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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT REFUGEES AND DISPLACEMENT



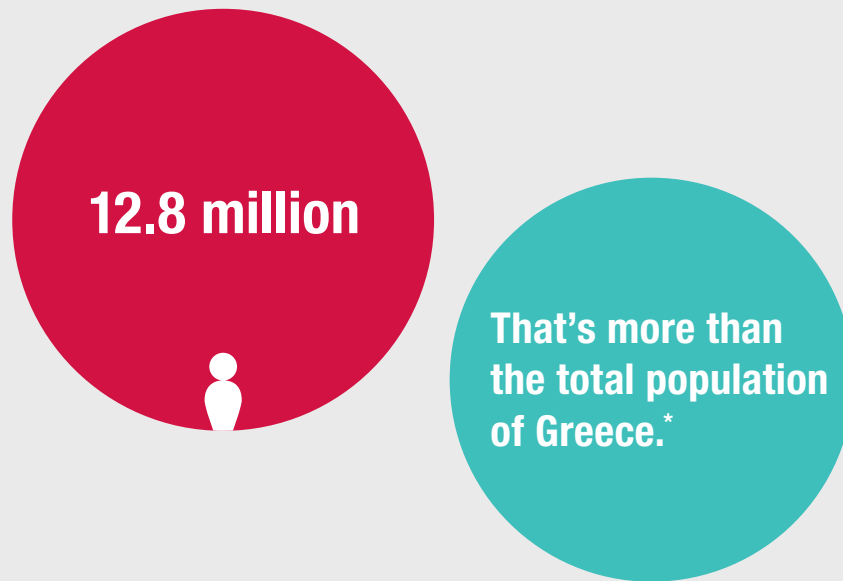
HPG
Humanitarian
Policy Group

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A RECORD NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE NOW DISPLACED FROM THEIR HOMES FOR YEARS ON END

The number of people forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict and war continues to increase at a staggering rate, reaching a record high of 59.5 million at the end of 2014. Almost two-thirds of all refugees have been displaced for at least three years, otherwise known as “protracted displacement”. Half of all current refugees have been displaced for over ten years.

As of 2014 the number of refugees in protracted displacement is:



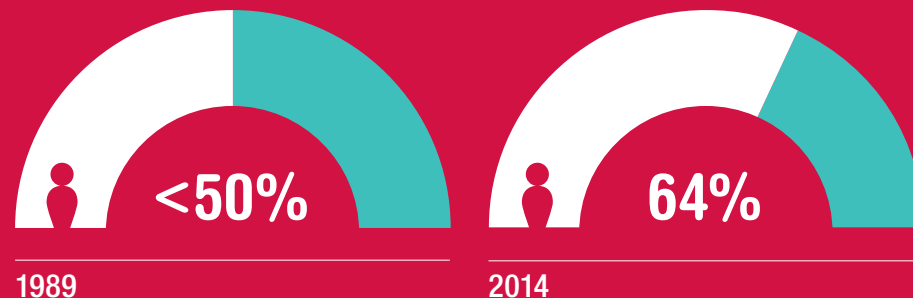
*10,775,557 (July 2014 est.)

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MOST DISPLACED PEOPLE STAY IN THEIR OWN COUNTRY

The proportion of internally displaced people – among all displaced – is increasing. A lot of this is due to the increasing number of internal civil wars in places like Syria, Iraq, Somalia and Sudan, where people have fled to other parts of the country seeking safe haven. While it can be easier to return home if fighting subsides, it also means violence can easily spread to where people are seeking sanctuary.

Percentage of displaced people who are internally displaced



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MOST PEOPLE ARE DISPLACED FROM A VERY SMALL NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

A small number of countries produce the majority of refugees and IDPs around the world. More than half of all displaced people come from five countries: Syria, Colombia, historic Palestine, Sudan and Iraq. All five countries have experienced long drawn out conflicts, with regular insecurity and violence. Many are far from reaching peace and political solutions.



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A HANDFUL OF COUNTRIES HOST THE MAJORITY OF REFUGEES

Refugees are not spread evenly across the world. Seven countries – Syria, Iran, Pakistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Palestine and Jordan – host more than 50% of all refugees. Many countries, including some of the richest and most developed countries like the US, UK and Australia, are not fully living up to their responsibility under the Refugee Convention.

If all refugees were distributed evenly across all the countries in the world, each country would host **100,000** refugees.



Instead, **57,000** refugees and asylum seekers are in Australia, while Jordan hosts **2.8 million** refugees.

