



The Global Refugee Crisis*

68.5 Million People

- More than 68.5 million men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes by spiraling crises around the world – the highest number ever recorded.
- 85% of the world's displaced people are in developing countries.
- 25.4 million displaced persons are refugees seeking safety outside of their home countries. 68% of refugees are from Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Sudan.
- 31 people will be forced to flee their homes in the next 60 seconds.
- More than half of the world's refugees are children under age 18.
- Over half of refugees are in protracted situations lasting an average of 26 years.
- Refugees do not choose to leave their home countries – they are forced to flee.
- Refugees do not decide which countries they are resettled to – each country decides which refugees it resettles.

Civil War in Syria: Far-Reaching Impact

- Syrians are the largest forcibly displaced population, with 12 million people.
- 6.3 million Syrians are now refugees; most are in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. 25% of Lebanon's population is now Syrian refugees.
- Top hosting countries: Turkey (3.5m), Pakistan (1.4m), Uganda (1.4m), Lebanon (998,900), Iran (979,400), Germany (970,400), Bangladesh (932,200), and Sudan (906,600).
- Numbers tell just part of the story. We are haunted by images. Of sprawling refugee camps. Of bombed cities. Of families fleeing for their lives in flimsy crowded boats. Of bodies washing ashore. These are the realities.

Refugees Coming to America

- Refugees enter the U.S. legally.
- Refugees do not pose a security threat to the United States.
- Refugees are the most thoroughly vetted individuals entering the United States. Before they set foot on American soil, they complete extensive security and medical screenings involving 5 U.S. government agencies.
- Each refugee receives a health screening before and after arrival to the U.S.
- No person admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program has ever been implicated in a major fatal terrorist attack in the U.S. The Cato Institute estimates that the chances of an American being murdered in a terrorist attack caused by a refugee are 1 in 3.64 billion yearly. In other words, you are more likely to be shot by a toddler, be hit by a meteorite, or win the PowerBall Lottery.
- Last year, refugees came to the U.S. from more than 70 countries.
- Refugees pay taxes, get jobs, start businesses, and enrich our communities. Most are employed within six months of arrival.
- Refugees contribute more to our economy than they take from it. Over the past decade, they brought in \$63 billion more in government revenues than they cost. In Cleveland, in 2012, local refugee services agencies spent about \$4.8 million to help refugees get established, but the benefit to the economy generated by those refugees came to about \$48 million, 10 times the resettlement costs.
- Refugees pay for their own travel to the U.S. through a no-interest loan.
- The U.S. pledged to resettle 110,000 refugees in FY2017. With slowdowns by the Trump Administration, refugees entering the U.S. dropped to 53,700. For FY2018, the admission goal was reduced to 45,000. The actual number admitted was 22,491, less than half. The admissions goal for FY2019 is just 30,000. These historic lows are decimating the U.S. Resettlement Program.
- America has historically been a nation that welcomes refugees and immigrants. Will we betray this legacy? Or will we again welcome refugees with open arms?

* Statistics from Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, USA for UNHCR, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and International Organization for Migration. Updated January 2019.