

# UNICEF Photo of the Year – Previous Award Winners



2024

## First Prize

### **Avishag Shaar-Yashuv, Israel**

Israeli photographer Avishag Shaar-Yashuv portrayed children in a hotel that was temporarily used as an emergency shelter by many of the victims of the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. Their faces, such as that of eight-year-old Stav, show confusion, desolation, and anguish.

## First Prize

### **Samar Abu Elouf, State of Palestine**

Palestinian photographer Samar Abu Elouf portrayed children from Gaza in a hospital in Qatar, where they were brought to safety. Among them are Dareen (11) and her brother Kinan (5). They are the only survivors of a family wiped out by an Israeli air strike.

## Second Prize

### **Pascal Maitre, France**

Children are particularly at risk from the viral disease mpox. French photographer Pascal Maitre went to the regions most affected by mpox and documented the treatment of children, including seven-month-old Japhet, at Kavumu Hospital in the Kivu region in eastern Congo.

## Third Prize

### **Maylis Rolland, France**

The photo series of French photographer Maylis Rolland shows the wonderful moments at the University Hospital of Rennes, where the fragile lives of tiny babies are stabilized with the help of medical equipment and intensive human care.

2023

## First Prize

### **Patryk Jaracz, Poland**

Patryk Jaracz, born in 1990 in Poland is a documentary photographer. His work is focused on human rights and abuses of those rights, specifically in region of Eastern Europe. On the first of January 2022 Patryk moved permanently to Kyiv, and since then has been working all over Ukraine, continuously documenting the war in the country and lives impacted by it.

## Second Prize

### **Oliver Weiken, dpa, Germany**

In 2003, Oliver Weiken joined the German Press Agency, Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA), as a junior photographer before moving to the European Pressphoto Agency (EPA) for whom he worked with for 11 years from bases in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. In 2017, Weiken returned to DPA to build their English photo wire and serve as Chief Photographer for the Middle East and North Africa, from their Cairo office.

## Third Prize

### **Natalya Saprunova, Zeppelin Agency, Russia/France**

Natalya Saprunova, born in the arctic region of Russia in Murmansk, is a freelance documentary photographer. In Russia, she worked as a photojournalist for a daily newspaper "The Messenger of Murmansk" during her studies to become a french teacher. Natalya now teaches photography at Graine de Photographie school in Paris and does documentary reportages. Natalya is a prize-

winner in various competitions. Her topics are the transformation of societies, identity, youth, spirituality and femininity.

## 2022

### First Prize

#### **Eduardo Soteras, AFP, Argentina**

Argentinian photographer Eduardo Soteras has been documenting the situation of children in Tigray since 2020. Although destroyed, an elementary school library in Ethiopia's Tigray region is where two children have taken refuge in books.

### Second Prize

#### **Ron Haviv, Agency VII, USA**

I Once Had a Home is the title of a photo series by US photographer Ron Haviv, taken in Ukraine. His pictures show people who have to flee and bid their homes and friends farewell. And they show basements and metro stations where children are born. Where they play and learn.

### Third Prize

#### **Daniel Pilar, laif Agency, Germany**

The photo series by German photographer Daniel Pilar accompanies schoolgirls in a secret girls' school in the Afghan capital Kabul.

## 2021

### First Prize

#### **Supratim Bhattacharjee, India**

A severe cyclone takes eleven-year-old Pallavi's home. Indian photographer Supratim Bhattacharjee documents the severe consequences of climate change for children in India's Sundarbans.

### Second Prize

#### **Sourav Das, India**

While schools remained closed due to Corona, a dedicated teacher in India moved classes outdoors. Indian photographer Sourav Das captured scenes from everyday life at this unusual village school.

### Third Prize

#### **Younes Mohammas, MEI Agency, Iraq**

Iraqi photographer Younes Mohammad has portrayed children of war-wounded fathers. The pictures show the great strength of the boys and girls to deal with the fate of their families and to accept the disability of their fathers.

