

E U R O P E



Ukraine: Refugee children releasing heart-shaped balloons as the symbol of their wish to find home: ©UNHCR/D. Zhuravlioz

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|------------------------|--|
| Albania | Liechtenstein |
| Armenia | Lithuania |
| Austria | Macedonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of |
| Belarus | Malta |
| Belgium | Moldova, Republic of |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | Norway |
| Bulgaria | Poland |
| Croatia | Portugal |
| Cyprus | Romania |
| Czech Republic | Russian Federation |
| Denmark | Serbia and Montenegro |
| Finland | - Kosovo province of Serbia and Montenegro |
| France | Slovakia |
| Georgia | Slovenia |
| Germany | Spain |
| Greece | Sweden |
| Hungary | Switzerland |
| Ireland | Turkey |
| Italy | Ukraine |
| Latvia | |



Georgia: Tbilisi, IDP children drawing on 6 metre long calico devoted to "World with wars" topic : ©UNHCR/Georgia



ALBANIA

In Babrru, two hundred people attended a **fund-raising reception** attended by asylum-seekers and refugees, high officials, donor community, implementing partners etc. Singing and reciting performances by refugees and asylum-seekers contributed to the evening.

Several **contests** were organized with asylum-seekers and refugees on hand made woodworks, children art works, chess and ping-pong competitions. Certificates and gifts were distributed to the winners. Woodworks hand-made by adults and children alike were exhibited at the National Reception Centre for one week.



Chess competition: ©UNHCR/M.Tucana

A **public awareness campaign** was carried out in university faculties, the Ministry of Public Order, as well as the airport, where “Courage” cards were distributed at check-in points.

ARMENIA

To attract a large public audience, a pro-bono **SMS campaign** was organized on 20 June in partnership with the ArmenTel Telephone Company. All 250,000 mobile holders received a WRD message in English and Russian to remember and honour refugees’ courage.

UNHCR Armenia produced a **film**, which showed the uniqueness of refugees in success stories. The film was broadcast, again free of charge, on 20 June during prime time on the two most popular Armenian TV channels.

World Refugee Day events included a **concert** organized in the Small Hall of Philharmonic with the participation of famous Armenian Chamber Choir and young stipendiums from Spivakov Foundation. The concert was attended by representatives of international organizations, diplomatic missions, state officials, NGOs, as well as by refugees. All the invitees were given special WRD leaflets.

Over 100 works from all of the regions of Armenia were presented to the “Courage” poster and **essay competitions**. This action was done jointly by Armenian UN Association NGO, CRINGO NGO Network and Project Harmony. Also, with the aim to raise money for summer camps for children from vulnerable refugee families, there was a **fund-raising bazaar** of UNHCR visibility items.

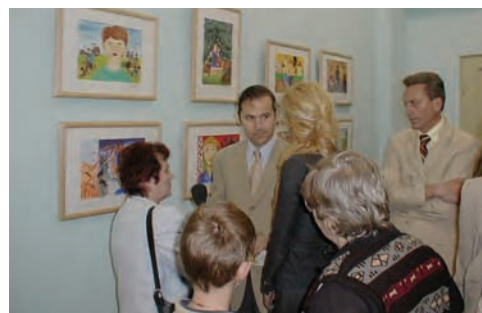
All the events received wide media coverage, with 4 press articles, 6 TV reports and 1 radio report accounted for.

AUSTRIA

UNHCR organized a **poetry event** which was attended by some 90 people and was very well received by the media. Three famous poets with refugee background gave testimonies of their plight both through a question and answer presentation and through reading some of their texts. A musician with refugee background accompanied the audience through the evening and a cocktail afterwards provided the opportunity for individual conversations with the top writers.

BELARUS

A **festival of non-commercial films** «Days of Cinema about Refugees» took place from 20 to 25 June in Minsk. Approximately 3000 people became first-hand participants of this event as all 6 showings at the Poveda cinema were sold out. At the **opening ceremony**, official speeches of the UNHCR representative, American and Bulgarian Ambassadors, Head of the Office of the Swedish Embassy and the government were followed by the screening of the movie “I am David”. The film was presented by a producer of Walden Media, who especially



Paintings devoted to the contest “Belarus you warmed us up”: ©UNHCR/Y. Morgan

came to Belarus to participate in the launch of the Film Festival. The event was broadly covered by TV media.

More than 1000 school children from the main Belarusian cities and small villages and towns in all regions of Belarus participated in the competition "Belarus, you warmed us up..." with drawings, poems and short stories. A portion of the artwork was done by refugee children living in Belarus. The awarding ceremony was followed by a **gala-concert**. All participants who reached the final stage of the contest were given diplomas and souvenir tee-shirts featuring the WRD logo.

On the eve of WRD and in the context of the WRD **press conference**, 5 nominees were awarded **scholarships** for their academic work on refugee and migration issues. The ceremony was organized to offer support to the most gifted Belarusian graduates and post-graduates that study issues on statelessness, migration and refugees. 59 academic works were submitted from 31 educational institutions of Belarus. The project was jointly conducted by UNHCR, the Belarusian State University and the IPA for UN Studies, Information and Educational Programs.

Other activities carried out in Belarus include a WRD **thematic reception** for 250 guests with the screening of the UNHCR "Global View 2005" documentary; the contest "Refugees and us" for the creation of posters on refugee issues; and placing billboards with WRD logo in the center of Minsk. All WRD activities implemented by the UNHCR office and its partners were mentioned in mass media about 72 times in a five-day period targeting some 90% of Belarus' population.

BELGIUM



Refugees playing at the Fête de Village: ©UNHCR/F. Van Koppen

UNHCR organized an **outdoor musical** event in Brussels "Fête au Village" which took place on 19 June at Collège Saint-Michel. As part of the activity, portrait pictures, each with an individual message, were projected at the UNHCR stand. UNHCR also participated at the **open day** of the Federal Organization for the Reception of asylum seekers (FEDERASIL).

About 60 journalists turned up to the conference for media on "Aliens in the Media: Reporting on Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe" co-hosted with the Jesuit Refugee Service. The discussions focused on the tone and quality of reporting on asylum issues and its effect on attitudes to refugees and asylum seekers; the need for NGOs to be trained in presenting their message to the media; and the role of refugee journalists as an intermediary between refugee communities and the media. The event was also supported by the International Federation of Journalists and UK NGO MediaWise.

