2017 IN REVIEW

Trends at a Glance

Globally, the forcibly displaced population increased in 2017 by 2.9 million. By the end of the year, 68.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, or generalized violence. As a result, the world’s forcibly displaced population remained yet again at a record high.

68.5 MILLION
FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

- 25.4 million refugees
- 19.9 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate
- 5.4 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate
- 40.0 million internally displaced people
- 3.1 million asylum-seekers

16.2 MILLION
NEWLY DISPLACED

An estimated 16.2 million people were newly displaced in 2017. This included 11.8 million individuals displaced within the borders of their own countries and 4.4 million newly displaced refugees and new asylum-seekers.

85%

Developing regions hosted 85 per cent of the world’s refugees under UNHCR’s mandate, about 16.9 million people. The least developed countries provided asylum to a growing proportion, amounting to one-third of the global total (6.7 million refugees).

L 1 IN 6

Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee under the responsibility of UNHCR. Jordan (1 in 14) and Turkey (1 in 23) ranked second and third, respectively. When Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate are included, the figures rise to 1 in 4 for Lebanon and 1 in 3 for Jordan.

44,400

NEW DISPLACEMENTS EVERY DAY

The number of new displacements was equivalent to an average of 44,400 people being forced to flee their homes every day in 2017.

3.1 MILLION
ASYLUM-SEEKERS

By the end of 2017, about 3.1 million people were awaiting a decision on their application for asylum, about half in developing regions.

1 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council.
2 Ibid.
3 The number of new individual asylum applications for Turkey does not include Syrian nationals who receive protection under the Temporary Protection Regulation.
5 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

During 2017, nearly 5 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, comprising 4.2 million internally displaced people and 667,400 refugees. Returns have not kept pace with the rate of new displacements.

68%

Altogether, more than two-thirds (68 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just five countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>6.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>2.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>2.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>986,400</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.7 MILLION NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.7 million new asylum claims. With 331,700 such claims, the United States of America was the world’s largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by Germany (198,300), Italy (126,500), and Turkey (126,100).³

3.5 MILLION PEOPLE

For the fourth consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 3.5 million people. The main countries of asylum for refugees were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>3.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>998,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islamic Rep. of Iran</td>
<td>979,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>970,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>932,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>906,600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

102,800 REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT

In 2017, UNHCR submitted 75,200 refugees to States for resettlement, a 54 per cent drop from 2016 due to the decline in resettlement quotas. According to government statistics, 102,800 refugees were admitted for resettlement during the year, with or without UNHCR’s assistance.

173,800 UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

This conservative estimate takes into account new applications, asylum-seekers and refugees. It includes 45,500 unaccompanied and separated children who sought asylum on an individual basis in 2017 as reported by 67 countries and 138,700 unaccompanied and separated child refugees and asylum-seekers as reported by 63 UNHCR operations, with reductions to avoid possible double-counting.

52% CHILDREN

Children below 18 years of age constituted about half of the refugee population in 2017, up from 41 per cent in 2009 but similar to more recent years.