## 2020

### First Prize

#### **Angelos Tzortzinis, AFP, Greece**

In September 2020 a fire destroyed the refugee camp Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos. Among the many pictures of this inferno, the most impressive images of children's suffering were taken by Greek photographer Angelos Tzotzinis.

## **Second Prize**

### **Supratim Bhattacharjee, India**

The air and drinking water are polluted, asthma, tuberculosis and skin diseases are widespread: In the Jharia coal fields in India, children must work, too. The Indian photographer Supratim Bhattacharjee captured their misery.

## **Third Prize**

### **Evgeny Makarov, Agentur Focus, Germany/Russia**

Violence and drugs are part of children's everyday life in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro. However, a ballet school was opened as an alternative. The German-Russian photographer Evgeny Makarov accompanied the ballet students through the favela.

## **2019**

## **First Prize**

### **Hartmut Schwarzbach, Argus Photo Agency, Germany**

The harbor of Manila's Tondo district: here, the children make a living by fishing plastic bottles out of the bay's polluted water. Grinding poverty, child labor and oceans overflowing with garbage: In his haunting photos of Tondo, Schwarzbach portrays the convergence of three different disasters.

## **Second Prize**

### **Andrew Quilty, Agence VU, Australia**

Soldiers wounded in war are often given medals for bravery. Wounded children, if they are lucky, are given prostheses. Andrew Quilty shows in this disturbing image seven Afghan children from a remote village in the district of Surkh Rod.

## **Third Prize**

### **Antonio Aragón Renuncio, Freelance Photographer, Spain**

Exhaustion is written all over his face: For this boy, gold is not a promise - it's a scourge. Antonio Aragón Renuncio documented the hardships of Burkina Faso's gold-seeking children – and followed them even to the cemeteries where so many of them now lie.

## **2018**

## **First Prize**

### **Antonio Aragón Renuncio, Freelance Photographer, Spain**

A portrait of a boy with leg orthosis, photographed during one of Renuncios regular visits to the "Saint Louis Orione Center" in Bambouaka, Togo. About 70 boys and girls have found a safe home there and receive the medical care they need.

## **Second Prize**

### **Turjoy Chowdhury, Freelance Photographer, Bangladesh**

Stateless children, born whilst fleeing their homes, with no birth certificate. Dhaka-based photographer Chowdhury took pictures of babies, one day, one week, three months old, born to parents from Myanmar.

## **Third Prize**

### **Rina Castelnuovo, Freelance Photographer, Israel/Palestine**

His name is Muhi. He was born in 2009 in the Gaza Strip, as the son of a Hamas activist. Muhi suffers from a rare autoimmune disease that could not be treated in Gaza.

## 2017

### **First Prize**

#### **Muhammed Muheisen, Freelance Photographer, Jordan**

Zahra's face. The face of a five-year-old Syrian girl in a refugee camp in Jordan. In 2015, Zahra's parents fled the war in Syria with her and seven other children.

### **Second Prize**

#### **K.M. Asad, Zuma Press, Bangladesh**

Asad captured a tranquil moment of a Rohingya refugee and her child arriving on the beach of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. Thousands have crossed the border on foot or by boat.

### **Third Prize**

#### **Kevin Frayer, Getty Images, Canada**

It was on September 20, 2017 when aid transports arrived at a Rohingya refugee camp near the Bay of Bengal.

## 2016

### **First Prize**

#### **Arez Ghaderi, Freelance Photographer, Iran**

His reportage captures a brave smile, maybe even a moment of real joy. It is the resilience, the radiance of a girl in an Iranian garbage dump.

### **Second Prize**

#### **Ali Nouraldin, laif Agency, Palestine**

Ali Nouraldin captured a moment of enchantment during a lengthy stay in Idomeni. Volunteers have improvised an open-air cinema to entertain the children with movies.

