

Dear friend,

We are excited to share the first 2023 edition of our newsletter, **GRATITUDE IN ACTION**, designed to keep Aurora's community connected and up-to-date on our progress. Launched in March 2015, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative celebrates its 8th anniversary this year. Aurora empowers modern-day heroes improving the lives of those in need across the globe while creating a universal model for others to follow. Through our initiatives, Aurora has established a unique network of activists, humanitarians, and experts and has already benefitted over 2,700,000 people worldwide.

Arman Jilavian
 CEO, Aurora Humanitarian Initiative



Water for Underserved Communities in DRC

2021 Aurora Prize Laureate **Julienne Lusenge** used part of her \$1,000,000 award to provide the population of Beni, Democratic Republic of the Congo, with access to water. As a direct result of this, when 28-year-old Rehema Soki gave birth to her third child at a local hospital, she and her baby were able to get as much clean tap water as they needed.

“Before this, women used rainwater for bathing themselves and their children. That was a source of many infections, which extended their stay at the hospital. When I compare this to the years spent without this standpipe, I realize that many things have changed,” says Rehema.



Rehema Soki
 Beni, DRC

Overall, around 12,000 people in the city and territory of Beni will have free access to clean water thanks to Aurora and Julienne Lusenge.

Support for Survivors of Abuse in Somalia



Elman Peace
 Center Beneficiaries
 Mogadishu, Somalia

Aurora provided funding to a program for the victims of sexual and gender-based violence in Somalia, thanks to 2020 Aurora Prize Laureates Fartuun Adan & Ilwad Elman. As a result, 17-year-old Jane (name changed) who was forced to offer sexual rewards to Al Shabaab fighters and ostracized by her own family had the opportunity to enroll in the Mogadishu Girls Leadership Academy where she plans to learn new skills in hopes of starting a new, better life.

In total, the program is expected to help 1,600 people.

Louise Richardson Joins Selection Committee

We are pleased to share that Dame Louise Richardson, President of Carnegie Corporation of New York, has been appointed to the Selection Committee of the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. A political scientist by training, Richardson is recognized internationally as an expert on terrorism and counterterrorism. As a member of the Selection Committee, she will work closely with the outstanding group of humanitarians, human right activists, and former heads of state to choose the next Aurora Prize Laureate.



“Louise Richardson is not only a distinguished academic and leader, she is a visionary who has spent her career applying her tremendous insight and experience to strengthening democracy, advancing peace and working to improve the lives of others. I am honored to welcome Louise to the Aurora Prize Selection Committee, where she will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact,” said Lord Ara Darzi, Chair of Aurora Prize Selection Committee and Co-Director of the Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London.

**Nominations are now open for
 the 2024 Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity!**

NOMINATE

2022-2023 Young Aurora Winner



UWC Dilijan Team
 Combili Project

On March 23, 2023, Aurora organized the Aurora Dialogues Online event titled **“The Role of Education in Promoting Peace”** that kicked off with the presentation of the three 2022-2023 Young Aurora finalists' projects, followed by a panel discussion about the unique ways humans think, process, and create, as well as the importance of encouraging young people to make the world a better place.

UWC Dilijan was announced as the **2022-2023 Young Aurora winner**. They will receive a grant of \$4,000 to implement their Combili project that suggests creating small 'urban garden' models run by local children. The gardens turn biowaste, which contributes to toxic gas emissions, into fertile soil using modern composters.

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