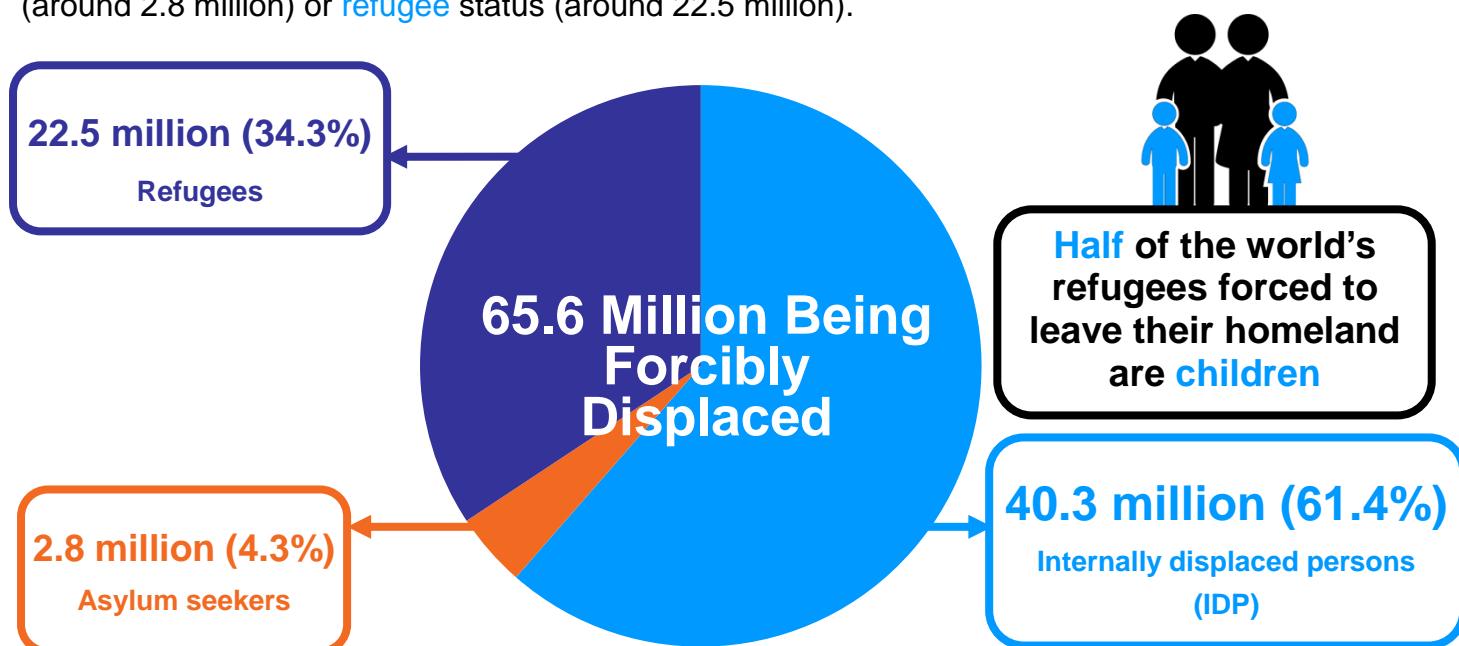


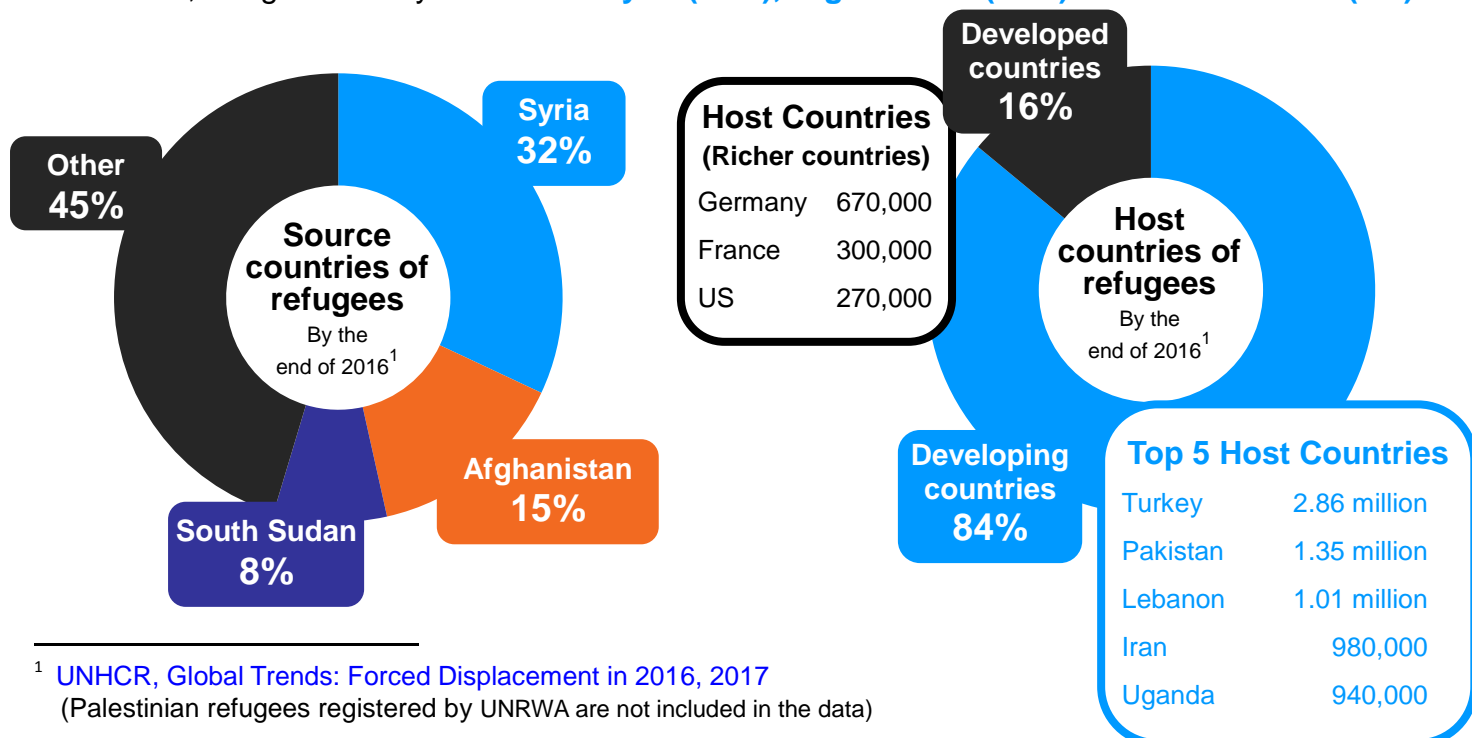
1 An Overview of the Refugee Crisis

Imagine staying in a country where your life and that of your family's lives are in danger, and the only way to guarantee your safety is by leaving your home countries. You might need to give up on your belongings or everything you have taken for granted including your home, school, friends, or even family members.

By the end of 2016, 65.6 million individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. Some of them were **internally displaced** (around 40.3 million), while others are waiting on their applications for **asylum** (around 2.8 million) or **refugee** status (around 22.5 million).



As of 2016, refugees mainly come from **Syria (32%)**, **Afghanistan (15%)** and **South Sudan (8%)**.



¹ UNHCR, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2016, 2017
(Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA are not included in the data)

2 The Syria Crisis: Child refugees



In early 2011, the Middle East was engulfed in an unprecedented outburst of protest against its leaders. It began in Tunisia and spread rapidly to Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Libya and Syria. These series of anti-government protests and armed rebellion was termed '**Arab Spring**'. In Syria a group of youngsters in Daraa were arrested for drawing anti-government graffiti on a school wall. Police opened fire on demonstrators, who requested the release of these youngsters, killing several and sparking further protests. In response, President Bashar al-Assad violently repressed the protest immediately. Violence escalated and the country descended into civil war as rebel forces battled government forces.

