WORLD REFUGEE DAY 20 June 2004 Final Report



Public Affairs Unit (Private Sector and Public Affairs Service) Division of External Relations

In collaboration with World Refugee Day Focal Points in the Field





Introduction and evaluation: Elisabeth Nolet, Annalisa Montecalvo

Country summaries: Ross J. Murray-Jones, Julie Vaillot

Editing: Annalisa Montecalvo

Layout and design: Ross J. Murray-Jones

Printing: CopyQuick, Geneva

Cover photo: Forum Barcelona 2004/E.Guillamet

Children of various nationalities, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie and Mayor of Barcelona and President of Forum Barcelona 2004, Joan Clos, hung lucky charms for refugees on the "Sky of Aspirations" at Forum Barcelona 2004, Spain. Also in the photo, on the left, are UNHCR's Director of the Division of External Relations, Anne Willem Bijleveld, and the Head of the Public Affairs Unit, Elisabeth Nolet.

Rebuilding lives in safety and dignity



The last thing refugees want to be is refugees. The first thing most of them want is to be able to rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. They want a home.

A home is what we want for them too. In fact, over the past five decades more than 35 million former refugees have returned to their homes and rebuilt their lives. Thousands more have successfully put down roots in the countries in which they sought refuge. A further three million have found new lives in new countries. And UNHCR has been there to help most of them in the pursuit of "durable solutions".

But there are still many for whom no acceptable solution has yet been found. So on this World Refugee Day, we ask that those of us who have homes lend their support to the millions of refugees under our care who have none.

World Refugee Day, 20 June, 2004



www.unhcr.ch



World Refugee Day 20 June 2004

"A place to call home"

STATEMENT BY RUUD LUBBERS

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

All of us need a place to call home - a place where we "belong." But for millions of refugees and displaced people around the world today, home is little more than a distant dream.

Fleeing persecution and conflict, often with nothing more than the clothes on their backs, refugees are separated from all that is familiar - from family, friends, work, community and culture. Faced with an uncertain future in a strange land, the sense of loss and alienation can be overwhelming. To lose one's home can be to lose one's very identity.

Yet, despite the enormity of their suffering, refugees never give up their dream of "home" and all that it entails - family, acceptance, security, a sense of belonging and self-worth. The fact that refugees maintain that hope, sometimes against all odds, should be an inspiration to all of us.

That is why we at the U.N. Refugee Agency have chosen the very fitting theme of "A Place to Call Home" to mark this year's World Refugee Day on 20 June.

As U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, I believe there is no more important work than supporting refugees and displaced people around the world in their courageous struggle to rebuild their lives in a place they can call home. And I am proud that we have been doing just that for over five decades, helping to find solutions that have enabled more than 50 million refugees to pick up the pieces of their lives and start anew.

Despite the perception in some, mainly industrialised, nations that they are being overwhelmed by refugees, the vast majority of those 50 million people returned to their own, often devastated, homelands. Refugees desperately want to go back home - a sentiment we have seen dramatically played out time and again in places as diverse as Kosovo and Cambodia, Mozambique and Timor-Leste. At the beginning of the millennium, UNHCR was helping some 1.1 million to re-start their lives after returning to their homelands. Today, we are helping more than 3.5 million who have gone home the past few years.

That's why UNHCR considers voluntary repatriation - going back to one's original homeland once all the right conditions are in place -- the best solution for refugees. A total of 1.1 million refugees went home last year alone. The biggest single group - some 646,000 people --

returned to Afghanistan, bringing to more than 3 million the number of Afghan refugees and displaced who have gone home since 2002. We also see large numbers of refugees returning home to Angola, Burundi, Iraq, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, Cote d'Ivoire, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, Eritrea, Croatia and Somalia, even though conditions in several of these countries are far from ideal.

And more return possibilities are on the horizon. UNHCR has identified nine African nations where repatriation is already under way, about to start, or where there are good prospects for return in the near future. Between them, these nine countries account for at least 2 million refugees and millions more internally displaced. Recently, UNHCR brought together representatives of African nations, donor states, UN agencies and NGOs in Geneva to map out plans for a sustained effort to ensure that these nine African countries get the help they need to enable their citizens to go home and - just as importantly - stay home. Sustained international support throughout the entire process of repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction is crucial if they are to succeed.

But what about those refugees who can never go home? For them, UNHCR and its partners seek one of two solutions: integration in countries of first asylum or, if that is not possible, resettlement to a "third" country.

In both situations, the ultimate aim is to enable refugees to resume their lives, albeit in a new country. This requires real generosity and burden-sharing by asylum countries - often poor themselves -- and by the relatively small number of predominantly developed nations that accept the bulk of resettled refugees. In 2003, some 56,000 refugees were resettled in 10 main resettlement destinations. Tens of thousands more were integrated in first asylum states.

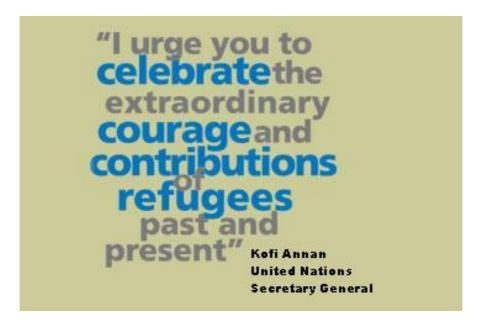
In addition to international support, including targeted development assistance to asylum countries, these solutions also require continuing courage and perseverance on the part of the refugees themselves as they adapt to their new homes. We can all assist in that process by extending a welcoming hand and by recognising that refugees are true survivors who can make valuable contributions to our communities. They, too, deserve a place to call home.



WORLD REFUGEE DAY ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

The following part of the report is a summary of the World Refugee Day 2004 events which took place around the world. The information was drawn from a number of sources: evaluation reports and various e-mails sent to Public Affairs, as well as the World Refugee Day site.

The summary is sub-headed by each individual Bureau: CASWANAME, Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific and Europe. Each country is organised in alphabetical order and is colour-coded to its region.



For more details on a specific country's activities, please contact the relevant Focal Point listed at the back of this report and visit the World Refugee Day site on the UNHCR website.

C A S W A N A M Ε



ALGERIA

In **Tindouf**, the celebration took place on 20 June. Refugees, representatives of implementing partners, UNHCR and local authorities gathered in the youth centre in L'auin camp. During the day, they participated in the **harvest of animal fodder**. In the evening, a final **competition of football, basketball, volleyball** and "Sega and Damma" enabled refugee youth to demonstrate their sports skills. This was followed by different **exhibitions of handicrafts, drawings, sewing and wool work**. Participants included the disabled as well as women and youth from several camps. The Women's Centre, OLOF PALM, hosted the evening, which started with a speech by the Governor, followed by a speech by the Head of the Sahrawi Women Union (UNMS). Most of the **speeches** highlighted the plight and suffering of refugees in the world and gave thanks to the humanitarian assistance of UNHCR and its partners, as well as to the Algerian Government. The Sahrawi refugees asked the UN agencies to assist them in finding a political solution to the conflict over Western Sahara so that they can return home in safety and dignity.

Refugee youth from L'auin, Awserd and Smarra camps gave **musical performances**. **Certificates** were distributed to the graduates from L'auin youth centre. UNHCR also presented **prizes** to the winners of the various competitions and **honorary certificates** to those who participated in organising the day. In a gesture of recognition for UNHCR's work and assistance to the Sahrawi refugees, the Governor presented an enormous **wall painting** depicting all the different UNHCR activities in the camp.

In **Algiers**, two **TV programmes** were broadcast, one about the refugee situation in the world and another on Palestinian refugees. A local newspaper also published an **article** citing the High Commissioner's message.

EGYPT, ARAB REPUBLIC OF

A gala dinner was held on 4 June to commemorate World Refugee Day and celebrate 50 years of UNHCR in Egypt. The event was attended by high level officials from the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Interior, the League of Arab States, the diplomatic community, refugees as well as UNHCR's implementing partners and representatives from other UN agencies. **UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Adel Imam** co-hosted the event which received extensive media coverage from local and regional TV, as well as radio and print media. Several **interviews** were conducted with Mr. Imam, as well as UNHCR staff. Almost 400 guests enjoyed the open air atmosphere of Club Mohamed Ali by the Nile. Guests danced to the music of the famous Nubian singer Mohamed Mounir, who performed *pro bono*. The event was sponsored by Pepsi International, DHL, Club Mohamed Ali and Max Group.

A **football tournament** for the Sudanese refugee community was organized by the Sacred Heart Church Sports Committee with the support of UNHCR. Twenty-two teams representing different districts of Cairo competed over a period of more than two months from 14 March till 6 June. The venue for the tournament was a donation from the "College De La Salle" French School. Matches were played on the school's grounds every Friday and Sunday afternoon.

On 19 June, UNHCR participated in the 2004 **World Refugee Day Festival**. The festival, which took place at the American University campus, was organised by STAR - Student Action for Refugees - with the support of UNHCR. The aim of the festival was to promote awareness of refugee issues in Egypt by celebrating the diverse talents of the different refugee communities living in Cairo. **Art, music, theatre, dance** and **food** from Palestine, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia were much appreciated by over 1,500 persons attending the festival and reflected some of the culture of the countries of origin of refugees in Egypt. Special attention was given this year to refugee children who spent the previous weeks designing their own activities for the day.

An **SMS announcing World Refugee Day** was sent out on 20 June to a large number of mobile users reminding them of World Refugee Day and providing information on the number of refugees living in Egypt. The SMS gave users the option of responding if they wished to donate.

IRAN

World Refugee Day was marked with an **exhibition of drawings by Afghan refugee children** living in Iran. The exhibition, which consisted of a selection of 100 drawings classified into six categories, was on the theme "My country, My Home" and was held at Tehran's Sofreh Gallery. A panel of six people (two Afghan painters, three Iranian artists and one UNHCR staff) selected the best drawing of each category as well as the best three of the entire exhibition.

Officials from the Iranian government, Embassies, UN agencies, NGOs and the Afghan refugee winners with their families attended the event. A UNHCR official made an introductory **speech** after which the head of the panel handed out the awards to the winners. Numerous international and local media were present and ensured good media coverage. **Packs of stationary items** and **a UNHCR torch** were given to all winners. Sweets and drinks were served to the guests. The exhibition continued for a week.

In Mashhad, UNHCR hosted the World Refugee Day celebrations in a theatre with approximately 500 people, including Afghans, international and local NGOs, as well as Iranian officials. **Speeches, music, skills courses, poetry reading** and **films** were presented to the audience.

JORDAN

World Refugee Day was commemorated at the Al-Hussein Cultural Centre in Amman. Addressing the audience at the **ceremony**, the UNHCR Representative highlighted the Jordanian Government's commitment and continuous efforts to provide shelter and assistance to refugees. The event was attended by Jordanian officials, representatives of the diplomatic and UN communities, the media and several refugee representatives. UNHCR's **TV spot** featuring **UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Adel Imam** and excerpts of the UNHCR **video** "Global View 2004" were shown to the audience.

Children sang **songs** about their homeland and elderly refugees recited **poetry** to Iraqi music. An exhibition of refugees' drawings and paintings was on display. Also on exhibit were 200 photographs taken during **a special photo project**, involving 120 refugee children from the Ruweished and the No Man's Land camps. The event was covered by Jordan TV, Al Hurra TV, Al Ekhabreyah Channel, BBC World News and Petra News Agency, as well as the Jordan Times and various Arabic dailies.

World Refugee Day celebrations also took place in the camps. On 17 June, an event took place in Ruweished camp, which included **speeches** by representatives of the Palestinian, Iraqi, Iranian, Sudanese and Somali refugees. A touching message was sent by a Sudanese refugee who said: "I would like to send my sincere regards to all my compatriots – two million refugees from Sudan. I wish to tell them we do care for them, as well as for the others suffering in the world." Refugee children recited **poems**, sang **songs** and performed **drama**.

KAZAKHSTAN

In the capital Astana, the UNHCR Chief of Mission gave a **speech** at the opening of a **photo exhibition** at the Astana Art Gallery. A **reception** was held for government officials, international organizations and NGOs.

In Almaty, UNHCR also organized a **sports competition for refugee children** in a local school. Refugee children and their parents were also invited to a **circus performance**. Selected refugee children were sent to a **summer camp**.

UNHCR and a local NGO organised a **seminar for journalists**. A **seminar for refugee teenagers** on their rights was organised by UNHCR, and the NGOs Children's Fund of Kazakhstan and Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law. Refugee teenagers got acquainted with the basics of international legislation on the rights of refugees, children, as well as

with national legislation and UNHCR activities in the country. During the seminar, a psychologist from the Children's Fund of Kazakhstan conducted **a training session on sexual and gender-based violence**, where the issues of home violence and violence among teenagers were highlighted. Many **role plays, games** and **discussions** took place during the seminar. The results showed that refugee teenagers are very active in discussing their problems, finding out about their rights, and sharing knowledge with their parents and friends, thus making local integration the best option for them.

KYRGYZSTAN

On 16 June, the UNHCR Chief of Mission and other staff participated in the **national TV morning programme**, which was devoted to World Refugee Day. Special emphasis was put on the achievement of durable solutions for refugees in the country. People all over Kyrgyzstan watch this popular morning programme, which is broadcast live and invites viewers to call and ask questions during the show.

On 17 June, UNHCR staff, with the participation of governmental counterparts from the Department of Migration Services, held a **press conference** in the UN House. Tajik and Afghan refugees and new Kyrgyz citizens were also present at the event. Journalists were briefed on the general situation of the refugee population in the country, UNHCR activities, and recent positive developments in the national legislation for refugees. The message of the High Commissioner was also delivered to the media representatives.

The **World Refugee Day TV spot** was aired five times a day between 16 and 20 June, during prime time, by a regional TV channel as well as by national TV.

A multicultural celebration was held in Ivanovka village on 20 June, where large numbers of Tajik refugees live. The day started with a **football match** between UNHCR/implementing partners and a refugee team. The sports activities continued with games between refugees and local football players. Refugee children also competed against each other **drawing their vision of peace** with chalk in a schoolyard. Guests enjoyed a **small concert** performed by Afghan and Tajik refugee children singing songs and dancing ethnic dances. National food cooked by refugee women of different ethnicities was offered to the guests, journalists and refugees. The sports activities continued with **Joo Ulak, Gushtingiri and Kuresh games**, in which refugees, local citizens and children actively participated. The event ended with a distribution of small **prizes.**

On 23 June, UNHCR staff, together with a refugee NGO leader, participated in a **live programme on national radio** and answered questions related to UNHCR activities in the country and on World Refugee Day.

LEBANON

UNHCR, in close collaboration with its implementing partner, Middle East Council of Churches and refugees, organized many activities over two days, 18 and 19 June, for World Refugee Day. UNHCR also took advantage of this important day to inaugurate and announce the official **opening of the new Community Development Centre**. A **reception** was held at the Centre to which many Embassies, UN sister agencies, representatives of the Lebanese Government, NGOs and other partners were invited. Around 50 refugees who had taken part in the organization of the activities were also present.

Following a few words and as part of the ceremony, the UNHCR Representative distributed prizes to the six refugee children who had won the **drawing contest** organised by UNHCR. **Gifts** and **certificates** were distributed to all children who had taken part in this contest. The children's drawings were on public display, and refugees, mostly women, exhibited their traditional **handicrafts** prepared for the occasion and cooked **traditional dishes**. Many adults and youths performed their traditional **folkloric dances**.

On 19 June, the Centre was open for the entire day to the public and refugees. **Movies** were shown to the children and a **lunch** was held for those who were present.

UNHCR also liaised with three major and widely read Arabic, French and English newspapers in order to mark the occasion. The three dailies published World Refugee Day-related **articles**, an **editorial** signed by the UNHCR Representative as well as **success stories of refugees** who have sought asylum in Lebanon and other parts of the world. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** was distributed to seven local TV stations, two of which broadcast also by satellite to the entire Arab world. The TV spot was randomly played throughout 20 June. The **video "Return to Afghanistan"** was also broadcast by two local TV stations.

