

# The REFUGEE HIGHWAY

The well worn paths people travel in search of safety and a peace



The REFUGEE HIGHWAY

...is filled with stories of women, children and men who have fled their homes because of war, persecution and gross violations of human rights. Solutions to their plight are elusive even as their number grows. God calls us to welcome them and to help them survive and recover from forced displacement.

## TERMS OF FORCIBLE DISPLACEMENT

**Refugees** are outside their country, afraid to return and protected from forced repatriation.

**Asylum seekers** request permanent refuge in a foreign country.

**Internally Displaced People (IDP)** are forced to flee their homes, but not their country.



## MAJOR REFUGEE POPULATIONS

6.4m Afghanistan	1.3m Myanmar
6.4m Syria	978,200 DR Congo
6.0m Palestinian	842,000 Somalia
6.0m Ukraine	759,200 CAR
1.5m Sudan	560,000 Eritrea



## TOP REFUGEE HOSTING NATIONS

3.8m Iran	1.2m Russia
3.3m Turkiye	1.1m Chad
2.6m Germany	980,000 Ethiopia
2.0m Pakistan	972,000 Bangladesh
1.6m Uganda	971,100 Poland



## MAJOR IDP POPULATIONS

9.1m Sudan	3.9m Somalia
7.2m Syria	3.7m Ukraine
6.9m Colombia	3.3m Nigeria
6.3m DR Congo	3.2m Afghanistan
4.5m Yemen	2.6m Myanmar



## REFUGEE REALITIES

- 1 in 69 people forcibly displaced worldwide
- 49% are women and girls
- 40% are children
- 69% are hosted in neighboring countries
- 21% are hosted in least developed countries



*"Faithful Christian ministry will often take Jesus' followers to places where hope is in short supply: places where a sense of hopelessness hangs over a community."*

-NT Wright

### The Refugee Highway

117.3 million women, children, and men were forcibly displaced in the world at the end of 2023. Their number increased by 8.8 million between 2023 and 2024. While the majority were displaced within their own country, 43.4 million were compelled to seek refuge in another country. Another 6.9 million people risked dangerous journeys to distant nations where they hoped to find asylum and the opportunity to rebuild their lives.

There are some well-worn paths that they travel in their desperate search for safety. These paths are the Refugee Highway. It is a clear sign that mankind needs a Saviour.

### Elusive Solutions

As the number of protracted refugee crises continues to multiply worldwide, forcibly displaced people have few long-term solutions from which to choose. The causes for their flight must be resolved before they can consider returning home. As 75% of the world's refugees are hosted by low- and middle-income countries, few are given the option of integrating into their host nation and remaining permanently. In 2023, only 158,700 refugees were resettled to another country. With no solution in sight, many people remain forcibly displaced for over a decade - and increasingly for decades.

### Biblical Perspective

Jesus and his parents fled in the night to Egypt to escape persecution in Palestine. He later identified himself with "the stranger" and said that hospitality to the stranger would mark his followers.

Faith, hope and love play a central role in human resilience and in recovery from forced displacement. These are among the life-giving contributions the church has to offer as we seek the protection and welfare of those traveling the Refugee Highway.

Sometimes it is difficult to know where to begin. IAFR is here to help. Visit [www.IAFR.org](http://www.IAFR.org) to learn more.

## KEY

- major refugee producing countries
- top countries hosting refugees
- top destinations of asylum-seekers
- main countries of resettlement
- major IDP populations

Map discussion resources and credits: [www.IAFR.org/toolbox](http://www.IAFR.org/toolbox)