

# Movements of Populations and European Responses

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# The UN Refugee Agency

- The primary purpose of UNHCR is to safeguard the rights and well-being of people who have been forced to flee.
- For over half a century, UNHCR has helped millions of people to restart their lives: [refugees](#), [returnees](#), [stateless people](#), the [internally displaced](#) and [asylum-seekers](#)
- Collectively we refer to the above as “persons of concern”.

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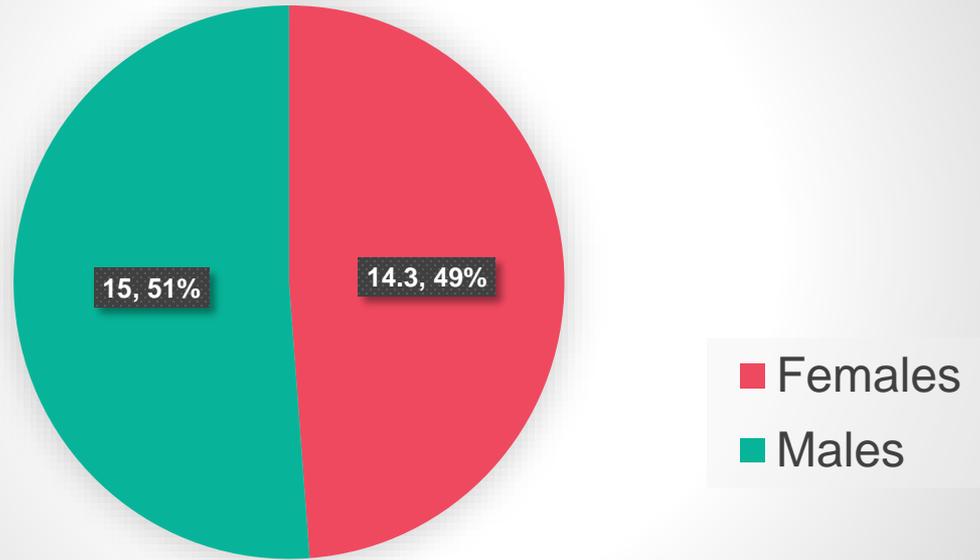
- Statistics on Global Migration
- Better Protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally
- The Relationship between Trafficking and Asylum

# Statistics – Global Trends (2016)

- Global forced displacement has increased in 2015, with record-high numbers. By the end of the year, **65.3 million** individuals were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. This is **5.8 million** more than the previous year (**59.5 million**).
- **21.3 million** persons were refugees, **40.8 million** internally displaced persons, **3.2 million** asylum-seekers
- During the course of 2015 more than **12.4 million** individuals were forced to leave their homes and seek protection elsewhere; of this number, **some 8.6 million** remained within their own countries and around **1.8 million** sought international protection abroad.

**In 2015, 164 countries provided disaggregated demographic information by sex – data available for 29.3 million persons**

### Persons of Concern



# Internally Displaced Persons

- End 2015, UNHCR has assisted 37,494,172 IDP's.
- IDP's are persons who do not or cannot cross a border.
- Colombia (6.9 m), Syria (6.5 m), Iraq (4.4 m), Sudan (3.2 m), Yemen (2.5 m), Nigeria (2.1 m), South Sudan (1.7 m), Ukraine (1.6 m), DRC (1.5 m), Somalia (1.1 m), and Afghanistan (1.1 m).
- The overwhelming majority of IDP's are women and children who are especially affected by violence and armed conflict.
- single-female headed households - vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (even in simple tasks of collecting water or going to the toilet, for example).

# Mediterranean sea arrivals 2017

- 135,523 arrivals (women and children = 30%)
- 2,681 (Dead and missing) [28/09/2017]

Previous years:	2016	2015	2014
Sea arrivals	362,753	1,015,078	216,054
Dead and missing	5,096	3,771	3,538

# UNHCR, Better protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally (December, 2016)

- An EU that is engaged
  - i.e. Expanding opportunities for safe pathways:
    - Family reunification*
    - Resettlement*
- An EU that is prepared
  - i.e. Standby capacity at the national and EU level:
    - Part of contingency planning develop stand-by services*

# UNHCR, Better protecting Refugees in the EU and Globally (December, 2016)

- An EU that protects:
  - i.e. A distribution mechanism for EU Member States under Pressure
    - Dublin system*
    - Relocation*
- An EU that integrates:
  - i.e. Predictable harmonized integration services
    - Employment, housing, language, cultural orientation, recognizing skills and qualifications (approximating rights)*

# TRAFFICKING AND ASYLUM

# Women as asylum-seekers: gender-related persecution

- Coerced family planning
- Domestic violence
- Early and forced marriage
- Female genital mutilation
- Forced sterilisation
- Physical assault
- Rape
- Sexual harassment
- Trafficking\*
- Transactional sex
- Transgression of social mores

# Refugee Definition – Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

A refugee is a person who:

*“...owing to a well founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of **race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion**, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear is unwilling to avail himself to the protection of that country...”*

# A gender-sensitive approach to interpreting the refugee definition

- UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection: Gender-related persecution within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (2002)
- UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection: : “Membership of a particular social group” within the context of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (2002)
- UNHCR Guidelines on International Protection: The application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked (2006)
- UNHCR guidance note on refugee claims relating to female genital mutilation (2009)

# The definition of “trafficking in human beings”

The UN protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organised crime (2000), Article 3

The Council of Europe 2005 Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Article 4

"Trafficking in human beings" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

# The relationship between trafficking and asylum

UNHCR's Guidelines on International Protection No. 7: The application of Article 1A(2) of the 1951 Convention and/or 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees to victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked (2006)

- Trafficking as a one-off experience – *compelling reasons* to declare refugee status
- Risk of reprisals
- Real possibility of being re-trafficked
- Possibility of being subjected to severe family or community ostracism and/or severe discrimination.

# Refugees on the move... Questions?

