

World Refugee Day 2013: Commemorative Events

For this year's World Refugee Day, UNHCR Turkey organized a photography exhibition on the lives of refugee families as part of UNHCR's global campaign "1 family torn apart by war is too many". On 20 June the opening reception took place, where partners including government, donors, international organizations, EU, UN, NGOs and national and international media participated. A Turkish celebrity supporter of UNHCR and President of the World Disability Union, Mr. Metin Şentürk, participated in the opening reception to help conveying UNHCR's messages to the Turkish public.

The compelling photo exhibition showed challenges and experiences of refugees in Turkey and across the globe. Many photos portrayed refugees from Syria in the region as well as in Turkey, as it is one of the countries hosting most of the Syrian refugees. The photos and the captions provided information on the services available for Syrian refugees in refugee camps managed by the Turkish authorities, as the situation of the urban refugees in Turkey, as well as UNHCR's material and technical support to Turkish authorities. The exhibition was open for visitors during the week from 20 to 28 June.

A UNHCR tent, which UNHCR purchased from the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) through the global agreement that the High Commissioner signed with the President of the TRC during his visit to Turkey in March 2013, was displayed at the exhibition with all items inside that refugees are using in their daily lives (beds, bed sheets, cooking and kitchen sets, plastic tables and chairs etc.). Additionally, videos of Syrian refugees were showing the lives of Syrian refugees, as well as the services and assistances available for them in Turkey.