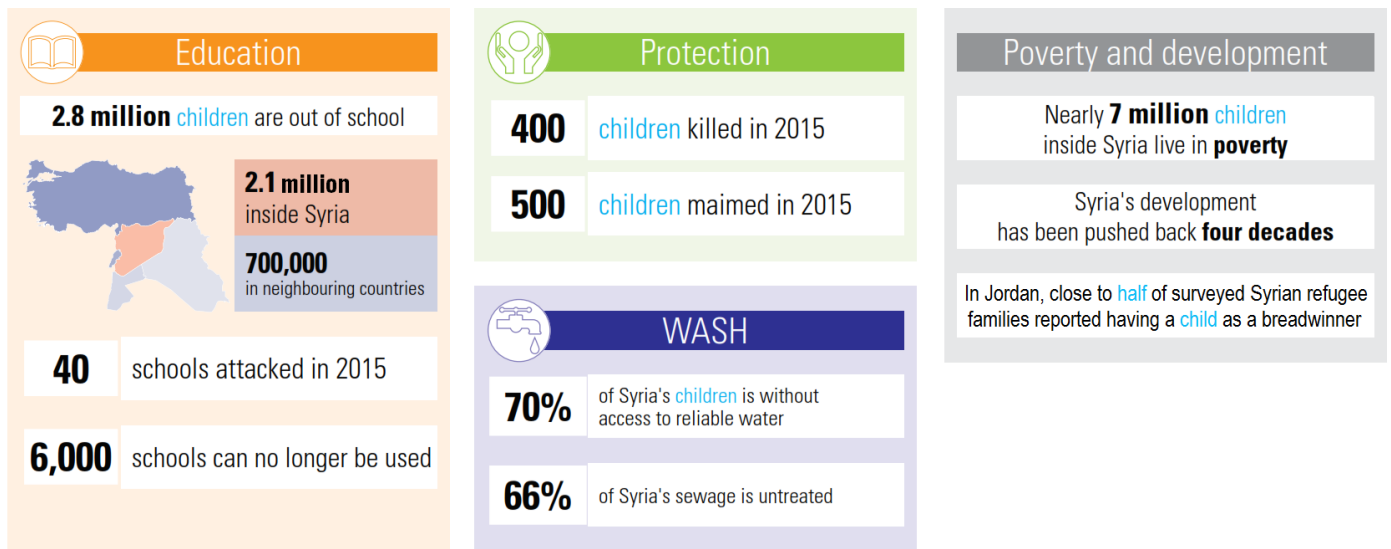
Over the years, the civil war came to a deadlock and gradually transformed into **an international political tussle**. Russia and Iran supported President Bashar al-Assad; while Turkey, Saudi Arabia, the United States, Britain and France supported the Sunni, the anti-government force. With neither side able to inflict a decisive defeat on the other the people of Syria continue to suffer.

How many people are affected?

