



Together we heal, learn and shine. Together we can achieve anything.

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2021 in Tunisia

Each World Refugee Day, 20 June, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, joins with others around the world to honour the more than 80 million people who have been forced to flee war, conflicts and persecution and rebuild their lives far from home. We also celebrate the people who have opened their countries, communities and even their homes to those who seek safety and peace.

The COVID-19 pandemic has strained our health-care systems, forced children out of school and sometimes kept us from those we love. This shared experience has showed us that we only succeed if we stand together. We have all had to do our part to keep each other safe and despite the challenges, refugees and displaced people have stepped up working on the front lines as nurses and doctors, inventing ways to keep people from spreading germs in close quarters, distributing information on how to stay healthy and safe and more.

Given the chance, refugees will continue to contribute to a stronger, safer and more vibrant world. This year, we call for greater inclusion of refugees in health systems, schools and sport... Only by working together can we recover from the pandemic.

Along all the month of June 2021, UNHCR Tunisia and its partners; the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR), the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR) and the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS) marked this recurrence with activities related to healthcare, education, sports and culture; with the participation of refugees, asylum seekers, staff, authorities and host community members.

TOGETHER WE HEAL...COVID-19 prevention and awareness in Zarzis and Tunis

A tent was set up at Amira beach in Zarzis with the presence of healthcare professionals ready to answer questions and counsel refugees, asylum seekers and host community members on prevention measures for COVID-19, health protocol and how to access the national vaccination program.

In Tunis, a group of refugees and asylum seekers with specific needs realized a short documentary during a three-day workshop to share their life experiences during COVID-19 and sensitize on prevention measures against the pandemic (documentary still under elaboration).

Taking care of the environment in Zarzis

Together we can learn to take care of our hosting country. In Zarzis, volunteers from UNHCR, CTR, the scouts and the Municipality joined refugees and host community members at the Sidi Kbir beach for a beach clean-up followed

by a short session on the negative impact of waste and plastic on the environment. Again in Zarzis, UNHCR and CTR staff together with refugees, asylum seekers and volunteers from the host community planted flowers and trees in a roundabout area.

TOGETHER WE LEARN...Celebrating the end of the school year in Gabes

On 24th June, a ceremony to celebrate the end of school year was held in Gabes. The ceremony gathered 15 young refugees and asylum seekers enrolled in either regular schooling or pilot classes, as well as 13 pupils from the host community. Prizes (tablets) and awards were distributed to the best students.

Advocate for inclusion in Sfax

On 14th June, UNHCR and its partners CTR and TAMSS organized a meeting at the "Cent Metres" theater of Sfax for 25 participants among local service providers, civil society and authorities to explain UNHCR mandate and the activities of each partner organization, to promote a better understanding of the concepts of international protection and asylum; and to advocate to improve the protection environment and better inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers in the services and social activities.



TOGETHER WE SHINE...Launch of the song "Ahlan Tunisia" by Lotfi Bouchnak

The famous Tunisian singer Lotfi Bouchnak composed a song to celebrate the welcoming spirit of Tunisia and its citizens towards refugees and asylum seekers. The song affirms refugees would all the time find a home in Tunisia, a land where the human rights are respected and abuses not tolerated. The song also said the refugees light up Tunisian cities. The video clip of the song was realized by the singer in collaboration with our partner the Arab Institute of Human Rights (AIHR) and with UNHCR support. Refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia perform in the video.

Check the video clip of the song here: <https://www.facebook.com/UNHCR Tunisia/posts/321754589559713>

WRD on air

On 21 June, Essaida FM dedicated its morning show to World Refugee Day with interviews and debates. Check the link to re-listen the episode: <https://www.facebook.com/EssaidaFm/videos/361212368858735>



Photo, painting & craft exhibition

The Cité de la Culture, main cultural hub of the capital, hosted an exhibition from 21 to 26 June 2021, where UNHCR and its partners CTR, IAHR and TAMSS exposed paintings, drawings and artisanal crafts made by refugees and asylum seekers, who were also present. Moreover, the exhibition was an occasion to reach out to the big public to explain the situation of refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia and the various project for their protection and assistance. Public information material was available for distribution. Many of the visitors expressed their solidarity towards refugees and their willingness to help them. The exhibition was also complemented by pictures showcasing UNHCR activities along the over 60 years of its presence in Tunisia. The exhibition

attracted all groups of visitors, from journalists to students to families.

Movie shows

Two movie projections complemented the exhibition: "The man who sold his skin" written and directed by Kaouther Ben Hania and "Capharnaüm" directed by Nadine Labaki. Both the movies tell stories of people forced to flee their homes and abandon their loved ones because of war and persecution; offering excellent reflection inputs on the situation of millions of people forcibly displaced around the world.

Sport events

In Tunis, on 4th and 18th June, mixed teams of refugees, asylum seekers and host community members (36 in total) played amical football games for the "Ibrahim Sylla trophy" to remember the late Ibrahim Sylla, an asylum seeker who was a reference in his community.

