

Biographies Winners – UNICEF Photo of the year 2024

1. Prize – Avishag Shaar-Yashuv, Israel

Avishag Shaar-Yashuv, born in 1990, has been photographing for Israeli and international media, including The New York Times and DIE ZEIT, for around ten years. From Israeli fashion designers to Ukrainian refugees and green communities, she has already reported on a wide variety of topics. Shaar-Yashuv describes her portraits of the survivors of the Hamas attack as her most important work to date. She witnessed the funeral of friends who were victims of the massacre, and wants the world to see the deep sadness that is rooted even in those who outwardly appear unscathed.

1. Prize – Samar Abu Elouf, State of Palestine

Samar Abu Elouf, born in 1983, taught herself photography with borrowed cameras. Initially not taken seriously by professional photographers, Abu Elouf became one of the bravest and best photojournalists in Gaza. Since 2010, she has worked as a freelance photographer for Reuters, The New York Times, the International Committee of the Red Cross and others, receiving awards from the International Women's Media Foundation and the British Royal Photographic Society. For the safety of her four children, she accepted an offer to live in Qatar for a while.

2. Prize – Pascal Maitre, France (The VII Foundation, for Paris Match)

Pascal Maitre, born in Buzancais in 1955, mostly reports from Africa and has been one of the most internationally renowned photographers for decades. After studying psychology, he started his career as a photojournalist with the Jeune Afrique press group. His photo series from over 40 African countries, as well as from Latin America, the Middle East, Afghanistan, and Siberia are regularly featured in major magazines in France (Figaro Magazine, Paris Match), Germany (GEO, Stern) and the USA (National Geographic). Maitre has reported on how 650 million people in Africa manage without electric lighting or that millions depend on charcoal, along with its environmental impact.

3. Prize – Maylis Rolland, France (Agency Hans Lucas)

Before becoming a photographer, Maylis Rolland, born in 1984 and living near Nantes, worked as a biology and geology teacher. She is particularly interested in environmental and health issues. Her work is regularly published in French media such as Le Monde and has been shown at photo festivals in Perpignan and Paris, among others. Most recently, almost seven percent of all births in France were premature. The Rennes University Hospital is viewed as one of the most advanced in the country when it comes to the care of premature babies.

Honorable Mention – Patricia Krivanek, Canada

Patricia Krivanek, born in 1985, has a M.Sc. in Children's Rights from the University of Amsterdam and previously completed a B.A in Anthropology at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. She has lived and worked in over 18 countries and is currently based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. As a photographer, she is primarily concerned with issues that affect women and children. Her work falls somewhere in the space between documentary and fine art photography. She is also strongly committed to the United Nations, for which she has worked in countries such as Malaysia, Somalia, Dubai, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Vietnam.

Honorable Mention – Jérôme Gence, France

Jérôme Gence, born in 1984, grew up in the French overseas department of La Réunion. He studied in Paris and initially worked as a data analyst. In 2013, he began working as a photographer, retaining his interest in virtual worlds, even though he was soon confronted with actual disasters like an earthquake in Nepal. One of his best-known reports documents the success of virtual pop stars on Japanese stages: holograms that are only projected but are cheered live by thousands of excited fans.

Honorable Mention – Saher Alghorra, State of Palestine

Saher Alghorra, born in 1997 in Gaza City, attended the University of Palestine, graduating with a degree in public relations, media, and photography. He has been a passionate photographer ever since his father gave him his first camera in 2017. He started to work as a professional photo series in 2021. His reports have been published in renowned newspapers such as The Guardian and The Telegraph. In 2023, one of Alghorra's pictures was voted among the 100 most important photos of the year by Time Magazine. He also received several awards at international competitions that year.

Honorable Mention – Ziv Koren, Israel

Ziv Koren, born in 1970, has made a name for himself as a photo reporter on 'hard' topics. He documented natural disasters such as the tsunami in South East Asia in 2004 and an earthquake in Haiti, as well as people affected by the HIV epidemic, living in prisons and below the poverty line. For the last two decades, though, his documentary-projects focus mainly on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Koren's photographs have been widely published not only in Israel but also in leading European and American publications. He has been honored with several international awards and has published 20 photography books thus far.

Honorable Mention – Vincent Boisot, France

Vincent Boisot, born in 1973, lives as a photographer in Paris. He mainly produces portraits and photo series while also working with NGOs. After studying law, political science, and photojournalism, he began his career as a press photographer with various newspapers in Paris. His photo series focusing on Africa have appeared in major French media and exhibited not only in France but also in Denmark and the USA. In 2012, he won a World Press award for his work on Dakar Fashion Week.

Honorable Mention – Valerio Bispuri, Italy

Born in Rome in 1971, Valerio Bispuri has been working as a photojournalist for major media outlets in Europe and the USA since 2001. His internationally lauded black and white photo series take us on an intense and painful journey to the bleak side of the world. Over a period of ten years, for example, Bispuri documented life in 74 prisons in Latin America. For even longer, he portrayed the fate of a drug addict. Another topic of Bispuri's reports is the trafficking of women. He has also turned many of his projects into photo books.

Honorable Mention – Ivor Prickett, Ireland

As a photographer, Ivor Prickett, born in 1983, has documented the situation in the most important conflicts of our time. He witnessed the wars in Iraq and Syria, the Arab Spring uprisings in Libya and Egypt, and for several months reported exclusively for The New York Times on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Ivor's work has been recognized through several prestigious awards and his pictures have been exhibited at institutions such as The Victoria and Albert Museum in London. Prickett also works for the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR.