

2018 IN REVIEW

Trends at a Glance

The global population of forcibly displaced increased by 2.3 million people in 2018. By the end of the year, almost 70.8 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations. As a result, the world's forcibly displaced population remained yet again at a record high.

70.8 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations at end-2018

- 25.9 million refugees
- 20.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate
- 5.5 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA's mandate
- 41.3 million internally displaced people¹
- 3.5 million asylum-seekers

13.6 MILLION NEWLY DISPLACED

An estimated 13.6 million people were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2018. This included 10.8 million individuals displaced² within the borders of their own country and 2.8 million new refugees and new asylum-seekers.

16%

Countries in developed regions hosted 16 per cent of refugees, while one third of the global refugee population (6.7 million people) were in the Least Developed Countries.

37,000

NEW DISPLACEMENTS EVERY DAY

The number of new displacements was equivalent to an average of 37,000 people being forced to flee their homes every day in 2018.

3.5 MILLION ASYLUM-SEEKERS

By the end of 2018, about 3.5 million people were awaiting a decision on their application for asylum.

4 IN 5

Nearly 4 out of every 5 refugees lived in countries neighbouring their countries of origin.

- 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 and relates to applications submitted to UNCHR until 10 September 2018, when the government assumed full responsibility for registration and refugee status determination.
- 4 This number includes both refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela worldwide as of February 2019. See: www.unhcr.org/5c6fb2d04
- 5 These figures refer only to refugees under UNHCR's mandate. In addition, Lebanon hosted 475,100 and Jordan 2,242,600 Palestine refugees under the mandate of UNRWA.

2.9 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED

During 2018, 2.9 million displaced people returned to their areas or countries of origin, including 2.3 million IDPs and nearly 600,000 refugees. Returns have not kept pace with the rate of new displacements.

67%

Altogether, more than two thirds (67 per cent) of all refugees worldwide came from just five countries:

Syrian Arab Republic	6.7 million
Afghanistan	2.7 million
South Sudan	2.3 million
Myanmar	1.1 million
Somalia	0.9 million

1.7 MILLION NEW CLAIMS

Asylum-seekers submitted 1.7 million new claims. With 254,300 such claims, the United States of America was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by Peru (192,500) Germany (161,900), France (114,500) and Turkey (83,800).³

3.7 MILLION PEOPLE

For the fourth consecutive year, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees worldwide, with 3.7 million people. The main countries of asylum for refugees were:

Turkey	3.7 million
Pakistan	1.4 million
Uganda	1.2 million
Sudan	1.1 million
Germany	1.1 million

81,300 REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT

In 2018, UNHCR submitted 81,300 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, 25 countries admitted 92,400 refugees for resettlement during the year, with or without UNHCR's assistance.

138,600 UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

Some 27,600 unaccompanied and separated children sought asylum on an individual basis and a total of 111,000 unaccompanied and separated child refugees were reported in 2018. Both numbers are considered significant underestimates.

1/2 CHILDREN

Children below 18 years of age constituted about half of the refugee population in 2018, up from 41 per cent in 2009 but similar to the previous few years

Venezuela
Venezuelan refugees and asylum-seekers grew in number. The broader movement of Venezuelans across the region and beyond increasingly took on the characteristics of a refugee situation, with some 3.4 million outside the country by the end of 2018.

Lebanon
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 14) and Turkey (1 in 22) ranked second and third, respectively.