

A total of 65.3 million people around the world are displaced from their homes by conflict and persecution. **One in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee.**

This is a level of risk for which UNHCR knows no precedent.



1 in 200
children in the world is a child refugee



1 in 8
migrants in the world is a child



28 Million
children have been displaced by violence

Education

Education is a basic human right, enshrined in the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and the 1951 Refugee Convention. It is also a vital aspect of our work at UNHCR.

Only **50 per cent** of refugee children around the world is enrolled in primary education. **Twenty-five per cent** are estimated to be in secondary school and just **one per cent** have access to tertiary education.

Without the chance to study, an entire generation is at risk.

In times of displacement, education is crucial. It can foster social cohesion, provide access to life-saving information, address psychosocial needs, and offer a stable and safe environment for those who need it most. It also helps people to rebuild their communities and pursue productive, meaningful lives.



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Over half of the world's refugee population is made up of children. Youth (aged 15-24) also constitute a large proportion of populations affected by forced displacement. Many will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families.

In situations of crisis and displacement, children, adolescents and youth are at risk of various forms of abuse, separation from their carers, neglect, violence, exploitation, trafficking or military recruitment.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, works with families, communities, national authorities, other international and local organisations, and with children, adolescents and youth themselves focusing on ensuring:

- Protection from exploitation and violence
- Nor detention of children seeking asylum
- Family unity as the best way to protect children
- Prevention of child statelessness



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Between January 2015 and September 2016, more than 664,500 **refugee and migrant children** claimed asylum in Europe. This represents around a third of all asylum claims registered in Europe during the same period of time.

“Every human being has the right to an education. With education, you have the key to unlock every door,” says Nawa a Somali refugee who only started her education aged 16 at a community learning centre in Malaysia. Under four years later, she is due to start a foundation course at university while giving back to her school as a volunteer teacher.

State Responsibility

States are primarily responsible for the protection of children. UNHCR supports and advocates for the access of refugee, displaced and stateless children to national child protection systems, regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or disability.

Family and Community-Based Approach

Families and communities are central to the care and protection that children need. Those working with refugee children should understand, support and build upon existing community mechanisms that protect girls and boys. In instances where protection concerns originate from the family or community, action should be taken to address harmful practices.

Urgency

Protection of children cannot wait. UNHCR, State actors and partners need to prioritize the protection of children and provide immediate support to their well-being and development. Timely services, interventions, family tracing and decisions in children's best interests are essential. **Children's right to quality education** needs to be secured as soon as possible

Child Participation

All refugee boys and girls have the right to participate and express their views in all matters affecting them in accordance with their gender, age, maturity, and capacity. Effective participation recognizes children and adolescents as rights-holders, it builds their capacity and resilience, and allows them to protect themselves and their peers.

Best Interests of the Child

The best interests of the child are a primary consideration for UNHCR in all actions that directly or indirectly affect children. The best interests principle establishes that all girls and boys have the right to participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives, including in the identification of their best interests. Their participation should be planned and facilitated in a responsible and ethical manner with due regard to confidentiality.

Deadly Mediterranean

Increasing numbers of refugees and migrants take their chances aboard unseaworthy boats and dinghies in a desperate bid to reach Europe. The vast majority of those attempting the dangerous crossing are in need of international protection, fleeing war, violence and persecution in their country of origin. Every year these movements continue to exact a devastating toll on human life.

340,252 arrivals by sea in 2016

1,015,078 arrivals by sea in 2015

4,271 dead/missing in 2016

58% of arrivals come from the world's top 10 refugee-producing countries



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Cyprus

- **1,044** refugees
- **6,202** granted subsidiary or humanitarian protection
- **2,494** asylum- seekers
- **225** unaccompanied and separated children who sought asylum in Cyprus since 1 January 2015

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