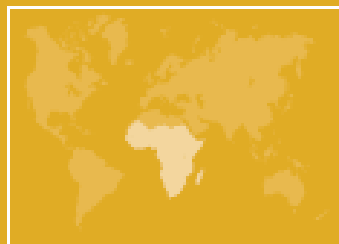



Africa





Benin
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire
Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Gabon
Gambia
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Mozambique
Namibia
Rwanda
Sierra Leone
South Africa
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

BENIN

Several activities were organised in Benin from June 14-22. An **exchange of personal items** and photos was organised for **Beninese and refugee children** in order to teach them a bit about the lives of refugees, whilst also putting a spotlight on the history of UNHCR and its activities in Africa. A **cultural evening**



Football match in Lokossa city:©UNHCR/Xippi.

was also organised by the **French Cultural Centre**, attracting more than **800 people**. Traditional songs and dances were performed by refugees and by talented national singers such as **Petit Miguelito**. A **cross-country race** took place, which gathered **250 athletes** in Lokossa, Agame and Kpomasse. A **football match** pitted reunited refugees against the local population with the two sides using a Nike **ninemillion.org** campaign ball.



Cross country event for refugees:©UNHCR/J. Leduc

CAMEROON

In the **city of Yaoundé**, a total of 200 Cameroonian and refugee athletes took part in a **10-kilometre race**. In the afternoon, a **football match** took place between a United Nations team and a refugee team, with the refugees winning 4-0. A **press conference** was held on June 19 by UNHCR representatives, which attracted **45 journalists representing 20 companies in the national and international media**.

Nestor Eloungou, secretary-general of the ministry of external relations presided over the **official WRD ceremony** on June 20, which highlighted the official theme of Hope. Some 600 refugees performed **song and dance routines** that they composed themselves. Government representatives, diplomats, aid workers, UN officials and journalists attended the ceremony, which was well covered by the national media.

Between June 19-26, at least 17 articles were published in national newspapers with a total press run of around **59,000 copies**. **Events** also received **radio and television attention**. This extensive media coverage reached an estimated **1.5 million people**.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

More than 500 people gathered in **Bangui** to commemorate WRD. The event was attended by representatives of refugee communities from 12 countries, government officials, diplomats, UN representatives, aid workers and others. The **UNHCR representatives** thanked the government for their help and hospitality towards the 20,000 refugees and asylum seekers over the years. **The declaration was broadcast on national TV and radio stations**. While having the opportunity to reach out to the public, the **importance of education** was stressed to enable refugees to attain a greater degree of **self-sufficiency, a precondition for any durable solutions**.

On a lighter note, **fun and games** also took place in Bangui for the children, with a mini marathon being run and a drawing competition with prizes sponsored by cell phone companies (**Acell and Telecel**). In Mboki, culture and sports activities were organised for Sudanese refugees, including traditional dance, theatre, football, handball, karate and bike races, with prizes being given to the winners. Media coverage for all events was exceptional, especially newspaper sales, where from June 16-28, some **15,000 pa-**



A local refugee displays his artwork:©UNHCR/Central African Republic

COTE D'IVOIRE

A **TV series**, "Residence Akwaba," was organised by UNHCR and broadcast to raise awareness about the situation of refugees. Commemorations of WRD were promoted by the **UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres** and by the **Ivory Coast government**. Through newspaper and radio reports covering WRD, an estimated **two million people were reached**.

DJIBOUTI

To celebrate WRD, a **football match** was arranged between young refugees from two different camps. A **half-marathon** for the female and male youth was held, while others organised **songs and sketches** that dealt with the subject repatriation. A **culinary contest** was also organised, with an exhibition of drawings, leading to an award ceremony for the best art.



Refugee is presented with a prize for sporting achievements:©UNHCR/Djibouti

ERITREA

UNHCR supports two camps in Eritrea, Elit and Emkulu. WRD was celebrated in both locations, with around **3,950 people taking part**.

