

INOMUN 2018



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

TOPIC: Inhumane conditions of refugees in camps

COUNTRY LIST IN COMMITTEE

Afghanistan, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, Iraq, Myanmar, Lebanon, DRC, Denmark, USA, Canada, France, Greece, Germany, Spain, UK, Haiti, Lybia, Palestine, Philippines.

• INTRODUCTION

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is a UN programme with the mandate to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees, stateless people, and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees and to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

UNHCR was created in 1950, in the aftermath of World War II. Its headquarters are located in Geneva, Switzerland and it is a member of the United Nations Development Group. *The UNHCR has won two Nobel Peace Prizes, once in 1954 and again in 1981.*

Nowadays we live in an urbanised global world where trade is a critical factor. Yet, we also live in a world torn up by extended conflicts that lead entire populations to flee their countries taking the risk to lose everything to survive. Especially in the camps planted in LEDCs, the refugees are forced to live in inhumane conditions, lacking of primary needs. Because of Globalisation, MEDCs get involved in global conflicts which, in this case, has affected mainly the Middle-East. But the developed countries have also hosted refugees from Africa.

Funding and unmet requirements, UN-coordinated appeals, 2006–2015



Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2016

As shown in this document, what the UN requests for humanitarian relief : refugee resettlement, IDP (Internally Displaced Person) camp maintenance, emergency medical supplies, and the like — and what it actually receives is still extremely high. We can directly mention that in spite of the increase of the need from 2013 to 2015, UN funds to support relocated people on a worldwide scale are too limited.

Due to the conflicts in their homeland, citizens flee their country to escape and find shelter elsewhere. Because of the increasing of the phenomenon, NGOs have started building refugee camps but the living conditions in these camps are barely human. The migrants often flee their country swiftly, thus they do not bring much (neither money, nor clothes, nor medicine, etc...) as they know the journey will be long, often on foot, or by dangerous, illegal transportation. If and when they make it to their host country, they often cannot afford proper hygiene, nor education; thus, it is difficult to enter the working market due to their lack of professional qualifications needed to the host country.

- **TIMELINE OF EVENTS (2011 - present)**

1950 - *The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is created, during the aftermath of the Second World War, to help millions of Europeans who had fled or lost their homes.*

1999 - Sangatte camp inaugurated by the Red Cross → camp in the north of France for migrants wishing to go to the UK (maximum capacity: 200 migrants)

May 2002 - Sangatte camp, submerged by migrants, is closed due to tensions between Paris and London and human traffic discoveries

May 2011 - First refugee camps open in Syria

Jul 2012 - Za'atri Refugee Camp opens in Jordan

Oct 2012 - UNHCR urges European Union states to uphold their asylum principles by ensuring access to their territory, access to asylum procedures and harmonizing their approaches in the review and granting of asylum claims.

Nov 2012 - UNHCR aid reaches 300,000 displaced people across Syria.

Dec 2012 - Neighbouring countries host half a million refugees. UNHCR and partners launch a US \$1 billion Regional Response Plan for Syrian refugees in Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt

Jun 2013 - UN humanitarian agencies announce the biggest aid appeal in history, amounting to US \$4.4 billion, on behalf of dozens of aid organizations. This includes almost \$3bn for humanitarian relief in the region surrounding Syria (the Regional Response Plan), \$1.4 bn for the aid response inside Syria (the Syrian Humanitarian Assistance Response Plan). On top of this, US \$830 million is requested for the governments of Jordan and Lebanon.

Aug 2013 - The number of Syrian refugee children passes 1 million

Sept 2013 - The number of Syrian refugees passes the 2 million mark, compared to 230,000 one year earlier. The number of internally displaced stands at 4.25 million. UNHCR and government ministers from Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq meet in Geneva and pledge joint action to seek greater international help for host countries struggling to cope with the Syrian refugee crisis. Growing numbers of Syrians seek to reach Europe by sea. Germany accepts first group of Syrian refugees for temporary relocation.

