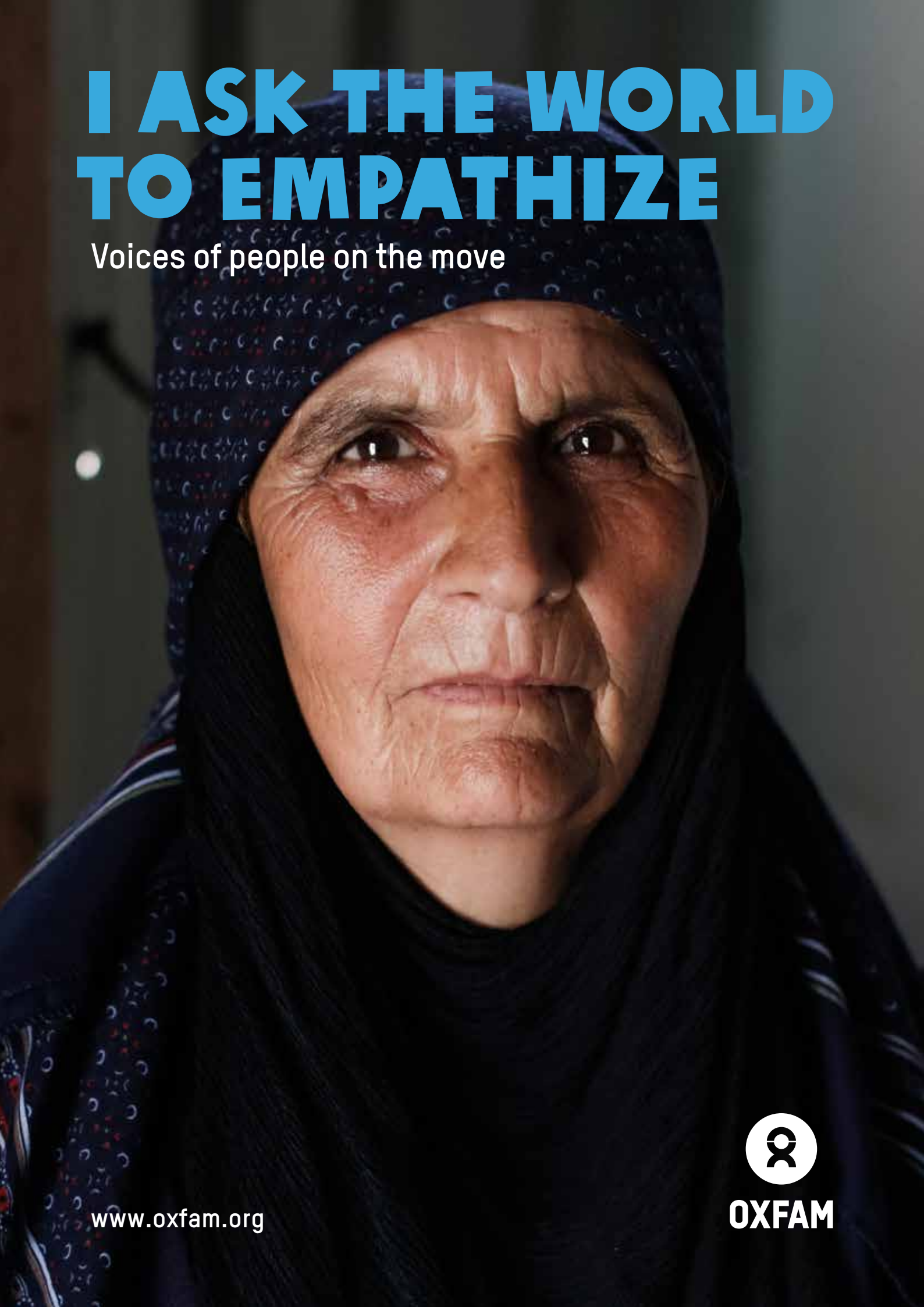


I ASK THE WORLD TO EMPATHIZE

Voices of people on the move



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OXFAM

A DEFINING CAUSE OF OUR TIMES

Worldwide, more than 65 million people have fled conflict, violence and persecution – the overwhelming majority of whom have not crossed a border.¹ Millions more are driven from their homes by disasters, drought and inequality, or by the desire for a better life for themselves and their families. Labelled ‘migrants’, many of them have become over the course of their journeys as vulnerable as those fleeing brutal conflict.