PAKISTAN

In Islamabad, UNHCR marked World Refugee Day with two days of celebrations (17 and 18 June). The activities included a **speech contest** on the topic "The future after being a refugee"; a **drawing contest** on the theme "Going back to the country"; **cultural dances** of Afghan refugees and Somalian communities; **dramas** on the issues of repatriation, violence and forced marriage; **songs**; **movies**; and **handicraft exhibitions.** The winner of the drawing contest was awarded.

In Peshawar, UNHCR organised an **open forum** at the Faculty of Law on 18 June to discuss the problem of refugees in Pakistan, durable solutions and legal assistance to refugees in Pakistan. The invitees included government officials, NGO staff, the refugee community, law students and UNHCR staff. **Dramas** on repatriation, **songs** and a **presentation on education** as a tool to achieve durable solutions for refugees were organised on World Refugee Day.

The day was also celebrated in all the camps of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) from 16 to 25 June. The main activities were a **drawing contest for children**, **speeches**, **national anthems** and **poems**. The best ones were awarded.

SAUDI ARABIA and GULF COUNTRIES

A national and regional campaign was organized and sponsored by the Foreign, Education and Defense Ministries. It included a 15-day long **poster** and **photo exhibition** including 65 locallymade pictures on UNHCR's mandate, history, activities and accomplishments with a special focus on voluntary repatriation. The exhibition attracted a huge number of visitors. The **function** took place at the renowned King Abdulaziz Historical Centre in the heart of Riyadh. Some 20 journalists, representing local, regional and international press, covered the ceremony. **Press interviews** also took place.

The **video "Return to Afghanistan"** was distributed to Saudi TV, Al Arabiya and MBC TV in addition to satellite channels in the Gulf.

TAJIKISTAN

A poster 2x1 metres carrying a photo of Tajik returnees was placed on the **UN poster board** in front of the UN common premises for two weeks. The UN poster board, a joint project of the UN Country Team in Tajikistan, is located in one of the busiest streets of Dushanbe and is aimed at informing the public of UN activities.

UNHCR, with the support of local authorities, organised **sport games** in Kumsangir Province for Tajik returnees. Sport teams from five districts of Khatlon province participated in the games, such as **volleyball**, **table tennis**, **football** and **family relay races**. All participants received World Refugee Day T-shirts produced by UNHCR. Children from local kindergartens also participated in an **asphalt drawing competition**. All children received **school kits** as rewards for their participation.

On 2 July, the press club of the international and national media was devoted to refugee and migration problems. UNHCR invited two **Tajik returnee women** from Turkmenistan and Afghanistan who shared their experiences of exile, repatriation and reintegration.

A UNHCR official gave a **presentation** about UNHCR's activities in Tajikistan during the regular inter-agency meeting which was attended by the UN, as well as international and national NGOs.

TURKMENISTAN

From 13 to 18 June, World Refugee Day was celebrated in the refugee settlements of Akhal, Mary and Lebap. **Concerts** by both local and refugee bands took place, **dancing** and **singing competitions** were organised and **sports activities** were held for children.

The voluntary repatriation of 18 Tajik refugees from the railway station Amudarya, organised by UNHCR, took place on 17 June. The representatives of the Turkmen Government attended the event, which served to promote safe and dignified voluntary return of refugees to their country of origin and to increase their awareness.

On 18 June, **drawing contests** on the theme, "World by Children's Eyes", were held among children in Ashgabat, Mary and Turkmenabat. The winners were awarded with gifts and children enjoyed a **cartoon show**.

On 19 June, a **puppet show** for refugee children from Ashgabat, Soltandash and Babadurmaz refugee settlements was organised jointly with the administration of the National Puppet Theatre in Ashgabat City. At the end of the show, a light **lunch** was served to all refugee children. Invited guests enjoyed a **performance** by Afghan and Tajik refugee children.

On 23 June, UNHCR organized a **video show** on its world-wide activities. The show was accompanied by a colourful **performance** by Tajik and Afghan refugee children, followed by a **buffet** for refugees and guests.

UZBEKISTAN

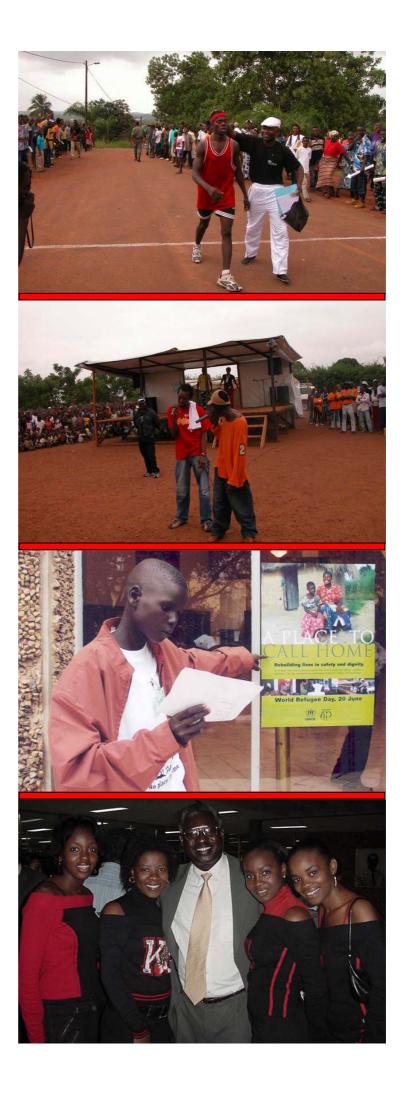
On 18 June, an **art exhibition** dedicated to World Refugee Day opened at the Tashkent Centre of Modern Arts. The exhibition included **crafts** produced by Afghan refugees in the Social Services Centre of UNHCR's implementing partner, "Hayot Yollari"; **applied arts** from Afghanistan, collected by the refugees for the exhibition; and **photos** of the Afghan returnees/scenes of day-to-day life in Afghanistan. About 170 persons were invited to the opening of the exhibition, including the diplomatic corps, UN and other organisations, the Government of Uzbekistan, the Refugee Council, as well as local and international media.

The UNHCR Representative gave a **speech** on the significance of World Refugee Day and presented a **book of poems** by 13 Afghan refugee poets living in Uzbekistan. The **documentary film**, "Return to Afghanistan", produced by UNHCR, was shown. It was followed by the **traditional Pashtun dance**, "Atan", presented by young male Afghan refugees. All guests were invited to the **buffet** held in the exhibition centre. Throughout the reception, **live traditional Afghan music** was performed by four Afghan musicians who are refugees in Uzbekistan.

On 18 June, Afghan refugee children presented a **concert** in Termez. UNHCR invited Afghan girls to **visit Al-Termezi Museum**. On 19 and 20 June, a **feature film** "The Fate", directed by Seddiq Abedi, an Afghan refugee living in Uzbekistan, was shown in the public cinema house "Musey Kino". The film director dedicated his film, which was produced in 2001, to all his compatriots living in exile.

A football match was also organised in Termez football stadium.





ANGOLA

The official ceremony at the national radio theatre of Angola (25 June) included many events such as traditional dances, a theatre play on HIV/AIDS, and **performances by two famous Angolan groups**: "As Gingas de Maculusso" and "Dom Caetano". A **photo exhibition** showed the return of refugees to their homeland and included pictures of refugees from Viana and Sungui settlements.

UNHCR organized various activities in the Provinces of Luanda, Moxico, Zaire and Cuando Kubango, promoting the skills and abilities of Angolan returnees through **music, dances, poetry readings** and **plays**. UNHCR presented several interviews and debates on Angolan radio and television.

BENIN, TOGO, NIGER and BURKINO FASO

In Benin during the Caritas-organized health awareness session (17 June) for urban refugees in Cotonou, entitled "Keeping you in good health gives you the chance to go home", mosquito nets, sanitary towels and soaps were distributed to refugee women to promote better hygiene. UNHCR distributed domestic goods such as buckets, saucepans, plastic cups and plates.

On 19 June, over 50 refugee children participated in a **basketball tournament** in Kpomassè. UNHCR and NGO partners organised a performance by a group of comedians on HIV/AIDS. **Folk dances** and a **dance competition** were held. The Minister of Interior spoke about World Refugee Day and the national TV channel broadcast a programme on durable solutions.

On 20 June, the NGO "Technologie et Développement, Centre des Ressources" set up a **cross country race** in Porto-Novo. Several activities, such as folk dances, refugee sketches and girls' football matches, also took place.

The High Commissioner's World Refugee Day message was broadcast on national TV, preceded by a documentary on the refugee situation world-wide.

During a **reception** for government officials, diplomatic corps, civil society, UNHCR partners and refugees on 21 June, the government authorities reaffirmed Benin's commitment as host country to refugees.

In Burkino Faso, a series of conferences on refugees and durable solutions were held in Ouagadougou from 14 to 20 June. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR and its partners attended various **sports activities**, and the Minister reaffirmed his commitment to enhance the protection structure for refugees and to support UNHCR's work.

In Niger, refugees, UNHCR's partners and government officials celebrated in Niamey. In his **speech**, broadcast on 19 and 20 June, the Nigerian Interior Minister reaffirmed his commitment to finding durable solutions for refugees.

In Togo, UNHCR's partners, refugees and government officials celebrated with radio programmes, **civil activities** such as cleaning of the Lomé Central Hospital, and sports activities.

On 20 June, Togolese authorities gave the first ID cards to recognized refugees in Togo - a great achievement for UNHCR after many years of efforts.

BOTSWANA

An exhibition was held in Dukwi camp to promote the theme of World Refugee Day – durable solutions. The exhibition presented traditional clothes, drums and food from the refugees'

countries of origin (60 refugees from five different nationalities, i.e. Namibia, Angola, Somalia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo).

Sports competitions between refugees and locals, including soccer, volleyball, netball, cycling and athletics, were organised. Some 300 people participated. A **refugee Girl Guide movement** was also created – 50 refugee Girl Guides enrolled.

Some 3,000 refugees and 150 dignitaries, including Ambassadors, the Minister of Presidential Affairs, government officials and local authorities, attended the World Refugee Day celebrations.

CAMEROON

In the days leading up to World Refugee Day, a **press release** on this year's theme and a programme of planned activities was distributed in French and English to all media in Yaoundé. On 17 June, a **press conference** was given by the UNHCR Representative and broadcast by several national and international media, including BBC Afrique and The Herald Tribune. On 18 June a **special programme on refugees and the environment** was aired by Radio Environ.

The official **ceremony** took place on 19 June on the Hotel de Ville's premises. The ceremony was presided by the Minister of External Relations and was attended by government authorities, diplomats and UN officials. The Minister of External Relations made a **speech** and the Secretary-General's and High Commissioner's statements were read out. This was followed by a visit of stands displaying **handicrafts** produced by refugees. In addition, numerous **socio-cultural activities** animated by refugee groups as well as **recreational activities and competitions for children** took place. These activities included a **literary and artistic workshop** where children participated in a **drawing competition**. The event was widely covered by national radio and TV as well as several public and private media.

Also on 19 June, a **mini marathon** of 10 kilometres was organised in Yaoundé with the participation of 125 refugee athletes and 75 nationals. Furthermore, a **football match** was played between a refugee and a UN team.

In the evening of the same day, the **film** "Un Indien dans la ville" was shown to 100 refugee children at the French Cultural Centre.

On 20 June, the UNHCR Representative was the special guest of "Dimanche Midi" and "Cameroon Calling", two popular **national radio programmes**.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Activities included a **press conference** with local and international journalists; radio broadcast of a **debate** on the theme of World Refugee Day with refugees and UNHCR representatives; **awareness programmes**; and the **screening of a film** called "Young African refugees: Building the future" on national TV.

Streamers with slogans such as "A refugee also contributes to the development of the host country" and "Let's live in peace, security and dignity with refugees" were put up around Bangui, and a **football match** between refugees and a UN team took place.

The Ecole des Castors, rehabilitated by UNHCR within the framework of the reintegration programme of returnees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, was officially launched. An eight-year old girl presented a **poem on HIV/AIDS**. **Traditional dances** were followed by an **exhibition/sale of products** made by refugees, such as art, cakes and sewing, which attracted government representatives, diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations and companies.

CHAD

UNHCR organized a **photo exhibition** of the Chad operation at the Novotel, N'Djamena, with a screening of a news report on the situation in the east and UNHCR's efforts to re-locate refugees to the camps. Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and NGO partners were present. A printed version of the High Commissioner's World Refugee Day message was distributed and broadcast by Tele Chad.

The UNHCR Representative accompanied a group of high level persons, including seven ministers from the Chadian government, the US Ambassador and the Chargé d'Affaires of the German Embassy, on **a visit** to Farchana camp, eastern Chad. The Chadian people were praised for their unique welcoming of refugees over the past year and a half.

Refugees organized several activities and performances, including **traditional Massalit dances** performed by women in colourful dresses; refugee children also paraded, singing traditional songs, and holding banners with their school names. A group of young refugee men demonstrated with traditional spears and "*safrocs*" (wooden-boomerang-like sticks used to kill game in the bush). In the afternoon, a **soccer match** opposed a refugee team to a Chadian team.

In Amboko, southern Chad, more than 4,000 people gathered - mostly refugees with some invited guests - for **sports competitions**, at which prizes were presented (to both winners and losers) by the Sub-Prefect, UNHCR Head of Office and staff. A two-day **training programme** on International Protection of Refugees and Community Services took place in Gore, aimed at capacity building of Usher's Protection staff to train NGO staff as well as local authorities.

On 20 June, UNHCR invited 30 guests - including local civil authorities and religious leaders - to a function at the new refugee camp site of Youroungou, which was covered by the local radio, Radio Lotiko, based in Sarh. Primary school children entertained the crowds with songs, dances and theatre. A **lunch** was offered to all those attending, and a bull and sacks of rice were given to the refugees to celebrate. The afternoon was devoted to **sports** - football for women and men, gymnastics, and martial arts.

COTE D'IVOIRE

In Tabou, **sport activities**, such as football and cross country, were organized with refugees and the local population. During a **ceremony** in Tabou, government officials and local authorities promised to continue to extend their support to refugees. At a **concert** promoting tolerance and awareness of the refugee situation, the audience showed their appreciation of the musicians. Refugees exhibited hand-made objects and put on **sketches** promoting peaceful coexistence.

On 20 June, the UNHCR Representative was the guest of the **prime time news edition of the national TV channel** RTI, which also broadcast the film "UNHCR in action 2004".

DJIBOUTI

World Refugee Day was commemorated during two days on 21 and 22 June with events in Djibouti Ville on the premises of the Union National des Femmes Djibouti in Rue d'Arta, as well as in Ali Adde refugee camp.

The **ceremony** on 21 June was attended by Djibouti's Minister of Interior, all UN agency representatives and several members of the diplomatic community. The UNHCR Representative made a speech and said that UNHCR will continue with its "efforts to find a place the remaining Somaliland refugees can call home." Since 2002, UNHCR, the Government in Djibouti and authorities in Somaliland have successfully collaborated in repatriating over 7,000 refugees to Somaliland. A **chorus** of Somali refugees ended the day with a **song** of thanks to the President of Djibouti for showing them kindness in their moment of need.

The event was followed by another **ceremony** the next day in Ali Addeh, which was attended by the District Commissioner of Ali Sabieh, the UNHCR Representative and other officials, as well as a cross section of refugees in the camp. Several refugees spoke about their determination to return to Somaliland.

Each event was attended by over 500 people. Despite the limited presence of local media within Djibouti, both events were covered by the local radio/TV station, Radio Television Djibouti.

ERITREA

UNHCR's goals were restated at a **reception** organized with UNHCR staff and government partners.