Jan 2015 - 'Calais Jungle' Opens

Nov 2015 - Estimated 6,000 migrants living in the camp

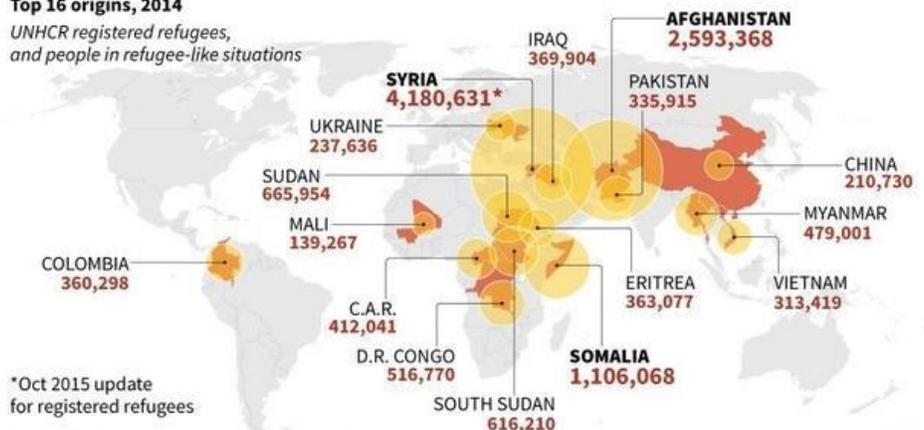
Oct 2016 - Evacuation of Calais migrants in different parts of France

World refugees

59.5 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2014

Top 16 origins, 2014

UNHCR registered refugees, and people in refugee-like situations

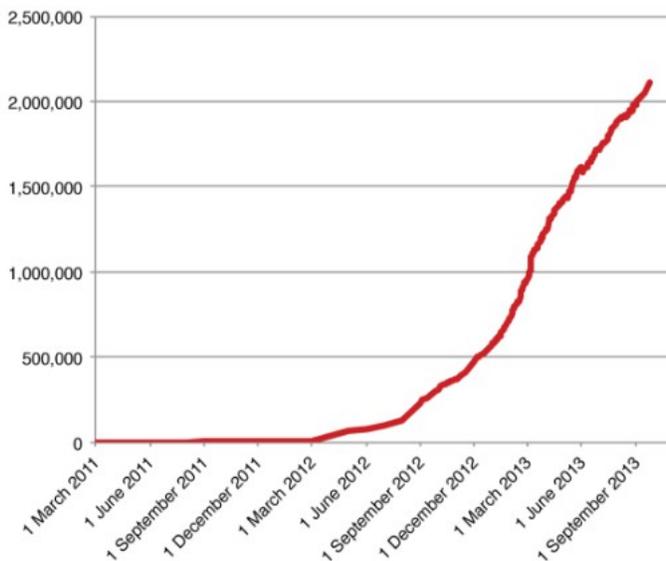


*Oct 2015 update for registered refugees

The Rising Curve of Displacement



Syrian refugees



From the UNHCR'S Fact Sheet

• KEY TERMS

Emigration -

The departure of a country to another in order to settle in it.

Immigration -

the fact that non-nationals people move into the country for a purpose of settlement.

Refugee -

A person who, "owing to **a well-founded fear of persecution** for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (Art. 1(A)(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol). In addition to the refugee definition in the 1951 Refugee Convention, Art. 1(2), 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention defines a refugee as any person compelled to leave his or her country "owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country or origin or nationality." Similarly, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration states that **refugees also include persons who flee their country** "because their lives, security or freedom have been threatened by generalised violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order."

Asylum seeker -

A person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. If not accepted, the person might be expelled from the country, as might be a non-nationals or unlawful person settled on a territory that is not his. Until a determination is made, it is impossible to say whether the asylum-seeker is a refugee or not.

Smuggling -

"The procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident" (Art. 3(a), UN Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000).