The situation in which all of these people find themselves is the result of governments’ failure to curb conflict, climate change and inequality. But more importantly, they reflect the basic human dream to seek peace, and to provide for one’s family.

This paper cuts across the distinctions – of refugee, internally displaced person and migrant – that divide people on the move from each other, to tell the stories of some of those millions of people.

Their stories do not come only from Syria or Iraq, but from countries like Niger or Burundi that the world almost always forgets.

Some of the men and women telling their stories have found refuge in Europe. But far more have done so in countries such as Jordan and Tanzania which, like other low- and middle-income countries, have welcomed the vast majority of the world’s refugees.

The men and women telling their stories have faced intense hardship and often made perilous journeys. Throughout, they have shown incredible resilience, relying on their own resourcefulness and capabilities as they search for a safer future.

And they rely on the kindness and solidarity of strangers, on local people who share their often scarce resources with them. Humanitarian aid too plays a vital role.

The six largest economies in the world host less than nine percent of the world’s refugees and asylum seekers.

In contrast, too many governments have failed to share their resources in the same spirit of common humanity. They have not shared responsibility for the world’s refugees, displaced people and migrants. While some have risen to the challenge, most of the world’s richest countries have failed to welcome and protect refugees and instead have adopted policies of containment and deterrence towards people on the move. As Oxfam highlighted in July, using UN and World Bank data, the six largest economies in the world host less than nine percent of the world’s refugees and asylum seekers – while more than half have been welcomed by six countries and territories that account for less than two percent of the global economy.²

Cover photo: Amna fled Deraa in Syria after her son was killed in 2013 and went to live in Zaatar refugee camp, Jordan. Photo: Sam Tarling/Oxfam.

Cover quote: Aisha, a Yemeni woman who fled Hardh after her husband and son were killed in an airstrike.



// I don't feel good being a refugee. //

Aline, who fled violence in Burundi to Tanzania in 2015. Photo: Oxfam

For 15 years, Oxfam has carried out surveys of displaced people in many countries, from Colombia to the Philippines, South Sudan to Iraq. One thing it has consistently heard is that their physical safety is the first, vital thing that displaced people are seeking. But they are also seeking a future with hope where they have a decent livelihood and basic services, particularly education for their children. They want a choice in their future, and they want to live in harmony with the local people who are often hosting them, and who share their struggle to overcome poverty.

Above and beyond Oxfam's work with partners to promote development in some of the world's poorest communities, it provides humanitarian aid to more than 11 million people in over 20 countries, including bringing safe water to bombed areas in Syria, providing food in South Sudan, and water and sanitation in many countries including Nigeria, Yemen, Iraq, Greece and Serbia.

LOOKING AHEAD: AFTER THE SUMMITS ARE OVER

This September, world leaders will gather in New York for the first ever UN High Level Summit on Refugees and Migrants, and for President Obama's Leaders' Summit on Refugees. The two summits provide an unprecedented opportunity for world leaders to step up their commitments to all people on the move. The summits should be evaluated by the extent to which they support people on the move to live in dignity and safety.

As this paper shows, they will probably achieve some, but certainly not all, of what is needed. They will lay the foundations for the Compacts on Migration and on Refugees that governments must agree by 2018. The summits will recognize the need to share responsibility for refugees as a principle and adopt a framework response for refugees,

but what is needed are concrete commitments to put responsibility sharing into practice. Also, much more must be done to address the plight of internally displaced persons (IDPs), which will be given hardly any attention at the summits. The challenge beyond the summits will be to create a new approach that builds on this conclusion.

OXFAM CALLS ON THE WORLD'S PRESIDENTS AND PRIME MINISTERS TO DO THAT, BY:

- Agreeing concrete measures to improve assistance and protection for IDPs and ensure that any support for refugees does not leave IDPs behind.
- Ensuring that vulnerable migrants who do not qualify as refugees receive the protection they need.
- Implementing commitments to support host communities and refugees by ensuring their needs are assessed jointly and that any interventions increase their resilience.
- Increasing resettlement places and expanding other safe and legal pathways to protection.
- Committing to significantly increasing pledges for humanitarian financing, advancing development approaches to displacement, and operating according to humanitarian principles.
- Ensuring refugees and IDPs have access to jobs, livelihoods and education.



