

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950 to provide international protection and assistance to refugees and to look for durable solutions for them. UNHCR protects their rights and helps not only refugees, but also categories such as asylum seekers, returning refugees, stateless, and internally displaced persons. Currently, UNHCR has 36 million people from 126 countries under its mandate. More than 85% of their staff works in the field, often in dangerous and tough conditions.

During more than six decades of work, UNHCR has provided assistance to more than 60 million people that have fled war, persecution, and human rights violations. In recognition for their work, the agency received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981 and was awarded with the Prince of Asturias International Cooperation award in 1991.

UNHCR programs depend 98% on voluntary contributions from governments, foundations, businesses, partners, and individuals. Thanks to this support UNHCR can provide emergency assistance and save the lives of thousands of people that have lost everything but the hope of rebuilding their lives and returning to their country one day.

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**UNHCR**  
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La Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados

WELCOME  
TO MY COUNTRY



PASSPORT



# WELCOME TO MY COUNTRY

**A WORK OF FERNANDO LEÓN DE ARANOA AND  
ELENA ANAYA FILMED IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN  
ETHIOPIA, IN COLLABORATION WITH UNHCR.**

There is a country in the world that you don't know about

You won't find it in maps. It has no borders, no currency, no flag. It has neither beaches, nor hotels, monuments or typical food, and travelers never reach it. Its inhabitants speak all languages, practice all religions and belong to every race.

But no airline will take you there.

To visit it, you do not need a passport or visa. You just need to have lost everything. Your home, your family, your work. Your life the way it used to be.

You need to have been threatened, to have felt your own life and that of your loved ones in danger. To have been displaced, pointed at, tortured, raped, humiliated.

You need to have felt fear.

And to have been separated from the ones you love; packed into trucks or buses, carrying with you the few belongings you were allowed to take ... Together with thousands of people like you.

Your fellow compatriots.

Those who live in it are called refugees.

They would like to get out of it, but they cannot. The country of the refugees is inhabited by 43 million people, but its population grows every day.

**Welcome to the country of the refugees!**

ACNUR presents:

# REFUGEES

**Screenwriter and director:**

Fernando León de Aranoa

**With:** Elena Anaya, Madia Ismaili, Joseph Bol, Nadjamadin Amar, Mahasin Babekir, Sumaia, Melesse Tegegne, and Guindo Mahamadou

**Producer:** Pilar de Heras

**Photography:** Julio Azcárate

**Editing:** Yago Muniz

**Music:** Arnau Bataller

**Sound:** Julio Azcárate, Yago Muñoz, and Daniel Peña

**Duration:** 25 minutes

A REPOSADO production for UNHCR.

In November of 2012, Fernando León de Aranoa and Elena Anaya traveled to Ethiopia to the refugee camps in the Dollo Ado and Assosa regions, where tens of thousands of Somalian and Sudanese refugees are hosted. There they filmed this brief 25 minute documentary which you can also see in two different spots on the website [www.welcometomycountry.net](http://www.welcometomycountry.net).



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With the support of:





# ELENA ANAYA

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Elena Anaya was born in Palencia (Spain), July 17, 1975. Since she was little she wanted to be an actress and when she became 18 she went to Cádiz to complete the access exams for the Royal School of Dramatic Art in Madrid (RESAD).

Her first film opportunity was with *Africa* (1996), an Alfonso Ungría movie. She moved to Madrid to both work and study at RESAD, however that same year she received a call from Fernando León de Aranoa to play a character in his movie *Familia* and had to abandon her studies in the public school.

Elena kept studying at the Juan Carlos Corazza private school and starred in movies such as *Grandes ocasiones* (Felipe Vega, 1998), *Finisterre* (Xavier Villaverde, 1998), *Lágrimas negras* (Fernando Bauluz and Ricardo Franco, 1998), *Las huellas borradas* (Enrique Gabriel, 1999), *El invierno de las Anjanas* (Pedro Telechea, 2000) and *El Arbol del penitente* (José María Borrel, 2000).

In 2001 her career took an important turn when Julio Médem sent her the script for *Lucía y el sexo*. Thanks to her great performance in the movie, she achieved national recognition with a Goya 2002 nomination for the Best Supporting Actress and the award for the Best Supporting Actress delivered by the Actors Union.

After the success of *Lucía y el sexo*, she received a flood of calls and opportunities: she worked in *Sin noticias de Dios* (2001) by Agustín Díaz Yanes, sharing the spotlight with Penélope Cruz and Victoria Abril; Pedro Almodóvar offered her a role in *Hable con ella* (2002); she starred in *Rencor* (2002) by Miguel Albaladejo; *La habitación azul* (2002) a Mexican production by Walter Doehner, and *Dos tipos duros* (2003) a comedy by Juan Martínez Moreno, with Rosa María Sardá, Antonio Resines, and Jordi Vilches.

Her international break arrived in 2003 when the director Stephen Sommers (*The Mummy*), after shooting the thriller *Stage kiss* in Los Angeles, chose her to act in the blockbuster film *Van Helsing* (2004) together with Hugh Jackman. Later she shared the spotlight with Gary Oldman in *Dead fish* (2004) by Charley Stadler. That year she was considered one of the greatest European movie stars by the European Film Promotion.

