

Refugee and IDP Data—2018

At the end of 2018, **70.8 million** people had been forcibly displaced from their homes:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \text{41.3 million} & & & & \text{25.9 million} & & & & \text{3.5 million} & & & & \text{1 out of 107} \\
 \text{internally} & & & & \text{refugees} & & & & \text{asylum seekers} & & & & \text{people} \\
 \text{displaced people} & + & & & & + & & & & = & & & \text{worldwide}
 \end{array}$$

There are more displaced people today than at any time since World War II.

Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Countries with Most IDPs

- Colombia 7.8 million IDPs
- Syria 6.2 million
- Democratic Republic of the Congo 4.5 million
- Somalia 2.6 million
- Ethiopia 2.6 million

Refugees

Top (5) Countries of Origin for Refugees

- Syria 6.7 million refugees
- Afghanistan 2.7 million
- South Sudan 2.3 million
- Myanmar 1.1 million
- Somalia 0.9 million

Top (5) Host Countries for Refugees

- Turkey 3.7 million refugees
- Pakistan 1.4 million
- Uganda 1.2 million
- Sudan 1.1 million
- Germany 1.1 million

Asylum Seekers


Received Most Asylum Applications (in 2018)

- U.S. 254,300 applicants
- Peru 192,500
- Germany 161,900
- France 114,500
- Turkey 83,800

Spotlight: The Syrian Civil War

Since 2011, of Syria's population of 22 million:

More than HALF of all Syrians have left their homes:

 = 1 million Syrians



nearly 7 million fled the country



more than 6 million internally displaced



about 10 million not displaced

Syrian Refugees

- 1 in 4 refugees worldwide are Syrian
- 85% of Syrian refugees live in Syria's neighboring countries

Syrian Casualties

- about 400,000 killed
- over 1 million injured

Data from UNHCR

Name: _____

Key Terms

Refugee—A person who leaves his or her country due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of his or her race, religion, nationality, political views, or membership in a particular social group. People fleeing conflicts are also generally considered to be refugees since they are seeking refuge (safety). Refugees have specific rights and protections under international law. For example, refugees have the right to not be forced to return to the unsafe situation that they fled. Refugees have the rights of security and freedom of movement. They have the right to keep their family together. Similarly, countries that have refugees seeking asylum in their territory have specific responsibilities under international law for the treatment of those refugees.

Migrant—A person who moves to a foreign country for various reasons—for example, for employment, education, or to reunite with family—usually for a year or more. Unlike refugees, migrants do not face a direct threat of persecution or death in their home country.

Internally Displaced Person (IDP)—A person who is forcibly uprooted within his or her country but who has not crossed an international border. IDPs may be forced from their home as a result of armed conflict, human rights violations, or natural or human-made disasters, yet remain in their country.

Host Country—The country to which a refugee relocates.

Asylum—Shelter or protection from danger granted by a country to someone forced to leave their home country.

Asylum Seeker—A person who has moved across international borders in search of protection and filed a claim for asylum with the host country's government. While the government reviews the claim, the person remains an asylum seeker. If the claim is accepted, the person becomes a "refugee" in the eyes of the government. For example, someone from Syria who is living in Germany and waiting to hear the outcome of his or her asylum application would be considered an asylum seeker.

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)—Established by the United Nations, the UNHCR is an international organization responsible for the protection of refugees worldwide.



In April 2015, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) opened the Mahama refugee camp in Rwanda to assist refugees fleeing the neighboring country of Burundi. The camp welcomed 22,000 refugees in its first month, and as of 2019, the number of residents reached roughly 60,000. The UN provides refugees with food, water, shelter, education, medical attention, and other services. The UNHCR is funded by voluntary donations from governments and private donors. It is facing a severe funding shortage as it struggles to respond to the worsening global refugee crisis, and has appealed to countries worldwide for assistance.

Refugee Stories

Instructions: The following are stories published online by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Read the story that your teacher assigned to you. As you read, circle any terms with which you are unfamiliar.

Ahmet: Syria to Cyprus

The fear of a grinding war that had already scattered his family across Europe left 55 year-old Ahmet with no other choice but to also flee Syria. Italy was the promised destination. From there, it would have been easy to move on to Germany to unify with their brothers and two eldest sons—at least this is what Ahmet, his wife, daughter, and son were led to believe.