On 20 June, Brussels hosted the **2005 Nansen Refugee Award Ceremony** in honour of Marguerite Barankitse. "The Angel of Burundi" received the award for her work with refugee and displaced children in her home country. The ceremony gathered an impressive list of Belgium and international VIPs. It was presided over by HRH Princess Mathilde of Belgium with the presence of UNHCR Deputy High Commissioner and many representatives of the European Institutions, government, NGOs and Goodwill Ambassador Julien Clerc.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

To mark WRD, UNHCR organized a **two-day seminar** on "Refugee and the Role of Media" in Sarajevo. The seminar gathered journalists from the entire country and provided an opportunity to examine the situation concerning asylum seekers, refugees and returnees in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It also reviewed various aspects of reporting on refugee issues, issues of fighting hatred



Participants at the seminar: ©UNHCR/A. Hadzisdilovic

against foreigners and creating an atmosphere of understanding for the suffering of refugees in the society. For the occasion, UNHCR published a **guide** for fair reporting on the theme of the seminar which was distributed across the country. The seminar ended with a visit to the refugee reception centre in Mostar.

Participants at the **seminar** published their individual stories in their respective media entities, totaling 11 articles in the press, 5 mentions on TV stations and 20 on various radio stations.

UNHCR in Tuzla organized two events. At the Mihatovici collective settlement, 200 children took part in **sport activities** such as football and volleyball tournaments, and **drawing competitions** on “What would I like to be when I grow up” for younger children and “It takes courage to be a refugee” for older ones. Reciting, singing, dancing and **theatre play** were performed by the children.

Tuzla’s city centre Park hosted another event run in cooperation with the local youth NGO “Inicijativa 21”. It consisted of an “**Open Air Painting Festival**” on the theme “Peace and Refugees”. All 25 painters from Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighbouring countries donated their work. Profits from the sale will be used by the NGO for youth activities. Two exhibits were held in parallel at the Park: UNHCR WRD posters and a collection of photos on the theme “Return” by local newspaper photographer Foto-Blicko.



Opening air painting festival in Tuzla City centre: ©UNHCR/A. Saletovic

The programme included a performance of children’s **dance groups and recitation**, and the distribution of **prizes** for women’s handicrafts and children’s artwork exhibited in one of the barracks.

BULGARIA

A **national essay writing competition** on the theme: “How Can You Make a Refugee Feel at Home in Bulgaria” was organized as in previous years in co-operation with the implementing partners, the New Bulgarian University and Sofia University, Faculty of Pedagogy. It was open to students, NGOs’ staff, institutions and refugees. The chairman of the jury for the competition was the former President of Bulgaria, Dr. Zheliu Zhelev. The three winners (two students and a refugee from Syria) were presented awards.

To mark WRD and to bid farewell to the outgoing UNHCR Representative, UNHCR organized a reception at the Sheraton Hotel which was attended by some 350 guests.

The programme included: **launching of the book** “*Refugee Protection and Integration in Bulgaria, 2004-2005*”; signing of the Plan of Action on the refugee integration programme, a presentation of **special plaques** of appreciation to persons who have contributed to the refugee cause in Bulgaria and the announcement of the winners of the essay writing competition.

Music and traditional dances were performed by refugees and **paintings** by refugee children were exhibited. Dyana Dafova, prominent Bulgarian artist, attended the reception and got publicly involved with UNHCR.



Refugee children and adolescents at WRD gala: ©UNHCR/V. Petkov

WRD 2005 celebrations in Bulgaria were a joint effort of UNHCR and implementing partners, as well as partners from the private sector. Representatives of 19 main national media covered the press conference resulting in 18 pieces of news.

CROATIA



Mayor of Sisak at the opening of UNHCR exhibit at Sisak City Museum: ©UNHCR/N. Crevenkovic

covered the event which was attended by some 50 people, among them representatives of national NGOs and international organizations.

UNHCR Zagreb and FT Sisak staged an **exhibition** of UNHCR posters and audio-visual materials in the Sisak City Museum. The exhibition was opened on 20 June by UNHCR and the newly-elected Mayor of Sisak. 70 guests, including ambassadors of Slovenia and Serbia and Montenegro, attended the opening of the week-long exhibition. Partly as a result of the exhibition, UNHCR was invited to an official meeting with the Mayor the week after the opening ceremony.

Zagreb-based NGO Centre for Human Rights marked WRD with a **public screening** of UNHCR "Global View 2005". Various media outlets, including two national TV stations,

A regional **round-table debate** on refugee return and sustainable return in Croatia was held in the eastern Croatian town of Vukovar. The debate, organized by our implementing partner the Osijek-based NGO Centre for Peace and by the Vukovar-based NGO Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance was attended by representatives of regional governmental and non-governmental institutions and international organizations, including UNHCR.

The Croatian state television HTV incorporated the High Commissioner's message into a 6 minute report on WRD that was broadcast in its main foreign affairs **prime-time programme** "Internacional". The message was also incorporated in an article on WRD and the state of the refugees in the world, published by an influential national daily *Vjesnik*. The above mentioned contributed to the **USD 45,000** estimated value of the extensive WRD media coverage in Croatia.

CYPRUS

Cypriot director Mr. Adonis Florides prepared a **documentary film** which presented stories of three refugees currently living in Cyprus. The documentary was funded by UNHCR Cyprus and co-funded by Cyprus Youth Organization. Three major Cypriot TV channels agreed to broadcast it.

Courage **radio and TV spots** were broadcast prior to World Refugee Day, **press adverts** were published in the local English newspaper *Cyprus Mail* from 17 to 19 June and UNHCR Representative gave a live **radio interview** on 17 June. This good media coverage amounted to an estimated value of **USD 7,215**.

Over 120 people attended a **reception** at the Hilton Park Hotel in Nicosia on 20 June during which the above mentioned documentary film was screened. The reception was opened by the Minister of Interior. The attendees were high ranking officials from governmental bodies, embassies, members of the newly established Refugee Association, NGOs and other operational partners. There were also journalists interviewing guests at the event.

CZECH REPUBLIC

WRD video spots and "Courage" posters were displayed at the Metro in a **public awareness campaign** with 1,200,000 potential audience per day. The spots were screened a total of 4,480 times in fifteen days.

For the third consecutive year, 4,000 WRD cards were distributed to young travellers who bought their flight ticket with GTS Travel Agency between 13 and 27 June. All the branches of the company around the Czech Republic participated. The cards have always been designed using the main motto: "Most people travel for fun, refugees travel from fear".

In a **ceremony** for outstanding refugee pupils, 45 refugees participated alongside 20 officials from the central and local authorities. The event, held under the auspices of the country's Human Rights Commissioner, was attended, among others, by representatives of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Czech Radio reported extensively on the event. Preceding the ceremony, **Prague ZOO** invited all the awardees for a free tour round of Park.



Children's ceremony: ©UNHCR/M. Pyyhkala

WRD was also marked with **information stands** in 9 different towns and **amusement days** in Brno and Prague which included **art** and **sports competitions** for children, **handcraft/art** workshops, **fashion shows** presenting refugee designers, **concerts**, etc. On 20 June the National Theatre of Prague distributed 2,800 WRD leaflets with every ticket sold.

