



Refugee children together with UNHCR's celebrity supporters at the World Refugee Day 2012.
Photo: UNHCR, Turkey.

World Refugee Day 20th of June

World Refugee Day (WRD) is held every year on June 20 to recognize and commend the resilience, contribution and hope for the future of the millions of refugees around the world.

This year in Turkey, UNHCR hosted events in Ankara and Istanbul, including the launching of the book, "Tarik and the White Crow", collectively written by 10 refugee children, 6-7 years old of several different nationalities. At KentPark Mall these refugee children shared their story which illustrates their perceptions about forced displacement. The launch of the book was supported by a "Walk for Refugees" activity, thanks to the participation of Turkish celebrities including Ms. Hadise, who represented Turkey in the 2009 Eurovision Song Contest, Ms. Pelin Batu, a well-known actress, and Mr. Erkan Tan, a renowned TV host. The event and walk was choreographed and joined by the well known stylist, Mr. Hakan Akkaya, and supported by Ankara's Mayor, Mr. Melih Gökçek, and the Ankara Chamber of Commerce.

In opening remarks, Ms. Carol Batchelor, the UNHCR Representative in Turkey, and Mr. Salih Bezci, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, underlined the importance of protecting those forced to leave their countries because of violence or persecution. Ms. Batchelor thanked Turkey for its support and hospitality to refugees.

In partnership with the Governorate of Istanbul and



WRD Event in Beyoğlu İstanbul
Photo: UNHCR, Turkey

Association for Solidarity for Asylum Seekers and Migrants-ASAM, UNHCR Istanbul organized two concerts starring the singer 'Enzo' and the band 'Yabancı Degiliz'. The live performance took place at a special wagon attached to the famous 'Nostalgic Tram' in Istiklal, the main commercial street in Istanbul.

Turkey adopts "Law on Foreigners and International Protection"

Turkey is facing a truly historic moment regarding its asylum system. Drafted by the Ministry of the Interior and conveyed to Parliament by the Prime Ministry, the draft "Law on Foreigners and International Protection" was reviewed in detail and adopted by concerned commissions under the leadership of the Interior Commission of the Turkish Grand National Assembly (TGNA) on the 20th of June 2012. The draft will be reviewed by the Plenary of the TGNA on re-opening in October. The Republic of Turkey may therefore have its first asylum law in 2012!

UNHCR's Representative in Turkey, Ms. Carol Batchelor, addressed the Commission members on 20 June and stated: "Distinguished members of the Commission, today marks World Refugee Day. I feel extremely privileged to have the opportunity to address you on such an important issue on the very day dedicated to persons of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR strongly supports this undertaking which would codify Turkey's long standing values of humanitarianism and protection through a legal framework enshrined in the rule of law. I commend this transparent and participatory consultative process, and reiterate UNHCR's commitment to continue to collaborate with Turkey in addressing the needs of refugees".

UNHCR believes the Law will serve Turkey well in advancing the country's interests and commitment to humanitarian values and ideals. Furthermore, this Law will serve as a framework for international cooperation with key foreign partners on issues related to asylum, and migration in the broader sense.



Commission meeting at the Turkish Grand General Assembly, June 2012.
Photo: T.G.N.A.

UNHCR'S Montly Statistics As of June 2012

Asylum Seekers by Age, Gender and Country As of 30.06.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	118	114	199	357	151	214	498	615	21	30	2317
IRAN	61	69	102	134	89	99	926	1360	48	60	2948
IRAQ	206	223	279	305	244	262	1008	1395	72	70	4064
SOMALIA	27	33	76	91	47	39	192	177	5	2	689
OTHERS	93	121	93	119	93	95	437	767	11	5	1834
TOTAL F/M	505	560	749	1006	624	709	3061	4314	157	167	-
GRAND TOTAL	1065		1755		1333		7375		324		11852

F=Female, M=Male

Refugees by Age, Gender and Country As of 30.06.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	117	134	221	254	293	386	746	860	15	30	3056
IRAN	76	93	111	123	117	180	1017	1398	53	40	3208
IRAQ	347	360	429	482	394	502	1933	2704	206	225	7582
SOMALIA	59	64	90	105	116	124	399	396	5	4	1362
OTHERS	38	38	24	30	31	45	174	293	1	1	675
TOTAL F/M	637	689	875	994	951	1237	4269	5651	280	300	-
GRAND TOTAL	1326		1869		2188		9920		580		15883

F=Female, M=Male

Active Caseload Breakdown by Age, Gender and Country As of 30.06.2012

Country	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Total by Country
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	
AFGHANISTAN	235	248	492	743	372	468	1244	1475	36	60	5373
IRAN	137	162	219	314	200	222	1943	2758	101	100	6156
IRAQ	553	583	673	807	673	744	2941	4099	278	295	11646
SOMALIA	86	97	192	215	137	144	591	573	10	6	2051
OTHERS	131	159	124	164	117	125	611	1060	12	6	2509
TOTAL F/M	1142	1249	1700	2243	1499	1703	7330	9965	437	467	-
GRAND TOTAL	2391		3943		1364		17295		904		27735

F=Female, M=Male