“I was born in Homs and I wanted to live there until the end, but this vicious war left us no other choice but to leave all behind... For the sake of my children’s future we had to take the risk. I had to pay the smuggler eight thousand US dollars for each member of my family. I’ve never done anything illegal in my whole life, but there was no other solution.”

With 339 others, they sailed on a flimsy fishing boat, which the smugglers abandoned during the journey. They were rescued from the rough seas, off the coast of Cyprus. Ahmet is now staying with his family in a tent at a refugee camp near Nicosia, which was set up to temporarily host the 339 survivors; children, women and men.

The relief they initially felt when they were saved was substituted by disappointment and anxiety for their future. So far only six survivors have applied for asylum. Most of them are reluctant to do so out of fear that their application for asylum in Cyprus will remove their prospects of being reunited with their families in other EU member states. Ahmet says:

“I will think about my options, but I’m certainly not going at sea again. I left for the future of my kids; I’m not going to die with them in the sea. Life is not over.”

Awad: Sudan to South Sudan

When fighting erupted in Kormaganza, Blue Nile state [Sudan], in September last year, 80-year-old Dawa Musa’s family decided to flee to the neighbouring village of Mafot. Dawa was too frail to make the two-day journey by foot, so her son, Awad Kutuk Tungud, hid her in the bush for three days while he moved his wife, Alahia, and nine children to safety. Awad returned for his mother and carried her to Mafot where the family remained in relative safety for several months—until artillery began shelling the village.

Awad again fled with his family—this time across the border to South Sudan. For 15 gruelling days, he carried both his elderly mother and his daughter Zainab on his back, until they reached the border crossing [into South Sudan] at Al Fudj in February. UNHCR transported the family to Jamam refugee camp in South Sudan’s Upper Nile state. They lived in safety for seven months until heavy rains caused flooding, making it difficult for UNHCR to bring clean water to the camp and bringing the threat of highly contagious waterborne diseases.

UNHCR set up a new camp in Gendrassa, located 55 kilometers from Jamam and on higher ground, and began the relocation of 56,000 people to the new camp. Among them were Awad and his family. Awad carried his mother once again, but this time it was to their new tent in Gendrassa camp. Awad has plans to begin farming. “Come back in three months,” he said, “and there will be maize growing.”

Name: _____

Hosein: Iran to France

"I am sure my mother and sister are alive."

Hosein is an Afghan Civil Engineer student. He was born in Iran and along with his mother and sister, they sailed off from the Turkish coast heading for Samos Island in Greece. Their boat sunk at high seas on 11 July 2014, and his mother and sister are missing. Hosein and his three other sisters, two in France and one in Germany, have left no stone unturned in trying desperately to find a clue that would lead them to their beloved ones:

"The past ten days were the most agonizing days of my life. On 10 July, along with with my mother Fatme and my sister Shokoufeh, we sailed off in a 12 meter boat after having paid 9,000 Euro for the three of us. It was overcrowded as the smugglers had crammed around 40 men, women and children on that little boat.

After several hours at sea, the captain informed us that he was no longer in command of the boat which suddenly started taking in water.

Among terrified screams, I tried to elbow myself to reach the small cabin where my mother and sister were, but I was hurled overboard by panicking passengers. I was very desperate. In the sea, the currents were so strong that I could hardly swim. It was only until several hours later, namely on Friday 11 July at noon, that I along with another, almost unconscious passenger, were spotted by an Italian sailing boat and were transferred to Chios Island [Greece]. Other survivors were brought to Samos. Fifteen Syrians and Afghans have been rescued. The shipwreck so far claims the lives of six persons who were found by the Greek and Turkish Coast Guards while the rest are still missing.

Other family members of missing people with whom we were in the same boat, are in Germany and in Denmark while I am currently in France with my two sisters and their families. I traveled legally on a travel document issued by the French Embassy in Athens. All the families of missing people are appealing that the search and rescue operations of the authorities continue unabated. We urge the Greek authorities to bring up the boat as there were women and small children in the cabin who may have been trapped.

As for my missing mother and sister, another passenger who left the boat after me told me that they were not trapped in the cabin. Since they had very good life jackets, they must have survived. I am sure they are alive. I will not abandon the search. I expect and hope for good news. But even if the news were bad I still want to know!"

Shahad: Syria to Lebanon

Four-year-old Shahad, whose name means "the sweetest part of the honey," was born in a village near the city of Hama in western Syria. Her father, Yehia, is a farmer who raised wheat and barley. Before the war, the family had, he recalls, "the best life."

