rotary Districts can provide support for the crisis in Ukraine. Please note that we also have contact information for coordinators at the country level for countries neighboring Ukraine that we can share upon request. The second article is reproduced from the January 2022 issue of *Rotary*, the magazine of Rotary International received by Rotarians in the United States. The article in the magazine consisted of two stories of refugees crossing to another country. The first story is reproduced here for the benefit of Rotarians in other countries as well as others who may not have seen it. The second story will be reproduced in the next issue of the Bulletin.

One last item: we will soon conduct the annual election for our board members, and we are also setting up an advisory board, a grants and project committee, and a partnerships committee. If you have an interest in contributing, please let us know by contacting Diane Rich for the RAG for Refugees and Sarah Nadiv for the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development (see the emails provided earlier).

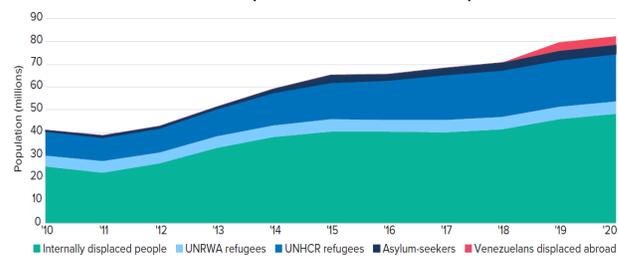
We hope to see many of you virtually on April 22, and in person for those going to Houston in June. Thank you for supporting our RAG and our Fellowship, and please do let us know about your projects and activities, so that we can share your experiences with the full membership – this is one of our main goals, so that we can be effective in our support to refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants, as well as others who are less fortunate.

Répondre à la crise des réfugiés

Par Quentin Wodon, Groupe d'action du Rotary pour les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et la migration

Le HCR maintient des estimations du nombre de personnes déplacées par la force dans le monde. De 1990 à 2011, malgré quelques différences d'une année à l'autre, le nombre de personnes déplacées s'est le plus souvent situé entre 35 et 40 millions. Au cours de la dernière décennie, ce nombre a plus que doublé, atteignant 82,4 millions à la fin de 2020. Les estimations préliminaires du HCR suggèrent que ce nombre était passé à 84 millions à la mi-2021.

Graphique 1 : Déplacements forcés dans le monde (millions, fin d'année)



Source : HCR.

Lorsque de nouvelles estimations seront publiées pour la Journée mondiale des réfugiés en juin 2022, l'estimation sera probablement nettement plus élevée en raison de deux crises récentes : la prise de contrôle de l'Afghanistan par les talibans en août 2021 et la guerre en Ukraine cette année, qui à elle seule a entraîné le déplacement de plus de 10 millions de personnes (dont 4,8 millions de réfugiés, comme indiqué dans le tableau 1, et les personnes déplacées internes non incluses dans le tableau).

Tableau 1 : Afflux total de réfugiés d'Ukraine dans les pays voisins (au 16 avril 2022)

Pays	Refugiés de l'Ukraine
Pologne	2,744,778
Roumanie	732,473
Fédération Russe	484,725
Hongrie	454,098
République de Moldavie	421,130
Slovaquie	332,707
Biélorussie	22,827

Source : HCR.

Note : Le total du tableau est supérieur au nombre total de réfugiés car il prend en compte les personnes traversant la frontière entre la Roumanie et la Moldavie.

Bien que la communauté internationale accorde actuellement une grande attention à la crise en Ukraine étant donné que la guerre est un événement majeur qui a conduit au plus grand nombre de réfugiés en Europe depuis la Seconde Guerre mondiale, il ne faut pas oublier que la situation est

aussi extrêmement difficile dans de nombreux autres pays, avec les réfugiés de ces pays vivant souvent dans des conditions encore plus précaires que les réfugiés d'Ukraine. Dans son rapport de mi-année 2021, huit mois avant la guerre en Ukraine, le HCR a indiqué que les pays comptant le plus grand nombre de réfugiés étaient la Syrie, le Venezuela, l'Afghanistan (avec une nouvelle détérioration après la prise de contrôle des talibans), le Soudan du Sud, le Myanmar, la République démocratique du Congo, le Soudan, la Somalie, la République centrafricaine et l'Érythrée.

Beaucoup de ces pays comptent également un grand nombre de personnes déplacées à l'intérieur du pays (PDI), mais une situation particulièrement grave est également apparue en Éthiopie en raison du conflit dans la région du Tigré.

Les Rotariens soutiennent activement les personnes déplacées depuis longtemps, mais il y a un an et demi, nous avons pensé qu'il serait utile d'unir nos forces et de partager nos expériences et les leçons apprises. Nous avons proposé la création d'un Rotary Action Group pour les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et les migrations, ce qui a été approuvée par le conseil d'administration du Rotary International en novembre 2020. Nous travaillons en étroite collaboration avec le Rotary Fellowship for Global Development qui a été approuvé en juin 2021. Avec des membres rotariens et non rotariens de plus de deux douzaines de pays, nous nous efforçons de contribuer à améliorer la vie des moins fortunés.

Ceci est notre première newsletter ou Bulletin, dont le but est de partager les expériences et les leçons apprises. Le Bulletin sera publié tous les trimestres. Il accueillera des articles en anglais, français et espagnol, donc n'hésitez pas à nous contacter pour soumettre un article via notre site Web à <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/> ou en me contactant à rotarianeconomist@gmail.com. Vous pouvez également contacter Diane Rich (secrétaire du RAG pour les réfugiés) à diane.rish@gmail.com, et Sarah Nadiv (secrétaire du Rotary Fellowship for Global Development) à sarahnadiv@gmail.com.

Chaque Bulletin comprendra une section pour les nouvelles et les événements. Nous avons deux événements à venir : un webinaire en partenariat avec l'incubateur des projets du Rotary pour la paix le vendredi 22 avril à 17h00 CEST, et des événements (une session, notre réunion annuelle et une présence à notre stand) à la Convention du Rotary International à Houston en juin. Veuillez consulter les articles respectifs pour plus de détails sur la façon de participer.

Le Bulletin accueillera des articles de nos membres ou amis sur des sujets liés au développement, ainsi que des articles plus ciblés sur les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et la migration. Dans ce Bulletin, nous avons des articles sur le Rotary Peace Corps Partnership par Anthony Agnello, Rotary et ShelterBox par Bill Tobin, le don de la dignité par William Crosby et un projet pour des livres pour les réfugiés afghans par Anthony Bloome.

Chaque Bulletin comportera également un ou deux symposiums ou une collection de ressources sur des sujets spécifiques. Dans ce premier numéro, nous avons deux collections. La première est un ensemble de huit articles publiés dans Rotary Voice et Service in Action, les deux blogs publiés par Rotary International. Les articles nous inspirent tous sur la manière d'aider les réfugiés et les personnes déplacées. De plus, grâce à Sarah Nadiv et Diane Rich, nous avons également des informations de base sur une sélection d'organisations réputées et à but non lucratif aux États-Unis qui fournissent un soutien direct aux personnes déplacées. Nous avons pensé que cela serait utile à ceux ou celles d'entre vous basé(e)s aux États-Unis qui pourraient vouloir soutenir ces organisations. Le symposium et les ressources qui seront fournies dans l'un de nos prochains numéros du Bulletin seront ciblés sur l'éducation - donc si vous avez des expériences intéressantes ou des conseils à partager, n'hésitez pas à nous contacter avec une proposition d'article.

Enfin, ce numéro du Bulletin ainsi que les prochains numéros contiendront des informations en provenance du Rotary International. Deux sont inclus dans ce numéro. Le premier explique comment les individus, les Rotary clubs et les Rotary districts peuvent apporter leur soutien à la crise en Ukraine. Veuillez noter que nous avons également les coordonnées des coordinateurs au niveau national pour les pays voisins de l'Ukraine que nous pouvons partager sur demande. Le deuxième article est reproduit du numéro de janvier 2022 de *Rotary*, le magazine du Rotary International reçu par les Rotariens aux États-Unis. L'article du magazine consistait en deux histoires de réfugiés traversant vers un autre pays. La première histoire est reproduite ici pour le bénéfice des Rotariens d'autres pays ainsi que d'autres qui n'ont peut-être pas eu l'opportunité de voir cet article. La deuxième histoire sera reproduite dans le prochain numéro du Bulletin.

Un dernier élément : nous procéderons bientôt à l'élection annuelle des membres de notre conseil d'administration, et nous mettons également en place un conseil consultatif, un comité de projets et un comité de partenariats. Si vous êtes intéressé(e) à contribuer, veuillez contacter Diane Rich pour le RAG

pour les réfugiés et Sarah Nadiv pour le Rotary Fellowship for Global Development (voir les emails mentionnés ci-dessus).

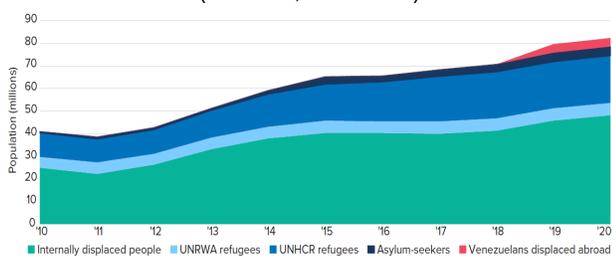
Nous espérons vous voir nombreux virtuellement le 22 avril, et en personne pour ceux qui se rendront à Houston début juin. Merci de soutenir notre RAG et notre Fellowship, et n'hésitez pas à nous faire part de vos projets et activités, afin que nous puissions partager vos expériences avec l'ensemble des membres - c'est l'un de nos principaux objectifs, afin que nous puissions être efficaces dans notre soutien aux réfugiés, aux personnes déplacées et aux migrants, ainsi qu'aux autres groupes démunis.

Respondiendo a la crisis de los refugiados

Por Quentin Wodon, Grupo de Acción de Rotary para Refugiados, Desplazamiento Forzado y Migración

ACNUR mantiene estimaciones del número de personas desplazadas por la fuerza en todo el mundo. De 1990 a 2011, a pesar de algunas diferencias entre los años, el número de personas desplazadas se situó en su mayor parte entre 35 y 40 millones. Durante la última década, ese número se ha más que duplicado, llegando a 82,4 millones a fines de 2020. Las estimaciones preliminares de ACNUR sugirieron que el número había aumentado a 84 millones a mediados de 2021.

Figura 1: Desplazamiento forzado global
(millones, fin de año)



Fuente: ACNUR.

Cuando se publiquen nuevas estimaciones para el Día Mundial del Refugiado en junio de 2022, es probable que la estimación sea significativamente más alta debido a dos crisis recientes: la toma de Afganistán por los talibanes en agosto de 2021 y la guerra en Ucrania este año, que solo ha provocó el desplazamiento de más de 10 millones (incluidos 4,8 millones de refugiados, como se muestra en la Tabla 1, y desplazados internos no incluidos en la Tabla).

Tabla 1: Afluencia total de refugiados de Ucrania a los países vecinos (al 16 de abril de 2022)

País	Refugiados de Ucrania
Polonia	2,744,778
Rumania	732,473
Federación Rusa	484,725
Hungría	454,098
República de Moldova	421,130
Eslovaquia	332,707
Bielorrusia	22,827

Fuente: ACNUR.

Nota: El total de la tabla es superior al número total de refugiados porque tiene en cuenta a las personas que cruzan la frontera entre Rumanía y Moldavia.

Si bien en la actualidad hay un enfoque sustancial en la comunidad internacional sobre la crisis en Ucrania dado que la guerra es un hito que ha llevado a la mayor cantidad de refugiados en Europa desde la Segunda Guerra Mundial, uno no debe olvidar que la situación es muy difícil en muchos otros países, con refugiados de esos países a menudo viviendo en condiciones aún más precarias que los refugiados de Ucrania. En su informe de mediados de 2021, ocho meses antes de la guerra en Ucrania, ACNUR indicó que los países con mayor número de refugiados eran Siria, Venezuela, Afganistán (con un mayor deterioro tras la toma del poder por los talibanes), Sudán del Sur, Myanmar, la República Democrática del Congo, Sudán, Somalia, la República Centroafricana y Eritrea.

Muchos de esos países también tienen un gran número de desplazados internos (IDP), pero también ha surgido una situación particularmente grave en Etiopía debido al conflicto en la región de Tigray.

Los rotarios han apoyado activamente a las personas desplazadas por la fuerza durante mucho tiempo, pero hace un año y medio pensamos que sería útil unir fuerzas y compartir nuestras experiencias y lecciones aprendidas. Propusimos la creación de un Rotary Action Group para Refugiados, Desplazamiento Forzado y Migración, que fue aprobado por la Directiva de Rotary International en noviembre de 2020. Trabajamos en estrecha colaboración con el Rotary Fellowship para el Desarrollo Global que fue aprobada en junio de 2021. Con socios rotarios y no rotarios de más de dos docenas de países, nos esforzamos por marcar una diferencia en la vida de los menos afortunados.

Este es nuestro primer Boletín, cuyo objetivo es compartir experiencias y lecciones aprendidas. El Boletín se publicará trimestralmente. Recibirá artículos en inglés, francés y español, así que no dude en comunicarse con nosotros para enviar un artículo a través de nuestro sitio web en <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/> o comunicándose

conmigo en rotarianeconomist@gmail.com. Alternativamente, puede comunicarse con Diane Rich (Secretaria del RAG para Refugiados) en diane.rish@gmail.com, y Sarah Nadiv (Secretaria del Rotary Fellowship para el Desarrollo Global) en sarahnadiv@gmail.com.

Cada boletín incluirá una sección sobre actualizaciones y eventos. Tenemos dos eventos próximos: un seminario web en colaboración con la incubadora de proyectos de paz de Rotary el viernes 22 de abril a las 17:00 CEST, y eventos (una sesión de trabajo, nuestra reunión anual y presencia en nuestro stand) en la Convención de Rotary International en Houston en junio. Por favor, vaya a los artículos respectivos para obtener detalles sobre cómo participar.

El Boletín recibirá artículos de nuestros miembros o amigos sobre temas relacionados con el desarrollo, así como artículos más centrados en refugiados, desplazamiento forzado y migración. En este boletín, tenemos artículos sobre la Asociación del Cuerpo Rotario de Paz de Anthony Agnello, la Asociación de Rotary y ShelterBox de Bill Tobin, el Regalo de la Dignidad de William Crosby y libros para refugiados afganos de Anthony Bloome.

Cada boletín también incluirá uno o dos simposios o una colección de recursos sobre temas específicos. En este primer número, tenemos dos colecciones de este tipo. El primero es un conjunto de ocho artículos que se publicaron en Rotary Voice y Service in Action, dos blogs publicados por Rotary International. Los artículos brindan inspiración para todos nosotros sobre cómo ayudar a los refugiados y personas desplazadas. Además, gracias a Sarah Nadiv y Diane Rich, también tenemos información básica sobre una selección de organizaciones sin fines de lucro acreditadas en los Estados Unidos que brindan apoyo directo a las personas desplazadas. Pensamos que esto sería útil para aquellos de ustedes que residen en los Estados Unidos y que deseen apoyar a estas organizaciones. Los simposios y los recursos que se brindarán en uno de los próximos números del Boletín serán sobre la educación, por lo que si tiene experiencias interesantes o consejos para compartir, contáctenos con una propuesta para un artículo.

Finalmente, esta edición del Boletín, así como las ediciones futuras, incluirán información de Rotary International. En este número se incluyen dos artículos de Rotary International. El primer artículo explica cómo las personas, los clubes rotarios y los distritos rotarios pueden brindar apoyo para la crisis en Ucrania. Tenga en cuenta que también tenemos información de contacto de los coordinadores a nivel de país para los países vecinos de Ucrania que podemos compartir a pedido. El segundo artículo se reproduce de la edición de enero de 2022 de *Rotary*, la revista de Rotary International recibida por los rotarios en los Estados Unidos. El artículo de la revista constaba de dos historias de refugiados cruzando a otro país. La primera historia se reproduce aquí para beneficio de los rotarios de otros países, así como de otras personas que tal vez no la hayan visto. La segunda historia se reproducirá en el próximo número del Boletín.

Un último punto: pronto llevaremos a cabo la elección anual de los miembros de nuestra junta, y también estamos estableciendo una junta asesora, un comité de proyectos, y un comité de asociaciones. Si tiene interés en contribuir, infórmenos comunicándose con Diane Rich para RAG para refugiados y Sarah Nadiv para Rotary Fellowship for Global Development (consulte los correos electrónicos proporcionados anteriormente).

Esperamos verlos a muchos de ustedes virtualmente el 22 de abril, así como en persona para aquellos que viajen a Houston a principios de junio. Gracias por apoyar a nuestro RAG y nuestra Comunidad, y háganos saber acerca de sus proyectos y actividades, para que podamos compartir sus experiencias con todos los miembros; este es uno de nuestros objetivos principales, para que podamos ser efectivos en nuestro apoyo a los refugiados, desplazados internos e inmigrantes, así como otros que son menos afortunados.

Upcoming Events & Meetings

Webinar on Saturday April 22, 2022, 17h00 CEST with the Rotary Peace Projects Incubator

Five projects selected by the [Rotary Peace Projects Incubator](#) (RPPI) will be shared with webinar participants. Below are the names of the five projects together with a link to project descriptions and the name of the presenters at the webinar.

These projects have all been vetted by RPPI and represent a unique opportunity for clubs and district to support refugees, internally displaced persons, and others striving for peace.

- Rock for Peace: human rights education through arts and sports at Polish Woodstock Festival (Poland) Project Details [here](#) – Natalia Sineaeva – ‘Never Again’ Association and co-chair of the Rotary Peace Project Incubator.

- Partnering for Peace and Reaching Out to Refugees in Northern Uganda - Project Details [here](#) – Helene B. Dudley.
- Let There be Light: Establishing a training center to empower Rohingya women and children living in Bangladesh. Project Details [here](#) – Professor Dr. Mamun Al Mahtab.
- ECD-based Parent Support Program addressing Immigration Related Stress and Children Maltreatment, Germany - Project Details [here](#) - Anna Slavinskay.
- Refugee Regenerative Farming (Re-Farm) Project - Western Uganda - Project Details [here](#) - Noah Ssempijja.

These projects all deserve support from Rotarians. Some of them have already clubs supporting them, but others do not. Information on how to participate in the webinar by zoom is provided in the visual below.



Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration



Rotary
Peace Projects Incubator

rotary opens opportunities

Responding to conflicts and the refugee crisis: Opportunities to support RPPI projects in collaboration with the Rotary Action Group for Refugees 22 April 2022 – 17.00h CEST



(Credit: Reuters)

- Rock for Peace: human rights education through arts and sports at Polish Woodstock Festival (Poland) - Project Details [here](#)
- Partnering for Peace and Reaching Out to Refugees in Northern Uganda - Project Details [here](#)
- Let There be Light: Establishing a training center to empower Rohingya women and children living in Bangladesh - Project Details [here](#)
- ECD-based Parent Support Program addressing Immigration Related Stress and Children Maltreatment, Germany - Project Details [here](#)
- Refugee Regenerative Farming (Re-Farm) Project - Western Uganda - Project Details [here](#)

www.rppi.ch - contact@rppi.ch
www.ragforrefugees.org

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://bit.ly/3DUGtJZ> - Meeting ID: 845 5999 5128 - Passcode: 053284

Rotary International Convention in Houston

Are you attending the Rotary International Convention in Houston? If this is the case, we hope to meet you there! We will have a booth for the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration and a one-hour breakout session in English on June 7 on "Responding to the Refugee and Displacement Crisis". We will also have our annual meeting, again on June 7.

Times and places to remember (all times are CDT):
George R. Brown Convention Center

- House of Friendship, Booth # 719
- Breakout session, June 7, 2 pm, Room 310
- Annual meeting, June 7, 4:30 pm, Room 381B

Convention du Rotary International à Houston

Participez-vous à la convention du Rotary International à Houston ? Si tel est le cas, nous espérons vous y rencontrer ! Nous aurons un stand pour le RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration et une séance en anglais d'une heure le 7 juin sur le thème « Responding to the Refugee and

Displacement Crisis ». Nous aurons également notre réunion annuelle le 7 juin.

Dates et lieux à retenir (toutes les heures sont CDT):
George R. Brown Convention Center

- Maison de l'amitié, stand n° 719
- Session thématique, 7 juin, 14 h, Salle 310
- Assemblée annuelle, 7 juin, 16h30, Salle 381B

Convención de Rotary International en Houston

¿Asistirá a la Convención de Rotary International en Houston? Si este es el caso, ¡esperamos encontrarte allí! Tendremos un stand para el RAG para Refugiados, Desplazamiento Forzado y Migración y una sesión en inglés de una hora el 7 de junio sobre el tema « "Responding to the Refugee and Displacement Crisis" ». También tendremos nuestra reunión anual, nuevamente el 7 de junio.

Tiempos y lugares para recordar (horarios son CDT):
George R. Brown Convention Center

- Casa de la Amistad, Stand # 719
- Sesión de trabajo, 7 de junio, 2 pm, Sala 310
- Reunión anual, 7 de junio, 4:30 pm, Sala 381B



Becoming a Member

This Bulletin is published by the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration in collaboration with the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development. You can become a member to either one of the two entities, or both. Membership is currently free. We are currently in the process of setting up a system whereby individuals can make donations, but this is by no means required.

Rotary Action Groups are independent, Rotary-affiliated groups made up of people from around the world who are interested in a particular field, such as economic development, peace, the environment, or water. Action groups offer their technical expertise and support to help Rotary clubs plan and implement projects to increase impact, one of Rotary's strategic priorities. This support includes helping clubs find partners, funding, and other resources. Action groups can also help clubs and districts prepare grant applications, conduct community assessments, and develop plans to monitor and evaluate projects. Anyone who wants to share their expertise to make a difference can join an action group. To become a member of the RAG for refugees, forced displacement and migration, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVXKFXL>.

Rotary Fellowships are also independent, Rotary affiliated groups. They enable members to share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, join a global community built around a hobby or profession, and – for Rotarians, enhance the Rotary experience. To join the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2L67RT>.

Websites

RAG: <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/>.

Fellowship:

<https://www.rotaryfellowshipforglobaldevelopment.org/>.



Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration



Rotary Fellowship for Global Development

Devenir membre

Ce bulletin est publié par le Groupe d'action du Rotary pour les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et la migration en collaboration avec le Rotary Fellowship pour le développement mondial. Vous pouvez devenir membre de l'une ou l'autre des deux entités, ou des deux. L'adhésion est actuellement gratuite. Nous sommes en train de mettre en place un système permettant aux sympathisants de faire des dons, mais ce n'est en aucun cas obligatoire.

Les groupes d'action du Rotary sont des groupes indépendants affiliés au Rotary et composés de personnes du monde entier qui s'intéressent à un domaine particulier, comme le développement économique, la paix, l'environnement ou l'eau. Les groupes d'action offrent leur expertise technique et leur soutien pour aider les clubs Rotary à planifier et à mettre en œuvre des projets visant à accroître leur impact, ce qui est l'une des priorités stratégiques du Rotary. Ce soutien comprend l'aide aux clubs pour trouver des partenaires, des financements et d'autres ressources. Les groupes d'action peuvent également aider les clubs et les districts à préparer les demandes de subventions, à mener des évaluations communautaires et à élaborer des plans pour suivre et évaluer les projets. Toute personne désireuse de partager son expertise pour contribuer peut se joindre à un groupe d'action. Pour devenir membre du Groupe d'action du Rotary pour les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et la migration, allez à <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVXKFXL>.

Les Rotary Fellowships sont également des groupes indépendants affiliés au Rotary. Ils permettent aux membres de partager une passion commune. Faire partie d'un Fellowship est une façon de se faire des amis dans le monde entier, de rejoindre une communauté mondiale construite autour d'un passe-temps ou d'une profession et, pour les Rotariens, d'améliorer leur expérience du Rotary. Pour rejoindre le Fellowship du Rotary pour le développement, allez à <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2L67RT>.

Sites Web

RAG: <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/>.

Fellowship:

<https://www.rotaryfellowshipforglobaldevelopment.org/>.



Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration



Rotary Fellowship for Global Development

Convertirse en miembro

Este Boletín es publicado por el Grupo de Acción de Rotary para Refugiados, Desplazamiento Forzado y Migración en colaboración con el Fellowship del Rotary para el Desarrollo Global. Puede convertirse en miembro de una de las dos entidades, o de ambas. La membresía es actualmente gratuita. Estamos en el proceso de establecer un sistema mediante el cual las personas pueden hacer donaciones, pero esto de ninguna manera es obligatorio.

Los Grupos de Acción de Rotary son grupos independientes afiliados a Rotary compuestos por personas de todo el mundo que están interesadas en un campo en particular, como el desarrollo económico, la paz, el medio ambiente o el agua. Los grupos de acción ofrecen su experiencia técnica y apoyo para ayudar a los clubes rotarios a planificar e implementar proyectos para aumentar sus impactos, lo que esta una de las prioridades estratégicas de Rotary. Este apoyo incluye ayudar a los clubes a encontrar socios, financiación y otros recursos. Los grupos de acción también pueden ayudar a los clubes y distritos a preparar solicitudes de subvenciones, realizar evaluaciones comunitarias y desarrollar planes para monitorear y evaluar proyectos. Cualquiera que quiera compartir su experiencia para marcar la diferencia puede unirse a un grupo de acción. Para convertirse en miembro del Grupo de Acción para refugiados, desplazamiento forzado y migración, vaya a <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CVXKFXL>.

Los Rotary Fellowships también son grupos independientes afiliados a Rotary. Permiten a los miembros compartir una pasión común. Ser parte de una confraternidad es una forma de hacer amigos en todo el mundo, unirse a una comunidad global creada en torno a un pasatiempo o profesión y, para los rotarios, mejorar la experiencia rotaria. Para unirse al Rotary Fellowship para el Desarrollo Global, vaya a <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2L67RT>.

Sitios Web

RAG: <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/>.

Fellowship:

<https://www.rotaryfellowshipforglobaldevelopment.org/>.



Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration



Rotary Fellowship for Global Development

Contributions from Members & Friends

The Gift of Dignity

By William Crosby, NEST Member

Non-governmental organizations such as the international family of Rotarians understand the importance of standing in solidarity with the basic human rights and the dignity of the individual. Rotary International stands tall in historically mobilizing its time, talent, and treasure to providing basic human needs such as include food, shelter and clothing to individuals who, buffeted by local and/or international forces beyond their control, find themselves in situations that fall well below any fair access to genuine human needs. But the provision of the 'triad' of necessities is important beyond the basic issue of biological survival; when met, they provide an opportunity for individuals and communities to reach their full potential – to live in dignity with a sense of self-worth, and to make their constructive contributions to the human condition.

As stated by UNHCR, we live in an unprecedented time when 82+ million human beings are displaced from their homes and livelihoods and face a deficiency of one or more of these basic needs. Notwithstanding the best of intentions offered by countries with relatively generous refugee intake policies, the backlog of refugee applications has ballooned to the point that refugees are often isolated in an interim country of asylum for years before their applications are approved. The number of individuals in such 'interim' situations has grown at an alarming rate, fueled in part by recent political change and persecution (e.g. Afghanistan and Myanmar) as well as ongoing military conflict.