Artwork from the first returnee child-care centre was exhibited and aimed to present the human connection to the "integrated recovery programme". An **information kit** with a press release, the High Commissioner's message, the UNHCR mission statement, a repatriation fact sheet, a map of Eritrea with returnee villages, a picture of an artwork exhibition and a poem about this year's theme was distributed.

A World Refugee Day T-shirt was given to everyone in the camps during a luncheon with cultural activities.

ETHIOPIA

The first part of the ceremony held at the African Union (AU) was a **high-level panel** with government officials in charge of repatriation and reintegration of returnees and internally displaced persons in Angola, Burundi, Sierra Leone, and senior officials of the AU and UN. The second part centered on a **keynote address** of solidarity with refugees and the need to find durable solutions and the **adoption of a declaration** on the conclusions of the **panel discussions**. The third part consisted of **cultural activities** and a **display of works** produced by refugees and displaced persons.

On 31 May, AU officials and journalists went on a **field visit** to witness the on-going voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Aisha camp.

A **photo exhibition** depicting the lives of Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopian camps took place at the Goethe Institute and the AU Conference Centre from 1 to 23 June.

On 20 June, Eritrean refugees celebrated World Refugee Day in their **new camp at Shimelba** in northern Tigray. Various **competition games** were performed by refugees and about 30 winners were awarded UNHCR T-shirts, magazines and leaflets.

The celebration of World Refugee Day in Mizan paved the way for Sudanese refugees to interact with the host communities. There were **sport tournaments** between refugees and local people, **cultural performances** and **speeches**. World Refugee Day was also celebrated by all the Sudanese refugees in Bonga, Fugnido, Sherkole and Yarenja camps.

From 18 to 20 June, the **religious leaders** showed their solidarity with refugees and displaced people through their **prayers** and by giving **blessings** so that they can return home.

GABON

World Refugee Day celebrations were opened with the launching of **doves of peace** by 50 refugee and Gabonese children, while Angèle Assele - a famous Gabonese singer and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador - accompanied them with a **song** about the impact of armed conflict on children. There were **speeches** by the Minister d'Etat, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the UNHCR Representative and refugees. Later, a friendly **football game** opposed a professional national team to refugees, the military and UNHCR staff.

An **exhibition of drawings** by refugee children and **arts and craft** by refugees was held all daylong and **national dishes** cooked by refugee women were offered to the public. A **concert by a refugee band** closed the day.

The event was attended by government authorities, diplomats, UN agency officials and representatives of the host community. Media coverage was good and included mentions in the national newspaper, on national TV and one private TV channel.

GHANA

Celebrations were held in Krisan and Buduburam refugee settlements. **Banners of Kofi Annan** and of the Senior Minister with the quote 'I was a refugee' were placed in both refugee settlements and in the capital city weeks prior to the event. In Accra, which has a poulation of three million, the banners were placed in strategic places, such as key exits out of residential areas, business districts, industrial and market areas. They were up for three weeks.

Similarly, in the weeks leading to World Refugee Day, various prime time radio TV programmes, including **phone-in programmes**, were arranged for the UNHCR Representative and other senior staff members. They included a **quiz on national TV and radio simultaneously** which dealt exclusively on UNHCR and its work. Churches across the country and mosques also said **special prayers for refugees.**

An evening gala at the national theatre was organized - all 1,500 seats were filled. Speeches were interspersed with refugee artist performances including singing, cultural performances and short dramas. All TV and radio stations as well as major newspapers were present.

GUINEA

A **round table** on the theme of World Refugee Day was organised. It focused on durable solutions, especially repatriation. A **photo exhibition** showed UNHCR activities for refugees. The refugee community in Conakry organised cultural activities such as **theatre plays, songs** and **speeches**.

In Kissidougou, an **exhibition** presented products made by refugee women during the UNHCRfunded skills training projects, as well as other items, such as drawings and paintings by young refugees.

UNHCR's World Refugee Day **films** were broadcast and a **peace parade** from Guinean villages to refugee camps was organised.

GUINEA BISSAU

World Refugee Day was commemorated at Jolmete refugee site, some 60 kms from the capital Bissau, under the auspices of ADRA and UNHCR. The celebrations were attended by refugees and the local population of Jolmete village and surroundings. Government officials were part of the official delegation. The delegation was welcomed by refugee children who sang several **songs**. During the ceremony, **pupils who got best marks during the school year received a gift.** A field **visit** was organized to evaluate the **women's garden project** financed by UNHCR in Jolmete.

KENYA

On 15 June, a three-hour **workshop** was held at UNHCR's office in Nairobi for journalists, especially those already involved in highlighting refugee issues. The workshop was chaired by the

UNHCR Representative who discussed with the press about UNHCR's operations in Kenya and answered questions from those present.

On 16 June, a **forum** for discussion on refugee issues was convened. The **panel discussion** provided an opportunity for the Kenyan public and refugees living in the country to discuss the several solutions available for addressing the plight of refugees. The panel included the Head of the Sudan Peace Talks, the Secretary to the Kenya Constitution Review Commission, the UNHCR Representative and a refugee representative. The panel discussed on whether or not repatriation was the only durable solution for refugees. This forum was well attended by various government representatives, members of civil society, faculty and students from the universities, the press, and most importantly by refugees themselves.

From 17 to 20 June, UNHCR collaborated with a local group, Heartstrings Kenya, which allowed refugees to be the curtain-raisers for their **play** entitled "Caught in the Net". Refugees from Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Burundi staged the performances.

The Environmental Education Section of the German NGO *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) organized on 17 June a **drawing and creative writing competition** based on the theme, "The place I want to live." Money collected will cover four-year scholarships for two outstanding students, book prizes for 19 students, a set of textbooks for the winning school in each category, and a two-door pit latrine for the winning school.

On 18 June, GTZ also organised and hosted a **drawing and creative writing competition**, which started in March. Entries were judged by a panel and the winning refugee students were honoured in a ceremony at the Goethe Institute. The students and their chaperons travelled to Nairobi from the camps to read their stories and exhibit their art before policy makers, donors, environmentalists, publishers, educators and child advocacy agencies.

At a major **commemoration ceremony** in Kakuma refugee camp on 19 June, refugee groups provided entertainment for the guests, including government officials, NGO and UN representatives and the media. Aid agencies exhibited their work with refugees in areas such as HIV/AIDS, solar projects and handicrafts. The Minister in the Office of the Vice President officially opened the newly constructed government houses in Kakuma, which will be used by the Department of Home Affairs in their work with refugees.

Government representatives, NGOs and UNHCR were present in every refugee camp. The refugee communities presented **poems**, **dances**, **songs** and **epics** highlighting challenges in asylum, initiatives in place to dignify their life in asylum and their dreams to return home in safety and dignity. **Football matches** were organised. Two-week campaigns were held on **reproductive health and peace education** by the National Council of Churches of Kenya as well as **clean-up** campaigns by CARE's Youth Department.

A **special Mass** was held in honour of refugees at the Don Bosco Shrine in Nairobi. The Mass was organised by Jesuit Refugee Service and was attended by the Minister for Home Affairs, government officials, refugees and UNHCR staff.

From 21 to 25 June, the Centre for Refugee Studies at Moi University held a **refugee awareness week** on their campus in Nairobi. A UNHCR official addressed over 300 students on issues concerning repatriation in line with the World Refugee Day theme.

LIBERIA

On 5 June, over 100 refugee children from Sierra Leone as well as Liberian returnee children discussed **activities specific to children**. The forum, held at the Gender Ministry, Monrovia, was chaired by Patient, the 13-year-old president of the **Liberian Children's Parliament**. After a general introduction, the children split into five working groups to discuss issues such as repatriation, reintegration and family reunification. The refugee children shared their experiences

with Liberian children, who just returned from refugee camps in Sierra Leone, giving each other encouragement and support, and discussing solutions to their common problems. They proposed establishing recreational facilities, and abolishing traditional practices like female genital mutilation, early marriage, as well as promoting safe and organised repatriation. The children produced a draft resolution for the safe and dignified return of refugee children to their home countries. It was officially adopted on 16 June to commemorate the Day of the African Child.

UNHCR and UNICEF observed the **Day of the African Child** on 16 June. The keynote message was in touch with the World Refugees Day theme "A Place to Call Home". Posters and drawings depicting children's impressions of the day were on display.

On 18 June, UNHCR and its government counterpart, LRRRC, **distributed clothes** to returnees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the Redemption Hospital.

In Saclepea, celebrations started on 20 June with a **march** from the refugee camp to the city centre to thank the people, the Saclepea elders and the Liberian Government for their hospitality to refugees. There were various activities such as **cultural performances**, **drama**, **sporting events** and **exhibitions** of items produced by refugees (such as agricultural and bakery products, handicrafts and an assortment of clothing). A group of young Ivorian traditional dancers performed **plays** and **songs** from their home country. A radio station aired **live interviews** on different aspects of assistance to refugees, IDPs and the host community. A **football match** among the Ivorian refugee population was the highlight of the day. All the events were organized to draw attention to the need to find solutions for refugees.

In Zwedru/Harper, a **mural** on the theme" A Place to Call Home", created by the community, was hung in the centre of town Throughout the day, a radio station in Zwedru, Smile FM, broadcast Ivorian songs composed by refugees.

In Bopolu/Tubmanburg, the day commenced in the cinema building of Tubmanburg. The programme, which aimed at raising awareness of the role of UNHCR in Bomi, Grand Cape Mount, and Gbarpolu counties, brought together some 300 residents of Tubmanburg town and surroundings, returnees, displaced people and refugees.

The day was also celebrated in Maimu-One displaced camp located in Totota, Salala and Tumutu with a series of **sport events** as well as a **parade** and **cultural performances**.

MALI

World Refugee Day was marked with celebrations for the urban refugees in Bamako and for the refugees from Cote D'Ivoire in Loulouni site. In both locations, **soccer matches** were organized between a refugee team and a local team. In Loulouni site, a Japanese NGO made available **four tons of rice** to the benefit of 319 refugees living in Loulouni and Faragouaran sites. Community services staff organized **a sensitization session on women's health care in rural areas**.

MOZAMBIQUE

The celebrations began on 19 June with a **discussion** on the Rights and Obligations of the refugees. The discussions were led by the UNHCR Chief of Mission and the Director of INAR (Government counterpart). Some of the issues discussed were the Mozambican Law as it relates to refugees, refugees' adherence to Mozambican law, their right to international protection, life liberty and security, and the commitment between refugees and UNHCR. The discussion was followed by questions and answers.

On 20 June, the celebration started early in the morning with a **march** by all of refugee groups in the camp. They marched with banners about HIV/AIDS and peace. Following the march there was **singing, dancing acrobatics** and **dramas** on the theme "A Place to Call Home", as well as on HIV/AIDS. The day climaxed with a **soccer game** between the camp team and the military team.

There was also an **exhibition and sale of vegetables** grown in the camp, **handicrafts** and **artifacts** by the refugees.

The camp population is over 5,000 and some 500 villagers living in the immediate vicinity of the camp attended.

RWANDA

A **competition** was launched on World Refugee Day for kids (refugees and returnees) to draw a place called home. This event took place simultaneously in all camps. Pictures, stories, details on durable solutions and UNHCR's work in Rwanda will be presented at an exhibition in the French Cultural Centre in Kigali later this year.

An **exhibition match** was organized to support the urban refugee football team. The match was held in a local stadium in Kigali attracting the local population as well.

Several marches, **traditional dances**, **presentations** and **speeches** marked the celebrations in the camp. Members of the government, local authorities and the diplomatic community attended.

SENEGAL

For World Refugee Day, refugees organised a **get-together** in Dakar in the garden of the municipal Olympic pool. In the morning a **session** was held with UNHCR, the National Eligibility Commission Secretary and the refugees, during which the refugees were able to share their views with the officials. Following this open forum, refugee cultural groups performed. In the mean time, **soccer** and **basketball games** were organized between refugee and local teams. In the afternoon, refugee children enjoyed the playground facilities by the Olympic pool. The event was organized by the national committee of refugees living in Senegal.

SIERRA LEONE

A press release on World Refugee Day was broadcast by all radio stations across the country. The release also appeared on several newspapers. The UNHCR Representative read the High Commissioner's message on national TV, which was followed by interviews with UNHCR staff in Freetown and Kenema.

A **march** with musical entertainment, drawings from refugees, school children, government officials and NGOs was organized. Huge banners displaying this year's theme were carried by the different groups.

At Victoria Park in Freetown, statements were read by a refugee representative, the UNHCR Representative and the Commissioner of NaCSA on behalf of the Government. The event was followed by **cultural performances** organized by the refugees.

A **football match** was played between the refugees and UNHCR staff in Freetown. The same activities took place throughout the country.

SOUTH AFRICA

A two-day trip was organized for journalists to the district of Bushbuckridge with an intense programme of **interviews** with former refugees and **visits to schools and villages**.

The central event was held in Cape Town, where there was a **gala dinner** hosted by the Mayor, an **official commemoration** and a tour of town councilors to districts with a high concentration of refugees.

A shopping centre in downtown Johannesburg granted its premises for World Refugee Day celebrations, which included an elaborate **mix of dances** and **music programmes** by refugee artists.

To show how language skills can enhance integration, a **language training centre** was opened to facilitate integration of refugees into South African society. To compliment this, a training of refugee business persons and bank account holders was undertaken to find ways to overcome mutual problems.

TANZANIA, UNITED REPUBLIC of

Activities to mark World Refugee Day started several weeks prior to 20 June. The opening activity was a **field trip to the refugee camps** in the northwestern part of the country by representatives of diplomatic missions and UN Heads of Agencies from Dar es Salaam. The visit, which took place from 7 to 9 June, gave the 19 participants (including four Ambassadors and three Heads of UN Agencies) an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the refugee situation in Tanzania. The UNHCR Representative accompanied the mission. The participants witnessed the departure of a repatriation convoy of 300 Burundian refugees, who returned to their home country after having lived in camps in Tanzania for about ten years.

On 20 June, a range of activities intended to - at least for a short while - help the refugees to forget their traumatic past experiences, were organised with the participation of refugees, implementing partners, UN agencies and the Tanzanian Government. Among the activities carried out were **awareness raising campaigns** on peace and reconciliation in the community, **home visits** and **training sessions/meetings** on self-reliance. **Sports games** and **theatre performances** were also part of the celebrations in the camps.

ITV, which is one of the largest and most popular TV channels in the country, carried out a 30minute **interview** with the UNHCR Representative on refugee issues and World Refugee Day. The interview was broadcast on prime time in a programme called "The Diplomat" on 18 June. One of Tanzania's major newspapers in English, *Sunday News*, carried a full page interview with the UNHCR Representative on 20 June. The **official statements of the UN Secretary-General and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees** were circulated to the media, and a few papers published **articles** about World Refugee Day.

UGANDA

The Minister of Disaster Planning and Refugees was invited to walk 5 kms with a refugee delegation across Kampala. Over 200 people joined and some US\$ 2,000 was raised in favour of children's education in Kampala.

Exhibitions were held in settlement areas were hand-made items were sold in order to promote self-sufficiency and facilitate returning home and rebuilding lives.

Essay contests on the theme of peace keeping were organised for children. Award certificates were handed out to refugees who have shown outstanding life's skills.

5,000 **publications were donated** by UNHCR to the Refugee Law Project, a university-based NGO which coordinates education and the dissemination of information to government and non-government entities protecting refugees in Uganda.

ZAMBIA

World Refugee Day was celebrated in all the refugee locations in Meheba, Mayukwayukwa, Nagweshi, Kala, Mwange, Ukwimi and Lusaka. For Zambia, this year's theme was the repatriation of refugees to Angola and Rwanda.

In Lusaka, The Minister of Home Affairs launched a two-week media coverage on TV and radio. During this period, government officials, UNHCR and implementing partner staff participated in a **one-hour live radio programme** dedicated to refugee issues.