Twenty-four refugees, asylum seekers and members of the host community aged between 16 and 24 years participated in the "South Champions League" that took place in Zarzis. In solidarity with the victims of COVID-19, abuse and racism around the world, a moment of silence was observed before every match. Awards were offered to the winning team, the best team player and the best goalkeeper. Refugees were thrilled to meet people from different cities and make new friends.

On 27th June, the Stadium Mustafa Al-Douri of Djerba hosted the final match of the Tunisian Cup, followed by a large audience in Tunisia on television and radio. The *Club Africain* and the *Club Sfaxien* met in a special ambiance, as the match was "sponsored" by the World Refugee Day, thanks to an agreement signed between UNHCR and the Tunisian Football Federation. The stadium was decorated with WRD banners, and the support personnel was wearing UNHCR t-shirts. Live commentators mentioned the recurrence and remembered refugees in their speeches.



Art and recreational events

Refugees and asylum seekers hosted at the "Olive tree" shelter of Zarzis decorated the common spaces with graffiti, in order to make the space more colorful and welcoming. Some of them discovered to have drawing talent and love for painting.

Two recreational activities for children were organized in Gabes, on 17th and 25th June. The first organized with our partner IADH consisted in a drawing session followed by magic games and dancing dolls show; the other on 25th June, together with CTR, was a day of games and lunch in the park ended by a ride with the Gabes touristic train. The latter was probably the best part of the activity as the children went home extremely happy.

A group of seven unaccompanied children participated in a two-day training in photography organized by our partner CTR in Tunis. The training aimed, using photography as a media, to sensitize them about the dangers of irregular migration and prevent child exploitation and abuse. Also, photography is a way of self-expression that can help to overcome trauma.



Thirteen refugee and asylum seeker women with specific needs participated in handicraft workshops in Tunis and Sousse where they learn different techniques including artistic collage and production of protective reusable masks. Their works were exposed at the WRD exhibition at the Cité de la Culture in Tunis.

Seven children hosted at the Bhar Lazreg shelter in Tunis participated in a comics workshop, where they learn all the steps to produce a comic (scriptwriting, storyboarding, penciling, inking and coloring). The comics, together with two stories written by a refugee girl were printed and exposed at the WRD exhibition at the Cité de la Culture in Tunis.

Almanber ettounissi 19 June 2021	<i>With various programs for the benefit of refugees.. Tunisia celebrates World Refugee Day</i>	https://www.almanber-ettounsi.com/2021/06/19/%D8%A8%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%AC-%D9%85%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D8%AA%D8%AD/
Tunisian National Radio 20 June 2021	<i>In celebration of World Refugee Day...Solidarity with refugees is a human duty</i>	http://www.radiotunisienne.tn/2018/06/20/%D9%81%D9%89-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A6-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B6/
Tunisian National Television 20 Hours News	Interview with UNHCR Representative at the occasion of WRD 2021	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vip4ppBAZY
Le Temps 20 June 2021	<i>Art mobilize for a humanitarian cause</i>	https://www.pressreader.com/tunisia/le-temps-tunisia/20210620/282067689892600
Nessma TV 20 June 2021	<i>The world celebrates World Refugee Day – reportage about WRD 2021</i>	https://www.nessma.tv/ar/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%A9/actu/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85-%D9%8A%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%86/320242?fbclid=IwAR0S30DwULiN3FQAAG2msQxQGPN0Q_CK2z8JhJ5ZwdNuh4zILv9pGw3B2CU
Chabaka.tn 21 June 2021	<i>On World Refugee Day, UNHCR publishes shocking numbers</i>	https://chabaka.tn/%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%88%D8%A1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%81%D9%88%D8%B6%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85/?f

		bclid=lwAR2mb3gR5y3DwASNBA1nkgM1Eli9AQgTajtO4lvs3OBgmNHKeNKsplmN7jQ
La Presse 23 June 2021	<i>Tunisia celebrates World Refugee Day: together we can achieve anything.</i>	https://lapresse.tn/101224/la-tunisie-celebre-la-journee-mondiale-du-refugie-ensemble-on-peut-tout-reussir/
Tunis Actus 23 June 2021	<i>On "World Refugee Day"... an urgent UN message to the countries of the world</i>	https://www.tunisactus.com/%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85/?fbclid=IwAR0XN-NzWIZOZ_slMiynF1jJs5ugODHKK2p6tMTzZzk9-DPjpOeFkE9l5o
Radio Jeunes Tunisie 23 June 2021	<i>Special Programme for the Final of Tunisia Cup – direct from Djerba</i>	https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?extid=NS-UNK-UNK-UNK-AN_GK0T-GK1C&v=783621688988442&ref=watch_permalink
Ultra Web TV 26 June 2021	<i>Tunisia celebrates Refugee Day June 2021</i> Interviews with UNHCR and its partners about WRD 2021 and the exhibition in Tunis	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sJcq2BZ_p68
Ultra Tunisia 26 June 2021	<i>World Refugee Day in Tunisia: At the crossroads of the homeland... life will not be extinguished</i>	https://ultratunisia.ultrasawt.com/%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%88%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A6-%D8%A8%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86

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