DENMARK

A **pilot regional fundraising and awareness campaign** was carried out in co-operation with various religious communities. *Denmark is covered by the Regional Office in Sweden.*

FINLAND

Information events and activities took place in all 13 refugee reception centers in Finland. They were arranged by the Finnish Refugee Council and were covered by local media. UNHCR public information material was prominently displayed and distributed at all these events.

Finland is covered by the Regional Office in Sweden.

FRANCE

Several exhibitions were held for WRD, three of them in Paris: An **outdoor exhibition of pictures** explaining the work of UNHCR in the last 50 years, installed in front of Montparnasse Station on WRD; "Refugee and Displaced Women of Africa", which consisted of paintings and drawings by Frenchman Titouan Lamazou; and "20 years of UNHCR mission in Sri Lanka" at the Paris Institute of Political Sciences. Also, students of the High School of Economics of Montpellier mounted the exhibit "Freedom in Exile".

UNHCR and the Human Rights International Institute in Strasbourg (IIDH), jointly organized its eight week long **Summer Course on Refugees**. The inaugural speech was given by UNHCR Deputy Director of the Division of International Protection. As part of the course, the theatre company, No Made, In presented "Transition",



Young students who participated in the "Hope Hurdles": ©UNHCR/M-A. Lescure

isolated minors, participated in a **football competition** and challenged athletics' world records. The points and victories won by the participants were transformed into euros by the sponsors. All proceeds were offered to the above mentioned host center in Paris.

a **play** inspired by the lives of refugees and asylum seekers who met in refugee camps and transit centers.

To symbolize the many obstacles on the road to exile, students of ESSEC (School of Management), with the support of the UNHCR, organized the "**Hurdles of Hope**" at the Sport Center of Eaubonne near Paris on 18 June. Europe Recordman and World Champion of 400 meter hurdles, Stephane Diagana and French National Basketball female team player, Marie-José Perek participated in the event. The morning was for high school students, whilst in the afternoon many university students and young refugees in a Paris center for

The Association UNHCR France organized a week of **public debates** at the FNAC in Place des Terres, Paris. The issues of the debates were: Management of a crisis, Humanitarian work, Tsunami, 6 months later, and Exile and Creativity. The programme for each debate included the screening of a UNHCR film. In addition, 1.5 million fund-raising flyers were inserted in the FNAC card holders' magazine *Contact*.

WRD celebrations generated 22 TV, radio and press reports in a week.

GEORGIA

In western Georgia, activities targeted 2,500 IDPs and local population in the cities of Kutaisi, Tskhaltubo, Senaki, Poti and Zugdidi where our implementing partner Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti" (CHCA) organized a number of **community-based activities**. Among these were various **sporting competitions** and **games** such as chalk-painting competition and intellectual games. A **performance** of the Kutaisi Opera and Ballet and a **workshop** facilitated by CHCA and Peace Corps volunteers on the "Convention on the Rights of the Child" were also programmed.

IDP children in Tbilisi were invited to make a drawing on a 6 meter long calico devoted to the "World without wars". The event took place in one of the Tbilisi's IDP Collective Centers, Bagebi, and targeted 456 IDPs.

The *de facto* Ministry of Special Affairs of South Ossetia (MSASO) deserves special praise for supporting and co-organizing the activities in their region. The main event took place in the Children's Palace in Tskhinvali and included a **concert, puppet show, movie** and **tour** of the Palace. Children aged between 3 and 15 actively participated in the performance showing their talents in singing and dancing. They were all given present kits with drawing pads, pen and pencil sets and WRD logo balloons.

Some two thousand Chechen refugee, local youth and children were involved in various community-based activities in Pankisi: Field Office Akhmeta organized **competitions** in Freestyle, Georgian wrestling and football and school children were invited to write an essay on "Refugee Day" whilst the implementing partners NRC and KAKHETI NGO run volleyball, table tennis, chess, checkers and basketball games. There was a **prize awarding ceremony** on 20 June followed by a **performance** of the Griboyedov Russian Theatre of Tbilisi and a **concert** of the refugee and local population, which included poetry reciting, singing and dancing. Among the guests was the Minister for Refugees and Accommodation who attended the event throughout.

Ten journalists were present at the Pankisi event. Overall, 17 media reports appeared on WRD in Georgia.

GERMANY

The 5th Berlin Symposium on Refugee Protection "Human Rights and International Protection" co-organized by UNHCR, the Berlin Protestant Academy and the German Institute for Human Rights took place on 20 and 21 June 2005 in co-operation with Germany's most important NGOs. More than 400 high ranking participants from Germany and abroad participated, including experts on refugee matters, representatives from parliament, ministries, provincial governments, civil society, media and the diplomatic corps. Keynote addresses on the significance of international protection standards for the German refugee policy, the significance of human rights for the protection of refugees and the protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism were given by the Federal Commissioner for Migration, Refugees and Integration; the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Justice; Prof. Dr. Frowein, Max-Planck-Institute Heidelberg and Theodoor van Boven, former UN special rapporteur on torture. The event received a high media attention and was partly covered by the German documentary channel PHOENIX.

German versions of the WRD TV spots were produced and disseminated. There were 70 broadcasts



Tbilisi, IDP children drawing on 6 metre long calico devoted to "World with wars" topic: ©UNHCR/Georgia

in June with an estimated value of **USD 190,819**. Reports on WRD also appeared on, at least, 2 national public radio stations and several newspapers and national news agencies.

GREECE

A full-fledged **public awareness/visibility campaign** was conducted during the period preceding WRD. For that, WRD "Courage" materials were adapted, free of charge, into Greek, with prominent singer George Dalaras and well known actress Pemy Zouni putting their voices to **TV and radio spots**. The use of **celebrities' voices** for recording the TV and radio spots drew a wide public interest and helped secure free air time. A couple of journalists referred positively to the support received by the prominent artists. 400 WRD **posters** were posted for a week on **Athens trolleys** and Metro stations' billboards, with an average of 600,000 daily commuters. In addition, 40,000 copies of the Courage **leaflet** were inserted in the July issue of the popular monthly Greek Magazine *VITA*, addressed to readers of a mid-high socio-economic status who could serve as potential donors. A successful co-operation with the Ministry of Public Order translated in the distribution of plenty public awareness materials to **police stations** around the country.

The campaign in general received broad media coverage (a total of **23 WRD related articles**), with the production of many refugee-friendly articles by high circulation newspapers. State TV Channel ERT covered for the adaptation into Greek of the Global View 2005 and broadcast it twice. WRD press ads were published **36 times by newspapers and magazines**. The spots were broadcast some **736 times by major TV and radio stations**. **19 web pages/portals** covered or mentioned WRD-related topics. Several media interviews were carried out by the UNHCR. The **High Commissioner's message** was subtitled into Greek and broadcasted on WRD by four TV channels during their news bulletins. It was also published by 9 newspapers. The estimated value the media coverage was **USD 115,830**.

