



# WORLD REFUGEE DAY

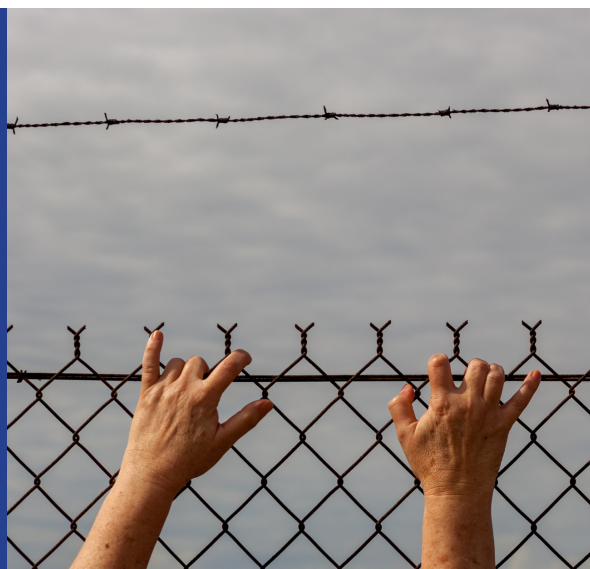
## 20 June 2023

“A refugee is a person who has fled their own country because they are at risk of serious human rights violations and persecution there”.

Amnesty International

In 2022, at least **103 million people** around the world have been forced to flee their homes.

Among them are nearly **32.5 million refugees**.



**1 in 88** people is now **uprooted** worldwide.



Sources : UNHCR, Amnesty International

### Why are people refugees?

#### War

The conflicts push the inhabitants to take refuge: 6.6 million Ukrainian refugees, 13 million for Syria, and 6 million Afghans are among recent refugees.

#### Environmental Factors

Projections show an increase from 260 million climate refugees in 2030 to 1.2 billion in 2050. Unfortunately, the inhabitants of today's host countries could become the refugees of tomorrow.

#### Persecution

In 2023, 53.2 million refugees are internally displaced persons who risked human rights abuses in their own countries.

#### Economic Hardship

It can be an autonomous reason, but it is usually an additional factor that pushes people to migrate.

Sources : UN, UNHCR, OXFAM, Amnesty International



### What are the main risks faced by refugees?

**Risks of aggression, harassment and racism:** refugees often face the racism of some of the inhabitants of their host country who are hostile to them. Moreover, there has been an increase in fascist and nationalist policies in recent years, particularly in developed and rich countries.



**Risks during migration:** the migration of refugees and often long, exhausting, complex, onerous and risky: theft, abuse, violence.. Some do not make it to the end of their journey: the 20,000 drowned migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea were passed in 2020, and have been steadily increasing since then.

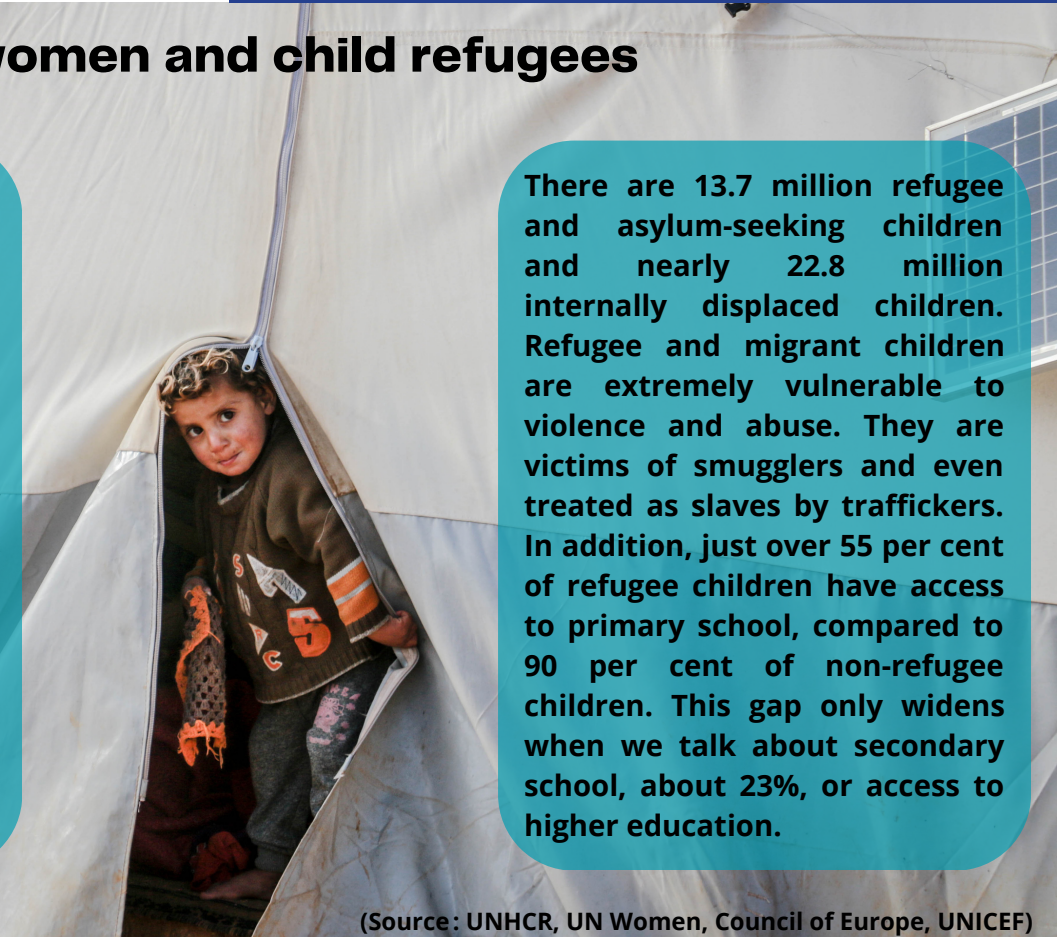
**Trauma and Coping Challenges:** In addition to the potential trauma in their home countries, more than one in five refugees have mild to moderate forms of mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder.