Activities included the performance of three **traditional dances** of the **Somali clan**, singing, drama and speeches from refugees and the head of the Office of Refugee Affairs. Administrators of Haykota and Goluj Sub-Zobas, along with other officials, attended the celebrations, along with the **Governor of Northern Red Sea province** and various **Eritrean government officials**.

The dramas that were performed **focused on HIV/AIDS** and how it is spread. The performance was prepared by UNHCR and refugees in collaboration with UNICEF and was received very well. The aim of the presentation was to raise awareness of the deadly disease in order to help control it in the refugee community.

UNICEF was present and contributed to the day. They provided **footballs** to the refugees and some incentives to refugee students who scored high marks in their studies.

ETHIOPIA

Building upon last year's popular "**Refugee Art and Craft Market**" and the "**Hope**" award ceremony, Ethiopia succeeded in creating events that were effective in promoting healthy competition between camps and among refugees, in addition to boosting refugees' feelings of self-esteem.

The products they brought with them, which were the result of their creative talents and skills, proved to be a good way to portray refugees in a positive light by promoting their talents and contributions to society. The market also helped the refugees **generate some income**, therefore widening their livelihood options. UNHCR also used the market to display **videos and repatriation photographs**, which were seen by hundreds of Addis Ababa residents, including members of diplomatic missions and international institutions, who had come to visit the market and buy their products.



Refugees performing a ceremonial display:©UNHCR/Ethiopia

Ethiopia's media campaign began with the screening of **22-minute video "Global View"** on June 17 and continued through June 20 with the screening of messages by **High Commissioner António Guterres and Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie**.

Channel ETV broadcast various WRD awareness materials between June 17-19 such as the GWA spots, and drew in audiences of around **15 million people in total**. Radio Ethiopia and Radio Fanna also aired talk shows on WRD, reaching a further **10 million people**. **The value of all media coverage reached an estimated US\$27,846**.

GABON

In Gabon, the refugees organised a **fair to demonstrate their hope** for better conditions. Some of the women who participated in the workshop as leaders received certificates. The certificates were presented by the **South African Ambassador, the UNDP Resident Coordinator, the UNHCR Regional Representative and the Permanent Secretary of the National Commission for Refugees**. **Traditional dances and poems** were also a part of the day's entertainment, along with a football game between refugees and the UN team at the Omar Bongo Ondimba stadium. The refugees won.

The speech by High Commissioner António Guterres was broadcast on two main TV stations. The same day, the **Minister of Foreign Affairs read the government's message** and the **UNDP Resident Coordinator** delivered the message of the UN Secretary General. More speeches were read out in Franceville, while refugees and local authorities took part in a **debate on durable solutions** with a focus on local integration and naturalisation.

This year, as in the past, the events were well covered by the media. Articles were printed in the principal newspaper (L'Union), and several TV reports were aired on public and private TV channels. The UNHCR public awareness material was distributed widely amongst the Gabon community and local businesses to help gain support for UNHCR.

GAMBIA

A **parade** took place to start the WRD celebrations. Children's activities then took over as the main events. There were dancing and singing competitions, with participants dressed up in traditional dress, and a football match. The festival lasted six hours, with most of the children taking part being refugees. For advertising, WRD T-shirts were distributed, and there were TV broadcasts highlighting the High Commissioner's speech, which was **broadcast in four local languages**. Radio Ruale De Kissidougou **broadcast talk shows about WRD** on June 20-21 which attracted **approximately 800,000 listeners**.

GUINEA

In the forest region camps, a whole week of **cultural activities** was organised around WRD. In each camp, (Laine, Kola, Kouankan I and II), WRD was celebrated with a **carnival/procession** organised by the refugees with social affairs implementing partners.

A **celebration ceremony** followed, which included the reading of the High Commissioner's speech. Refugee groups performed activities such as dance and drama, and took part in sports matches (football, kickball, etc) against humanitarian workers.



Cultural carnival:©UNHCR/Guinea

The theme of WRD, "Hope," was linked closely to the promotion of voluntary repatriation to Liberia. In Kouankan I, a repatriation convoy of 482 returnees went to Lofa County on June 20. They were received at the border by a delegation of Guinean and Liberian authorities, who accompanied the returnees to Voinjama transit centre and participated in WRD celebrations on the Liberian side.

