



WHOEVER, WHEREVER, WHENEVER – Everyone has the right to seek safety

WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2022 in Tunisia

Each year on 20 June, UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency joins others around the world to honor refugees and celebrate the strength and courage of those who were forced to flee their countries of origin to escape conflict and persecution.

World Refugee Day (WRD) is an opportunity to remember that with the support of host communities and different stakeholders, people forced to flee can rebuild their lives and prosper alongside local communities.

The world is currently witnessing a dark milestone; the number of people forced to flee conflict, war, persecution, and human rights abuses has for the first time exceeded 100 million. In light of this, it is critical to remember the importance of welcoming newcomers to our communities and ensure displaced persons can live in dignity. Refugees and asylum-seekers bring with them their culture, unique experiences, and hopes – all of which contribute to building a stronger, resilient, and more vibrant community.

Everyone has the right to seek safety – anyone, wherever they come from, and whenever they have been forced to flee.

Protecting those forced to flee is a global collective responsibility. Displaced people need to heal, learn, work, and thrive – in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention and the Global Compact on Refugees, adopted in 2018. They also need to be granted access to their essential rights including the choice to return home in safety and dignity, to integrate locally, or in the most vulnerable cases to be resettled to a third country. Additionally, effective measures should be taken to ensure displaced persons are not faced with detention, imprisonment, or deportation.

During the month of June 2022, UNHCR Tunisia with the support of partners - the Tunisian Refugee Council (CTR), the Arab Institute for Human Rights (AIHR), and the Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS) - marked WRD 2022 with activities related to sports and culture, with the active participation of refugees, asylum-seekers, staff, authorities, and host community members.

Football Championships: Ibrahim Sylla League, 2nd Edition

Youngsters from the refugee and host community participated in several football championships in the north and south of Tunisia, building team spirit and friendships, while fostering peaceful coexistence

On 16 June, two mixed teams comprised of refugees and host community members played a friendly football match in Tunis, continuing the second edition of the Ibrahim Sylla league (*Ibrahim Sylla; an asylum-seeker who passed away recently and was an idol in his community*); both parties were enthusiastic to meet and form new friendships. *“I’m excited to have new friends coming from other countries, I didn’t know what a refugee meant until now,”* said one participant from the host community.



On 17 June, 16 refugees and asylum-seekers aged 17 – 30 participated in the “South Champions League” that took place in Medenine, where football proved to be more than just a sport for the participants, serving as a tool to overcome their trauma and anxieties and form new bonds.

Camping with the Scouts

Scouts and refugees came together for an outdoor adventure



As part of this year’s WRD celebrations, refugee youth living in the olive shelter in Zarzis took part in a camping activity organized by the Tunisian Scouts in Zarzis on 17 June. Scouting represents an opportunity for refugee youth to develop their skills by taking part in crafting, cooking, singing, and debating in an exciting outdoor setting.

Refugee participants were thrilled to meet members of the Tunisian Scouts organization and take part in camping and outdoor activities together.

Define Safety

Art, recreation, and sports come together to improve the well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers

On 17 June, UNHCR and partner the Tunisian Council for Refugees organized a handcraft activity at a daycare center in Medenine, where displaced men and women came together to create personalized T-shirts for the refugee football team. Participants expressed their vision of safety in a creative way via the symbols and colors painted on the shirts. Zemzem from Ethiopia (pictured) was happy to participate in this activity, which gave her the opportunity to meet other asylum-seekers and refugees and forget the horrible moments she endured in the recent past, while spending quality time with children and youths.



Two other recreational activities for children were organized by UNHCR partner CTR in Gabes and Medenine on 15 and 16 June. During the first activity, refugees and asylum-seekers hosted at the “Ibn Khaldoun” shelter of Medenine created a new reading corner in the common space of the shelter to encourage children to read, while a second activity consisted of a music recording session for children to foster their creative abilities.

Paint for All

Art in support of Refugee rights



On 18 June, UNHCR partner the Tunisian Council for Refugees with the support of the Cultural Development Association (ADCMA) hosted an art event in Tunis in celebration of WRD.

Songs from various African countries were played as activities unfolded. A group of refugees and host community members enjoyed the sunny day practicing crafts while learning about refugee protection. Children and adults were provided with beverages and art supplies at large communal tents. “I’m enjoying the music and the painting, and I met a lot of new friends here,” said Ayoub, one of the participants.