Alien –

this term is used in some countries, notably the US, to designate non-citizens. Yet, it is often considered as a really dehumanizing term.

Landed immigrant –

used to qualify permanent residents.

Internally displaced person / IDP -

someone who is forced to flee his home but who remains within his country's borders. They are often qualified as refugees even though they aren't in the illegality refugees are left into.

• BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Globalisation is often associated with places like Wall Street, the City of London or China. But, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), one fourth of the worldwide 51.2 million forcibly displaced persons live in camps. In countries as far apart as Azerbaijan, Jordan, Thailand, or Zimbabwe, aid beneficiaries are administered through similar techniques of refugee screening, emergencies and relief distribution. In those otherwise vastly different settings, similar NGOs and UN-agencies deliver standardized food rations, tents, jerry-cans, plastic sheets and blankets.

In MEDCs such as EU countries, the management of immigration is quite different: in July 2013, almost all EU countries voted in favour of the creation of the Dublin III. The EU law establishes the Member State responsible for the examination of the asylum seeker. The criteria for establishing responsibility run, in hierarchical order, from family considerations, to recent possession of visa or residence permit in a Member State, to whether the applicant has entered EU irregularly, or regularly. One of the principal aims of the Dublin Regulation is to prevent an applicant from submitting applications in multiple Member States. Another aim is to reduce the number of "orbiting" asylum seekers, who are shuttled from member state to member state. The country in which the asylum seeker first applies for is responsible for either accepting or rejecting the claim, and the seeker may not restart the process in another jurisdiction.

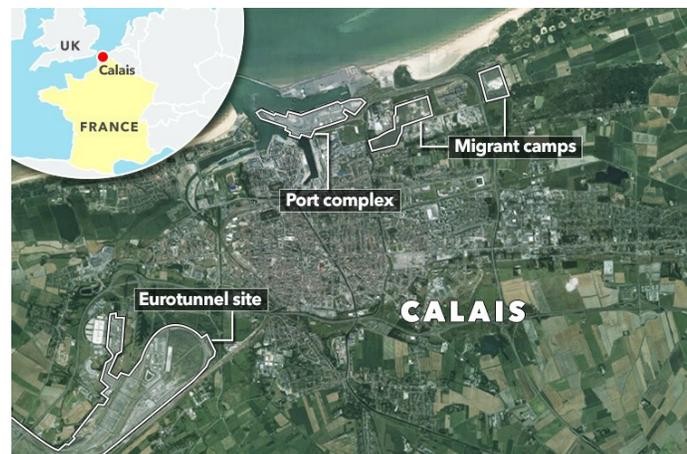
Organization of camps

In most cases, refugee camps consist of: settlements, sectors, blocks, communities, and families. 16 families make up a community, 16 communities make up a block, four blocks make up a sector, and four sectors are called a settlement. A large camp may consist of several settlements. Each block elects a community leader to represent the block. Settlements and markets in bigger camps are often arranged according to nationalities, ethnicities, tribes, and clans of their inhabitants, such as at Dadaab and Kakuma (Kenya).

MOST FAMOUS CAMPS

CALAIS CAMP

In January 2016, French authorities opened a shelter in the northeastern part of the camp. Authorities had earlier cleared tents and shacks from this area and erected 125 metal shipping containers in their place, converting the containers into shelters for up to 1,500 migrants. Shipping containers, rather than more permanent structures, were chosen because the sand dunes are unfit for permanent foundations. The container shelters were painted white and were furnished with bunk beds, windows, and heaters, but no running water or sanitary facilities (toilets and showers were made available at an existing nearby facility). At the time, Reuters described the "Jungle" as "unsanitary" and estimated its total population to be 4,000..



In October 2016, some 6,400 migrants were evacuated from the encampment in 170 buses, with the intent of resettling them in different regions of France. On October 26th, French authorities announced that the camp had been cleared. As of 26 July 2017 Human Rights Watch has published a report called "Like Living Hell" documenting the continuing human rights abuses by the police against children and adult migrants in the region.