The situation is further complicated by the sheer numbers of individuals needing assistance leading to a deterioration in the wait-times before refugees can be repatriated to a host country. Literally hundreds of thousands of individuals have become trapped in a situation of administrative limbo leading to the exhaustion of what little financial support they may hold. Where the interim country of asylum prohibits or simply fails to issue temporary work permits or other support programs then otherwise educated, skilled and well-motivated individuals are denied an option to seek and acquire gainful employment – employment that underwrites the sustainability of their situation. Critically, the absence of support fuels a sense of hopelessness and despair that are highly corrosive for the emotional well-being and sense of security of all those affected.

Concrete examples can be described by virtually any individual or group involved in the private sponsorship of refugees. Our own experience in the NEST sponsorship group based in Saskatoon (Canada) has revealed the plight of Zainab and Abeda – two university-educated siblings of Afghan origin who served the former Afghan government as teachers and advocates for women's rights. The vulnerability of their situation, triggered by regime change in Afghanistan, forced the pair to flee to Pakistan where they currently languish in a situation of isolation, dwindling resources, rising uncertainty, and personal distress. They are, in particular, in need of temporary employment while they wait for their refugee status to be processed. For confidentiality reason, their full name and picture is not provided here.

Theirs is a repeated story amid a rapidly expanding international crisis that is desperately in need of both advocacy as well as humanitarian assistance from organizations with the kind of international reach and reputation of Rotary International. On the one hand, advocacy for an expansion of the UNHCR's efforts could take many forms where RI's voice could be helpful. On a more practical level, where 'boots on the ground' in the form of Rotary Clubs can be identified in countries of asylum, local individuals could be invaluable for providing the kind of non-financial logistical support (e.g. internet access, copying services, local transportation, emotional, programmatic) that is so desperately lacking in many interim-asylum jurisdictions. Rotary International is an organization with a heart, and people of heart know that in the face of crisis or adversity, when a door closes there is inevitably a new and unforeseen window that opens.

Zainab and Abeda are university educated and currently reside in Pakistan, waiting for their refugee status to be processed. Temporary employment opportunities, including in Pakistan could greatly help them as they wait. If you have ways to help, please contact us through <https://www.raqforrefugees.org/> and we will connect you with William Crosby at NEST.

The Rotary and ShelterBox Partnership

By Bill Tobin, Rotary Relations Manager, ShelterBox

As the world continues to watch the crisis in Ukraine, ShelterBox, a disaster project partner of Rotary International, has launched a major response inside and outside the country. Since its founding by a Rotary Club in the U.K. more than 20 years ago, ShelterBox has provided shelter and other essential items to the most vulnerable forced from their homes by disaster and conflict, including emergency shelter and living essentials for more than 2.2 million people following 300+ disasters in 100 countries. We are one of the world's leading humanitarian relief organizations. Now, we have teamed up with Rotary International to respond to the conflict in Ukraine.

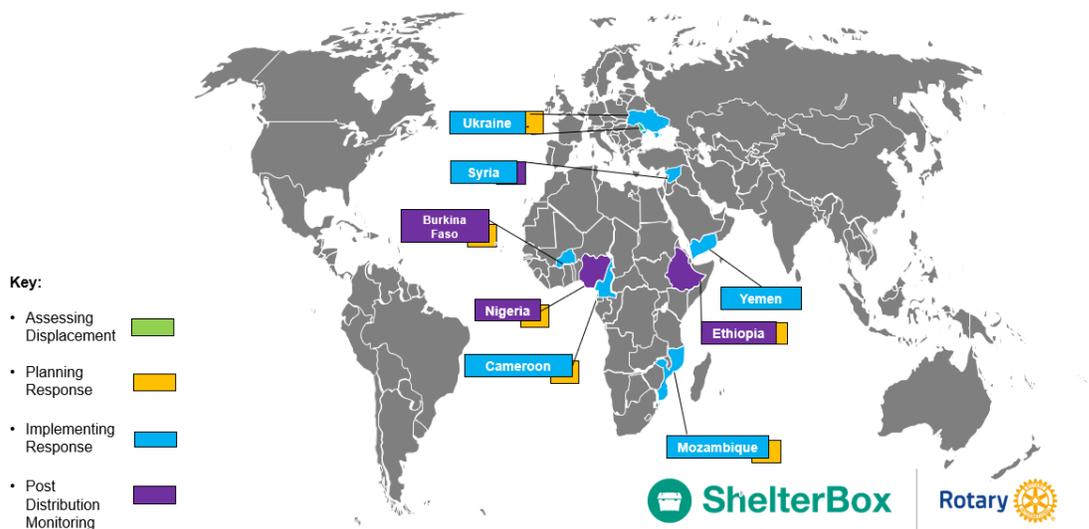
More than 10.7 million people – nearly a quarter of Ukraine's population – have been forced from their homes, with some remaining in the country and millions crossing its borders. ShelterBox is working as quickly as possible on three programs: (1) providing thousands of mattresses to "collective centers" like schools and churches in Lviv, Ukraine, where many are seeking shelter and safety; (2) preparing to send into Ukraine Shelter Kits, customized aid packages with rope, tools, thermal blankets, solar lights, and hygiene kits to those whose homes have been damaged by the conflict; (3) supporting refugees outside Ukraine with items they can carry, such as hygiene items and potentially cash. For the third project, ShelterBox's team is currently in Moldova, one of Europe's poorest and most isolated countries. Moldova is not a member of the European Union or NATO and lacks the same resources as other

neighboring countries. Nevertheless, it has seen more than 400,000 people cross its border, meaning it is receiving more refugees per capita than any other country due to the crisis.

ShelterBox's work is rooted in a long running history with Rotary. In April 2000, the Rotary Club of Helston-Lizard in Cornwall, England adopted ShelterBox as its millennium project. Today, ShelterBox is responding to disasters and conflicts globally. It launched one of its largest responses to date last December when Typhoon Rai barreled into the Philippines. With the support of the Rotary Club of Cebu, ShelterBox provided shelter and living essentials to more than 20,000 households, or over 100,000 people.

ShelterBox helps to extend the reach of Rotary in countries where Rotary does not exist. In Yemen, about 4 million people have been forced from their homes since the war began in 2014. ShelterBox recently established its first program reaching 1,350 families and providing family tents, tarpaulins rope, kitchen sets, blankets, solar lights, sleeping mats and water carriers (see the article in this issue of the Bulletin). This year also marks the tenth year ShelterBox has been working in Syria, where it is estimated more than 12 million people have been displaced,. ShelterBox has provided emergency shelter and household essentials to over 400,000 people displaced by the region's conflict. ShelterBox can't do this work without the support of Rotary Clubs. To learn more, please visit www.shelterbox.org. To access ShelterBox project photos and case studies, go to <https://assetbank.shelterbox.org/>.

Conflict Related ShelterBox Responses (April 2022)



SHelterBox IS A REGISTERED CHARITY INDEPENDENT OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE ROTARY FOUNDATION.

The Rotary and Peace Corps Partnership

By Anthony Agnello, President of Friends of Afghanistan and Co-Founder, Peace Corps Alliance for Intercultural Understanding

Famine, wars, and global crises are currently displacing millions of people. The looming climate crisis threatens to relocate tens of millions more. Polio is tenaciously persisting on the Afghan-Pakistani border and COVID-19 lingers on in its transition from a virulent pandemic that has taken six million lives to a permanent endemic affliction. Concerned Rotarians have been seeking and recruiting like-minded international allies to confront these worldwide problems for years.

The leaders of Rotary International and the Peace Corps have reaffirmed a commitment to their eight-year-old Memorandum of Understanding. (MOU) The agreement addresses the organizations' mutual pursuit of collaboration, friendship, and peace. In May of 2015 Rotary International's General Secretary John Hewko signed an updated MOU with Carrie Hessler-Radelet who was then the Director of the Peace Corps. Hewko said that the partnership would allow the two service organizations to formally expand their cooperation and coordination, which had been taking place unofficially at the grassroots level. He continued, *"Together we will work to improve lives and build stronger communities, and – in doing so – address many of the root causes of violence and conflict, such as poverty, illiteracy, disease, and lack of access to clean water and sanitation."*

In commenting on the updated agreement, Director Hessler-Radelet said, *"This MOU reaffirms our joint dedication to inspiring volunteerism across the country and around the world."* Through the agreement, Rotary and Peace Corps are exploring opportunities to increase the impact of development programs wherever deployment of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) occurs within a Rotary District. Rotary clubs will be able to support community-initiated Peace Corps volunteer projects through the Peace Corps Partnership Program and PCVs will be able to serve as, in situ, liaisons between participating Rotary Clubs. The MOU has subsequently been reaffirmed by GS Hewko and by former Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen. It is expected that the recently appointed Peace Corps Director Carole Spahn will also endorse this unique relationship.

Our organizations can enhance our collaboration through outreach to the nearly quarter-million Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) who are represented in virtually every Rotary District around the United States. This Rotary-RPCV discussion should also include the parallel Canadian volunteer

organization CUSO originally chartered as the Canadian University Service Overseas. CUSO was launched in June of 1961 by a group of Canadian university students, almost exactly three months after President John F. Kennedy signed the executive order establishing the US Peace Corps in 1961.

Currently, with the joint crises of displaced people from Afghanistan and Ukraine arriving in Rotary districts throughout Europe, North America, and elsewhere, the opportunity for humanitarian collaboration is clear and urgent. In Rotary's oldest binational district, the Trans-Niagara, CAN/AM District #7090, DG Anne Bermingham has requested that RPCVs in the Greater Buffalo, NY region consider joining the Westside Rotary as a satellite of the Buffalo Sunrise Club. Following up on the work of her predecessors, DG Kevin Crosby and DG Bob Artis, Anne, who is based in Hamilton, Ontario, also recommended that RPCVs might want to more broadly establish Rotary e-Clubs as communication vehicles that could empower outreach directly into their host countries and their local communities.

With Ukraine as an urgent focus, RPCV and Rotary Peace Fellow Shannon Carter, Bradford University, UK, has partnered with her friend and fellow RPCV Cortney Copeland, who leads the Alliance for Ukraine from her California home, to advocate for immediate and robust support for Ukraine and its displaced citizens. Both Shannon and Cortney served as Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) in Ukraine. They lead an international assistance effort through the Partnering for Peace (PFP) organization. PFP is an affiliate of the National Peace Corps Association and is also known as Friends of Peace Corps and Rotary. Rotarian and RPCV Kim Dixon is the president of this link between Rotarians and RPCVs. Shannon and Cortney have assembled an influential group of Rotarians with years of international expertise, including the founder of PFP, Steve Werner, veteran Rotarian Chehab Elawar, and Chicago-based Ellen Young.

With about 35,000 clubs and 1.2 million members, Rotary International offers RPCVs the opportunity to honor Peace Corps' Third Goal Pledge. The pledge requires that upon completion of service and return to the United States, all RPCVs will inform their fellow Americans about the people and culture of their Peace Corps host nation with the specific intent to promote understanding, friendship, and peace.

Books for Afghan Refugee Children

By Anthony Bloom, President-elect of the Rotary Club of Washington Global & Founder of mEducation Alliance

Rotarians in the District of Columbia, Virginia and Maryland will be partnering with the Mables for Education Alliance (the global education non-profit which I founded and run) and other organizations on the [Books for Afghan Kids](#) (BFAK) campaign. Through this initiative, we want to provide mini-libraries of children's books in Dari, Pashto and English, educational games, and, in some cases, even digital tablets, to Afghan families who have emigrated to the United States.

For the Dari and Pashto books, we have pulled some of these from the 100's of free and digital early grade books and other educational resources, such as Education Above All's Survival English Books, available on the mEducation Alliance's [Afghan Kids Support Hub](#) site. Through our partnership with Hewlett Packard, a number of these digital titles have been converted to print. Starting mid-June 2022, approximately 10,000 of these children's books in Dari and Pashto will be disseminated and available through a network of institutional partners including refugee and faith-based organizations, local libraries, and schools. Half (5,000) of the titles will be distributed in Maryland and Virginia, and the other half (5,000), distributed in and near Fresno, CA through our NoCal literacy partner, Bring Me a Book, and their collaboration with the Palo Alto University Rotary Club among other Rotarians.

To form the "mini-libraries", we want to attract donations and fundraise to add used and new English language children's books, low-cost educational games, and digital tablets. For the used books, we are sourcing 100s of titles by collaborating with fellow Rotarians. This includes friends at the Rotary Club of Parole (Annapolis, MD) and their Books for International Goodwill project. In the Charlottesville, VA area, we have also approached a number of new and used books stores and they are also keen to contribute! We also want to purchase new kindergarten and elementary books curated and selected by an expert panel of individuals and organizations with familiarity with children's literacy.

To fill out the "shelves" of these mini-libraries, we also want to add a) low-cost math games (e.g., dice and card deck-based, chess boards and other tabletop) along with accompanying training as part of our Math Game Youth Ambassadors program and b) digital tablets preloaded with lots of free educational materials and apps. Our ambitious goal: to develop and distribute 2,000 mini libraries over the next six months!

We are looking for interested Rotary clubs to be local and international sponsors for this activity to submit for global grants and other funding opportunities. Please let us know if your club is interested, can donate funds for mini-libraries, and/or provide support in other ways for the Books for Afghan Kids and Afghan Kids Support Hub (AKSH) initiatives. Contact us at AKSH@meducationalliance.org for more information.



Inspiring Stories from Rotary's Blogs

From February to April 2022, in part because of the war and displacement taking place in Ukraine, the two institutional blogs managed by Rotary International ([Rotary Voices](#) and [Service in Action](#)) have published an unusually large number of stories related to the refugee crisis and forced displacement. Eight blog posts are reproduced below, the first six from Rotary Voices and the last two from Service in Action.

Note: In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for Rotary members around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its [Disaster Response Fund](#) as the main avenue for contributions. [Read more.](#)

1 - Music Concerts Raise Money for Ukraine

By Olena Hiraishi

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on April 12, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

I grew up in the city of Dnipro in the eastern part of Ukraine with my father, who is Ukrainian and my mother, who is Russian. When I was 21, I moved to Japan to study while working for a water distillation company in Hiroshima city.