But last September, fighting levelled their three-story family home. Shahad's 10-year-old brother, Jasim, and baby sister, Aya, who was not yet two, were killed, along with five other family members. Rescuers pulled Shahad from the rubble, her face lacerated and silky curls torn from her skull.

The family rushed her to a local clinic, where an overworked medic put in stitches and hastily sent the family on their way. There was no time to properly clean the wound. The whole family fled for the border. On the way, they were stopped at dozens of checkpoints, where they feared being detained and imprisoned. Seventeen hours later, after midnight, they arrived in Lebanon with nothing but a suitcase.

The family registered with UNHCR and received basic supplies such as mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils and hygiene items. Aid agencies have provided electricity to the building, installed outdoor latrines and ensured drinking water. Refugees are receiving food vouchers as well. Yehia, like many fathers, is doing what he can to keep the surviving members of his family alive.

Name: _____

Shookrullah Alizadah: Afghanistan to Sweden

"I want to tell you about when I fled from Afghanistan to Sweden. The trip took almost four months, and it is three years ago now. I came to Sweden with the help of smugglers that my parents paid. I fled illegally over the mountains and traveled by trucks, cars and boats.

First, I came to Iran. It took 20 days and a lot of walking. Then Turkey, but that trip was easier since we took buses and cars and only walked for five hours across Turkey's border. Next, we arrived in Istanbul. The three weeks I spent in that big, modern and beautiful city were the best, but the smugglers decided we'd go to Greece. This time it was a dangerous trip; we had to cross the border to Greece in a rubber boat.

We got to the sea at midnight but the police tried to catch us. We ran because we didn't want them to send us back to Afghanistan. Finally we got to Greece; exhausted, hungry and thirsty.

In Greece, the police took us to a refugee camp where we got checked, registered and sent to Athens. They dropped us on a big square and we called the smuggler, who would help us, get to Italy by boat.

We tried to reach the sea several times the next month. On the third try we were put in jail for over a week. On the fourth try, we managed! We were so happy! But there was a huge problem awaiting us. We did not have any food and water and the trip from Greece to Italy took three days and two nights. We drank sea water to survive. Then, in the middle of the sea the boat's GPS broke down. We were sad and worried but an Iraqi boy who knew how to navigate a boat became captain and steered the boat to Sorano in Italy.

But my journey wasn't over. After several more car trips and train rides, I got off the train in Malmö. It was so cold! I didn't have any warm clothes, Italy was warm and I had no idea that it was so cold in Sweden..."

Yasser: Syria to Bulgaria

"When the problems started in Damascus our neighborhood was among the first to see fighting. One night during a protest, bombs killed 400 people. By six in the morning our whole street was gone and we left our family home in ruins after it was struck by an explosion.

Initially we found shelter in Quneitra province. But even if we were away from the worst fighting, I could no longer go to college where I studied tourism. My options were to join one of the armies or leave the country. I left for Lebanon with only 180 USD in my pocket and from there to Istanbul. Those first weeks were very difficult and lonely.

In Turkey, I joined five of my friends and started working in a factory making cardboard boxes. It was enough to eat, but nothing more. I was working over twelve hours each day. So, the six of us decided that we have to seek asylum in the European Union. We had no money so we tried on our own without a smuggler.

On December 2, 2013, we left with printed maps, a GPS, food and flashlights. We walked along the Rezovo river until we crossed into Bulgaria. It took us three days on foot.

In Bulgaria we were taken to a dilapidated building for single men in the rundown Harmanli camp. It was horrible. There were no proper bathrooms or showers, people were heating themselves with bonfires, and there was very little food. Then day by day things got better and now it is actually decent. After the first few weeks the six of us formed a volunteer group to help out around the camp. Soon after, we started a daytime school for the children in the camp, so we all have something to do.

If the war stops I will immediately go back to Syria. But I can see it's not going to stop. I can see that it will not end even in ten years."

Name: _____

Sahara: Somalia to Slovakia

"I told it many times, do not worry, I am settled with my past and trying to look only into the future. I am not afraid, maybe I do not realize how difficult it will be to start my new life in different place but I know that it will definitely be the best that I could have ever done for my beloved daughters.

