WORLD REFUGEE DAY

On **June 20**, the world celebrates **World Refugee Day**. World Refugee Day was first celebrated globally on June 20, 2001 to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Refugee Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Everyone has the right to seek safety no matter who they are or where they are coming from.
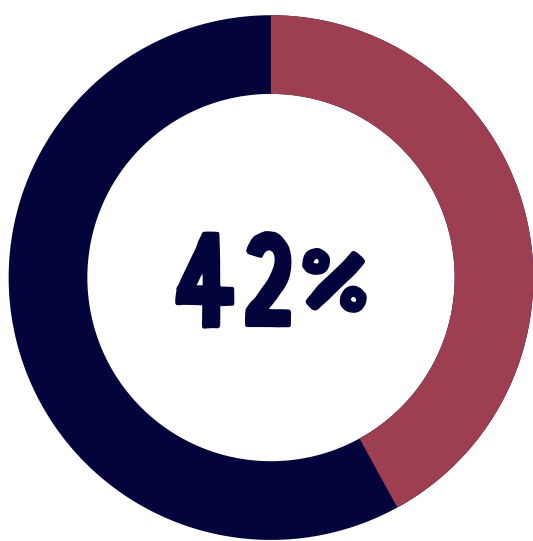
Everyone has the right to seek safety and asylum in another country and UN member states have legal obligations to protect refugees and their rights. The UNHCR, the United Nations refugee agency, reported unprecedented numbers of people forced to flee their homes due to persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations.
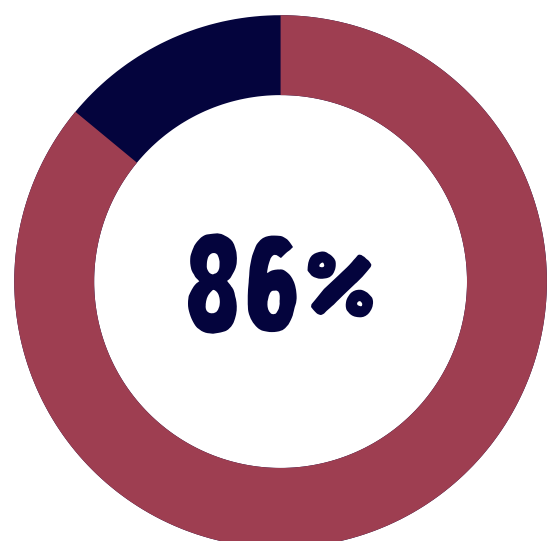
The UNHCR estimates that in 2021 there were:

84 million forcibly displaced

26.6 million refugees

Source: UNHCR 2021

42% of all forcibly displaced people are children (under age 18)

