



Secure your seat today at the 2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony on Ellis Island

Dear Friends of Aurora,

We're just back from a big week in New York, where the Aurora community convened on the sidelines of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly to celebrate the announcement of the [2025 Aurora Prize finalists](#).

We started the week strong, gathering the esteemed [Aurora Prize Selection Committee](#) to determine the 2025 finalists. They had their work cut out from them, choosing from our largest and most diverse pool, featuring 868 nominations from 85 countries in support of 807 unique candidates working in 104 countries and territories.

We announced the finalists on Monday, September 22, at a [press event in partnership with the Overseas Press Club](#) and on [CNN with Jim Sciutto](#). The 2025 Aurora Prize finalists are Sally Becker, Jamal Eltaeb, Zouhair Lahna and Jill Seaman. Each has dedicated their life to saving others around the world, from Sudan and South Sudan to Ukraine, Ethiopia, Yemen and Gaza. Their work speaks to global trends: as much progress as the "inhumanitarians" (a term Aurora Co-Founder Noubar Afeyan uses for those creating the very problems humanitarians solve) are making, humanitarianism still thrives under the toughest conditions. Aurora humanitarians lead the way.

We will announce the 2025 Laureate at the [2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony & 10th Anniversary](#) on Ellis Island on November 6, 2025. We look forward to welcoming you and celebrating humanitarians as the very best of humanity.

At the [Annual Meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative \(CGI\)](#), 2024 Aurora Prize Laureate [Dr. Denis Mukwege](#), Selection Committee member [Dr. Chelsea Clinton](#) and I discussed how Aurora is putting the "human" back in [humanitarian](#) and bringing out the humanitarian in every human. Dr. Mukwege shared how he's kept Panzi Hospital and Foundation running amid escalating violence in the DRC. Agility and adaptation are what makes Dr. Mukwege and fellow Aurora humanitarians unparalleled in their ability to reduce human suffering under the toughest conditions.

Five Aurora Humanitarians comprised our CGI delegation, underscoring the vital role of community-led humanitarian efforts amidst escalating crises and shrinking funding. We explored these themes in a recent [op-ed for World Humanitarian Day](#) that I had the honor of co-authoring with [2021 Aurora Prize Laureate Julienne Lusenge](#).

Leaving New York, the urgency and relevance of our work is clearer than ever. This is the moment to emphasize the "human" in humanitarian, to spread stories of courage, commitment and impact that help us turn toward when it would be easier to turn away. This is also the moment to draw out the humanitarian in every single one of us, humanitarian hybrids all—teacher-humanitarians, doctor-humanitarians, lawyer-humanitarians and so many more.

The inhumanitarians are on the march but, with your help, humanitarianism can prevail.

SUPPORT AURORA

and

TAKE YOUR SEAT

Your support for Aurora ensures that those who risk their own lives to save others aren't alone. Together, we can transform acts of courage into lasting impact and bring hope to those who need it most.

With gratitude,



Armine Afeyan
 CEO,
 Aurora Humanitarian Initiative

Global Humanitarians Shortlisted for Prestigious 2025 Aurora Prize

On September 22, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative [announced the four 2025 Aurora Humanitarians \(finalists\)](#) for the \$1 million Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. Selected from more than 800 nominations worldwide, the finalists were introduced at a media briefing and discussion in New York City, organized in partnership with the [Overseas Press Club of America \(OPC\)](#).

The 2025 Aurora Humanitarians are:



Sally Becker

A humanitarian who evacuated hundreds of sick and injured children from besieged areas during conflicts in Bosnia and Kosovo, and who has since continued saving children's lives in Northern Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine and Gaza.



Jamal Eltaeb

A medical doctor who has kept Al Nao Hospital in Omdurman functioning as one of the last referral hospitals in greater Khartoum since the war escalated in April 2023. Dr. Eltaeb's leadership allowed the hospital to remain open despite repeated bombardment, extreme resource shortages, and infrastructure collapse, helping save hundreds of lives.



Zouhair Lahna

An obstetrician-gynecologist who has worked in conflict zones and disaster areas for more than two decades, delivering care, training local staff, and mobilizing support. Dr. Lahna has served in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Syria, Yemen, Libya, Uganda, and most recently Gaza, where he has completed repeated rotations since October 2023.



Jill Seaman

A physician who co-founded South Sudan Medical Relief and has provided critical care in the conflict-affected town of Old Fangak for more than three decades, treating around 40,000 patients annually. Dr. Seaman is credited with pioneering visceral leishmaniasis and tuberculosis protocols, training local health workers, and providing hands-on care to communities in South Sudan.

One of these modern-day heroes will be named the 2025 Aurora Prize Laureate at a [ceremony on Ellis Island](#).

"These four Aurora Humanitarians are a powerful reminder that even in the darkest of times, the courage, compassion, and commitment of a few can light the way for many."

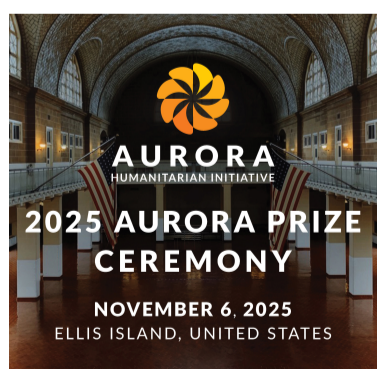
Lord Ara Darzi
 Chair, Aurora Prize Selection Committee
 Co-Director, Institute of Global Health Innovation at Imperial College London



Join Us at the 2025 Aurora Prize Ceremony

On November 6, 2025, we will mark the 10th anniversary of the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative as we honor extraordinary individuals who risk their lives to save others through the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity. The Ceremony will also celebrate the generosity of philanthropists and changemakers who exemplify the Aurora's core value of 'Gratitude in Action.' Honorees include [Henrietta Fore](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Michael Milken](#), and [David Rubenstein](#).

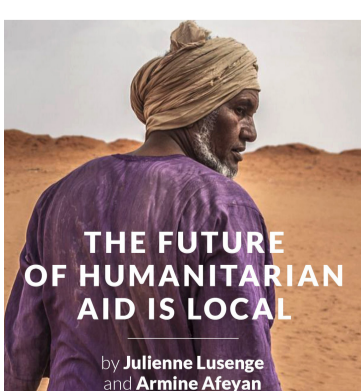
The evening will be co-hosted by award-winning journalist Judy Woodruff and bestselling author David Ignatius and will feature live performances from [Grammy-nominated artists Rufus Wainwright and Aloe Blacc](#).



RESERVE YOUR SEAT

For sponsorship opportunities or individual tickets, please reach out to us at development@auroraprize.com.

Honoring Courageous Changemakers on World Humanitarian Day



On August 19, World Humanitarian Day, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative [stood in solidarity](#) with humanitarians across the globe who are risking their lives daily to provide assistance, restore hope, and uphold the dignity of people caught in crisis.

To mark the date, Aurora's CEO Armine Afeyan and co-founder and president of Women's Solidarity for Inclusive Peace and Development (SOFEPADI) [Julienne Lusenge](#) published an op-ed on how we can better support those brave humanitarians on the frontlines.

[Read the full op-ed](#)

Cover Photo (Left to Right): Sally Becker (© Steve Parsons/PA Images), Jamal Eltaeb (Courtesy of Jamal Eltaeb), Jill Seaman (© John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation), Zouhair Lahna (Courtesy of Zouhair Lahna).