### **Third Prize**

#### **Mohammed Badra, epa (European Photopress Agency), Syria**

The war changed Badra: he had to witness it first-hand, he provided first aid for the Red Crescent – the sister organization of the Red Cross – and he became involved with the psychological support of victims.

## 2015

### **First Prize**

#### **Georgi Licovski, epa (European Pressphoto Agency), Macedonia**

His reportage depicts the situation of refugees at the border between Greece and Macedonia.

### **Second Prize**

#### **Magnus Wennman, Aftonbladet, Sweden**

Wennman traveled around from Jordan up to his home country of Sweden for a photo documentary he simply calls "Where the children sleep".

### **Third Prize**

#### **Heidi Levine, Sipa Press, France**

“Healing and Resilience in Gaza” is the title of US photographer Heidi Levine’s photo series.

## 2014

### First Prize

**Insa Hagemann / Stefan Finger, laif Agency, Germany**

Their reportage on the effects of sextourism in the Philippines gives an insight in the situation of children whose fathers live abroad.

### Second Prize

**Christian Werner, laif Agency, Germany**

For his reportage on internally displaced people from Shinghai district, Iraq.

### Third Prize

**Brent Stirton, Getty Images, South Africa**

for his reportage “Before and after eye surgery” on children with congenital cataract blindness in India.

## 2013

### Winner

**Niclas Hammarström, Kontinent, Sweden**

His photo reportage captures the life of the children in Aleppo caught between the frontlines.

## 2012

### First Prize

**Alessio Romenzi, Agentur Corbis Images, Italy**

The winning picture shows a girl waiting for medical examination at a hospital in Aleppo, Syria. The camera captures the fear in her eyes as she looks at a man holding a Kalashnikov.

### Second Prize

**Abhijit Nandi, Freelance Photographer, India**

In a long-term photo project, the photographer documents the many different forms of child labor in his home country.

### Third Prize

**Andrea Gjestvang, Agentur Moment, Norwegian**

The third prize was awarded to Norwegian photographer Andrea Gjestvang for her work with the victims of the shooting on Utøya Island.

### Forth Prize

**Laerke Posselt, Agentur Moment, Dänemark**

For her look behind the scenes of beauty pageants for toddlers in the USA.

## 2011

### **First Prize**

**Kai Löffelbein, Student, University of Applied Sciences and Arts, Hannover, Germany**

For his photo of a boy at the infamous toxic waste dump Agbogbloshie, near Ghana's capital Accra. Surrounded by highly toxic fumes and electronic waste from Western countries, the boy is lifting the remnants of a monitor above his head.

### **Second Prize**

**JM Lopez, Freelance Photographer, Spain**

With his photo JM Lopez documents the impact of severe malnutrition in Eastern Guatemala on this and future generations. In Guatemala, one million children suffer from hunger.

### **Third Prize**

**Mary F. Calvert, Zuma Press, USA**

The competition's third prize has been awarded to American photographer Mary F. Calvert for her work in Nigeria. Her picture shows children being vaccinated against polio in the northern state of Kano.

## **2010**

### **First Prize**

**Ed Kashi, Agency VII, USA**

For his photo of the 9-year-old Nguyen Thi Ly from the Vietnamese city of Da Nang. Her face is marked by the toxic legacy of a war that ended 35 years ago. Many Vietnamese have suffered genetic damage from exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange.

### **Second Prize**

**Majid Saeedi, Getty Images, Iran**

His photos deal with the effect of war on children. Majid Saeedi accompanied girls and boy in Afghanistan who returned with their families from Pakistan. The awarded picture shows the 8-year-old Akram who lost his hands and arms because of severe burns. Akram has tried to make some money by collecting scrap on a garbage dump in Peshawar and has accidentally touched a non-insulated cable.

### **Third Prize**

**GMB Akash, Panos Pictures, Bangladesh**

His photo draws attention to the plight of child prostitutes in Bangladesh who suffer severe health damage. 20-year-old Yasmin has a puffy face because of the steroid. She has lived in this brothel since she was a child – just like her mother, who worked here as a prostitute for 30 years.