In an event that took place in Zappeion Mansion, a **Memorandum of Cooperation** was signed between UNHCR and the General Secretary for Gender Equality (GSE), in the presence of the Minister of Interior and 120 guests. The Memorandum concerned the promotion of the rights of refugee/asylum seeker women and girls arriving in Greece. The two implementing partners of UNHCR, the Greek Council for Refugees and the Social Work Foundation also participated in the event. The event was aimed at "giving a voice" to refugee women themselves: A young asylum seeker from Iraq related in fluent Greek her **personal story of courage**. 130 press kits and information folders were distributed. Three TV channels and several radio stations covered the event while a total of **21 articles** (some of them pretty extensive) appeared in the national press.

The theme for this year's **Student Essay and Drawing Contest** was inspired by this year's WRD theme. The Ministry of Education issued a Circular that was distributed to all primary and secondary schools of the country, along with relevant information on UNHCR and the World Refugee Day. The target group of the contest was some **200,000 students** and their teachers.

HUNGARY

Passer-bys at busy traffic junctions, shopping malls and cinemas were the target population of a one month **awareness campaign** in Budapest, which used 75 billboards. The **poster** was designed pro-bono by an artist associated with the implementing partner "Menedek" Association for Migrants, with which the campaign was carried out. They read *"War. Persecution. Discrimination. Where are the limits / Where is the border? Millions of people become refugees every year. Let's protect and assist them! World Refugee Day"*. **1,050,000 to 1,200,000 persons** saw the posters at least once, according to data provided by MediaLogus Company.



Opening of an exhibition of a Palestinian artist's work in Budapest: ©UNHCR/D. Mester

For three weeks an **exhibition of pictures and art works** of Palestinian refugee artist was held at a Budapest art gallery, receiving 220 visitors.

WRD was also marked with a celebration co-organized with NGOs at Budapest's Millenáris Park attended by 120 persons. It included an **exhibition and a concert** related to WRD.

WRD Courage spots were broadcast 33 times by TV2 and RTL Klub TV. These two commercial TV channels claim a total combined audience share of 65.1% and a 71.1% market share among 18 to 49 year-olds in Hungary. The estimated value of these broadcasts was **USD 83,326**.

IRELAND

The **Poetry Competition** on refugees themed “New Beginnings”, received over 100 entries from Ireland and the UK. Over 50 people attended a reception that announced the winner. UNHCR’s government partner, the Reception & Integration Agency, covered by the costs including prizes for winners and the printing of promotional materials.

The third **World Refugee Day Awards ceremony** was attended by over 200 persons on 16 June. The Awards aimed to highlight the work being done at grassroots by asylum-seekers, refugees and the host community to help with the local integration of new communities. Groups and individuals throughout Ireland nominated over 60 candidates for the 10 available awards. The event was particularly good because it rewarded and highlighted good work being undertaken to promote integration and showed the goodwill in Irish communities and the resourcefulness of new communities. The event had wide media coverage both nationally and in provincial areas where some of the winners were based. It was supported financially by the National Action Plan Against Racism.

As WRD has become an established day in the Irish calendar, the media predominantly reported most of their coverage on this day. Approximately 20 national and provincial reports appeared in and through the media from 16 to 23 June.

ITALY

The Italian Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, the Rome City Councilor for Social Policies, two University professors and two refugees spoke at the UNHCR **Conference** “The courage to be a refugee”, which was opened by the UNHCR representative in Italy. It was attended by over 150 people, including local and national authorities, politicians, academics, NGO members, refugees, students and journalists.

The III Contemporary Art for Refugees **art exhibition and charity auction** was organized mainly by the UNHCR Private Sector Fund Raising unit in partnership with Christie’s, who covered all costs. 50 works of art donated by major contemporary artists were on display during a two-week exhibition before being sold at auction during a gala dinner on 6 July. The “Orchestra di Piazza Vittorio” - a successful ensemble whose members are immigrants and refugees - played during the dinner/auction, which was attended by 220 people. All proceeds were donated to the Darfur operations.



WRD Conference held in Rome: ©UNHCR/V. Prodon

Rome City Council, in collaboration with UNHCR and NGOs, organized a series of WRD cultural events **at the Rome Music Hall**. Various artists performed for three hours on 20 June: African and Italian **music bands** and a **theatre group** were followed by two Italian actors reading accounts of the lives of refugees in Italy. About 750 people attended the event.

WRD awareness materials were adapted into Italian. The general Public Affairs info kit together with the WRD Courage materials were distributed during the UNHCR **conference** and at some 30 other WRD initiatives organized by NGOs and city councils throughout Italy.

WRD **banners** linked to the special WRD section on the Italian UNHCR website were published for 3 weeks on two major Italian web portals: on the “Virgilio” web-site, the banner was viewed more than 720,000 times and was clicked 1,834 times. The other portal, “Tiscali” collected 300,000 viewers and 125 clicks.

The WRD **media briefing** on Sunday 19 June and the 18 TV and radio interviews given by the UNHCR/PI officer ensured a remarkable coverage on the main national radio and TV stations. In

overall, 84 news items appeared on all media, *Il Corriere della Sera* and *La Repubblica*, both publishing a full page on WRD.

KOSOVO PROVINCE OF SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

Kosovo Prime Minister Bajram Kosumi made a **public statement** for World Refugee Day. His message was published in all daily newspapers (printed in Albanian). The PM's message highlighted the merit of UNHCR working worldwide on refugee issues and appealed to displaced Kosovars to return to their place of origin.

In the Gjilan/Gnjilane region, a series of fun activities for displaced and disabled children were organized. They included **dance and musical performances**, singing of songs, and readings of **essays** on courage, a **drawing exhibition** on "What home means to me", gymnastics and acrobatics, plus an **inter-ethnic soccer tournament**.

Activities at Mitrovice/a begun with **celebrations** for project completion of, namely the Leposavic/q Foster Home, Socanica/e for the Elderly Refugees (a project financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation), construction of the Roma warehouse for IDPs, the "multi-ethnic playground" implemented by UNHCR in partnership with the Norwegian Church Aid, and the Zvecan/Zveqan Home for Elderly Refugees. Here, refugees carried out a **tree planting initiative** symbolizing their hope of growing new roots in their new home. Later on there was a **multi-ethnic basketball match**, attended by 150 people.

In Peje/Pec, WRD celebration took place at Kosovo Park Restaurant's open stage, with 100 children. A full day of **festivities** included dancing, recitations, acting and singing, local musicians performing and a drawing exhibition of multi-ethnic children from the region.



Prishtine Region photos: ©UNHCR/S. Halili

Prishtine/Pristina's Municipal President welcomed guests at the Cultural House in Fushë Kosovo/Kosovo Polje where a **drawing exhibition** from some 40 multi-ethnic children was displayed. **Fun fair** and **sporting competitions**, rope tug and a soccer game followed in the City Stadium.

