



# Share the Journey

No one should be forced to flee their home.



Development  
and Peace  
CARITAS CANADA



## *Every minute, 31 people are forced to flee their homes.*

### **Who is a forced migrant?**

Forced migrants are those compelled to flee their homes because they are in a situation of insecurity and fear for their lives.

They are categorized according to the causes that push them to flee and where they find refuge, which is why we hear about refugees, internally displaced people or asylum seekers, for example. But they are, first and foremost, human beings.

Consult our lexicon at [devp.org/backgrounder](https://devp.org/backgrounder) for more information.

### **How many forced migrants are there?**

**68.5 million** people in the world today are forced migrants. That's almost double the population of Canada!

**40 million** internally displaced people

**25.4 million** refugees

**3.1 million** asylum seekers

### **Where are refugees leaving from?**

**68%** of refugees come from **5 countries**:

**Syria** (6.3 million people)

**Afghanistan** (2.6 million people)

**South Sudan** (2.4 million people)

**Burma (also called Myanmar)** (1.2 million people)

**Somalia** (986,400 people)

### **Where have the refugees gone?**

**Turkey** (3.5 million people)

**Pakistan** (1.4 million people)

**Uganda** (1.4 million people)

**Lebanon** (998,900 people)

**Iran** (979,400 people)

Every year, millions of people set off on sometimes perilous journeys in the hope of living with dignity and providing for their families.

## **What are the forced migrants fleeing?**

The causes of forced migration are multiple, complex, and interwoven. Here are some of them:



### **Armed conflict, for example:**

- Drug wars
- Conflicts over natural resources
- Territorial struggles
- Insurgencies
- War between nations



### **Persecution based on**

- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Political opinion
- Nationality
- Membership in a social group



### **Development megaprojects, for example:**

- Mining, oil, and gas exploitation
- Hydroelectric dam
- Urban improvement projects
- Tourism
- Agri-business plantations



### **Environmental causes, for example:**

- Drought
- Water shortages
- Food insecurity
- Environmental degradation
- Famine
- Natural disasters
- Climate change



### **Economic and political causes, for example:**

- Extreme poverty
- Mass unemployment
- Political instability and weak governance
- Denial of basic rights and freedoms

*Flight is not a choice but a necessity.*

# Putting an end to myths.

1

**Northern countries welcome the vast majority of refugees.**

85% of refugees have found refuge in the poorest countries on the planet.

2

**Refugees flee a temporary situation.**

2/3 of refugees will spend more than **5 years** in exile.

3

**Canada welcomes too many refugees.**

In 2016, Canada welcomed the equivalent of:

- **1.7%** (i.e. 58,435 people) of the 3.4 million new refugees in the world.

4

**Refugees all live in refugee camps.**

- **61.4%** live in independent housing (often in cities).
- **29.5%** live in refugee camps.
- **9.1%** are in independent camps (not managed by the UNHCR), in collective centres, or are in transit.

5

**Refugees threaten the cultural identity and values of Canadians.**

1 in 5 Canadians are foreign-born. In 2016, that totaled more than **7.5 million** of the population.

**Diversity: a strength for Canada!**



*Nobody chooses to flee her or his home.*

**BURMA** | ASIA

# Meet the Hossein family

In October 2017, the Hossein family fled Burma (also known as Myanmar). Following a perilous journey through the jungle that lasted three days, the family finally reached the world's largest refugee camp, Kutupalong.

"The army opened fire on our village. Our children were terrified. Each day, they asked if we would be attacked, tortured, or burned by the army. I did my best to reassure them but it wasn't until we arrived in Bangladesh that they began to feel less afraid. The process nevertheless took a few months. Getting involved in a variety of activities helped a great deal," said Rehana Hossein, surrounded by her children.



Together, Development and Peace and its partner Caritas Bangladesh are committed to protecting Rohingya refugees. They are providing emergency shelters, access to clean water, safe latrines and showers for women and girls, hygiene kits and safety trainings to 100,000 refugees in the district of Cox's Bazar.

"We have found that refugees trust us and that a growing number of women participate in our activities. This is our greatest achievement," said Ferdinand Pereira, Protection Manager with Caritas Bangladesh.

