

Refugee Realities | 2019

Frequently Asked Questions

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

A. 70.8 million people have been forced to flee their homes because of persecution, conflict and/or human rights violations. This is the highest number ever recorded. For perspective, 10 years ago there were 42 million FDPs.

Q. How many people were newly uprooted in 2018?

A. 13.6 million. This includes 10.8m IDP and 2.8m new refugees and asylum seekers.

Q. How many people were newly uprooted every day in 2018?

A. 37,000. 26 people were newly uprooted every minute.

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

A. 41.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes, but not their country (i.e. internally displaced).

Q. How many refugees are in the world?

A. 25.9 million. This represents an increase of 500,000 over the past year. 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 homeland and that the authorities in their country either could not or would not protect them.

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

A. 3.5 million people had a pending claim at the end of 2018. 1.7 million new claims for asylum were lodged in 2018. 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. At least 3.9 million though the number is believed to be millions more. 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. Many refugees are at risk of becoming stateless.

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

- **48%** of the world's refugees are women and girls.
- **50%** of the world's refugees are under 18 years old.
- **84%** of the world's refugees are hosted by developing countries.

Q. What countries received the most claims for asylum in 2018?

A. The USA received 254,300 new applications for asylum in 2018. Peru received the second highest number of applications (192,500) and Germany third (161,900), France fourth (114,500) and Turkey fifth (83,800).

Q. What countries are producing the greatest number of refugees?

A. 67% of the world's refugees come from just 5 countries, Syria (6.7m), Afghanistan (2.7m), South Sudan (2.3m), Myanmar (1.1m) and Somalia (950,000).



Q. What countries are producing the most displaced people (refugees*, asylum seekers and IDP)?

1. 13 million Syria
2. 8 million Colombia
3. 5.4 million DR Congo
4. 5.1 million Afghanistan
5. 4.2 million South Sudan
6. 3.7 million Somalia
7. 2.8 million Ethiopia
8. 2.7 million Sudan
9. 2.5 million Nigeria
10. 2.4 million Iraq
11. 2.2 million Yemen

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

A. 84% of the world's refugees are hosted by developing nations. 32% are hosted in Europe including Turkey. 31% of the world's refugees are hosted in sub-Saharan Africa. 21% are hosted in Asia/Pacific. 13% are hosted in the Middle East and North Africa. 3% are hosted in the Americas.

Q. What countries host the largest number of refugees*?

A. Turkey (3.7m), Pakistan (1.4m), Uganda (1.2m), Sudan (1m), Germany (1m), Iran (979,400), Lebanon (949,700), Bangladesh (906,600), Ethiopia (903,200), Jordan (715,300) host the most refugees in the world.

Q. What countries received the most resettled refugees in 2018?

A. A tiny fraction of the world's refugee population was resettled in 2018 (less than 1%). 25 countries received a total of 92,400 refugees for resettlement. Leading countries of resettlement include Canada (28,100), the USA (22,900), Australia (12,700), the UK (5,800) and France (5,600).

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.

*Note that there are 5.5m Palestinian refugees in the Middle East not reflected in these figures for which the UN reports separately.

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



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