(The chairs suggest you watch it for the conference, it is very interesting and eye opening).

ZAATARI CAMP

Being a neighbouring country with Syria, Jordan has been doing its part from the outset of the Civil war. Zaatari—the single-largest refugee camp in the world for Syrians fleeing violence, just 16 km from the Syrian border—has been operating since 2012. Roughly 80,000 Syrian refugees currently reside in the camp, but Jordan has taken in approximately 635,000 Syrian refugees total—that’s about 10% of its own population. If Zaatari were a city proper, it would be Jordan’s fourth-largest.

But while Jordan’s generosity for its neighbors is real, it’s not entirely selfless. The World Bank’s \$300 million interest-free loan certainly factors into Syria’s decision to open its doors to Syrians in need. And Syrian refugees have proven to be quite industrious; there are now more than 3,000 small businesses in Zaatari, generating more than \$13 million a month for the Syrian refugees and the Jordanians they do business with. Money talks, even in times of crisis.



Camp overview: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/styles/attachment-large/public/resources-pdf-previews/592591-reach_jor_map_zaatari_ccm_general_infrastructure_june2016.png?itok=7_tbSST1

DADAAB CAMP

But the world’s largest refugee camp is one you’ve probably never heard of: Dadaab in Garissa County, Kenya. Home to nearly 350,000 people—a population larger than the city of Pittsburgh—the Dadaab refugee complex provides shelter to Somalis fleeing their country’s long-running civil war. Originally founded in 1991, today nearly a third of the people living in Dabaab were born inside the camp.

Read More: [The ‘Left Behind’ Refugees of the Jungle in Calais](#)

Like Calais, fear of terrorism makes life in Dabaab much more difficult for its residents. Kenyan officials have been vowing to shut down the camp for years, but they have a renewed sense of urgency with the rise of the Shabab militant group, a particularly brutal band of militants who have pledged allegiance to Al Qaeda. Kenyan authorities have accused Shabab of using Dabaab as a hideout within their borders. Politics are also at play here—Kenya’s sitting president, Uhuru Kenyatta, is up for reelection next year, and he has made national security his rallying cry. Then there’s the religious element: Kenya is a majority Christian country, Somalia a predominantly Muslim one. Thousands of miles from Calais, the concerns remain remarkably consistent: security, religion, and politics.



Camp overview:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/styles/attachment-large/public/resources-pdf-previews/592591-reach_jor_map_zaatari_ccm_general_infrastructure_june2016.png?itok=7_tbSST1

FIGURES AT A GLANCE:

-**65.6** million people have been forcibly displaced around the world

-**28 300** people a day are being forced to flee their homes because of conflicts and persecution, that is to say 20 people every minute.

-**22.5** million people are nowadays considered as refugees with half of whom are under the age of **18**.

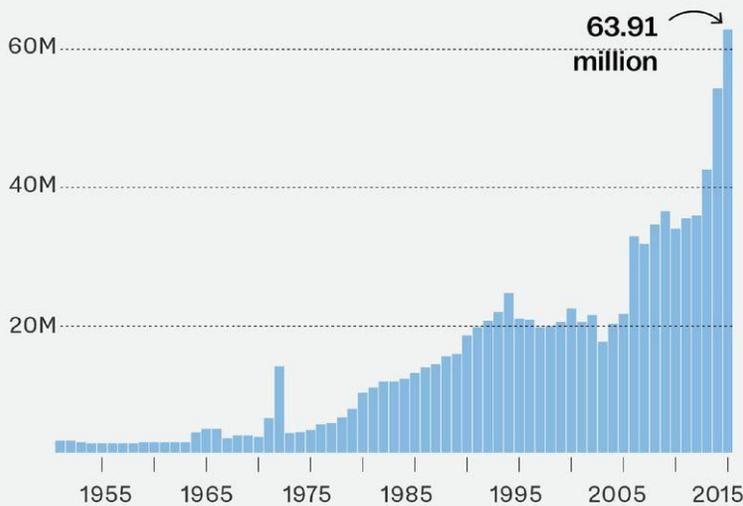
-**10 million** people are now stateless

-**189,300** refugees have been resettled until now

-**55%** of refugees worldwide came from three main countries that are: South Sudan with 1.4 million people, Afghanistan with 2.5 million and Syria with more than 5.5 million people (as shown on the graph below).

