

Australian Red Cross Presenters: Biographies

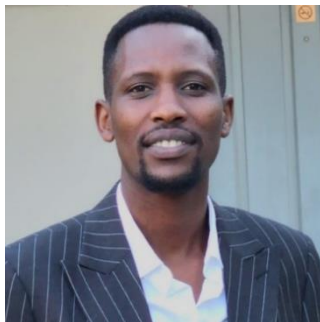
Nicole Batch, Head of Migration, Australian Red Cross



Nic is a social worker whose early career included case management with families linked to child protection systems. Nic's Australian Red Cross career spans over 20 years of service, primarily in program delivery and design for people made vulnerable due to migration. Nic's experience includes managing a range of nationwide services related to migration. She has been deployed as an aid worker with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Sudan and in Myanmar, and with the International Federation of the Red Cross in Budapest as a protection advisor during the peak of migration into Europe.

Nic is an active member in a number of global level working groups within the Red Cross Movement. Nic's interests include collaborative practice, data management and use of emerging technology in the humanitarian field.

Bihozagara Ndabagaza, Bilingual Support Worker, Australian Red Cross



Bihozagara Ndabagaza is a young professional from the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the age of 17, he was separated from his parents due to the war in Congo. He had sole responsibility of his three younger siblings aged 8, 11 and 13. They fled to Nairobi, Kenya, and registered with UNHCR. 18 months later, Bihozagara and his siblings were granted a Humanitarian Settlement visa and travelled to Albury, Australia, and were welcomed by the Australian Red Cross. At that stage Bihozagara did not have contact with his parents and remaining siblings, yet he remained hopeful for his future.

Once settled, he put in a referral to the Red Cross Restoring Family Links program to locate his family. Miraculously, six months later, Red Cross contacted Bihozagara to inform him that his family was alive and well in Uganda. In 2019, after achieving a level of independence, Bihozagara and his siblings were exited from the Humanitarian Settlement Program. Bihozagara immediately asked to volunteer for the program and became a member of the team welcoming and supporting new arrival families into the Albury region. After graduating High School, he was successful in obtaining a role in the program as a Bilingual Support Worker. In January 2024, Bihozagara was reunited with his parents and remaining siblings, who were granted a Humanitarian Settlement visa. He is now helping them to settle as they live together in Albury.



Kirri-Lee Larsen, Team Leader, Australian Red Cross



Kirri-Lee Larsen is a dedicated Team Leader at Australian Red Cross, hailing from the Albury region. Over the past five years, she has been instrumental in various capacities within Red Cross's Migration programs, serving across the National, NSW, and WA teams. Her proactive approach and collaborative spirit has driven the successful implementation of numerous initiatives empowering newly arrived migrants. These successes stem from Kirri-Lee's ability to forge effective partnerships with local businesses and government bodies.

Kirri-Lee has a rich academic background, holding a Bachelor of Psychology and Masters degrees in both Professional Psychology and Clinical Psychology. Her commitment to regional settlement has earned her and her team prestigious awards, including a nomination for the Connecting Communities Award by Awards Australia and the receipt of a Distinguished Teams Award from Australian Red Cross.

Gop Gai, Regional Manager, Australian Red Cross



Gop Gai has a passion for social justice. She has over 15+ years of service in program delivery, design and supporting vulnerable people impacted by migration in America and Australia. Gop has been an instrumental leader in the Migration Support Program at the Red Cross supporting teams to respond to the needs of asylum seekers, refugees and those vulnerable in our communities. She is a strategically minded and an empathetic leader who has been instrumental in creating a professional, supportive, and empowering environment for her teams to succeed. This has led to her and her team receiving awards recognizing their contribution to alleviating suffering for those vulnerable in our communities.

Gop's other passion is to support and mentor emerging leaders from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds to find rewarding professional opportunities. Gop holds a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Master's in Public Health.