Also featured during the week were **football matches**, a **concert** by Guinean singer Aviane and a rap group, **film screenings** of an acclaimed documentary about Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, which was followed by a debate linking the film to the Hope theme. The events on June 20 **drew in around 1,000 people**.

Guinea National Television broadcast all **WRD TV spots** provided by UNHCR. The spots were a huge success, seen by about one **million viewers**. **Radio talk shows** had another **four million viewers**, and another five million people were reached via **movie theatres and advertising in train stations**.

KENYA

WRD activities started with a **procession in the streets** of Nairobi. Children and different groups of refugee children then performed a **series of sketches** for the crowds of people. A Kenyan performing art group also joined in and told stories and performed shows. A **drawing contest** was set up with children from all age groups able to join in, and prizes were given to the best picture.



Children from the GTZ refugee centre play on a bouncy castle:©UNHCR/Kenya

The secretary of the Ministry of Immigration addressed members of the refugee community who were present and assured them of government support. The day's activities drew to a close with a **musical performance** by refugee groups, and a leading Kenyan artist.

The success of the events was due a lot to the relationships built through the years with organisations such as the Goethe Institute and the Katuni Association – which placed cartoon strips in newspapers – and to sponsorship from JVA/CWS, the Windle Trust Kenya, IRC and LWF. Handicap International, WFP and GTZ provided vehicles to help transport the refugees to and from venues. Reporters from The People Newspaper, Sudan Mirror, Xinhua news agency, Kenya Times, plus many radio and TV stations, were present to cover the events.



Performing arts group demonstrating a cultural dance for UNHCR staff:©UNHCR/Kenya

LIBERIA

High Commissioner António Guterres visited Liberia for the first time and the June 20 events in the country were focused around his visit. On WRD, he travelled to the Sierra Leonean border and met a convoy of Liberian returnees. He then accompanied them to a transit centre and witnessed the de-registration process.

The Commissioner travelled to the town of Sinije to attend an **official ceremony** at a high school rebuilt by UNHCR. Liberian **President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf** was also present at the event, where High Commissioner Guterres talked about the ninemillion.org campaign and other issues.

WRD this year also included writing and drawing contests, photo exhibitions, football matches, indoor programmes, parades and cultural performances. **UNMIL Public Information unit provided** logistical support, providing transport for journalists and arranging radio programmes and coverage for WRD.



High Commissioner meeting with a local football team: ©UNHCR/ Liberia V. Solovyov.

MALAWI

Activities were preceded by inter-denominational **prayers** at the Dzaleka and Luwani refugee camps. Malawi's National Council of Churches was heavily involved in the planning stage of this and other events. Activities were held in Luwani refugee camp, as it is traditional to alternate between camps in order to give refugees and asylum seekers the chance to take part in activities together.

Plays and songs around the theme of "Hope" were performed, while representatives from the African Union, World Food Programme and other UN agencies attended alongside diplomats and senior government officials. This year an **essay competition** was added to the activities, also on the theme of "Hope," and the winners were given books and bags and writing materials.

To end the day, a **football match** was arranged between the refugees and a local team called ESCOM. Media coverage was outstanding on national and local TV as well as in the daily papers and radio stations.

MOZAMBIQUE

In the capital Maputo, an early celebration was held in the **UNHCR representative's residence**, where diplomats, UNHCR staff, government officials and urban refugees gathered to commemorate the important day. A group of **Burundian cultural drummers** travelled to Maputo to entertain the guests. Several cultural groups from the Rwandan, Burundian and Congolese communities also took part in WRD, while other activities included camp dances, music by the "Star" band, gymnastic performances and puppet shows with messages focusing on the WRD's "Hope" theme.



Cultural drummers performed for the local community: ©UNHCR/ Mozambique

There was also a WRD **sports cup competition**, which successfully brought the host and refugee communities together and **enhanced integration**. The journey also offered the opportunity for refugee sportsman to play in the provincial leagues. It was reported that the cultural events were a huge success among the refugee community as they helped to keep their culture alive even though they were far from home.