86% of the world's refugees are hosted in developing countries

Source: UNHCR 2021

39% of all refugees are hosted in just five countries

Turkey - 3.7 million

Colombia - 1.7 million

Uganda - 1.5 million

Pakistan - 1.4 million

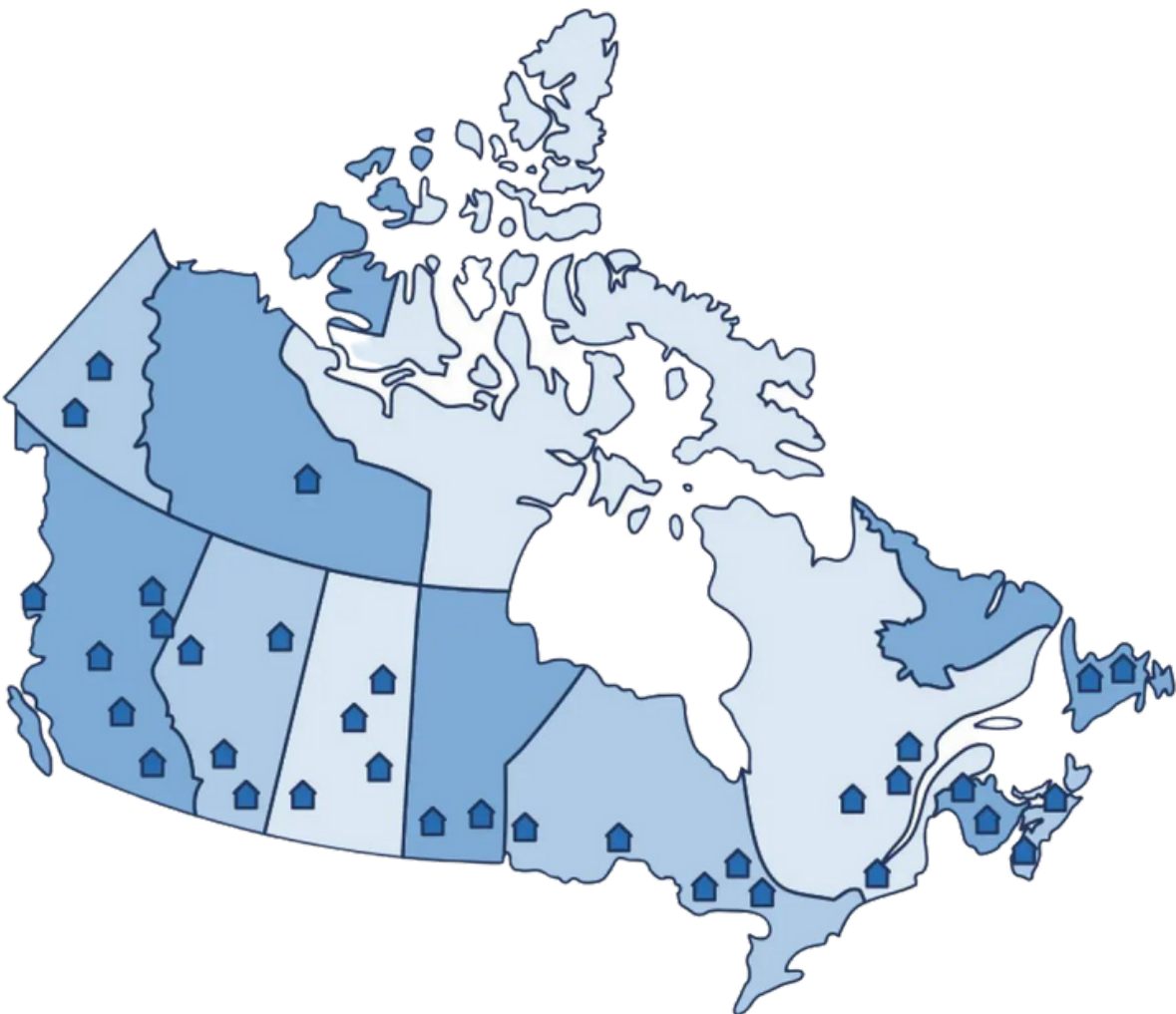Germany - 1.2 million

Source: UNHCR 2021

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DID YOU KNOW?

Refugees are protected by international law.

The 1951 Refugee Convention is a key legal document and defines a refugee as:

"someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion." CFUW advocates for the Canadian government to increase the number of refugees & asylum seekers settled into the country and the expansion of resources to ensure a non-discriminatory system.

Canada has landed 1,088,015 refugees since 1980 across the country. Since August 2021, Canada has welcomed over 15,000 vulnerable Afghans - with a goal of settling over 40,000 through the privately sponsored refugee program, Special Immigration Measures Program, and humanitarian program. Since January 2022, over 43,000 Ukrainians have arrived in Canada seeking safety after the Russian invasion through special immigration programs.

Source: UNHCR Canada 2021, Government of Canada 2022 & 2022

TAKE ACTION:

- Learn more about the work of the UNHCR
- Connect with a local Resettlement Assistance Program service provider to volunteer or make an in-kind donation
- Sponsor a refugee or family as a "Group of Five" (five or more Canadian citizens or permanent residents who have arranged to sponsor a refugee recognized by the UNHCR to come to Canada)
- Donate to the UNHCR Canada or local refugee settlement assistance provider
- Volunteer with the UNHCR in 70 countries