World Refugee Day Special Radio Programs

Spreading awareness on asylum via media

The media played an important part in this year’s WRD, as part of UNHCR and partners’ efforts to increase outreach to the public and host community and raise awareness on asylum-related issues.

Saida FM, the Tunisian Human rights Radio launched by partner the Arab Institute for Human rights, undertook the production of a special broadcast on 20 June to discuss WRD activities and inform host communities of the importance of refugee inclusion. [Link](#)



In the southern governorates of Gabes and Medenine, Micro Trottoir (*The micro-sidewalk is a journalistic technique that consists of interviewing people in the street and gather their spontaneous opinion on a subject*). sessions were organized in partnership with local radios. Quizzes and discussions were held for members of the host community, highlighting the distinction between migrants and refugees, and raising their awareness of asylum-related issues.

Launch of FORAS platform

Online platform to help refugees find work



On 20 June, UNHCR partner Tunisian Association for Management and Social Stability (TAMSS) launched its new platform “FORAS” to help refugees find work opportunities through an online tool. The platform matches refugees’ employment needs with those of companies and individuals in Tunisia. This innovative service is an easy and efficient tool for refugee economic integration. For more information, please see [here](#).

Let's celebrate our diversity together

Socio-cultural activity for the migrant, refugee, and host population of the city of Tunis

On 23 June, the Arab Institute for Human rights in partnership with the Municipality of Tunisia organized a cultural Event in Tunis celebrating diversity and solidarity with refugees and migrants. The event comes within the framework of the project "Cultural communication and inclusion at the heart of municipal policies".

The event showcased paintings of migrant journeys, a refugee photo exhibition, and live performances to entertain visitors, from journalists to students to civil society activists.

The activity not only presented displaced people’s talents but was also an opportunity to support livelihood projects, as two refugees supplied the event with homemade food and sweets. *“The highlight of the evening was for sure the Syrian Falafel”* one attendance said, with many visitors expressing solidarity towards refugees and a willingness to book their services for future events.





**Everyone, standing with refugees:
Support for refugees went viral on social-Media**

Staff, partners, students, children, influencers, and people from all different backgrounds came together on WRD this year to support refugees and remind us that the right to asylum is universal.

No matter where they come from, seeking asylum is a human right.

#ForcedToFlee

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Media Coverage:

Media outlet	Title (free translation)	Link
Radio Tunisie	World Refugee Day: Tunisia calls for facilitation of resettlement procedures	Link
TAP	UNHCR launches digital platform for refugees "FORAS.tn"	Link
Univers News	FORAS.tn: a work grant for refugees in Tunisia	Link
Youm 7	Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: We're committed to the principle of refugees' protection	Link
Tekiano	FORAS.tn: the online platform that offers job opportunities for refugees	Link
Jawhara fm	Launch of a digital platform for refugees in Tunisia	Link

Television Tunisienne	The launch of a digital platform for the refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia	Link
Express FM	UNHCR in partnership with the association, it had launched FORAS digital platform for refugees seeking employment in Tunisia.	Link
WebManagerCenter	Refugees in Tunisia now have a dedicated digital platform	Link
RadioMed	Launch of a digital platform for refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia	Link
AgenziaNova	Tunisia: UNHCR launches dedicated digital platform for refugees and asylum seekers looking for work	Link
Shems FM	UNHCR launches the digital platform FORAS.TN for refugees seeking employment	Link
Journalistes Sfaxiens	Launch of employment digital platform for refugees	Link
Babnet	Digital platform for refugees was launched on the WRD 2022	Link
Nessma TV	A platform to facilitate refugees job placement in Tunisia	Link
Recruter.tn	TAMSS and UNHCR launch digital platform for refugees	Link
Nabd	In celebration of WRD, a digital platform for refugees and asylum seekers was launched	Link
Almanbertounsi.com	FORAS.tn offers job opportunities for refugees	Link

Tunisia sat	A digital for job offers targeted to refugees has been launched on	Link
Al jarida	FORAS.TN was launched on WRD	Link
Radio Express FM	Prf. Lasaad Jamoussi speaks about the launch of FORAS.tn platform	Link
Akhbar Tunisia	FORAS.tn contributes to the inclusion of refuges in the socially and economically	Link
Bonne Info	Digital platform for refugees was launched	Link
Turess	FORAS.tn will allow refugees and asylum seekers to find job opportunities in Tunisia	Link
Rassd Tunisia	The launch of a digital platform that connects refugees and employ	Link
Diwan FM	UNHCR and TAMSS work towards a better inclusion of refugees in Tunisia	Link