

Refugee Realities | 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How many forcibly displaced people (FDP) are in the world?

A. 59.5 million. The number includes refugees, internally displaced persons (IDP), asylum-seekers and stateless persons. The number of FDP has grown 40% in the past 3 years.

Q. How many people were newly uprooted every day in 2014?

A. 42,500. This means that 30 new people were uprooted every minute in 2014.

Q. How many of the world's FDP are internally displaced (IDP)?

A. 38.2 million. Internally displaced people have been forced to flee their homes, but not their country. IDPs and refugees are often uprooted by similar causes (e.g. war, persecution, violations of human rights, etc.). Some IDPs are displaced by natural disasters.

Q. How many refugees are in the world?

A. 19.5 million. Refugees are people who were forced to flee their country of origin in search of safety. To receive refugee protection, they have to prove that they could not find refuge within their country of origin and that the authorities in their homeland either could not or would not protect them.

Q. How many Palestinian refugees are in the world?

A. 5.1 million. This is the number of Palestinian refugees receiving care from UNRWA initiative.

Q. How many asylum-seekers are in the world?

A. 1.8 million. An asylum-seeker is an individual seeking international protection and whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined.

Q. How many stateless people are in the world?

A. 10 million. Stateless persons *"are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State."* –UNHCR

Q. What can you tell me about the average refugee in the world today?

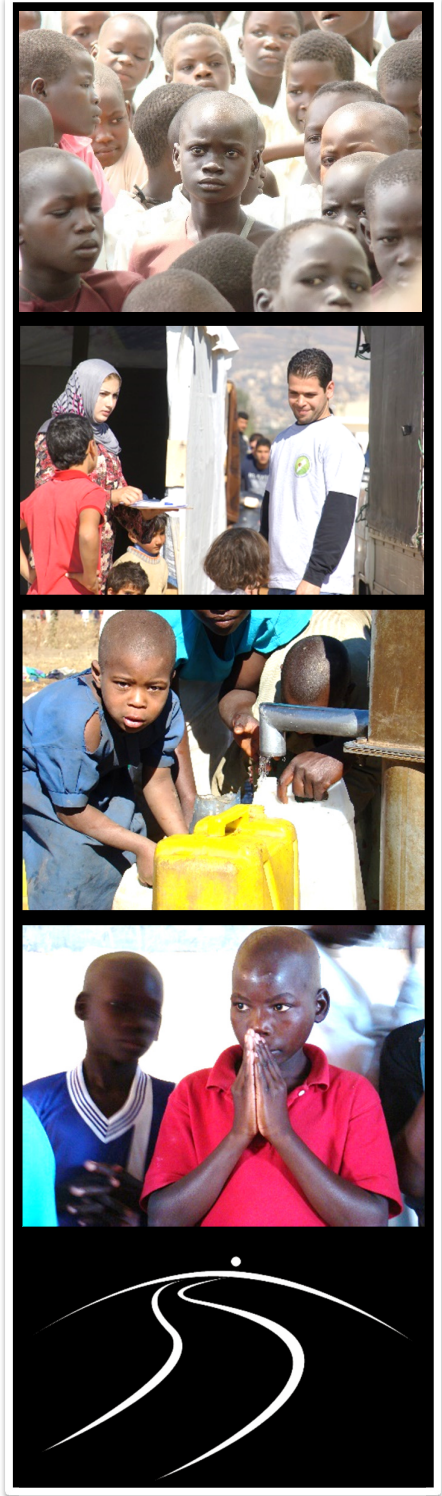
- 50% of the world's refugees are women and girls.
- 51% of the world's refugees are under 18 years old.
- 86% of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.

Q. What country received the most claims for asylum in 2014?

A. Russia received 274,700 new applications for asylum in 2014.

Q. What country is producing the greatest number of refugees?

A. More than half (53%) of the world's refugees come from just 3 countries, Syria (3.88m), Afghanistan (2.6m), and Somalia (1.1m).



Q. What countries are producing the most refugees and IDP?

1. Syria (11.6m)
2. Columbia (6.4m)
3. Iraq (4.1m)
4. D.R. Congo (4m)
5. Afghanistan (3.7m)
6. Sudan (2.9)
7. South Sudan (2.5m)
8. Somalia (2.3m)
9. Pakistan (1.8m)
10. Central African Republic (1.5m)

Q. What part of the world hosts the most refugees?

A. 86% of the world's refugees are hosted by developing nations. 27% of the world's refugees are hosted in the Asia/Pacific region of the world. 26% are hosted in sub-Saharan Africa. 22% are hosted in Europe. 21% are hosted in North Africa/Middle East. 5% are hosted in the Americas.

Q. What countries host the largest number of refugees?

A. Turkey (1.6m), Pakistan (1.5m), Lebanon (1.2m), Iran (982,000), Ethiopia (659,500), Jordan (654,100), Kenya (551,400), Chad (452,900), Uganda (385,500), China (301,000) host the most refugees in the world.

Q. What countries received the most resettled refugees in 2014?

A. 27 countries received resettled a total of 105,200 refugees in 2014. The USA received 70% of resettled refugees (73,000). Other leading countries of resettlement included Canada (12,300), Australia (11,600), Sweden (2,000), Norway (1,300) and Finland (1,100). A tiny fraction of the world's refugee population was resettled in 2014 (less than 0.5%).

Q. What does the Bible have to say about refugees and forcibly displaced people (FDP)?

A. More than you think. Check out www.iafr.org to learn more.

The Refugee Highway is more than numbers. Each statistic represents a name, a face, a heart and soul – a precious life.

Their lives are more than stories of suffering and loss. They are tales of courage, resourcefulness and resilience. The people who are forced to travel the Highway are worthy of our respect.

If this overview of Refugee Realities has stirred your heart, take the next step. Find out if there are refugees in your community. See if there are opportunities to volunteer and help them integrate. Extend friendship to them. Invite them into your home and ask them to share their story. Pray with and for them.

I was a stranger, and you invited me in. -Jesus



Photos: Tom Albinson/IAFR