I was born in 1972 in Somalia. I lived in a city together with my parents and brother until my parents died a violent death that I witnessed at the age of 16. I remained alone with my grandmother who decided to leave Somalia in order to protect me. Our journey took two months, me and my grandmother walked all the way to the shores of Djibouti where we took a boat through the Arabian Sea to Yemen. I almost lost hope after the engine of the boat had broken down. Fortunately, our overcrowded boat was found by a ship and its crew helped us to reach the coast of Yemen safely.

Our lives depended on the help of others, who provided us food and temporary shelter. We slept and begged in the streets until we were sheltered in one of the refugee camps in Yemen. My life went normal, I found a job as a servant and was happy to be able to take care of myself and the only relative, who was close to me, my grandmother. But the journey exhausted my grandmother, whose health condition deteriorated rapidly. After her death, I remained alone and met a man who wanted to marry me. Being a single woman and a refugee in a foreign country is not that easy, trust me. I liked him too. After our wedding, we found a decent house in the capital of Yemen, which offered much more job opportunities. Our three daughters visited school and I was pregnant with our fourth child when my husband filed a divorce and I remained alone again.

I knew that without any support, I would not be able to survive and decided to ask UNHCR for help. I applied for resettlement and found myself to be chosen out of hundreds of refugees waiting with me in harsh living conditions.

People say it must have been a really hard decision to leave everything behind and move to another country [Slovakia] with different culture. I made the decision very easily, grabbed the hands of my children, like my grandmother grabbed mine 27 years ago and now, we are on a way towards a new, better life."

Mapping the Global Crisis

Instructions: Use the information from the data sheet, “Refugee and IDP Data—2018,” to complete the map, following the steps below. Use different colors and patterns to shade relevant sections of the map and the map key. Several countries—Syria, Turkey, and Somalia—will need to be shaded in *twice*. Following the suggestions below for when to use a pattern and when to use a color will help you be able to do this.

1. Where do most internally displaced people live?

Choose a pattern, and shade in “Most IDPs” on the map key. Use the data sheet to identify these five countries, and shade them on the map.

2. Where are most refugees from?

Choose a color, and shade in “Top countries of origin” on the map key. Use the data sheet to identify these five countries, and shade them on the map.

3. Where do most refugees go?

Choose a second color, and shade in “Top host countries” on the map key. Use the data sheet to identify these five countries, and shade them on the map.

4. Where do most refugees apply for asylum?

Choose a second pattern, and shade in “Most asylum applications” on the map key. Use the data sheet to identify these five countries, and shade them on the map.

Name: _____

Part II: Mapping the Journey

Instructions: After filling out your organizer, you will begin mapping one refugee's journey. Use the box labeled "key" to explain which parts of the refugee's story different colors and symbols represent.

First, you should:

- label the country names of the refugee's country of origin, host country, and other countries that he or she describes passing through (if any).
- shade the refugee's country of origin in one color. Fill in your key accordingly.
- shade the refugee's host country in a second color. Fill in your key accordingly.
- draw a line to show the approximate route that the refugee traveled.

Then choose at least two other aspects of the story to visually represent on your map, such as the reasons the refugee left his or her country of origin or a challenge that the refugee faced and how he or she responded. How you represent each of these items on your map is up to you. Be creative!

For example, you may decide to:

- mark significant events with symbols.
- use colored or patterned lines to indicate different forms of transportation.
- shade other countries that the refugee passed through (if any) in a third color.
- use symbols and short written descriptions to address reasons why the refugee left home.
- add a "zoom-in box" to focus in on a particular region or event that you wish to highlight.
- include drawings to explain what he or she has done to adapt to life in each new location.

Name: _____

Mapping One Refugee's Journey

Part I: The Story

Instructions: In this activity, you will gain a better understanding of the complexities of one person's experience by mapping his or her journey. Your teacher will assign one refugee's story to you. As you read or watch the story, fill out the graphic organizer below. Because each story is different, you may find that you do not have enough information to answer all of the questions in the second table. If this is the case, write "no information provided" in the space below.

Refugee's Name: _____

Refugee's Journey

Country of Origin	Route Traveled (list countries, cities, refugee camps, etc.)	Host Country

Refugee's Experiences

Leaving Home	Travel	Challenges	Current Location
Why and when did he or she leave?	With whom did he or she travel?	What other challenges did he or she face?	Where and with whom is he or she living?
Who was left behind?	What kinds of transportation did he or she use?	How did he or she respond?	What is life like in his or her new location?

Additional Information

Is there any other information or event from this story that you would like to include on your map?

One Refugee's Journey



The Global Crisis

Name: _____