(Sources : UN, UNHCR, IMO, OXFAM)

### Special impact on women and child refugees

Women represent almost half of all refugees worldwide. In addition to the elements already mentioned, they face additional risks: 60% of preventable maternal deaths take place within the framework of humanitarian aid, and gender violence are numerous. It is estimated that at least one in five displaced women or refugees has ever experienced sexual violence. Unaccompanied, pregnant, head of household, disabled or elderly women are even more vulnerable.



There are 13.7 million refugee and asylum-seeking children and nearly 22.8 million internally displaced children. Refugee and migrant children are extremely vulnerable to violence and abuse. They are victims of smugglers and even treated as slaves by traffickers. In addition, just over 55 per cent of refugee children have access to primary school, compared to 90 per cent of non-refugee children. This gap only widens when we talk about secondary school, about 23%, or access to higher education.

(Source : UNHCR, UN Women, Council of Europe, UNICEF)

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### Break the clichés !

There are unfortunately many unfounded clichés about refugees, which are spreading increasingly with the enhance of racism and nationalist policies of States. However, after some research, most are completely false and unfounded, and promote hostile behavior of the inhabitants of the host countries towards refugees.

**“Refugees come mainly to rich countries”** **FALSE**

83% of refugees are welcomed in low- and middle-income countries. The 6 richest countries in the world only receive 9% of refugees. For several years now, the United Nations has been denouncing the lack of solidarity of the most developed countries, both with regard to refugees and less developed countries, which are forced to accept a large number of refugees.

**FALSE** **“Refugees are only poor people in their countries of origin”**

The journey to a secure location is very expensive, several hundred or thousands of dollars. Few can afford it, and certainly not the poorest, who do not have sufficient means to finance their perilous journey and the various smugglers. Refugees often had a satisfactory economic situation in their country of origin, and qualifications.

**“Refugees receive financial help more than nationals”** **FALSE**

Procedures to have the status of refugee recognized are long and complex, several months or even years depending on the host country, and do not always succeed. Meanwhile, refugees are in precarious situations, legally unable to work, study or find housing. When status is granted, financial aid does not represent more than the minimum necessary to live in the host country.

**FALSE** **“Welcoming refugees will have a detrimental effect on my country’s economy.”**

Immigration tends to strengthen the economic growth of developed countries, notably by supporting the activity of key sectors and significantly increasing the level of employment. Following an increase in a given migration flow, GDP per capita will increase significantly over four years, while the unemployment rate will fall. They also contribute to economy by paying taxes, and they also help aging population.

Sources : UNHCR, OCDE, World Bank, Amnesty International, Plan International

### GWI Policy Resolutions and refugee programmes

- **GWI 2019 Resolution 5** Human Rights for Refugee and Migrant Women and Children
- **GWI 2019 Resolution 6** Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- **GWI 2010 Resolution 4** Abuse of Female Migrants
- **GWI 2001 Resolution 8** Human Rights of Women Refugees
- **GWI 1992 Resolution 20** Refugee Women Treatment
- **GWI 1936 Hegg Hoffet** programme for Refugee Women established



### United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



4

QUALITY EDUCATION



#### SDG 4: Quality education

Refugee children suffer from major educational gaps. Forced to leave their school and home country, they have only limited access to school in their host country, in addition to the language barrier.

5

GENDER EQUALITY



#### SDG 5: Achieve gender equality

Women refugees suffer even more discrimination and risk than men. Refugee women must not be forgotten in the struggle for gender equality!

8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



#### SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth

Welcoming and integrating refugee populations has a positive impact on the economies of host countries, provided that they receive the necessary assistance to obtain papers and find decent work.

10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



#### SDG 10: Reduced inequalities

More generally, engaging in the reception of refugees is fully in line with the 10th, knowing that they suffer from many economic, social, educational and security inequalities.

### How can we help refugees ?

- **Support** financially the activities of OHCHR and NGOs that support refugees and promote their reception.
- **Engage** as a volunteer or support local and international NGOs that help refugees, such as giving language classes.
- **Communicate** with friends, co-workers, community, and social media to break down negative clichés on refugees.
- If your situation permits, **offer** temporary accommodation for refugees near you.
- **Give** your clothes that are no longer used or not your size to associations for refugees, who often arrive in the host country with the minimum vital.



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