Soon after, I met Masashi, an insurance executive and an active member of the Rotary Club of Hiroshima Southwest. We now have three teenage boys. It was through my husband that I came to know Rotary. In the past few years, my husband and I traveled to Vietnam and support orphanages there through his club.

Two years ago, I moved to Hanover, Germany, where my youngest son studies violin in a music institute for gifted children. In late February, while we were visiting Japan, the horrible war against Ukraine broke out. I became very desperate and worried because I have relatives and close friends there. Some in Kyiv and Dnipro. Others are stuck in Mariupol and Donetsk.

I called my family in Ukraine. My cousin, Oleh Potinin, who currently lives in a safe zone near Dnipro, is organizing medical supplies for hospitals and for people who have escaped from the war zones and suffered injuries. Dnipro has turned into a huge hub for refugees, where the hospitals are full and are in desperate need of medical supplies.

Music is a universal language that can be understood by people from any country.

My husband arranged for me to deliver speeches to several Rotary clubs in Hiroshima city, appealing for humanitarian assistance. As far as I know, they were already doing fundraising activities and had already raised \$50,000, as well as donating funds to The Rotary Foundation.

Concert to support Ukraine

Olena's son, a violinist, accompanied by a friend on the piano, performed sold out concerts to support Ukraine.

With the situation becoming more dire by the day, I decided to contact Rotary clubs in Ukraine, to assure our aid would quickly and directly reach those in need. Due to my language skills and my familiarity with Ukraine, the Rotary club in Japan asked me to connect them with the Rotary leadership in Ukraine and find out what specific support is needed.

I got hold of Volodymyr Bondarenko, the district governor in Ukraine and conveyed the inquiries from Rotary in Hiroshima City. At the same time, I asked Bondarenko if my cousin in Dnipro could join Rotary and participate in Rotary's relief efforts there. He understood the urgent situation and quickly introduced my cousin to the Kyiv Multinational Rotary club. My cousin in Dnipro is now a Rotary member.

Let's play for Ukraine
~ Charity concert to support Ukraine ~
6th concert

Violin
Eshlin Richard Hiraishi (14)
Born in Hiroshima, Japan, in 2007. Started playing violin at the age of 3 with his father. Started and played at the age of 7 with Noriko Hiraishirock. His principal violin teacher is Hiroshima University Prof. Naoki Nakajima. From 2017, Eshlin has been living in Hanover, Germany. Eshlin graduated from the Hanover Music University's principal program with the Gold Medal with Distinction in Berlin. Currently he is a student of professor Juhui.

Piano
Jundai Okano (16)
Born in Hiroshima, Japan, in 2005. Started playing piano at the age of 4 with his mother. Started and played at the age of 7 with his mother. He is currently studying at the Hanover Music University's principal program with the Gold Medal with Distinction in Berlin. Currently he is a student of professor Juhui.

Program

1. JS Bach "The Well-Tempered Clavier, Book 1 No.23 in B Major"
2. Chopin "Etudes Op.10 No.1"
3. Paganini "Caprice No.5"
4. Rachmaninoff "Piano Sonata No.2, Op.36 1st mov"
5. Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64"

4/2 Sold Out
Higashi Ward Community Cultural Center
18-11 Higashikuwanocho, Higashi Ward, Hiroshima, 732-0855
Start 2:00pm Open 1:30pm Close 3:00pm
¥2500 (Adult) ¥1000 (Student)
Hosted by Hiroshima Tone Parade Station (Okano Naoki)
TEL (083) 19011-4252 (Olena Hiraishi)

During peace time, I used to run chamber music concerts in Hiroshima for children and parents. Now, we decided to turn these concerts into charity events for Ukraine. My son, a violinist, and his pianist friend, played at these concerts. They performed well-known

classic pieces by European composers and the proceeds have gone to support Ukrainians through Rotary clubs.

There has been tremendous interest. Due to COVID restrictions, we were only allowed to invite 50 people per concert, even though more than 200 people expressed interest. We are able to move to a bigger venue and will play to a large audience in April. After every concert, we send the money to my cousin directly so it reaches people directly. He worked with the Rotary club to buy food and medicine and mattresses for refugees. Because medicine is in critical need, we are trying to purchase medical supplies in Germany and ship them to the eastern part of Ukraine.

I think music is a universal language that can be understood by people from any country. My son says he will play it with the utmost prayer for peace.

I keep thinking how we can end this war and what we can do to help the victims of the war. Since I'm of both Russian and Ukrainian descent, I look at Russia and Ukraine as sibling countries that should live side by side peacefully.

2 - Creating scholarships for Afghan refugees

By Ademar Bechtold and Quentin Wodon, Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on March 31, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

The number of refugees globally has been steadily rising. The ongoing war in Ukraine has created an even larger humanitarian crisis with millions of displaced people. There is much that Rotary clubs are doing, and can be doing, to help the resettlement of refugees.

About a month ago, Ademar and I joined a combined board meeting of our Rotary Action Group and the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development, discussing what could be done to help the resettlement of Afghan refugees in the United States. Ademar, a professor of economics at Notre Dame of Maryland University, suggested his university might be able to provide one or two scholarships for Afghan youth. We all thought this would be a brilliant idea. As many as 100,000 Afghans may eventually resettle in the U.S. The government-funded Afghan Parolee Assistance program provides support to Afghan refugees for a minimum of 90 days, including for housing and food, enrolling children in school, and

finding employment. But the program does not include support for Afghan youth to further their education. There is a need for colleges and universities to support the resettlement effort by providing scholarships and other types of assistance to qualified young Afghan women and men.

A week later, Ademar and I met with Dr. Marylou Yam, president of the university, to share the idea. Dr. Yam was enthusiastic about educating refugees because it resonated with the mission of the university. Founded in 1895, Notre Dame of Maryland was the first Catholic college for women in the United States to award the baccalaureate degree. It has been leading the way in women's education ever since.

Helping Afghan refugees is a great fit for the university's mission "to educate leaders to transform the world." The university challenges its students to build inclusive communities, engage in service to others, and promote social responsibility. While the university's traditional undergraduate Women's College serves those interested in a single-sex education, it also meets the needs of adult women and men through career-focused undergraduate and graduate programs designed around their real-life schedules.

The University generously committed to provide two full tuition scholarships for young Afghan women. As Rotarians, we will make sure that Afghan youth in the Baltimore area and elsewhere are aware of this new opportunity by sharing information and contacting specific groups working with the refugees.



Photo: Notre Dame of Maryland University's Campus.

Both Ademar and I benefited from Rotary in our youth. We both joined Rotaract (Ademar in Brazil, me in Belgium). Ademar received an Ambassadorial scholarship from Rotary to study in the US, and I visited British Columbia for a summer through a Rotary exchange program. We are both very happy that in a small way, our engagement with Rotary has helped make these scholarships available.

If you know Afghan refugees who may be interested in studying at Notre Dame of Maryland University in Baltimore, please contact us through the website of the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced

Displacement, and Migration. If you know of other universities who might want to help in the resettlement effort and would like our help contacting refugees, please reach out as well.

Box 1: Communication from Notre Dame of Maryland University

April 12, 2022

NDMU Offers Full-tuition Scholarships for Afghan Refugees

NDMU Partners with Rotary Action Group to Help Students Continue Their Education

BALTIMORE, Md.) – Notre Dame of Maryland University will provide two full-tuition scholarships for refugees from Afghanistan to earn a bachelor's degree in the Women's College, in partnership with the [Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration](#).

NDMU's Afghan Refugee Scholarship covers the full tuition and on-campus housing for up to four years for two undergraduate students to attend Maryland's only regionally accredited women's college. The University also encourages other Afghan refugees [who meet the admissions requirements](#) to apply to the Women's College to be considered for additional NDMU scholarships and grants. The Rotary Action Group will help identify prospective students for the program. NDMU provides a liberal arts education in the Catholic tradition for Women's College students, as well as career-focused undergraduate and graduate degree programs for adult women and men.

"We are thrilled to help young Afghan refugee women to prepare for their future and realize their educational goals at Notre Dame of Maryland University," said Scott Briell, senior vice president for enrollment & student services. *"Since our founding in 1895, Notre Dame has been a leader in the education of women. Through this partnership with the Rotary Action Group, we are advancing Notre Dame's mission to educate leaders to transform the world."*

NDMU's collaboration with the Rotary Action Group, a volunteer group affiliated with Rotary International, is designed to provide extra support to students and families from Afghanistan, as they transition to the United States after fleeing their country. Scholarship recipients will benefit from NDMU's comprehensive academic and support services, as well as a close-knit environment, that help all students succeed.

"I am looking forward to working with Notre Dame students, faculty, and staff to welcome new students from Afghanistan into our community," said Dr. Ademar Bechtold, an NDMU economics professor and member of the Rotary Action Group. *"The Notre Dame community embraces service to others, and when we welcome people forced to leave their home country into our community, we put our service ideals into action."*

Students and families who are interested in the Afghan Refugee Scholarship should contact the Admissions Office at admiss@ndm.edu or 410-532-5330 for more information.

3 - Austrian aid convoy drives all night to deliver supplies for Ukraine

By Sebastian Adami, Rotaract Club Klagenfurt-Wörthersee, Austria

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on March 29, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

On the evening of 2 March, I set out with a team of Rotaract members and colleagues from six nations to deliver relief supplies to contacts waiting for us near the border of Poland and Ukraine. Our five-vehicle convoy traveled through the night to get there. But we were heartened by the response we saw all around us, people flashing their lights or giving us other signs

of encouragement as they saw our relief supply convoy marked by flags that identified what we were doing.

This effort came about through the wonderful network we enjoy in Rotary. Like many, I watched with horror the images coming from Ukraine following the Russian invasion of the country on 24 February. These images included people who had lost everything, their belongings, their homes, and some even the lives of loved ones. The more I witnessed people having to seek refuge in subways or shelters and the flood of displaced people seeking safety in other countries, I knew I had to do something. I contacted friends of mine in the Rotaract Club of

Klagenfurt-Wörthersee, and we were all united in our desire to help.

The convoy

The convoy heads across Poland toward the Ukraine border. Within a short time, I set up a fundraising campaign with a long-time club member Ivana Tadic and our club president Anna Bäuchler with the active support of our members. In one weekend, we collected many donations from family, friends, and work colleagues including canned food, water, sleeping bags, generators, and medical supplies. The question became how to deliver these items.

As part of our campaign, I had reached out to a former coworker, Alessia Sasina, who was born in Kyiv. She had also been raising donations. But it was not until we both talked to Max Aichlseder that we hit upon the idea of bringing the donations to the Poland-Ukraine border ourselves. He provided us with some vehicles for the transport, with which we could load our own collected donations and those from Alessia. We had reached friends in Ukraine and knew what was needed through the assistance of the Honorary Counsel for Ukraine, Nils Grollitsch, and through our Rotaract network.



Photo: Members of the Rotaract Club of Klagenfurt-Wörthersee, Austria, collect medical supplies, food, sleeping bags, and generators for transport to the Polish-Ukrainian border.

Headed for the border

Setting out on 2 March, we drove all night to reach the border the following morning. The closer we got to the border, the calmer we became. We were aware of the situation we were getting ourselves into but we were buoyed by the support we saw around us. For security reasons, we decided to meet our contacts a kilometer before the border crossing.

After more than 1,100 kilometers and 14 hours of driving, we arrived. It was an indescribable feeling I

will never forget. The gratitude was amazingly great, and our hearts filled up. From there, the relief goods were transported on to Kyiv, Kharkiv, and Zhytomyr. We unloaded the goods on the spot and agreed to bring back with us some people who had fled the conflict, mainly women and children, exhausted but relieved they had made it to safety after many hours on the road. Before we got back, we were already receiving photos and videos showing that our donations had arrived at hospitals and locations in need.

Second convoy

Since our first campaign was so successful, we put together a second convoy on 15 March. We again coordinated with our contacts from the Rotaract clubs on what was most needed. The atmosphere on the second trip was a bit different than the first. There was much more activity on the roads, and on the way to the border we saw several vehicles heading for Ukraine as aid convoys.



Photo: The convoy heads across Poland toward the Ukraine border.

Looking back on the past weeks, I am incredibly proud of what we accomplished together in such a short time. It has been one of the most formative events of my life. We were one of the first, if not the first, aid convoy from Austria to bring goods to Ukraine. We helped as much as we could without hesitating, and with the help of our Rotaract and Rotary contacts, the supplies arrived where they were needed.

The Rotary Foundation has created a channel for direct humanitarian support in the Ukraine region. Follow updates on how Rotary members are providing humanitarian relief on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn, and on Rotary.org.

4 - Editor of Rotary Magazine in Ukraine Thanks Rotary Network for its Help

Interview with Mykola Stebljanko

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on March 22, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

Q: What's your situation there now?

Stebljanko: I'm now living in Odesa. It's the third most populist city on the southwest of Ukraine, an important port city on the Black Sea coast. Currently, there's no military action here yet, but we live under the constant threat of bombs and missiles. Often, air raid sirens will wake us up in the middle of the night. We have to get up and hide in a safe place. You know, in my apartment, the safest place is the bathroom. We huddle together and spend the rest of the night there. Occasionally, we experienced a few rocket attacks, but most of the time, it's a safe place.

Most of the military actions now center around Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine, and Kharkiv. More than a dozen smaller cities are also under attack. The city of Mariupol in the Southeast of Ukraine is under siege. More than 2,500 civilians have died there and close to 400,000 people are trapped in the city. The Russian army stopped anyone from escaping. Many are without electricity, water, and heat.

Q: What is happening with Rotary clubs in Ukraine?