UNHCR chief of mission in Prizren participated in the hand-over ceremony at the new municipal building, with the **donation of a shuttle bus** van to the Municipality. Later on, a **clean-up of the Lumbardhi/Bistrica River** involved local residents and international agencies of this multi-ethnic community. Music from the bridge was provided to motivate the participants.

Media coverage was extensive. Two main TV stations "RTK" and "TV21" broadcast the WRD TV spots for a week. The WRD radio spots were distributed to 20 local radio stations. Several media interviews were given by UNHCR. Overall, the estimated value of the media coverage was **USD 10,476**. Partnership with multiple implementing partners and organizations helped make the activities a huge success which, without their support, could not have taken place.

LATVIA

A presentation on refugees, statelessness and UNHCR was given to a group of 20-30 journalist students in Latvia in preparation for the WRD **writing competition** planned for the whole region in 2006/07.

Latvia participated in a fundraising and awareness campaign with religious societies.

Latvia is covered by the Regional Office of Sweden.

LIECHTENSTEIN

UNHCR works closely with the NGO "Flüchtlinghilfe Liechtenstein" for implementing activities related to WRD. This year the "Courage" posters were put along the main roads. On 20 June, the House of

Government in Vaduz was **illuminated in blue** and a **reception** was organized in the afternoon at the Liechtenstein Refugee Council.

Three different “Courage” adverts were published in newspapers before and after WRD. All the three newspapers involved had a substantial local coverage and the articles were read by the great majority of the inhabitants of Liechtenstein.

LITHUANIA

A high profile event at the Rukla reception centre in Lithuania was attended by the Minister for Social Affairs and other leading politicians and parliamentarians and extensively reported on by all of the national media. The office also participated in a regional fundraising and awareness campaign.

Lithuania is part of the Regional Office in Sweden

MACEDONIA, THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF

Activities were deliberately kept low key because of ongoing discussions with the government over the return of refugees to Kosovo before the end of 2005.



Refugee children drawing contest: ©UNHCR/Macedonia fYR

Two activities were carried out as a result of successful co-operation with the Refugee committee and local municipality authorities: a **refugee children drawing contest** with 40 participants and the already traditional **round robin football tournament**. The latter involved 6 teams: 4 refugee teams, one UNHCR team and one local Roma team. All teams played well but the UNHCR football team followed the trend of previous years and lost, again...

WRD media coverage of the events was very good. Free airtime for the broadcast of UNHCR’s “Global View” as well as the High Commissioner’s message was secured by UNHCR.

With regards to broadcastings, reports appeared on the 5 main national TV channels, including the local Roma language channel, with an estimated value of **USD 10,000**. Both the High Commissioner’s WRD message and an **interview** with the UNHCR representative were broadcast.

WRD radio spots were issued by the Albanian language department of BBC Radio and local Radio Vat. Three newspapers also reported on WRD.

MALTA

On 18 June the ‘Etnikafest’ saw the participation of many individuals and NGOs as well as a local audience and immigrants from refugee centers. This **festival** was organized by the Emigrant’s Commission, the Jesuit Refugee Service (Malta), Moviment Graffiti and UNHCR.

School bands welcomed the arrival of President Edward Fenech Adami, Archbishop Joseph Mercieca, UNHCR representative for Malta Walter Irvine, and various other dignitaries. Their speeches were followed by messages from Sierra Leone, from Somalia, and from Eritrea.

Different activities were set up: **NGOs stands**, an **art workshop** for children, **henna tattooists and hair braiders**. Throughout the evening entertainment was provided by various Maltese personalities and by Somali and Congolese **bands**. The highlight was the **food tasting session** with a selection of African food (Somali and Eritrean) cooked by residents of the refugee welcome centre “Dar ir-Rifugjati” which resulted in a true exchange of cultures. Inside the main hall there was a **photographic exhibition** of prints of immigrants in Malta shot for the occasion by a Congolese photo journalist. Some 300 participated in the event.

Various schools visited the refugee welcome centre ‘Dar ir-Rifugjati’ on WRD. The UNHCR legal consultant provided a series of **informative talks on asylum** issues to the 50 participating children.

UNHCR and the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity held a joint **Press Conference** on 17

June to announce WRD and the launch of a joint **awareness campaign** to start in October/November. All main Maltese media was present and reported on the Etnikafest event, totaling 12 articles.

MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC of

An open air concert “Rock for Refugees – VI” was organized in the summer theatre “Teatrul Verde”. It attracted the interest of the public at large, as well as the international community and governmental officials, with more than 6,000 people. It was co-sponsored by OSCE, other UN Agencies present in Moldova and the private sector. The local Chisinau Municipality provided the venue for the concert for free and partly covered the related expenditures.

Asylum seekers and refugees participated in a **cultural event** held at the Charity Centre for Refugees, which included a **painting and handicraft exhibition** by refugee and asylum seekers children and cultural performances. The event was highlighted by TV and mass media correspondents, including OR Moldova TV, National Radio.

To mark WRD among the children, refugees, asylum seekers and local children participated in a **sport competition**. All of them were given T-shirts with WRD logo and were offered different prizes. The office also organized an **essay competition** for school children.

The **theatre play** “Before and After the Flight” was performed by “Satiricus Ion Luca Caragiale” theatre in the presence of government, international community, and NGOs representatives. The play was co-produced by the UNHCR office in Moldova and had been performed for school children during the year. The event was reported on TV.

NORWAY

The Norwegian Refugee Council published its yearly Refugee Report on WRD. It also held **local events** in several refugee reception centers across the country.

UNHCR participated in the commemoration of the **refugee trail** over the mountains from Norway to Sweden during World War II, at the Norwegian-Swedish border.

Norway is covered by the Regional Office in Sweden.

POLAND

A series of extremely low-cost initiatives were carried out at the Warsaw underground which resulted in impressive media coverage for almost a week. These included a **photo exhibition** on daily life of asylum seekers in reception facilities in Poland, an exhibition of **children’s drawings** on what refugee protection means and **billboards** with the children’s drawings in almost all underground stations.

Street fairs combined with **concerts** in Krakow, Torun, Bialystok and Lublin towns gathered at least 6,000 people. Events were organized by ‘WRD alliances’ composed of local NGOs, universities and local administration. This meant that the rather limited financial support had huge impact and received significant attention of local media and local population. Among the particularly nice ideas were the construction of the “Wall of tolerance” and the display of the “Tree of World Wisdom”. All events gave special attention to youth and children and involved refugees in traditional meals preparation, national dance performances and joining in with the Poles.

Some 2,800 people benefited from other WRD events all over the country: A **refugee film festival** at Lodz University; **conferences** on refugees in Bialystok, Krakow and Poznan; visits of volunteers to four reception centers to celebrate WRD in local environments hosting asylum seekers with arts and sports talks and **WRD media workshops**.



