

Fact Sheet: 42 Million People Uprooted by War

Internally displaced persons (IDPs)¹: 26 million people are seeking safety from conflict within their own countries.

- Three countries are home to almost half the world's IDPs: **Sudan** (5.8 million), **Colombia** (up to 4 million), and **Iraq** (2.5 million). IDPs have fewer rights than refugees.
- In 2007, the largest new displacements took place in countries **where long-standing armed conflicts deteriorated**: in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, and the Darfur region of Sudan.
- Africa is home to **almost half of the IDP population**, with 12.7 million IDPs living in 19 countries.
- Almost half (11.3 million) IDPs **do not receive significant assistance from their governments**.
- 9.3 million IDPs in 10 countries face governments that are **indifferent or even hostile** toward their needs.

Refugees²: 16 million people have fled to another country in search of safety from conflict.

- The highest numbers of refugees are **Palestinians** (4.6 million), **Afghans** (3.1 million) and **Iraqis** (2.5 million).
- A steady decline in refugee numbers since 2002 was **reversed in 2006 when numbers started increasing again**. In 2007, the number of refugees under the care of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees rose from 9.9 million to 11.4 million.
- Iraq accounts for **an increase in refugees in the Middle East**. Jordan and Syria host some 2 million Iraqi refugees. In Africa, renewed armed conflict in the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, and Sudan resulted in 120,000 new refugees.
- Developing countries with **per capita incomes of less than \$2,000 host more than two-thirds of all refugees**, while nations with **per capita incomes over \$10,000 host four percent** of the world's refugees. In many developing countries, refugees represent a large portion of the total population.
- Some refugees, including more than 400,000 Sudanese and 2 million Afghans, have stayed in camps and other temporary shelters **for more than 20 years**.

Refugees resettled in the United States³:

- The **United States resettled** a total of 48,281 refugees in 2007. The largest populations resettled in the U.S. came from Myanmar, Somalia, and Iran.
- **California alone resettled** 6,706 refugees—more than any other state. The largest populations resettled in California came from Iran (3,738), Myanmar (424), and Iraq (402).

Principal Health Concerns of Refugees and IDPs:

- Refugees and IDPs are at a high risk for disease, primarily **malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal diseases, measles, and cholera** (in areas where the disease is endemic).
- A child dies of malaria every thirty seconds.
- **Malnutrition**: children under the age of five are at greatest risk of malnutrition, but new **ready-to-use therapeutic foods** (RUFs) are offering new hope to aid agencies and governments for the treatment of this preventable disease. MSF estimates that only 3% of the 20 million children suffering from severe acute malnutrition receive the treatment they need.

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¹ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

² Source: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

³ Source: Office of Refugee Resettlement: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/fy2007RA.htm>

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