

CELEBRATING THE RESILIENCE OF REFUGEES

IN THE HEART OF EAST AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES REGION, AMIDST THE BACKDROP OF STUNNING LANDSCAPES AND VIBRANT CULTURES, LIES RESILIENCE, COURAGE AND UNWAVERING HOPE OF MILLIONS OF REFUGEES.

On this World Refugee Day, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) proudly stands alongside these individuals, amplifying their voices and celebrating their remarkable journeys.

East Africa and the Great Lakes region encompass a diverse array of countries, each with its own unique challenges and opportunities for refugees and displaced populations. From the ongoing conflicts in Sudan and Somalia to the refugee influxes in Kenya, the region is a complex tapestry of displacement and resilience.

Every refugee carries with them a unique story of survival and resilience.

Meet Batula, a mother of eight from Somalia who found herself fleeing conflict. Despite the odds stacked against her, Batula has refused to be defined by her circumstances. With the support of the DRC's cash programs where she was able to go to a local hospital and get the necessary treatment for her eye disorder. Today, Batula has had her eyesight is no longer blurry and that has enabled her to carry on with her day-to-day life as she continues to support her family.



As we mark World Refugee Day, let us recommit ourselves to the cause of displaced communities around the world. According to recent data, East Africa and the Great Lakes region host over 4 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). In 2023 alone, the DRC assisted over 1.5 million individuals through various programs, providing not just immediate relief but also long-term support aimed at fostering self-reliance.

Across the border in Kenya, Esther's journey echoes the resilience. She is a plastics waste collector in Dandora dumpsite armed with gloves and torn sacks, she sifts through the trash mounds in search of valuable plastics. It's a grueling and hazardous task, with toxic fumes and the constant risk of being buried under shifting waste. However, for Esther, it's a lifeline. Esther's story echoes throughout Dandora. She has become an advocate for cleaner, healthier living conditions in Dandora, joining community-based organizations and women groups focused on recycling and waste management.

The Danish Refugee Council is dedicated to empowering refugees through comprehensive support in education, economic opportunity, and protection. By offering innovative programs such as vocational training and entrepreneurship workshops, the DRC equips refugees with the essential skills and knowledge to build brighter futures and achieve self-reliance. For example, through these programs, refugees have successfully launched small businesses, contributing to their communities and economies. Additionally, the DRC provides crucial protection services, including psychosocial support and safe spaces for vulnerable groups, ensuring their safety, dignity and well-being. Through these multifaceted efforts, the DRC fosters stability and sustainable livelihoods, enabling refugees to unlock their full potential and contribute meaningfully to their communities.



On this World Refugee Day, let us celebrate the resilience, strength, and humanity of displaced populations. Through their stories and journeys, we are reminded of the boundless potential that lies within each individual, no matter their circumstances. As we stand in solidarity with refugees around the world, let us work together to create a more compassionate and inclusive world for all.