Stebljanko: There are 62 Rotary clubs in Ukraine. At the moment, only the Rotary Club of Kherson has temporarily suspended meetings because the city is now under the control of the Russian military. I recently spoke with a Rotarian there. None of them are able to escape and are trapped inside the city. They no longer meet or do any projects for fear of personal safety. Our district governor sent a letter of support to all the Rotarians in Kherson.

Other Rotary clubs continue to operate and are trying their best to conduct Rotary services. We have created a special committee to coordinate help. Each club has a representative on the committee and we meet online twice a day to discuss issues that are facing our clubs.

Q: What kind of relief projects are Ukraine clubs doing?

Stebljanko: Our Rotary services fall into the following three areas:

To provide help to our hospitals, where a large number of wounded civilians are being treated. They are in dire need of medical supplies. We have set up a special account and have received about US\$100,000 from Rotary clubs and districts from around the world. We have already purchased and distributed medicine and equipment. We also have been approved for two disaster response grant.

To coordinate humanitarian aid. Rotary clubs and districts are sending humanitarian aid via trucks, ships, and air carriers. We are rebuilding Rotary's humanitarian hubs along the Ukraine borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. They have received all of the supply items and sent them across the border to our cities. Then, we have different hubs inside Ukraine near the border regions where Rotarians distribute this humanitarian help to the cities that are in dire need of help. Most of the items are clothes, food, and medicine.

To help families of Rotarians who want to leave the country. We have received many requests from Rotarians in Europe and America, who would like to host our family members and relatives.

Q: Why don't you leave Ukraine?



Photo: Mykola Stebljanko.

Stebljanko: I'm already a refugee. I lived in Simferopol, the capital of Crimea for 40 years. But in 2015, I had to leave my native city because of the Russian annexation of Crimea. So, my wife, Olga and I moved to Odesa. We felt our move to Ukraine would keep us safe. When people asked us why we do not want to leave Odesa and go outside Ukraine, I always

answer: we were forced to leave our motherland once in 2015. We don't want to leave our country again. We are Ukrainians and we would like to stay in Ukraine.

Q: What's your message to the Rotary clubs around the world?

Stebljanko: On behalf of Rotarians in Ukraine, I would like to say a big thank you to all our Rotary fellows who have helped us in Ukraine. It means a lot to us during this difficult time in our country's history. At the same time, I would like to appeal to Rotary people to lobby their governments and push for peace. We are grateful for our friends around the world who are helping us.

5 – Ukrainian describes leaving Kyiv, using Rotary network to help others

By Iryna Bushmina, District 2232 (Ukraine) Rotaract Representative

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on March 22, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

I left Kyiv in the first hours of the war. My sister, her husband, her 3-month-old baby and a cat were in the car. When we reached the border, men were already not allowed to leave the country, so I went on with my sister and a little nephew. We were five days in the car, six days until we got to Vienna.

We stayed for the night in different countries three times. These were not hotels but homes of Rotary and Rotaract families. I used to just say that Rotary International is a big family, now I really believe it. And I am convinced that this is a family that will stand by you. These are no longer beautiful words to me, this is reality.

I was still in the car when I got the idea to mobilize Rotaract Europe. I realized that I was not the only one who needed help and support. My sister was driving, and I had my hands free. I started writing to all chats I knew where there were Rotaractors about the situation in Ukraine. A lot of Rotaractors instantly responded. People immediately created groups with different directions and helped me to lead them. These were not perfectly thought-out projects, but they were projects that started working from the first day.

Rotaract responded very quickly, and I realized that we needed to start very rapidly with the small projects to help Rotarians and Rotaractors of Ukraine find accommodations in other countries. Now, the project has grown, and we are helping many Ukrainians find

a new home for the first time. We have lined up more than 2,000 host families to take in refugees.

The requests we are processing vary from assistance with relocating, to finding accommodations, to providing other humanitarian support. Right now, there is a big request for help for the defense forces for helmets, thermal imagers, body armor, and the like.

Some cities ask for simple things – food and water. And that's what hurts the most. Especially when we all realize that the Russian army is blocking us from bringing humanitarian aid to civilians and they are dying from hunger and dehydration.

There are more than 100 people in my international team alone and around 50 people in the Ukrainian team. I don't know exactly how many Rotaract members are involved in helping Ukraine. Each country has its own projects. Some clubs also organize assistance separately. Some are more involved, some less, but even the smallest contribution is valuable and could save lives.



Photo: Iryna Bushmina

We work in four directions:

1. Distribute truthful information about the situation in Ukraine
2. Find accommodation and hosts for Ukrainians in flight
3. Send humanitarian aid
4. Securing financial support for those that need it

Not all of the people write or express their gratitude. But to be honest, I don't expect this. After what these people have gone through – the fear, stress, spending three to four days at the border – we do not need them to say, "thank you." We just need to make sure these people are safe and that they get what they need to survive and help others. Now is the time for understanding. Of course, when some of the people do write their appreciation, it is a pleasure.

6 - How Rotary Community Corps Help Refugee Communities

By Tom Gump, organizer of The Rotary Community Corps (RCC) for the Afghan Community in Minnesota, USA, and a past district governor

This story was posted on Rotary Voices on March 9, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

If you want to create positive peace in the world, you do not need to go all the way to Afghanistan or Ukraine, you can, together with others, have an impact from your own backyard. Positive peace is not only the absence of violence, but also includes a state of collaboration and support between states, nations, or members of a society.

Rotary and The Rotary Foundation are invested in creating positive peace. But what can we do in our local area to contribute to positive peace?

Learn from missed opportunities

There are 57,000 residents in the State of Minnesota who are of Somali ancestry including 31,400 who were born in Somalia and migrated to Minnesota. Ethnic Somalis first immigrated to the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul in the 1980s and other Somalis arrived during the 1990s. Rotary failed to invite the Somali refugees into our clubs and missed an opportunity to serve them and better integrate them into the community.

Be inclusive and ready to take action

There are approximately 1,000 refugees from Kabul, Afghanistan, who have recently moved to Minneapolis and St. Paul with another approximately 500 expected to arrive in the next few months. As a result of two Afghan interpreters being members of our Rotary Club of Minnesota Veterans, we were much more aware of the needs of this new community. In December 2021, we formed the Rotary Community Corps (RCC) for the Afghan Community in Minnesota, USA. We brought together members of five local Rotary clubs to work on this effort, and interest is still growing.

Identify needs and fill gaps

While immigrants receive basic support (for example, initial housing and funding for food), many necessary needs for integrating into US society are not provided. The Afghan interpreters have been invaluable in connecting these needs with Rotarians who can help people make this transition. The RCC has brought together Rotarians and the new arrivals from

Afghanistan every other week to provide services and celebrate successes.

For instance, at a recent RCC meeting we learned about how difficult it is for Afghan refugees who do not speak English to pass a driver's test (and secure a job) because the Minnesota driver's manual has not yet been translated into the Dari or Pashto languages. Google Translate doesn't cover these languages and hiring a translator would cost more than \$20,000. From the conversation at the RCC, we were able to go back to our Rotary clubs and discuss this need. A local Rotarian's company has a computer program that can translate text into these two languages; so, this club member translated the Minnesota Driver's License Manual into both languages and the Afghan community contributed to the final edits.

At the next RCC meeting, we were able to celebrate five Afghan refugees receiving their driving permits.



Photo: The RCC of the Afghan Community in Minnesota.

Form an RCC

RCCs are excellent vehicles for engaging local Rotary members in service projects, while at the same time expanding Rotary's reach into a community that is currently not being served by Rotary. Our new RCC is serving our Afghan community and will potentially grow Rotary in the future. When we submitted the paperwork for this group to RI a few months ago, we never thought it would grow as quickly as it has. We meet every other Saturday and typically have 60 individuals in attendance including Rotarians and Afghan families. Sometimes we share a traditional Afghan meal – usually chicken and rice – and sometimes pizza, balancing Afghan and American customs.

Our RCC's impact and outcomes are growing daily. For example, we recently received a call from U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips' office. The Congressman is selling his home and downsizing. He wants our RCC's help to donate his furniture to Afghan refugees in Minnesota.

Refugees send resources home to family members in countries that have been devastated by political and economic upheaval. The work being done by Rotary clubs in Minnesota through our RCC contributes to positive peace in Afghanistan by providing stability and inclusion for the refugees that live here, and in so doing assisting them in supporting their families both here and across the world when they send funds home.

7 - Supporting the resettlement of refugees

By *Quentin Wodon, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration*

This story was posted on Service in Action on March 17, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

According to the latest statistics from UNHCR, an estimated 84 million people have been forcibly displaced globally as of mid-2021. Within this group, 26.6 million are refugees and 4.4 million are seeking asylum. As the number of displaced individuals grows globally, including with the current crisis in Ukraine, civil society organizations including Rotary clubs and districts are stepping up to help in resettlement efforts.

Clubs support refugee resettlement efforts worldwide

Rotarians and Rotaractors have supported refugee resettlement in different ways across the world. In the United States, according to preliminary results from a survey of U.S.-based club and district leaders conducted by Rotary International in January, almost one in five (17.4% of 890 responses) indicated their club or district was already engaged in supporting Afghan refugee resettlement efforts.

The five most common activities Rotary members have undertaken in the U.S. include the provision of basic household items and furnishings; the provision of appropriate clothing to the climate/season; the provision of adequate food supplies; assistance with enrollment in English language training; and assistance with employment services, health services, and public benefits. Through their work, many clubs are partnering with leading refugee resettlement agencies to welcome and offer long-term support to newcomers settling in their communities. For clubs not yet engaged, there is interest in supporting the resettlement efforts. The results of the survey are encouraging in terms of Rotarian contributions and the potential to engage even more clubs and districts in sharing their time to support refugees.

Around the world, many more clubs and members are helping welcome evacuees in their home communities. For example:

- Rotary members in Brazil and Colombia partnered with local organizations to provide meals, medical supplies, and professional development opportunities to refugees from Venezuela.
- In Canada, the Rotary Club of Amherst worked with local religious institutions to sponsor and welcome families from Syria.
- In Uganda, the Rotaract Club of Nakivale, which is based inside a refugee settlement, helps new arrivals by providing supplies, organizing activities, and mentoring other young people.
- Across Europe, clubs and districts are providing warm clothing, food and infant formula, and essential supplies for women, children and elderly refugees arriving from Ukraine. Many are also opening their homes to provide a safe and warm place for refugees leaving Ukraine.

Higher education for youth: another opportunity to help

There are many opportunities to help families who have relocated to your community, including ensuring that young refugees have access to education opportunities. One way to support newcomers is through scholarships provided either by Rotary clubs or by colleges and universities to qualified young women and men who have sufficient mastery of the local language or can acquire it.

But for this to work, at least two conditions are needed. First, college and university scholarships need to be made available for refugees. Ideally, the offer should be a full scholarship. Colleges and universities would need to assess the ability of potential scholarship recipients to succeed in their course of study, which would require minimum credentials to be met and verified. Clubs and districts could provide individualized support to scholars during their studies. Many universities have programs that provide an alternative route into higher education for groups that wouldn't otherwise meet stringent entry requirements, and these programs should be used where offered.

In addition, the availability of scholarships for refugees would need to be publicized so that qualified individuals could apply. It is likely clubs can help aspiring scholars complete their application. Clubs could help with outreach to newcomers through various channels, including by contacting national resettlement agencies and their institutional partners.

Rotarians and Rotaractors can play a role in suggesting to universities the opportunity to provide scholarships to refugees, while ensuring that refugees and the agencies that are working with them are aware of these scholarships. As one example, following a discussion in a meeting of our Action Group's board, Ademar Bechtold, a Professor of Economics at Notre Dame University of Maryland in the United States, contacted the University's President to inquire about offering one or two scholarships to Afghan refugees. Founded in 1895, Notre Dame University of Maryland was the first Catholic college for women in the United States to award the baccalaureate degree in the U.S.—and they have been leading the way in women's education ever since. Dr. Yam and her administration generously committed to provide two full tuition scholarships for young Afghan women. The local Rotary community is now helping make this known so that qualified Afghan refugees can apply. If you would like to know more about this particular opportunity, please contact me through the RAG website at <https://www.ragforrefugees.org/>. Additional information about Notre Dame of Maryland University is available at www.ndm.edu.

Conclusion

There is much that Rotarians and Rotaractors can do to contribute to refugee resettlement effort. If you are already engaged, let us know what you are doing. If you are not yet engaged but would like to be, we are in the process of preparing guidance with practical Rotary examples to help clubs and districts evaluate how they are best positioned to engage.

8 - ShelterBox's response in Yemen

By Victoria Ifould, International Giving Executive, ShelterBox

This story was posted on Service in Action on February 17, 2022. The original post is available [here](#).

ShelterBox and Rotary members have a mutual concern about the rising levels of global displacement and a shared passion to support those whose lives are torn apart by disaster and conflict. When war and conflict destroy homes and displace people, shelter is one of the essential building blocks for recovery. As well as responding to disasters, ShelterBox provides emergency shelter and other lifesaving items to people who have lost everything to conflict.

In partnership, we have provided shelter support to communities displaced by conflict in Nigeria, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Syria, Cameroon, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Mozambique.

Conflict situations are complex and challenging operating environments. Before we decide whether to implement a project to support people displaced by conflict, we need to evaluate the risk and whether we would be able to respond effectively.

Over the years, we have been monitoring the Yemen conflict very closely. Previously, we have been unable to respond in the country due to access constraints, the active conflict, and the security situation. Sea, land, and air blockades made it almost impossible to send aid for many years. As an active war zone, humanitarian work is extremely dangerous. It requires a huge amount of resources and robust local partnerships to ensure that everyone involved is kept safe, and that aid can be delivered to the people who need it most without those families being exposed to further harm as a result of us being there.