THE HUMAN TOLL

Over the last 20 years, a migrant has died every three hours. In the first eight months of 2016, it has been every 80 minutes.³

In 2015, more than 29 percent of the world's refugees had fled from one conflict-affected country to another.⁴

In the countries they left behind, in 2015 alone more than 166,000 people died directly from conflict.⁵

Above: A camp for displaced families inside the football stadium in Dibaga, Iraq.
Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam

A TRULY GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The millions of people who flee their homes come from almost every corner of the world. They are driven by hardship and violence, disaster and conflict, or in many cases, a complex combination of different reasons. But as the stories of the people in the following pages suggest, people with different reasons for moving often end up being vulnerable in very similar ways.

People often remain within their own countries, moving to a safer area. Those who leave do not tend to go far – most will cross into a neighbouring country.

Behind the stark headlines are millions of people who have been displaced for years, repeatedly driven from their homes, or who have become vulnerable during their journey.

"STUCK" ON THE BORDER OF EUROPE

// When the conflict broke out, our area was constantly shelled. My husband left first. When we knew he was in Germany, we followed him. We reached the Greek island of Chios, then the mainland. We were put on a bus. I thought we were being taken to the border, that we would keep moving. We were taken to this camp. It is not clean. The hot water is on for a week, off for a week. I feel stuck. //

Zeinach, 36, and her four children from Syria, living at the Doliana camp in north-west Greece. Photo: Aubrey Wade/Oxfam



HEADING NORTH FROM CENTRAL AMERICA

More people are fleeing violence, inequality and poverty in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras than at any time since the 1980s.⁶ Tens of thousands of people each year, mostly families and children, make the treacherous journey from Central America to the United States. They flee an epidemic of violence, which is closely tied to inequality and endemic poverty. In Salamanca, Mexico, Oxfam supported local people to shelter the most vulnerable. What motivates these 'migrant defenders' is often the compassion of migrants themselves, like the one who saved Marciela Aguirre's daughter after they both crossed the border to the US.

// My daughter was saved by a migrant. That person was an angel. I want to be an angel for all those who go through Mexico. //

Marciela Aguirre, coordinator of the Casa del Migrante shelter for migrants, Salamanca, Mexico.

Photo: Migrants from Central America eating on the street, Salamanca, Mexico. Consuelo Morales Pagaza/Oxfam



BOKO HARAM: AFFECTING A WHOLE REGION

2.6 million people have fled from Boko Haram and other armed groups in Nigeria, Niger and Chad.

// It was 6pm when Boko Haram arrived and started killing. We all fled. We came with only mats and blankets. To feed my family, I make bricks. I'll stay here until death. //

Warouma Zarami, a 72-year-old displaced man near Diffa, Niger. Photo: Vincent Tremeau/Oxfam





INTERNALLY DISPLACED IN IRAQ

// We left when ISIS approached our village and the bombing started. Many people died – young boys, girls, even old people. I didn't want anything from life, except the safety of my family. //

Muntaha, an internally displaced woman in Bugali, Iraq.
Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam



STRUGGLING TO PAY FOR FOOD

// We could hear the bombs falling all the time. Refugees were sleeping in the local school. It was hit when they were inside. We weren't able to take anything, not even our clothes. It took us four hours to reach the border, two more hours to the Bekaa Valley. The most difficult time is the winter. During the summer we never have enough water. My husband works in the field, but he has [brittle bone] disease in his leg and is unable to work all the time. We buy our groceries on loan. My husband pays off the instalments when he can, but we still have \$200 in debt. Oxfam told us how to register our children. We registered with UNHCR, but we are not legal in Lebanon, we don't have visas. //

Hannan Hassan Al Khalaf, a 20-year-old woman from Raqa, Syria, in Khalaf camp, Lebanon.
Photo: Sam Tarling/Oxfam



FLEEING BURUNDI, FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN HER LIFE

Tensions around elections in 2015 led to months of violent protests across Burundi. Tens of thousands of people fled to neighbouring countries, including Rwanda and Tanzania.

// All my life I have been a refugee – in 1973, 1993, 1997, then once again in 2015. //

Jackline, a Burundian woman who fled to Nyarugusu camp, Tanzania. Photo: Phil Moore/Oxfam

A photograph of three children sitting on the floor in a dimly lit room. On the left, a young girl with dark hair and a red jacket looks directly at the camera. In the center, a boy in a light-colored shirt sits with his hands clasped. On the right, another girl in a red dress is partially visible, looking towards the camera. The background is dark and textured.

