



Refugees: 10 key facts

Under international humanitarian law, refugee rights are protected by the 1951 Refugee Convention, which has been signed up 145 countries.



Who is a refugee?

“A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.”

-UNHCR. <http://www.unrefugees.org/what-is-a-refugee/>

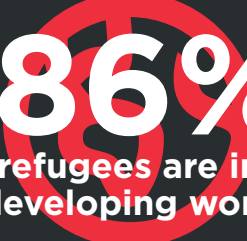
THE PROBLEM IS BIG, AND IT'S GROWING

1 **21.3m** 
REFUGEES WORLDWIDE.
That's the highest
IN A GENERATION

2 **33,072** 
people were forced to flee
due to conflict and persecution
PER DAY

3 **54%**
of refugees come from
three countries:
SYRIA 4.9m
AFGHANISTAN 2.7m
SOMALIA 1.1m

4 The top refugee hosting
countries in the world are
TURKEY 2.5m
PAKISTAN 1.6m
LEBANON 1.1m

5 **86%** 
of refugees are in the
developing world

6  **APPROX
HALF**
OF ALL REFUGEES ARE UNDER 18

IT'S NOT GOING AWAY ANY TIME SOON

7 The rate of forced displacement
has increased
FOURFOLD
IN A DECADE

8 REFUGEES TYPICALLY FACE A WAIT OF YEARS BEFORE GOING HOME.
41% are in protracted
refugee situations
(those which have lasted for over 5 years)
THE AVERAGE LENGTH IS 26 YEARS.

9 Most refugees are not in camps,
but live among the host community.
OVER 60% LIVE IN URBAN AREAS.
In Turkey around 90% of refugees
live outside the official camp system

10 In 2015 - only
201,400
refugees were able to return home

(All figures from UNHCR's 2015 Global Trends report, except for the figure of 90% of refugees living outside camps which is an EU figure from 2016).

www.unhcr.org/uk/statistics/unhcrstats/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html

http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/turkey_syrian_crisis_en.pdf