Due to the easing of some restrictions and through developing a strong partnership with the Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief (BCHR), a local organization, we are now able to implement a response.

The Yemen Civil War

The conflict in Yemen is one of the world's worst humanitarian crises.

In 2014, tensions between the rebel Houthi movement and government forces escalated into civil war. A conflict that was meant to last weeks has continued for over seven years. 21 million people—that's two-thirds of the country's entire population—need humanitarian support. Years of fighting have displaced more than four million people, most of whom have been moving from place to place for years.

The crisis in Yemen is extremely complex. Intense deprivation, a lack of services and the failing economy creates new and spiraling crises every year. We are supporting people in the Ma'rib region in Northern Yemen. Since 2021, conflict has flared in the region and caused rapid displacement of thousands of people fleeing to already overcrowded displacement camps. The camps have a lack of basic services such as water, food, and healthcare.

Aisha and Ali

Aisha and her family had to flee their home due to the violence of the civil war. Since then, Aisha has moved from place to place searching for a safe and secure place to bring up her children and earn a living. They are now staying in Ma'rib, where she is dependent on her relatives' support.

“We depend on our relatives because we left everything we owned in our house in Shabwa. We built it over three years and lost it in two days – only to be displaced with just the clothes that were on us.”

Most displaced people in Ma'rib live in “nests,” makeshift shelters made of any materials people can find, including cloth, plastic, and vegetation. They offer no protection from the blazing heat of summer and provide no warmth in the freezing winter temperatures.

Ali's home was destroyed in a military attack. He now lives in Ma'rib, where he struggles to support his family of eight. “The conditions are very difficult, there is no work, and little aid is provided to us... we live in a nest of straw, scrap and some drums.”

Aisha and Ali's stories echo that of millions of people who have been left to survive in displacement camps across Northern Yemen. ShelterBox's response will

help protect families, help them to stay healthy, and support them to build resilience and improve their living conditions. We will be distributing tarpaulins, UN family tents, solar lights, water filters, water carriers, kitchen sets, thermal blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, wash basins, soap, and face masks.

Water filters will help families to avoid water borne diseases, blankets will help children to stay warm, and shelter will help families to continue their family routines, be protected from the elements, and give a sense of dignity and privacy whilst also protecting them from COVID-19.

Partnerships are at the heart of our work

In complex humanitarian situations like Yemen, the local knowledge and connections of local partners is more important than ever. BHCR will work directly with the local authorities and communities to ensure we are providing aid to the families who are most in need. ShelterBox brings expertise in shelter, logistics, training, and monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning and can strengthen the capacity of other organizations. As Rotary's partner in disaster relief, ShelterBox is able to extend Rotary's reach and support people in Yemen who are experiencing one of the world's most devastating humanitarian crisis.



Photo: Ali outside his nest in Ma'rib

Nonprofit organizations serving refugees

Directory of Selected Nonprofit Organizations based in the United States and Providing Services to Refugees, Displaced Persons, and Migrants

By Sarah Nativ and Diane Rich, Board Members
(Secretaries) of the Rotary Fellowship for Global
Development and the Rotary Action Group for
Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration.

The following directory was compiled by the Rotary Action Group (RAG) on Refugees, Forced Displacement and Migration and the Rotary Fellowship for International Development. The objective of this directory is to provide a selection of nonprofit organization which focus much or all of their work on providing services to refugees, displaced persons, and migrants. The aim is for this list to serve as a resource for Rotarians who are seeking to connect with nonprofit organizations focused on refugees, forced displacement and migration for purposes of collaborating on projects, coordinating volunteer opportunities, inviting a speaker to their Rotary club to speak on issues relating to refugees, forced displacement and migration, or making a donation, among others.

This guide is intended to be a living document that will be updated with additional nonprofit organizations in the future, including nonprofit organizations based internationally. The nonprofit organizations are listed in alphabetical order and include a high-level snapshot of the organization, including website, mission statement, brief description, and Charity Navigator rating profile. The organizations selected for inclusion in this directory have a rating of at least 3 stars (out of 4 stars), with some limited exceptions.¹ Please note that the organizations listed are for information purposes only. Their listing is not intended to serve as an endorsement of any particular organizations listed.

¹ Charity Navigator rates organizations that are (1) registered as 501(c)(3) public charities *and* (2) that file a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Charity Navigator rates charities by evaluating financial health and accountability & transparency. To learn more about Charity Navigator's rating system, please click [here](#). Please note that some religious-based nonprofit organizations active in issues involving refugees, forced displacement and migration were included in this directory even though they



Action Against Hunger USA
<http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/>

Headquarters Location
New York, New York

Mission
Action Against Hunger is the world's hunger specialist whose primary goal is to create a better way to deal with deadly hunger.

Brief Description

For almost 40 years, this global humanitarian organization has been on the front lines treating and preventing hunger across nearly 50 countries; serving more than 20 million people in 2017 alone. Action Against Hunger is the leader in a global movement that aims to end life-threatening hunger for good within our lifetimes. The organization is committed to doubling the number of children who receive urgent hunger care, from three million to six million by 2020. Of every dollar donated, 93 cents go directly to saving lives today and preventing hunger tomorrow. Action Against Hungers works closely with refugees and displaced persons – along with the communities hosting them. They are on the front lines of the world's most serious refugee crises, administering lifesaving treatment to children suffering from malnutrition, providing better access to clean, safe water, and increasing access to food, among other things.

do not have a Charity Navigator rating because as a religious organization, they are not required to file the Form 990, and therefore they fall outside the parameters of Charity Navigator. In such cases, an explanation regarding the lack of a Charity Navigator rating is provided in their organization's description.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	95.87	★★★★
Financial	95.00	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	97.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2021 and includes data from FY2018, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Action Against Hunger's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Humanitarian Aid to Nigeria (49.3%), Aid to Somalia (13.1%), Aid to South Sudan (11.6%)



Alight
(formerly the American Refugee Committee)

<https://wearealight.org/>

Headquarters Location
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Mission

Alight is a family of organizations that works closely with refugees, trafficked persons, and economic migrants, to co-design solutions that help them build full and fulfilling lives.

Brief Description

Alight works with its constituents to provide health care, clean water, shelter, protection and economic opportunities to more than 3.5 million people in 17 countries each year. This looks like: Offering world-class services in unexpected places. Supporting the world's very most marginalized and vulnerable individuals. Creating sanctuary spaces to shelter and guide displaced people. Getting young people access to the building blocks to make their future. Asking recipients of our services to also determine quality.

Alight exists to inspire and unleash the abundance in every person. It is becoming an organization that sees possibility instead of scarcity, that provides services truly worthy of human beings instead of just

'good enough.' Its purpose is to unlock limitless potential, together.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	96.46	★★★★
Financial	95.00	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 10/01/2020 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Alight's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).



Anera

<https://www.anera.org/>

Headquarters Location
Washington, D.C.

Mission

Since 1968, Anera has helped refugees and vulnerable communities in Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan live with dignity, well-being and hope.

Brief Description

Anera, which has no political or religious affiliation, works on the ground with partners in Palestine (West Bank and Gaza), Lebanon and Jordan. Anera mobilizes resources for immediate emergency relief and for sustainable, long-term health, education, and economic development. Anera's staff serve in their communities, navigating the politics that constrict progress to get help where it's needed most. That's how Anera delivered more than \$100.4 million in programs in 2020 alone, and it's how it will keep building better lives until hope finds its way in the Middle East.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	92.92	★★★★
Financial	90.00	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 04/01/2021 and includes data from FY2020, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Anera's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Health and Relief (88.9%), Education (7.0%),
Community (4.1%)



Catholic Charities USA

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/>

Headquarters Location

Alexandria, Virginia

Mission

Catholic Charities USA provides service to people in need, to advocate for justice in social structures, and to call the entire church and other people of good will to do the same.

Brief Description

Founded in 1910, Catholic Charities is a network of charities with headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia. In 2005 Forbes magazine ranked it as the fifth largest charity in the United States in terms of total revenue. The organization serves millions of people a year, regardless of their religious, social, or economic backgrounds.

Locations

Catholic Charities has member agencies located in all 50 states as well as Washington, D.C. and Guam.

To find a location, please visit:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/find-help/>

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

Catholic Charities USA is not ranked by Charity Navigator. It cannot be evaluated by Charity Navigator's Encompass Rating methodology because, as a religious organization, it is not required to file the Form 990. Note, however, that some member agencies of the Catholic Charities

network. have been rated by Charity Navigator, for example, Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Catholic Charities of the East Bay, etc.

To search specific branches of the Catholic Charities network, please click [here](#).

Programs

Catholic Charities provides services to millions of people a year through activities such as affordable housing, health care, food assistance and disaster relief. Catholic Charities also provides [essential services to immigrants and newcomers](#), including direct legal immigration services to foreign-born individuals and their families.



Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc.

<http://www.cliniclegal.org/>

Headquarters Location

Silver Spring, Maryland

Mission

Embracing the Gospel value of welcoming the stranger, Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc. (CLINIC) promotes the dignity and protects the rights of immigrants in partnership with a dedicated network of Catholic and community legal immigration programs.

Brief Description

Established in 1988, CLINIC advocates for humane and just immigration policy. Its field-based network of grassroots nonprofit immigration programs (370 affiliates in 49 states and the District of Columbia) is the largest in the nation. CLINIC provides affiliates and non-affiliates substantive legal and program management training and resources, as well as advocacy support at the state, local and national levels.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	94.06	★★★★★
Financial	91.60	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 02/01/2020 and includes data from FY2018, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For CLINC's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Education and Network Growth (65.2%), Direct Representation (17.8%), Advocacy and Community Engagement (17%)



Church World Service
<https://cwsglobal.org/>

Headquarters Location
Elkhart, Indiana

Mission

Founded in 1946, Church World Service (CWS) is a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disasters.

Brief Description

CWS meets disaster relief and recovery needs, facilitates sustainable social and economic development, provides assistance and resettlement services to refugees and helps address the root causes of hunger. A cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions, CWS sponsors community-wide CROP Hunger Walks across the U.S. to raise awareness and fund to help end hunger locally and globally.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	90.32	★★★★★
Financial	86.65	★★★
Accountability & Transparency	97.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2021 and includes data from FY2020, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Church World Service's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Services to Displaced Persons (67.2%), Global Relief and Development (16.7%), Emergency Response (10.3%)



The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project

<https://firrp.org/>

Headquarters Location
Florence, Arizona

Mission

The Florence Project is a nonprofit legal service organization providing free legal and social services to detained adults and unaccompanied children facing immigration removal proceedings in Arizona.

Brief Description

Although the government assists indigent criminal defendants and civil litigants through public defenders and legal aid attorneys, it does not provide attorneys for people in immigration removal proceedings. As a result, an estimated 86 percent of the detained people go unrepresented due to poverty. The Florence Project strives to address this inequity both locally and nationally through direct service, partnerships with the community, and advocacy and outreach efforts. The Florence Project aspires to ensure that all immigrants facing removal have access to counsel, understand their rights under the law, and are treated fairly and humanely.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	97.16	★★★★★
Financial	99.71	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	96.00	★★★★

This rating was published 02/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For The Florence Project's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).



Gleaning for the World

<https://gftw.org/>

Headquarters Location

Concord, Virginia

Mission

Gleaning for the World's mission is to efficiently deliver high quality, life-saving supplies to victims of poverty and devastation by connecting corporate surplus to critical needs.

Brief Description

Founded in 1998, Gleaning for the World (GFTW) provides surplus medical and essential supplies to humanitarian projects worldwide. GFTW provides expedited distribution channels, efficient logistical support and dependable service between corporate donors and mission groups at the lowest possible cost.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	92.21	★★★★★
Financial	95.38	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	90.00	★★★★

This rating was published 04/01/2020 and includes data from FY2018, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Gleaning for the World's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Food, clothing and medical supplies (100%)



American ideals. Universal values.

Human Rights First

<https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/>

Headquarters Location

New York, NY

Mission

Human Rights First (HRF) is an independent advocacy and action organization that challenges America to live up to its ideals. HRF believes American leadership is essential in the struggle for human rights so HRF presses the U.S. government and private companies to respect human rights and the rule of law. When they don't, HRF steps in to demand reform, accountability and justice. Around the world, HRF works where they can best harness American influence to secure core freedoms. HRF creates the political environment and policy solutions necessary to ensure consistent respect for human rights. Whether they are protecting refugees, combating torture, or defending persecuted minorities, they focus not on making a point, but on making a difference. For over 30 years, they've built bipartisan coalitions and teamed up with frontline activists and lawyers to tackle issues that demand American leadership.

Brief Description

Human Rights First is a non-profit, nonpartisan international human rights organization based in New York, Washington D.C., Houston, and Los Angeles.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	90.39	★★★★★
Financial	86.41	★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 12/01/2020 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Refugee Protection/Asylum, Advancing a Values-Based Foreign Policy, National Security



Human Rights Initiative

<https://hrionline.org/>

Headquarters Location

Dallas, TX

Mission

Founded in 1999, Human Rights Initiative of North Texas (HRI) provides legal and support services to refugees and immigrants who have suffered human rights abuses, advocates for justice and promotes international human rights.

Brief Description

HRI provides free legal services to people who have suffered human rights abuses including asylum seekers fleeing persecution, those protected under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Victims of Trafficking and the Violence Protection Act, immigrants abused by a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident, immigrant children who are victims of violent crimes, neglect, abuse or abandonment, and human trafficking victims. HRI also provides social services to its legal clients.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	93.93	★★★★
Financial	92.41	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	96.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2021 and includes data from FY2020, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Human Rights Initiative's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).



Supporting families and strengthening communities for more than 20 years

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

<https://www.ilcm.org/>

Headquarters Location

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Mission

ICLM enhances opportunities for immigrants and refugees through legal representation for low-income individuals, and through education and advocacy with diverse communities.