## **2009**

### **First Prize**

**Johan Bävman, Freelance Photographer / Moment, Sweden**

For his photo of two schoolgirls playing in their classroom at a school in Northern Tanzania. One of the girls is the ten-year-old Selina suffering from albinism. The photo is part of the series "Albino – In the shadow of the sun".

## **Second Prize**

### **Milan Jaroš, Freelance Photographer / Respekt, Czech Republic**

His photo shows 5-year-old autistic Adélka from the Czech capital, Prague. She attends a kindergarten that was especially designed for the needs of autistic children.

## **Third Prize**

### **Edwin Koo, Zuma Press, Singapore**

His photo was taken in the Pakistani refugee camp Sheikh Yasin. It is tea time and the children are waiting in line with their teapots to get some of Pakistan's national beverage.

## **2008**

## **First Prize**

### **Alice Smeets, Out of Focus, Belgium**

Her winning picture shows a girl in the largest slum in Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Although she has to live between dirt and rubbish, the girl is wearing a clean white dress with matching ribbons in her hair whilst walking barefoot through the mud.

## **Second Prize**

### **Oded Bality, Associated Press (AP), Israel**

His photo was taken 10 days after the catastrophic earthquake in the Chinese province of Sichuan on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2008, in which 70,000 people lost their lives.

## **Third Prize**

### **Balazs Gardi, VII Network, Alexia Foundation, Hungary**

For his photo of a man in the north west of Afghanistan who is holding an injured child in his arms. Balazs Gardi calls the series that he took in Korengal valley in the Kunar province, 'Collateral Damage'.

## **2007**

## **First Prize**

### **Stephanie Sinclair, VII Network, USA**

Her winning picture is one of a series of photos about child marriages in Afghanistan, Nepal and Ethiopia. The photo shows a wedding couple in Afghanistan who could not be more opposite. The groom, Mohammed, looks much older than his 40 years. The bride, Ghulam, is still a child; she just turned 11.

## **Second Prize**

### **G M B Akash, Free Lance Photographer, Panos Pictures, Bangladesh**

His photo shows the harsh life that most of the children lead in his home country. The face of a boy of about 12 years shows the pride he takes in his strength, although the work in the brickyard is far too physically difficult for a child of his age.

## **Third Prize**

### **Hartmut Schwarzbach, Germany, Argus**

He photographed the young girl Annalyn celebrating her ninth birthday. On the picture, she is happily jumping on a red armchair that she had found on the garbage dump near the Philippine capital of Manila. Annalyn is chronically malnourished and thus too skinny and small for her age.

## 2006

### First Prize

#### **Jan Grarup, Politiken/Noor, Denmark**

His photo shows the five-year-old Rahila about three weeks after the earthquake in Muzaffarabad, the provincial capital of Pakistani Kashmir. She was one of the many seriously injured girls and boys in the children's ward at the local hospital.

### Second Prize

#### **Shehzad Noorani, Free Lance Photographer, USA**

Her photo shows the eight-year-old Hajira who is living in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hajira cleans between 1,000 and 3,000 small carbon rods, which she cuts out of the old batteries. She is paid less than ten cents per day.

### Third Prize

#### **Hanna Polak, Free Lance Photographer, Poland**

Her photos show homeless children in Moscow, living under the city in sewage tunnels and district heating pipes.

## 2005

### First Prize

#### **David Gillanders, Free Lance Photographer, Scotland**

His photo shows a street child in Odessa. Yana made her way from Moldova, the poorest country in Eastern Europe, to the Ukrainian city. She died Christmas 2004 addicted to drugs and infected with the HI virus. She was only 13 years old.

### Second Prize

#### **Maurício Lima, Agence France Press (AFP), Brasil**

His photo shows the 12-year-old Ayad who suffered severe burns during the war against Iraq.