35 billboards were displayed prior to the celebration. The message reads “Courage has no borders”: ©UNHCR/T. Red-Cell

The **information campaign** included work with the media as well as 40 billboards and 2,000 posters. The message read: “courage has no borders”. This, together with the 73 press articles which covered WRD, resulted in that 41% of Poles - some 20 million - had heard about this year’s WRD according to the survey “Poles about Refugees” carried out by TNS OBOP two weeks after WRD.

PORTUGAL

Commemorations of WRD in Portugal were promoted by the Portuguese Refugee Council (PRC) with the co-operation of UNHCR.

On 9 June, a first **stone-laying ceremony** for the new reception center, day nursery and sport complex for the PRC took place in Bobadela (Loures). High Commissioner for Refugees, António Guterres did the honors at a personal level, as he had not entered into office. The Internal Affairs Secretary of State, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers Secretary of State, and the Board’s Director of PRC, also attended. Cuban refugee Diego Morales read his poem *Dream Brick*, allusive to the construction of the new refugee center.

On WRD there was a **TV debate** “The State of the World’s Refugees”, with the screening of an **interview** with the High Commissioner António Guterres. Later on, an **Evening Gala** at Oeiras’ Auditorium was held. A refugee theater group presented a satiric play on the every day life of a refugee in Portugal. Other performances were presented by Portuguese singers João Afonso and Nancy Vieira de Anjos, and a Capoeira dance group. In the course of the event, a Cooperation Protocol was signed for the improvement of the reception and integration conditions of refugees in the country.

ROMANIA

UNHCR and it’s main implementing partner, Romanian National Council for Refugees (CNRR) co-organized “**Refugee Film Days**” hosted by the French Institute. Some 700 cinemagoers participated of the refugee film festival, which showed 12 films in an eleven-day period. Around thirty people, including members of the public, partner staff, and refugees/ asylum seekers participated in the opening night; two films were shown. – “La faute à Voltaire” and “Tout un hiver sans feu”.

A family-oriented **outdoor celebration** was held on WRD at the Club Piranha. The entertainment show for a gathering of 350 people kicked off with a **parade** of traditional and ethnic costumes modelled by refugee children, who also performed dances. Analia Selis, a well known pop star of Argentinean origin, performed a **concert** of Romanian and Argentinean music. This was followed by a well known refugee band, “Gloria” that played for over an hour, providing both vocal and **dance performances**. The Refugee Women Organization in Romania (RWO) exhibited and sold **hand made arts**, clothing, and crafts.

The **exhibition** “Expressions” featuring **paintings** by Congolese refugee artist Chancelvie Bonazebi and sculptures by Liberian refugee sculptor David Wilson was held at Jewish Theatre for a week. It was opened on 21 June in an event with 150 participants including NGO representatives, members of the diplomatic corps and the media. The exhibition was followed by the Theatre play “Ruth’s Book” by Mario Diamant and a cocktail party.

Twenty black and white portraits of refugees of diverse backgrounds and nationalities by artist photographer Cosmin Bumbuț were exhibited at “Carturesti” Bookshop. The official opening on 20 June was organized by CNRR. It was attended by some 115 persons including refugees, people working in the asylum field, journalists, and general public. Speeches were delivered by UNHCR Representative Romania, CNRR President, and Cristina Bazavan, visual arts critic. The exhibition was also made available online, free of charge, by LiterNet cultural portal, which received 3,214 visits. In July the exhibit moved to two other locations in Bucharest.



Multicultural evening of tasting of world food:
©UNHCR/Romania

A multi-cultural show and tasting of world food was organized by ARCA, Romanian Forum for Refugees & Migrants, at the Piranha Club with UNHCR support. An estimated 200 people participated. Dance and martial arts performances culminated in a traditional costume fashion show in which refugee children and adults modeled clothing from their country of origin. In addition, refugee women prepared and served traditional food from many diverse locations including: Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Liberia, etc. The RWO displayed and sold handmade crafts, made by refugee women.

With the aim to shift the focus on the wealth culture refugees bring to Romania, ARCA arranged for the major cookery magazine, *Practic in Bucatarie*, with a circulation of 500,000, to publish twenty recipes of traditional food which were provided by refugee women. 300 readers responded to the questionnaire. (The most appreciated of the recipes were those from “Kabab Miluki,” from Iraq and “Kabuli Palao,” from Afghanistan).

Other WRD initiatives carried out in Romania by UNHCR or its implementing partners included: **High schools sessions** on “Make a Refugee Your Friend!”; Campaign in Schools “Who are Refugee Children?”; Relaxed **picnic** by Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) at Pasarea Monastery; Ping Pong tournament; **Football match** for refugee, asylum seekers and Romanians; **Open doors party and barbecue** with more than twelve countries represented; and a **press conference** on WRD attended by more than 20 journalists.

UNHCR in Romania benefited from the generous support of various institutions and firms that provided in kind donations as well as services and venues on pro-bono basis. More than 20 media organizations wrote articles, covered events, or participated in WRD events. Many Bucharest city guides and public weekly activity schedules ran information about the exhibition, evening events, and the refugee film festival. 25 articles reported on WRD activities. The estimated value of the media coverage was **USD 28,000**.

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The subway system of St. Petersburg housed a month-long WRD **advertising campaign**. With 3 million passengers a day, it drew extensive interest of local media. The local newspaper *Delovoi Peterburg* quoted the President of the Marketing Club of St. Petersburg “One of the successful examples of social advertisement in St. Petersburg during recent times was the campaign promoting tolerance towards refugees in the city subway”. The campaign also helped to attract attention of governmental officials and media to the **conference** timely scheduled for 21 June and organized jointly by Microsoft, UNHCR, St. Petersburg Red Cross and St. Petersburg Public Council under the City Governor on “Social Responsibility of St. Petersburg Business Community”

The main WRD activity was an **outdoor family-oriented** event held jointly with the City Palace for Youth's Creativity of Moscow, the biggest youth's center in Russia.



Fun and games for refugee children at WRD event held at the City Palace for Youth's creativity, the biggest youth centre in Russia: ©UNHCR/V. Sokolova
Coca-Cola were distributed as well as symbolic souvenir balloons with the WRD logo and the theme word “Courage”. The event drew extensive attention of media.

10 members of the media turned up to the press presentation of UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie's book “Notes from My Travels” in Russian, which was held on 20 June. The book was

printed on funds allocated by a private donor and all takings from the sale will be used for refugees' program carried out by UNHCR implementing partner.

Throughout the week prior to 20 June, visitors picked up in public places such as theatres, cinemas, restaurants, clubs, or shopping malls, locally designed fly-cards that specifically emphasized the theme of 2005 WRD. 948 spots around Moscow and 400 spots in St. Petersburg were covered. In addition, the fly-card was inserted, free of charge, into 9,000 newspapers across Moscow by a delivery company.

