



Uniting Church. **Uniting People.**

## Here are the latest statistics from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for your consideration and prayer:

- On 20 June 2014 (World Refugee Day), the United Nations refugee agency reported that the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post-World War II era, exceeded **50 million people**.
- An estimated 1.2 million Iraqis have been displaced because of armed conflict since the beginning of 2014. Many of those fleeing have no belongings with them, and don't have money for housing, food, water or medical care. With such a huge influx of displaced into the Kurdistan region, there is now a shortage of shelter.
- Some 700,000 people in the Central African Republic have fled their homes, fearing for their lives. There are now 560,000 people internally displaced within the Central African Republic with 135,000 in the capital of Bangui alone. Some 115,500 people have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Republic of the Congo.
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo is described as the 'world's worst humanitarian crisis' and has 2.9 million internally displaced people and 254,000 refugees.
- In the three years since conflict began in Syria, more than 2.8 million refugees have fled their homes. Inside Syria, more than 6.4 million residents are internally displaced. The crisis in Syria is the largest humanitarian operation in history. Thousands of Syrians seeking safety are pouring across borders each day. Within Syria, there are some 10.8 million people in need of assistance. This is one of the largest refugee exoduses in recent history, and over half of these refugees are children.  
Five years ago, Syria was the world's second largest refugee-hosting country, however Syrians are now about to replace Afghans as the biggest refugee population worldwide.
- In South Sudan, heavy fighting broke out in the capital of Juba in mid-December 2013, and since then an estimated 500,000 people have sought refuge in neighbouring countries while some one million people are internally displaced inside South Sudan. 4.9 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance.
- Ukrainians are arriving in the Russian city of St Petersburg at a rate of 300 a day according to the regional branch of the Russian Red Cross.

**Note:** The current size of Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program is 13,750. This includes 11,000 offshore places and 2,750 onshore applicants. *Reference: Refugee Council of Australia*

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