On 20 June, World Refugee Day was celebrated in the Show Grounds in Lusaka. A **walk** for refugees and their children, UNHCR and implementing partner staff was organised. The Minister of Home Affairs was the chief guest and made a speech on the plight of refugees, particularly in Africa, highlighting the Governments' approach to the management of refugees.

Refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo kept the audience enthralled with **dances, drums** and **theatre.**





ARGENTINA, BRAZIL and SOUTHERN LATIN AMERICA

In Argentina, a 60-seconds **TV spot** featuring Uruguayan-born actor Osvaldo Laport was launched. The spot was produced free of charge by Young & Rubicam Argentina. It was broadcast over 750 times on public network and cable channels through mid-September.

The Institute of International Relations of the University of La Plata organized a **seminar** on refugees in Southern Latin America. A young woman, who arrived in Argentina as a baby with her parents, who went on to earn a degree in food engineering and who has risen in the ranks of a corporation in Argentina, shared her experiences and words of encouragement with many students.

The Catholic Commission, UNHCR's partner in Argentina, organised a "**kermesse**" with cultural performances and entertainment for refugee adults and children. Refugees involved in **micro-credit projects** were also able to show and discuss their work.

10,000 **postcards** were distributed in Buenos Aires in approximately 100 bars, restaurants, cultural centres, etc. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** produced by the Barcelona Forum was also broadcast, mostly by cable channels.

In Bolivia, UNHCR's partner, the Pastoral of Human Mobility, organised a series of events including two **seminars on human rights and refugees** in which a number of government and non-governmental organisation representatives gave **talks**. Seven TV channels also broadcast a special **Mass** for refugees.

In Brazil, a number of World Refugee Day commemorative events were held in São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Brasilia from 17 to 21 June, with the participation of government representatives, NGOs, businessmen and other representatives of civil society.

About 250 people gathered in SESC São Paulo (an important centre with different services for workers in the commercial sector, and which has included refugees in its services) to participate in an event organized by UNHCR's partner Caritas Arquidiocesana SP. The Archbishop and President of Caritas SP, the Mayor of São Paulo, the President of the national refugee committee CONARE and the UNHCR Representative gave **speeches** on the refugees' reality and called for further integration and acceptance by society. **New projects** for refugees were presented, such as the House for Refugee Women and access to popular housing plans by the Mayor's Office. The event ended with a presentation by the musical group "**Songs of Peace**" which brings together refugees in São Paulo.

Also in São Paulo, a Brazilian company led by actor and Carlos Moreno, staged the **play**, "Tourists & Refugees", which deals with the theme of being uprooted in its different forms. The play is based on the acclaimed Off-Broadway play by the Winter Project, directed by Joseph Chaikin in 1980.

In Rio de Janeiro, a **health fair for refugees** was held on 21 June to raise refugees' awareness on issues related to health care. There were several interactive stands to raise awareness on blood pressure, cholesterol control, breast cancer prevention, HIV/AIDS orientation and many others. The event was sponsored by Caritas Rio de Janeiro in association with the Brazilian Dentistry Association, the Military Police and other institutions.

A **conference** was held at the University of Brasilia, where a refugee was invited to present her story and her expectations of a new life in Brazil. The President of the national Refugee Committee gave a talk, as did the representatives of several important national NGOs. A **seminar** was also held on 22 June with presentations on asylum and resettlement and the role of UNHCR, the Government and civil society in the reception of refugees in Brazil.

In Chile, UNHCR's partner, the Vicariate of Social Pastoral, organized a **cultural event** with refugees at an important cultural centre in downtown Santiago. During the event, which was attended by government representatives, parliamentarians, and members of civil society, refugees were able to share **food** and **traditional performances** from their countries, in addition to products acquired under **micro-credit schemes** supported by UNHCR. Refugee children were treated to a **puppet show**.

Forty **public billboards** about 1x1.5 metres, were exhibited between 18 and 20 June in Santiago. There were World Refugee Day mentions and interviews on six radio channels. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** produced by the Barcelona Forum was played on three TV channels.

In Paraguay, UNHCR's partner, CIPAE, organised its annual get-together between journalists and refugees.

In Montevideo, Uruguay, UNDP, UNHCR and its NGO partner, SEDHU, organised an event attended by 500 people including former Uruguayan refugees. Special recognition was given to institutions which support refugees and to a former UNHCR staff member who helped to save the lives of a number of Latin Americans in the 1970s-1980s. Thirty public billboards were put up between 14 and 20 June in Montevideo.

There was **wide media coverage in all countries of the region** in spite of World Refugee Day coinciding with Father's Day. Total coverage included over 300 media appearances.

CANADA

For World Refugee Day, UNHCR's activities focused on Canada's resettlement and integration programmes in keeping with the theme "A place to call home".

At the Canadian Council for Refugees' conference in Montreal, UNHCR launched the French version of the *International Handbook to Guide Reception and Integration*. It also launched the *Canadian Refugee Chronicle: 25 Years of the Private Sponsorship of Refugees Program* at a World Refugee Day event organized by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Regina on 19 June. Under this special project, four books are currently travelling to different communities across Canada where resettled refugees and their Canadian sponsors can record their personal experiences with the Private Sponsorship Program. All four books will be collected and bound into a single book to be delivered to Library and Archives Canada.

The **Governor General of Canada** presided over a **Canada Day citizenship ceremony** at the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa where she swore in 50 new Canadians from 20 countries, many of whom were former refugees from Algeria, Rwanda, Congo, China and Iran. Altogether, there were over half a dozen separate **community events** across Canada to mark World Refugee Day.

CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

In El Salvador, an **ecumenical celebration** was held at Cuscatlán Park, which is dedicated to the civil victims of human rights violations. A special **World Refugee Day stamp** was issued by the Salvadoran Post Office.

In Guatemala, UNHCR's implementing partner organised a **refugee meeting** to welcome refugees who have **completed the local integration process** in Guatemala. This meeting encouraged refugees to share their experiences with each other.

COLOMBIA

The **commemoration** of World Refugee Day at Bogotá's National Museum was organised with the participation of the diplomatic community, an Ombudsman, government officials, NGOs,

representatives of the internally displaced population, artists and business leaders. A UNHCR official spoke about the country's response to internal displacement. **Posters** showing Colombian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were exhibited during the celebration.

A **concert** was performed by the "Sounds of Resistance" orchestra. Pop singer Fonseca also participated in the event.

A **press conference** was held in Bogotá on 16 June. At the heart of the discussions was the evolution of the country's response to the challenges of preventing internal displacement and helping IDPs exercise their rights.

A **rally** was organised by UNHCR to sensitise the city's population about displacement. Thirteen teams participated in the event.

A UNHCR **photo exhibition** "Through the eyes of Colombian refugees" was on display at Apartado's Public Library until 22 June to raise public awareness about Colombian IDPs and refugees.

COSTA RICA

UNHCR, in coordination with its implementing partner ACAI and the University for Peace, produced a **documentary** on the situation of refugees in Costa Rica, which included an interview with seven refugees who narrated their stories. The documentary also included interviews with Costa Rican officials. On 21 June, the video was broadcast on a TV programme.

On 11 June, UNHCR inaugurated a **photo exhibition**, "Arrancados de Raíz", comprising 25 pictures portraying faces of Colombian refugees and internally displaced persons taken by UNHCR staff in Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador and Colombia. The exhibition took place at the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, San Jose.

World Refugee Day itself was celebrated on 19 June in the Metropolitan Sabana Park, San José, with numerous activities for children, such as **a magician**, **a story teller** and **a drawing workshop**, as well as music, dance and songs from Cuban, Colombian and Costa Rican groups for the general public. Pursuing Costa Rica's passion for soccer, a **tournament** between teams made up of international organisation staff and refugees was organised.

A **Mass** dedicated to refugees and their difficult situation world-wide was celebrated on 20 June in the Metropolitan Cathedral in San Jose (and covered by the media) and in many other Catholic churches around the country. Caritas and the Church's Social Pastoral contributed to the organization of this activity.

A two-week film festival was inaugurated on 21 June during which a **selection of five films** dealing with refugee and refugee-like situations was shown in three screening rooms of an independent movie theatre, *El Semaforo*, in San Jose.

The **play** "*La Casa de atrás*", an awareness activity aimed at young students and based on *Anne Frank's Diary*, was inaugurated in August and will play until year-end. Supported by UNHCR, the National University, the Embassy of the Netherlands and the Dutch Cooperation Agency *Hivos*, the play will be performed in San Jose and in the province of Alajuela.

ECUADOR

Supported by the director of Comité Pro Refugiados (CPR) and her team, this year's events in Quito were held on CPR premises. After a moment of prayer, based on this year's World Refugee Day theme, children and adults alike were treated to a **puppet show** by a Colombian troupe, Kaluna, which explained the culture of Colombia coffee plantations. The puppet show was followed by a lively **music show** performed by the group Constelación Vallenata. Band members

were all refugees recently granted refugee status by Ecuador. Adults and children danced to the tropical sounds of traditional Colombian rhythms. **T-shirts with the WRD logo** and bottles of shampoo (donated by a cosmetics company) were given out.

In the evening, UNHCR organized a **private viewing of the movie "Beyond Borders"**, starring UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie. 120 people attended the screening and funds raised were donated to CPR, which will use the money to furnish a room where refugee children can play under the supervision of a social worker while their parents are interviewed.

In Ibarra, two hours south of the Colombian border, around 200 people celebrated World Refugee Day. Local staff put on a **puppet show** about the rights and duties of refugees. A group of young refugee and Ecuadorian men and women presented **choreographies** prepared for the event. There were also **contests and giveaways** of T-shirts and other items. The event was organized with help from the Jesuit Refugee Service and Pastoral Migratoria.

Lago Agrio, the second largest reception town of Colombian refugees and asylum seekers, and a neighbouring town to the Colombian Putumayo region organized an event with more than 250 participants. Throughout the morning there were **soccer games, dance contests, facial painting for children** and **arts and crafts exhibitions**. The day ended with T-shirt giveaways and medal awarding ceremonies for the winners.

World Refugee Day captured the attention of the media nationwide. A **newspaper insert** was distributed in select regions with *El Comercio*, Ecuador's largest distributed newspaper (21,000 issues and more than 100,000 potential readers). Several radio stations also presented **interviews** and aired **radio spots** produced by refugee and Ecuadorian teenagers.

In all, close to 800 refugees and asylum seekers, as well as many international organisations, participated in World Refugee Day events in Ecuador.

MEXICO

On 20 June, the second World Refugee Day **festival** took place at the Refugee Park in Mexico City, organised by UNHCR, Amnesty International Mexico, UNHCR's implementing partner *Sin Fronteras*, the Secretary of Culture and the Government of Mexico City. It included **musical performances** by refugees and former refugees, the **sale of arts and crafts**, and **food** produced by the refugees. Activities for children included **puzzles** and **bingo games**, specially designed to stress the celebration of World Refugee Day and promote respect of human rights. A **poster drawing contest** was organised for young students. Their drawings were exhibited during the festival and the best one was used as the official poster of the festival. Some 500 persons, including refugees from Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador and Bangladesh, attended the event and enjoyed the celebration which was widely covered by the media.

The National Autonomous University of Mexico, through its University Museum of Science and Arts, organised a series of activities, including a **conference** on UNHCR's work, **musical performances, round tables** and **film screenings**. About 300 people participated. UNHCR's **photographic exhibition** on Colombian refugees and internally displaced persons, "*Arrancados de raíz*", was displayed at the entrance of the Museum for three weeks. Some 5,000 people saw it.

On 25 June, the **photographic exhibition** "The others are us", by Guatemalan photographer Ricardo Ramirez Arriola, was opened at the National Arts Centre by UNHCR with the Human Rights National Commission and the National Council for Culture and Arts. Approximately 100 people attended the opening. The exhibition was on display for one month.

UNITED STATES of AMERICA

On 16 June, **UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie** launched World Refugee Day celebrations with **US Secretary of State Colin Powell**, at the National Geographic Society in Washington, DC. In the National Geographic Museum's Explorers Hall, the three winners of the fourth **annual World Refugee Day poster contest** received their awards. The posters were displayed at the museum throughout the World Refugee Day events.

On the same day, Walden Media and UNHCR held an **advance screening** of the major **motion picture** "I am David", at the National Geographic Museum's Explorers Hall. A **panel of speakers**, including a refugee teenager resettled in the US, the writer/director of the film, the lead actor and the UNHCR Representative, also addressed the audience.

From 18 to 20 June, UNHCR, in partnership with Fête de la Musique, organised **musical** and **dance performances** in the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, which included performances by Ethiopian, Salvadoran and Sudanese groups. Music and dance performances were also organized at National Geographic with 12 groups representing several regions of the world.

World-renowned photographer **Zalmai**, a former Afghan refugee, **exhibited his photos** at the National Geographic Museum's Explorers Hall and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Approximately 6,000 people attended these World Refugee Day events. Moreover, the number of people reached indirectly was large. The National Geographic Museum sees some 19,000 visitors monthly during the summer, while the Kennedy Center receives over 25,000 weekly. The poster contest and the Zalmai exhibits were located in key, heavily-trafficked areas at both facilities. In addition, media coverage was extensive – both traditional (CNN, BBC, NPR, newspapers and TV programmes) and non-traditional (People Magazine, entertainment TV programmes) media covered the events. The various website campaigns received unprecedented numbers of hits.

For more information, a detailed report on World Refugee Day 2004 events in the United States is available from R.O. Washington. Please visit <u>http://www.usaforunhcr.org/worldrefday</u>

VENEZUELA

Venezuela's World Refugee Day celebrations were officially kicked-off in the border states of Táchira and Zulia with two **outdoor, music concerts** held in the cities of San Cristóbal and Maracaibo. Over 1,000 people learned about refugee rights and UNHCR's mandate while enjoying the sounds of local folk musicians and taking in **UNHCR placards** strung around the town plazas.

Integration and solidarity between the local and asylum seeker population was also promoted in the refugee hosting community of Urena, Táchira, with a series of **free medical check-ups** organized in conjunction with the Venezuelan Red Cross. The local and national media also contributed to the campaign by disseminating information about refugee rights and asylum application procedures throughout the month of June.

In Caracas, World Refugee Day was commemorated amongst law students at the Catholic University with a **forum entitled "The Protection of Refugee Rights".** The forum gave UNHCR the opportunity to explain Venezuela's advances in international protection and introduce students to the Declaration of Cartagena, which celebrates its 20th anniversary in November 2004. The forum was complemented by the **"Looking Towards the Future" photography exhibit,** which was widely attended and extremely well received by the students.

A S A & Ρ A C F С



AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND and PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In Australia, UNHCR held a World Refuge Day event at **Parliament House** in Canberra and launched a **high school writing competition** on "Refugees: Telling their Stories". The Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs spoke on the theme, "A Place to Call Home". About 80 representatives from the government, NGOs and high schools attended.

Sydney Girls High School organised "Live like a Refugee for a Day", designed to help students learn about the hardships endured by refugees, which raised money for UNHCR's Afghan Shelter Programme.

The **Australian Chamber Orchestra** dedicated its performance at the Sydney Opera House on 20 June to "the resilience and courage of refugees around the world" by reading out a short statement.

Australia for UNHCR hosted a **breakfast** in Sydney for more than 350 guests launched by the Governor of New South Wales. The breakfast raised about AUD 25,000 after costs.

