2017 IN REVIEW

Trends at a Glance

Globally, the forcibly displaced population increased in 2017 by 2.9 million. By the end of the year, 68.5 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, or generalized violence. As a result, the world’s forcibly displaced population remained yet again at a record high.

68.5 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED WORLDWIDE

- 25.4 million refugees
- 19.9 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate
- 5.4 million Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate
- 40.0 million internally displaced people
- 3.1 million asylum-seekers

as a result of persecution, conflict, or generalized violence

16.2 MILLION NEWLY DISPLACED

An estimated 16.2 million people were newly displaced in 2017. This included 11.8 million individuals displaced* within the borders of their own countries and 4.4 million newly displaced refugees and new asylum-seekers.

85%

Developing regions hosted 85 per cent of the world’s refugees under UNHCR’s mandate, about 16.9 million people. The least developed countries provided asylum to a growing proportion, amounting to one-third of the global total (6.7 million refugees).

1 in 6

Lebanon continued to host the largest number of refugees relative to its national population, where 1 in 6 people was a refugee under the responsibility of UNHCR. Jordan (1 in 14) and Turkey (1 in 23) ranked second and third, respectively. When Palestine refugees under UNRWA’s mandate are included, the figures rise to 1 in 4 for Lebanon and 1 in 3 for Jordan.

44,400

NEW DISPLACEMENTS EVERY DAY

The number of new displacements was equivalent to an average of 44,400 people being forced to flee their homes every day in 2017.

3.1 MILLION ASYLUM-SEEKERS

By the end of 2017, about 3.1 million people were awaiting a decision on their application for asylum, about half in developing regions.

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.