

Dear Friend,

Most of what happens on the frontlines of a humanitarian crisis never makes the news, and the people doing the work on the ground rarely get to tell their own story. Aurora is helping to change that.

Ismail Alabdullah was an English teacher in rural Aleppo when the Syrian Civil War began in 2011. As his government unleashed its army on civilians and civilian infrastructure, he joined the White Helmets (now a part of the Syrian Government and known as Syria Civil Defence) and for over a decade has been pulling people from rubble, documenting attacks, and advocating internationally for those who could not speak for themselves.



On June 16, we featured Ismail in the first episode of ***Humanitarian Heroes: Voices from the Frontlines***, a new monthly speaker series Aurora launched last month in collaboration with the PEACE Lab at Yale School of Public Health. The series is one of the ways we are putting ***Aurora 2.0*** into practice: giving a platform directly to ***Aurora Humanitarian Network*** members to tell their stories.

During the conversation, Ismail spoke about the gravity of being a first responder in an active war zone. *"You will do everything you can. You will do what you have to do,"* he said. *"But you will not be able to save everyone."*

WATCH THE FIRST EPISODE



Visibility matters, and so does what comes after it. Last month, Aurora Prize Laureate **Dr. Denis Mukwege** allocated **a second round of participatory grants** to local humanitarians in the DRC, Somalia, Malawi, Burkina Faso, and Colombia. Dr. Mukwege selected the grantees himself, supporting people and organizations he knows and believes in. The model is straightforward and data-proven: funding that moves through trusted networks reaches communities faster and more effectively than aid that must find its way in from the outside.

And the timing could not be more urgent. The DRC is currently facing a dangerous Ebola outbreak, and part of this round of funding is reaching the **Moseka Action Project** in South Kivu Province, supporting community education, women's empowerment, and Ebola awareness on the ground.



This is what sustained support makes possible: not a one-time intervention but a relationship with the people already working on the frontlines. Stina Berge, Founder of **Yennenga Progress**, one of the initiatives supported across **both rounds**, put it simply: *"Behind every proud teacher and every child who learns to read, there is something less visible but absolutely crucial: perseverance, salaries paid on time, routines followed, structures that last."*

When you donate to Aurora, you help make that kind of continuity possible for humanitarians like Dr. Mukwege's grantees and for the communities depending on them.

SUPPORT AURORA

Behind every Aurora humanitarian is someone who first said: the world should hear about this person. If you know someone whose humanity awakens humanity in others, put their name forward.



The Aurora Prize nomination is the first step toward recognition, funding, and a network that helps grassroots humanitarians do even more.

NOMINATE NOW

With Gratitude,

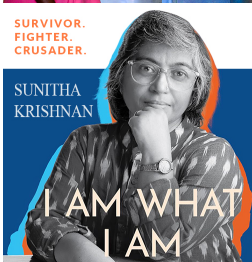
The Aurora Team

Aurora Book Club

Our reading corner for voices that deepen our sense of what it means to be human and humanitarian.



Aurora Prize Laureate **Julienne Lusenge** leads a clinic at the center of the Ebola response in Bunia. Read what she has to say to the Associated Press about how **women are bearing the greatest risks** in the outbreak.



With World Day Against Trafficking in Persons approaching on July 30, we are reading **Sunitha Krishnan's** memoir, ***I Am What I Am***. Sunitha founded Prajwala, one of Asia's largest institutions working to end sex trafficking.

Her book covers decades of work, and the question it keeps returning to is a heavy one: what does it take to keep going?



Colin Thomas-Jensen, Aurora's Director of Impact, speaks to The Mirror US about what **the Ebola outbreak in DRC** and **the devastating earthquake in Venezuela** are revealing about the state of global humanitarian response.

Did a quote or idea stick with you?
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