As a result of the media campaign, the UNHCR Russian web-site on WRD got 14,208 hits during the week of the WRD, three times more than in 2004. A WRD web banner was created in Russian.

8 leading regional newspapers, with an overall circulation of 289,000 copies, placed large-format WRD advertisement in their issues during the WRD week. 7 WRD related articles were accounted for in the press. In total three radio stations with overall potential audience of 45 million people and one local leading TV company with potential audience of 93 million people all over Russia, broadcast WRD spots during WRD week free of charge. In North Ossetia local TV company Alania, with potential audience of 900,000 people also broadcasted the spot pro-bono. The estimated value of the media coverage in the Russian Federation was **USD 56,308**.

In Ingushetia UNHCR chose to focus on children and their abilities as a way to honor the courage they possess in overcoming the challenges of growing up as an IDP. UNHCR's implementing partner Vesta conducted a series of **workshops** for teenagers living in collective centers and local youth, relay races in school with a large number of IDPs. The schools involved extended a heartwarming welcome to UNHCR and its partner. In total, 300 children/teenagers alongside host community children participated in the events.

In North Ossetia, the Children's Fund of North Ossetia conducted a **round table** on the topic of "Refugees and Courage", and two **children's day festivals** in Vladikavkaz and Krasnogor with asphalt drawing competition, karaoke contest, football, volleyball and bicycle matches, as well as other sports competitions. About 200 children took part. Also, 50 unaccompanied elderly refugees, men and women, received individualized packages containing hygiene products and clothing funded by the Swiss Development Corporation.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

UNHCR in partnership with local NGOs opened a **photo exhibition** in the Cervantes gallery of the Spanish Cultural Center in the main pedestrian zone in Belgrade. The photos were from different authors portraying scenes of repatriation and integration of refugees living in Serbia. The UNHCR representative addressed State Union and republican authorities, MPs, refugee associations, NGOs and civil society organizations, diplomatic corps and media representatives who broadly covered the event. Other WRD commemorative events in the capital were a **press conference** to reinforce the High Commissioner's message and present a DVD film on refugees and a **round table** discussion on Roma and IDP issues

In Podgorica, Montenegro, an award ceremony was held on WRD to pay tribute to winners of a **literary competition** dedicated to the theme "Courage" aimed at 10 to 14 years old school children. Podgorica also hosted a well attended joint **press conference** by UNHCR and Montenegrin Minister of Social Welfare and Montenegrin Commissioner for Displaced Persons.

UNHCR co-organized WRD activities in some other 20 towns across the State Union, including: **Workshops** and **exhibitions** in 9 Central and South Serbia municipalities; **media event** to cover the 400 Repatriation Movement of Returnees to Croatia; Workshop "Building the Bridges of Friendship" for elderly refugees, IDPs and local people in the municipality of Knic; **Social event** in Community Center in Vrnjacka Banja for elderly women from the nearby collective accommodation centers with display of ethno products, and a book of poems jointly prepared under the project Program for Women; **Ecological workshop** for preschool children, parents and teachers in the Collective Center Cardak in Deliblato; **Round table discussion** on "Possible Solutions for Social Integration of Refugees", with representatives from local authorities and institutions, Serbian Commissioner for Refugees, NGOs, refugee associations, and refugees who had integrated in Kragujevac; **Handing over ceremony** of 30 apartments built in Kraljevo by the Housing Center (former Swiss Organization for Development and Cooperation) with the presence of the Swiss Ambassador and UNHCR representative; **Open-air concert** for youth in Nis; and a weekend meeting of youth in Vrnjacka Banja.

This year's WRD received quite extensive media coverage: Over **30 TV, 20 radios and 8 leading dailies** reported on it, to an estimated value of **USD63,606**.

SLOVAKIA



*Congolese refugee family on the boat trip from Bratislava to Gabčíkovo:
©UNHCR/Slovak Republic*

WRD main event in Slovakia was a **boat trip on the Danube** for 130 people. Refugees, members of Parliament, embassy representatives and three TV crews were among the guests. The trip culminated in Gabčíkovo, a refugee site which hosted the **concert** "Artists to Refugees". The main attraction was the **performance** of The Slovak Superstar winner, Katarina Koskova, whose statements significantly raised media attention on refugee issues.

On 26 June, there was an **exhibition of refugee arts and photos** at the main square of refugee site Brezova pod Bradlom, followed by an

outdoor concert with popular African singer Ibrahim Maiga and well-known TV entertainer Olga Zablacka. 600 people turned up. As part of the concert, children from different schools were given awards and spoke on refugees on the stage. Schools had joined the **awareness campaign** "Panacik for Refugees" and had collected over **4,000 USD** for refugee children living in Slovakia.

The museum of the old city in Bratislava hosted a week-long exhibition of **refugee drawings** visited by some 150 to 300 people a day.

All commemorations received considerable media attention, with 16 press articles and 17 Radio and 6 TV reports. In addition, the Slovak TV's main morning's programme invited an Afghan refugee woman to present her life story. UNHCR PI officer was also present.

SLOVENIA

An **outdoor concert** of popular music was held in the city center of Ljubljana. The programme included the performance of Veryused Artists and two other bands as well as a speech by a refugee on the ups and downs of his life in Slovenia. It was attended by 500 people, including refugees and asylum seekers living outside the capital, bus transportation was provided for them. Many more passers-bys were exposed to the event. Balloons with the WRD logo and 1000 WRD leaflets in Slovene language were distributed among the public.

The High Commissioner's message was broadcast on the TV news of main and private TV stations and printed in the main daily newspapers. WRD Courage spots were also broadcast five times. The office accounted for 19 TV, radio and press reports which, together with the pro-bono adverts in TVs and the press, amount to an estimated value of **USD 38,590**.

SPAIN

WRD and UNHCR activities worldwide were the center of a **massive media campaign** at national and regional level. It included the placement, free of charge, of 4 radio spots with Colombian-singer Juanes voiceover and music as a background in more than 150 regional and national radio stations. The spots were aired at least 6,000 times from 30 May to 20 June, with an estimated value of **USD 2,199,960**. The fact that Juanes is very well-known in Spain and that his Spanish tour was planned to start at the end of July, encouraged many radios to broadcast these spots. Juanes collaboration and his radio spots were placed at the Spanish Committee for UNHCR "España con ACNUR" (ECA) web page.

Taking advantage of the radio spot, the office arranged also some **22 radio interviews** with the participation of refugees in Spain and UNHCR between 14 to 22 June.

Two **documentaries** on refugees in Spain were broadcast by the national TVs one of them on the

prestigious Saturday night program "Informe Semanal". In addition, the High Commissioner's WRD message was broadcasted in the evening news on 20 June at peak audience time and WRD related news was reported for a week.

