

## What We Do and Who We Work With

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees — also referred to as UNHCR or the UN Refugee Agency:

- Provides lifesaving assistance and protection, including shelter, food, clean water, education, and medical care to nearly 47 million people worldwide who have been forced to flee their homes.
- Actively works to prevent and respond to gender-based violence.
- Helps refugees and other displaced people become self-sufficient through vocational training and income-generating projects.
- Helps refugees and other displaced people rebuild their lives by returning to their homes safely and with dignity. UNHCR also assists with local integration or resettlement to another country.

Today, the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide has reached nearly 60 million, the highest figure on record since World War II. UNHCR, with its staff of more than 9,500 — of whom 75% are local staff — and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, works to assist and protect nearly 60 million people in over 125 countries around the globe. More than 19.5 million of these are refugees — people who have crossed an international border. Others include people displaced within their own country, known as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), as well as stateless individuals, who are not recognized as a citizen of any state.



UNHCR/ A. Solumsmoen

Children with UNHCR aid convoy in northern Syria, 2013.

## Origin of Largest Refugee & IDP Groups assisted by UNHCR

Refugees		IDPs	
Syria	4.3 million	Syria	7.6 million
Afghanistan	2.6 million	Colombia	6.3 million
Somalia	944,000	Iraq	2.7 million
S. Sudan	675,000	DRC	2.6 million
CAR	465,000	Sudan	2.6 million

## Responding to Large-Scale Humanitarian Emergencies

In recent years, a series of violent conflicts and emergencies have forced millions of people to flee their homes and seek protection and assistance elsewhere, either within the borders of their own countries or in neighboring countries. In addition to other longstanding refugee situations around the globe, UNHCR is currently responding to humanitarian crises affecting millions of people in Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Yemen, and now in Europe.

**In Syria and the region,** UNHCR is coordinating relief efforts and helping refugees and internally displaced Syrians find shelter in cities and camps. UNHCR and its partners are working to address the needs of more than 4.3 million Syrian refugees in the region. Inside Syria, UNHCR and its partners are delivering lifesaving aid to millions of Syrians affected by the conflict.

**In Europe,** UNHCR is providing support to the countries receiving refugees who are fleeing war torn areas and taking dangerous routes in search of safety in Europe. UNHCR is handing out relief supplies and working with local municipalities to assist the refugees.

**In Yemen,** UNHCR has provided emergency relief to 147,386 IDPs since March 2015. UNHCR has also been preparing and responding to the recent cyclone by moving non-food items and tents into affected regions and working with partners to discourage any refugees or migrants attempting to cross the Red and Arabian Seas.

**In South Sudan and the region,** UNHCR and its partners are providing aid to South Sudanese civilians who have fled internal violence and to Sudanese refugees fleeing insecurity along the border — in areas where insecurity is rife, the roads are rare, the rains are heavy, and malnutrition is all too common.

## Refugee Resettlement Facts/Figures

- UNHCR's primary purpose is to protect and assist refugees; our ultimate goal is to help find lasting solutions, including resettlement to a third country, that will allow them to rebuild their lives in dignity and safety.
- Less than 1% of refugees are resettled worldwide (approx. 80,000 per year) to countries like the U.S., Australia, Canada, and Nordic countries.
- Since 1975, the U.S. has welcomed more than 3 million refugees from all over the world.
- Refugees have built new lives, homes, and communities in all 50 states. The top 10 states where refugees are resettled in the U.S. (for 2013) are: Texas, California, Michigan, New York, Florida, Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Washington.



*A group of displaced children in Yemen still have something to smile about. UNHCR/H. Macleod*

## Global Trends At A Glance

- The global refugee total, which a year ago was 19.5 million, had as of mid-2015 passed the 20 million threshold (20.2 million) for the first time since 1992.
- Asylum applications were meanwhile up 78% (993,600) over the same period in 2014, and the numbers of internally displaced people jumped by around 2 million to an estimated 34 million.
- In a global context, that means that one person in every 122 has been forced to flee their home.
- New refugee numbers are also up sharply: Some 839,000 people in just six months, equivalent to an average rate of almost 4,600 being forced to flee their countries every day.
- Children under 18 make up 51% of all refugees worldwide, the highest percentage in a decade.
- 6.4 million refugees live in protracted exile (i.e., at least five years) in 26 countries.

## UNHCR's Budget Process: How It Works

Voluntary contributions from governments, foundations, corporations, and individuals account for about 97% of UNHCR's total budget. Only 2-3% comes from the UN's regular budget. UNHCR's budget is based on a comprehensive assessment of the actual needs of refugees and other vulnerable and displaced people it assists, rather than on anticipated levels of funding from donors. An annual Global Needs Assessment (GNA), conducted at the field level by UNHCR in consultation with refugees and key stakeholders, maps out the range of activities to be undertaken should sufficient funds be made available. Operating levels are then established at the field level based on projected income. Emergencies, such as those in Syria, South Sudan, CAR, and DRC and surrounding countries are not accounted for in the GNA because they represent unforeseen needs and must be funded through supplementary or special appeals.

## UNHCR's Funding Status

Despite global financial and economic upheavals, donors continue to support UNHCR's lifesaving work. In 2015, UNHCR raised a record \$3.32 billion in contributions from donors. Nonetheless, much of this funding went to the big emergencies, particularly Syria. This has meant that a smaller share of our overall budget received funding than in previous years, leaving unmet many of the needs of refugees and other vulnerable people. In recent years UNHCR has provided aid for a number of protracted crisis, making continued funding essential. UNHCR's emergencies in Africa were funded at an average of 20%.

## Support from the U.S.

Thanks to the continued leadership of the U.S. Administration, the strong bipartisan efforts of the U.S. Congress, and the American public's unwavering commitment to protect and assist the most vulnerable, UNHCR is able to meet the most basic, life-sustaining needs of refugees and internally displaced people, promote stability in war-torn areas of the world, and resettle refugees who cannot return home.

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