The media spots sent out by UNHCR showing Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie's message and interview and the High Commissioner's message were broadcast several times.

NAMIBIA

The representative met with Namibia's Prime Minister and presented him with information on the state of the world's refugees, along with WRD materials. The meeting was covered by most national newspapers, who also followed events throughout the rest of the week. UNHCR appeared twice on a popular morning **radio show** to discuss refugee issues in Namibia and elsewhere. Many interesting matters were raised and it was decided to have monthly interviews to raise public awareness about the refugee issue.



WRD commemoration in Osire:©UNHCR/Namibia K. Paereli

A day-long **commemoration** was held at the refugee camp in **Osire**, which reached 6,500 refugees and asylum seekers. The commemoration was attended by the **Deputy Minister of Home Affairs and Immigration, the Commissioner for Refugees, and UN staff**. Awareness was again raised, with the help of the **Council of Churches in Namibia**, which organised the reading of a sermon displacement and hope. Media coverage was excellent for WRD, with refugee issues covered by TV, newspapers, magazines, radio stations and the internet.

RWANDA

A "**Football for Peace**" Tournament in **Kigali** took place with urban refugees and Rwanda children from the **youth association, La Experience**. The game was played with no referee and the children were left to establish the rules of the game, which required reaching consensus.

In Nkamira centre, and Nyabiheke camp a cineduc (cinema and education) took place organized by **DED and UNICEF**. **Educational movies** were played and debates were organized. Other activities included **music and dancing**, which the children loved, and various competitions, such as essay writing on the subject of "**Hope for the future,**" and drawing contests on, "What I want to be when I grow up."



Urban refugees participating in a football game:©UNHCR/ Rwanda.

The country's only TV station, Television Rwanda, carried WRD messages by Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie and High Commissioner António Guterres as well as documentaries and talk shows on the work of UNHCR. **Talk shows** were aired on City Radio and Radio Rwanda, reaching a wide audience in a country with a low literacy level. The use of radio served to boost the public awareness impact.

SIERRA LEONE

Games such as volleyball and football were arranged and played among refugees and UNHCR partners on the eve of WRD and on the day itself. **Academic Awards of Excellence** and cultural performances by refugees were also a part of the celebrations. In recognition of their achievements, gifts were presented to deserving refugees. Some 600 people, including government officials, NGO's, civil society representatives, journalists and refugee representatives, attended the events.

A **repatriation convoy** for Liberian refugees was prepared and left the camps on June 18. It crossed the border on June 20 and was met by High Commissioner António Guterres, who celebrated WRD in Liberia. Media coverage of all the events was excellent, and many discussions regarding WRD were broadcast on major **radio stations** in the country from June 18-20, reaching approximately 38,158 people at an estimated value of US\$1,050.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Ministry of Home Affairs took the opportunity to launch a project aimed at clearing the country's backlog of asylum applications dating back to 1998. The department is expected to conclude this exercise by WRD in 2007. In Cape Town, a **declaration of refugee rights** was also adopted by the mayor, **UNHCR and TUTMIKE**, which pledged to honour the legal rights of refugees.

The **National Consortium for Refugee Affairs**, a body of non-governmental organisation refugee service providers and a partner of UNHCR, launched a report on the state of refugee protection in South Africa, which included recommendations for UNHCR and the government on how best to improve conditions for refugees.

The impact of WRD was significant, and activities carried on until June 25. Thousands of people were reached through media coverage. UNHCR's **regional representative** participated in **TV interviews** on SABC Africa, Channel Africa and English and French radio services. Coverage was extensive, through **print, TV and radio**. A **total of 36.5 million people** were exposed. The estimated **value of coverage** for these equalled **US\$665,520**.

