

Elevandi and UNHCR partner to empower refugee artisans to generate sustainable income through support programs, globally

Singapore, 16 November 2023 – Elevandi, a non-for-profit entity set up by the Monetary Authority of Singapore, and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, today announced a new partnership at the Singapore FinTech Festival, to support skills training and creation of employment opportunities for refugees around the world.

Under the partnership, Elevandi will support UNHCR's economic inclusion programmes, including MADE51, a global initiative to empower refugee artisans and connect them with international markets. The programme provides training, resources, and market linkages to refugee artisans, enabling them to showcase their skills and craftsmanship while generating sustainable income for those forced to flee their homes.

"Our visit to the Mahama refugee camp following the Inclusive FinTech Forum in Kigali in June 2023 profoundly impacted Team Elevandi. Witnessing the resilience and determination of the individuals at the camp sparked a strong desire within us to contribute to the remarkable efforts of UNHCR. Through this partnership, we seek an opportunity to support the extraordinary work carried out by UNHCR, which focuses on empowering refugees with the skills and knowledge needed to secure and sustain employment." said Mr. Sopnendu Mohanty, Chairman of the Elevandi Board.

The partnership between Elevandi and UNHCR is expected to benefit refugees around the world over the next three years. At today's launch announcement, those in attendance saw a [showcase of MADE51 products](#) created by refugee artisans, such as the MADE51 Holiday Collection, featuring 24 ornaments made in 15 countries, each with its own story of heritage.

"We are delighted to join forces with Elevandi to bolster refugees' access to the skills training and employment opportunities they need to build better futures for themselves and their families. It is essential that every person, including refugees, the displaced and stateless individuals can meet their basic needs in a safe, sustainable and dignified manner." said Christian Schaake, Chief, UNHCR Private Sector Partnerships Asia.

Economic inclusion contributes to the self-reliance and resilience of refugees, contributes to economies in refugee host countries and prepares those forced to flee for a brighter future, whether they return home, integrate in their country of asylum, or resettle in a third country.

[Download signing photo](#)

Caption: (L-R) Sopnendu Mohanty, Chairman of the Board, Elevandi; Karien Jeekel, Regional Private Partnership and Philanthropy Officer (Asia and the Pacific), UNHCR at the MOU signing
Photo credit: Elevandi

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About Elevandi

Elevandi is a not-for-profit entity set up by the MAS to foster an open dialogue between the public and private sectors to advance FinTech globally, but with Singapore as the centre of gravity. The organisation works closely with governments, founders, investors, and corporate leaders to drive collaboration, education, and new sources of value at the industry and national levels.

Elevandi's initiatives have convened over 350,000 people since 2016 through events, closed-door roundtables, investor programmes, educational initiatives, and research. SFF is the organisation's flagship product; other known platforms under its wing include the Point Zero Forum and the Elevandi Insights Forum.

About UNHCR

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, leads international action to protect people forced to flee because of conflict and persecution. The organisation delivers life-saving assistance including shelter, food and water; helps to safeguard fundamental human rights; and develops solutions that ensure people have a safe place to call home where they can build a better future.

About MADE51

MADE51 is a global initiative launched by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, that aims to empower refugee artisans and connect them with global markets. The initiative provides training, resources, and market linkages to refugee artisans, enabling them to showcase their unique skills and craftsmanship while generating sustainable income. The MADE51 brand offers a wide range of handmade products, including jewelry, textiles, home décor, and fashion accessories, all crafted by refugee artisans from around the world. By purchasing MADE51 products, consumers can support refugee livelihoods, preserve traditional crafts, and promote cultural exchange. For more information, please visit: <https://www.made51.org/>

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