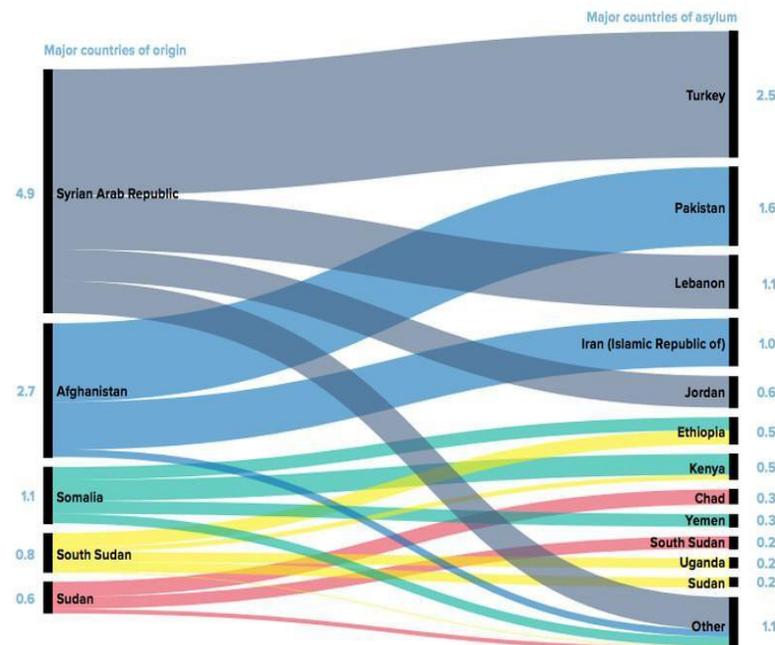
The refugee crisis is at historic proportions

Persons of concern, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and others



Source: UNHCR

Vox



If there is one thing to take away from all this...

• SIX WORDS - ONE GOAL

Protection - We work to protect the most vulnerable.

Shelter - We provide shelter to those who need it most.

Advocacy - Advocacy helps to transform policies and services that affect displaced people.

Health - We strive to ensure that all people forced to flee have access to life-saving healthcare.

Safeguarding Individuals - We work hard to help millions of people all over the world rebuild broken lives.

Global Needs Assessment - A blueprint for planning and action during times of crisis.

LINKS FOR MORE INFORMATION

- <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/2002/may/23/immigration.immigrationandpublicservices1>
- <https://news.vice.com/article/remembering-sangatte-frances-notorious-refugee-camp>
- <https://www.monde-diplomatique.fr/2017/05/A/57510> (French article)
- "Like Living Hell" -- Human Rights Watch

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- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee_camp
- [Adaptation and Creativity in Africa - Technologies and Significations in the Production of Order and Disorder](#)
- <http://time.com/4547918/refugee-camps-calais-zaatari-dadaab-nakivale-mae-la/>
- <https://www.rte.ie/news/player/2015/0923/20850665-refugees-flee-inhuman-conditions-in-camps/>
- <https://www.globalresearch.ca/brazil-hides-humanitarian-emergency-in-acre-refugee-camp-holding-over-800-haitians-in-inhuman-conditions/5347105>
- <http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/10-countries-host-half-worlds-refugees-amnesty-1537381715>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Refugee_camp Even if it's Wikipedia, it's very good for facts and direct information
- <http://www.unhcr.org/history-of-unhcr.html>
- <http://www.spp1448.de/projects/refugee-camps-history-of-a-humanitarian-technology/>
- <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-05-04/biggest-group-refugees-us-christians-myanmar>