DISPLACED WITHIN THEIR OWN COUNTRY

Zahra has fled conflict in Iraq, but she is one of the world's 41 million people displaced within their own countries, rather than one of more than 24 million refugees and asylum seekers who have crossed borders. Many IDPs are effectively trapped within brutal conflicts, including 6.6 million in Syria,⁷ as neighbouring countries have effectively closed their borders.

The document adopted at the UN Summit will barely mention IDPs and does not provide for concrete measures or action to improve adequate protection and assistance for them. The Leaders' Summit also focuses exclusively on refugees. Given that the majority of displaced people are staying within their own countries and that, in some circumstances, refugees and IDPs live side by side, this is a grave omission.

Above: Zahra Hamady sits inside the farm building her family now call home, after they fled their homes near Jalawla, Iraq. Around 105 people live in the barn.
Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam

Assaga village lies on both banks of the Komadougou River, one side in Niger, the other in Nigeria. When Boko Haram attacked, the whole village fled, and now they live in a camp near the town of Diffa in Niger. Depending on which side of the river they fled from, some are refugees, some are internally displaced people. Their status in international law is different. But their needs and their hopes for the future are remarkably similar.

// I WANT TO GO HOME TO FIND MY CHILDREN //

South Sudan's descent, once again, into conflict in July 2016 drove thousands more people to flee their homes. Over 740,000 have become refugees since war broke out in 2013, and more than 1.6 million people are now displaced within the country.⁸

// I hope for peace so that everyone is able to go home, and one night can pass without the sound of a gunshot. I am a strong woman. I am used to working, and taking care of my family. What I want most is to be able to do that again. //

Monica Tip, who fled her home in Malakal when conflict erupted in December 2013. Photo: Stella Madete/Oxfam



DISPLACED BY DROUGHT

The worst time in Moumina's life was in 2015, when her family's sheep, cows and camels all perished, or were sold to help the family survive. They had to move to a camp outside the village of Fedeto, near Dire Dawa in eastern Ethiopia. She told Oxfam:

// We have lost everything. //

In 2016, light summer rains brought a tinge of green grass, and animals had something to eat. But Moumina has no animals, except a small goat donated by a relative.

Photo: Eliza Hilton/Oxfam



ONGOING DISPLACEMENT

Sylvie with her son Joshua in Buporo camp, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. People in eastern Congo remain displaced as a result of ongoing violence.

Photo: Eleanor Farmer/Oxfam

STRUGGLING TO RECEIVE PROTECTION

Millions of people are uprooted by poverty, inequality and hardship; others become vulnerable as they journey to search for a better life. Even if they do not qualify for refugee status, they may be in need of protection or be unable to safely return to their home countries. Some states recognize this and provide complementary protection,⁹ which the UN Summit will welcome. But it will do little to encourage other Member States to follow suit, leaving vulnerable people in limbo or worse.



DRIVEN FROM HOME BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

// I was beaten again by my husband. He said he would kill me. I decided to run. I walked with my children to the border. When I got on the boat [to Tanzania] I felt I was crossing to freedom. //

Gilaneza Emeline, who lives in Nyarugusu refugee camp, Tanzania. Photo: Amy Christian/Oxfam

WOMEN AND GIRLS ON THE MOVE

Women and girls often face particular threats on their journeys.¹⁰ One in five displaced women suffers sexual violence.¹¹ While all displaced children are vulnerable, in eastern Africa half as many displaced girls go to school as boys.¹² Men and boys are, of course, threatened too, and also face specific threats. In Nigeria, displaced people are disproportionately female because men and boys are targeted to be killed and forced into fighting.¹³ But overall, displaced women and girls, particularly if unaccompanied, pregnant or elderly, are among the most vulnerable people in the world.