World Refugee Day **materials** were sent to over 400 organisations including schools, community organisations, NGOs, migrant resource centres, government offices and various advocacy groups. A group of volunteers in Brisbane coordinated a **website** of World Refugee Day events taking place around Australia, including information on UNHCR: <u>http://www.worldrefugeeday.org.au</u>

Community events around the country included:

- Schools staged various events on refugee issues, displayed posters, held discussion groups, art exhibitions and special assemblies, invited speakers, read stories and wrote articles for newsletters. Some schools also held fundraising events.
- A number of local government areas declared themselves "A Refugee Welcome Zone". The Field of Hearts installation was held at over 20 locations across Australia.
- **Rallies, art shows, film screenings, candlelight vigils, concerts** and other events took place. Various church groups hosted **Masses** across the country.
- The "Flotilla of Hope", a group of boats, set sail for Nauru from Sydney.
- Rural Australians for Refugees held **tree planting days**, symbolically providing safe havens for refugees to put down roots.
- Amnesty International's **"Daybreak in Detention"** protested in 50 locations around Australia against the Government's mandatory detention policy.

In New Zealand, UNHCR provided support to World Refugee Day celebrations which included a **multicultural concert** in Auckland and a function in the Grand Hall at Parliament Buildings in Wellington.

A large number of refugees attended and watched **dance** and **music** performed by the Afghan, Eritrean, Burundi, Somali and Ethiopian communities. Performers ranged from small children to adults. The Minister of Ethnic Affairs attended the concert, which was followed by a **meal** prepared by refugee groups. The concert was organised by the Refugee and Migrant Service, New Zealand's resettlement NGO, the New Zealand Immigration Service, the Ministry of Education and King's College.

Around 150 representatives of refugee communities and groups working with refugees participated in an **evening function** at Parliament jointly hosted by the Minister of Immigration and the Refugee and Migrant Service.

In Papua New Guinea, the World Refugee Day programme included placing the High Commissioner's World Refugee Day statement as an opinion piece in the major newspapers and broadcasting the **TV spot** on national TV.

BANGLADESH

On 27 May, the Bangladesh Human Rights Journalists' Forum and UNHCR held a **discussion meeting** on "Refugee Issues and the Role of the Media" as part of the World Refugee Day programme.

On 20 June, in collaboration with Rainbow Film Society, UNHCR conducted a **seminar** on "Bengal Partition and Refugee Issues" in Dhaka. A keynote paper was presented and a number of participants discussed it. The event was attended by intellectuals, academics, human rights activists, representatives from diplomatic and UN missions, the media and government officials. The discussion was followed by a **three-day film show** on refugee and migration issues. A total of seven feature films were screened. At the end of the day, a **reception** took place.

World Refugee Day was celebrated on 20 June in Nayapara camp with the participation of refugees, camp officials, local authorities, UN staff and NGOs working in the camp. The Head of the UNHCR office gave a **speech**. The aim of the day was explained as well as the meaning of having "a place to call home". A speech by a refugee representative followed. A **video show**, **essay** and **art competition** and **handicraft exhibition** were also organised. Prizes were distributed to the winners of the art competition and handicraft exhibition.

On 6 July, UNHCR's implementing partner, Bangladesh Bar Council, organised a **seminar** on "Accession to the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugee". A keynote paper was presented by a member of the Law Commission and a former judge in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. About 100 judges, lawyers, human rights activists, government officials, and journalists attended the programme.

CHINA

Sina.com, one of the most popular **websites** in China, provided prominent coverage of World Refugee Day. An 11-page World Refugee Day report was posted on the homepage of its news centre - which has 30 million hits daily - for five days.

Beijing Youth Daily, one of China's biggest national newspapers with a circulation of 600,000 copies, dedicated a whole page to World Refugee Day. The **report** included background information on UNHCR, the global refugee situation and several pictures depicting this year's World Refugee Day theme.

A **thirty-minute programme** by China Central Television International Service, "Dialogue", gave coverage to UNHCR. It included an interview with the former High Commissioner, Sadako Ogata. The programme was broadcast three times on 20 June and once on 21 June. The English news on the same channel also dedicated several minutes to World Refugee Day by reviewing the global refugee situation and showing a short **documentary** on the repatriation of Afghan refugees. The news was broadcast twice on prime time and was also cited by other news programmes.

Xinhua News Agency, the biggest news agency in China, released the High Commissioner's World Refugee Day statement, as well as refugee stories and photos.

INDIA

A **round table** on the theme "A Place to Call Home" was organized at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The three durable solutions for refugees and their applicability to those in India were discussed in detail. The sessions on Myanmar and Bhutan were chaired by a representative of the National Human Rights Commission. Speakers included eminent academics

and representatives from the refugee community. Sixty-five people attended the round table and among the audience were scholars, members of policy institutes, diplomats, media and an official from the Ministry of External Affairs.

From 19 to 21 June, UNHCR and its partner agencies organised cultural events including **concerts**, **dances** and **plays**, which were well attended by the refugee community. Around 60 people, mostly ethnic Afghan refugees attended the event at the Socio-Legal Implementing Centre (SLIC), which included a screening of a **documentary** on the Myanmarese refugee camps in Mizoram.

On 21 June, almost 300 refugees attended each of the events organized by YMCA New Delhi at Vikaspuri and Voluntary Health Association Delhi (VHAD) in South Delhi. VHAD organized a **medical camp** and an **eye camp** for refugees. Events were also organized in Faridabad and Laxmi Nagar.

Refugee associations, such as the All Burmese Refugee Community and the Khalsa Diwan Welfare Society (for Afghans of Indian origin), celebrated World Refugee Day. In both places, some 200 refugees participated.

INDONESIA

On 25 June, an outing, arranged by UNHCR in cooperation with its implementing partners Yayasan Pulih and Palang Merah Indonesia, took place at the recreational park/beach called "*Taman Impian Jaya Ancol*" in Jakarta. About 120 refugees originally from Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Afghanistan, Vietnam and other countries participated. Refugee men engaged in soccer and volleyball games, refugee women took part in flower arrangement and cooking competitions, while refugee children participated in drawing and running competitions. All refugees received a T-shirt displaying the World Refugee Day logo. The programme was followed by a musical performance with local traditional Arabic music called *Marawis*, which was played during the games and competitions.

In the same week, the local radio 68H **interviewed the UNHCR Regional Representative** in relation to World Refugee Day on the current situation of refugees in South-East Asia. The programme was aired on the "Asia calling" programme on 19 and 20 June.

World Refugee Day was also celebrated by **five universities in Yogyakarta** on 22 June. Some films about refugees were presented and materials, such as brochures and videos, were distributed to these universities.

JAPAN

From 18 June to 14 July, the World Refugee Day "**Refugee Photo**" **exhibition** took place in the hall of the UN University Building in Tokyo, featuring photos of refugees from Africa and Myanmar, as well as returnees in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka. A special event to mark the opening of the exhibition was held on 18 June. Some 140 people including students, media, NGO staff and invited government officials attended. The exhibition attracted over 2,000 people and media coverage was good.

Refugee **photo exhibitions** were held in two different campuses of Kwansei University in Kobe before and after World Refugee Day. UNHCR staff gave a **lecture** on refugees and UNHCR's work to over 500 students. Students also organised an event titled "Do you know anything about refugees?" at Nishinomiya Centre for University Students. Some 100 people, mainly students, enjoyed the **movie "Beyond Borders"** and a **presentation** on the Afghan situation.

UNHCR staff gave **speeches** in Tokyo Keizai University, which displayed **refugee photos** and **posters**. Several other refugee **photo exhibitions** and **lectures** were held in various part of the country.

MALAYSIA

Following a **press conference** by the UNHCR Representative on the occasion of World Refugee Day, a number of leading local newspapers published feature **articles** on refugee issues worldwide, as well as on the refugee situation in Malaysia (about 10 papers covered the event throughout the whole country). One **local TV breakfast programme** also invited UNHCR staff as guest speakers. UNHCR and local NGOs spent the day of 20 June in one of the refugee settlements in the jungle, celebrating **Mass** with one refugee group and having **lunch** together with all the other groups.

NEPAL

On 19 June, there was an **exhibition** of products made by Bhutanese refugees and a **screening of UNHCR documentaries** "Working with Refugees" and "Global View 2004" in the Nepal Red Cross Society Hall in the refugee camps in Damak, Jhapa district.

On 20 June, the **World Refugee Day statement** was read out by UNHCR staff in the seven Bhutanese refugee camps. **Cultural programmes**, **football** and **sport competitions** for disabled children, a **debate** among school students and a **drama** on this year's theme were organised in the Bhutanese refugee camps.

A **magic show** for children took place on 21 June in the Tibetan Reception Centre in Kathmandu, and a UNHCR **documentary** was screened. A Tibetan film, "Caravan", was also shown.

An **interview** with the UNHCR Representative was published in a local daily newspaper. Another interview by the UNHCR Representative about the role of UNHCR in finding solutions for Bhutanese refugees was telecast on a local TV channel. A special radio programme on World Refugee Day (30 minutes), jointly produced by Kanchenjunga FM (a local FM station) and UNHCR, was broadcast on 20 and 23 June by the same FM station.

SRI LANKA

In Kilinochchi, 50 people participated in a **28-mile cycling marathon** from Mallavi to Kilinochchi to remember the displacement to Mallavi and the return to Kilinochchi, as well as those who are still displaced. At the end of the race, local authorities, partners, and internally displaced persons (IDPs) attended an award ceremony at the Kilinochchi Sports Ground with a slide show of photos taken by refugees and IDPs.

In Kalimootai and Pulankulam, over 150 people participated in an **aid awareness day** featuring **street drama.**

In Jaffna, after a drama and sports festival, all of the participants pressed their hands on a banner in colorful paint, making a testament to their joint accomplishments.

THAILAND

A series of activities took place in all nine refugee camps on the Thai-Myanmar border from 18 to 22 June. The activities included **speeches** on the subject of voluntary repatriation; **debates** on leadership and the roles of various leaders in the camp environment; **drawing, poem and essay contests**; **exhibitions** and **film screenings**; **games** and **sport competitions**; **cultural** and **traditional performances**; **dissemination of information** on sexual and gender-based violence. The celebrations were well attended by camp residents, UNHCR and NGO representatives, local authorities and representatives from local communities in some camps.

A series of films on UNHCR and refugees was screened at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok from 14 to 25 June, where **World Refugee Day posters** were also displayed. Two **articles** on World Refugee Day, one in English and another in the local language, were published in daily newspapers.





ALBANIA

From 27 May to 22 June, UNHCR organised an **exhibition of paintings** titled "Colours of Albania in the World" at the Albanian Gallery of Arts. The exhibition brought home 23 Albanian artists living and working abroad. Some are refugees from the previous regime, others are migrants, but all have been living abroad for many years. The artwork reflects their nostalgia for their home country, and artists Ibrahim Kodra and Omer Kaleshi have been called symbols of Albanian culture. The exhibition focused on respect for migrants and refugees, as well as on the positive contributions they can make to host societies. About 600 persons attended the launching ceremony. Media coverage was excellent, including 30 articles and 18 TV and radio mentions during the month of the exhibition. About USD 20,000 were raised through local fundraising efforts to cover the expenses of the event. The exhibition was organised in partnership with the International Organization for Migration and the National Gallery of Arts, under the auspices of the Albanian Prime Minister.

ARMENIA

UNHCR participated in the **morning TV programme on Armenian national TV**. During the programme, a UNHCR official answered questions related to housing projects and the local integration of refugees. In addition, some Armenian TV stations broadcast the **World Refugee Day TV spot** for 15 days.

An **exhibition-sale** of refugees' art work was also organised to show that the most appropriate durable solution for ethnic Armenian refugees from Azerbaijan is local integration in Armenia. The exhibition was appreciated; some of the refugees were asked to make some crafts for souvenir shops.

A **concert** for both refugees and locals took place on a *pro bono* basis. The concert was performed by young musicians (ages 9-12) from Spivakov Foundation. Classical music, including arias from famous operas, was played. Government officials and representatives of international organisations also attended the concert. At the end, the children received **presents** prepared by UNHCR.

UNHCR, in cooperation with the Danish Refugee Council and CRINGO (the Caucasian Refugee and Internally Displaced Person NGO Network), organised events in Vanadzor and Kapan. The events included **tree planting** in front of buildings in both cities. The lane of trees was called "Lane of Peace". In addition, in Vanadzor, the yard in front of the buildings built by UNHCR was equipped with a pavilion, benches and horizontal bars for children. The events in both places were followed by **performances at cultural centres** with the attendance of the public at large, as well as government officials.

AUSTRIA

A **billboard campaign** to dispel myths about asylum seekers was organised. The campaign was also promoted on UNHCR's Austrian website: http://www.unhcr.at. The website registered a 250% increase in visits. The anti-racism NGO, ZARA, joined in the campaign; some commercial companies and websites decided to support the billboard campaign.

A press conference took place to launch the campaign. 60,000 free cards were distributed and media interviews were given. The World Refugee Day TV spot was broadcast on TV.

BALTIC and NORDIC COUNTRIES

In Finland, a **mock refugee camp** was set up on 20 June at the railway square in the centre of Helsinki. Activities included registration of visitors as refugees and distribution of food rations. A **quiz on refugee issues** was given out with tickets to the Helsinki Music Festival as first prize. An information desk was set up inside the camp, where refugees from Iran and Iraq refugees shared

their stories. A **Senegalese drum orchestra** and a **Kurdish lute player** played music. The camp was visited by some 500 people during the day. In addition, the event reached at least two million people through the main news broadcasts and newspapers.

40,000 "A Place to Call Home" **postcards** were distributed in public places – restaurants, cafés, bars, pubs, cinemas – in 25 Finnish cities.

In Latvia, a **drawing competition** for children, titled "Safe House – Safe Asylum", was held in the UN House. Thirty children participated. Every child got a small **present** and watched a **cartoon** on refugee issues produced by UNHCR. The event was covered by the radio and two newspapers, including one of the biggest daily newspapers in Latvia.

Two **articles** were published in a Latvian daily newspaper and on UNDP's website for World Refugee Day – one told the story of a former Latvian refugee and, the other, the experiences of a refugee residing in Latvia.

In Lithuania, a **meeting** for refugee community leaders, politicians, state officials, civil society actors and media was organised. The focus of the meeting was on the problems of integration faced by refugees residing in Lithuania. The participants were invited to taste **national dishes** prepared by the refugees.

In Norway, a **photo exhibition** took place in the Oslo Town Hall. The exhibition, titled "Lukten av savn", was organised by the Norwegian Refugee Council and showed about 70 photos by photographer Rune Eraker. **Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Mette Marit of Norway** opened the exhibition.

25,000 "A Place to Call Home" postcards were distributed in public places in Oslo.

In Sweden, a **seminar** was organized on the theme "the Challenges of Refugee Return: Afghanistan, Mozambique and Guatemala."

60,000 "A Place to Call Home" postcards were distributed in public places in 53 Swedish cities.

BELARUS

From 4 to 6 June, UNHCR took part in the festivities of the nationwide **festival of National Cultures**, which took place in Grodno. The festival, which has become a tradition, was covered in the press and in other media outlets. Georgian and Afghan refugee communities took part in the festival and presented their national cultures.

On the eve of World Refugee Day, the **winners of the best academic work on refugee and migration issues** were announced at a press conference and **awarded scholarships**. This project was jointly conducted by UNHCR, the Belarusian State University and the IPA for UN Studies, Information and Educational Programs.

From 20 to 25 June, a festival titled "**Days of Cinema about Refugees**" took place in one of the central cinema houses in Minsk. **Films** and **documentaries** devoted to forced migration and refugee issues were shown. Approximately 3,000 people participated in this event.

Key advertising elements leading up to the festival included the **street banner**, "Days of Cinema about Refugees", in the centre of town; an **advertising campaign** in the Minsk underground; **radio ads** on the FM station "Radio Rocks"; **TV announcements**; and various types of publicity, distributed amongst all of the cinemas in Minsk.

The launch of the event took place on 20 June through a **ceremony** with speakers from UNHCR and the Minsk City Executive Committee. The event was covered by both Minsk-based and national television.

