

## Refugee statistics icebreaker

Many of us don't have to look too far into our family trees to find relatives who have left their place of birth to build a life in a different place. Over the last year, the movement of people has dominated the headlines. The movement of people fleeing conflict has resulted in the biggest humanitarian crisis Europe has seen since the Second World War.

Use the activity below in a quiz or as a matching exercise. Encourage young people to discuss which numbers most surprise them and why. Find further activities on the refugee crisis to use with children and young people at [cafod.org.uk/Secondary](http://cafod.org.uk/Secondary).

All statistics updated June 2016. The term *forcibly displaced people* includes *refugees*, *internally displaced people* and *asylum seekers*. For more information, please visit the [UNHCR website](http://www.unhcr.org).

Statistic	Statement
65.3 million <sup>1</sup>	Total number of those who have had to leave their country of origin (refugees – 21.3m) and those who have been forced to flee their home but remain within their country's borders (internally displaced people – 40.8m) and asylum seekers (3.2 million). <i>This is 5.8 million more than the previous year. If these 65.3 million people were a nation, they would make up the 21<sup>st</sup> largest in the world.</i>
86% <sup>2</sup>	Percentage of the world's refugees who are hosted by developing countries. <i>The burden of helping the world's refugees is extremely uneven. Poorer countries host vastly more displaced people than wealthier ones.</i>
51% <sup>3</sup>	Percentage of refugees who are under 18 years old. <i>This is up from 41% in 2009. In 2015 there were 98, 400 unaccompanied or separated children, the highest number on record.</i>
23% <sup>4</sup>	Percentage of the world's refugees who are Syrian. <i>Today, on average, almost one out of every four refugees is Syrian.</i>
3,770 <sup>5</sup>	Number of people who are recorded as having died, or missing in 2015, trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. <i>Actual numbers may be higher than those recorded.</i>
2,000-3,000 <sup>6</sup>	Average amount (£) refugees pay people traffickers for a passage to Europe.
2,840,507 <sup>7</sup>	Amount of money (£) CAFOD has given in Syria, Serbia and Greece in response to the refugee crisis. <i>CAFOD are supporting Church partners who are providing food parcels, baby kits, medical aid and relief supplies and helping people to find safe places to stay. We are also working with Caritas partners in Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan to ensure that newly arrived refugees have food, medical support, clothes and safe places to stay.</i>
297,000 <sup>8</sup>	Number of Britons who left the country in 2015. <i>It is interesting to note how we use the word 'expat' for some and 'migrant' for others. Both refer to people who are no longer living in their country of origin. In total, more than 5.5 million Britons live abroad<sup>9</sup>.</i>
24 <sup>10</sup>	Number of people who were displaced from their homes every minute of every day during 2015. <i>This is some 34,000 people per day. This compares to 30 per minute in 2014 and 6 per minute in 2005.</i>

**Sources:**

- <sup>1</sup> UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 2, accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>2</sup> UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 2, accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>3</sup> UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 3, accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>4</sup> UNHCR. 4.9 million Syrian refugees out of 21.3 million refugees globally. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 2-3, accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>5</sup> UNHR. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 32, accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>6</sup> The Telegraph. [EU crisis in 90 seconds video](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11954037/Refugees-will-freeze-to-death-warn-EU-head.html) in this article, <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/eu/11954037/Refugees-will-freeze-to-death-warn-EU-head.html>, accessed 27.6.16. [Guardian](#) reports \$800-\$2500. [Economist](#) reports a few hundred to couple of thousand dollars. Both accessed 27.6.16.
- <sup>7</sup> CAFOD. Read our Q and As for more information on CAFOD's response to the [Syria crisis](#) and [Refugee crisis in Europe](#).
- <sup>8</sup> Office for National Statistics. <http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/bulletins/migrationstatisticsquarterlyreport/may2016#net-migration-to-the-uk>, accessed 27.6.16
- <sup>9</sup> BBC. [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/in\\_depth/brits\\_abroad/html/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/in_depth/brits_abroad/html/default.stm), accessed 27.6.15.
- <sup>10</sup> UNHCR. <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/country/576408cd7/unhcr-global-trends-2015.html>, page 2, accessed 27.6.16.



# 65.3 million

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Percentage of the  
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who are hosted by  
developing countries



**51%**

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**Percentage of  
refugees who are  
under 18 years old**



23%

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Percentage of the  
world's refugees  
who are Syrian



**3,770**

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**Number of people  
who died in 2015  
trying to cross the  
Mediterranean Sea**



**2,000-3,000**

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**Average amount (£)  
refugees pay human  
traffickers for a  
passage to Europe**





2,840,507

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Amount of money (£)  
CAFOD has given in  
Syria, Serbia and  
Greece in response to  
the refugee crisis



297,000

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Number of Britons  
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in 2015



24

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Number of people who  
were displaced from their  
homes every minute of  
every day during 2015