SUDAN

WRD was commemorated in the southern Sudan town of Juba with a **colourful procession of refugees and returnees**, followed by gymnastics, football matches, skits and traditional dances. A local band played songs about peace, and the director of **the SRRC in Central Equatoria** expressed appreciation of UNHCR's work and reiterated the government's support for this. The commissioner of Bahr el Jebel county and various dignitaries – including diplomatic missions accredited to Juba, heads of UN agencies and NGO's – attended.

WRD was also observed in other parts of the country, such as in Yei, where the **official launching** of a new corridor for repatriation from Arua, Uganda marked the day, and more than 200 refugees were brought home with the first convoy movement. A sensitisation meeting also took place to raise awareness about the refugee situation. It was held at the temporary waystation for returning refugees. A **newly rehabilitated school in Rumbek** was also officially opened on June 20 for the use of the returnees and the local refugee community.

In western Sudan's Darfur region, **UNHCR and Save the Children-Spain** explained to local children what a refugee is, and also explained the meaning of WRD. Their effort was aimed at promoting WRD and raising awareness in as many ways possible. This idea attracted attention from the media, local authorities, IDP leaders and refugees. Some **1,000 people turned up**.

TANZANIA

A **promotion of voluntary repatriation** from Mtabila to Burundi was launched as part of the June 20 celebrations. As a symbolic act, the **Minister of Home Affairs** cut a red ribbon on one of the trucks before the returnees boarded, and the decorated vehicles toured the camps before they departed.

More celebrations were organised, while green and white Nike **ninemillion.org** campaign balls were handed over to the refugee representatives from Mtabila and Muyovosi camps: A drama was also performed here, while there was also a reading of a poem on the theme of "Hope" by refugee students, who are part of a pen pal project with counterparts in France.



Refugee children playing in their camp:©UNHCR/
Tanzania M. B. Olsen.

An official **WRD lunch** was organised in the camp for all the refugee leaders, together with **senior government officials, implementing partners and UNHCR staff**. The meal hosted **200 people**.

Media coverage of all the events was extensive, with TV spots carrying the setting of the refugee camps on them so as to relate better to the local population. The spots were produced and aired in Swahili to ensure that a wider audience would be reached. **Eight journalists from five media organisations** attended celebrations and the extensive **television coverage** reached an estimated audience of **five million viewers**. In addition, **radio coverage** reached around **43 million people**. **A total eight newspapers**, with an estimated combined circulation of 86,000 covered WRD-lined events from June 17-30. The estimated value of all the coverage was **US\$19,030**.



Refugee woman talking to a government official about the state of refugees:
© UNCHR/ M. B. Olsen.

UGANDA

To commemorate WRD, a debate on the country's **Refugee Bill** was passed in parliament. The panel included Justice George Kanyeihamba, the minister of state for relief and disaster, the deputy director for refugees, Carlos Twesigomwe, and a refugee representative.

Following the debate, the colourful World Refugee Day celebrations began with refugee children reciting poems, performing songs and dancing. More than **100 enthusiastic people** attended this event in total.

The **Minister of State** and his acting representative appeared on a radio talk show to talk about WRD and promote the annual commemoration as widely as possible. They also discussed the refugee programmes in Uganda. The show was broadcast several times from June 16-20 and reached an estimated total combined audience of around **nine million people**.

ZAMBIA

Events linked to WRD began in the week prior to June 20, with a TV launch by a senior government official. This was viewed throughout Zambia and it highlighted policy issues regarding refugees. Due to the high profile of the issue, a lot of attention was attracted from the general public. An **ecumenical church service** also took place to commemorate WRD, with a big congregation of Christians attending.

A **three-day exhibition** was presented a week prior to WRD in one of Lusaka's biggest shopping malls in order to promote the day and refugee awareness. In schools, a sensitisation campaign was set up where representatives from the community service and protection sectors of UNHCR handed out public awareness material and gave the children information on what it is to be a refugee. Together, these events attracted around **1,000 members of the public**.

Four **radio programmes** linked to the theme of "Hope" were broadcast by UNHCR staff and refugees. There were also many **newspaper articles** which successfully highlighted UNHCR procedures and also put the issue of refugees in the public spotlight.