// This journey is difficult and exhausting. Death is all around us. I have had bad experiences on the road. In Macedonia, we tried to make contact with the smugglers, but as we did not have enough money, they offered to take us to Serbia in exchange for sex with women in our group. We were terrified, because they were armed. //

Leila, 17 years old, from Syria

IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE, TRAUMATIZED ON THE JOURNEY

//First I went to another part of [Senegal] but I didn't earn much. Then people told me there was work in Libya, so I set off for there. I reached Agadez [in Niger], but I didn't have the money to cross the desert. I became ill. A man who took people to Libya saw that I was sick, didn't have money, and he took me in the lorry for free. But when I got to Libya, I was kidnapped – thrown into jail and told I couldn't get out until I'd paid money. One night I managed to escape. From that point, I wanted to cross the sea.//

Abdoulaye, a 24-year-old man from Senegal, who managed to reach Italy, but had his claim for asylum rejected.

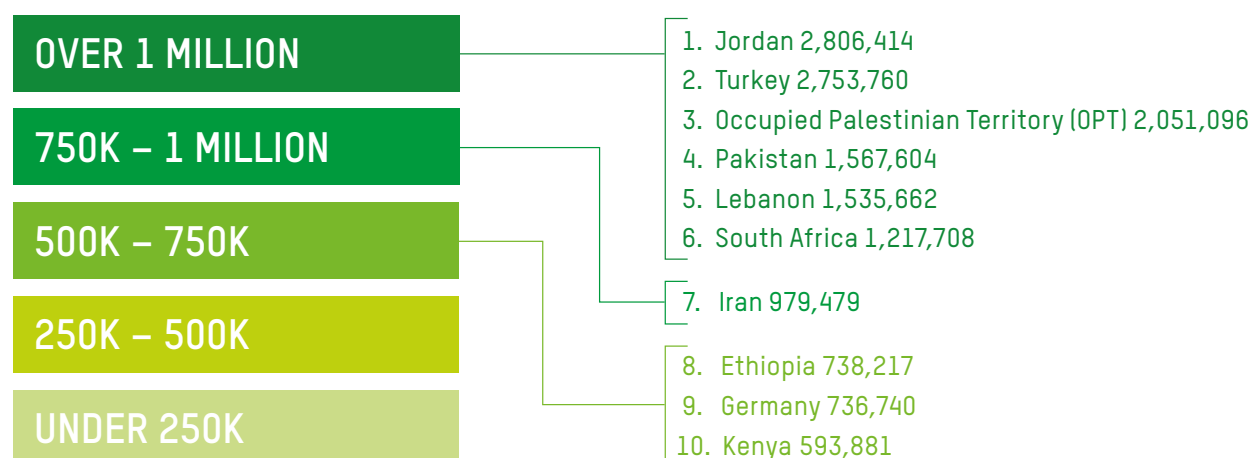


Above: Refugees and migrants on an Italian Navy ship. Photo: Francesco Malavolta/UNHCR

TOP 10 HOSTS OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

As of 31 December 2015

This cartogram represents the world map distorted by the number of refugees and asylum seekers hosted in each country, accurate as of 31/12/2015. It clearly demonstrates the disproportionate responsibility that certain countries are taking due to the number of people they are hosting. Oxfam has calculated this map based on figures from UNHCR's 2015 Global Trends Report,¹⁸ released 20 June 2016, on the total number of refugees and asylum seekers by country/territory of asylum, in addition to the latest available figures from 01/01/2015 for the number of Palestinian refugees in each country from UNRWA.¹⁹



Sources: UNHCR. (2016). 2015 Global Trends Report. 20 June 2016. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/unhcrsharedmedia/2016/2016-06-20-global-trends/2016-06-14-Global-Trends-2015.pdf>. UNRWA. (2015). UNRWA in Figures 2015. http://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/unrwa_in_figures_2015.pdf. This map uses a cylindrical equal-area map projection with D3.js and Cartogram.js to create a contiguous cartogram.