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## *Forced into exile to survive*

Since August 25, 2017, more than 687,000 children, women, and men belonging to the Muslim Rohingya minority have fled Burma, to escape violence and persecution against them.

Forced to flee atrocities committed by the Burmese army, they have found refuge in camps located in the region of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh.

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**919,000 refugees**

**NIGERIA** | AFRICA

## Meet Patience

“The day of the explosion [of the oil well], we saw a huge cloud of black smoke heading towards our community. It entered our nostrils and our eyes and made all of us sick,” recounted Patience Ubani, a farmer from Bue-Leh.

“We were forced to leave because we no longer had water to drink,” she continued. Patience, whose goitre has developed over the years due to inhaled toxic residues, now lives in Bori with her children, but regularly returns to Bue-Leh.

“All we want is to go home.”

Development and Peace and its local partner Social Action are working on capacity building for dozens of the most vulnerable communities in the Niger Delta, such as Bue-Leh.



“The causes of forced migration in the Niger Delta are ecological,” explains Fyनेface Dumnamene, project manager at Social Action. “We must continue to support Ogoni communities in their quest for justice so that they can return home. If we abandon them, the social and ecological injustices will remain.”



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### *Environmental migrants of the Niger Delta*

On April 4, 2008, members of the Bue-Leh community, an Ogoni community of the Niger Delta, had to flee their homes following an oil spill a few metres from their island. Oil snaked down waterways, destroying their livelihoods such as fishing and agriculture, and severely affecting their health.

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**2.62 million internally  
displaced people and refugees**

**SYRIA** | MIDDLE EAST

## Meet Aysha

Aysha is a Syrian refugee in Lebanon. She has been there since 2012 and lives in a makeshift camp with her four children. Her husband is now in Germany and she is waiting to hear if she will be able to join him.

“The city near where we lived was divided between the regime and the Free Syrian Army. We had to go through military checkpoints. Daily life was becoming harder and harder, so we decided to leave it all.

Our village is now a military zone and we can't go back. Just yesterday, someone told us that a person from our village was slain. How can we even think of going back in these conditions?

What I miss the most about Syria is my house, my homeland, my mother and my father. I haven't seen them in five years.”

With the war dragging on, there are fewer and fewer services for refugees, but with support from the Canadian government, Development and Peace continues to work with its partner Caritas Lebanon, in providing physical and mental health aid to 41,685 Syrian and Iraqi refugees, as well as vulnerable Lebanese.

“Women who participate in the discussion groups we organize are able to express their frustrations, share their problems, and make friendships. They have also told us that it helps them to cope with their stress and their emotions and to learn to be more assertive,” says Carla Nammar, Project Manager at Caritas Lebanon.



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### *The largest refugee crisis in the world*

For most Syrians, all they have left of their homeland are but mere memories of the sights and smells of the land, the marketplaces and the familiar faces that made it home. Since the start of the civil war in Syria in 2011, air strikes, fighting and mortar shells have wiped out entire neighbourhoods and communities, forcing 12.5 million Syrians to flee.

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**6.2 million internally displaced**  
**6.3 million refugees**

## *Follow in their footsteps!*

**Never have so many people fled war, persecution, natural disasters, extreme poverty, and development megaprojects. It's time to step up!**

In solidarity with the 68.5 million children, women, and men who have had to flee their homes, help us share their journey.

## *Walk and fundraise*

We need your help to take up a huge challenge: walking **40,075 km**, *i.e.* the equivalent of the circumference of the Earth, by August 31, 2019.

How? Go to **devp.org/walk**

Plan your walk, start your fundraising page, and share it in your networks! Monies raised will be used to fund Development and Peace's community development projects and programs.



## *Sign our Action Card*

Ask the Canadian government to do more to address the root causes of forced migration.

To sign the Action Card online, go to **devp.org/act**

## *Spread the word!*

- **Educate** your family and friends about forced migration.
- **On social media**, use hashtag **#sharejourney** and tag us **@DevPeace**.
- **Tag** the Prime Minister (**@JustinTrudeau** or **@CanadianPM**) and ask him to strengthen Canada's efforts to end forced migration.
- **Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram** and share our posts.



**Development  
and Peace**  
CARITAS CANADA

1425, René-Lévesque Blvd. West, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Montreal (Quebec) H3G 1T7  
1 888 234-8533 | devp.org