

2015 Year in Review



UNHCR/Andrew McConnell

South Sudan

3 Mar – The Government of Sudan begins distributing lifesaving identity cards to an estimated 500,000 South Sudanese refugees, enabling access to all basic services including health care.



UNHCR/Saiful Huq Omi

South Sudan

9 Jul – More than 730,000 people have fled to neighbouring countries and some 1.5 million people are internally displaced as South Sudan marks the fourth anniversary of its independence.

Ukraine

16 Jan – UNHCR declares the Ukraine situation a level 2 emergency as the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate.



Hassan Babilonia

Bay of Bengal

29 May – 17 countries attend a regional conference to find solutions for thousands of refugees and migrants moving irregularly by sea from the Bay of Bengal. Approximately 370 refugees and migrants who departed from the Bay of Bengal in 2015 are estimated to have died before reaching land.

Syrian Arab Republic

9 Jul – More than 4 million Syrians have fled to neighbouring countries, making the Syrian conflict UNHCR's worst crisis for almost 25 years.

JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST



UNHCR/Hélène Caux

Statelessness

24 Feb – West African nations pledge to step up efforts to resolving the situation of at least 750,000 people who are stateless or at risk of statelessness in the subregion, including 700,000 in Côte d'Ivoire.

Europe Refugee Crisis

21 Apr – More than 600 people drown when a boat capsizes off the coast of Libya - the largest recorded loss of life from any incident in the Mediterranean involving refugees and migrants in 2015. It follows an incident earlier in the month in which 400 lives were feared lost.

Nepal

25 Apr – UNHCR distributes aid to thousands of survivors in the aftermath of the earthquake that made hundreds of thousands homeless.

Burundi

29 Jun – 144,000 refugees have fled Burundi since April, ahead of the 29 June elections.

Libya

30 Jun – The number of displaced people in Libya doubles to more than 434,000 from an estimated 230,000 in September 2014 due to increased fighting.

South Sudan

28 Aug – South Sudan signs peace agreement as refugee and IDP figures exceed 2.6 million people.

Europe Refugee Crisis

28 Aug – 70 people are found dead in an abandoned truck in Austria.

UNHCR/Saiful Huq Omi



Europe Refugee Crisis

9 Sep – The European Commission puts forward a plan to relocate 160,000 people.



UNHCR/Achilleas Zavallis

Colombia

13 Nov – The Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia sign a bilateral and definitive cease-fire.

Europe Refugee Crisis

4 Nov – The first asylum-seekers are relocated from Greece under the EU plan.

13 Nov – Terrorist attacks in Paris kills 130 people. UNHCR expresses its shock and horror at the attacks and cautions against the scapegoating of refugees.

20 Nov – A range of new restrictions against the movement of refugees and migrants from Greece through the Western Balkans and further northwards is witnessed.

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



UNHCR/Saiful Hujaj Omi

Syrian Arab Republic

10 Dec – Canada announces plan to resettle an additional 25,000 Syrian refugees.



UNHCR/James May

Somalia

21 Oct – A Ministerial Pledging Conference on Somali Refugees raises USD 105 million to support the sustainable return and reintegration of Somali refugees from Kenya.

Algeria

23 Oct – Heavy rains and flooding cause widespread damage to refugee camps near Tindouf, affecting 25,000 Sahrawi refugees.

Europe Refugee Crisis

22 Dec – Sea arrivals to Europe in 2015 exceed 1 million.

In 2015:

- **12.3 million** refugees assisted
- **49,100** stateless people acquired nationality or had it confirmed
- **115,800** returned refugees assisted to reintegrate
- **37.4 million** IDPs assisted



133,000 submissions made for resettlement



91,700 individual RSD decisions issued



4 countries acceded to the Statelessness Conventions



11,175 metric tons of core relief items delivered from 7 global stockpiles



USD 357 million provided through cash assistance



43 countries supported to implement SGBV strategies



3,400 refugees in 42 countries granted higher education scholarships