

Refugee Statistics

42 + million worldwide

Categories of Refugees

- persecuted refugee: persons who work for the United States, whether in the military or in other organizations, and must flee their country for safety because of threats from enemies
- internally displaced: persons facing persecution, conflict, or violence, that are displaced within their own country
- perpetual refugee: refugee that remain in refugee camps for fifty or more years (over 7 million refugees fall under this category)

Countries that are the source of many refugees

Top 3 Countries

1. Iraq: Iraq refugee rates are the fastest growing in the world with approximately 2 million refugees that have fled and over 1.5 million internally displaced due to a brutal civil war.
2. Sudan: Sudan has the second highest number of refugees. Over 5 million have fled because of the genocide happening in West Sudan, that we know as Darfur.
3. Colombia: Colombia has the third highest number of refugees, with about 3 million internally displaced because of armed conflict.

General

About 26 nations worldwide, the majority in Africa and the Middle East, have a refugee and internally displaced conflict.

Regions

1. The Middle East has the largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons, with over 4 million. The majority are from Pakistan, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
2. Africa has the second largest number of refugees and internally displaced persons, with over 3 millions.

Journey of a Refugee

Flee

- They first are forced out of their country due to persecution and violence. They bring little to nothing with them, many times only the clothes they are wearing.

Refugee Camps

- Definition: A refugee camp is a large settlement where refugees live with thousands of other refugees. Many of these camps are horrible conditions to live with. The refugees construct shelter using and resources available (sticks, plastic, mud, stones, etc).
- Function: Refugees must first go to a camp in order to obtain a visa. This process consists of arriving at the camp, obtaining a referral from the United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, and finally having an interview with the Department of Homeland Security. This process, with so many refugees, takes an incredible amount of time.

- Basic needs: These camps often lack even the most basic necessities. Humanitarian aid agencies provide many of these camps with food, clean drinking water and minimal health care. The problem is that these agencies often have a difficult time entering these countries and many times it can take them days to arrive.
- Threats: Many diseases develop and spread throughout these camps. The most common are water borne diseases, cholera and dysentery, that develop due to the lack of clean drinking water.
- “Temporary”: These camps were set up and function as temporary living centers for refugees until they are resettled in another country or even their home country if violence has seized. The problem is that for a large number, refugee camps become their permanent “homes”.
- Overcrowding: The number of refugees is growing so rapidly that the capacities of many of these camps have become irrelevant. There is a growing problem of over populated camps, which makes it easy to spread diseases and run out of basic necessities.

Resettlement

- The United States resettles more refugees than any other nation.
- Sweden protects fleeing refugees, despite the knowledge that they use illegal European passports, knowing what they had to flee from.

Problems for Resettled Refugees in United States

The United State’s resettlement program was based upon employment. The goal was for the refugees to obtain jobs in order to work toward self sufficiency. With the current economic crisis, jobs have been extremely scarce. The results are devastating, with nothing in their name, these refugees must survive below poverty level. Many of these refugees come well educated with advanced degrees and skill levels, yet cannot find jobs because of specific certification requirements and language barriers.