

2016 in Review

TRENDS AT A GLANCE

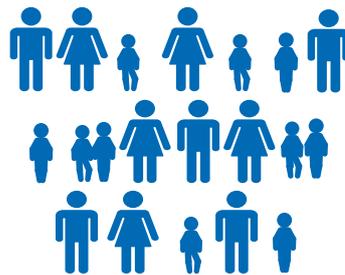
By the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. That was an increase of 300,000 people over the previous year, and the world's forcibly displaced population remained at a record high.

65.6 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations

- 22.5 million people who were refugees at end-2016
 - 17.2 million under UNHCR's mandate
 - 5.3 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA
- 40.3 million internally displaced people¹
- 2.8 million asylum-seekers

10.3 MILLION NEWLY DISPLACED



20 NEW DISPLACEMENTS EVERY MINUTE

10 MILLION PEOPLE

During the year, 10.3 million people were newly displaced by conflict or persecution. This included 6.9 million individuals displaced within the borders of their own countries² and 3.4 million new refugees and new asylum-seekers.³

UNHCR estimated that at least 10 million people were stateless or at risk of statelessness in 2016. However, data captured by governments and reported to UNHCR were limited to 3.2 million stateless individuals in 75 countries.

The number of new displacements was equivalent to 20 people being forced to flee their homes every minute of 2016.

84%

Developing regions hosted 84 per cent of the world's refugees under UNHCR's mandate, with about 14.5 million people. The least developed countries provided asylum to a growing proportion, with 28 per cent of the global total (4.9 million refugees).

51%

Children below 18 years of age constituted about half of the refugee population in 2016, as in recent years. Children make up an estimated 31 per cent of the total world population.⁴

¹ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council.
² Ibid.
³ The number of newly displaced refugees includes only those who have been recognized on a group or *prima facie* basis.
⁴ Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2015). World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision (2015 estimate used). See: <https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/>.
⁵ These figures refer only to refugees under UNHCR's mandate.

552,200

REFUGEES RETURNED

Refugee returns increased from recent years. During 2016, 552,200 refugees returned to their countries of origin, often in less than ideal conditions. The number is more than double the previous year and most returned to Afghanistan (384,000).

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. Jordan (1 in 11) and Turkey (1 in 28) ranked second and third, respectively.⁵

55%

More than half (55 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries:

Syrian Arab Republic	(5.5 million)
Afghanistan	(2.5 million)
South Sudan	(1.4 million)

SOUTH SUDAN

The fastest-growing refugee population was spurred by the crisis in South Sudan. This group grew by 64 per cent during the second half of 2016 from 854,100 to over 1.4 million, the majority of whom were children.

2.0

MILLION NEW CLAIMS

The number of new asylum claims remained high at 2.0 million. With 722,400 such claims, Germany was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by the United States of America (262,000), Italy (123,000), and Turkey (78,600).

2.9

MILLION PEOPLE

For the third consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 2.9 million people. The main countries of asylum for refugees were:

Turkey	2.9 million
Pakistan	1.4 million
Lebanon	1.0 million
Islamic Republic of Iran	979,400
Uganda	940,800
Ethiopia	791,600

189,300

REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT

In 2016, UNHCR referred 162,600 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, 37 countries admitted 189,300 refugees for resettlement during the year, including those resettled with UNHCR's assistance. The United States of America admitted the highest number (96,900).

75,000

UNACCOMPANIED OR SEPARATED CHILDREN

Unaccompanied or separated children – mainly Afghans, and Syrians – lodged some 75,000 asylum applications in 70 countries during the year, although this figure is assumed to be an underestimate. Germany received the highest number of these applications (35,900).

SYRIA

More than half of the Syrian population lived in displacement in 2016, either displaced across borders or within their own country.