

**WORLD
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THE UNSPOKEN HUMANITARIANS:

HOST COMMUNITIES & THE GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT CHALLENGE

**RECOGNIZING THE WAYS IN WHICH REFUGEE-HOSTING FAMILIES, COMMUNITIES,
AND COUNTRIES ARE RESPONDING TO A GLOBAL CHALLENGE.**

CONFRONTING GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Nobody wants to be displaced by violence or natural disaster – leaving home is the last resort.

Worldwide, over 65 million people have been forcibly displaced. More than 33,000 people are forced to flee their homes every day. Twenty-four people are displaced every minute. This is the highest number of displaced people since World War II.

Despite these figures, the global forced displacement challenge is entirely manageable. Refugees make up less than 0.3 per cent of the global population, and are concentrated in a handful of frontline states. Moreover, the drivers of displacement – including war, natural disaster and famine – are interrelated and can be solved through political means.

WITH ADEQUATE POLITICAL WILL AND CONCERTED ACTION BY CANADA AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, A FAIRER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE APPROACH TO MANAGING GLOBAL FORCED DISPLACEMENT IS WITHIN REACH.

Key Figures: Global Forced Displacement

There are over 65.3 million displaced people worldwide. This includes:

21.3 million refugees. That's the highest total since the early 1990s.

40.8 million internally-displaced people. That's the highest total on record.

3.2 million asylum-seekers awaiting decisions. That's the highest total on record.

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MILLION**

INTERNALLY-DISPLACED
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**21.3
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**3.2
MILLION**

ASYLUM-SEEKERS
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HOST COMMUNITIES ON THE FRONTLINES

Host communities are modern day humanitarians, sharing responsibility and providing much-needed support for the world's displaced people.

Although refugee camps remain a reality for far too many displaced people, that reality is changing. Today, three-quarters of refugees do not live in camps, but side-by-side with host communities. Moreover, forcible displacement is becoming more protracted, with the average length of time a refugee spends in displacement now over 17 years.

The vast majority of displaced people are located in countries already grappling with challenges related to poverty, limited infrastructure, food insecurity, natural disaster, poor governance and political instability. Without adequate support, the strain of refugee flows in such countries can threaten hard-won development gains and stability, with regional and even global consequences.

The international community has a legal and moral responsibility to support refugees and other forcibly displaced people, and the communities that host them. This means upholding their legal rights and protections, promoting access to labour markets, skills training and social security, and ensuring the availability of basic services such as health and education.

IT IS CRITICAL FOR BOTH SOCIAL COHESION AND STABILITY THAT PROGRAMS BENEFIT DISPLACED PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE HOST COMMUNITIES ALIKE, WITH THE VIEW TO BUILDING THEIR SELF-RELIANCE.

DISPLACED PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, NEEDS, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

With adequate access to services and opportunity, displaced people bring long-term benefits to the societies in which they live.

Displaced people have basic rights and needs – just like you and me – except that they are fleeing wars and natural disasters and no longer have access to healthcare, hygiene services, schooling, employment and other basic necessities that most of us take for granted every day.

Women and children's rights are routinely violated before, during and after displacement. Women and children also face additional barriers accessing basic services, and are at increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence and child, early and forced marriage. Worldwide, 28 million children are out of school due to humanitarian crises.

While the most prevalent image of displacement is of people undertaking perilous journeys over land and sea, the experience of many people is characterized by immobility: people trapped in limbo or waiting for return or resettlement, unable to properly integrate into a host country's society.

EVIDENCE SHOWS THAT WHEN POLICIES PROMOTE DISPLACED PEOPLE'S SELF-RELIANCE AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION THROUGH PROGRAMS THAT MAXIMIZE HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT SYNERGIES, SHORT-TERM COSTS ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THEIR LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY AND THE ECONOMY.

Key Figures: Host Communities

UNHCR projects that almost 1.2 million refugees will need to be resettled in 2017.

Turkey hosts 3.2 million refugees – more than any other country in the world. Approximately 90% of Syrian refugees there live outside of camp settings.

In 2015, UNHCR resettled only 82,000 refugees in high-income countries like Canada; that's less than 1% of the total number of refugees worldwide.

Eighty-eight per cent of today's refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries, where resources are often already stretched thin and service delivery systems are weak.

The current top ten refugee-hosting countries are Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia, Jordan, Kenya, Uganda, Chad and Sudan.

Key Figures: Canada

In Canada, over 40,000 Syrian refugees were resettled in 350 communities across the country since November 2015, in addition to over 5,000 refugees of other nationalities.

Over 14,000 of these were privately sponsored and resettled with the help of Canadian families and community groups. Over 33,000 private sponsorship applications were pending as of June 2016.