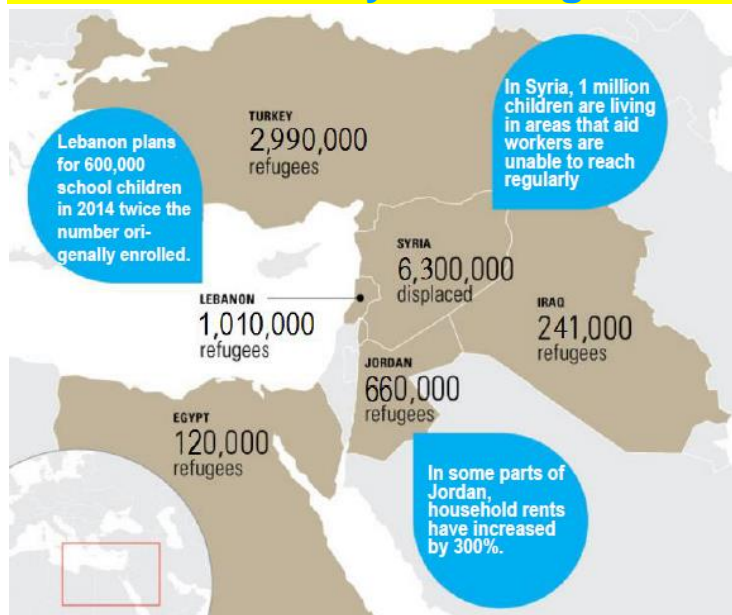
According to the United Nations, both parties to the conflict have committed war crimes violating human rights. As of August 2015, the war has killed more than 400,000 people, and more than 6.3 million people are internally displaced in Syria. Over 5.5 million Syrians fled to foreign countries and received a refugee status, where half of them are children. **More than 80 percent of the Syrian children have been harmed by the country's conflict, living in poverty, working instead of going to school or marrying young to survive.**

The rights that Syrian children are deprived of

The persistent Syria crisis deprived the rights of Syrian children, living within Syria or who have fled to neighboring countries.



3 Where are the Syrian refugees fleeing to?

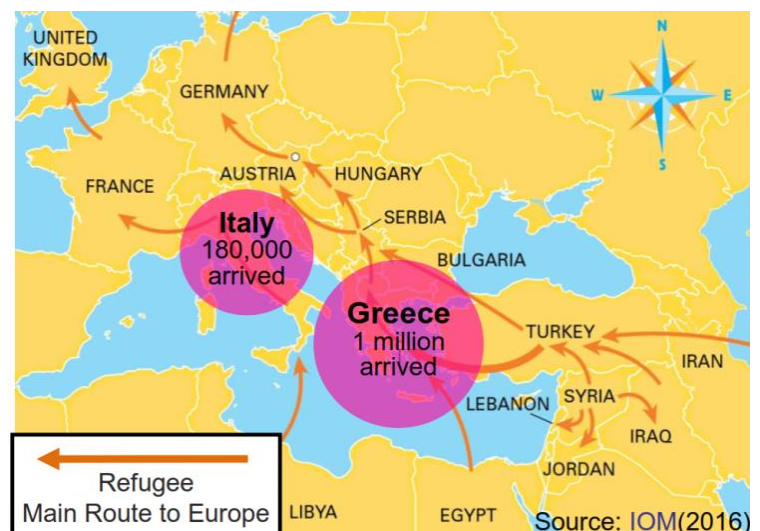


Syrian refugees fleeing to neighboring countries

Unrest in Syria forced a large number of refugees to flee to neighboring countries, including Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. As of April 2017, these five countries have hosted over 5 million Syrian refugees in all. The housing, medical care and education facilities in the neighboring countries are also under great pressure.

Syrian refugees fleeing to Europe

Since the neighboring countries of Syria also face a lot of difficulties including poverty and lack of school vacancies, some Syrian refugees flee to Europe in search for a suitable living environment. Apart from Syria, many people from Afghanistan and Iraq also reach Europe in search for safety. According to the International Organization for Migration, from January 2015 to May 2016, around 1.2 million people travelled across the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe.



4 Why do we need to care about child refugees?

The story of Mustapha – a Syrian child refugee



Mustapha, 13, is from the Syrian city of Aleppo and is separated from his family due to armed conflicts. He and his mother are on their way to Germany. The prospect of reuniting with his brother is one of the only things that allow Mustapha to stay hopeful during this long journey.

After the outbreak of armed conflicts, Mustapha's mother had to make a tough choice between taking the risk and staying in Syria, or to giving up on everything and leave their home. Ultimately Mustapha and his mother decided to leave – they had a rough voyage departing from Turkey to Lesbos, Greece. When asked about his journey by sea, Mustapha promptly confirms this is his first boat trip. "The boat was full of people and the smugglers were cramming people in. I was afraid the boat would split into two. We will fall into the water. We will drown, suffocate and die. But luckily we didn't."