Percentage of the population that are refugees or asylum seekers

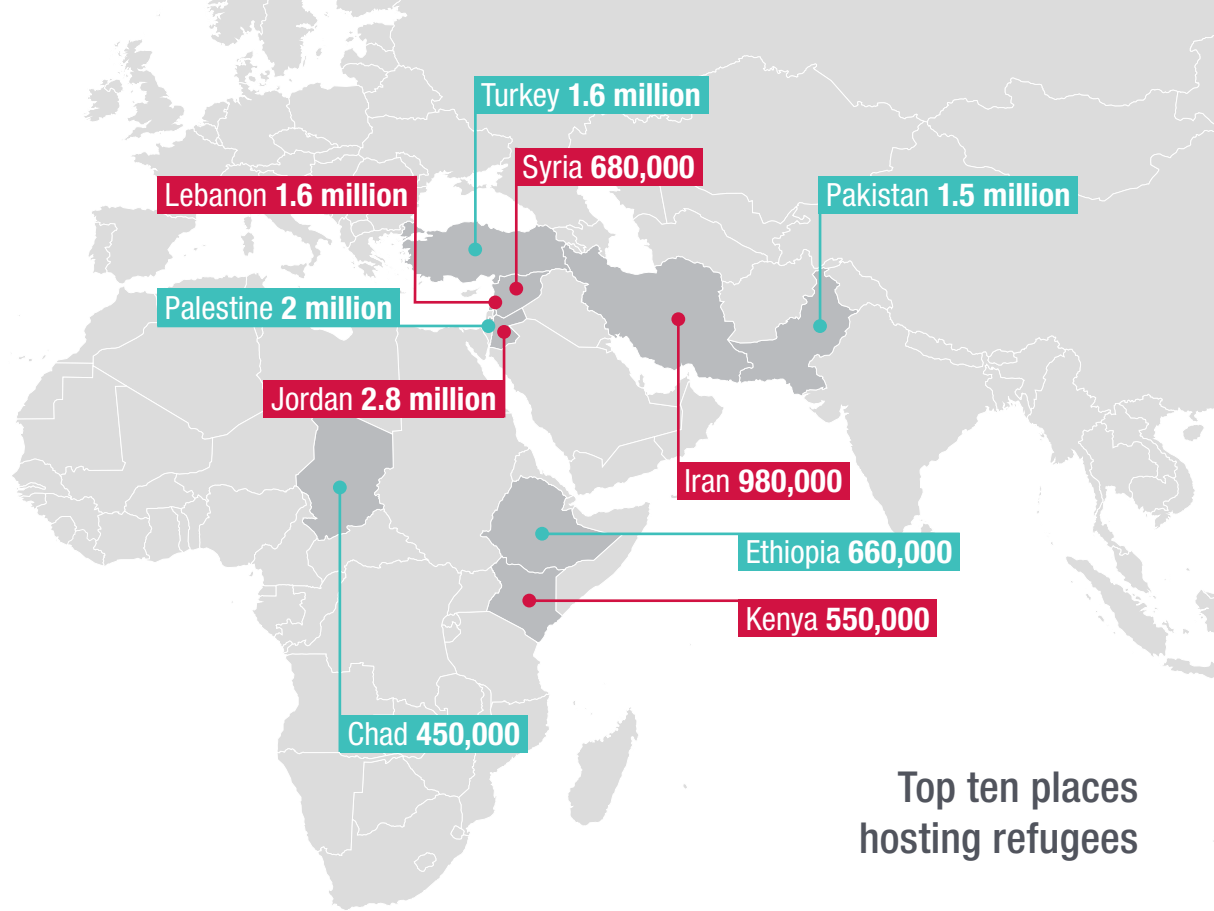
Australia 0.2%

Jordan 43%

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REFUGEES SEEKING SAFETY OFTEN FACE INSECURITY

People fleeing violence often end up in places marked by instability and fragility, or where services and governments are already stretched. After making often dangerous and perilous journeys, many face violence and rights violations for years to come.



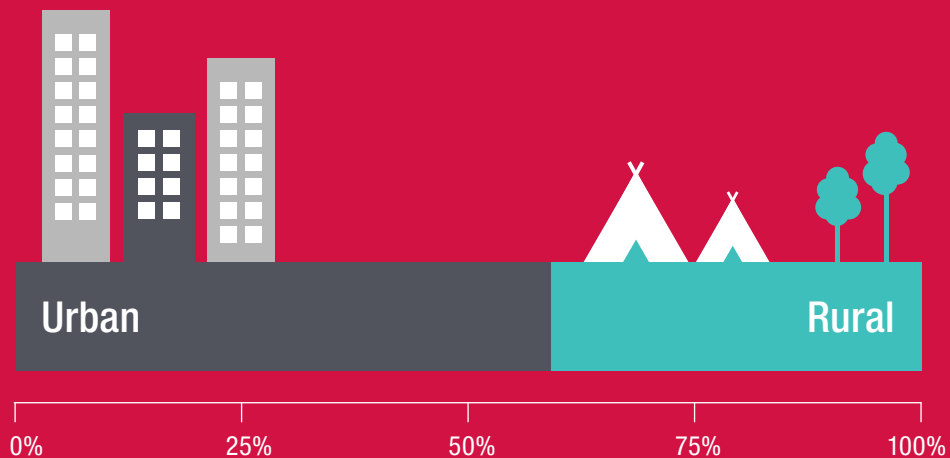
Top ten places hosting refugees

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MOST REFUGEES ARE IN CITIES, NOT CAMPS