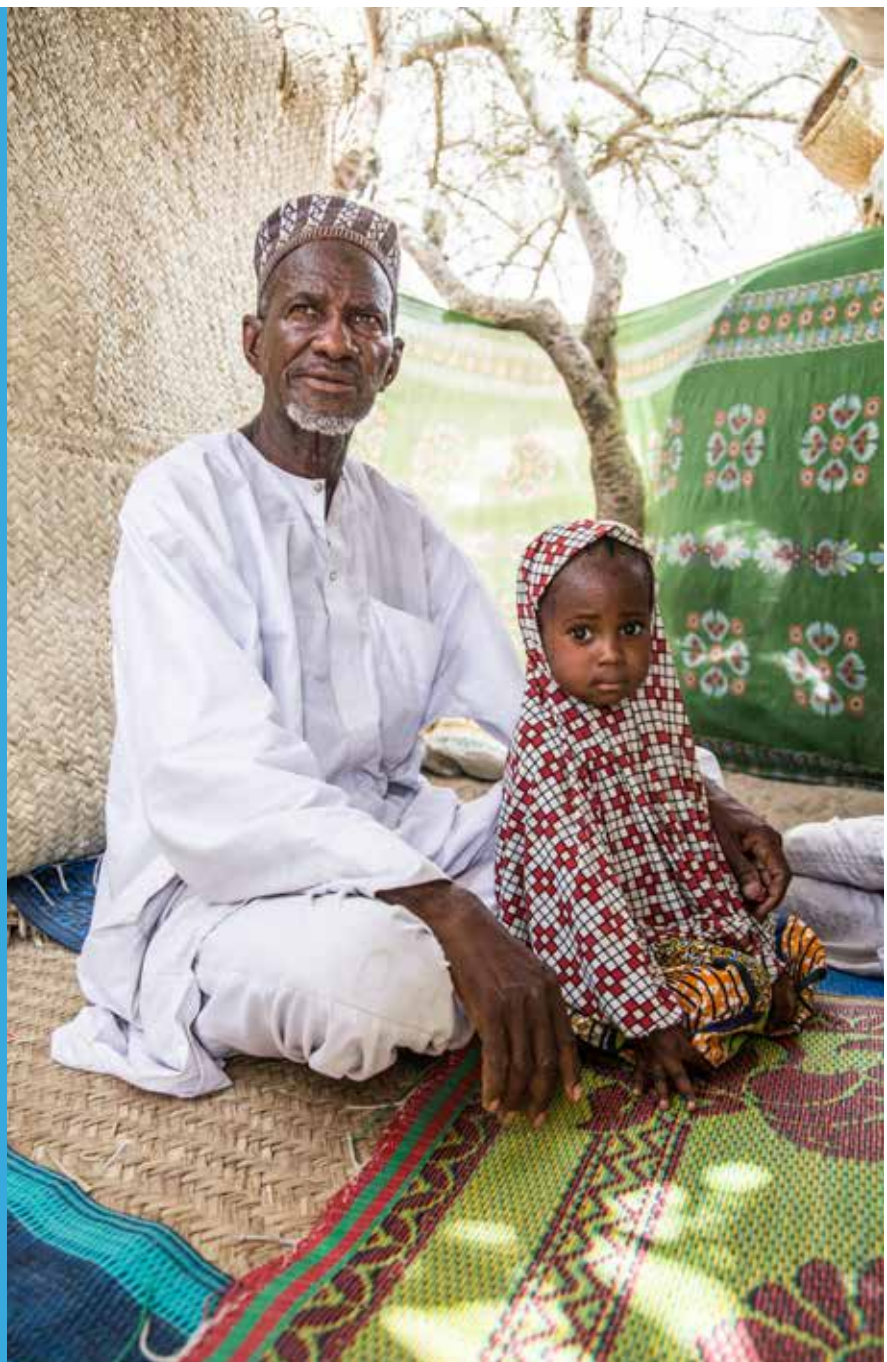
Disclaimer: Country/territory sizes on this map are approximate. The map was created using an algorithm that distorted the countries/territories based on their original size and the latest data from UNHCR and UNRWA.

HOSTING AND HELPING

More than nine out of 10 people displaced in Nigeria have found refuge not in organized camps, but among local communities who are themselves struggling to survive.¹⁴ They have little to offer, but what they have, they give. In Niger, the proportion is almost as high.¹⁵

// The family of the village chief fled their home, and now live with me. They first fled to a different village. But it was impossible to stay there, because Boko Haram attack and kill people. Here we share everything. There are 10 of them. There were already 11 in my family here. We eat together, we pray together, we share our water, our courtyard, our food. //

Elhadjimi, a 63-year-old host in Toumour, Niger.
Photo: Vincent Tremeau/
Oxfam



The outcome document of the UN Summit will recognize the need to provide support and infrastructure, as well as delivery of and access to services, for host communities and refugees. However, it does not include any concrete commitments on how and when this support will be delivered. We are concerned that without this concrete commitment, people like Adjii Gana will continue to bear the responsibility for hosting some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

EXTENDING HELP, WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES



// Yes, there is a growing pressure on Jordan's services, such as education, healthcare, water and housing. //

But that doesn't stop Fasl Bani Khaled, who runs the Jordanian Women's Union centre in Mafraq, from helping Syrian refugees. She visits them, listens to their needs and fears, and offers them the centre's computer courses, handicrafts training and other support. As she says:

// We call on rich countries to support Jordan and to provide Syrians and Jordanians with services they need. //

Fasl Bani Khaled, in Mafraq, Jordan. Photo: Aisha Shtiwi/Oxfam

// We host many families who travel from far, because they don't have anywhere to stay. It is part of our culture to help. They can stay as long as they want, and are welcome to our food and our water. Sometimes, we don't have enough, but the people, mostly women and children, walk for hours in the sun, and need to eat and rest. I know they would do the same for me. //

Nyabel, who has herself been displaced by South Sudan's conflict, and fled to the town of Akobo. Photo: Stella Madete/Oxfam



The continuing conflict in the Central African Republic has displaced more than 800,000 people, both within the country and to neighbouring states.¹⁶

// How could I not help these people? They were in the street in front of our homes with nothing, frightened. They left everything when gunmen attacked them. In Central African Republic, we cannot conceive of letting someone be abandoned to their fate. If someone needs help, we help them. I do not think twice. //

Josephine, a woman who has hosted displaced families in her home near Bangui. Photo: Júlia Serramitjana/Oxfam

WELCOMING AND PROTECTING

The vast majority of refugees, 86 percent, live in developing regions.¹⁷ In light of this imbalance, rich countries should provide protection for a larger proportion of the world's refugees and enable them to seek refuge safely by expanding resettlement places and providing other means of protection, such as expanded family reunion or humanitarian visas.

UN Member States must recognize that the lack of legal channels to protection is forcing people to travel dangerously and irregularly. Increasing safe and legal routes would help save lives, protect refugees' futures and result in fewer people being forced to travel irregularly. At the UN Summit, Member States will

only express the intent to expand resettlement and other legal pathways. Attempts to include more concrete commitments in the outcome document have been resisted by several Member States. We hope that some governments will pledge to increase resettlement places at the Leaders' Summit.

FLEEING THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST CONFLICT

// She was in my lap. I was holding her hand. The car was moving. Then I felt blood on my shoulder. I knew my daughter had been shot in the head. We were trying to escape the war. We went straight to the hospital. They took care of her. But they left parts of the bullet behind. That's why I left Syria. Now I am going to risk the danger of going to Europe for my kids. Even if I die, I need them to have a better future. Whatever it takes, I will do it. //

Ahmad Mohammad, who lives in rented accommodation in Zarqa, Jordan. Photo: Sam Tarling/Oxfam



HOPING TO SEE FAMILY AGAIN

Faramaz fled Afghanistan to Iran with his family. There they ran a food shop, but were not allowed to own it. They had no recognized nationality. They saved for three years to make the journey to Europe.



// We sold everything to pay smugglers to take us to Greece. We walked for 22 days to Turkey's coast. When we reached it, the smugglers left us for three days in the open. It was cold. We didn't have food. Then we were squashed into a boat with 70 people. I was so relieved when we arrived in Greece. I keep in contact with two brothers [in Germany]. I hope we can reach Germany and make the same household again. //

Faramaz, a 21-year-old refugee originally from Afghanistan, who is staying in Kara Tepe camp, Lesvos, Greece, with his mother, father and younger brother. Photo: Aubrey Wade/Oxfam



STRANDED AND NEGLECTED

By August 2016, governments had given less than 41 percent of the funding sought by UN-led regional refugee plans. This would be less than 23 percent if the appeal for Syria's terrible crisis were excluded, highlighting the scale of the funding gap for the regional appeals of South Sudan, Yemen, Nigeria, Burundi and the Central African Republic.²⁰

There are many reasons why people on the move are denied the protection and assistance they need. Sometimes it is simply the shortage of aid. Sometimes it is because they are trapped within conflicts. At other times, it is because governments turn their backs on them and close borders.

DISPLACED WITHOUT AID

Shuaia and her four children fled their home in Haradh, in north-west Yemen because of airstrikes in 2015. Her only income is from her daughter, who feeds animals at the camp in Hodeidah where they live. Shuaia and her family don't eat every day.

// I can't find wheat, rice, oil – these things take a toll. We don't have enough clothes. My body is in pain, and I feel like am unable to do anything to make my children feel better. //

Shuaia (pictured above), an internally displaced widow from Haradh, Yemen.
Photo: Hind Al-Eryani/Oxfam

The Leaders' Summit will seek increased pledges of humanitarian funding and for more states to become regular donors. At the UN Summit, world leaders are expected to acknowledge the need to provide adequate, flexible and predictable funding that responds to both immediate humanitarian and longer-term development needs. However, in a bid to minimize commitments for which states can actually be held to account, the outcome document is expected to include the suggestion that there are instances when it is not appropriate to provide humanitarian assistance or access. This seriously undermines the most basic of humanitarian principles – to provide assistance wherever it is needed.



SPECIFIC VULNERABILITIES

// We're from Congo too. Six of my children are disabled, four of them blind. We come from a village where there have been lots of rebels. But our relatives in Congo also sent us away because our children are disabled. When we arrived [in Tanzania] we were put in a mass shelter. When my children needed the toilet I would rush them to the latrine. If I didn't make it in time, people would laugh and shout at me. //

Irakunda Bangamugwankom, who lives with his children in Nyarugusu camp, Tanzania. Photo: Phil Moore/Oxfam



SEEKING A FUTURE WITH HOPE

Millions of people are displaced from their homes for years, and in some cases decades. While durable solutions (voluntary return, resettlement or integration into their new homeland) must be pursued, displaced people need to live in dignity today, given the possibility that they may remain displaced for a long time. This includes immediate access to opportunities for work, and, for children, the ability to go to school.

// We're from Iraq. If I had stayed in Iraq they would have killed me for marrying someone from a different sect. I was told to pay \$150,000, or I would be killed. My wife took two of our children. I took the other two. I'll go anywhere to live in peace. //

Sami, aged 29, in Presevo, Serbia.

Above: Sami's son, Hassan. Sam Tarling/Oxfam

The UN Summit includes a determination to provide quality primary and secondary education and a commitment to support host countries to do so. It welcomes the positive steps taken by some host countries who are considering opening up their labour markets to refugees. However, it also contains a loophole which says that expanding access to education and labour markets will only take place where appropriate, so there is no definite commitment. Oxfam hopes that at the Leaders' Summit, host governments will pledge to increase access to work for refugees and education opportunities for their children.



Zahia Hassan, 28, lives in a small village called Hussein, near Jalawla in Iraq. She and her four-year-old son fled ISIS, but went back after the Peshmerga and Iraqi army retook the village. Half her house was blown up or burned down. What was left was black with soot.

// It's awful to imagine ISIS living in my home. Everywhere I look I am reminded of them and what they've done. Only a few days ago an IED exploded in my yard. My house is completely surrounded by red marker sticks identifying IEDs/mines. //

Zahia Hassan (pictured above), an internally displaced woman who has returned to her home in Iraq. Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam

THE CHANCE OF EDUCATION DESTROYED



// Boko Haram came to our village. They took all our food and animals. We had to flee. Now we live far from home. The children used to attend school. Now they can't. //

Fatma, a 40-year-old mother, Niger. Photo: Vincent Tremeau/Oxfam

NOTES

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A photograph of a young boy with glasses and a girl in a dusty, war-torn landscape. The boy is smiling and holding his glasses, while the girl is partially visible behind him. The background shows a desolate, dusty area with some debris and a cloudy sky.

LAST WORDS

Sharuja Polaq, a small village in Kirkuk, Iraq has welcomed 170 families who fled ISIS. Before then, it was home to just 40 families. Oxfam is supporting all those families, displaced and host, with a water plant and taps and toilets. Photo: Tommy Trenchard/Oxfam

// You can get used to living with war. But when you lose your hope, you must leave. //

Khalid, a Syrian woman who has now reached Serbia

// There is a lot of ignorance about migration. We know the risks. But that won't stop us. //

Don Beto, a 'migrant defender', Salamanca, Mexico

// There is no clean water, no health facilities, no schools for our children. In fact, there is no life at all. //

Christina, who fled from Boko Haram, Yola, Nigeria

// I'll go anywhere to live in peace. //

Sami, an Iraqi man who fled to Europe and is now in Serbia

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