Brief Description

ICLM brings its full legal passion, dedicated attention and highest quality service to its low-income immigrant/ refugee clients and their families. ICLM values relationships with the communities it serves and seeks to express their full potential and contributions. It believes in taking action to make immigration systems work for all.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	96.66	★★★★
Financial	97.50	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	96.00	★★★★

This rating was published 04/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For ICLM's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

New Beginnings Project (19.4%), Rural Immigration Project (16.4%), Community Defense Project (13.3%)



Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston

<https://www.imgh.org/>

Headquarters Location

Houston, TX

Mission

Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston (IM) brings people of diverse faith traditions together for dialogue, collaboration and service.

Brief Description

IM provides four main areas of service: (1) Meals on Wheels which delivers more than 1.7 million meals each year to seniors in Harris, Galveston, and surrounding counties and the affiliated Animeals program which provides pet food and care to the dogs and cats of our seniors; (2) Refugee Services which, in conjunction with the U.S. State Department and Episcopal Migration Ministries, resettles hundreds of legal refugees in Houston each year; (3) Interfaith Relations and Community Partnerships which engages diverse groups to promote understanding and dialogue; and (4) Volunteer Houston which connects volunteers with non-profits across the Greater Houston area.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	92.34	★★★★
Financial	89.18	***
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	****

This rating was published 06/01/2020 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For a detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Meals and AniMeals on Wheels, The Refugee Services Program, Interfaith Relations



Neighborhood House of Milwaukee

<https://neighborhoodhousemke.org/news/>

Headquarters Location

Milwaukee, WI

Mission

Founded in 1945, Neighborhood House has grown into a modern, 60,000 square-foot facility that has served more than a third million children and adults. Today NH serves over 3,500 people annually and provides accredited preschool, child care, and programming for kids, teens, families, and refugees. Neighborhood House empowers children, families and individuals to move beyond the barriers of poverty, gain self-sufficiency and realize their full potential. Neighborhood House goals align with major community initiatives aimed at helping people of all ages combat the devastating effects of poverty, including: Educational preparedness; Academic engagement and achievement; Access to post-secondary opportunities; and Family engagement in the educational process.

Brief Description

Neighborhood House is a beacon of hope, a neighborhood center in the settlement house tradition offering educational, social, and recreational activities for people at all stages of life, regardless of income.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	92.82	★★★★
Financial	93.76	****
Accountability & Transparency	92.00	****

This rating was published 12/23/2020 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For a profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Early Childhood Services, Community Services Programs, International Learning Center



Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
<https://jfsannarbor.org/>

Headquarters Location
 Anne Arbor, MI

Mission

Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County is a private non-profit social services agency serving the greater Ann Arbor community. Originally established by the Jewish Federation of Washtenaw County to assist the growing number of refugee families in Ann Arbor from the former Soviet Republics, JFS has since grown into an organization providing programs and services ranging from older adult caregiving to immigrant resettlement and career services.

Brief Description

The roots of Jewish Family Services date back to the late 1970s when a group of dedicated volunteers came together to address the needs of the growing number of refugees arriving in Ann Arbor from the Soviet Union. This resulted in the creation in 1978 of the Soviet Jewry Absorption Committee (SJAC) of Washtenaw County that was founded by Rabbi Allan D Kensky, Helen Aminoff, Claire Bernstein, and the late Rae Lampe. Later they were joined by Bassia Genkina, Irina Chernomordik, Angela Keselman, Myrna Miller and Rabbi Kensky's successor, Rabbi Robert Dobrusin. For almost two decades, these and other individual volunteers were instrumental in helping to build the resettlement program.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	91.36	★★★★★
Financial	90.00	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	93.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Jewish Family Services detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).



New York Immigration Coalition
<https://www.nyic.org/>

Headquarters Location

New York, NY

Mission

The New York Immigration Coalition, founded in 1987, is an umbrella policy and advocacy organization for nearly 200 groups in New York State that work with immigrants and refugees. The NYIC is a leading advocate for immigrant communities on the local, state, and national levels, serving one of the largest and most diverse newcomer populations in the United States. The NYIC provides both a forum for immigrant groups to share their concerns and a vehicle for collective action to bring about positive social change locally and nationally.

Brief Description

Since its founding in 1987, the NYIC has evolved into a powerful voice of advocacy by spearheading innovative policies, promoting and protecting the rights of immigrant communities, improving newcomer access to services, developing leadership and capacity, expanding civic participation, and mobilizing member groups to respond to the fluctuating needs of immigrant communities.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	91.37	★★★★★
Financial	94.74	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	89.00	★★★

This rating was published 12/01/2020 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For a detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Member Engagement, Immigrant Services, Policy and Advocacy



Refugees International
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/>

Headquarters Location
 Washington, D.C.

Mission

Refugees International (RI) advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises.

Brief Description

RI was started in 1979 as a citizens' movement to protect Indochinese refugees. Since then, RI has expanded to become the leading advocacy organization that provokes action from global leaders to resolve refugee crises. Each year, RI conducts 20 to 25 field missions to identify displaced people's needs for basic services such as food, water, health care, housing, access to education and protection from harm. Based on their field-based knowledge of humanitarian emergencies, RI successfully challenges policy makers and aid agencies to improve the lives of displaced people around the world. Where there are needs, RI witnesses what is lacking, presents solutions and demands action.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	96.33	★★★★★
Financial	94.82	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 02/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Refugee International's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Advocacy (71.3%), Public Education (25.3%), Strategic Outreach (3.5%)



Shelter Box USA
<https://www.shelterboxusa.org/>

Headquarters Location
 Santa Barbara, CA

Mission

To build awareness of global displacement and to facilitate providing families with life-saving shelter and essential tools and supplies that will enable them to rebuild their homes and transform their lives after disaster.

Brief Description

Shelter Box provides aid that is tailored to meet the needs of a community after a specific disaster. The aid we supply comes in the form of ShelterBoxes and ShelterKits. Our sturdy green ShelterBoxes contain family-sized tents specially designed to withstand the elements and provide people with temporary shelter until they are able to start the process of rebuilding a home. Our ShelterKits contain all of the essential tools people need to start repairing and rebuilding homes straight away. Our kits and boxes also contain the items that help transform shelter into a home – like cooking sets, solar lights and activity sets for children. We also provide extra aid items, such as SchoolBoxes that contain everything needed to get lessons up and running after a disaster, depending on the situation. Explore our ShelterBox aid in depth.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	92.41	★★★★★
Financial	89.28	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 02/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For the Shelter Box detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

ShelterBoxes (family-sized tents) and ShelterKits (tools for repairing and rebuilding homes).



The Tibet Fund

<https://tibetfund.org/>

Headquarters Location

New York, NY

Mission

The Tibet Fund's mission is to preserve the distinct cultural identity of the Tibetan people. Since 1981, under the patronage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama,

The Tibet Fund has been the primary funding organization for health care, education, refugee rehabilitation, religious and cultural preservation, elder care, and community and economic development programs serving hundreds of thousands of Tibetan refugees living in India, Nepal and Bhutan. The organization's aim is to promote self-reliance and help sustain the cohesiveness of the exile community.

Brief Description

For more than 40 years, The Tibet Fund has played a vital role in sustaining and strengthening the refugee community. By supporting a wide range of vitally important programs and services, the Tibet Fund has had an impact on the well-being of individual Tibetans, from newly arrived children to elderly refugees contending with illness and homelessness.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	96.66	★★★★★
Financial	97.50	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	96.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2020 and includes data from FY2018, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For The Tibet Fund detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Tibetan Refugee Community Empowerment and Welfare, Humanitarian Assistance for Tibetan Refugees, Tibetan Scholarship Program



The United Methodist Committee on Relief of Global Ministries

<https://umcmission.org/umcor/>

Headquarters Location

Atlanta, GA

Mission

Founded in 1940, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the global humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church.

UMCOR is working in more than 80 countries worldwide, including the United States. UMCOR responds to natural or civil disasters that are interruptions of such magnitude that they overwhelm a community's ability to recover on its own. UMCOR works through programs that address hunger, poverty, sustainable agriculture, international and domestic emergencies, refugee and immigrant concerns, global health issues, and transitional development.

Brief Description

Global Ministries connects The United Methodist Church, its people, and congregations to global work. Their areas of impact are missionaries, disaster response and recovery, evangelism and church growth, global health, volunteers, hunger and poverty, water and sanitation, education, migration, racial and ethnic ministries, scholarships, community development, creation care, women and children, and sustainable development. Global Ministries works through missionaries and partners in more than 60 countries around the world.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	90.94	★★★★★
Financial	90.00	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	92.00	★★★★

This rating was published 04/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For a detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Advance Special Projects, Relief Projects, Health Program, and Special Ministries.



Upwardly Global

<https://www.upwardlyglobal.org/>

Headquarters Location

San Francisco, CA

Mission

Upwardly Global creates employer partnerships that benefit from access to the talent pool of over 1.8 million immigrants in the U.S. who are college educated, but are unemployed or underemployed.

Brief Description

In addition to creating employer partnerships, Upwardly Global also provides customized training and support for new Americans to give them an equal opportunity to find and secure skill appropriate opportunities and achieve their full economic potential in the U.S. The outcome is global talent for employers, culturally competent service providers for diverse communities, and family sustaining incomes for those who were previously unemployed or underemployed.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	81.66	★★★★☆
Financial	74.07	★★☆☆
Accountability & Transparency	100.00	★★★★

This rating was published 05/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For Upwardly Global's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Job Seeker Services (90.1%), Employer Network Program (9.9%)



YWCA Tulsa

<https://www.ywcatulsa.org/>

Headquarters Location

Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mission

YWCA Tulsa is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Brief Description

YWCA Tulsa accomplishes its mission locally by advocating for all Tulsans to succeed through wellness, wealth, and education. YWCA Tulsa's programs include health & wellness, immigration services, and activities for senior citizens.

Charity Navigator Rating Profile

	Score (out of 100)	Rating
Overall Score & Rating	90.43	★★★★
Financial	92.12	★★★★
Accountability & Transparency	89.00	★★★

This rating was published 04/01/2021 and includes data from FY2019, the most recent 990 received at that time.

For YWCA Tulsa's detailed profile on Charity Navigator, please click [here](#).

Largest Programs

Immigrant and Refugee Services (51.0%), Health and Wellness Programs (49%)

From Rotary International

The Rotary Foundation Creates Channel for Direct Humanitarian Support in Ukraine Region

Link to the [original announcement](#). For updates, please go to Rotary International's website.

In response to the deepening humanitarian crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, The Rotary Foundation has created an official channel for donors around the world to contribute funds to support the relief efforts underway by Rotary districts and has designated its [Disaster Response Fund](#) as the main avenue for contributions.

To this end, The Rotary Foundation has approved:

- Now through 30 June 2022, designated Rotary districts that border Ukraine and the Rotary district in Ukraine may apply for grants of up to \$50,000 each from the Disaster Response Fund. These expedited disaster response grants can be used to provide relief to refugees or other victims of the crisis including items such as water, food, shelter, medicine and clothing.
- During this same period, other impacted Rotary districts that wish to offer support to refugees or other victims of the crisis in their district can apply for \$25,000 grants from the Disaster Response Fund.
- Now through 30 April 2022, Rotary districts can transfer unallocated District Designated Funds (DDF) to support the Disaster Response Fund, directly supporting these Ukraine-specific humanitarian grants.
- Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund in support of Ukraine can be made [here](#). All funds need to be received into the Disaster Response Fund by 30 April 2022 in order to qualify for use in support of the Ukrainian relief efforts.

- Although the Disaster Response Fund will be the main avenue for Rotary Foundation support, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are also encouraged to create their own responses to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

In addition to support provided through the Disaster Response Fund, the Foundation is coordinating with partners and regional leaders, exploring effective solutions to the increased humanitarian needs.

- We are in contact with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees – USA to prepare for and respond to the needs of those being displaced in Ukraine and to neighboring countries.
- ShelterBox, our project partner for disaster response, is in communication with Rotary members in Eastern Europe to explore how it may offer support with temporary transitional housing and other essential supplies.
- The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration is also mobilizing its resources to assist in this crisis.

More than 2 million people have fled Ukraine and are in dire need of emergency aid. The United Nations estimates that number could grow to as many as 5 million people displaced. Rotary clubs in Europe and around the world have stepped up their relief work, some working on the ground to help displaced families.

We will continue to monitor the situation in Ukraine and neighboring countries. Visit My Rotary and follow Rotary on social media to stay updated on how clubs can get involved and what actions Rotary members have taken and the impact it has had for people in the region.

For all other questions and to obtain more information, please contact the Rotary Support Center at rotarysupportcenter@rotary.org.

The Crossing

Two refugees. Two entirely different stories. And yet their tales share a common theme: The escape into an unfamiliar land takes more than unimaginable courage.

Illustrations by Valerie Chian

This story appeared in the January 2022 issue of Rotary, the magazine of Rotary International. The first part of the story is reproduced with permission in this issue of the Migration & Development Bulletin. The second part will be reproduced in the next issue.

Desperate for a better future, two refugees risk everything as they flee their homes for destinations they know little about. One, 22-year-old Ju Eun Seok, attempts to slip through the cordon of guards who protect the North Korean border. Another, a Somali teenager named Mahdi, prepares for a perilous journey by sea. And even should Seok and Mahdi successfully brave those dangerous passages, they are only at the start of their journeys into the unknown.

The two stories that unfold on the following pages are emblematic of the experiences of the tens of millions of refugees around the world who have left their homes and countries behind to start a new life. Each of their stories is different, yet many of the elements are the same: Ruptured family ties. A pervasive sense of displacement. Unrelieved hunger, fear, and economic uncertainty. And a constant longing for a friendly face, a helping hand. If they are fortunate, some refugees may get an assist from members of Rotary — and a few might even find in Rotary a special kind of home.

