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

The Refugees

Refugees are outside their country, afraid to return and protected from forced repatriation.
Asylum seekers request permanent refuge in a foreign country.
Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) are forced to flee their homes, but not their country.

MAJOR REFUGEE POPULATIONS

- 6.7m Syria
  - 725,000 Sudan
- 2.7m Afghanistan
  - 120,000 DR Congo
- 2.3m South Sudan
  - 900,000 CAR
- 1.1m Myanmar
  - 507,000 Eritrea
- 950,000 Somalia
  - 388,000 Burundi

TOP REFUGEE HOSTING NATIONS

- 3.7m Turkey
  - 979,000 Iran
- 1.4m Pakistan
  - 660,000 Lebanon
- 1.2m Uganda
  - 607,000 Bangladesh
- 1m Sudan
  - 503,000 Ethiopia
- 1m Germany
  - 715,000 Jordan

MAJOR IDP POPULATIONS

- 7.9m Colombia
  - 2.2m Nigeria
- 6.2m Syria
  - 2.1m Yemen
- 4.5m DR Congo
  - 2.1m Afghanistan
- 2.0m Somalia
  - 1.9m South Sudan
- 2.5m Ethiopia
  - 1.9m Sudan

The Refugees

7.8 million women, children and men were forcibly displaced in 2019. An incomprehensible 37,000 people were forced to flee their homes every day in 2019, twice as many displaced people every minute! While the majority were displaced within their own country, over 29 million were compelled to seek refuge in another country. Many took long and 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.

More Crises - Fewer 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. At 96% of the world’s refugees are hosted by developing countries, few are given the option of integrating into their host nation and remaining permanently. In 2018, less than 63,000 refugees were resettled to another country and 1.8m people made dangerous journeys in search of asylum, primarily in Europe and the USA. 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 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 our www.IAFR.org to learn more.

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