

FORCED TO FLEE: FACTS AND FIGURES

Global forced displacement has seen accelerated growth in 2014, once again reaching unprecedented levels. The year saw the highest displacement on record. Today there are **more than 60 million people worldwide displaced by war, conflict & persecution**. This is 8.3 million persons more than the year before, and the highest annual increase in a single year. **Together, they would make up the same population as Italy.**

Every day, 42,500 people flee their homes in search of safety. That's every single day of 2014. In 2010, 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 6 days. Boston, 15 days. Chicago, emptied in 9 weeks.**

1 in 122 people across the world has been forced to flee his or her home. These people are made up **refugees, internally displaced peoples, and asylum-seekers.**

A **refugee** flees his or her country to reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group, and will likely never be able to return home. An **internally displaced person** is forced to flee his or her home for the same reason as a refugee, but remains in his or her own country and has not crossed an international border. **Asylum seekers** flee their country for the same reasons, yet must apply for the right to be recognized as a refugee and receive legal protection and material assistance.

In Asia, the Middle East, Ukraine, Latin America, Africa and elsewhere, people have been forced to flee. **There are currently over 19.5 million refugees worldwide. 53% come from three countries: Syria, Afghanistan, and Somalia.**

Over 50% of the refugee population is children under the age of 18.

The United Nations' figures show **women outnumber men by 50.5%, and children 11 years old and younger, male and female, account for 38.5% of all refugees.**

Refugees spend an average of 17 years uprooted from their lives, moving between refugee camps or host communities.

Of the 19.5 million refugees in 2014, **only 126,800 (or 0.06%) are able to return to their countries of origin.** This has been the lowest level of refugee returns since 1983.

From 2000-2013, there was a gradual increase in number of displaced persons. However from 2011, there has been a 40% increase in the span of the last three years.

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

