

UNHCR Syria Celebrate World Humanitarian Day

“On World Humanitarian Day we honour and pay tribute to all humanitarian personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of peace and humanity,”

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly designated 19 August as World Humanitarian Day in honour of the 22 UN staff, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SSRG) to Iraq, who lost their lives in the bombing of the UN Headquarters in Baghdad in 2003. World Humanitarian Day is celebrated worldwide and remembers humanitarian personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty and recognizes the critical work being done to help millions of people in need throughout the world.



UNHCR Staff Attending the Celebration
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On 19 August this year, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres on Tuesday paid tribute to humanitarian workers worldwide whose work he said was becoming increasingly complex, dangerous and unpredictable. In a staff message issued to mark World Humanitarian Day, he stressed that the last two years had been “the most tragic ever with 329 aid workers falling victim to major attacks in 2014, and 457 in 2013.” He went on to add “We specifically acknowledge the dedication and courage of our UNHCR colleagues and partners as they tirelessly work to meet the spiralling needs of an unprecedented number of displaced people around the world. We recognize the tremendous risks and challenges they face as they provide protection and life-saving support,”

HIGHLIGHTS

- World Humanitarian Day Celebrated in Syria
- UNHCR Syria Launches 2015 Mid-Year Report
- Newroz Refugee Camp in Hassakeh Benefits from UNHCR Assistance
- Community-Based Initiatives Improving Lives



‘Fresh Displacement, Changing Dynamics- UNHCR Responds’

UNHCR Syria 2015
Mid-Year Report

<http://www.refworld.org/docid/55e7f68a4.html>

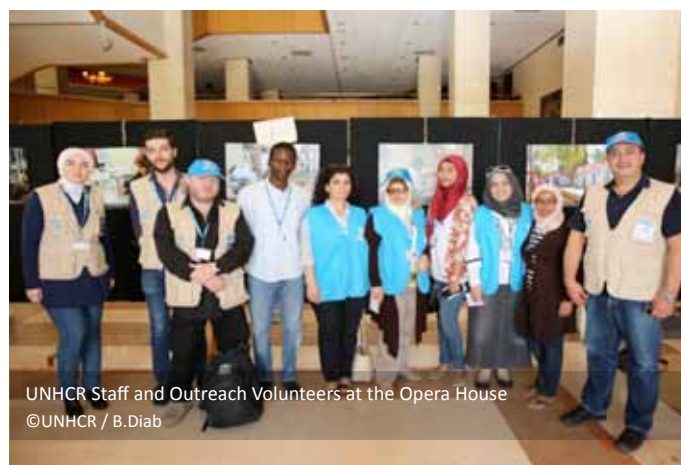
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Children's choir sing a song from the UNHCR supported music album
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UNHCR Staff and Outreach Volunteers at the Opera House
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This year on August 19, World Humanitarian Day was celebrated at the Opera House in Damascus. The event which was organized by OCHA was attended by UN agencies, partners, NGOs and various civil society organizations including a number of youth groups. UNHCR participated with a photo exhibition that illustrated the suffering and the resilience of the Syrian people and demonstrated UNHCR's humanitarian response throughout Syria over the past few years. In addition, a children's choir sang one of the songs from a music album supported by UNHCR, which is expected to be launched in September, which talked about the lost dreams of the children of Syria, and called for peace and reconciliation.

UNHCR Responds to Alleviate Suffering in the Extreme Weather in Hassakeh

During August, as a response to the extremely hot weather which has exceeded 48 degrees in the Newroz refugee camp in Hassakeh, and requests from both refugee committees and camp management, UNHCR distributed desert air conditioner units. The much needed units, which brought great relief from the scorching sun and unbearable heat were immensely welcomed by everyone including the camp residents, committee leaders and camp management.

'Due to the suffocating heat was spending hardly no time the tent, even sleeping outside, but thanks to UNHCR's assistance I can now stay inside. Thank you UNHCR!!' says 90 year old Base (Pictured below right)



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“It used to be very hot inside the tents and we were not able to watch our favourite cartoon, Tom and Jerry” said Saly and her two young brothers who have lived in the Newroz camp since August 2014. Saly’s father added “It used really hurt me seeing the sadness in my children’s eyes as they were unable to enjoy their time in the tent because of the extreme heat but now I’m delighted that they can enjoy their time inside without burning” who offered great appreciation for UNHCR for providing all the camp residents with the ACs. Saly’s brothers Ali and Sami then jumped in and said with great happiness and enthusiasm ‘hot weather will no longer prevent us from staying inside our tent’



Community Based Initiative (CBI) in Qudsaya Uses Recycling to Improve Conditions



During August, youths from the Circassian community in Qudsaya, Rural Damascus teamed up with their IDP neighbours to improve their neighbourhood, through a UNHCR supported CBI, where the communities recycled old plastic bottles, bags, barrels and tires to plant flowers and organize hanging gardens as well as cleaning piles of rubbish from the streets.

A core group of 65 adolescents, children, men and women, supported by UNHCR outreach volunteers initiated the clean-up campaign, bringing plants and various materials, painting the walls of houses and fences, and using recycled bottles, tires and barrels as containers for the plants, thus making their neighbourhood a cleaner and nicer place.

This community initiative which required just modest support from UNHCR, mainly depended on the creativity and engagement of the local community, and has had a great impact in terms of promoting a cleaner environment, community participation and peaceful co-existence between local residents and IDPs.

Thanks to Our Donors



These are the 2014 and 2015 donors for the Syria situation

For more information , please contact:

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