

Issue 3, Fall 2022

ROTARY'S WORK IN THE NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN UGANDA



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

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ROTARY'S WORK IN THE NAKIVALE REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

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Editorial - Éditorial

The Worsening Refugee Crisis and Rotary

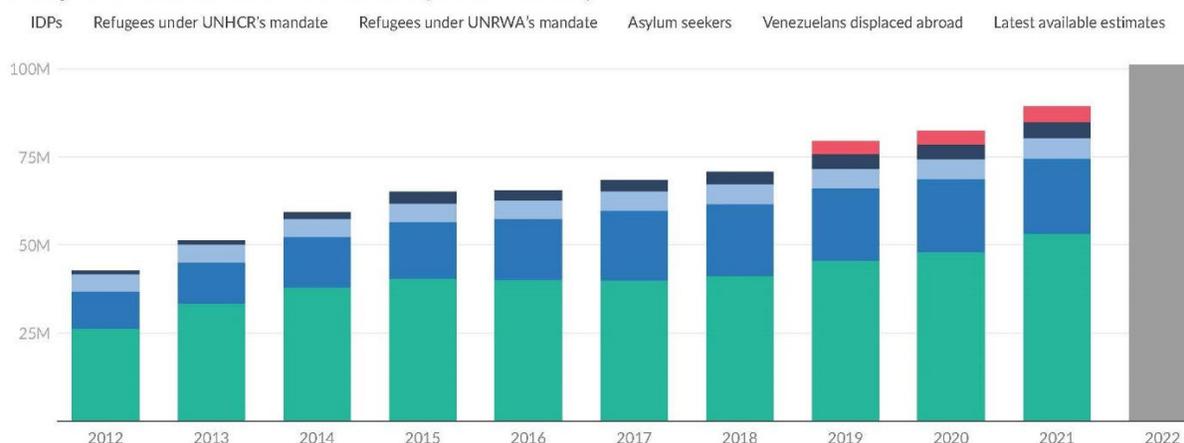
Quentin Wodon, Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

For World Refugee Day in June 2022, UNHCR published its latest annual report on [global trends in forced displacement](#). At the end of 2021, a total of 89.3 million people had been forcibly displaced. This is more than twice the level a decade ago at 42.7 million. Of the 89.3 forcibly displaced people, 53.2 million are internally displaced, 27.1 million are refugees, and 4.6 million are asylum seekers (the total number of forcibly displaced people includes additional categories). For refugees specifically, more than two thirds come from just five countries: the

Syrian Arab Republic (6.8 million), Venezuela (4.6 million), Afghanistan (2.7 million), South Sudan (2.4 million), and Myanmar (1.2 million). As of December 2021 (i.e., before the start of the war in Ukraine), the countries hosting the largest number of refugees were: Türkiye (hosting 3.8 million refugees), Colombia (1.8 million, including Venezuelans displaced abroad), Uganda (1.5 million), Pakistan (1.5 million), and Germany (1.3 million).

While the estimates provided in UNHCR’s global trends report are for December 2021, preliminary estimates from the agency suggest that as of early June 2022, in large part due to the war in in Ukraine, the number of forcibly displaced people topped more than 100 million globally (see the Figure below).

People forced to flee worldwide (2012 - 2022)



Note: 2022 figures are estimated using data available as of 9 June 2022
 Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

Rotarians are implementing a wide range of projects with refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and migrants globally. One of the principal aims of the Migration & Development Bulletin is to document some of these efforts and the lessons learned.

Given the planned visit of Rotary International President Jennifer Jones to the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda in September 2022, the focus in this third issue of the Bulletin is on Rotary’s work in the settlement. You will also find in this Bulletin descriptions of other initiatives and projects implemented with refugees, IDPs, and migrants in other parts of the world. In particular, Rotarians continue to actively provide humanitarian assistance to refugees from Ukraine. Stories of such engagement are reproduced in this Bulletin from various sources, including the two blogs managed by Rotary International.

As always, we hope that these stories and examples of project will inspire you in your own work, and that you will find ways to support refugees, IDPs and migrants. Please do not hesitate to contact us through our Rotary Action Group (RAG) Board member and Secretary, Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com). Our RAG works closely with the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development, for which you may contact our Fellowship Board member and Secretary, Sarah Nadiv (sarahnadiv@gmail.com). And if you would like to become a member, information on how to do so for both the RAG and the Fellowship is provided in this Bulletin. Membership is free and open to non-Rotarians as well as Rotarians.

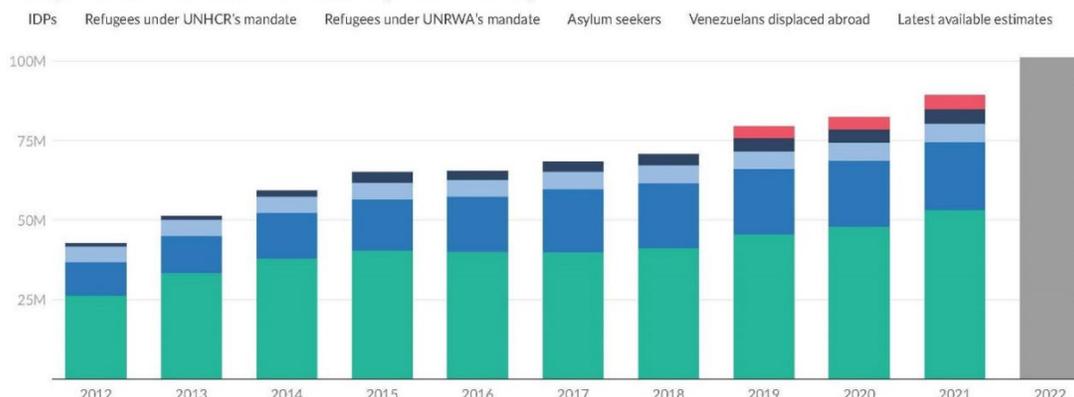
L'aggravation de la crise des réfugiés et le Rotary Quentin Wodon, Groupe d'action du Rotary pour les réfugiés, les déplacements forcés et la migration

Pour la Journée mondiale des réfugiés en juin 2022, le HCR a publié son dernier rapport annuel sur les [tendances mondiales des déplacements forcés](#). A la fin 2021, 89,3 millions de personnes au total étaient déplacées de force. Cela représente plus du double du niveau d'il y a dix ans, à 42,7 millions. Parmi les 89,3 personnes déplacées de force, 53,2 millions sont des déplacés internes, 27,1 millions sont des réfugiés et 4,6 millions sont des demandeurs d'asile (le nombre total de personnes déplacées de force comprend des catégories supplémentaires). Pour les réfugiés en particulier, plus des deux tiers viennent de cinq pays seulement : la République arabe syrienne (6,8 millions), le Venezuela (4,6 millions),

l'Afghanistan (2,7 millions), le Soudan du Sud (2,4 millions) et le Myanmar (1,2 million). En décembre 2021 (c'est-à-dire avant le début de la guerre en Ukraine), les pays accueillant le plus grand nombre de réfugiés étaient : la Turquie (accueillant 3,8 millions de réfugiés), la Colombie (1,8 million, y compris les Vénézuéliens déplacés à l'étranger), l'Ouganda (1,5 million), le Pakistan (1,5 million) et l'Allemagne (1,3 million).

Alors que les estimations fournies dans le rapport sur les tendances mondiales du HCR concernent décembre 2021, les estimations préliminaires de l'agence suggèrent qu'au début de juin 2022, en grande partie à cause de la guerre en Ukraine, le nombre de personnes déplacées de force dépassait les 100 millions dans le monde (voir la figure ci-dessous).

People forced to flee worldwide (2012 - 2022)



Note: 2022 figures are estimated using data available as of 9 June 2022
Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

Les Rotariens mettent en œuvre un large éventail de projets avec des réfugiés, des personnes déplacées et des migrants dans le monde. L'un des principaux objectifs du Bulletin Migration & Développement est de documenter certains de ces efforts et les leçons apprises.

Compte tenu de la visite prévue de la présidente du Rotary International, Jennifer Jones, dans le camp de réfugiés de Nakivale en Ouganda en septembre 2022, ce troisième numéro du Bulletin met l'accent sur le travail du Rotary dans le camp. Vous trouverez également dans ce Bulletin des descriptions d'autres initiatives et projets mis en œuvre avec des réfugiés, des déplacés internes et des migrants dans d'autres parties du monde. En particulier, les Rotariens continuent de fournir activement une aide humanitaire aux réfugiés d'Ukraine. Des histoires d'un tel engagement sont reproduites dans ce Bulletin

à partir de diverses sources, y compris les deux blogs gérés par le Rotary International.

Comme toujours, nous espérons que ces histoires et exemples de projets vous inspireront dans votre propre travail et que vous trouverez les moyens de soutenir les réfugiés, les déplacés internes et les migrants. N'hésitez pas à nous contacter par l'intermédiaire de notre membre du conseil d'administration et secrétaire du Rotary Action Group (RAG), Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com). Notre RAG travaille en étroite collaboration avec le Rotary Fellowship for Global Development, pour lequel vous pouvez contacter notre membre du Conseil d'administration du Fellowship et secrétaire, Sarah Nadiv (sarahnadiv@gmail.com). Et si vous souhaitez devenir membre, des informations sur la façon de le faire pour le RAG et le Fellowship sont fournies dans ce Bulletin. L'adhésion est gratuite et ouverte aux non-Rotariens ainsi qu'aux Rotariens.

El empeoramiento de la crisis de los refugiados y Rotary

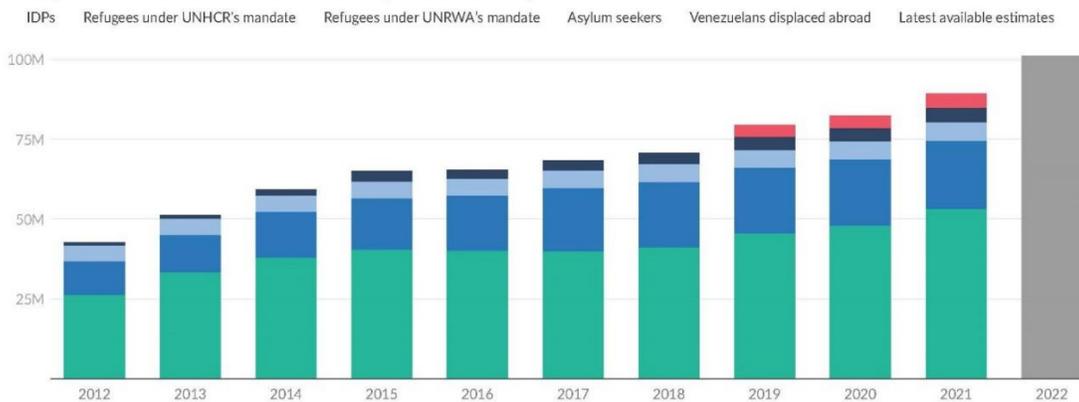
Quentin Wodon, Grupo de Acción Rotaria para Refugiados, Desplazamiento Forzado y Migración

Para el Día Mundial del Refugiado en junio de 2022, ACNUR publicó su último informe anual sobre las [tendencias mundiales del desplazamiento forzado](#). A fines de 2021, un total de 89,3 millones de personas habían sido desplazadas por la fuerza. Esto es más del doble del nivel de hace una década en 42,7 millones. De las 89,3 personas desplazadas por la fuerza, 53,2 millones son desplazados internos, 27,1 millones son refugiados y 4,6 millones son solicitantes de asilo (el número total de personas desplazadas por la fuerza incluye categorías adicionales). Para los refugiados específicamente, más de dos tercios provienen de solo cinco países: la República Árabe Siria (6,8 millones), Venezuela (4,6

millones), Afganistán (2,7 millones), Sudán del Sur (2,4 millones) y Myanmar (1,2 millones). A diciembre de 2021 (es decir, antes del inicio de la guerra en Ucrania), los países que acogían a la mayor cantidad de refugiados eran: Türkiye (que acogía a 3,8 millones de refugiados), Colombia (1,8 millones, incluidos los venezolanos desplazados en el extranjero), Uganda (1,5 millones), Pakistán (1,5 millones) y Alemania (1,3 millones).

Si bien las estimaciones proporcionadas en el informe de tendencias globales de ACNUR son para diciembre de 2021, las estimaciones preliminares de la agencia sugieren que a principios de junio de 2022, en gran parte debido a la guerra en Ucrania, la cantidad de personas desplazadas por la fuerza superó los 100 millones en todo el mundo (ver la figura siguiente).

People forced to flee worldwide (2012 - 2022)



Note: 2022 figures are estimated using data available as of 9 June 2022
Source: UNHCR Refugee Data Finder

Los rotarios están implementando una amplia gama de proyectos con refugiados, desplazados internos y migrantes en todo el mundo. Uno de los objetivos principales del Boletín de Migración y Desarrollo es documentar algunos de estos esfuerzos y las lecciones aprendidas.

Dada la visita planificada de la presidenta de Rotary International, Jennifer Jones, al asentamiento de refugiados de Nakivale en Uganda en septiembre de 2022, el enfoque de esta tercera edición del Boletín es el trabajo de Rotary en el asentamiento. También encontrará en este Boletín descripciones de otras iniciativas y proyectos implementados con refugiados, desplazados internos y migrantes en otras partes del mundo. En particular, los rotarios continúan brindando activamente asistencia humanitaria a los refugiados de Ucrania. En este Boletín se reproducen historias de este tipo de

participación de varias fuentes, incluidos los dos blogs administrados por Rotary International.

Como siempre, esperamos que estas historias y ejemplos de proyectos lo inspiren en su propio trabajo y que encuentre formas de apoyar a los refugiados, desplazados internos y migrantes. No dude en ponerse en contacto con nosotros a través de la secretaria y miembro de la Junta del Grupo de Acción de Rotary (RAG), Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com). Nuestro RAG trabaja en estrecha colaboración con la Fraternidad Rotaria para el Desarrollo Global, para lo cual puede comunicarse con la secretaria y miembro de la Fraternidad Rotaria, Sarah Nativ (sarahnativ@gmail.com). Y si desea convertirse en miembro, en este Boletín se proporciona información sobre cómo hacerlo tanto para el RAG como para la Fraternidad. La afiliación es gratuita y está abierta a rotarios y no rotarios.

Call for Papers: The Power of Communities to Support Refugees and Promote Peace

Communities play a fundamental role in supporting refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and migrants, and more generally to promote peace. To provide case studies of innovative and cost-effective projects as well as broader reflections on how to harness the power of communities to promote peace and support refugees, IDPs, and migrants, we are planning a publication (edited volume or special issue of a journal) on this issue. We welcome contributions related to Rotary projects, but projects by other organizations working closely with refugees are also welcome. Papers should be at between 5,000 and 8,000 words. Original research articles, case studies, and commentaries or discussion of good practices are well welcome. For more information, contact Quentin Wodon (rotarianeconomist@gmail.com).

Separately, we also welcome contributions for the Migration & Development Bulletin. These contributions need not be full-length articles and can simply share experiences (or examples of projects) working with refugees, IDPs, and migrants.

Appel à contributions : La force des communautés pour soutenir les réfugiés et promouvoir la paix

Les communautés jouent un rôle fondamental dans l'accompagnement des réfugiés, des personnes déplacées à l'intérieur de leur propre pays (PDI) et des migrants, et plus généralement dans la promotion de la paix. Pour fournir des études de cas de projets innovants et efficaces en termes de leurs coûts ainsi que des réflexions plus larges sur la manière de mobiliser la force des communautés pour promouvoir la paix et soutenir les réfugiés, les personnes déplacées et les migrants, nous prévoyons une publication (volume édité ou numéro spécial d'une revue) sur ces questions. Nous accueillons des contributions liées aux projets du Rotary, mais les projets d'autres organisations travaillant en étroite collaboration avec les réfugiés sont également les bienvenus. Les articles doivent compter entre 5 000 et 8 000 mots. Les articles de recherche originaux, les études de cas et les commentaires ou discussions sur les bonnes pratiques sont les bienvenus. Pour plus d'informations, contactez Quentin Wodon (rotarianeconomist@gmail.com).

Par ailleurs, nous accueillons également les contributions pour le Bulletin Migration & Développement. Ces contributions n'ont pas besoin d'être des articles complets et peuvent simplement partager des expériences (ou des exemples de projets) avec des réfugiés, des déplacés internes et des migrants.

**Convocatoria para contribuciones:
La fortaleza de las comunidades para
apoyar a los refugiados y promover la paz**

Las comunidades desempeñan un papel fundamental en el apoyo a los refugiados, los desplazados internos (IDP) y los migrantes, y en general para promover la paz. Para proporcionar estudios de casos de proyectos innovadores y económicos, así como reflexiones más amplias sobre cómo aprovechar el poder de las comunidades para promover la paz y apoyar a los refugiados, desplazados internos y migrantes, estamos planeando una publicación (volumen editado o número especial de una revista) en este tema. Damos la bienvenida a las contribuciones relacionadas con los proyectos de Rotary, pero también son bienvenidos los proyectos de otras organizaciones que trabajan en estrecha colaboración con los refugiados. Los trabajos deben tener entre 5.000 y 8.000 palabras. Los artículos de investigación originales, los estudios de casos y los comentarios o debates sobre buenas prácticas son bienvenidos. Para obtener más información, comuníquese con Quentin Wodon (rotarianeconomist@gmail.com).

Por separado, también agradecemos contribuciones para el Boletín de Migración y Desarrollo. Estas contribuciones no necesitan ser artículos completos y pueden simplemente compartir experiencias (o ejemplos de proyectos) trabajando con refugiados, desplazados internos y migrantes.

Updates & Events

Rotary International Convention: Quick Recap

We had a great experience with the Rotary International Convention in Houston in June. Our Rotary Action group had a booth (see a few pictures below), and we also had a very well attended session (with 204 attendees according to the estimation of Rotary International staff) as well as an annual meeting. The focus of our one-hour breakout session was on “Responding to the Refugee and Displacement Crisis”. We will feature some of the highlights from the session in the next issue of the Migration & Development Bulletin.

Convention du Rotary International : récapitulatif

Nous avons eu une excellente expérience avec la Convention du Rotary International à Houston en juin. Notre Groupe d’Action du Rotary avait un stand (voir quelques photos ci-dessous), et nous avons également eu une session très bien fréquentée (avec 204 participants selon l’estimation du personnel du

Rotary International) ainsi qu’une réunion annuelle. L’objectif de notre séance (break-out session) d’une heure était de « répondre à la crise des réfugiés et des personnes déplacées ». Nous présenterons certains des faits saillants de la session dans le prochain numéro du Bulletin Migration & Développement.

Convención de Rotary International: resumen rápido

Tuvimos una gran experiencia con la Convención de Rotary International en Houston en junio. Nuestro grupo de Acción Rotaria tenía un stand (ver algunas fotos a continuación) y también tuvimos una sesión muy concurrida (con 204 asistentes según la estimación del personal de Rotary International), así como una reunión anual. El enfoque de nuestra sesión de una hora fue sobre "Responder a la crisis de los refugiados y el desplazamiento". Presentaremos algunos de los aspectos más destacados de la sesión en el próximo número del Boletín de Migración y Desarrollo.

Pictures at our Booth - Photos sur notre stand - Imágenes en nuestro stand

Left: Mark Harbison, Rick Olson, and Elaine Hernandez. Right: Cristal Montañez with Rick and Elaine.
À gauche : Mark Harbison, Rick Olson et Elaine Hernandez. À droite : Cristal Montañez avec Rick et Elaine.
Izquierda: Mark Harbison, Rick Olson y Elaine Hernandez. Derecha: Cristal Montañez con Rick y Elaine.



Upcoming Events

Webinars and the Next RI Convention

We will organize our next two webinars as follows (we will send more information on how to register closer to those dates):

1. **Saturday October 8, 2022, at 10 am EST:** Webinar on Rotary's work in the Nakivale refugee settlement in Uganda, following up on the planned visit in September 2022 of Rotary International President Jennifer Jones to the settlement. The webinar will be organized by Rotary Action Group for Refugees board member Kyle Haugen.
2. **Saturday November 5, 2022, at 10 am EST:** Webinar on Rotary's work in Honduras and more broadly Central and Latin America, with a focus on working with migrant youth. The webinar will be organized by Rotary Fellowship for Global development board member Elaine Hernandez.

We are also starting to plan the next Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia, on May 27-31, 2023. If you are going to the Convention and would like to help with managing our booth, please do let us know. We are also interested in your ideas for a session that we could organize at the Convention (our session in Houston was well attended with 204 participants). Please let us know your ideas by contacting Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com) and Sarah Nativ (sarahnativ@gmail.com).

Webinaires et prochaine convention du Rotary

Nous organiserons nos deux prochains webinaires comme suit (nous enverrons plus d'informations sur comment s'inscrire plus près de ces dates) :

1. **Samedi 8 octobre 2022, à 10h00 HNE :** Webinaire sur le travail du Rotary dans le camp de réfugiés de Nakivale en Ouganda, faisant suite à la visite prévue en septembre 2022 de la présidente du Rotary International, Jennifer Jones, dans le camp. Le webinaire sera organisé par Kyle Haugen, membre du conseil d'administration du Rotary Action Group for Refugees.
2. **Samedi 5 novembre 2022, à 10h00 HNE :** Webinaire sur le travail du Rotary au Honduras et plus largement en Amérique centrale et latine, avec un accent sur le travail

avec les jeunes migrants. Le webinaire sera organisé par Elaine Hernandez, membre du conseil d'administration de la Rotary Fellowship for Global Development.

Nous commençons également à planifier la prochaine Convention du Rotary International à Melbourne, Australie, du 27 au 31 mai 2023. Si vous vous rendez à la Convention et souhaitez aider à gérer notre stand, dites-le-nous. Nous sommes également intéressés par vos idées pour une session que nous pourrions organiser à la Convention (notre session à Houston a été bien suivie avec 204 participants). Faites-nous part de vos idées via email à Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com) et Sarah Nativ (sarahnativ@gmail.com).

Webinars y la próxima convención del RI

Organizaremos nuestros próximos dos seminarios web de la siguiente manera (enviaremos más información sobre cómo registrarse más cerca de esas fechas):

1. **Sábado 8 de octubre de 2022, a las 10 a. m. EST:** Seminario web sobre la labor de Rotary en el asentamiento de refugiados de Nakivale en Uganda, en seguimiento de la visita planificada en septiembre de 2022 de la presidenta de Rotary International, Jennifer Jones, al asentamiento. El seminario web será organizado por Kyle Haugen, miembro de la junta del Grupo de Acción Rotaria para Refugiados.
2. **Sábado 5 de noviembre de 2022, a las 10 a. m. EST:** seminario web sobre el trabajo de Rotary en Honduras y, más ampliamente, en América Central y América Latina, con un enfoque en el trabajo con jóvenes migrantes. El seminario web será organizado por Elaine Hernandez, miembro de la junta de Rotary Fellowship para el desarrollo mundial.

También estamos comenzando a planificar la próxima Convención de Rotary International en Melbourne, Australia, del 27 al 31 de mayo de 2023. Si asistirá a la Convención y desea ayudar con la administración de nuestro stand, háganoslo saber. También estamos interesados en sus ideas para una sesión que podríamos organizar en la Convención (nuestra sesión en Houston contó con una buena asistencia de 204 participantes). Háganos saber sus ideas via Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com) y Sarah Nativ (sarahnativ@gmail.com).

Become 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/>.



Devenez 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/>.



Hágase 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

**Meet the Members of the Boards of the Rotary
Action Group for Refugees and the Rotary
Fellowship for Global Development**

Below are short bios for members of the Boards of the Rotary Action group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration, and the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development (by alphabetical order). Both groups are working closely together. A big thanks to all board members for their pro bono work on behalf of the RAG and the Fellowship!

- Ademar Bechtold (Fellowship Board)
- Madhumita Bishnu (RAG Board)
- Elise Cadigan (Fellowship Board)
- Rose Cardarelli (RAG Board)
- Mark Harbison (RAG Board)
- Kyle Haugen (RAG Board)
- Elaine Hernandez (Fellowship Board)
- Justin Ho Guo Shun (Fellowship Board)
- Paul Mushaho (RAG Board)
- Sarah Nativ (Fellowship Board & Secretary)
- Rick Olson (RAG Board)
- Diane Rish (RAG Board Secretary)
- Nakayiwa Shamira (Fellowship Board)
- Quentin Wodon (RAG & Fellowship Chair)



Ademar Bechtold

Ademar Bechtold is a member of the Rotary Club Washington Global. He was a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the State University of New York at Buffalo, for a year, before earning a Ph.D. from the same university. Ademar is a professor of economics at Notre Dame of Maryland University and teaches at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School. His focus has been on inspiring education and promoting fair trade to grow local economies and reduce poverty. Ademar has created many opportunities for faculty and students from the US, Brazil, and other countries to exchange ideas and experiences through study tours and international teams & technology, inspiring everyone to learn from the experiences of others to create a more prosperous and "just" world.



Madhumita Bishnu

Madhumita (Madu) Bishnu is Past President of the Rotary E-Club of Melbourne in Australia, a club she has been a member of since 2013. She has been active in a number of Rotary Fellowships and Action Groups. She currently serves as Immediate Past Chair of the Educators Fellowship and previously served as Past Chair of ROTI (Rotarians On The Internet) from 2017-2019. She is also President Elect & VP (East India & Bangladesh) of the ITHF (International Travel & Hosting Fellowship). Madu is a Rotary Volunteer and is a TRF Cadre member for BEL (Basic Education & Literacy). Madu was Technical Coordinator for Education & Literacy on behalf of TRF as Cadre Member between 2009-2012. With a Masters in Islamic History from University of Calcutta, Madu works in the field of Corporate Social Responsibility (with a focus on health activities for women and children) for the Ambuja Cement Foundation located in India.



Elise Cadigan

Elise Cadigan lives in Rockford, Illinois where she has a full-time practice in out-patient mental health. She joined the Rotary Club of Rockford in 1988 and was honored to be the first woman president of her club and to serve District 6420 as District Governor in 2009-10. She has since had District and Regional leadership positions with the Rotary Foundation and was a member of the RI Trustee Programs Committee 2015-17. In 2007, she co-led a team of 20 Rotarians to Nigeria for project development.



Rose Cardarelli

Rose Cardarelli is the Rotary International Representative to UNICEF. A former Army Medical Service Corps Officer and Professor of Human Security, she is currently the CEO of the Education for All Coalition. Her background spans the medical response mission to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster; to responding to emergency Haitian over-the-sea migration; leading and caring for wounded soldiers from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; facilitating security education for international leaders and diplomats from 33 countries at the National Defense University; and responding to the educational needs and well-being of refugee children around the world. She serves as Director on various nonprofit education and university boards. Her organization is formally affiliated with the Department of Global Communication at the UN and she is also associated with UNHCR and UNESCO. Rose earned her Doctorate in Education from The College of William and Mary. She holds a certificate in Forced Migration from the Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford.



Mark Harbison

Mark Harbison is a member of the Rotary Club of Kihei-Wailea, serving as Club President in 2005-06. Mark has served as District 5000 (Hawaii) Rotary Foundation Vice-Chair and Grants Subcommittee Chair since 2014. A charter member of the Rotary Action Group for Peace, he is also a member of Mediators Beyond Borders and an Institute for Economics and Peace Global Ambassador. As a Global Grants administrator, Mark has experience across the Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus. Mark served on the selection committee for the Rotary

Peace Projects Incubator finalist awards in 2020-21 and is on the “expert” subcommittee for 2021-22 and is currently mentoring two of the Incubator finalists in the Rotary Foundation grants process, including finding international partners and funding. Mark is married to Lisa Oyama and works in real estate investment in Maui, Hawaii.



Kyle Haugen

Kyle Haugen has been a member of the Rotary Club of Prior Lake, MN since 2003, acting as Club President in 2009-10. Since then, Kyle has been very active at the District & Regional levels, including serving as District 5960 Governor in 2017-18, District Rotary Foundation Chair from 2019-21, and Region 36 (Zones 25B & 29) Rotary Public Image Coordinator beginning July 2021 until 2024. In June of 2019, Kyle traveled with staff from Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee) to Uganda and Rwanda to visit Nakivale Refugee Settlement and Nyabiheke Refugee Camp to develop relationships and expand partnerships between refugees, Rotaractors and Rotarians. Since his trip, his passion for helping refugees has continued to grow and Kyle and fellow club members are working on several projects, including two Global Grants, to benefit the residents of Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Kyle is married to Carrie, and they have two children: Cooper (6) and Quinn (3.5), and he owns Haugen Insurance & Financial Solutions with his father, and fellow Rotarian, Jack.



Elaine Hernandez

Elaine Hernandez is a seasoned public health professional with experience in emergency planning and response, maternal and child health, infectious

disease prevention and control, food insecurity, and population migration. She earned a MEd degree in Adult Education, a MPH degree in Social & Behavioral Health, and a PhD in Leadership. She has served with the Canadian Red Cross as Delegate in Honduras on two major development projects and as Regional Director in South Texas for the Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty. She is currently a consultant on migration, higher education, public health, and sustainable development in Latin America and will be participating in a new Hunger-Free Guatemala program with Baylor University and the World Food Program. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Mission, Texas, the Rotary Cadre of Technical Advisors, and recipient of the Rotary Alumni Global Service Award 2020.



Justin Ho Guo Shun

Justin Ho Guo Shun is a leader with a track record of producing, managing and directing. A highly motivated individual with a proven ability to develop people and commercialize all aspects of a business. Proving thought leadership, corporate governance, capable of resolving multiple and complex (human resource, and operational) issues and motivating staff to peak performance. He has been an active volunteer for human rights & quality government. Justin Ho is also a strong advocate for all the SDGs especially SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), he is also the Advisory Board for the United Nations Youth Association of the Philippines, Chair for International Relations at the United Nations Association of the Philippines, CEO and Chair for the ASEAN Youth Organization - Philippines, the Partnership Executive for ASEAN Business Youth Association - Singapore, the Partnership Coordinator for Ashoka Philippines, the Strategic Advisor for the Asia Society for Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST), a Mentor at the Microsoft for Startups Middle East, and also the concurrent Nuclear Weapons Education Subcommittee in the Rotary Action Group for Peace.



Paul Mushaho

Paul Mushaho is a Rotaractor from the refugee settlement of Nakivale in Uganda where he founded the first Rotaract club in the settlement. He is a social entrepreneur aiming to unleash opportunities for both refugees and non-refugees alike. He is originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He received awards from Rotary for his work with refugees, as well as a Change maker award from the American Refugee Committee and Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda. He was the recipient of a Rotary Peace Fellowship to pursue his studies at the Makerere Peace Center in Kampala, Uganda.



Sarah Nadiv

Sarah Nadiv is the Senior Business Development Strategist at WestEd and Chief Executive Officer at Global Health and Education Strategies, LLC (GHES) a bespoke consulting firm focused on developing education, health and wellness solutions. In addition to her strategic business development activities, Sarah has led multidisciplinary teams, managed large, complex multi-million dollar proposals and projects, and developed both in-person and online professional development materials for practitioners, policymakers, and families around the world. Trained in infant and early childhood mental health, her work focuses on providing mental health, trauma, and social and emotional learning.



Rick Olson

Rick Olson is a retired professional with a variety of educational and life experiences. He has worked as an economist, an attorney, a certified financial planner, an agricultural loan officer, an agricultural cooperative president, a State Representative in Michigan and a public school business manager. He obtained a Juris Doctor degree from Stanford Law School and completed the coursework in two Ph.D. programs (Agricultural Economics and Education Administration). As an active Rotarian since early 2017, he has flown to the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda three times since February 2020 to guide a non-profit organization he founded to assist the refugees at Best Future School and led the effort on two Rotary International Global Grants for Nakivale.



Diane Rish

Diane Rish is a U.S. immigration attorney with more than 12 years of experience working in the field of U.S. immigration law, policy, and advocacy. She currently serves as Senior Manager of Immigration at Salesforce, Inc. Prior to this, she served as Associate Director of Government Relations at the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). Prior to joining AILA, she practiced as an immigration attorney for several years in North Carolina and Virginia. Throughout her career, Diane has volunteered with refugees and asylum seekers through a variety of organizations including the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Capitol Area Immigrants' Rights Coalition (CAIR), and Las

Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center. She spent her early years in Canada, France, and Switzerland, and is a citizen of Canada and the United States. She currently is a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining Rotary, Diane served as a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar in Chile for a year in 2008.



Nakayiwa Shamira

Nakayiwa Shamira is a medical doctor who trained from Cuba. She is the chairperson of the Foreign Trained Doctors' Association that unites all foreign health workers in Uganda. She is a rotaractor in the Rotaract Club Hope Kansaga.



Quentin Wodon

Quentin Wodon is a Lead Economist at the World Bank. Previously, he managed the Bank's unit on values, faith, and development, and served as Lead Poverty Specialist for Africa and Economist/Senior Economist for Latin America. Before joining the Bank, he taught with tenure at the University of Namur. He also taught at American University and Georgetown University. Trained in business engineering, he first worked in brand management for Procter & Gamble before shifting career and joining a non-profit working with the extreme poor. He has tried to remain faithful to the cause of ending extreme poverty ever since. He holds four PhDs, served as President of two economics associations, and has 500+ publications. His research has been covered by leading news media globally. In his volunteer work, he focuses on poverty reduction, service clubs (Rotary), and education. Married, he has two daughters.

**Meet the Members
of our New Advisory Council**

We have set up an Advisory Council for our Rotary Action Group on Refugees and the Rotary Fellowship for Global Development. Please meet the members of the council (by alphabetical order). A big thanks to all council members for their pro bono work on behalf of the RAG and the Fellowship!

- Cedric Bichano
- Rich Carson
- Angela Eifert
- Urs Klemm
- Peter Kyle
- Susan Martin
- Ignatius Masebe



Cedric Bichano

Cedric Mwamibantu Bichano is a Congolese refugee living in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in southern Uganda. Cedric is the CEO and the founder of the World Refugee Film Academy. Since 2014, he has been producing videos for different organizations based in Nakivale and for the UNHCR headquarter in Geneva. He is also a community worker. In 2014, Cedric was one of 20 refugees selected to follow a program (Entrepreneur20) initiated by UNHCR, focused on giving refugees specific skill sets they could use to support their own livelihoods. In 2016, Cedric was selected as an in-country volunteer for the international service citizen program (ICS) through balloon ventures, a UK organization, to help and teach young entrepreneurs in a specific area how to successfully start and run a business. Cedric established the World Refugee Film Academy in 2017 to empower talented refugees to become filmmakers.



Rich Carson

Since 2008, Rich Carson has served as Rotary International's Lead Representative in DC. He is also the Rotary International Representative at Large to the U.S. Government. As such, he represents Rotary to world bodies such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and to the U.S. Government as appropriate. His responsibilities include identifying and implementing programs and events of mutual interest and increasing awareness of the outreach of Rotary International. Prior to that, Rich served as Rotary District Governor. During his 2007-2008 term, he traveled to Palermo, Sicily, where Rotary helped with MS and to Rio de Janeiro where Rotary helped train children in the slums in vocational areas. Rich was also Chairman of the Chesapeake Multi District PETS for two years which trains 220 club presidents in four districts including 7620. In his day job, Rich works in cybersecurity as the Chairman and CEO of both Richard S. Carson & Associates and the SAINT Corporation.



Angela Eifert

After 10 years of working in the financial services industry, Angela reinvented herself and found her true north of mission-driven work serving international communities. At the start of her journey, it was Rotary International that opened her mind and heart to possibilities beyond her imagination. Finding her place at Alight (Formerly American Refugee Committee) five years later, Angela has been a Global Connector for and with displaced people around the world and has been doing the work she loves for almost 10 years. It was soon after she started her time at Alight that a major intersection of connections with Rotary and Alight would come together. Her belief in people and the unique gifts of

every person to change the life of one that ripples to the lives of many, keeps her motivated to connect more and more people across the globe.



Urs Klemm

Urs Klemm currently serves on the Board of Directors of Rotary International (2021-23). He studied business engineering and food chemistry and has a doctorate in physical chemistry. He built up the environmental protection division of a Swiss engineering company, where he worked on national and international projects. Klemm was responsible for food safety in Switzerland as a vice director of the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health from 1996 to 2007, when he retired. As head of the Swiss delegation of the Codex Alimentarius commission, he led a project that defined a standard for bottled water. As the commission's European coordinator, he carried out projects promoting food hygiene in Central Asia and Africa. Since joining Rotary in 1994, Klemm has served as a Council on Legislation representative, assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and endowment/major gifts adviser. As district governor, he implemented a district project to create 10 youth camp sites. He also co-founded the Swiss Rotary Foundation, which generates more than \$1 million in annual donations, and the Rotarian Peace Projects Incubator, a joint program of Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows that aims to identify and activate peace projects. Klemm launched activities of several Rotary Action Groups in Switzerland and still supports them.



Peter Kyle

Peter Kyle served on the Board of Rotary International from 2020 to 2022. Peter was born and raised in New Zealand. After graduating with honors degrees in law and economics from Victoria University of Wellington, he clerked for the chief justice of New Zealand before pursuing postgraduate studies in law at the University of Virginia on a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship. In 1992, after a career in private legal practice in New Zealand and a senior role with the Asian Development Bank in the Philippines, Kyle returned to the United States to work as a senior international attorney with the World Bank, based in Washington, D.C. Two weeks after accepting the position, his first assignment took him to Moscow to advise on the transition of the former Soviet Union from a socialist system to one based on market principles. He retired in 2009, but continues to serve as a consultant. A Rotarian since 1976, Kyle has served Rotary in many capacities, including as an RI training leader, Council on Legislation representative, RI president's representative, and dean of the Rotary Representative Network. In addition to serving on the board of the Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group, he has chaired Rotary's Alumni Relations and Rotary Peace Centers committees.



Susan Martin

Susan Martin held the Donald G. Herzberg Chair in International Migration and founded and led the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, where she also directed the graduate certificate on refugee and humanitarian emergencies. She has 40 years of experience working on refugee issues, in academia, federal

government, international organizations and on the board of refugee organizations. She is also a co-founder of the Women's Refugee Commission and serves on the advisory boards of the International Organization for Migration and the US Comptroller General (GAO). She is now chairing the Thematic Working Group on Environmental Change and Migration at the Knowledge Platform on Migration and Development in the World Bank. She has done field work with refugees throughout Africa, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.



Ignatius Masebe

Ignatius Masebe serves at UNICEF USA as the Manager of Global Cause Partnerships, with a focus on supporting UNICEF's mission of eradicating polio in collaboration with Rotary International. Prior to his role at UNICEF USA, served as the Marketing Officer at the South African Consulate General in Chicago, guiding private companies in matters of international trade and direct investment. In this role, Ignatius managed projects to drive South Africa's participation in various industry events and leveraged a wide-reaching business network in the U.S to build and improve the country's brand.

He has been successful at connecting global business executives, building relationships, and opening opportunities for transnational partnerships and collaboration. Ignatius grew up in northern South Africa and earned an Honors Degree from the University of South Africa. He is passionate about work that results in positive and transformative social change and aspires to one day bring this change to his hometown, Polokwane. During leisure time, Ignatius enjoys spending time with his family, bike riding, and traveling throughout the U.S.

Interested in Supporting our Rotary Action Group for Refugees and the Fellowship for Global Development? Let us know!

Please contact us through our Rotary Action Group (RAG) Board member and Secretary, Diane Risch (diane.rish@gmail.com) or our Fellowship Board member and Secretary, Sarah Nativ (sarahnativ@gmail.com). Information on how to become a member is provided in this Bulletin. Membership is open to all, including non-Rotarians.

**ROTARY'S WORK IN THE NAKIVALE
REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN UGANDA**

**Investing in Nakivale's Refugees:
A Brief Introduction**

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

Given the planned visit of Rotary International President Jennifer Jones to the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda in September 2022, the focus in this third issue of the Bulletin is on Rotary's work in the settlement. Five contributions are provided (for a profile of the settlement and a map of its location in the south of Uganda, see the two Figures below):

- The first article is entitled "A Rotaract Club in a Refugee Settlement in Uganda". It was written by Jonathan W. Rosen and is reprinted from the website of Rotary International (the original title of the story has been changed to be shorter). It tells the story of the Rotaract club created in Nakivale.
- The next three articles are written by individuals who were at the very heart of the

creation and projects of the Rotaract club: Angela Eifert, Paul Mushaho (who served as the club's first President), and Cedric Bichano (who served as the club's Secretary). Each of them shares a few thoughts about the origin of the Rotaract club, some of what was accomplished, and their own experience.

- In the last article, Rick Olson discusses how he has supported various initiatives in Nakivale, focusing on promoting social entrepreneurship. This started with projects funded by a nonprofit he created for this work, and ends with global grants co-funded by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International – one already approved, others in progress.

We are planning to conduct a more detailed analysis or case study of Rotary's work in Nakivale as part of a broader publication (book or special journal issue) on refugees and forced displacement. If you are working with refugees, forcibly displaced people, or migrants and would like to conduct a case study as part of that publication, please send me an email at rotarianeconomist@gmail.com.



Uganda - Refugee Statistic June 2022 - Nakivale

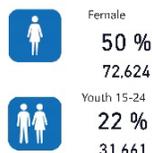
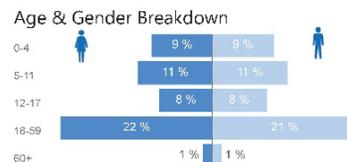
Total Population
145,613

Total Households
39,672

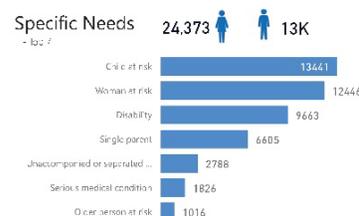
Total Refugees
138,140

Total Asylum-Seekers
7,473

Level3	HHS	Individuals
Base Camp	1,702	66,958
Rubondo	12,357	48,895
Juru	5,430	23,131



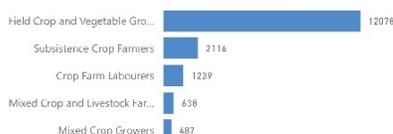
Country of Origin	Total
Democratic Republic of the Congo	82,681
Burundi	31,142
Rwanda	17,437
Somalia	12,208
Eritrea	1,099
Ethiopia	777
South Sudan	209
Kenya	22
Sudan	15
United Republic of Tanzania	7



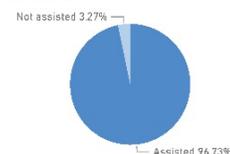
New Registration by Month



Occupation 130.5% | 32.2% have occupation



Assistance Status



Source: Statistics - OPM (ProGres version 4)

Feedback: ugakareg@unhcr.org

Creation date: 30-June-2022



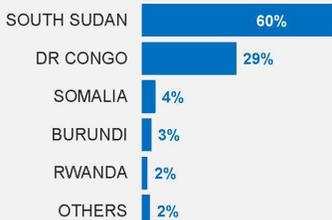
Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Uganda

Uganda Refugee Response

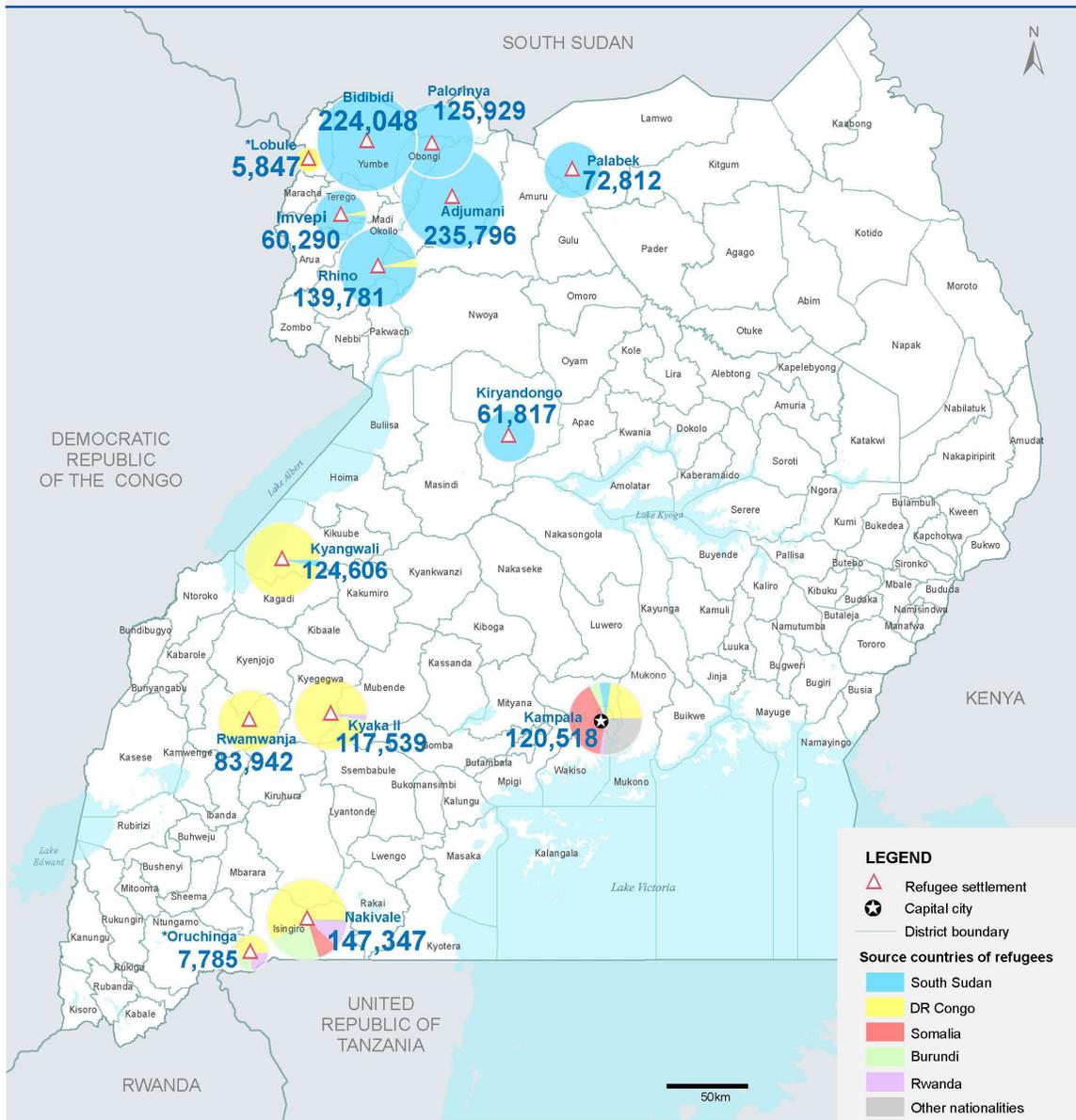
31 July 2022

Total refugees and asylum-seekers
1,528,057

Countries of origin



Refugees per settlement



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

*Oruchinga and Lobule symbols not to scale

A Rotaract Club in a Refugee Settlement in Uganda

Jonathan W. Rosen¹

(Reprinted from Rotary International - story produced by Kate Benzschawel with photos by Emmanuel Museruka)

Jonathan Rosen is a writer and foreign correspondent specializing in East Africa and Africa's Great Lakes region. This article is reprinted with minor edits from a story on Rotary International's website at [this link](#). The title of the story has been changed to be shorter.

It's Monday morning in one of Uganda's largest refugee settlements, Nakivale, and the line at Paul Mushaho's shop is out the door. Mushaho has lived in Nakivale since 2016, when he fled violence in his native Democratic Republic of Congo. After receiving death threats, he crossed into Uganda and joined a friend in the 184-square-kilometer settlement that serves as home to 89,000 people.

The soft-spoken 26-year-old, who has a university degree in information technology, runs a money transfer service out of a wooden storefront that doubles as his home. Business is booming because he offers his clients – other refugees from Congo, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Rwanda, and South Sudan – the ability to receive money via mobile phone from family and friends outside Uganda.

He also exchanges currency, and his shop is so popular that he often runs out of cash. On this day, he's waiting for a friend to return with more money from the nearest bank, two hours away in the town of Mbarara.

Sitting behind a wooden desk, armed with his transactions ledger and seven cell phones, Mushaho grows anxious. He's not worried about missing out on commission – he's worried about leaving his clients without any money. "I don't like making my customers wait," he says, looking out onto the lively street of tin-roofed stores, women selling tomatoes and charcoal, a butcher shop displaying a leg of beef, and young men loitering on motorcycles. "There's nobody else around who they can go to."

As a young entrepreneur who is intent on improving the lives of others in his community, Mushaho is in many ways the quintessential member of Rotaract, the Rotary-sponsored organization for leaders ages 18 to 30.



Photo: Paul Mushaho formed a Rotaract club in Nakivale.

The Rotaract Club of Nakivale may be the first Rotaract club based inside a refugee settlement or camp. Its founding ... is a tale of young people who've refused to let conflict stifle their dreams.

Yet his story and that of his club are far from ordinary. Established in late 2016, and officially inaugurated last July, the Rotaract Club of Nakivale may be the first Rotaract club based inside a refugee settlement or camp. Its founding, and the role it has played in the lives of its members and their fellow Nakivale residents, is a tale of young people who've refused to let conflict stifle their dreams; of a country that sees the humanity in all the refugees who cross its borders; and of a spirit of service that endures, even among those who've experienced unspeakable tragedy.

A Place Where Refugees Are Welcome

Refugees fleeing war, genocide, and persecution find safety in Nakivale. New arrivals to Uganda are allocated a plot of land, are allowed to work and run businesses, and can move freely around the country.

If Nakivale doesn't sound like a typical refugee camp, that's because it isn't one. Covering 184 square kilometers and three distinct market centers, Nakivale feels like anywhere else in rural southwestern Uganda, an undulating land of banana trees, termite mounds, and herds of longhorn cattle.

Nakivale blends in with its surroundings in part because it's been here since the 1950s, when it was established to accommodate an influx of refugees from Rwanda during a flare-up of pre-independence violence there.

¹ This article is reprinted with minor edits from a web story at [rotary.org](#). The title of the story has been changed.

Over the years, its population has ebbed and flowed as it accommodated those seeking refuge from a variety of regional conflicts, including civil war in South Sudan, violent state collapse in Somalia, and rebellions and armed militias that continue to terrorize eastern Congo, the area that accounts for the majority of Nakivale's current residents.

“Uganda has realized that the sooner a country looks at refugees not as a burden but as an opportunity, it changes a lot of things,” says Bernad Ojwang, Uganda country director for the American Refugee Committee.

Many have been here for a year or two, others for decades, but most consider Nakivale home. Unlike other governments in the region, Ugandan authorities grant new arrivals plots of land for farming, as well as materials to erect a basic house, so they can move toward self-reliance. Refugees also have access to free primary education for their children and permission to work so they can contribute to the economy.

Uganda hosts more than 1.5 million refugees within its borders and allows all registered refugees to move about at will. If they can do business in cities or towns, the logic goes, there's no reason they should be trapped elsewhere.

“They're going about their lives just like you and me,” says Bernad Ojwang, Uganda country director for the American Refugee Committee (ARC), which works closely with the Rotaract club in Nakivale.

Although an abundance of arable land allows for the nation's liberal refugee policy, he explains, the system also reflects a high-level belief that refugees can be assets rather than liabilities. “Uganda has realized that the sooner a country looks at refugees not as a burden but as an opportunity, it changes a lot of things,” he says.

A Change Maker's Idea

This mindset — of refugees as catalysts for change — ultimately led to the Rotaract club's founding. Mushaho learned about Rotaract after entering a competition in 2016 organized by the American Refugee Committee for the young people of Nakivale. The competition, co-sponsored by Uganda's office of the prime minister, challenged young residents in the settlement to propose business plans or innovations that could improve lives.

Out of nearly 850 entries, Mushaho's proposal — a beekeeping business that would sell honey — was among 13 winners. They each would receive a small

amount of seed money and present their ideas to a wider audience in Kampala, the nation's capital. More than 60 Rotarians attended the Kampala event in October 2016, including Angela Eifert, a member of the Rotary Club of Roseville, Minnesota, USA, and an ARC engagement officer, and then Rotary president-elect Sam F. Owori.



Photo: Refugees fleeing war, genocide, and persecution find safety in Nakivale. New arrivals to Uganda are allocated a plot of land, are allowed to work and run businesses, and can move freely around the country.

Eifert, who first visited Nakivale in 2014, had previously proposed creating an Interact club for 12- to 18-year-olds to help engage its large population of young people. After the event, she mentioned her idea to Owori, who embraced it with one modification: He believed the 13 winners could become leaders in their community, so he proposed a Rotaract club.

“He told me, ‘I was once a Rotaractor,’” Eifert says. “When he saw these young people on stage, he felt they were ideal Rotaractors. He loved their ideas. He saw they had talent and potential, and thought we should be getting behind them.”

Leaders from the Rotary Club of Kiwatule in Kampala and Eifert's Minnesota club agreed to work together to get the club started and support its growth. The duo then approached Mushaho about serving as the new club's president. Of the 13 winners, he'd stood out to them. Humble and charismatic, he also spoke fluent English, had helped the other winners communicate their ideas, and appeared eager to assist the wider Nakivale community. Mushaho and another winner, Jean de Dieu Uwizeye, hosted the Nakivale Rotaract club's first official meeting in late 2016. “He was really into it,” says Eifert, who began texting regularly with Mushaho. “He was learning everything he could about Rotary. I think it gave him a great deal of reward and purpose.”

Bettering the Settlement

Rotaractors and Rotary members help new arrivals by giving out clothes, sugar, and soap. For all of Nakivale's advantages over more traditional refugee camps, daily life remains a struggle for many. Families are encouraged to farm the land they're given, but many rely for months, or even years, on UN food assistance. Rations have decreased recently because of a shortage of global funding.

Barious Babu, a 27-year-old Rotaractor from eastern Congo helps young people navigate the daily struggles of refugee life and provides entertainment and dancing with performances by his All Refugees Can Band.

Children in the settlement have access to free primary education, but few families can afford the fees for secondary school – a situation that contributes to high levels of youth idleness, early marriage, alcohol abuse, and domestic and gender-based violence. Even simple boredom, particularly among a population that's lived through conflict, can be crippling. Mushaho says he often sees young people loitering around his shop. "They sit for hours, just thinking, and many of them are traumatized. Others just sleep from morning until night."

The Rotaract club's first project, launched in 2017, was designed to help Nakivale's new arrivals, many of whom had endured harrowing journeys to escape violence. About 30 new families arrive every day. They sleep in rows of tents, which are periodically overrun with bedbugs and cockroaches. After hearing reports of an infestation, the Rotaractors pooled their modest savings and, with assistance from ARC, purchased chemicals and sprayers to fumigate the area. Additional projects quickly followed.

Nakivale Rotaractors fund most of their projects with their own money. Martin Rubondo, left, and Jean Lwaboshi spend their mornings making bricks, which they sell to raise money to fund music lessons for refugees. Jean and Patrick Sabag, below, practice.

Over the past year, club members have visited the elderly, orphans, and people living with albinism, who face cultural stigmas in the region. Often the Rotaractors bring highly coveted items, such as sugar and soap.

To promote girls' empowerment, the club also has co-sponsored a jump-rope contest for girls that featured cash prizes. To promote interaction among refugees of different nationalities, they organized a soccer tournament with eight teams from across the settlement. The Roseville club provided support to

both projects, donating soccer balls and hygiene products for the Rotaractors to distribute.

Much of the Nakivale club's community outreach, however, is self-funded. Members have earned money by raising and selling chickens, and even participated in a 5K race, held in conjunction with World Refugee Day in June 2017, which brought in online donations.

To promote girls' empowerment, the club also has co-sponsored a jump-rope contest for girls that featured cash prizes.

"We don't want to have to call someone every time, asking for support," says Uwizeye, a computer scientist who fled his native Burundi in 2015 to avoid being forced into a youth militia. "It's better to show someone I've raised some money on my own – and then maybe ask them, 'Can you top up?'"

Several Rotaract members have been mentoring other young people in the camp. Alex Ishingwa trains fellow refugees in masonry and helps them bid for local contracts. Byamana Bahati, a dressmaker, trains apprentices at her shop, a short walk from Mushaho's.

One club member, Jean Lwaboshi, a musician with several love ballads posted on YouTube, spends his mornings making bricks with fellow Rotaractor Martin Rubondo. From their earnings, the two have bought guitars and now give performances and lessons to other young people. "It's a rewarding feeling to support others through music," Lwaboshi says.



Photo: Rotaractors and Rotary members help new arrivals by giving out clothes, sugar, and soap.

Mushaho keeps an eye out for refugees who could benefit from the club's assistance. Recently, when one of his customers approached him about starting a farming project, he helped the woman and a group of friends find a plot of land and connected them to ARC, which provided seeds, fertilizers, and watering

cans. “We appreciate so much that others are thinking of us,” says Ange Tutu, one of the project’s beneficiaries, while tending to her new rows of tomato plants.

Forging a Rotary Family

Members of the Rotaract Club of Nakivale have become like family. In addition to its own projects, the Nakivale club has galvanized Uganda’s Rotarians to help refugees.

The Rotary clubs of Kivatule and Mbarara, the closest large town to the settlement, advise and assist with projects. The Kivatule club has sponsored individual Rotaractors to attend training events and other leadership activities across Uganda. Members of both clubs have donated clothes and other necessities that the Rotaractors deliver to Nakivale residents.

Rotary clubs in Uganda are planning to do more, says a member of the Kivatule club. In October, local Rotary leaders signed a memorandum of understanding with the office of the prime minister to help refugees in other settlements and possibly form additional Rotaract clubs.

Several of Uganda’s Rotary clubs are planning to improve refugees’ access to water, sanitation, hygiene, and basic education. Rotaractors support their own projects by raising chickens to fund projects. Byamana Bahati, a dressmaker, trains apprentices at her shop.

For Xavier Sentamu, the desire to help refugees comes in part from his own experience with conflict. Aside from pockets of the north, most of Uganda has been at peace for the last three decades. Yet the country experienced multiple violent upheavals during the 1970s and 1980s. As a child, Sentamu spent several nights hiding in the bush during the guerrilla war that ultimately brought the current president, Yoweri Museveni, to power.

“All these people are like family,” Mushaho says. “The people in the club become replacements for those people they have lost.”

“I have a bit of a feeling for what they’ve gone through,” says the Kivatule club member. “Though when you have a person who’s outside their country, who has no idea if or when they’ll go back home, it’s much tougher. The fact that they have gone through that hardship and are willing to offer a little bit of their resources to make others more comfortable is so encouraging.”

After an initial surge in the Nakivale club’s membership, which peaked at more than 40 people, the number of active members has fallen to roughly 20 over the last year. Uwizeye attributes the drop to a misunderstanding: Some thought the Rotaract club was a job opportunity rather than a service group.

The departure of less dedicated members, however, has left the core group of Rotaractors more unified. Many lost relatives to violence or had to leave family behind, and the relationships they have formed in the club are helping them cope. “All these people are like family,” Mushaho says. “The people in the club become replacements for those people they have lost.”



Photo: Members of the Rotaract Club of Nakivale have become like family.

The Rotaract Club of Nakivale: How It All Started

Angela Eifert, Advisory Board member for the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

Angela Eifert is a member of the Advisory Board of the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration. She works with Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee), an agency that has been operating in the Nakivale Settlement in Uganda as an implementing partner for UNHCR and Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister since 2006. Alight has managed various sectors in the settlement over time, most recently WASH and Protection services.

The Nakivale Refugee Settlement is home to over 120,000 people who have been displaced from 13 countries. In 2016, Alight² was presented with a challenge by the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda to try to address the issue of youth engagement. At the time, about 70% of the community was under the age of 40 years. Engaging youth in activities that can channel their energy in positive ways was the goal of the challenge. Too many young people were left without direction, which could lead to higher crime and violence. To answer the question, *How might we engage young people to create economic opportunities with a drive for social impact*, Alight teams worked for several weeks with community leaders to encourage people to submit their ideas. Over 3,000 ideas were received, of which 13 were chosen to be presented on stage at a special event, Alight's Changemakers Ball in Kampala.

Changemakers Ball, November 2016

The event was designed to honor the 13 winners of the Alight/OPM ideas competition for the Nakivale Refugee Settlement. The event had a guest list of 400 people from various partners, including Ugandan government officials, UNHCR representatives, the US Ambassador and US State Department representatives, and some 40-50 Rotarians from different Rotary Clubs based in Kampala, as well as about 15 US-based travelers from the Alight donor community. The winners of the ideas competition were brought with their families by bus from the Nakivale Refugee Settlement (a 6-hour drive) to stay in the event's hotel. They were also given a stipend to purchase event attire of their choice and had coaches to work with them on their acceptance speeches.

² Alight has been operating as an implementing partner for UNHCR and Uganda's Office of Prime Minister (OPM) since 2006 when the Uganda refugee programs became its own country program, separate from the Sudan/South

This was a white linen event with bright colors all around and balloons. The room was set for success, music, lights, and Alight hosts ready to meet and greet. From the Rotary community, in attendance were Rotary International President-elect Sam Owori and the Uganda District Governor, Xavier Sentamu. Together with Ted Johnson of the Roseville Rotary club, I travelled to Uganda for Alight. While boarding the plane I met a woman from Minneapolis. Coincidentally, she was a Rotarian and member of the same club as Sam Owori in Kampala. Ted invited her to our Changemakers Ball, and she invited us to her club meeting to welcome her entire club to the event. We were referred to a few more clubs and attended their meetings to share the Changemakers event widely with the Rotary community.

After an impressive awards ceremony, and 13 high-energy speeches where winners were able to share their ideas, the audience was energized and wanted to do more to support the young winners to see their ideas come to fruition. Sam Owori and Xavier Sentamu approached Ted and I to ask how we could help. I suggested to start an Interact or Rotary Club inside the settlement. Sam and Xavier liked this idea, but suggested that it would be best to create a Rotaract club. Soon after plans were laid to set out and do that very thing, and to do it very quickly.

That night, I approached one of the Award winners, Paul Mushaho, to see if there would be interest in creating a Rotaract Club in the settlement. Paul and I exchanged WhatsApp numbers and he quickly started to dedicate his time to get started. Within a matter of weeks, Paul had found about 50 people to join an information session to learn about becoming a Rotaract member. He led the session with the help of Xavier Sentamu from the Kampala Rotary club and other Rotarians that had been introduced from the Mbrara Rotary club (about one hour drive from the settlement), with a focus on starting service projects in the community.

Initial Service Projects

Their first three service projects the newly formed club members decided to do were: (1) Bug extermination and sanitization of the private sleeping areas at the reception area of Nakivale. The reception area temporarily houses thousands of new arrivals for a period of 3-6 weeks while they wait to receive refugee status after a vetting review process for all new

Sudan crisis response efforts that originated the refugee programs across Uganda. We have managed various sectors over the years, but more recently WASH and Protection services.

arrivals coming into Uganda; (2) Soap and sugar distribution to the elderly community (a group known to be overlooked with few services to support their needs); and (3) Foster family support (families taking in orphaned or unaccompanied children).



Photo: Some of the members of Nakivale's Rotaract club.

These projects were completed by the Rotaract volunteer group that attended the information session with support from Alight logistics coordinator, Andrew Sajja. Andrew was there to introduce the new Rotaract Club members to the greater Nakivale community to build trust with families in the community. The community was familiar and trusting of Alight as a community service agent and Protection provider, but did not know Rotary or Rotaract. This relationship building process with community members required considerable time and support.

In addition to trust-building and relationship support with the families in the community, Alight provided critical tools and equipment to complete the service projects, including use of Alight's pickup truck to transport materials and people to various locations that were far reaching across the settlement.

Club Induction

For the induction of the members of the new Rotaract club, Alight hosted a dinner reception and invited Rotarians from both Kampala and Mbrara to attend the event on World Refugee Day. Xavier Sentamu coordinated a pinning ceremony for the new Rotaractors. Alight had member t-shirts made as special gifts for each inductee. At the reception, it was announced that for the coming Rotary year, the club's service projects would be supported by Alight, with the intention of partnering with Rotary clubs across the US and Uganda to fulfill the ambitious goal of 52 service projects implemented over the year with a budget of the order of \$30,000, based on the ideas that had been presented at the earlier competition. The evening reception was inspirational with the new club members excited to get deeper into the meaning of Service Above Self and how this year was going to be transformative for them.

One Project per Week

Although as one might have expected, the club faced challenges in its first year (see Box 1), its achievements were impressive. Club members successfully completed 52 projects in their first year, one project per week, with Paul Mushaho providing leadership as club President. The Rotaract club has played an important role in the community, and has provided leadership opportunities to its members. Paul in particular ended up being selected as a Rotary Peace Fellow for the program at Makerere University. No other active refugee had ever been selected as a Peace Fellow before, in part because the application had previously required applicants to be legal citizens of their place of residence. Paul's success is paving the way for other refugees to be able to apply for this amazing scholarship opportunity.



Photo: Distribution of crutches in the settlement.

Box 1: Challenges Along the Way

Creating a Rotaract club in a refugee settlement is no easy task, and various challenges had to be overcome. Club members were in need of mentorship and leadership guidance for their meetings and member engagement. Arguments among members had to be diffused and trust had to be built. Some conflicts also emerged between Rotary clubs, in part because the club that ended up sponsoring the Rotaract club was located far away, while the club that was closer by ended up distancing itself. Efforts at creating a formal partnership between Alight, Rotary International, and the Uganda Rotary district did not succeed, in part because the nature of work with refugees requires partners to be on the ground 24-7 to respond to community needs as they arise, and Rotary was not a recognized partner entity for work inside the Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Despite these various challenges, and even though perhaps more could have been achieved, the Rotaract club succeeded is still active today.

**52 Projects in a Year and Beyond:
My Journey with Rotary**

Paul Mushaho, Rotary Peace Fellow and Board member for the RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration

Paul Mushaho is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Founding President of the Nakivale Rotaract club. He received several awards, including as Social innovator from the United Nations and by Rotary International, and as Changemaker from the American refugee committee/Alight and the Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda. He is currently working towards creating a Rotary club in Nakivale.

My journey with Rotary started when the American Refugee Committee, now ALIGHT, organized a Changemakers competition to challenge young refugees to submit ideas on how they could impact their communities. I proposed two ideas – one to support poultry farming and another for beekeeping. More than 850 ideas were submitted, so I was very happy to see my ideas chosen as one of the winners. That event is where I first met the Rotary fraternity - Rotarians from Minnesota in the United States and Uganda, including Rotary International President Elect Late Sam Owori. This is where the idea to start a Rotaract club in the refugee settlement was presented. Leaders from the Rotary Club of Kiwatule in Kampala, the Roseville Rotary Club in Minnesota, and ARC/ALIGHT agreed to work together with me to start the club and support its growth. In 2017, we officially formed the very first Rotaract Club in a refugee camp. And we took off running!

The Nakivale Rotaract club has truly contributed to improving lives. The 52 projects we completed in our first year included fumigation and other hygienic activities at the reception center where new arrivals stay a couple of days, weeks, or even months waiting a refugee status; farming activities; provided sewing machines for women's group; supporting maternity wards by installing solar panels as a source of light for better service delivery at night and overcoming fear of darkness for mothers who are giving birth; Albinos support like giving sun glasses during strong sunshine season; elderly support; youth tournaments to bring different communities together and build unity; tree planting for environmental conservation; poultry projects for economic development and self-reliance; and so on.

More recently, we provided emergency responses to the Covid-19 pandemic by giving face masks and soap; roof repair for widowed mothers; re-usable pads for girls. We also led campaign for education

and the prevention of domestic violence. We installed a corn mill machine, donated sunglasses to motorcyclist to minimize accidents, and so on. We have done all these projects to improve lives, restore hope, encourage people to work, promote peace and prevent challenges hindering refugees, migrants and forced displaced people here in Nakivale.



Photos: Shelter for an elder (before and after).



Personally, I am very grateful for the experience, skills, and knowledge that I was able to acquire while serving my own community. My association with Rotary has helped me to amplify my voice and it has given me a window into the world. I have learnt to manage teams of volunteers with different interests, and how to restore hope, encourage and motivate refugees. From my experience, I would argue that to be successful, we need to reach out to people and ask them to search their hearts and listen to their inner voices – the voices that say this simply is not right. When that happens, the change we seek cannot be denied. To motivate all youth around the world to fight for human rights in a peaceful, we are building a generation and the leaders of tomorrow.

Some common mistakes I have vividly seen should be avoided when working with refugees. UNHCR and partnering NGOs should provide equal opportunities to refugees, migrants and forced displaced people in all areas, whether for education, health, or other

areas. “Where do I belong?” is often a question that refugees ask themselves. Imagine you are a nine year old in a completely new country, possibly not knowing anyone and not speaking the local language. Daunting, isn't it? Well, this is the scary reality for millions of refugee who find themselves in a new country – isolated and alone. To help them feel included in their new home, schools, and communities, programs need to involve refugees from all different backgrounds to work together and learn about each other's culture.

“When can I go home?” is another question refugees ask themselves. Displacement forces people to flee to a different region, due to factors such as environmental change. But the issues faced by refugees are even more challenging, in part because of the need to adapt to major cultural and linguistic differences in a new country. Being stuck in limbo can affect a person's mental health and well-being.

“Why can't I go back to school?” is still another question refugee children and youth have. Education, no matter your background, is the key to a successful future. UNHCR estimates that only 50 percent of refugee children have a primary education as opposed to a global average of 90 percent. If all girls in Sub Saharan Africa (a region

hosting many refugees) were educated to the secondary level, child marriage would fall as would teen pregnancies. Educating both girls and boys is the best route to lasting success for a country; if all young people were educated, together they could hopefully rebuild the country they left behind or build their own future regardless of where they are.

The services we provide are central to what we can do for our fellow refugees. So much remains to be done today in Nakivale, but some of the priorities include (1) Providing water and sanitation by drilling water boreholes; (2) Installing small solar panels on the huts of the most vulnerable refugees; (3) Working with youth for conflict prevention and development through peace tournaments, concerts, and other related activities; (4) Reducing the incidence of disease through prevention and the construction of public toilets; (5) Enhancing education and literacy, including by providing solar lamps at community schools to increase academic performance by enabling study and revisions at night; (6) Investing in economic empowerment through financial support without interest via revolving micro-credit funds; and (7) Repairing and fixing already existing projects to ensure steady progress. This is a long list, but I believe it can be done. I believe that Unity is Power.



Photo: Members of the Nakivale Rotaract Club participate in a service project.

Creating the World Refugee Film Academy in the Nakivale Settlement

*Cedric Bichano, Advisory Board member for the
RAG for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and
Migration*

Cedric Bichano is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo and a member of the Nakivale Rotaract club. He is the founder of the World Refugee Film Academy. In 2014, Cedric was one of 20 refugees selected to participate in a program initiated by UNHCR focused on giving refugees specific skill sets they could use to support their own livelihoods. In 2016, Cedric was selected as an in-country volunteer for the international service citizen program (ICS) through balloon ventures, a UK organization, to help and teach young entrepreneurs how to successfully start and run a business.

I was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in the eastern region. At the age of 17, I fled my country due to insecurity and persecution. I now live in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Uganda.

My home was shackled by decades of war, insecurity, and persecution claiming the lives of millions. In this environment, the only thing my family could be grateful for was making it to see the sunrise of the next day. In the DRC, we were innocent victims of an extended conflict that opposed the government and armed groups in Kaniola, South Kivu. I was one of six children. My childhood was never normal. I had to hide constantly during the daytime as did my siblings. It was never explained to us, but we had to stay out of sight of visitors that came to our home.

On the fateful night of May 27, 2007, our village found itself filled with gunfire, screams, and cries. Armed individuals broke into our house, searching for my father. "He must die for being an advocate for peace," they shouted. My father had motivated our village to raise awareness about acts of injustice and atrocities the government had routinely committed. It was on that day that my family and I were forced to witness my father get cut to pieces before us. We were able to escape, but I was separated from my siblings. I never knew how quickly gunfire could make a person run. We scattered fast with no direction; our thought was to run as fast as possible from the resonating sounds of death. With all that I have witnessed, I am proud to have overcome my post-traumatic disorder. My ambitions and dreams have instead led my way.

Since escaping from the DRC, I have lived in Nakivale. In 2014, I discovered filmmaking. Since then, I have used storytelling, acting in theatres, and filmmaking to heal emotional wounds. Filmmaking

has been a way through which I could express myself creatively. It was hard to find someone to talk to about my experience without judgments or gossip. I found the best way was to capture the truths and stories of others. By talking about a topic that reflected my truth with others, I could create something that was also an autobiographic narrative of sorts.

As my filmography and storytelling have spread to larger and larger audiences, this has been beneficial not only to me but to other young refugees who have gone through similar unfortunate events.

In 2017 I wanted to expand the influence of my work. I had seen the impact it had on the members of my community. With this inspiration, I initiated a project named "The World Refugee Film Academy" to spread the use of storytelling, acting, and filmmaking among refugees as part of a therapeutic healing process. The academy gave individuals the opportunity to partner with passionate refugee filmmakers and share their experiences and deal with post-traumatic disorder through storytelling and stage performance.

With the World Refugee Film Academy, I have been able to reach more than 200 refugees through workshops and empowerment sessions. This has made me a prominent advocate for the well-being of my community and allowed me to empower creators and audiences through the power of shared experience. I believe these efforts have had a profound impact on individuals, communities, and perhaps even society. One example is a young man named Prince who participated in my workshop. He lives in Nakivale with his mother and four siblings. In June 2015 his mother tragically passed away due to a blood pressure illness. Since then, his family has split. Everyone began to look for new life and new opportunities. But Prince was left behind, he had nowhere to go and remained with no assistance or security. I met him and welcomed him to our program where he participated in group discussions and stage performances using body language to capture his narrative. At times, Prince was so emotionally touched. "I believe that I have made peace with myself... This has brought me closer to inner self emotional control and expression." he said.

I firmly believe that film and media are tools not only for entertainment but also for humanitarian purposes. They can become a therapeutic instrument for people that have been psychologically touched by forms of terror, violence, and abuse.

I heard about Rotary for the first time in 2017 when Angela Eifert and the Rotary Club of Kiwatule came to talk to youth about it. I remember that I was translating for others in Swahili on that occasion. I later decided

to join the Rotaract Club of Nakivale because I found myself to have the same vision of implementing transformational projects and activities that will impact lives of others. I was honored to be elected in 2019 as the secretary of the club which I served to the best of my ability as I was also learning leadership skills and developing the “service above self” mindset as an entry point to sharpen my character in the humanitarian sector. I am deeply grateful to Angela Eifert who has been a great mentor and to Ben and Nancy Boyum for their financial support for training.

In early 2020, I was granted an opportunity to be mentored in videography and photography in Kampala where I stayed for close to two years in the program. This has helped me to boost my skills in the film industry. With a firm commitment to help and empower others, through the World Refugee Film Academy I am trying to give back to the community creative and practical skills that fellow refugees are using to creatively express themselves and address the concerns of the community.



Photos: Cedric at work in the Nakivale settlement.



Promoting Social Entrepreneurship in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement

*Rick Olson, Board member of the RAG on
Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration*

Rick Olson has been supporting projects in Nakivale for the last few years, including the Best Future School founded by Venas Chirimwami Julius, aka Julius, a member of the Nakivale Rotaract Club. Rick explains how he created a nonprofit to fund various projects in Nakivale, and how he is now working on global grants, one of which was recently approved by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.

My driver (Patrick Kasozi) and I drove up to a yellow and blue building with three doors leading into dirt floor classrooms 15' by 15", the home of Best Future School in the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Southwest Uganda in late February 2020. The Director, Julius Chirimwami, had organized community members to manufacture bricks out of the local clay and together they constructed the classroom building. This certainly was not an impressive building, but before this was built, over 300 pre-school and primary age children had no school to go to, or if they could reach one of the government schools, they could not afford the fees or the required uniforms.

Nakivale is one of many refugee settlements in Uganda where about 1.4 million refugees have found shelter from violence in the surrounding countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan recently, and others. Somewhere around 140,000 people now call Nakivale home. The refugee settlements are run by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)) with services delivered through implementing partners for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), food, education, protection, etc. Day-to-day operations are run by the Settlement Commandant from the Uganda Office of Prime Minister (OPM).

The Roseville Rotary Club sponsored a Rotary District 5960 grant for the Nakivale Rotaract Club for a "52 projects in 52 weeks" effort. My Rotary club, the [Prior Lake Rotary Club](#), contributed funds for that grant. One of our club members, Kyle Haugen, traveled to Nakivale in 2019 to visit the Rotaract club in action. Through Facebook, Julius Chirimwami, a Rotaract member, communicated with Kyle and through Kyle ultimately connected with me as well.

Julius had been one of Promise Hub's "Game Changers". He implemented his social entrepreneurship idea by founding [Best Future](#)

[Centre \(Nakivale\)](#) with his wife Raymatts, with Best Future School as one element of the "centre".



Photos: The BFC school when I first visited Nakivale



Best Future Centre (BFC) is a registered community-based organization defined as a "safe learning space for both adults and children below the age of 12 with the vision of building a literate and self-sustaining community by providing free education to young children and opportunities to learn different vocational skills to adults and teenage girls such as tailoring, entrepreneurship, business management, hair dressing, handcrafts making, and baking skills." Best Future School had begun some programs in 2019 but opened the school officially in February 2020, the start of the Uganda school year.

BFC is the first refugee-organized and led organization I am aware of that was founded to educate refugee children. Education is provided in Nakivale for refugees by the UNHCR Implementing Partner for Education, [Windle International](#). The closest primary school run by Windle for the neighboring refugees was too far for many of the

youngest children and many parents could not afford the fees and school uniforms. Also, the classes at the Windle run schools were huge, with sometimes 200 children in a classroom. After making connection with Julius through Facebook, I initially responded to Julius's requests for help with small amounts of money sent through [WorldRemit](#). After seeing how these funds were responsibly handled, I decided to visit Nakivale myself. I am an avid proponent of education and was intrigued by the initiative of Julius.

Once there, I conducted Business Management seminars on Saturday and Sunday for about 250 people each day (each participant was provided a soda and a doughnut – "feed then and they will come!"). I got to know some of the refugees and saw the dire situation in which they survived. I heard stories of people who were relatively successful in their home countries and were injured by rifle shots fired into their homes; fathers killed by gunmen bursting into a home at night; a mother and father killed by jealous relatives; and more. People had to flee their homes for safety. Many in Nakivale are mostly or completely dependent upon the UNHCR for support. When they arrived in Nakivale, they were given some food, clothing, tools and materials to make their own mud hut and were allotted a 30 meter by 30 meter plot upon which to live and grow their own food (very unsuccessfully by my observation). If they arrived after 2014, they get less than \$6 per person per month to live on. To put things in perspective, the World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$1.90 per person per day, or about \$53 per month. Tens of thousands of people in Nakivale are living well below the extreme poverty line.

Building Relationships

I decided to get further involved. Before I left, Best Future School was equipped with some teaching materials, a computer, printer, projector, a speaker/amplifier, a desk and filing cabinet for the office, a hub to access the Internet, three 100 watt solar panels and connection to the "government" electricity. Best Future School was off and running and connected to the world. But BFC needed much more with the 370 students then enrolled. I became obsessed with the idea of Rotary Global Grants to fund many of its needs, including food, wages for teachers, more classrooms, etc. Then I discovered these three items could not be provided through Rotary Global Grants. Huh! Hmmm. So, I founded [Best Future Center \(USA\)](#) (not to be confused with Best Future Centre, Uganda), a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Minnesota based organization so that tax deductible donations could be used to meet refugee needs.

In July 2020 the Prior Lake Rotary Club funded the construction of a school kitchen so that children could have a meal during their school day. An oven was also included, which allowed a commercial bakery to be started, in an effort to make BFC more self-sufficient.



All this involved much research and many dead ends. I had to learn the protocols of getting permissions from the Settlement Commandant, David Mugenyi, to do things in Nakivale. We needed to build a relationship with Turibamwe Silver, the Community Development Officer for the Isingiro District of Uganda and personnel at UNHCR. None of what was accomplished could have been done without the assistance and introductions done for me by Andrew Sajja, the Nakivale representative of Alight. Nonetheless, there were a lot of less-than-productive meetings with people from many organizations as I attempted to find out who's who. Lesson learned: knowing the people in charge and knowing how to get things done takes effort as it is not the same as in your home country. Local guides with experience and credibility such as Alight and Andrew Sajja were essential to getting things done and what has been achieved to date.

English is the official language of Uganda. Most of the refugees from the Congo speak French. An interpreter is needed for many conversations. Thankfully, Julius is a very talented interpreter. I often needed his help to also interpret Ugandan English to English I could understand, as the accents (and perhaps some hearing loss at my age) made it difficult to understand what was said. I felt uncomfortable in some situations where I wanted to show respect, but could not understand what was being said.

About the same time, an Australian group, [Amicus Global](#) funded the purchase of 30 foot-pedal Singer sewing machines and associated sewing accessories. After the construction of a 5 meter by 10 meter building was constructed by funds from my non-profit organization, the Sewing Center enrolled

its first cohort of 30 ladies to learn sewing for three months, thus learning a skill to make them more self-sufficient. BFC was humming with activity.



Another refugee, Joshua Kisibo, asked for help because a wall built with local clay unfired bricks at his Hope Training Center had fallen down. He was running a small free literacy-based learning center that I had visited in February. I had become aware of the lack of cooperation among groups in Nakivale and was eager to model two learning centers helping each other. I proposed the motto “TEAM = Together Everyone Achieves More”. I asked Julius to provide Joshua the funds to repair the wall. This was the start of a wonderful friendship with Joshua.



Cost-effective Construction

Best Future Centre drastically needed more classrooms and a kitchen for its students. Getting good cost estimates for potential building projects was initially very difficult. I was assisted in this by getting the plans, specifications and BOQ's (Bill of Quantities, an engineer's estimate of the costs of the planned design) for buildings Alight constructed for the Rubondo Secondary School. Also, I received plans, specifications and BOQs for latrines for

designs approved by the Ministry of Sports and Education. The costs appeared higher than could be funded, so I looked for ways to reduce the cost.

For the kitchen build at BFC funded by the Prior lake Rotary Club, I was able to use many of the specifications used for the Rubondo Secondary School. I opted to substitute local bricks instead of the higher quality, more expensive “burnt” bricks. The rationale was that it was better to get more facilities now when they were needed than less that would last longer. The local brick design works when the exterior is plastered with a concrete mix and painted to shed the rain. The next issue was to locate qualified reliable builders who could build the structures. After several estimates received for smaller projects were compared, Privat, a certified engineer refugee from Burundi who could not practice his profession as an engineer in Uganda was selected.

It is unknown just how much was saved by these tactics, but we believe it was substantial. We did not have to use outside construction firms with higher costs that would have been needed if firm bids from firms had been obtained. The normal way construction is done is the bidding firm guarantees that the construction will be completed within the amount of the bid submitted. Any cost overruns are borne by the contractor. Contractors adjust for this risk by padding their bid amount to take care of any mistakes in bidding or unexpected circumstances. In contrast, in our method, we took the risk the cost estimate prepared by Privat for the materials was inaccurate. The only “hard” number was the labor cost. Also, we chose not to have any bonding to protect the contract completion or other insurance that any UNHCR Implementing Partner would have had to have. Some risk was absorbed.

A similar process working with Privat was used for the construction of latrines and classroom/office buildings at Changia Centre and Samaritan. Three buildings had been constructed, besides the kitchen, using the same methods, but also substituting volunteer labor, for extremely cost-effective buildings.

Ensuring Financial and Project Accountability

We worked hard at ensuring financial accountability. Donors want to know that the money they donate is used for the purposes for which it was donated and that some is not being siphoned off for the leaders. This is particularly true for funds sent to Uganda, as corruption is rampant. A detailed “internal controls” system was set up with reporting done through receipts and cash flow spreadsheets shared through Dropbox. One difficulty in maintaining good financial controls is the lack of vendor/seller receipts in many

cases. The substitute is a "Receipt Unavailable" form that the purchaser must fill out. This is subject to much potential fraud. Maintaining effective internal controls remains an ongoing effort.

Financial accountability is important for another reason. While I preach that the learning centers should work together, at the same time they are in competition for donor dollars. A business or organization must have a Unique Selling Proposition to be successful. In other words, "what makes the business or organization different from the competition matters to the customer." With financial accountability important to donors, this is critical for the learning centers to recognize and act accordingly. A recipient owns the funds once transferred, but if the recipient does not use the funds in the way agreed or expected, the only recourse for the donor is to refrain from supporting the recipient any further. This lesson too is an ongoing effort.

Asset protection is also an important part of internal controls. We had to hire security guards protect the assets of BFC from theft. More than once potential thieves had to be chased away. Julius's computer and TV were stolen from his home. The Rotaract club had a building intended to house a sewing center but that was never fully implemented, and the roof was partially blown off. The building's windows and doors were stolen when the building was left untended. When you are desperate, you may do desperate things that you might not otherwise do. I have heard of more than one young lady needing to sell her body just to get the next meal. It is hard to judge another's action when you have never been in such a desperate situation.

I had to go up the learning curve of how best to transfer funds to BFC, which turned out to be to use WorldRemit for small amounts (up to the limit of 5,000,000 shillings (UGX) per transaction - about \$US1,400) and bank wire transfers for larger amounts. The bank wire transfer fees were a huge percentage of the dollar amount sent for small amounts but better exchange rates made the wire transfer more economical for larger amounts.

We conducted entrepreneurship training via Zoom, including how to write a business plan, debtor-creditor relations, marketing basics and more. Julius and Jonas provided other instruction with the Entrepreneurship group. When I returned to Nakivale in February 2021, the students made their "pitches" for their proposed venture to me. It was obvious that most had much more to learn and that most thought they are making their pitches to me to fund their project.

My non-profit organization loaned money to a chicken raising project, the BFC bakery, a clothing resale venture, a sausage making business and one other project. None have been successful and continue. All had problems of funds being used for things not authorized and difficulty with financial reporting. I attribute the difficulties to insufficient training, lack of close loan officer supervision, a lack of sufficient "effective" demand among the cash strapped population and the scarcity mentality.

A good research project would be a survey of the members of Promise Hub Change makers, Opportunigee trainees, BFC scholars in the Entrepreneurship classes, BFC sewing center graduates, and Rotaract members to evaluate what works and what does not for businesses in Nakivale and to see if my suspicions are correct before further business lending is attempted.

I sense that the best opportunity to help the Nakivale residents the most would be training in gardening on their 30 meter by 30 meter plots they are assigned upon reaching Nakivale. Ugafode Bank branch in Nakivale has a training program with small loans with groups that organizations can form, but I am not aware of any that have been completed. For some reason, the learning centers I have worked with do not seem interested in this option.

Clear and complete communication with the refugee leaders is not easy from afar. Much occurs through free Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp. Short messages predominate. Many of the refugees with cell phones attempt to have as many foreign Facebook "friends" as possible and spend much time on their phones attempting to build relationships and entice donations. This often results in short messages containing incomplete information which makes donor decisions difficult. To assist in gathering the necessary information to make informed decisions, I shared a note "Making an effective request for assistance" (see Box 1). This has helped, but continued training is needed in anticipating secondary effects, such as if you build a building, what will be needed inside the building to be able to use it for the purpose intended? What will be required to maintain it? And so on.

I really needed to be there to know what was happening. I returned to Nakivale for four days in February 2021 and again made the rounds of visiting many important contacts, leaders, and other interesting individuals, including several Rotaract members. Eight laptop computers were also delivered, enabling computer training classes to begin. Then I went again in August 2021 for four days in the settlement. Another 6 laptops were delivered.

Box 1: Making an effective request for assistance.

Often I get a request for help: we need food for kids, we need sewing machines for the women, we need computers to teach computing skills, etc. Requests like these are ineffective as the potential donor has no idea how much money is needed or exactly how it would be used. Effective requests meet the newspaper reporters' mantra a telling "who, what, when, where, why and how". Additional information such as "which, what kind of, and how many" add to the story. The narrative need not be in this order, but these kinds of questions should be answered.

Who: who would receive the money, what are their qualifications, who would implement the program or project, who would benefit?

What: What exactly are you proposing?

Where: Where would the program or project take place? Do you own the location? Is it close to the beneficiaries? What else is going on there?

When: When do you need the money? How long would the program or project take or last? What happens after this donation is used up? How will the project be sustained?

Why: Why is this program or project needed?

How: Will there be a need for trainers, instructors, other equipment needed, etc.?

Which: If things will need to be purchased, exactly what is needed and where will it be obtained. Include all costs, including transportation, maintenance, etc.

What Kind of: Describe in detail what things will be needed. E.g., used Dell laptops purchased refurbished from XYZ Computers in Mbarara.

How Many: E.g., how many computers will be purchased. But, this also applies to creating a spreadsheet of the projects revenue and expenses, probably month by month if the project or program is more than a single, one-time thing. Lastly, a specific amount of financial assistance should be stated, as supported by the narrative above.

In early 2022 I engaged Andrew Sajja on a contract to represent me in Nakivale as I needed eyes and ears on the ground without the expense and time of my traveling there frequently. It can take 29 hours to get to the Entebbe airport from Minneapolis and then at least a six-hour drive (5 to Mbarara and then another hour to the Nakivale Base Camp). You then must drive back and forth from hotels in Mbarara daily as there are no accommodations in Nakivale.



Other Projects

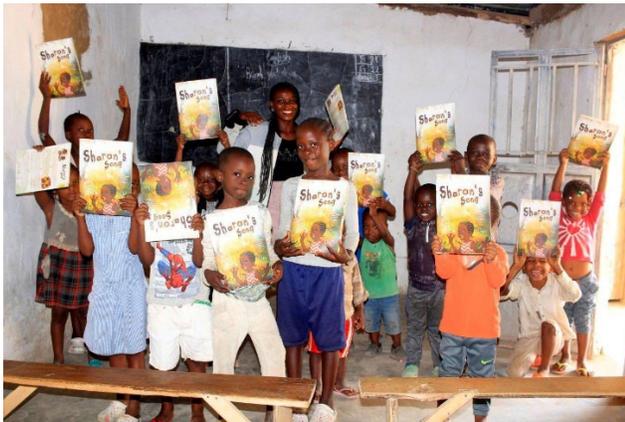
The news of the success at BFC spread. Others began to pick up on the idea that they too might receive funding if they set up a learning center modeled after BFC. Hope Training Center had already started and Joshua Kisibo showed great promise, so I began to fund his center as well. Since then Hope Training Center has grown tremendously and prospered.

Eric Rusagara operated a pharmacy at BFC, had been in a BFC Entrepreneurship class and started Changia Centre in another rented location. Both Joshua and Eric subsequently joined the Nakivale Rotaract Club. Ciella Highlight worked for a time at BFC, then at the Hope Training Centre. She started Samaritan, a women-led group assisting other refugees. All conduct learning programs and now teach and feed about 300 children each.

A new classroom/office building and four-stall latrine have been built at both Changia Centre and Samaritan on plots allotted to them by the Settlement Commandant. All want to do more and keep proposing additional projects they could run. Unfortunately, after sending well over \$US100,000 to Nakivale through my non-profit organization since February 2020 for food for children, minimal wages for leaders and teachers, construction of a kitchen, classrooms, laptop computers, learning materials,

and more, there are not enough funds to fund all they and I would like to do. More help funding these valuable programs is needed.

I continue to receive funding requests from many others through Facebook or WhatsApp who want to do similar projects, describing their efforts to “help other refugees.” Apparently, they perceive this as a sympathetic way to request funds from potential donors. I need to ignore them all even if some of them may be very worthwhile efforts by good people. There just is not enough funding available.



Chasing (and Catching) Grant Funding

Over the last year or two, I have started to work on global grants to obtain funding from the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. This requires community assessments. So we organized focus groups with members of the community to determine the greatest needs that might be satisfied by Rotary Global Grants. After discarding the most basic needs that could not be included in Global Grants, two proposals were developed, one that dealt with the educational needs at Best Future School and the second dealing with water.

The first grant proposal is GG#2121577 (Improving Education and Sanitation in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Uganda) for \$37,000. It covers educational materials, 12 latrines, 8 handwashing stations, laptop computers and more. Clearly there is a need for school supplies and teaching materials for the over 300 students. There are not enough benches for the students to sit on (desks take up too much room in the available classroom space, so “laptop desks” of boards of letter paper size are used to write on with the exception of one room pictured below). The 12 latrines are to improve the horrendous situation with only two latrines available for the students and staff when I first arrived there in February 2020 (see the picture below).



At that time, only three 20-liter jerry cans of water was being delivered to BFC, which was not enough for the students to drink or wash hands. More is being delivered today, but still way short of what is needed. Two hand washing stations have been built so far, but again insufficient for the need. A generator of

sufficient size is needed to allow lights and computer classes to function when the unreliable power fails. The need for the laptops is not quite as critical as at first, but the latest report is that only six of the laptops delivered remain in use.

The greatest need at BFC (and throughout Nakivale) is adequate safe drinking water. The initial idea was to drill a borehole and install an H2Opendoors ultrafiltration device to produce 10,000 liters of purified water per day. Borehole sites were located, plans drawn for the facilities and budget developed for the project. When I went to Nakivale the second time in February 2021, I met with Wendy Kasujja with UNHCR in Kampala and was told that UNHCR would not approve of the project. She said that there had been a new borehole drilled in Nakivale, that sufficient water was now available to meet the UNHCR standards and that distribution was the main issue with only 36 water points spread out over the 71 square miles within the settlement. Although Nakivale was not in an ideal situation, it was much worse in some other settlements and they could not justify spending any more money on boreholes in Nakivale.

That was a jolt, after all of the work getting to this point. We investigated a potential project in the Oruchinga Refugee Settlement west of Nakivale but rejected that idea as insufficiently bold or necessary. We consulted with Lachin Hasanova, the lead UNHCR person in Nakivale, about what could be done in Nakivale, our area of focus. She directed her staff and officials with Nsamizi, the UNHCR Implementing Partner in Nakivale for WASH, to see what could be approved in Nakivale.

The result is GG#2122662 (Providing Safe Drinking Water in Nakivale Refugee Settlement, Uganda) for \$80,515 to extend a water line to Best Future School, an ultrafiltration system, and a 100,000-liter water tank for Rubondo where new refugees are settled in Nakivale. The extension of the water pipe to Best Future School from the new borehole will greatly help BFC to have sufficient water to prepare food, drink and wash hands. The ultra-filtration units will deliver water the quality of purchased bottled water. The second part for Rubondo is part of a plan to better serve Rubondo. The entire plan included water quality improvements which could not fit within the expected funds available, so were set aside in favor of the additional tank which would increase the water quantity available.

UNHCR distributes water in the refugee settlements by establishing water points from which residents bring their 20-liter jerry cans to be filled and carried home. Some people can afford to have others carry the water for them by bicycle, a common means of

transporting goods in Nakivale. However, a more common site is a girl carrying water, as that is the role of girls in Nakivale. This has two negative results: the girls are not going to school and they are subject to sexual abuse and even rape in isolated areas.



These two Prior lake Rotary Global Grants were fully funded with contribution commitments from 52 Rotary Clubs and 4 Rotary districts by July 2021. GG#2121577 is expected to be approved by The Rotary Foundation soon. GG#2122662 is expected to be submitted for approval by TRF by the time this report is published. Covid presented a significant challenge for fundraising, but also an opportunity.

While many Rotary clubs in the United States and elsewhere were no longer meeting in person during the pandemic, they needed speakers who could do Zoom presentations. I was able to secure well over 70 such opportunities which resulted in great response from the clubs.

Potential Projects in Kyaka

Wendy Kasugga had asked if we could help elsewhere, and after rejecting the Oruchinga proposal I accepted the challenge to seek \$30-40,000 of funding for a project in the Kyaka II Refugee Settlement. On my third and most recent visit to Uganda, I joined the South Kampala Rotary Club members (and some Kampala Rotaract members as well) on an assessment tour of Kyaka II, directly north of Nakivale. [Kyaka II](#) is home to about 125,000 refugees spread out over 81.5 sq. kilometers (31.5 sq. miles). Kyaka II is more of an upland area and gets more rain than Nakivale. The biggest source of water is springs, with the water delivered to 151 water points, plus 62 bore holes. This compares with only 36 water points in 71 square miles in Nakivale where distribution is the biggest issue. Despite the greater availability of water, the issue is the availability of safe drinking water, as the streams are heavily polluted due to much open field defecation. The residents of Kyaka II on average receive only 12.2 liters of safe drinking water per day, comparable to flushing the toilet 2 times per day at current U.S. federal standards for new toilets.

The project being considered improves an existing water source currently providing 17-20% of the safe drinking water for the 125,000 refugees. Water is pumped from the stream into the settling tanks shown above, with a chemical added to cause the sediment to settle to the bottom. The water is then pumped to an existing 100,000 water tank on top of the hill and then gravity fed to the water points below. This \$100,000 project will add an additional 70,000-liter settling tank and an additional 100,000-liter storage tank. These improvements are expected to double the quantity from what is available today.

The Prior Lake Rotary Club is now raising funds for this Global Grant in partnership with the Kampala South Rotary Club as the Host Club. UNHCR has requested this project and its WASH Implementing Partner OXFAM would construct and manage the facility. The good news is that the Prior Lake Club has been awarded \$25,000 of DDF from District 5960 for this project. With the 80% match from the Rotary International World Fund, that totals \$45,000. We just heard as well that this project has been chosen from among many other proposals to receive \$25,000 in a Special Grant from the [WASH Rotary Action Group](#). With the contributions from the Prior Lake Rotary Club, the South Kampala Club and several other clubs solicited by me, we are very close to fully funding this grant as well.

Stories of People of Action (from Rotary, Rotary Blogs, and Project Partners)

In the Spring and Summer 2022 issues of Migration & Development Bulletin, a series of blog posts on what Rotarians are doing to respond to the refugee crisis were shared. Many of these posts were published by Rotary Voices and Service in Action, the two blogs of Rotary International. Additional posts were recently published, as well as other articles available on the Rotary International website or the website of various project partners. A selection of such stories of “people of action” is provided below. We hope that they will provide you with inspiration for your own work.

Through Rotary’s Shared Efforts, ‘Peace Will Come’

By Olha Paliychuk, Rotary Club of Cherkasky, Ukraine. The article was published on Rotary Voices on June 8, 2022, and is adapted from Dr. Olha Paliychuk’s remarks to the Rotary International Convention in Houston. Link to the [original article](#).



I live and work in central Ukraine, not far from Ukraine’s capital city of Kyiv. It was a long journey getting to convention: first by bus to the border of Poland, and then across the border and taking a long flight. But all the efforts are worth it. As we say in Ukraine, “To see a friend, no road is too long.”

I’m very honored – and happy – to be in Houston with my Rotary family and friends. I stand here on behalf of more than 1,000 Rotary members in Ukraine to say Thank You.

In February, when the war against my country began ravaging our families and communities, you – my fellow Rotary members around the world sprang into action. You have not only donated and shipped medical supplies and other daily essentials to those of us inside Ukraine, but also provided shelter to those who have fled. Your help has saved lives, giving

us hope and inspiring Ukrainians like me to stand up, to help our people, and protect our homeland.

My city of Cherkasy is located a few hundred miles south of where the Chernobyl nuclear accident happened in 1986. Nearly 40 years later, we still feel the terrible legacy of the nuclear disaster. Many children grew up with their bodies decimated by cancer and abnormalities. As a gynecologist oncologist, I work at a hospital where many young cancer patients come to receive treatment.

Over the past three months, those patients who are struggling for their very lives -are facing another type of danger – brutal Russian military attacks. Our work is constantly disrupted by the loud explosions of bombs and rockets. We treat our patients in an atmosphere of fear. When will the next bomb strike, we ask ourselves? We had to place sandbags to cover all the windows of our hospital to protect our operating theater.

At the same time, hospitals across Ukraine such as mine now treat serious wounds, and bullet injuries, for both civilians and soldiers. When we do surgeries on women and children or treat newborn babies, we don’t even have access to the basic medical supplies and equipment such as patient monitors, operating tables, lamps, or mobile incubators.

As a surgeon, I’m used to major medical emergencies. But preventable tragedies caused by this unprovoked war fill me with anger and sadness.

Members of my own family are supporting me through this difficult time. I inherited my determined spirit from my parents, who are also doctors. My trip here enables me to reunite with my 21-year-old son, Pavlo. My son lives in Toronto and is attending his second Rotary convention.

My fellow Rotarians, along with my family members, are inspiring me to devote myself to helping others. One of the unique things about Rotary is that we have volunteers working on the frontline. I want to tell you proudly that our Rotary networks in Ukraine are doing an amazing job. Our district holds special online meetings twice daily to identify needs inside Ukraine and coordinate humanitarian aid with clubs in our neighboring countries.

I’m also leading our district’s medical response. [The International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals](#) meet every week to allocate care and materials, and to assess the growing needs. I can tell you that your donations are being delivered to those –who are most in need.

As the international community of Rotary reaches out to help Ukraine, we are helping to build strong connections and friendships. As the war drags on, Ukraine will need your continued support. I hope to deepen our bonds and to plan for the future. With our shared efforts, peace will come.

World Refugee Day: Five Ways To Support Newcomers and Migrants

By Quentin Wodon, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration. This article was published on Rotary International's Service in Action blog on June 20, 2022. Link to the [original story](#).

UNHCR estimates that there are more than [100 million](#) forcibly displaced people globally today. The number reached 89 million at the end of 2021, according to the latest [report on global displacement](#), and has continued to rise over the past six months as eight million people have been displaced in Ukraine and six million became refugees in other countries.

Rotarians and Rotaractors have stepped up to [respond to the crisis in Ukraine](#). Through April 2022, donations to the Disaster Response Fund were allocated for humanitarian aid to support Ukrainian refugees and communities impacted by the war, with more than \$15 million raised. At the time of writing this post, The Rotary Foundation has supported 138 disaster response grants through \$4.2 million allocated across 27 countries. Districts can continue to apply for these grants to support communities impacted by the war throughout 2022.

20 June is [World Refugee Day](#). The annual observance honors the strength and resilience of refugees. Celebrations first started in Africa, with the United Nations later adopting a resolution for the Day in 2001, during the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention on Refugees. Issues related to refugees, forced displacement, and migration are here to stay, with climate change likely to bring additional stress. Here are five simple ways through which Rotary members, our clubs, and our districts can help:

1. Raise awareness and advocate. In many areas of the world, support available to refugees, forcibly displaced persons, and migrants is inadequate. Rotarians and Rotaractors can help raise awareness of their plight and advocate for humane policies and humanitarian assistance, as well as longer-term investments through education and employment opportunities. Clubs can allocate one or more meetings to discuss

ways for their members to engage. You can invite refugees and migrants as speakers, or agencies who work directly with newcomers; organize events in collaboration with newcomers and resettlement agencies in your community; explore partnership opportunities with immigration resettlement agencies. As just one example, thanks to a member of my club who teaches at a university, the university made two [full scholarships](#) plus housing available to Afghan women. This type of advocacy makes a difference!

2. Support refugees where you live. Many Rotarians and Rotaractors have provided shelter for refugees. Others are helping newcomers register for classes, find employment, or simply ensure they have basic necessities. Last month, Rotary International organized a webinar on *Supporting Refugees in the US: Opportunities and Resources from Welcome.US and Rotary*. Welcome.US is a nonprofit aiming to support the resettlement of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees in the United States. A [recording of the webinar](#) is available and Welcome.US has prepared [resources](#) for U.S. communities to better support refugees. Similar efforts to welcome refugees exist in other countries. As individuals or as clubs, you can join these efforts.
3. Volunteer with nonprofits. Refugees need help settling in their new community, and you can volunteer to help. If you speak a particular language, you could serve as a translator, or you could perhaps teach your national language as a second language for newcomers. Refugee children often need help in school – you can volunteer as a tutor after school or help organize recreational activities. You can help obtain books in their language for refugee children as another Rotarian from my club is doing for [Afghan children](#) through his nonprofit. Or you could help adults acquire skills, write a resume, prepare for an interview, or work with your employer or staff to create jobs for newcomers. Opportunities to provide support are many and local nonprofits working with refugees can advise you or your club on how to engage.
4. Implement international projects. Most refugees around the world have been refugees for many years, living in camps and

settlements that do not attract media attention. [The Rotary Foundation's global and district grants](#) are great vehicles for providing better opportunities for refugees within Rotary's areas of focus. You can also implement projects outside of the Foundation's grant mechanisms and may need to if the type of support you provide is not eligible for a grant. There have been many such wonderful projects, including one providing [meals for Venezuelan refugees](#). More examples of how the Rotary community is supporting newcomers, locally and internationally, are available on [Rotary Showcase](#).

5. Donate to The Rotary Foundation and other reputable organizations. Donations are key to enable nonprofits to serve refugees, forcibly displaced people, and migrants. You can support Rotary's member-led initiatives by giving to your club or district response efforts, or [The Rotary Foundation](#). You can also donate to other reputable organizations with a long history and expertise working in refugee resettlement.

In November 2020, [The Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration](#) was formed to help Rotarians and Rotaractors, as well as clubs and districts, do good work in this space. Membership is free. Join us by [registering online](#).

Five Ways to Help on World Refugee Day

This story was written by Rotary International staff and posted on Rotary Voices on June 20, 2022. Link to the [original story](#).



People displaced by the war in Ukraine arrive at a train station in Pardubice, Czech Republic. April 2022.

World Refugee Day, 20 June, is an international day designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe. Members of Rotary and Rotaract clubs have been taking action through a variety of international projects to help raise awareness of the plight of refugees, advocate for humane policies related to refugees, and provide for immediate needs of refugees. Quentin Wodon, Chair of the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration, has written a blog on [5 ways to support newcomers and migrants](#) on the Rotary Service in Action blog.

Also read about some of the efforts of Rotary and Rotaract members to support refugees through the years:

- Rotary clubs in the Czech Republic and Slovakia have been [using their connections to gain access to a strategic railway hub](#) that has allowed them to shuttle critical supplies into Ukraine and help refugees get out.
- Across Europe, [Rotaract members are using digital tools](#) to share information and coordinate to help people who have been affected by the war in Ukraine.
- Rotarians in the Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration spearhead a program to [create scholarships for Afghan refugees](#) in the United States.
- Cristal Montañez Baylor, a member of the Rotary E-club of Houston, Texas, USA, is the International Coordinator for Hope for Venezuelan Refugees, a project providing [for the needs of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Colombia](#).
- [Exodus Venezuela](#) tracks the stories of three refugees who were among the 4 million people who fled Venezuela following the economic turmoil beginning in 2015.
- In 2016, with support from the Rotary Club of Ulsan Daeduck, North Korean immigrants to South Korea chartered the Rotary Club of Ulsan Freedom to [help defectors adapt to life in South Korea](#).
- Six humanitarians and members of the family of Rotary were honored as [People of Action: Connectors Beyond Borders](#) during the 2019 Rotary Day at the United Nations focusing on the global refugee crisis.
- In Nova Scotia, Canada, the Rotary Club of Amherst brought [two families from war-torn Syria](#) to their country, where the refugees are starting a new life. The club galvanized other community groups to help the families assimilate with the town and culture.
- The Rotaract Club of Nakivale, Uganda, is raising funds to help residents of a [huge refugee](#)

[settlement](#) start their own businesses. The club, based inside the settlement, also provided refugees with sugar, soap, and clothes.

- Rotary member Pia Skarabis-Querfeld, a physician in Germany, [built a network of volunteer doctors](#) to help thousands of refugees streaming into Berlin, Germany. In 2015, during the peak of the refugee influx into Germany, her nonprofit, Medizin Hilft, had more than 100 volunteers at its clinic.

NDMU's Refugee Scholarship Provides Hope, Opportunity to Afghan Sisters

This article was published by university staff on the website of Notre Dame of Maryland University on June 24, 2022. Link to the [original story](#).

BALTIMORE – For Nowrasta and her younger sister, Nastaran, the past 10 months have been filled with turmoil and uncertainty.

The two sisters, along with their father and two additional siblings, were among the thousands of citizens from Afghanistan evacuated out of the country after the Taliban regained control last August. Their mother was only recently able to join them, and efforts to bring their oldest sister over to the United States continue to this day.

That experience, along with all of the struggles that come with an unexpected transition to a new country, has led to many dark days for the family. Nowrasta and Nastaran, however, received a welcome update from Notre Dame of Maryland University this spring, when they learned that they would be the first two recipients of the school's [Afghan Refugee Scholarship](#). The scholarship is awarded in partnership with the [Rotary Action Group for Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Migration](#).

"When we heard we got the scholarships, it was the best news we had since we have been in the United States," Nastaran said. "We were so excited – it was just a great day."

The sisters first learned about the scholarship opportunity from Daniel Jacoby, a volunteer and advisory board member for the [Episcopal Refugee and Immigrant Center Alliance](#) (ERICA). Jacoby and Betty Symington, who serves as ERICA's executive director, met the family while they were staying at an extended stay hotel near BWI airport.

"We're a social justice program that welcomes refugees, asylum seekers and other humanitarian

immigrants who have fled persecution, poverty and war in their home countries," Symington said. "We're focused on providing access to those who face a lot of high barriers."

Nowrasta and Nastaran's family left Afghanistan out of fear for their safety following the Taliban's takeover, as their father worked as a translator for NATO while the previous government was in charge. There was also a strong desire to continue their education; Nowrasta was in her third year studying public health at Kabul Medical University, while Nastaran was lined up to start college this fall.

"They're from the first generation of women in Afghanistan, at least in the urban areas, to have grown up with the idea that they could be educated," Symington said. "There have been highly educated Afghan women in the past, but they have been predominantly from a very small, wealthy elite in the country. Over the past 20 years, many strides were made for girls, and education was a huge focus."

Education opportunities for women remaining in Afghanistan were quickly taken away by the Taliban once they regained power. That reality made the idea of attending Notre Dame, home to Maryland's only undergraduate women's college, even more appealing.

"One of the first things they saw when they visited campus, walking up the stairs of Caroline Hall are these huge portraits of women from the late 19th century," Jacoby said. "They really loved what that represented, having the chance to attend an institution dedicated to the education of women."

That first trip to campus left an immediate impression on both sisters.

"The environment was so great," Nowrasta said. "We were honored to meet the president during our tour, and all of the staff and faculty members were so kind. They really want to help the students achieve their goals."

"I really like the campus," Nastaran added. "Everyone was stopping to say hi – they welcomed us very nicely. It was great to meet people from so many different departments."

As they prepare to join Notre Dame in the fall, Nowrasta and Nastaran have received invaluable assistance from Lucy Neale Duke, one of several college guidance counselors who work pro bono through ERICA's Pathways to College initiative. They are also in the midst of an eight-week session at

another nearby university to improve their academic English skills.

Once that is completed, the sisters will head to NDMU to continue their pursuit of a college degree, an effort which has outlasted all of the obstacles thrown their way over the past 10 months. Nastaran is hoping to develop her skills in IT, cybersecurity and program management, while Nowrasta's initial interests are centered on biology and computer science.

"We lost our home in Afghanistan, but when we got these scholarships we also found hope," Nowrasta said. "I was so fortunate to receive this opportunity, and I am ready to put my 100 percent effort into this."

Helping Ukraine, One Drill Set at a Time

By Emory Morsberger, Rotary Club of Gwinnett County, Georgia, USA. This article was published on Rotary Voices on August 10, 2022. Link to the [original story](#).

Isn't it a privilege to be a Rotarian who can actually serve others and make a difference in someone else's life – and even more so if that life is on the other side of the world? I think so! I hope to rally fellow Rotarians on 24 August to join our movement, Helping Ukraine.

In 1998, I took a trip to Ukraine and have been yearning to go back since. The people there are so excited about their freedom. When the war broke out in February, I felt a strong call to do something to help these free-spirited people. I had been hearing about the massive destruction and wanted to do more than make donations.

When Chris Brand, a member of Rotary and President of Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) in Tucker, Georgia, USA, called me one morning to tell me there was an urgent need to take Stryker Drill Sets and other medical relief supplies over to the war-torn country, it was just the call I had been waiting for. Without hesitation, I said, "I'll go." On 6 June, I boarded a flight to Bucharest, Romania, and began my journey to Ukraine.

The cry for help is real. Through a relay of Rotarians from Ukraine to Atlanta and back, our mission came together. We coined it *The Great Rotarian Relay*, and it has connected individual Rotary members around the world.



A bombed out home in Moschun north of Kyiv.



Handing out diapers in Chernivtsi.



Ukrainians show IDs while a Rotary volunteer checks them off the list. Rotarians had carefully organized distribution to assure that no one received duplicate supplies.



The 3-drill Stryker Drill Set with attachments. Emory carried this set in his baggage to assure its arrival.



Emory Morsberger with Rotary members loading trucks for shipment into Ukraine.

We have been guided by Dr. Olha Paliychuk, a member of the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, who is also a member of the [International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals](#). She has been letting us know their needs including surgical drill sets, supplies to care for wounds, and incubators for babies born prematurely.

While I was on my way to Bucharest, Rotary members in Atlanta organized a shipment of 12,000 pounds of medical equipment from the FODAC warehouse and shipped 37 pallets from Atlanta to Munich. The Atlanta UPS shipped the pallets to the airport for free and Delta cut the cargo cost in half. From Munich, they were trucked into Romania, eventually headed for 14 different hospitals in Ukraine.

I met Rotarians from Ukraine in Suceava, Romania, and drove with them across the border into Chernivtsi. Air sirens were blaring overhead as we handed out food and other supplies like diapers and formula to the refugees.

Oddly enough, I was not fearful; I felt I was meant to be there. Handing out the diapers really got to me. I have brought up seven daughters and now have grandchildren. One thing you have in common when you have kids around is diapers.

In Moschun north of Kyiv, I talked to three different people whose homes had been obliterated by shelling. One man stood by his burned-out car explaining how his son had left their dream house a week before it got hit. He explained how anxious he was to get back and rebuild.

In another home, a Ukrainian showed me the charred basement where he had housed 28 of his neighbors for two weeks as the Russians pressed in, before tanks got too close and they all had to leave, escaping alive.

In Kyiv, I delivered the Stryker Drill Set to the surgical team at the Kyiv hospital where they would use them to treat shrapnel wounds. I had brought them over in my luggage as each set is worth close to \$12,000. They had tears in their eyes. And I had tears in my eyes. I could see how much the equipment meant to them. Inspecting the set, it was clear Dr. Alexander knew way more about these drills than I did.

From Kyiv, I traveled to Cherkasy and met with Dr. Paliychuk, who has been like the Florence Nightingale of Ukraine, working tirelessly to continue relief efforts to her city and the surrounding hospitals. The list of needs will continue until peace is reached in Ukraine. The rebuilding of this beautiful country, rich with history and culture and home to 41 million people, will take years. Our efforts are now focusing

on 24 August, Ukrainian Independence Day.

We are holding a 24-hour telethon to collect donations from around the world. We are especially appealing to the many Rotary clubs who have already demonstrated their support for Ukraine through their generous donation of more than \$15 million to The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Relief Fund. Together, we are united in this cause.

The 24-hour broadcast will tell the story of life in Ukraine today, those who have escaped the country and those who are still held hostage within the boundaries of the war-torn country. We are working with Voice of America to share our broadcast with their daily audience of 30 million people. Isn't that incredible? Please join us by tuning in online and by learning more about our effort at helpingukraine.us.

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