Refugees are no longer confined to rural camps, despite ubiquitous images of sprawling refugee camps. In fact the majority live in cities or towns, in private accommodation. Aid providers now have to work differently, and better understand the different needs of refugees living in big urban centres.

At least 59% of all refugees are now living in urban settings



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DISPLACEMENT IS A LONG-LASTING REALITY FOR MOST REFUGEES

Displacement is not a temporary experience for most refugees. More than half of all refugees in 2014 had been displaced for more than 10 years. And once people have been displaced for six months, they are unlikely to be able to return home within the next three years.

Only **2.5%** of refugee crises are resolved within 3 years



Nearly **10 million** refugees have been displaced for more than **10 years**

10 million displaced



No of years

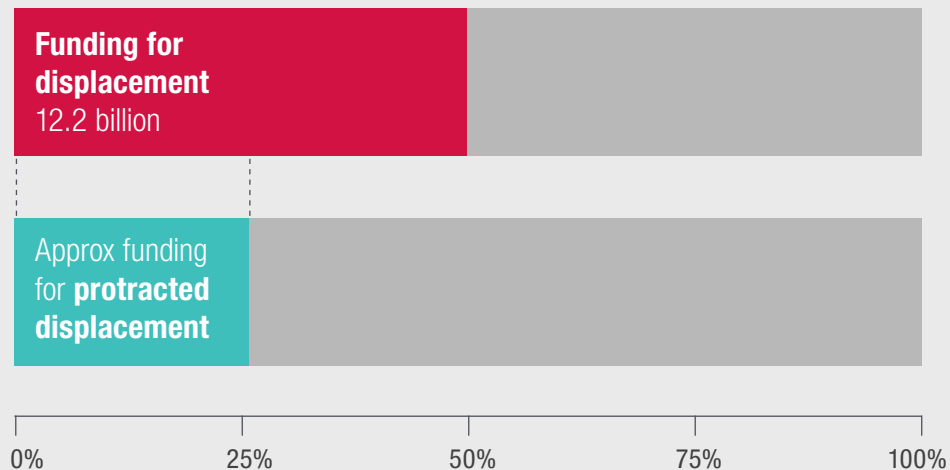
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CURRENT FUNDING MODELS FOR DISPLACEMENT ARE NOT SUSTAINABLE

A large part of humanitarian aid is dedicated to supporting refugees and people displaced within their own country, but half of it is spent on those newly displaced. And funding often decreases rapidly after the first few years. This unsustainable funding model focuses on the immediate, not helping displaced people survive or find livelihoods over the long term. People displaced over a long period also miss out on development aid due to the false expectation that they will soon return home.

Global humanitarian spending (US\$)

Total: 24.4 billion



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PROGRAMMES TO HELP REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE ARE GETTING BETTER

Traditional aid programming has been extremely short-term focused, providing material goods like basic food items and temporary shelters. But agencies are gradually thinking more about long term survival, with a bigger focus on employment and sustainable access to health, education and other social services.

Before

Food

Basic health

Tents

Needed

Access to health, education and other services

Freedom to work

Employment support

No camps

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WE NEED TO GET BETTER AT SUPPORTING REFUGEES TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES

Displaced people – particularly those who have been displaced over long periods of time – demonstrate incredible resilience and creativity and develop ways of supporting themselves. But often they're doing so in a hostile legal and economic environment. To really help displaced people, aid agencies must better understand how people are helping themselves, to figure out how to support these initiatives and advocate on behalf of refugees to overcome the barriers.



Aid agencies can support refugees through improving laws, services and job prospects

JOHN COSGRAVE
NICHOLAS CRAWFORD
IRINA MOSEL



These graphics are based on findings from 'Protracted displacement: uncertain paths to self-reliance in exile', available online at odi.org/hpg/protracted-displacement.

Design: Lucy Peers

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Overseas Development Institute

203 Blackfriars road

London SE1 8NJ

Tel: +44 (0)20 7922 0300

odi.org | info@odi.org | [@ODIdev](https://twitter.com/ODIdev)