A series of **roundtable discussions** such as "Refugees and Belarus: the socio-historical aspect" was held at the Faculty of International Relations of the Belarusian State University. The

discussions were accompanied by **screenings of documentary films**. Roundtable discussions on refugee issues were also held at the Faculty of Research Expertise at the Academy of the MIA and in the CCA "Evrika", in which European Humanitarian University students participated.

More than 1,000 children from all the regions of Belarus devoted their works to refugees as part of a competition titled "There is nothing better than your home." **Drawings, poems** and **short stories** came not only from the main Belarusian cities, but also from the small villages and towns. Some of the artwork was done by refugee children living in Belarus. The event culminated in a **gala concert** and an **award ceremony** for the winners. All participants who reached the final stage of the contest were given UNHCR diplomas and T-shirts featuring the World Refugee Day logo to remember the event.

On 21 June, UNHCR held a **press conference** on World Refugee Day. The UNHCR Representative, together with the Head of Division on Refugees from the Department on Citizenship and Migration of the MIA, gave an account of recent developments regarding refugee issues in Belarus.

BENELUX COUNTRIES

In Belgium, a Flemish NGO, OCIV, organised on 19 July a festive meeting with a **press conference** and a **concert** by Flemish rock artists with the support of UNHCR. On the same day, refugee musicians took part in the **multicultural music festival**, "C'est la fête au village" organised by the francophone NGO Convivial with UNHCR and other organisations. The NGO, Pax Christi, also organised an **inter-religious vigil** with songs, readings and prayers by groups of different faiths.

In Luxembourg, World Refugee Day celebrations took place in the yearly "Fête de la Musique" with a **series of concerts and performances**.

In the Netherlands, films were screened in a UNHCR refugee tent in front of the Dutch Parliament.

BULGARIA

UNHCR published a **book** titled "*Reference Book, Refugees in Bulgaria: Building of National System for Refugee Protection, 1993-2003*" jointly with the State Agency for Refugees with the Council of Ministers, in consultation with the Delegation of the European Commission in Bulgaria and NGO partners. Its objective was to review and document the past ten years of progress in building the national system for refugee protection since the ratification of the 1951 Geneva Convention and its 1967 Protocol in 1993 and to look together ahead toward further harmonization with international standards and the evolving EU asylum acquis in the "post-Amsterdam 2004-2006" phase of Bulgaria's EU accession. The book was **launched at the eighth UNHCR roundtable on Bulgaria's EU integration and EU asylum harmonization**, organised in cooperation with the Irish and Dutch EU Presidencies. The participants represented the main actors involved in refugee work in Bulgaria, including the Prime Minister's Cabinet.

A national **essay writing competition** on the theme "How can you make a refugee feel at home in Bulgaria" was organised. 240 schools took part and five winners were selected.

On 29 June, an **open-air concert** was held in Sofia. Famous Bulgarian actors and pop singers performed together with refugees and refugee children.

CROATIA

On 3 June, UNHCR, the Centre for Human Rights and the Croatian Law Centre co-organised a **roundtable** on "Asylum in Croatia after 1 July 2004" to initiate a **public debate** on the right to asylum, international legal standards in the protection of asylum seekers and refugees, and the Law on Asylum, which was scheduled to enter into force on 1 July.

From 10 to 20 June, Croatian Television (HRT) aired the UNHCR-produced **World Refugee Day TV spot** during prime time.

From 14 to 20 June, an Osijek-based NGO, "Centre for Peace", in collaboration with UNHCR, held an **exhibition** of World Refugee Day information materials in Osijek City Library.

On 19 June, UNHCR was a guest on a **TV programme**, a show for ethnic minorities on HRT. UNHCR introduced viewers to the meaning of World Refugee Day, the situation of refugees in the world and UNHCR activities in Croatia.

On 20 June, Croatian TV featured a **report** on the significance of the day, as well as on UNHCR activities in the country and globally, in the main daily news programme. The report included a brief **interview** with the UNHCR Representative.

CYPRUS

A UNHCR **newsletter** was distributed to refugees to inform them about their rights and to strengthen the dialogue with them.

A **press conference** was organised on the occasion of World Refugee Day in cooperation with a Group of Volunteers for the Support of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Cyprus and the Asylum Service of the Ministry of Interior.

A UNHCR note on World Refugee Day, with this year's special theme, was sent to schools by the Ministry of Education.

CZECH REPUBLIC

An **information campaign** was organised to promote World Refugee Day and refugee issues. **Posters** and **ads** were posted in public transport vehicles. A Czech version of the UNHCR **website** was created with information about World Refugee Day.

A concert of refugee music groups was held at the Rock Café in Prague. Musicians played traditional music from their country of origin and refugee women prepared samples of their national cuisine. The concert was attended by over 200 people.

A **ceremony for best refugee students** was organised in cooperation with NGOs, schools and refugee camps. The event was organised under the auspices of the Minister of Education at its ceremonial premises and was well reflected in the Czech media. Nineteen refugee students were awarded and 90 people participated in the event.

The Czech version of the **World Refugee Day TV spot** was broadcast on both national TV channels.

In cooperation with the Central Bohemia Pedagogic centre, a **roundtable** focusing on the education of refugee children was organized, discussing in detail the current methodology in the area of refugee children education.

Two major **travel agencies** in Prague included a **World Refugee Day card "Most people travel for fun. Refugees travel from fear"** in every plane ticket issued. A total of 7,000 of these cards were distributed by both companies between 10 and 30 June.

The **Czech National Theatre** (which has a capacity of 2,000 seats) promoted World Refugee Day by attaching **World Refugee Day leaflets and cards** to each ticket sold during the second half of June.

FRANCE

An **awareness campaign targeting schools** was launched in May. A set of posters, as well as educational kits, were sent to schools. UNHCR also widely disseminated information on World Refugee Day to local community associations through the 22 Conseils Régionaux (local authorities).

On 4 June, UNHCR participated in the "United Nations' Days" organized by the political Study Institute, the so-called Sciences-Po. On this occasion, UNHCR also set up Sebastiao Salgado's **photo exhibition** on refugee children to sensitize the academic community to the plight of refugees.

On 18 June, the UNHCR Representative participated in a **seminar** in Lyon on the theme "Asylum at a crossroads" organized by the Lyon-based NGO Forum Réfugiés. On the same day, UNHCR staff gave three interviews to Radio Catholique de France, Radio France Internationale (RFI) and the Christian newspaper *La Croix*.

On 19 June, Forum Réfugiés, released its **poll on refugees and asylum** in France through the newspaper *Liberation*. The survey focused on the perception of asylum-related issues by the French public. The results showed that 80 % of the population supports asylum in France.

On 20 June, World Refugee Day was widely covered in the main state-owned media including both TV channels (France 2, France 3 and Arte) and radio network (France Info). Private sector media, such as TV channel TF1, covered the day as well. France 2 broadcast a special programme on the war-torn region of Darfur, Sudan, and the outflow of refugees into neighbouring Chad; France 3 focused on living conditions in Farchana camp, Chad; TV5 interviewed UNHCR staff during the 18:00 TV news; and interviews were also given to Voice of America and Algerian National Radio. Arte broadcast a programme with an interview of UNHCR staff in Kenya on the possible repatriation of southern Sudanese refugees.

In Lyon, Forum Réfugiés organized a **peaceful walk** in support of the protection of refugees and asylum seekers. Each participant kept open a **white umbrella** labelled "Let us protect refugees". The umbrella was also meant to symbolize a shelter for those in need of international protection. Some 1,000 persons (some of whom were refugees and asylum seekers) took part. The walk finished with a big **lunch.**

A special **announcement on World Refugee Day** was posted on a lighted billboard (offered by the City Hall of Paris) on the Champs Elysées Avenue to inform persons walking by of this special day. A special feature on World Refugee Day was posted on <u>http://www.msn.fr/actionssolidaires</u>

UNHCR's French National Association, *Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR*, published a special edition of its **newsletter**, *Action réfugiés*, dedicated to the World Refugee Day theme, "A Place to Call Home: Rebuilding Lives in Safety and Dignity". A special **feature** about World Refugee Day was posted on the Association's website <u>http://www.unhcrfrance.org</u>.

The National Association adapted two of the posters provided by Public Affairs ("Coming back" and "New Land, New Life") for a special **subway campaign**. 800 of these posters were displayed between 16 June and 16 September through the whole Parisian subway network, reaching some two million people over that period.

The National Association and Schneider Electric organised a **conference-debate** on the relationship between UNHCR and the business community on 22 June to coincide with World Refugee Day and Sustainable Development Week in France. Schneider Electric, Veolia Environment and France Telecom took part in the debate, which was led by well-known French journalist, Guillaume Durand. At the end, Schneider Electric made a **donation** of EURO 120,000 to UNHCR to fund a water project in Ethiopia and a refugee education programme in Cameroon, demonstrating that the corporate world has an important role to play in sustainable growth and

human development. UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Julien Clerc received the cheque on behalf of UNHCR

GEORGIA

For World Refugee Day, a **concert performance** of refugees and locals was organized to portray in a positive light the everyday experience of Chechen refugees in the Pankisi Valley.

A **dramatic circus** and **sports competitions** were also set up for the refugee children. Finally, a call for artwork resulted in an **exhibition of a selection of art** followed by **statements** from UNHCR and the Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation.

GERMANY

The 4th Berlin **symposium on refugee protection** "EU Enlargement and Common Protection Framework" was held in collaboration with the Berlin Protestant Academy and various NGOs in Berlin on 21 and 22 June. More than 400 experts from Germany and abroad took part. A statement was given by the then President of the Federal Republic Mr. Johannes Rau. The UNHCR Director of the Bureau for Europe delivered the keynote address. The German Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid at the Federal Foreign Office and the Deputy Director of the UN Human Rights Committee addressed the audience on "Protection of Refugees and Human Rights - European Perspectives". The event was widely covered in the print media and on TV (Phoenix).

As in previous years, **World Refugee Day materials** were sent out to 150 main editors of the most important German media. The **High Commissioner's World Refugee Day statement** was translated into German and distributed to all German media, NGOs, government institutions, etc. (3,300).

GREECE

In Anogeia, Crete Island, a **concert** and a **handicraft exhibition**, with creations by young asylum seekers, were organised at the Reception Centre for Unaccompanied Minors. Local and central authorities attended the events and gained insight on the work of the Centre and the plight of refugee children in Greece. Some 500 persons attended the concert, while 70 people were the honoured guests of the exhibition, which was followed by a **reception**. A **poster** and **invitation cards** were specially produced and distributed around Crete before the events. Four extensive articles appeared in Crete's four local newspapers and the events were announced in the national press. A **radio message** and a **TV spot** were aired for two weeks on local channels.

A UNHCR official spoke at a **press conference**, organised by the Greek Council for Refugees, with the support of a **radio-marathon** for refugees in Greece. UNHCR staff also participated in a **press conference** co-organised by Amnesty International and Médecins Sans Frontières Greece on the humanitarian situation in Sudan.

UNHCR also actively participated in a **roundtable**, organised by the Greek Council for Refugees and the Athens Bar Association. The discussions, targeting lawyers, focused on the process of the harmonisation of asylum policies in Europe and its impact on Greek legislation and practice.

With the support of the **national transport system**, posters were placed in **buses** and **trolleys**. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** was played on Greek channels in the days leading up to 20 June.

HUNGARY

World Refugee Day took place in Millennary Park, a cultural centre in the heart of Budapest. UNHCR and a local association set up an **information stand** on refugee issues while refugees prepared **culinary specialities**.

The programme at Millenary Park included free children's programmes, such as **puppet theatre**, **pantomime**, **inter-active fairy tale theatre** and **handicraft workshops**, which were attended by some 120 refugee children. There were also **exhibitions of artworks** by a Palestinian refugee living in Budapest, and of refugee **children's photo portraits** by a local association. There were **concerts** by the Malagasy Taxibrousse and Djoliba music groups which included refugee and Hungarian musicians.

On 16 June, a **press conference** was held to raise awareness of World Refugee Day at the Office for Immigration and Nationality's Headquarters in Budapest, attended by 12 major media. On 20 June, UNHCR's **World Refugee Day TV spot** was broadcast by three TV channels.

On 30 June, a ceremony was held to open a **children's drawing competition** in Budapest, organised by the Office for Immigration and Nationality.

IRELAND

UNHCR held a **press conference** to mark World Refugee Day, in conjunction with the Irish Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform's Reception and Integration Agency. Refugees from Iran, Vietnam, Kosovo and Zimbabwe participated in the press conference relating their personal journeys and experiences of finding a new "home" in Ireland. World Refugee Day coincided with the 25th anniversary of the resettlement of Vietnamese refugees to Ireland in 1979. This anniversay was also marked on the occasion of the press conference. In addition to local coverage, UNHCR wrote a **web story** for UNHCR's site covering the event.

UNHCR wrote **an opinion piece** for one of the main national newspapers, *The Irish Times*, which covered issues such as the need for an integration programme in Ireland and expressed the hope that Ireland would increase its resettlement quota.

UNHCR also provided public awareness materials for over 20 events in Ireland and printed 1,000 **special World Refugee Day balloons** for distribution at events involving young children.

In the run up to the day, UNHCR produced small **World Refugee Day stickers** for outgoing mail, which were also used by several local NGOs. The aim was to inform a larger audience of the existence of a World Refugee Day.

ITALY

On 18 June, UNHCR held a World Refugee Day **conference on durable solutions** at Rome's Palazzo Rospigliosi with the participation of Italian government authorities, politicians, NGOs, academics and the media. The conference was attended by 120 people.

From 21 to 26 June, the Municipality of Rome and UNHCR organised a **Refugee Week**, which took place in the Museo Centrale Montemartini, a former power station converted into a museum. Refugee Week included several events which were carried out with the cooperation of different NGOs and associations. Activities included a **photo exhibition** ("The Return") on the repatriation of Burundian refugees from Tanzania and a **theatre performance by refugees**. There were also a **concert** and **conferences on asylum law and refugee experiences**. An estimated 1,000 persons attended the events.

UNHCR produced **World Refugee Day materials** which were distributed at these events and to some 20 municipalities and NGOs which organised initiatives all over Italy. The materials included a special Information Kit composed of five thematic fact sheets on durable solutions (4,000 copies); the Italian version of the World Refugee Day leaflet (10,000 copies); the invitation card for the 18 June conference (3,000 copies); the invitation card (6,000 copies) and the poster for Refugee Week (1,000), and a four-page catalogue for the photo exhibition "The return" (4,000 copies). Ten Beta cassettes on the Afghan repatriation and ten CD-ROMs with photos were also distributed to the media on the occasion of the 18 June conference.

On 21 June, the second edition of the **Contemporary Art for Refugees Charity Auction** was held at the prestigious Museo of San Salvatore in Lauro in Rome. Artists, art galleries, foundations and private collectors donated 46 works of art, including two original fashion drawings by **UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Giorgio Armani**. The auction was organised in cooperation with Christie's and il Cigno G.G. Edizioni. Some 220 people attended the gala dinner during which all the works of art were auctioned off for a total of EURO 126,000. Guests donated an additional EURO 3,370 during the dinner, bringing the total raised on this occasion to about EURO 129,400. The cost of the event was completely covered by sponsors. The income went to fund a project for sustainable water sources for Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia. As part of the agreement with Il Cigno G.G. Edizioni, a 125-page catalogue was produced in 2,000 copies and distributed before the event.

