

Ten Facts about global migration and refugees in 2015

Taken from the UNHCR Report "Global Trends - forced displacement in 2015". (Article posted Nov 2016 by Martin Ashford)

#1: 12.4 million people were newly "displaced" in 2015: that's 24 every minute

#2: 86% of refugees are hosted not in the rich countries but in developing nations. 26% are in the world's least developed countries

#3: While the biggest number of refugees is in Turkey, relative to population Lebanon hosts twice as many people as any other country (183 per thousand population), followed by Jordan

#4: Among the "forgotten" crises, 221,000 people fled Burundi last year, most going to Tanzania. When was that ever reported in the UK media?

#5: Of 65.3m displaced people worldwide, 40.8m are Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) still in their own country.

#6: The country with the most IDPs is Colombia with 6.8m, ahead of even Syria and Iraq. Another country and conflict we forgot about?

#7: Across the world, 1.2 million asylum claims were settled last yr but 2.5 million new claims were made. Backlog globally at the end of 2015 was 3.2 m outstanding cases

#8: The biggest backlog of unresolved asylum cases at the end of 2015 was in South Africa (1.1m, many of the asylum-seekers being from Zimbabwe) followed by Germany (421,000) and the US (286,000)

#9: While 12.4m people were newly displaced in 2015, just 201,000 returned home and 107,000 were resettled in other countries

#10: UNHCR stats show Britain hosts 168,978 refugees and asylum seekers, just 0.3% of the world's total. Generous or what?

Statistics are never complete and can only ever tell a part of the story. Behind them lies the human tragedy of forced displacement and migration. The work of the UNHCR is absolutely vital in providing camps and other places of refuge for millions of people. Their report is essential reading.