Refugee statistics icebreaker

Did your parents or grandparents have to move from another country in search of safety or a better life? Worldwide levels of refugees and displaced people have hit a new high, with an average 30.8 people newly displaced every minute of every day (*UNHCR, May 2018*).

Use the activity below as a quiz or matching exercise. Discuss which numbers are most surprising and why. Find further resources on the global refugee crisis at **cafod.org.uk/secondary**.

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| Statistic | Statement |
| **68.5m** | All those who have left their country of origin (25.4m refugees; 3.1m asylum seekers) plus those who have fled home but remain in their country (40m internally displaced people). This is more than the entire population of the UK. It is the highest number ever recorded. |
| **85%** | Percentage of the world’s refugees who are hosted by developing countries. The burden of helping refugees falls on poorer countries, who host vastly more displaced people than wealthier ones. The top three hosts are Turkey, Pakistan and Uganda. |
| **52%** | Percentage of refugees who are under 18 years old. This has jumped from 41% in 2009. The UN registered 173,800 unaccompanied or separated children in 2017, but the real figure is likely to be much higher. |
| **68%** | Percentage of the world’s refugees who are from just five countries: Syria (6.3m), Afghanistan (2.6m), South Sudan (2.4m – an increase of 1m in one year), Myanmar (1.2m) and Somalia (986,000). |
| **Over 3000[[1]](#footnote-1)** | Number of people who died or went missing in 2017, trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. *This number is just those that have been recorded, so may be higher.* |
| **125,000[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Number of Britons who left the country in the year to September 2017. Around 5.5m Britons live abroad, although figures are hard to define. *Why do you think we use the word ‘expat’ for ourselves and ‘migrant’ for other people?* |
| **30** | Number of people displaced from their homes every minute of every day during 2017. This compares to 20 per minute in 2016, 24 in 2015, and 6 in 2005. |
| **7.7m** | Colombia ranks first in the world for the highest number of displaced people inside the country (7.7m) – higher even than Syria. Syria has the highest total number of refugees and displaced people combined (12.6m). |
| **6.3m** | Amount CAFOD has spent responding to the refugee crisis in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Greece and Serbia (*2011-2018*). |

Sources:

All statistics updated September 2018. Refugee statistics are taken from [UNHCR Global Trends Report 2017](http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/) unless indicated otherwise.



68.5 million

Total number of those who have had to leave their country of origin plus those who have been forced to flee their home but remain within their country’s borders



85%

Percentage of the world’s refugees who are hosted by developing countries



52%

Percentage of refugees who are under 18 years old



68%

Percentage of refugees who are from just 5 countries: Syria, Afghanistan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Somalia



3,000

Number of people who died or went missing in 2017 trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea



125,000

Number of Britons who left the UK in 2017



30



Number of people displaced from their homes every minute of every day in 2017



7.7 million



Number of internally displaced people in Colombia



6.3 million

Amount CAFOD has spent on the refugee crisis in Syria and Europe (2011-2018)

1. [UNHCR](http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2017/11/5a168bae4/unhcr-report-details-changes-refugee-migrant-risky-journeys-europe.html) and [IOM](https://missingmigrants.iom.int), as of 10.09.18 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Office for National Statistics](http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/february2018), Migration statistics quarterly report Feb 2018, Table No. 3 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)