Jayu Means Freedom

More than two decades after her harrowing escape from North Korea, Ju Eun Seok leads a South Korean club — the Rotary Club of Ulsan Jayu — whose first priority is helping refugees

By Seoha Lee



On a bitterly cold night, beneath a sickle-shaped moon, three young women huddle in the woods and study the frozen river that lies before them. In some parts of the world, people are preparing to celebrate

Christmas. But here on the border between North Korea and China, the shivering women, friends since high school, are intently focused on something else entirely: their impending flight across the ice.

They'd chosen this location with care, a place where the Yalu River narrowed to only a few meters. Concealed in shadows, they can see the two brightly lit outposts, one on either side of the river. As they watch, the guards on the opposite bank begin their shift change. The moment is now.

The women dash from the woods, descend the snow-covered riverbank, and run onto the ice. Fifteen quick, slippery steps carry them to the other side, where they run up the bank and into another stand of trees. Panting, they wait in the dark. Nothing. Their escape from North Korea has gone undetected. They are in China now. At 22, Ju Eun Seok has begun her yearslong journey toward freedom.

On the night Seok fled North Korea — 24 December 1997 — her native country was in the midst of a desperate time. At the end of the Cold War, the Russians and Chinese cut the subsidies that had been sustaining the nation for years, and in 1994, the North Korean government had effectively suspended food deliveries to its northeast region in favor of its capital, Pyongyang. It had also reduced rations to farmers, who began hoarding food. Estimates vary, but the resulting famine — whose enduring hardships were characterized as the "Arduous March" by the government — may have killed more than a million North Koreans.

A record number of North Koreans, many of them young women, attempted to escape during this period. The risk was great. In the late 1990s, the Chinese government had deported thousands of North Korean defectors, deeming them migrants looking for jobs. Under that interpretation, the defectors were exempted from a 1951 United Nations convention that prohibited the return of political refugees to their home countries. Nonetheless, more than 100,000 North Koreans had managed to make their escape. Many of them crossed the Tumen River, which separates North Korea from China and Russia. Others, like Seok, crossed the Yalu.

Some who escaped into China were, for a fee, aided by brokers on both sides of the river. (Today that fee can exceed \$10,000.) Many of the women who fled were sold to farmers as wives, and some were forced into prostitution. According to a study by the Korean Future Initiative, as many as a third of female North Korean defectors suffered that fate between 2015 and 2018.

Seok and her friends were lucky. They had crossed the Yalu entirely on their own. They were indebted to no one.

On that cold December night 25 years ago, the three women hiked through the forest until they came to a house. After a moment's hesitation, they knocked. Seok's thin cloth shoes were soaked from the snow and, she recalls, "I was afraid of getting frostbitten if I stayed out any longer." The house was owned by members of a Protestant church based in South Korea. The organization was strange to Seok. "I didn't even know what church or religion was when I left North Korea," she says. (In order to protect its members, Seok has asked to withhold details about the church.)

The entire situation seemed unreal, and Seok panicked. "I realized that I was going to be separated from my family forever," she says. Regretting her decision, she tearfully began to leave the house, intending to cross back into North Korea. The church members stopped her. They explained that the guards were on the lookout for people heading in the other direction — North Koreans who had snuck into China to gather food, clothing, and other supplies they now hoped to bring back home to their families. Seok decided to remain.

The church provided Seok and her friends with birth certificates, food, and temporary sanctuary, and later arranged for each of them to marry a Chinese husband. The three high school friends never saw one another again.

How South Korean Rotary Clubs Help Northern Refugees

- ▶ The Rotary Club of Seoul Shilla and other clubs from District 3650 regularly hold charity concerts to fund a new building for the Yeomyung School for North Korean immigrant youth.
- ▶ The Rotary Club of Seoul Guro in District 3640 supports Samjeong School, an alternative school for North Korean immigrant youth.
- ▶ The Rotary Club of Yangsan in District 3721, along with the Yangsan Police Department, has sponsored nine joint weddings since 2015 for North Korean immigrants with economic difficulties.
- ▶ The Rotary Club of Ilsan-Jeongbal in District 3690 provides free dental care for North Korean youth.

The church placed Seok in a rural village in Liaoning Province, a coastal area in northeast China, and introduced her to a farmer who wanted a wife. Not

beholden to a broker, Seok voluntarily agreed to the marriage, figuring it was the safest way for her to avoid attracting the attention of the Chinese police. "I hadn't had time to prepare for living as a farmer's wife," she says. "But this is the reality for North Korean women." Less than a year after the crossing, Seok gave birth to a son.

While the household had the appearance of a normal family, Seok remained a stranger in a strange land. The stress of living in an unknown country, in constant danger of exposure, was at times unbearable. Seok had heard that many North Korean defectors carried poison or a razor blade, intending to evade capture by taking their own life. She was terrified every time she saw one of the white cars driven by members of the Ministry of Public Security. Whenever a stranger came to the farm, she fled into the woods with her baby on her back.

Finally, on 1 November 2003, six years after crossing into China, Seok took public transit to an airport, with a reservation for a flight to South Korea. Bearing a false identity card, she had memorized the address of her destination and practiced speaking the necessary phrases in Chinese. "I felt a chill down my spine when the Chinese officials interrogated me," Seok says. "They checked me three times before they allowed me to pass to the gate."

This time she had been aided by a broker arranged by the church. Defectors relied on a complex network of brokers in North and South Korea as well as China. Many of the brokers in China were among the 2 million ethnic Koreans in that country. For a cost — Seok paid about \$8,000 — they arranged transportation, provided the necessary passes, issued fake IDs, and bribed border guards and other officials.

Seok's flight took only 90 minutes, and she was met by church members at the South Korean airport. The South Korean government placed Seok in a resettlement education facility run by the Ministry of Unification, where she spent two months learning life skills such as using an ATM, navigating the South Korean transit system, and finding a job. She also was educated about Korean democracy. Finally, Seok received her ID as a Korean citizen — the country does not consider North Koreans to be foreigners — and was provided an apartment, along with a stipend that went toward paying the broker's fee. Seok was expected to pay rent and all her other expenses. She worked three part-time jobs a day, sometimes four. Somehow, she endured.

Now 46 years old and living in Ulsan, an industrial city in the southeast corner of the country, Seok retains

vivid memories of her crossing — not just of the terrifying run across the Yalu River but also of her long ordeal in China that culminated with her anxious moments at the airport. Her passage to freedom comprised far more than her first 15 steps across the Yalu; it covered hundreds of miles and two alien cultures.



One of those unfamiliar cultures was South Korea's. Seok was shocked by her ignorance of the customs, of the technology — of almost everything. "I was embarrassed at every step," she says. "Every moment, I felt like a newborn. Everything about the lifestyle was completely unthinkable in North Korea."

The food especially took some getting used to. "I thought it was greasy at first, because it was cooked in oils that were unavailable in North Korea," she explains. When dining out, "I had to let myself look stupid and get help just in choosing from the menu." Steak, for example, was a revelation. "In North Korea, we had a vegetarian-oriented diet due to the economic difficulties," Seok says. "All these new foods were a challenging experience."

Then there were the cultural differences. The transition from the '60s-style music of government-controlled North Korean radio to K-pop was jarring. So were the South's freewheeling television shows and movies. But the biggest shock came from the relations between men and women. In the North, she says, "cultural rules are very conservative." In the South, "the frank expressions and physical romance seemed embarrassingly free. As a woman myself," she admits, "I sometimes envied the other women I saw."

Even all these years later, she occasionally struggles with the cultural differences. "Sometimes I sit like a mute, smiling meaninglessly, while everyone around

me talks," Seok says. "I have to think about what to say, to express my own opinion."

Soon after settling in South Korea, Seok found part-time work in a restaurant while majoring in social work at a university — all while caring for her son (who had later joined her in South Korea) and learning how to comport herself at work and operate the devices in her apartment. Her husband joined them a year after Seok entered South Korea; another son was born a few years later. Seok and her husband later divorced, and she ended up raising the two boys alone.

By all measures, she succeeded. Her older son recently completed his military service and now assembles cars for the Hyundai Motor Company. Her younger son is training for the military, and Seok works as a unification education instructor.

Along the way, though, the family struggled. "It was very, very hard," she recalls. But she had help. She received a "warm welcome" from the government, along with financial support and work. Her social welfare professor at the university became a mentor. And the elder and the pastor at her church — the same church that had helped her defect — "became my spiritual fulcrum. They cared for me with the same affection as my parents had. They helped me endure, which is how I can stand here and be who I am today."



Additional aid came from an unexpected source. The Rotary Club of Ulsan granted Seok several scholarships, and the Ulsan Munhwa club gave her a computer. The Rotary connection would prove crucial over the next decade and a half.

It began when Seok started counseling newcomers from the North. This came to her naturally; she'd been an extrovert as a young girl, and liked to help others. When she was 18 and still living in North Korea, her friends had nominated her to attend a National Communism Good Customs Leaders' Conference, which celebrated citizens who had performed good deeds for their country and comrades. In the South, she now helped newer refugees acclimate to the culture and joined some of them in volunteering at an orphanage.

In 2016, Seok was approached by Hae-Sang Choi, a Rotarian who at the time was governor of District 3721. As a member of the National Unification Advisory Council — a national board, led by the president of South Korea and known today as the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council, that consults on rejoining North and South Korea — Choi had helped support North Korean refugees. He encouraged Seok to work with fellow refugees to charter a new club. "Rotary can be your starting point to build relationships with the community," he said.

Choi arranged for the Rotary Club of Ulsan Daeduck to mentor the fledgling club. In 2016, with 25 members, the Rotary Club of Ulsan Jayu — or Ulsan Freedom, as it's known internationally — received its charter. Its founding president was Ju Eun Seok.

The Ulsan Jayu club assists North Korean refugees, using Rotary connections to link them to employment services, medical care, legal aid, and education. On holidays like Chuseok (similar to Thanksgiving), Seollal (Lunar New Year's Day), and Christmas, the club invites North Korean immigrants and local low-income families to share food and presents, wear holiday costumes, and enjoy time together in order to ease feelings of alienation and create a sense of belonging. On the last Saturday of each month, members gather in the orphanage to clean the facility and bathe the residents. Some stay and help the children draw pictures.

Today, about half of the club's members are nonrefugees. "I think it's a positive sign that we are making great progress," Seok says. "I want our club to be as vibrant as any other club, with diverse members and diverse projects." But she emphasizes that the club's first priority remains helping North Korean refugees resettle in the area.

Seok's club is one of many that are working to give immigrants a positive transition experience. Rotary clubs in South Korea have long supported defectors from North Korea in a variety of ways, such as building schools, offering scholarships, and providing free health checks and dental care. During the COVID-19 pandemic, five clubs (Ulsan-Dongbu, Ulsan Jayu, Ulsan-Jeil, Ulsan-Muryong, and Ulsan-Namsan) have delivered quarantine kits to 580 North Korean families in the Ulsan area.

Lately, though, the number of refugees has shrunk dramatically. According to the Ministry of Unification, only two North Koreans, a man and a woman, entered the South in the second quarter of 2021 — the fewest since South Korea began keeping quarterly data almost 20 years earlier, and a dramatic drop from the 1,000-plus refugees who arrived each year between 2001 and 2019. A major cause of the decline is the pandemic. North Korea tightened security at its Chinese border along the Tumen and Yalu rivers, placing special forces troops on the front line to augment the work performed by the border guards; in some instances, soldiers were stationed every 3 to 5 meters (10 to 15 feet). These changes have made it virtually impossible for brokers to bribe guards. At the same time, the deployment of electronic identification measures, including vaccination certificates and facial-recognition technology on public transportation systems, has made it difficult to move through China undetected.

Still, Seok stays hopeful for a united Korea — or at least one in which people can move freely between North and South. "Practically speaking," she says, "I will be glad if North and South Koreans can just visit their loved ones and friends." In the long run, she would like Korea to gain the advantages of combined capital, technology, resources, and people.

Beyond the political challenges will be the cultural ones. This is where Ulsan Jayu comes in. "We call ourselves 'unification already in existence,'" Seok says. "We believe our activities will make it easier for the people of the South to accept people from the North without prejudice, and the people from the North will feel that they can be accepted, as others see us serving as proud members of the community."

73.8 ▶ Percentage of females among North Korean defectors entering South Korea from 2001 to 2020
57.1 ▶ Percentage of North Korean defectors who entered South Korea between the ages of 20 and 39
9.4% ▶ Unemployment rate in 2020 among defectors in South Korea, more than twice the national average

Source: South Korean Ministry of Unification.

Acknowledgment and Disclaimer

This Bulletin is published on a quarterly basis by the Rotary Action Group (RAG) for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration in collaboration with the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development. Findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in the articles in this Bulletin are entirely those of the authors of the individual articles and should not be attributed in any manner to the RAG for Refugees or the Rotary Fellowship. Information contained in this Bulletin may be freely reproduced, published or otherwise used for non-commercial purposes without permission. However, we require that the original Bulletin be cited as the source.

In particular, Rotary clubs and districts are free to reuse or post individual articles or the Bulletin as a whole, provided they mention the source. If you are citing an article in the Bulletin, considering the article by William Corby as an example, a typical citation would be as follows: Crosby, W. 2022. The Gift of Dignity, in Q. Wodon, editor, *Responding to the Refugee Crisis: Inspiring stories*. Washington, DC: Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration. If you are citing the whole Bulletin, a typical citation would be as follows: Wodon, Q., editor. 2022. Responding to the Refugee Crisis: Inspiring stories. Washington, DC: Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration. All queries on rights and licenses as well as suggestions for articles or submission of articles should be addressed to the editor of the Bulletin through the RAG's website at www.RAGforrefugees.org. Both Rotarians and non-Rotarians can join the RAG and the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development, and being a Rotarian is not a requirement to submit an article.

© 2022 Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration.