

TAGLINE**HOPE AWAY FROM HOME****A world where refugees are always included****THEME****World Refugee Day 2023 focuses on solutions for refugees and the power of inclusion.**

We can all do more to give refugees more hope – and more opportunities – while they are away from home. Including refugees in the communities where they have found safety after fleeing conflict and persecution is the most effective way to support them in restarting their lives and enable them to contribute to the countries hosting them. It's also the best way to prepare them to return home and rebuild their countries, when conditions allow them to do so safely and voluntarily, or to thrive if they are resettled to another country. Let's commit to including refugees in our schools, workplaces, health care systems, and beyond.

What gives refugees hope?**ACCESS**

Including refugees in our communities means ensuring they can apply for jobs, enrol in schools and access services like housing and health care. Refugees need the chance to learn and progress at school, earn a living and live a healthy life.

SOLIDARITY

We all benefit from human connections and a sense of belonging. For refugees far from home, feeling welcomed sows hope. Host communities can open their doors and their hearts to refugees to make them feel valued.

SOLUTIONS

The world is short on long-term solutions for refugees, leaving millions living in limbo. Refugees need peace to be able to return home, more chances to resettle in a new country, or opportunities to thrive in the communities where they have found refuge.

What do we mean by solutions?

After reaching safety in a foreign country, far too many refugees are left in limbo. They need more peace and fewer wars so they can return home safely. More chances to resettle in a new country. More freedom and opportunities to thrive in the communities where they have found refuge. Each of these solutions requires inclusion from the start.

What do we mean by inclusion?

No matter how long they remain in exile, refugees want to carry on with their lives – by getting an education, providing for their families, forging friendships with neighbours. Actions like these give them hope, and skills. Refugees want opportunities, not handouts. They wish to be self-reliant, and are eager to use their talents and passions to contribute to the communities hosting them.

What do we mean by hope?

Hope is not an idle wish. It's a sense of becoming that is rooted in action. We give refugees hope when we empower them to take greater command of their daily lives.

What's getting in the way?

Refugees may face barriers to participating in the social, economic, and political life of the communities hosting them, especially if they come from a different culture, religion, or ethnicity. These obstacles can take the form of racism, xenophobia, or competition for jobs or natural resources. Many host countries and host communities need greater investment and support to ease tensions and ensure that refugees can be fully included. At the same time, the political will to make peace and find more solutions for refugees is in short supply, preventing large numbers of refugees from returning home.

What's the bottom line?

The cost of exclusion is far higher than the cost of inclusion. Refugees do not want handouts, they want opportunities. Refugees make positive contributions and boost economies. Many are brimming with creative ideas and the energy and desire to be active economic agents, able to provide for themselves while contributing to their host country's economy – if only given the chance.