The conference, Refugee Week and the other initiatives got remarkable coverage on national media, including major TV and radio news, wires, daily newspapers (more than 20 articles) and two focus reports in the most widespread weekly magazines. To advertise the conference, UNHCR bought two **ad spaces** on major daily newspapers, while some additional 16 ad spaces were bought by Rome Municipality for Refugee Week. The Italian version of the **World Refugee Day TV spot** was broadcast several times a day for three days by three major national TV channels and by a satellite channel.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

UNHCR organised a **drawing competition for school children** with the World Refugee Day theme, "A place to call home: Rebuilding lives in safety and dignity". The competition was announced through local newspapers and through the Ministry of Education, so that all the schools in the country could participate. UNHCR collected about 40 works and the best entries were mentioned with prizes. The drawings were displayed at the Charity Centre for Refugees and at the UNHCR office. The selected ones can be viewed at <u>http://www.unhcr.md</u>

UNHCR, in cooperation with the Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR) and the Main Directorate for Refugees (MDR), organised a **sports competition** for refugee children and adults at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers (RCAS).

The CCR hosted a **cultural party** dedicated to World Refugee Day, including **national dances and cuisine**. **Handicraft works made by refugee children** during ceramics lessons organised by the CCR were exhibited. The event was attended by government officials, members of Parliament, implementing partners and media representatives.

On 25 June, an **open-air concert** was organised by MDR with the participation of local artists in the square of the Central Market (UNIC) in Chisinau.

Local media received information packages, World Refugee Day stickers and small calendars with the World Refugee Day logo. These were distributed to a large number of minibuses circulating in the city. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** was broadcast on national TV and PRO TV. From 14 to 27 June, the Patria cinema screened **refugee films** and hosted a **poster exhibition** on World Refugee Day.

World Refugee Day **publicity billboards** were placed in the most crowded parts of the city – close to the Presidency and Parliament buildings, opposite the Mayor's office and on the bridge connecting two regions of the city.

POLAND

One week before World Refugee Day, UNHCR organised a **one-day workshop for the media**. Seven journalists participated. The agenda included a visit to the Office for Repatriation and Aliens, the premises of the Border Guards, where asylum applications are filed, and a trip to the Refugee Reception Centre. The event gave the media a better understanding of refugee protection in Poland. It was also an opportunity for them to meet the UNHCR Representative and lawyers from the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights who assist asylum seekers and refugees in the country.

World music concerts and **fairs** presenting refugee and NGO activities (Warsaw, Krakow) gathered huge interest not only among Poles but also the refugee community. The events were covered by four TV stations, numerous radio and press journalists.

Two **exhibitions of refugee ''success stories''** were on display. One, based on the "Gallery of Prominent Refugees", was in Warsaw. It showed pictures and biographies of famous refugees. The second exhibition – with short written notes about refugees and photographic stories about them – presented refugees who successfully contribute to Polish society and feel at home there. The idea was to show to refugees as well as to Poles that integration in Poland is possible. The exhibition was displayed in Krakow's main square for two weeks following World Refugee Day.

In an effort to present refugees in a positive manner to a wider audience, a **fashion show** took place at the World Refugee Day fair in Warsaw.

Music concerts took place in clubs (Torun and Krakow), gathering mainly young audiences. Several clubs also hosted **film screenings** (Torun, Bialystok and Poznan).

The **"Tree of World Wisdom"** – a selection of proverbs from around the world, written in the original language, as well as in Polish translation, and hung on the branches of a big tree in the middle of the fair in Warsaw – displayed Balkan, African, Asian, Belarusian, Armenian, Persian, Arabic and numerous other proverbs. They showed how much all peoples have in common.

As part of an awareness campaign, a series of **posters and stickers** were printed which showed foreign words in the Polish language. Some of the words are so rooted in the Polish language that no one remembers their origin. The series was accompanied by a "summarising poster" which read, "**They bring more than words**", referring to refugees arriving from those countries. The campaign was present in all the cities where World Refugee Day events were taking place.

A **collection of fairy tales** from various countries was gathered and displayed at the World Refugee Day fair in Warsaw. Stories were also distributed to refugee and Polish children.

Two **displays of refugee children's drawings** were organised in Poznan and Warsaw. Both exhibitions were a result of the long-term work of NGOs with refugee children.

Media coverage was good. Over 140 stories were published by the print media; at least 10 radio stations and 12 TV stations aired programmes about refugees. The **World Refugee Day TV spot** was aired by local and commercial stations.

Less than two weeks following World Refugee Day, UNHCR commissioned a **public opinion poll** about Poles' attitudes towards refugees. The results showed that 37% of Poles (over 15 million people) have heard about World Refugee Day and a slightly smaller number has heard of UNHCR and of its presence in Poland. Two out of three Poles understand who refugees are. The great majority of Poles (over 70%) believe that receiving and protecting refugees is Poland's duty,

as for centuries Poles sought asylum in other countries. The full text of the opinion poll can be found on <u>http://www.unhcr.pl</u>

ROMANIA

A **seminar** for journalists on the theme "Asylum issues reflected in the Romanian mass media" was held on 5 and 6 June. About 20 journalists participated.

On 18 June, 23 Romanian and refugee teenagers, as well as current and former members of the Refugee Adolescents Club, drove through Bucharest in a **minibus** adorned with posters, leaflets, postcards, balloons and flags. They stopped in several key locations to distribute **materials**.

Also on 18 June, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the Romanian National Council for Refugees organised a **trip** to Sinaia for 60 refugees and asylum seekers living in the accommodation centres and in the JRS shelters.

UNHCR hosted a **ceremony** on 18 June to award eight Romanian children who won a **drawing contest** launched by Save the Children in schools in Bucharest. The theme of the contest was "Who are the refugee children?"

On 20 June, UNHCR, partner NGOs and the National Refugee Office organised an **open air concert** for the public, which was advertised on radio and TV stations and in local magazines. The concert was opened with a **dance show** by refugee youths. Refugee girls performed a **fashion parade with traditional clothes** made by women from Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran. This was followed by music by a refugee band and a famous Romanian band, "Taxi". **Traditional food** from the refugees' countries of origin was served during the event. The concert was attended by 500 persons, including Romanians, refugees, diplomats and the media.

An **exhibition of handicrafts** made by refugee women at the Refugee Women Organization for Romania's handicraft workshop, as well as an **exhibition of photos of refugees**, were open during the event.

Through a **partnership** with "La fete de la musique", all concerts taking place on 20 June at this multicultural event (18 to 22 June) were dedicated to World Refugee Day.

At UNHCR's initiative and with the co-operation of Save the Children, refugee children were invited to a **TV show for children** broadcast by national TV in the morning of 20 June.

UNHCR staff was interviewed by BBC Radio, B1TV, Radio Bucharest and attended a **live show** at Radio Romania Tineret.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

30,000 **postcards** devoted to World Refugee Day were produced in Russian, with a special design, and distributed at 800 public spots in Moscow during the week of 11 to 20 June.

The celebration of World Refugee Day was held at the Moscow City Palace for Youth's Creativity in cooperation with UNHCR's implementing partner, Equilibre-Solidarity. The event was held outdoors and was open to the public. It included an opening **speech** by the UNHCR Deputy Representative, a **brass band performance**, entertainment for children, a **concert** with the participation of local musicians, refugees and asylum seekers and a **fair** organised by refugees. A **photo exhibition** was on display during the celebration. The local media covered this event. Each guest of the World Refugee Day event received a **T-shirt** with the World Refugee Day logo and a pack with water and snacks. **Balloons** with the World Refugee Day logo were also distributed among children. The event was covered by local TV and press.

On 20 June, in Vladikavkaz, UNHCR organised the "Living Together" **exhibition of children's drawings** on asphalt, bringing together 200 participants.

On 21 June, UNHCR staff visited and gave presents to 30 single elderly refugees and on 22 June also organised visits to the cinema and the zoo for some 70 refugee children.

A radio programme, "New place of residence", which was broadcast by "Radio of Russia", was devoted to World Refugee Day. The World Refugee Day TV spot was aired by local TV channels throughout the week.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

On 16 June, World Refugee Day activities were launched at the UNHCR **press conference** held at the Media Centre in Belgrade.

On 18 June, an **exhibition** on the theme "Searching for durable solutions" took place at the Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade and was organised by UNHCR, national and international partners.

On 20 June, a special **TV programme** on World Refugee Day was aired on national public TV, while a **public round table discussion on durable solutions** was organised at the Ethnographic Museum on 22 June.

In Novi Sad, the regional centre in the north of the country, a UNHCR/NGO exhibition and round table event were organised, as well as the broadcast of the World Refugee Day TV spot at the principal local TV station.

On 20 June, a **distribution of World Refugee Day posters, leaflets** and **postcards** was held in Kraljevo with the participation of local NGOs and authorities. UNHCR, together with the Red Cross, organised activities for the day. The concept of the event was local integration as a durable solution. The World Refugee Day programme included **educational** and **cultural performances** presented by refugee children.

On 20 June, UNHCR and its partners organised in Gornji Milanovac a public gathering at the local community centre including an **exhibition of refugee handicrafts**, a **distribution of clothes for refugee children** and a distribution of World Refugee Day **posters**, **leaflets and postcards**.

From 18 till 20 June, World Refugee Day took place on the Kralja Milana Square in Nis. An **exhibition of handicrafts, photos** from a photography workshop and **UNHCR posters and printed materials** took place. Special World Refugee Day programmes were broadcast on TV and radio.

In Smederevo, UNHCR, in cooperation with the local media, organised a **whole-day outdoor** event in the centre of the city including an NGO fair, refugee handicrafts, performances and music concerts.

The premiere of the **play** "The Jungle Book" took place on 20 June, in the Smederevo Theatre Hall.

In Podgorica, an **exhibition** organised by UNHCR and partners was opened at the Cultural Information Centre on achieving durable solutions for refugees in Montenegro.

In coordination with local NGO partners, **outdoor street events** and **presentations of World Refugee Day materials** took place in Podgorica, Berane and Bar.

In Kosovo, events took place in a number of regions, highlighting inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance. On 17 June, in Gjilan/Gnjilane, UNHCR along with its implementing partner Malteser, organised a full day of **recreational activities** in the Ferizaj/Urosevac Sport Centre for 38 women and 140 children (refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). After lunch, a **theatre play** by "Global Motion" brought a message of peace and tolerance to all participants.

On 20 June, UNHCR participated in a KFOR sporting event - "**Running Together**" fun-run - in co-ordination with the Ministry of Culture and Youth with the aim of strengthening the peace process in Kosovo. Forty photographs taken by refugee children were selected for a **photo** exhibition and displayed at the Pristina stadium during the fun-run.

A special ceremony was held at the Prizren Culture House on 22 June, where the UNHCR Head of Field Office presented a cheque of EURO 1,000 to the Chief of the Library to purchase **children's books** promoting peace and tolerance in several local languages. The books will be part of a **mobile library**, which visits over 21 villages in the Prizren municipality and provides a large number of children with access to literature.

In Pec, a **book of poems and short stories** about refugees and return, written by children of the region, was released during a ceremony on 22 June. The book "**Children to Children**," sponsored by the International Catholic Migration Commission, was published in five languages: Albanian, Serbian, English, Bosnian and Roma. Children of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds celebrated together – they read their **poems** and sang **folkloric songs**, while members of "Haxhi Zeka", "Jehona e Dukagjinit" and "Global Motion" performed **dances**.

A message by the Prime Minister, published in local and Serbian media, conveyed strong support for the refugees. He made an appeal for the refugees to return to Kosovo. The World **Refugee Day TV spot** was broadcast on eight stations throughout Kosovo in Albanian, Serbian and English.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

From 21 May to 4 June, a **photo exhibition**, titled "Without Home," was held at the Parliament of the Slovak Republic. The photos are by Andrej Ban, a famous Slovak photographer, and they show refugee camps around the world.

"The Challenges of asylum policy after the entry into the EU" was the topic of a **roundtable** held on 18 June on the premises of the Slovak Parliament, attended by the media, members of Parliament, politicians and representatives of NGOs.

An **open air concert** by famous Slovak groups and singers who promote tolerance towards refugees took place on 20 June in Bratislava.

World Refugee Day **publicity billboards** were placed in the most crowded parts of Bratislava and **ads** on World Refugee Day events were published in the Slovak dailies. From 8 to 20 June, TA3 Television aired the Slovak version of the UNHCR-produced **World Refugee Day TV spot**.

SLOVENIA

On 18 June, a **concert** of popular music including Bosnian refugees' folk music, African refugees reggae music and a Slovene group performing Blues, took place in the Ljubljana city centre. The honorary speaker of the event was the Mayor of Ljubljana city. **Speeches** were given by both the Mayor and the UNHCR Representative. At the concert site and around the city centre, UNHCR distributed **balloons** and different **ethnic food** made by refugees and asylum seekers.

A UNHCR **press package** with the World Refugee Day statement of the High Commissioner, a press release and the 2003 Global Refugee Trends Report was distributed to the media, diplomatic missions and UNHCR partners. In addition, several media interviewed UNHCR staff.

The events were advertised in Slovene newspapers, with **posters** and the hand-distribution of **leaflets** all around the city.

SPAIN

The **central World Refugee Day event**, as well as the **Nansen Refugee Award ceremony**, were held on 20 June in Barcelona, Spain, as part of the **Universal Forum of Cultures** <u>http://www.barcelona2004.org/eng/eventos/espectaculos/ficha.cfm?IdEvento=3241</u>

During the day, UNHCR participated in a **dialogue session** about "Conflicts: Prevention, Resolution and Reconciliation", organized by the Spanish National Association, España con ACNUR. This session concluded an important policy conference series that had been taking place for four years. Participants included some 500 senior diplomats, top level government officials, business leaders and humanitarian lawyers from all over the world. **UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers** gave a speech and **UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie** said a few words at the closure of the session.

On the Forum plaza, Ms. Jolie, the Mayor of Barcelona Joan Clos and children of various nationalities hung lucky charms and wishes for refugees in the "Sky of Aspirations", a huge artificial sky.

2,000 **white and blue UNHCR kytes** were launched over the Forum to symbolise "a common sky for all."

A **photo exhibit** about internally displaced women in Colombia by photographer Colita, titled *"Mujer Atlas:* Conflict in Colombia", was held in the Cuidadela Park in Barcelona. A **concert** by Nayla, a Lebanese singer, took place in the Haima of the Forum's Fair.

In the evening of 20 June, the 50th anniversary of the Nansen Refugee Award ceremony was held in the *Palau de la Música Catalana* in Barcelona. Guests included dignitaries such as Her Royal Highness The Infanta Cristina of Spain, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie, the President of the Generalitat de Cataluña Pasqual Maragall, Barcelona's Mayor Joan Clos, and Spain's Secretary of State for International Cooperation Leire Pajín. Spanish actor Imanol Arias was the master of ceremony. The High Commissioner started the ceremony by paying tribute to last year's Nansen Refugee Award winner, Dr. Annalena Tonelli, who was murdered in her hospital in Borama, north-western Somalia, in October 2003. Her Royal Highness The Infanta Cristina presented this year's Award to the representative of the Russian "Memorial Human Rights Centre", Svetlana Gannushkina.

The event was attended by 1,700 people, including members of the royal family, the diplomatic community, government officials and business leaders, and was widely covered by the international and national media. The **Chamber orchestra Reina Sofia** closed the ceremony with an interpretation of Mozart and Tchaikovsky.

SWITZERLAND

The World Refugee Day theme for Switzerland this year was "Together for the Future" to focus on the integration of refugees. As in the past two years, World Refugee Day was coordinated by the Swiss Refugee Council with the support of UNHCR. The official launch took place on 18 June in Bern with a **speech by Swiss President, Joseph Deiss**. In 30 major Swiss cities, hundreds of events with **dancers, musicians, movies involving refugees** to show the value of integration were organised. Dozens of public buildings were lighted in **UN blue**.

In Geneva, **UNHCR flags** were flown from the main bridge in the city centre, the Mont Blanc bridge, and the famous **Jet d'eau in Lake Geneva** was coloured UN blue.

In addition, for the first time, a **nation-wide billboard campaign** was launched. The posters associated key Swiss historical moments and figures with images of refugees. They were located in prime locations in major cities like Zurich, Bern and Geneva.

