



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

### **World Refugee Day highlights *Real People, Real Needs***

In the lead up to World Refugee Day (20 June 2009), UNHCR is highlighting the courage and resilience of refugees and the important work being done by the UN Refugee Agency, governments and civil society to protect refugees and help them to restart their lives.

The global theme for World Refugee Day 2009, "*Real People, Real Needs*", highlights the central idea of international refugee protection - that those people who flee their homes because of persecution and conflict need sanctuary and protection from danger.

It also reminds us that refugees have real and pressing needs for education, housing, health care, employment, and empowerment to protect their rights and help rebuild their lives.

On World Refugee Day, we also have the opportunity to involve *Real People* in our communities – the many former refugees who are living, working and making real contributions to our society.

UNHCR's Regional Office for Australia, New Zealand, PNG and the Pacific has been helping local organisations and community groups plan celebrations and commemorations all around the region in the lead up to World Refugee Day to highlight the "*Real people, Real Needs*" theme.

It will also next week release the latest global statistics analysing the real and growing needs of refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced people and stateless people around the world.

UNHCR is encouraging as many people as possible to get involved in World Refugee Day activities to show their support for refugees in their communities and all around the world.

A list of events and activities around the country is at: [www.unhcr.org.nz](http://www.unhcr.org.nz)

**Editors note:** file vision and stills of UNHCR's work helping refugees around the world are available.

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