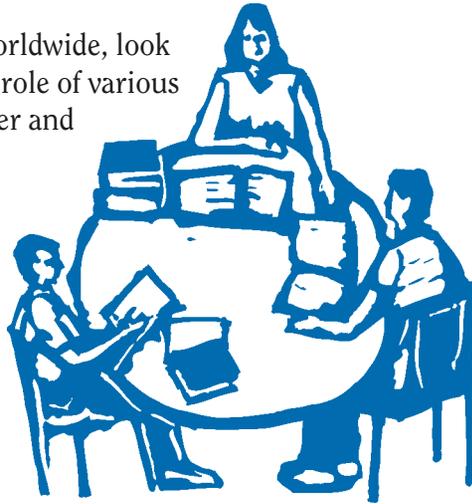


Our Story

- Discuss Theogene Rudasingwa's story. List the things that enabled him to move from refugee to high government official.
- Invite a former refugee or displaced person to speak to your synagogue.
- For information on HIV/AIDS worldwide, look up www.unaids.org. Discuss the role of various institutions in response to hunger and health crises?
 - ◆ Families
 - ◆ Community organizations and faith-based institutions
 - ◆ The marketplace and institutions of business, commerce and labor
 - ◆ Local, state and the federal government, doing together what we cannot accomplish on our own.



- Pray as a family, as a community, together three times, in English or Hebrew:

פֹּתַח אֶת יָדְךָ וּמַשְׁבִּיעַ לְכָל־חַי רָצוֹן:

Poteyach et Yadecha umasbiya lechol chai ratzon

You open Your hand, and Your favor sustains *all* the living.

Uniquely cooperative effort by MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, African Methodist Episcopal Women's Missionary Society, American Baptist Churches USA, America's Second Harvest, Bread for the World Institute, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Reformed Church, Church World Service, Community of Christ, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America World Hunger Program, Franciscan Friars, Good Ground Press/Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Heifer International, Maryland Province of the Jesuits, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., Presbyterian Hunger Program, Reformed Church in America, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Committee on Relief, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation



They Shall Not Hunger

God's Story

לֹא יִרְעֲבוּ וְלֹא יִצְמָאוּ וְלֹא יִכָּם שָׁרֵב וְשָׁמֵשׁ
כִּי מֵרַחֲמֵם יִנְהַגֵּם וְעַל מְבוֹעֵי מַיִם יִנְהַלֵּם:
וְשָׁמַתִּי כָּל הָרִי לְדֶרֶךְ וּמִסְלֵתִי יִרְמוֹן:

*They shall not hunger or thirst.
Hot wind and sun shall not strike them;
For He who loves them will lead them,
He will guide them to springs of water.
I will make all My mountains a road,
And My highways shall be built up.*

- Isaiah 49:10-11
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Personal Stories

Theogene Rudasingwa's Story

Former ambassador to the United States from Rwanda, Theogene is Director of Cabinet in the Rwandan president's office. The first 30 years of his life were spent in refugee camps.

I am told that my father was crucified. The four of us, together with our mother, first went to Burundi, and then left Burundi through Tanzania and finally settled in southwest Uganda, where we lived in a refugee camp for most of my life.

We moved on foot through the thick jungles of East and Central Africa. Many people perished in the course of this movement and during the very harsh conditions that existed in refugee camps.

Life in the refugee camp is something that you can only really experience in order to adequately describe it. The refugees are ultimately the most impoverished. My mother, brother and sister had to work long hours in order to get food for the day. After working 12 hours, they gave you a bunch of bananas.

When I actually began going to school, it was not in a formal classroom, but under a tree. When I began learning how to write, it was not in an exercise book with a pen, but rather on our thighs using sharp pieces of wood or grass in order to leave some kind of imprints on our thighs. But as time went by, with the help of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations, schools were established in the refugee camps. <www.refugees.org>

An Elderly Woman Speaks from the Ukraine

If I lay down and died, it wouldn't matter, because nobody needs me. This feeling of my own powerlessness, of being unnecessary, of being unprotected is for me the worst of all.

<www.worldbank.org/poverty/voices>



Empowerment and Disempowerment Stories

each fact reflects a human story

- Eighty percent of refugees are women and children. Women are especially vulnerable to sexual harassment, abuse and violence. Children are targets of abuse, prey to military abduction and typically miss years of education. <www.womenscommission.org>
- Millennium Development Goal #3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Two-thirds of illiterate people are women, and the rate of employment among women is two-thirds that of men.
- Nearly 4 million youth in the United States between the ages of 14 and 24 are high school dropouts. <www.census.gov/statab/www/>



- Nearly 2.5 billion of the world's 6.3 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. One billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Contaminated water kills 2.2 million people per year. <<http://hdr.undp.org>>
- At least 300 million people have acute cases of malaria, 90 percent of them in developing countries, 75 percent in sub-Saharan Africa. <<http://hdr.undp.org>>