
**UNHCR
Representation
in Yemen**
Street No. 38, Off
Algerian Street,
Building No. 2, Sana'a,
Yemen
Tel + 967 1 469 771
Fax + 967 1 469 770
www.unhcr.org

PLACE: Sana'a, Yemen

DATE: 20 June 2016

World Refugee Day – We Stand Together #WithRefugees

We live in a world where conflict and persecution forces thousands of individuals and families to flee for their lives each day. According to UNHCR's annual [Global Trends](#) report released today, 65.3 million people were displaced as of the end of 2015, including 21.3 million refugees, 3.2 million asylum seekers, and no fewer than 40.8 million people displaced within their own countries. This is the first time in the history of counting displacement that the threshold of 60 million displaced persons has been crossed. This means 1 in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee – a level of risk for which UNHCR knows no precedent.

Yemen's civil war, escalated in March 2015, has resulted in the displacement of 2.8 million Yemenis – this figure of new displacement within one year is higher than in any other conflict globally, and is also higher than the total number of the population of greater Sana'a. Also, Yemen continues to host some 270,000 refugees mainly from Somalia, while approximately 10,000 persons arrive at Yemen's coast every month from the East and Horn of Africa to seek safety and livelihood opportunities in Yemen or the Gulf States. Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that has signed the 1951 UN refugee convention and its 1967 protocol.

UNHCR marks World Refugee Day each year on June 20, to commemorate the strength, courage and perseverance of more than 60 million people around the world. World Refugee Day is a key moment for everyone to show their support for all those forced to flee.

In Yemen, the UNHCR office and partners will celebrate the World Refugee Day with a series of special events. Aden kicked off the World Refugee Day celebration early on June 2. Under the theme "We Stand Together #WithRefugees", the Refugee Youth Committee in Aden took a lead in organizing a cultural event with speeches, songs and dances prepared by various refugee groups where 400 people from the refugee and host communities, NGOs and youth groups joined. This was the first World Refugee Day event in the south of the country since the escalation of the conflict.

"The world needs to renew its commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its principles; to offer safe haven and to help refugees restore their lives. We must not fail," said a member of the Refugee Youth Committee during the event.

On the World Refugee Day, a similar even will take place in the capital city, Sana'a. UNHCR will organize an Iftar, the traditional Islamic fast-breaking dinner, inviting refugee communities, partners and government counterparts. After the dinner,

UNHCR

**Representation
in Yemen**

Street No. 38, Off
Algerian Street,
Building No. 2, Sana'a,
Yemen

Tel + 967 1 469 771
Fax + 967 1 469 770

www.unhcr.org

representatives from different refugee communities will share their personal stories tracing their journeys to and life in Yemen.

“Yemen has always stood out in the region for its generosity towards refugees. In the current dire humanitarian situation in the country, it is more than ever important that this tradition is upheld and that refugees can share in the use of scarce resources and contribute to peaceful co-existence” said UNHCR Representative Johannes van der Klaauw. “Refugees are people no different from Yemenis whose lives have been disrupted by war and persecution. UNHCR stands together #WithRefugees, on World Refugee Day and every day - and we want you to stand with us.”

Contacts: Soojin Hyung, External Relations Officer, hyung@unhcr.org

For more information, please follow us on Twitter at @UNHCRYemen and on Facebook at UNHCRYemen