In the weeks leading up to World Refugee Day, a giant World Refugee Day **banner** was placed on the front of the UNHCR Headquarters building. The day was marked by the staff on 18 June with a **photo exhibition on Chad**, **speeches** by the Deputy High Commissioner and Chairperson of the Staff Council, the screening of the **World Refugee Day TV spot** and a **documentary on the Nansen Refugee Award winner**, followed by a **reception**. These activities were organised by the Public Affairs Unit and the Swiss Liaison Office, in cooperation with the Staff Council.

On 20 June, the youth and children of the Church of Scotland in Geneva based their entire **family Service** on this year's World Refugee Day theme "A Place to call Home" from a child's perspective. Leading up to the Service, the UNHCR **animated film "Carly"** and other UNHCR materials were used to generate **discussions with the youth and children**. A **retiring collection** at the end of the Service was taken and sent to UNHCR.

World Refugee Day materials were distributed to other UN agencies in Geneva and to the public.

TURKEY

Refugee films days consisting of 18 documentaries by Turkish and foreign directors on forced population movements and refugee stories were held in Ankara and Istanbul between 17 and 22 June, in partnership with Documentary Film Makers Union, Istanbul Bilgi University Arts Center and Ankara Cankaya municipality.

UNHCR organized **two receptions**, one in Istanbul on 17 June and another in Ankara on 21 June. A **photo exhibition** of a well known photographer Bikem Ekberzade, who has worked in refugee situations in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Africa, was held at a main subway station in downtown Ankara and at the Fine Arts Centre of Ankara. A replica of the same exhibition was also held in Ankara's most fashionable street. The exhibition was accompanied by a **street concert** by the Mavy and Light Orchestra. The official **launch** of the photo exhibition was held at the Ankara Metropolitan Municipality Press Centre. On 18 June, a **press conference** was given by the UNHCR Representative on World Refugee Day events.

On 19 June, a **workshop** on "EU Asylum policies and Turkey" was held by Amnesty International, with the participation of key potential drafters of the new asylum law, leading academics in this field, NGOs and UNHCR. The Middle East Technical University Women Studies Center held a **panel discussion** on refugee women at the Contemporary Arts Centre, Ankara, on 21 June. On the same day a UNHCR-sponsored magazine, *Umuda Dogru*, **Turkey's only magazine on asylum**, was launched by the Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers and Refugees.

On 24 June, the chairperson of the refugee sub-committee of the Turkish Parliament delivered a **speech** at a plenary session on the occasion of World Refugee Day. The State Minister also gave a speech.

In co-operation with Ankara's metropolitan municipality, the main street of Ankara which links the airport to the city centre was decorated with **banners**.

A **fundraising campaign** for medical services for refugees was jointly launched by HASVAK (NGO), NTV TV and Ericsson Turkey on 16 June through mobile technology.

UNHCR's World Refugee Day TV spot was broadcast on CNN Turk- TV 8, Sky Turk, TRT and NTV.

UKRAINE

Many activities were undertaken in Odesa, Kharkiv and Lviv. These activities included **cultural performances** and a **sports competition** with the participation of local artists and refugees.

In Kyiv, on the weekend of 19-20 June, there was a **handicraft exhibition**, a **charity fair**, a **photo exhibition** titled "Beyond Borders" and a **street theatre performance**.

UNITED KINGDOM

UNHCR worked with NGO partners to stage a week-long (14-20 June) national celebration of the positive contributions made by refugees to British society. Over 200 events were held across the country as part of **Refugee Week**, including **football tournaments**, **arts workshops** in schools, **photo exhibitions**, **fashion shows** hosted by refugee communities, **panel discussions** and **debates**. Various London venues hosted a series of **film events**, including the showing of Michael Winterbottom's new film on Identity Theft, which was followed by a panel discussion.

UNHCR participated in "Celebrating Sanctuary", a day-long cultural festival of music, dance and visual arts in central London, held on 13 June to launch Refugee Week. The UNHCR Representative spoke at the launch event, along with the Chair of the Commission for Racial Equality and the Chair of the Refugee Council. UNHCR ran a stall in the partner organisations' marquee. Members of the public were invited to construct a greeting card showing what the concept of home meant to them and for the refugees coming to the United Kingdom.

The "Caught in Conflict" exhibition was held from 14 to 20 June at the Horniman Museum, London. It showcased photos of refugee women from refugee emergencies around the world by award-winning photographer Jenny Matthews. Some 150 people attended the event, while 5,000 people visited the Museum whilst the exhibition was up. The "Crimson Harvest" exhibition by Bosnian refugee artist Pero Mandić was held during the same period at St. James Church, Piccadilly. The paintings showed the story of ethnic conflict in Bosnia and drew attention to the consequences for individuals and families that are forced to flee their homes.

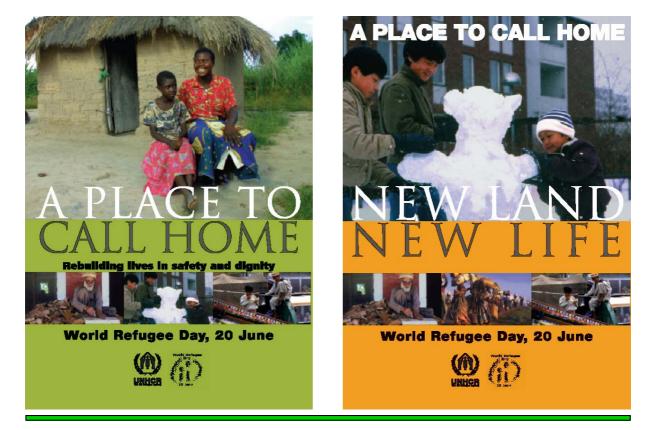
A series of events took place in Bradford, Northern England, including **films** at the Photography Museum, **poetry evenings** at the Alhambra, and a **display of artwork by refugee children** living in camps at the Central Library. The event was launched by the Mayor of Bradford on 15 June.

UNHCR also ran a stall at **Glastonbury Festival**, held from 25 to 27 June, which is Europe's largest open air festival (approximate attendance this year was 150,000). The staff running the stall spoke to about 1,000 people over the course of the festival. Visitors were invited to take part in the **"camp challenge"** which was a quiz comparing camping at Glastonbury to living in refugee camps. **Branded beach balls** and **postcards** were handed out. The activities generated 21 media mentions. Contact was made with over 50 journalists.

The **"One Day We Had to Run" exhibition,** as well as a display of **drawings by Burmese refugee children** living in camps in Thailand, took place at Haringey Professional Development Centre, London from 10 to 29 June. The exhibition was opened by the Director of Education of the Local Education Authority and received some positive local media coverage. Approximately 400 local school children toured the exhibition and did follow-up activities.

Public Awareness Materials

THEMATIC MATERIALS PRODUCED BY PUBLIC AFFAIRS

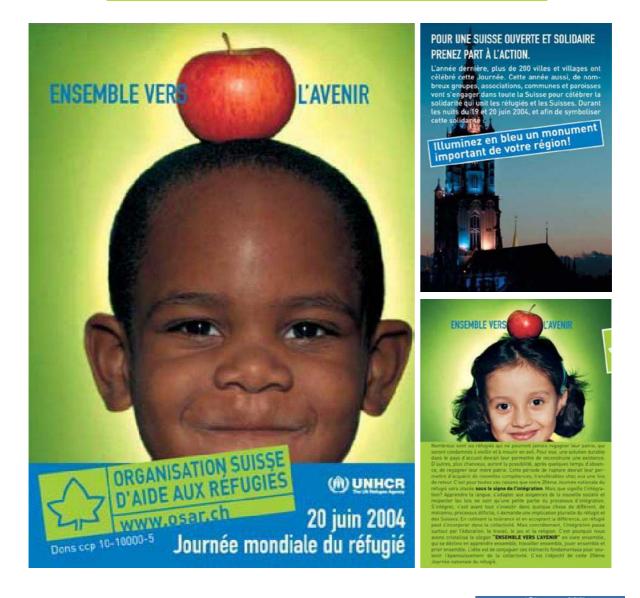


Posters and postcards displaying the theme of World Refugee Day 2004



SAMPLES OF WORLD REFUGEE DAY POSTER CAMPAIGNS

UNHCR/SWITZERLAND



UNHCR/ARGENTINA







60

Día Mundial del Refugiado

rabajemos junto a los refugiados por un futuro mejor otrans spender de las experiencias de los refugiados. Cococeanos es residies, acempienonos a ellos. Trabajando juntos, todos nos veremos entiquecidos.



Annex III

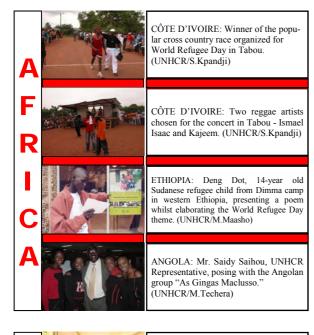






Photo credits and captions are mentioned on this page







SPAIN: Children of various nationalities, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie and Mayor of Barcelona and President of Forum Barcelona 2004, Joan Clos, hung lucky charms for refugees on the "Sky of Aspirations" at Forum Barcelona 2004. (Forum Barcelona 2004/E. Guillamet)

Annex V

List of 2004 World Refugee Day Focal Points

		Report
Country	Focal point	2004*
1 Albania	Mariola Xhunga	Yes
2 Algeria	Eissa Elzaki, Amine Bensiam, Nada Merheb	Yes
3 Angola	Esther Benizri	Yes
4 Argentina	Nazli Zaki	Yes
5 Armenia	Rosa Minasyan	Yes
6 Australia & Australia for UNHCR	Ariane Rummery, Sylvana Whyte, Sue Cowden	Yes
7 Austria	Roland Schoenbauer	Yes
8 Bangladesh	Uttam Kumar Das	Yes
9 Belarus	Tatiana Selivanova	Yes
10 Belgium	Diederik Kramers	Yes
11 Benin	Marie-Jose Da Silva	Yes
12 Bolivia	Nazli Zaki	Yes
13 Botswana	Benny Otim	Yes
14 Brazil	Nazli Zaki	Yes
15 Bulgaria	Volen Kroumov, Louise Druke	Yes
16 Burkino Faso	Marie-Jose Da Silva	Yes
17 Cameroon	François de Paul Omende	Yes
18 Canada	Nanda na Champassak, Gisèle Nyembwe	Yes
19 Central African Republic	Emmanuella Kelefio	Yes
20 Chad	Lino Bordin, Leigh Foster	Yes
21 Chile	Nazli Zaki	Yes
22 China	Jing Song	Yes
23 Colombia	Gustavo Valdivieso	Yes
24 Costa Rica	Giovanni Monge	Yes
25 Côte D'Ivoire	Simplice Kpandji	Yes
26 Croatia	Neven Crvenkovic	Yes
27 Cyprus	Emilia Strovolidou	Yes
28 Czech Republic	Veronika Souckova	Yes
29 Djibouti	Zahra Abdoulkader, Dexter Wilburg	Yes
30 Ecuador	Xavier Orellana	Yes
31 Egypt, Arab Republic of	Amina Alkorey	Yes
32 El Salvador	Mariana Echandi	Yes
33 Eritrea	Georgina Waters	Yes
34 Ethiopia	Mahary Maasho	Yes
35 Finland	Mans Nyberg, Anna Leer, Glenn Jusnes	Yes
36 France & Association francaise	Marie-Ange Lescure, Emmanuelle Rouffi	Yes
37 Gabon	Lucienne Lemberne	Yes
38 Georgia	Tamara Gogoshidze	Yes
39 Germany	Andreas Kirchhof	Yes
40 Ghana	Needa Jehu-Hoyah	Yes
41 Greece	Ketty Kehayioylou, Ariana Vassilaki	Yes
42 Guatemala	Mariana Echandi	Yes
43 Guinea	Fatoumata Tounkara	Yes
44 Guinea Bissau	Papa Kysma Sylla	Yes
45 Hungary	Andrea Szobolits	Yes
46 India	Nayana Bose	Yes
47 Indonesia	Anita Restu	Yes
48 Iran, Islamic Republic of	Xavier Creach	Yes
49 Ireland	Stephen O'Brien	Yes
		res

Country	Focal point	Report 2004*
		2004
50 Italy	Laura Boldrini, Carla Di Napoli	Yes
51 Japan	Hohsaku Ohkawa, Rika Hakozaki	Yes
52 Jordan	Maria Cierna	Yes
53 Kazakhstan	Natalia Zaibert	Yes
54 Kenya	Emmanuel Nyabera	Yes
55 Korea, Republic of	Hye Jeong Yoo	No
56 Kyrgyzstan	Gulzat Aitimbetova	Yes
57 Latvia	Mans Nyberg, Anna Leer, Glenn Jusnes	Yes
58 Lebanon	Dominique Thome, Carol El-Sayed	Yes
59 Liberia	Francesca Fontanini	Yes
60 Lithuania	Mans Nyberg, Anna Leer, Glenn Jusnes	Yes
61 Luxembourg	Diederik Kramers	Yes
62 Macedonia, fYR of	Bujar Idrizi	No
63 Malawi	Imelda Luzinda	No
64 Malaysia	Volker Turk	Yes
65 Mali	Papa Kysma Sylla	Yes
66 Mauritania	Fatou Sy	No
67 Mexico	Mariana Echandi	Yes
68 Moldova, Republic of	Liliana Pavlov	Yes
69 Morocco	Aicha Majnoun	No
70 Mozambique	Olivia Shannon	Yes
71 Nepal	Nini Gurung	Yes
72 Netherlands	Diederik Kramers	Yes
73 New Zealand	Ariane Rummery, Sylvana Whyte	Yes
74 Niger	Marie-Jose Da Silva	Yes
75 Norway	Mans Nyberg, Anna Leer, Glenn Jusnes	Yes
76 Pakistan	Asif Shahzad, Jack Redden	Yes
77 Paraguay	Nazli Zaki	Yes
78 Papua New Guinea	Ariane Rummery, Sylvana Whyte	Yes
79 Poland	Agnieszka Kosowicz	Yes
80 Romania	Cristina Bunea	Yes
81 Russian Federation	Vera Soboleva, Valerie Sokolova	Yes
82 Rwanda	Volker Schimmel	Yes
83 Saudi Arabia	Mamoon Muhsen	Yes
84 Senegal	Papa Kysma Sylla	Yes
85 Serbia and Montenegro	Andrej Mahecic, Mariana Ilic, Myrna Flood	Yes
86 Sierra Leone	Rachel Goldstein-Rodriguez, Idrissa Conteh	Yes
87 Slovak Republic	Zoltan Mikes	Yes
88 Slovenia	Barbara Furst	Yes
89 South Africa	Melita Sunjic	Yes
90 Spain & Espana con ACNUR	Karin de Gruijl, Maria Jesus Vega, Elisa Garcia	Yes
91 Sri Lanka	Maeve Murphy	Yes
92 Sweden	Mans Nyberg, Anna Leer, Glenn Jusnes	Yes
93 Switzerland	Olivier Pierre Delarue	Yes
94 Tajikistan	Galiya Gubaeva	Yes
95 Tanzania, United Republic of	Fred Mwinjabi, Mia Bulow-Olsen	Yes
96 Thailand	Settasak Akanimart	Yes
97 Togo	Marie-Jose Da Silva	Yes
98 Turkmenistan	Marat Atamouradov	Yes
99 Uganda	Dennis Duncan	Yes
100 Ukraine	Natalia Prokopchuk	Yes
101 United Kingdom	Clare Graham	Yes
102 United States of America	Joung-Ah Ghedini	Yes
103 Uruguay	Nazli Zaki	Yes
104 Uzbekistan	Anastasia Leliukh, Shoira Ruzibaeva	Yes
105 Venezuela	Grace Guerrero	Yes
106 Zambia	Marie Lobo, Kelvin Shimo	Yes