

Stepping Beyond the Tents

#WorldRefugeeDay

(The Real Story of Refugees)

Who are they?

Refugees are not migrants who move by choice. Refugees have to move to save their lives or preserve their freedom.

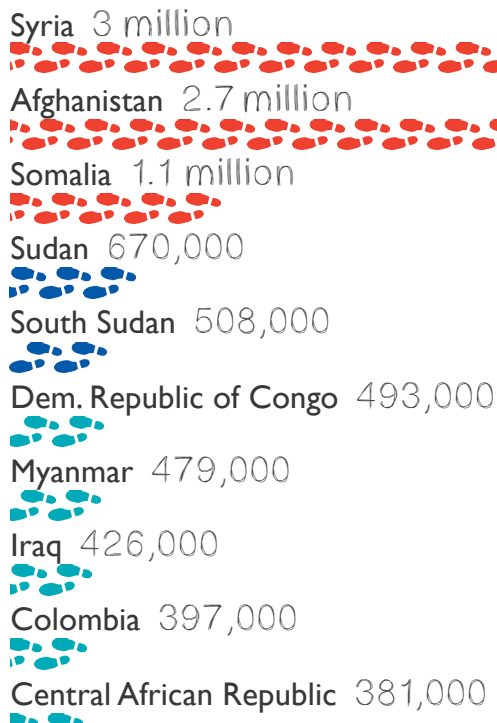
Every 4 seconds, someone is forced to flee their home.¹

Where are they going?¹



Lebanon has the highest density of refugees to residents, at 257 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants.¹

Where are they fleeing from?¹



How many?

15.4 million refugees² 10.2 million of these are protracted situations (at least 5 years).² Another 27 million are displaced by conflict within their own homelands—internally displaced people.³ 250 million people live outside their country of birth (includes all migrants and refugees).⁴

Stepping Beyond the Myths

Myth: Refugees are solely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Reality: 22 percent of refugees in urban areas received aid.² 83 percent of refugees in rural areas received aid.² UN aid was the largest source of income for the first year for refugees in urban areas, but subsequently they generated more income through business enterprises than received through aid.⁵

Myth: Refugees in camps are entirely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Reality: There is much independent economic activity in refugee camps. 36 percent of the customers of refugee businesses in Ugandan camps are from diverse nationalities within the camps, illustrating trade across divisions.² 26 percent of the customers of refugee businesses are Ugandan nationals.² Refugee entrepreneurs in Uganda create employment; each business employs two additional people.²

Myth: All refugees live in camps.

Reality: More than 1/2 of the world's refugees are in urban areas.³

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God. - Leviticus 19:33-34 (NIV)

How can you walk alongside a refugee?

Steps to support refugees:

- Legal status to work is essential for self-sufficiency and not always provided.
- Legal status to work also can reduce abuses and exploitation of refugees.
- Access to housing is key for refugees in urban areas.

Encourage the entrepreneurs among refugees

Advocate for & provide emergency assistance

Challenge stereotypes of helpless refugees

Protect refugees from further victimization and exploitation

Pray: Merciful Father, bless every refugee entrepreneur who is rebuilding life and community in a new place. Heal the wounds of their trauma, especially among the children. Let them not turn against you because of it, but let them see it as "Joseph" saw his experience, "You meant to harm me, but God intended it for a good purpose" (Gen. 50:20)

Sources listed at www.missiographics.com/world-refugee-day



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