### Third Prize

#### **Frida Hedberg, pressens bild, Sweden**

She photographed a school party in the small village of Äspered near Gothenburg and titled the awarded photo „Boys and Girls“.

## 2004

### First Prize

#### **Marcus Bleasdale, VII, UK**



His photo shows a girl and her mother who were expelled from their village by the Djanjawid militia in Sudan. Their house had been burned down. The face of the girl reflects the whole tragedy of the refugee crisis in the Sudanese Region Darfur.

### **Second Prize**

**Abir Abdullah, EPA, Bangladesh**

In his photo series, Abdulla focuses on the devastating impact of recurring floods in Bangladesh. The photo awarded with the second price shows the dead body of six-year-old child in the ruins of a collapsed house.

### **Third Prize**

**Alfredo D'Amato, Panos Pictures, Italy**

In his photo, D'Amato tells the story of a Roma-girl in Rumania who lives with her grandmother in a wooden hut built on a desiccated lake. The two earn their living with collecting iron, copper and aluminium which they try to sell. Officially, the girl does not exist, since she had never been registered after her birth.

## **2003**

### **First Prize**

**Don Bartletti, LA Times, USA**

His photo shows a boy from Honduras on his way to the USA – as a stowaway on the roof of a freight train. It is a part of the series “The Children left behind” and documents the dangerous odyssey of children and juveniles from Latin America

### **Second Prize**

**Felicia Webb, Free Lance Photographer, UK**

Her photograph of children in material affluence: the obese siblings Jonathan (14) and Yomara (9) while eating at a fast food restaurant in the US State of Texas. “Generation XL” reports about children who suffer under severe damage of health, caused by their extreme overweight.

### **Third Prize**

**Brent Stirton, Getty Images, UK**

He received the award for his extraordinary portrait of a 12-year-old former “bush wife” from Sierra Leone. Her chest was burned with battery acid as a punishment.

## **2002**

### **First Prize**

**Jan Grarup, Politiken/Noor, Denmark**

Serie: Forgotten victims of an unknown war. A project about children fleeing from the civil war in their native country Liberia. On the award-winning photo, they are asking for permits to pass through to a refugee camp in Sierra Leone.

### **Second Prize**

**Wolfgang Müller, Free Lance Photographer, Ostkreuz Germany**

A sensitive portrait of a girl from St. Petersburg living in the streets. This picture is part of a series of photos with the title "Carat. Sky over St. Petersburg", on children living in the streets of the Russian metropolis.

### **Third Prize**

**Stuart Freedman, Network Photographers, UK**

A Hutu child carries water to the makeshift shelter where his family is forced to live. The image belongs to a project of "Politics and Hunger" for which he already photographed in several countries.

2001

### **First Prize**

**Meredith Davenport, Free Lance Photojournalist, NY/ USA**

Photo: "Siviani on the couch". A project about children of banana workers in Costa Rica whose parents were exposed to large amounts of pesticides.

### **Second Prize**

**Jan Grarup, Rapho, Denmark**

For a photo from the series on the everyday life of Palestinian children in Ramallah in the Westbank. The photo shows boys with machine guns during a death procession. The procession was organised by the PLO-supporting Fatah-movement.

### **Third Prize**

**Vincent Kohlbecher, Germany**

His photo shows two children living on the street and is part of a photo series on street children in Bukarest/Romania.

2000

### **First Prize**

**Matias Costa, Free Lance Photographer, Spain**

Costas photographs illustrate in 2000 the everyday life of Rwandan children and adolescents, who lost their families in the east African country during the genocide in 1994.

### **Second Prize**

**Geert van Kesteren, Free Lance Photographer, Netherlands**

A picture of five AIDS orphans, who are lying closely snuggled up next to their aunt in a dark hut. This photograph stems from a series reporting on "AIDS in Sambia".

### **Third Prize**

**Prakash Singh, Agence France Press (AFP), India**

His photograph shows a small boy in New Delhi's traffic, sitting in front of a tree on a traffic island, seeking shelter from the monsoon rain.