Canada's refugee resettlement target for 2017 is 25,000 people, including 7,500 government-assisted refugees (GAR) and 16,000 privately sponsored refugees.

The 2017 level is below the annual average of GAR arrivals of 7,600 from 2000 to 2015.

TOWARDS NEW WAYS OF SUPPORTING REFUGEES AND HOST COMMUNITIES TO ENSURE MUTUAL BENEFITS

The international community needs to act now and implement more sustainable approaches for finding solutions to the displacement challenges that affect refugees and host communities.

The Global Compact on Refugees, to be negotiated in the coming months, presents an opportunity to establish a more equitable, collaborative and predictable system for meeting the immediate and long-term needs and rights of refugees and host communities alike, while promoting inclusive social and economic development.

This includes recognizing the extraordinary contributions and responses of refugee-hosting communities and countries, ensuring integration of humanitarian and development responses, and implementing changes in the international assistance architecture that are adequate to address the global forced displacement challenge.

THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STATES AND THEIR CITIZENS TO PROMOTE A STRONGER INTERNATIONAL CULTURE OF SOLIDARITY; TO DECIDE ON NEW APPROACHES ON HOW FORCED DISPLACED PEOPLE WILL RECEIVE ASSISTANCE AND HAVE THEIR RIGHTS RESPECTED; TO VOICE EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL DISPLACEMENT MANAGEMENT; AND TO PROPOSE SOLUTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE DRIVERS OF DISPLACEMENT AND THEIR CONSEQUENCES.

WHAT CANADA CAN DO

Canada can support political solutions to the world's conflicts and poverty, and stem the tide of violence, death and forced displacement.

Canada has a strong historical role in promoting peace and is well positioned to mobilize diplomatic efforts in addressing drivers of instability and displacement. Canada can strengthen political accountability in conflict-prone areas, and urge safe and unimpeded access for the provision of assistance to displaced people and host communities.

Canada can exercise leadership in the international forced displacement policy framework.

Canada should offer to host a follow-up to President Obama's September 2016 Leaders' Summit on Refugees, to promote accountability towards displaced people and their internationally-established human rights, and to contribute to the Global Compacts on Refugees and on Safe and Orderly Migration.

Canada can demonstrate global leadership by committing to ambitious financial support to international assistance, and contributing to international refugee resettlement targets.

Responsibility for the world's refugees must be shared fairly between countries, and long-term support must be extended to displaced populations and host communities alike, in Canada and abroad. A commitment to increasing Canada's financial contributions to international assistance would ensure support to the long-term growth and stability of host communities abroad. This commitment would be a much needed additional demonstration of Canada's leadership in championing a more safe, equitable, stable, and just world. Canada should contribute to international targets for the resettlement of at least 10 per cent of all refugees globally, including the most vulnerable women and girls, elderly, LGBTQ, and persons with disabilities. This should include increasing the number of Government Assisted Refugees, and meeting Canadians' demand for Privately Sponsored Refugees.

Canada can support the protection of displaced children guaranteeing their rights to education.

Children affected by displacement have the same rights as all other children, including the right to education. Yet only 50 per cent of refugee children have access to primary education, compared with a global average of more than 90 per cent. Measures must be taken to ensure no displaced child goes without school for more than 30 days, including by ensuring displaced children are given every opportunity to continue learning through the different stages of displacement, whether through emergency learning spaces, registration into local schools, or other innovative approaches. This must include the adoption and implementation of policies that do not directly or indirectly discriminate against displaced children – who may not have registration or academic achievement documentation, might not speak the same language, and may face cultural barriers to accessing a quality education in displacement. Importantly, education of girls is one of the most effective ways of addressing gender inequality.

Canada can promote sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the participation of women and adolescent girls in decision-making.

Displaced women and girls are amongst the most excluded populations in the world, and face threats of gender-based violence, including forced and early marriages. Too many of these women and girls lack access to life-saving sexual and reproductive health care, including post-rape care, emergency obstetric care, contraception/family planning and safe abortion care and post-abortion care. These gaps result in unwanted pregnancies, and preventable death and suffering from complications of pregnancy, childbirth and unsafe abortion. Focused commitments are needed to ensure women and girls' access to sexual and reproductive health services in displacement situations, including through their involvement in decision-making processes.

Canada can promote an informed national dialogue

Public opinion polling shows that Canadians view immigration as a benefit to society and the economy, and that they are proud to be part of the solution to global forced displacement. However, xenophobia and misinformation are on the rise. Parliamentarians, policy-makers and thought leaders across Canada have a critical role to play in promoting a more open and informed dialogue about the forced displacement challenges and its solutions.

