

# FORCED TO FLEE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Global forced displacement has seen accelerated growth in the last couple of years, once again reaching unprecedented levels.

There are nearly **60 million people worldwide displaced by war, conflict & persecution** – approximately equivalent to the populations of New York and California combined. This represents an increase of more than **8.3 million people in the last year**, and the highest annual increase in a single year.

Every single day, **42,500 people flee their homes in search of safety.**

**Just five years ago, that number was 10,900.**

Now, let's do the math: **If Madison, Wisconsin lost 42,500 people every day, it would be a ghost town in fewer than six days. Boston would be empty in 15 days and Chicago in nine weeks.**

**One out of every 122 people** across the world has been forced to flee from his or her home, including refugees, internally displaced people, and asylum-seekers.

**Forcibly displaced people** are those who have to leave their homes due to war, conflict, or persecution. There are three commonly referred to categories of forcibly displaced people: **Refugees** cross a border into a new country to find safety. **Internally displaced people** are forced to flee to a safer place within their home country. Many refugees are initially considered **asylum-seekers**, and must apply to receive refugee designation.

There are currently more than **20 million refugees worldwide**. Refugees come from all over the world: including Colombia, Guatemala, Mali, South Sudan, Ukraine and many other countries in Africa, Asia, South, and Central America – not just from Syria or other Middle Eastern countries, as many people think.

**More than 50% of the refugee population is women and children under the age of 18. Children 11 years old and younger account for 38.5% of all refugees.**

**Refugees spend an average of 17 years uprooted** from their lives, without a permanent home, moving between refugee camps and host communities.

Only **126,800 of 20.2 million refugees (0.6%) were able to return to their home countries** in 2014, the lowest return rate since 1983.

**From 2000-2013, there was a gradual increase in the number of displaced persons. However, since 2011 there has been a 40% increase in the number of displaced persons globally.**

**OUR GOAL: To find durable solutions that allow refugees to rebuild their lives and provide them with homes, access to education, and meaningful work.**

