

Since our last update, war has broken out in the Middle East, driving disarray and devastation. Airstrikes have sent three million Iranians from their homes. Up to 20% of Lebanon's population is internally displaced after decades of turmoil. Across the region, a generation grows up knowing only this as their new normal.

Putting the stakes plainly, Oman-based human rights researcher and Aurora Luminary [Huda Al-Sarari](#) told us:

"The military escalation in the Middle East... has become a highly dangerous environment where civilian spaces are rapidly eroding. Continuing this work is no longer a comfortable option, but a moral stance that demands daily courage."

Huda Al-Sarari



And yet, funding cuts continue (see: [UK](#)), leaving more to local communities to handle. Among them, teachers, doctors, lawyers give of themselves for their neighbors, communities, societies. They're the ones holding things together through it all.

We call them grassroots humanitarians. The very best of humanity, they are our most precious resource. If recent events are any indication, we're only going to need more of them in the years to come.

That's where Aurora 2.0 comes in: I'm proud to announce our [new strategy](#) goes live today and on [our website](#).

EXPLORE AURORA 2.0

Over the past year, we've partnered with our [Board](#), [Selection Committee](#), [humanitarians](#), and countless close partners and supporters to develop our next phase. To them, we express our deepest thanks.

With Aurora 2.0, we're putting the "human" back in humanitarian and awakening the humanitarian in each of us.

We will continue to recognize extraordinary humanitarians through the Aurora Prize. To that, we're adding long-term partnership programs.

OUR VISION
A world that empowers individual humanitarians, awakening our collective humanity.

OUR MISSION
To elevate individual humanitarians through recognition, partnership, and narrative change.

Lofty aspirations. How do we get there? For one, **flexible funding** that reaches humanitarians when they need it. And another: **building the community and capacity** our network *actually* needs—we're asking and learning right now. Finally, it means using our **convening power** to connect frontline leaders with funders, partners, and each other.

Over the past decade of Aurora Prize cycles, a network of 100+ humanitarian leaders across 73 countries and territories has arisen, the [Aurora Humanitarian Network](#). Cumulatively, they've touched tens of millions of lives, and their reach grows every day. With Aurora 2.0, this emerging network becomes stronger, more connected, and better resourced, all in partnership with Aurora humanitarians.

Thoughts and prayers are everywhere at times like these. When you're ready to go further, to support humanitarians like [Huda](#), here are four ways you can do it, right now, wherever you are.

1. Join us at the Skoll World Forum

April 22

Comedian and writer [Trevor Noah](#) will interview Aurora Co-Founder and Board Chair [Noubar Afeyan](#) during the opening plenary, which will focus on how our understanding of the natural world can inform social entrepreneurship during a time of global upheaval. Also featured are Aurora Laureate [Ilwad Elman](#) and Aurora Selection Committee member [Dele Olojede](#).



April 23

Aurora hosts the panel: *Funding a new humanitarianism: Scaling global support for locally led responses*
10:30 am – 11:30 am | Oxford Town Hall | St. Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1BX

REGISTER



2. Nominate a humanitarian for the Aurora Prize

The Aurora Prize elevates frontline leaders and helps them sustain and scale their work. Your nomination can be the step that connects a humanitarian with the resources and recognition to reach more people, for longer.

NOMINATE NOW

3. Make your contribution count

Support Aurora 2.0 and help ensure that the people who stand up for others are not standing alone. Every gift strengthens the network that sustains them.

DONATE

4. Tell us what you think



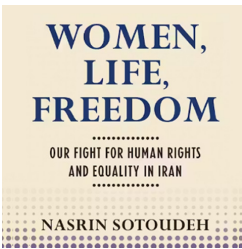
Join the conversation on social or drop us an email at info@AuroraHumanitarian.org to share your thoughts, ideas and questions. It's going to take all of us to preserve and strengthen humanity in this "new normal."



With Gratitude,
Armine Afeyan
CEO, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative

Aurora Book Club

Our reading corner, bringing you stories that deepen our sense of what it means to be human and humanitarian.



This month's pick is [Women, Life, Freedom: Our Fight for Human Rights and Equality in Iran](#) by [Nasrin Sotoudeh](#). In a moment when Iran's future feels especially volatile, Nasrin's story brings us back to the human scale of courage, practiced quietly, persistently, and often at great personal cost. As we finalized this issue, we learned that she had been detained again by Iranian authorities. [Aurora stands with Nasrin Sotoudeh and calls for her immediate release.](#)



And if you read one piece this month about life on the frontlines, make it [this story of Aurora Prize Laureate Dr. Tom Catena](#), persevering as a lone surgeon in war-torn Sudan.

When multiple crises compete for attention, it is a grounding reminder of what steadfast care looks like when there is no spotlight, only need.

Did a quote or idea stick with you? Tell us about it!



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