



General Director of the Directorate General of Migration Management Abdullah Ayaz:

There are 70 million displaced people across the world

The International Migration Film Festival continues with Q&A activities and workshops along with the scheduled movie sessions. On the third day of the festival, Abdullah Ayaz, the director general of Migration Management of the Interior Ministry who has been appointed as the Çankırı governor, spoke on the 10 years of migration administration practices in Turkey for the past 10 years at a session moderated by Şebnem Vitriuel. "There are more than 270 million migrants across the world. The number of people displaced by force stands at around 70 million. There are more than 25 million refugees. These might sound like statistics but each of these individuals is a human being. The main reason that drives people to migrate is hope. Unfortunately we observe a lack of empathy in the matter of migration. We have held this festival to attract attention to the phenomenon of migration across the world" Ayaz said in his speech aired live on the Instagram account of the festival.

"The Turkish society deserved the biggest thank you"

Underlining that Turkey hosts some 5 million foreigners, with 3.6 million of them being Syrians, Ayaz said "Turkey has managed this issue successfully all from the beginning. Our society deserves the biggest thank you." He said some 98 percent of Syrians in Turkey live in cities. "We have seven camps in five provinces. The number of Syrians living in these camps is limited to 63,000. These people are working, they do not receive any direct aid from the state. They can benefit from health services. In addition, they are offered 120 Turkish Liras each month as part of an EU funding distributed via cards granted by the Turkish Red Crescent. More than 400,000 Syrians have returned to their countries," he said. Ayaz added that more than 103,000 "economic migrants," who came to the country only for economic reasons, have been deported.

The festival will end with a closing ceremony on June 21.