



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The global refugee crisis has been called the greatest humanitarian disaster in history, and as a result, Rotary International made support for refugees the theme of our 2019 Rotary UN Day, at which RI President Mark D. Maloney stated that **“Rotary is more committed to helping refugees than ever before.”** The world is currently witnessing the highest levels of human displacement ever recorded, with an unprecedented 79.5 million people forced from home by conflict, according to the United Nations.

In this context of a global refugee crisis, the humanitarian emergency across Africa’s Lake Chad basin is considered one of the world’s most severe, and the Minawao Refugee Camp, in Cameroon’s Far North region, is the reason that I am reaching out to you today. The Minawao Refugee Camp, just 19 miles from the Nigerian border, was originally established to host up to 30,000 people, yet today it is home to more than twice its capacity. More families arrive each day, forced to flee for their lives to escape ongoing Boko Haram attacks: the burning of villages, pillaging, kidnapping and much worse.



To compound this humanitarian crisis, coronavirus has added a new and deadly threat.

Learning of this situation from fellow Rotarians who have witnessed this crisis firsthand, we have decided we must immediately mobilize and work together to ensure that these displaced families have the basic necessities to recover from unimaginable tragedy and protect them from COVID-19.

Rotarians are People of Action, so let's act! You and your Rotary District's members can help these families in need by joining us in committing a portion of your available District Designated Funds (DDF) to our **Lake Chad Basin Refugee Relief Global Grant** project, co-sponsored by the Rhinebeck New York, USA and Maroua, Cameroon Rotary Clubs.

This project will provide tented shelter and related training, as well as blankets, cooksets, mosquito nets, solar lights and other household supplies to those families who are struggling to survive at the Minawao Refugee Camp without these necessities. **Our team is working in cooperation with Rotary Project Partner ShelterBox.** ShelterBox has been providing emergency shelter in Cameroon with since 2015, and UNHCR is coordinating the emergency shelter response in Cameroon.

We have set a goal of raising \$250,000 of DDF commitments toward this project. As District 7210's DRFC, I can confirm that we have already committed at least \$60,000 of our available DDF to this project. Visit our team's project website at **www.RotaryRefugeeRelief.org** to read the incredible stories of the families affected, who have been previous recipients of this type of aid and training in Minawao camp.

If you would like to join us, or if have any questions, contact me immediately at the email address below. Thank you most sincerely for your consideration and generous support.

The families of Minawao are depending upon us!

J. Louis Turpin

Rotary District 7210
District Rotary Foundation Chair
Past District Governor 2016-17
Rotary.Turpin@gmail.com