UNHCR representative participated in a **press conference** organized by the NGO ACCEM, with the presence of famous artists Malena Alterio and Alejandro Botto, as well as Spanish parliamentarians. UNHCR staff was present as well in refugee-related **short films** and **comics' competitions**.

The Spanish Parliament issued an **institutional declaration** in support of the refugee cause and UNHCR's mandate, unanimously approved by all its members.

In collaboration with ECA, more than **200,000 free postcards** were distributed in Madrid, Barcelona and the Basque Country in cinemas, cafes and leisure places. UNHCR/WRD messages and an **SMS number** for further information was printed at the back of the cards. ECA also benefited from the proceedings of the launching of a **theatre play** in Barcelona. Its staff participated in **round tables**, promoted **photo exhibitions** in schools as well as in city halls in Madrid, Valencia and Barcelona, and organized a **football match** in Valencia with active participation of refugees.

Refugee Reception Centers run either by the government or NGOs across the country held awareness and fun activities, where UNHCR participated with staff and visibility/WRD materials.

All activities received good media coverage. On top of the above mentioned estimated value of the radio coverage, the TV coverage amounts to **USD 3,233,941**, with an overall estimated value of the media coverage in Spain of **USD 5,539,038**.

SWEDEN

A **pilot regional fundraising and awareness campaign** was carried out in Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden raising some **USD 16,500**. It was done in co-operation with various religious communities, who chose to donate their church collect for the whole of June, send out appeal letters to their members or the business sector within their community, give a donation or to otherwise encourage their members to support UNHCR directly through its bank account. This initiative will be extended to the whole Baltic/Nordic region in 2006.

At the Norwegian-Swedish border, UNHCR participated in the **commemoration of the refugee trail** over the mountains from Norway to Sweden during World War II.

The Regional Office of Stockholm also covers Finland, Denmark, Norway, Lithuania and Latvia.

SWITZERLAND

For the first time ever, UNHCR was the main partner of the City of Geneva for the **2005 Fête de la Musique**, which took place from 17 to 19 June. This three-day event attracted **200,000 visitors**. UNHCR staff volunteered to man a UNHCR stand opposite the main stage where two major concerts were held. UNHCR Director of External Relations, together with the Councillor in charge of Cultural Affairs, made a speech to present the Oriental Music Ensemble from Palestine, and Mostar Sevdah Reunion from Bosnia-Herzegovina. Both groups were affected by war and exile.



Parc des Bastions, Fête de la Musique: ©UNHCR/Swiss Unit
In addition to **T-shirts** depicting a drawing of famous Swiss cartoonist Zep. The wristbands were distributed for free at key locations within Geneva during WRD. A brochure fighting prejudices against refugees and asylum seekers was launched at the occasion. UNHCR spots were screened at the booth.

Other initiatives carried out as a result of the partnership with the City of Geneva were to light up the

Jet d'Eau and many public buildings in blue and the display of two 8 meter long WRD banners and UNHCR flags on the **Mont-Blanc bridge** for one week. Also, both the official Fête de la Musique programme and its homepage had an article on UNHCR and its logo.

Regarding media coverage, two newspapers *Tribune de Genève*, *Le Courrier* published articles referring to the participation of UNHCR at the Fête de la Musique. UNHCR Head of the Swiss Unit, gave two radio interviews.

TURKEY



Tree planting for Asylum Forest: ©UNHCR/M. Corabatir

long WRD celebration at Dikmen Valley Park. Pop group The Kent Orchestra offered one of the various free professional and amateur **concerts**. There were also four **exhibitions** displaying artwork by the Cartoonists' and Humorists' Association, refugee children, Polish WRD campaign posters, and photographs taken by UNHCR staff in various refugee locations. NGOs and UNHCR held information booths. This event was launched by a reception attended by the Chief of the Human Rights Commission, various diplomatic officials, representatives of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and many ministries, academia, municipalities, NGOs, UNHCR and UN staff, and a strong team of volunteers. The opening ceremony included a speech by the UNHCR representative and a surprise theatrical performance enacting a hostile refugee situation which had a profound impact on many of the guests. Hundreds of people attended over the two days, and received good media coverage.

In Sirkeli, on the outskirts of Ankara, the **planting of 1,500 trees** officially established the Asylum Forest, which symbolizes the hope for a brighter future for all refugees. This event was organized by UNHCR and various NGOs. The land and trees were donated by the municipality of Sirkeli, near Ankara. This event was covered by television and print media.

A series of **panel discussions** took place around WRD. UNHCR hosted one entitled "The Meaning of Being a Humanitarian Aid Worker" at Istanbul Bilgi University. In addition, another panel discussion on refugee law in the contexts of Turkey and the European Union was hosted in Ankara by Amnesty International.

Several media outlets covered refugee issues during this year's WRD events, with 9 press, 6 TV and 2 radio reports accounted for. Some respected columnists also wrote articles on the occasion of WRD and UNHCR appeared on several live interviews. Some 1,750 WRD posters were distributed during the events or placed in public transports for a week.

UKRAINE

Kyiv celebrated WRD by organizing a **football match** between two teams of refugees, a reception with **food delicacies** prepared by refugees and **music** performance by a refugee band. Children released **heart-shaped balloons** as a symbol of their wish to find home. The celebration was covered by national media, especially TV.

On 23 June, a **parliamentary briefing** was held in the Turkish Grand National Assembly, the Turkish parliament. The Interior Ministry and UNHCR offered the Parliament's EU Harmonization Commission a briefing on Turkey's new action plan concerning asylum and migration in Turkey. Turkey should undertake a challenging task to meet the EU asylum standards during the accession to full membership. It is very important for UNHCR in Ankara to sensitize the political decision makers on asylum issues.

Ankara hosted a two day

Football matches were also organized in Odesa and Kharkiv. Refugees played against police officers and border guards. In addition, the WRD celebration in Odesa included some **ethnic dances**, whilst the one in Kharkiv included a **children drawing contest**. These activities attracted extensive public and media attention, one of the matches being broadcast by regional state-owned TV station.

One of the producers of the **movie “I Am David”** participated in a screening of the film in Kyiv. Several more screenings followed there and in Kharkiv. The audiences included youth NGO leaders and public in general.

Around 2000 people altogether participated in WRD events throughout Ukraine. During the events more than 1500 copies of different printed materials on refugee issues were distributed. Nearly all **7 major national TV stations** broadcast reports about WRD events in Kyiv, one of them inviting UNHCR for a **live interview**. Along with the latter, 4 documentaries and programs on refugees issues were broadcast several times by the regional TV stations.

The central avenue of Lviv hosted the **exhibition** of refugees-related posters. The presentation ceremony on 31 July was accompanied by ethnic music and the performance of local singers. Around 600 to 700 people attended the exhibition. The event was covered in local media: 4 TV channels, 8 radio stations and 4 newspapers.