In the following three years she participated in Spanish productions such as *Frágiles* (Jaume Balagueró, 2005), *Alatriste* (Agustín Díaz Yanes, 2006), *Miguel y William* (Inés París, 2007) and *Savage Grace* (Tom Kalin, 2007) together with Julianne Moore.

2008 was a relentless year for the actress as she began working in France on the film *L'instinct de mort* (Jean-François Richet) with Vincent Cassel and Gérard Depardieu, and then traveled to El Cairo to work on a romantic drama, *Cairo Time*, directed by Ruba Nadda. Later she got a new job with Agustín Díaz Yanes in *Sólo quiero caminar*. She concluded the year in El Hierro, Canary Island, shooting the film *Hierro* (Gabe Ibáñez).

In 2009, Elena starred in the feature film *Habitación en Roma*, written and directed by Julio Medem, where she played the role of Alba. Afterwards, she shot the French movie *A bout portant*, directed by Fred Cavayé playing the role of Nadia.

In 2010, Pedro Almodovar offered her the leading role, together with Antonio Banderas, in his movie *The skin I live in*. For this film she won the Goya 2011 award for Best Actress.

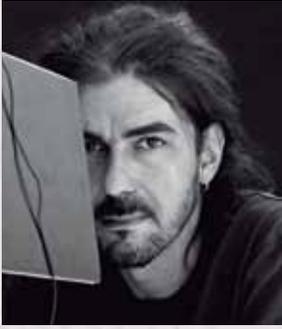
In 2012, she received the Honorary Málaga Sur Award that is delivered every year at the Málaga Film Festival.

She finished the year in Argentina filming *Pensé que iba a haber fiesta* and in the first months of 2013 she has filmed *Todos están muertos*, directed by Beatriz Sanchís.

Over the last year, she has collaborated with UNHCR supporting different national and international campaigns in favor of the refugee cause.

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## FERNANDO LEÓN DE ARANOA

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Fernando León de Aranoa, screenwriter and film director, has a degree in Photography and Visual Arts from the Complutense University of Madrid.

After an extensive career as a film and television screenwriter, he began directing with *Familia* (1996), for which he obtained the Academy Award Goya for the Best New Director, as well as the Fipresci Award from the critics, and the Best New Film Director at the International Film Festival of Valladolid.

*Barrio* (1998), his second movie, received three Goyas, including the best script and the best director, as well as the Fipresci and the Silver Shell for Best Director in the San Sebastian Film Festival.

*Los lunes al sol* (2002) won five Goya awards, including the best movie and the best director, an Ariel Mexican Academy Award for the best Latin-American movie, as well as the Luis Bunuel Award, and the Fipresci award and Silver Shell award for the best movie in the San Sebastian Film Festival, among other international awards.

*Amador* (2010) was presented at the International Film Festival of Berlin, and was awarded with best director and best performer in the Film Festival of Guadalajara, Mexico, and with the judge's award in the Film Festival in Valenciennes, France, among others.

As a documentary filmmaker, he wrote and directed *Buenas Noches, Ouma* (2007), a segment of the collective film *Invisibles*, winning the Goya Academy for the best feature film documentary. He wrote and directed *Caminantes* (2001), awarded in the festivals of La Habana, Los Angeles, and New York. He wrote and co-directed *Izbjegljice, Refugiados en Bosnia Herzegovina* (1995), and participated as a screenwriter in *La Espalda del Mundo* (1998).

An author of articles and short stories, he has been awarded with the Camilo José Cela Short Story Award and, on two occasions, with the Antonio Machado Award. He has published the books *Contra la Hipermetropía* (Debate, 2010), and *Aquí Yacen Dragones* (Seix Barral, 2013).

Cartoonist and illustrator, he works occasionally as a teacher at the International Film School of San Antonio de los Baños, in Cuba, as well as the Sundance Institute in Utah.

In 2004 he founded his own production company, REPOSADO.

THERE IS A COUNTRY FOR WHICH YOU DON'T NEED A PASSPORT.

## THE COUNTRY OF THE REFUGEES

Armed conflicts and ethnic and religious confrontations. Human rights violations. Border closings and expulsions. Racial and gender discrimination and xenophobic violence.

Every four seconds, a person becomes a refugee. Tens of thousands of people, often the most poor and vulnerable members of society, are forced to abandon their homes and flee to other places to survive. But they don't have any guarantee of finding safety. Whether they escape to another country or if they stay in their own, refugees and displaced persons face trips full of risk. Those who manage to arrive to the desired destination also find new threats and dangers.

The year 2012 was marked by refugee crisis that reached levels of displacement never seen since 1994. Conflicts such as those in Syria, Mali, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo forced more than 1.1 million refugees to flee to neighboring countries and for 6.5 million to move within the borders of their countries, numbers almost double of those in 2011.

At the end of 2012, the "country of the refugees" counted 45 million inhabitants, almost the population of Spain. Among those inhabitants you can find 15.4 million refugees, 28.8 million internally displaced persons, and about one million asylum seekers.