Following their arrival on the Greek Island, they slept in the informal camp of Kara Tepe, the registration centre for Syrian refugees on the island. Here, people slept in crowded with no privacy tents set up by UNHCR.

Mustapha is excited about his new life in Germany, but from the bottom of his heart, he hopes to return home to Syria one day.

Every year, millions of children are separated from their families due to natural and manmade disasters. As refugees their lives go through tremendous changes and are particularly at risk with vulnerability and uncertainty.

Special Attention on child refugee and their rights

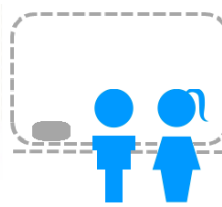
Currently, children accounts for half of the refugee population. Children can only grow healthily and develop as an independent member of the community under the protection and care of adults. Yet, while children escape from conflicts and persecution, the **Children's Rights** that they are entitled to are not well-protected. As such, they need our special attention:



Rights to Survival
Bear physical and psychological trauma



Rights to Protection
Separated from parents



Rights to Development
Drop out from schools
Become child labor

Understand the Rights of the Rights: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the United Nations in 1989. It is the first legally binding international instrument incorporating the full range of human rights for children. It articulates the full complement of civil, political, cultural, social and economic rights for all children.

As of June 2017, [196 countries](#), almost every member of the United Nations except the United States, has ratified CRC. By ratifying this Convention, governments worldwide are committed to securing and ensuring children's rights, as well as to shoulder relevant responsibilities. [Learn more about CRC and the rights of all children](#): Download the child-friendly CRC poster: bit.ly/1PCxRFr

The CRC articles can be grouped into four categories of rights:



Rights to Survival

Every child has the right to enjoy food, clean water, health services and a standard of living. adequate for survival.



Rights to Protection

Every child has the right to special protection in situations of armed conflict or conflict with the law, and should be protected from any form of abuse, neglect or exploitation.



Rights to Development

Every child has the right to education, leisure, participation in cultural activities and understanding their basic rights.



Rights to Participation

Every child has the right to freedom of expression; social, economic, cultural and religious activities; association and peaceful assembly and; information from diverse sources.

5 The Work of International Humanitarian Organizations

Helping Child Refugee in Syria

- 1. To provide water and nutrition**
 - Water: provide water, repair water supply facilities
 - Nutrition: provide health checks and micronutrients to children in need
- 2. To provide healthcare and vaccination services**
 - Support basic local health facilities and provide vaccination
- 3. To provide specialist care and psychological support**
 - Help children to reunite with families. Provide psychosocial support services
- 4. To provide learning opportunities**
 - Provide learning and playing activities. Set up school clubs

Helping Child Refugee in Europe

- 1. To provide nutritional needs**
 - Set up maternal and child care centres, provide health checks and nutrition care
- 2. To protect children**
 - Set up special support centers for children and families providing diversified support, such as family reunification, set up child-friendly space for children to play, provide safe spaces for refugees to sleep and provide psychosocial support including legal counseling .
- 3. To provide learning opportunities**
 - Design suitable teaching materials
 - Help child refugees integrate into local education environments
- 4. International collaboration and call for action**
 - Actively mobilize European local governments to strengthen protection for refugees, children and their families
 - In February 2016, 160 humanitarian organizations and UNICEF called for ceasefire in Syria, and more than 2.2 million people supported the call

How Humanitarian Organizations help Refugee Children in Europe

Provide Nutrition Care



To support the needs of pregnant, nursing mothers and their babies, UNICEF has set up maternal and child care centers in Serbia and Macedonia which provide health checks and nutrition care.

Provide Learning Opportunities



Since schools were destroyed during the war, many children have dropped out of school. Some of them have dropped out of school for 2 - 3 years. In order to support the educational needs of the children, UNICEF has set up 600 school clubs in Syria, where children can play and progress in their learning.