



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR REFUGEES

Helping people survive and recover from forced displacement

PSALM 107

SOME WANDERED IN DESERT WASTELANDS,
FINDING NO WAY TO A CITY WHERE THEY COULD SETTLE.
THEY WERE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY,
AND THEIR LIVES EBBED AWAY.

THEN THEY CRIED OUT TO THE LORD IN THEIR TROUBLE,
AND HE DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DISTRESS.

HE LED THEM BY A STRAIGHT WAY
TO A CITY WHERE THEY COULD SETTLE.

LET THEM GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD
FOR HIS UNFAILING LOVE
AND HIS WONDERFUL DEEDS FOR MEN.

FOR HE SATISFIES THE THIRSTY
AND FILLS THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS.



Photo: A boy outside of his tent in Kakuma refugee camp



OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY LOCATIONS

IAFR is a Christian missions agency working internationally to help people survive and recover from forced displacement. We do this in partnership with the Church as she has a unique and critical role to play in the global refugee crisis. We also strengthen regional and global networks that seek the welfare of refugees. Several of our staff serve in unpaid leadership roles with World Evangelical Alliance, the Global Diaspora Network of the Lausanne Movement and the Refugee Highway Partnership.

White dots = Active IAFR ministry locations

Our Mission on the Refugee Highway

We live in a time of great upheaval. The world has not seen so many forcibly displaced people since World War II. Their numbers grow as people continue to flee hatred and violence (e.g. wars, failed states, persecution and gross violations of human rights). Solutions to displacement remain elusive.

Some people consider refugees and asylum seekers to be a threat. Others see opportunity to exploit them for financial or political gain. Many view them as people to be pitied.

We believe that they are our fellow human beings, made in the image of God, spilling out of the deepest and darkest wounds in the world today. And while they are vulnerable, they are more than people in need.

This is the mission field of IAFR. We call it the *Refugee Highway* - the well-worn routes people travel in search of safety and peace.

We partner with refugees in ways that affirm dignity and demonstrate respect while helping them survive and recover from forced displacement.

We partner with the Church in ways that break the isolation of refugees and extend hospitality, hope and healing.

I am most grateful for every prayer, donation, volunteer and missionary that joins with us in pursuing this urgent mission.

all for one.

Tom Albinson, President, IAFR

THE IAFR CONTINUUM OF RESPONSE



BEYOND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

"I was robbed of place." Her eyes swelled with tears as the asylum-seeking Christian Somali mother spoke of her profound loss. She has spent the past 20 years trying to find a place in the world that she can call home.

Solutions to forced displacement are hard to find. By no fault of their own, refugees are often dependent upon humanitarian agencies to meet their essential needs for shelter, water, food and medical care. Yet even when these needs are met, they often feel that they've been stripped of dignity and struggle to keep hope alive.

Humanitarian agencies acknowledge that they are not well equipped to restore dignity and create hope. Yet these needs are as essential to life as the air we breathe. It's hard to keep breathing without them.

This is the mission of IAFR - to help people survive and recover from forced displacement by restoring dignity and strengthening hope.

We believe that the church is called by God to play an important role in the world's escalating refugee crisis by fulfilling her divine mandate to *love the foreigner* (Leviticus 19:34) and *welcome the stranger* (Matthew 25:34-36).

A worldview that includes the belief that God sees, hears and cares for us is essential to hope. The Church proclaims Jesus as the ultimate expression of this reality.

Churches are already established along much of the Refugee Highway. At their best, these communities of faith, hope and healing embody exactly what is needed to help refugees recover and rebuild their lives.

The IAFR *Continuum of Response* (left) identifies six ways churches can help restore dignity, strengthen hope and help people recover from forced displacement.

Biblical Perspective

From the divine banishment of Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23,24) to the final book of the Bible penned by John while in exile on the island of Patmos, stories of forced displacement run throughout Scripture.

The foreigner is often mentioned in the Bible together with the fatherless and the widow - vulnerable people for whom God deeply cares. What foreigner is most like the widow and the fatherless, if not the refugee?

God's word repeatedly calls us to love and care for refugees in tangible ways. We are to be sure that their needs for shelter, food, and clothing are met. We are to extend hospitality and seek justice on their behalf as well.

Political persecution forced Jesus and his family to flee in the night to Egypt when he was a young child. Upon their return, they did not feel it was safe to go back to their hometown in Judea and settled elsewhere (in Nazareth).

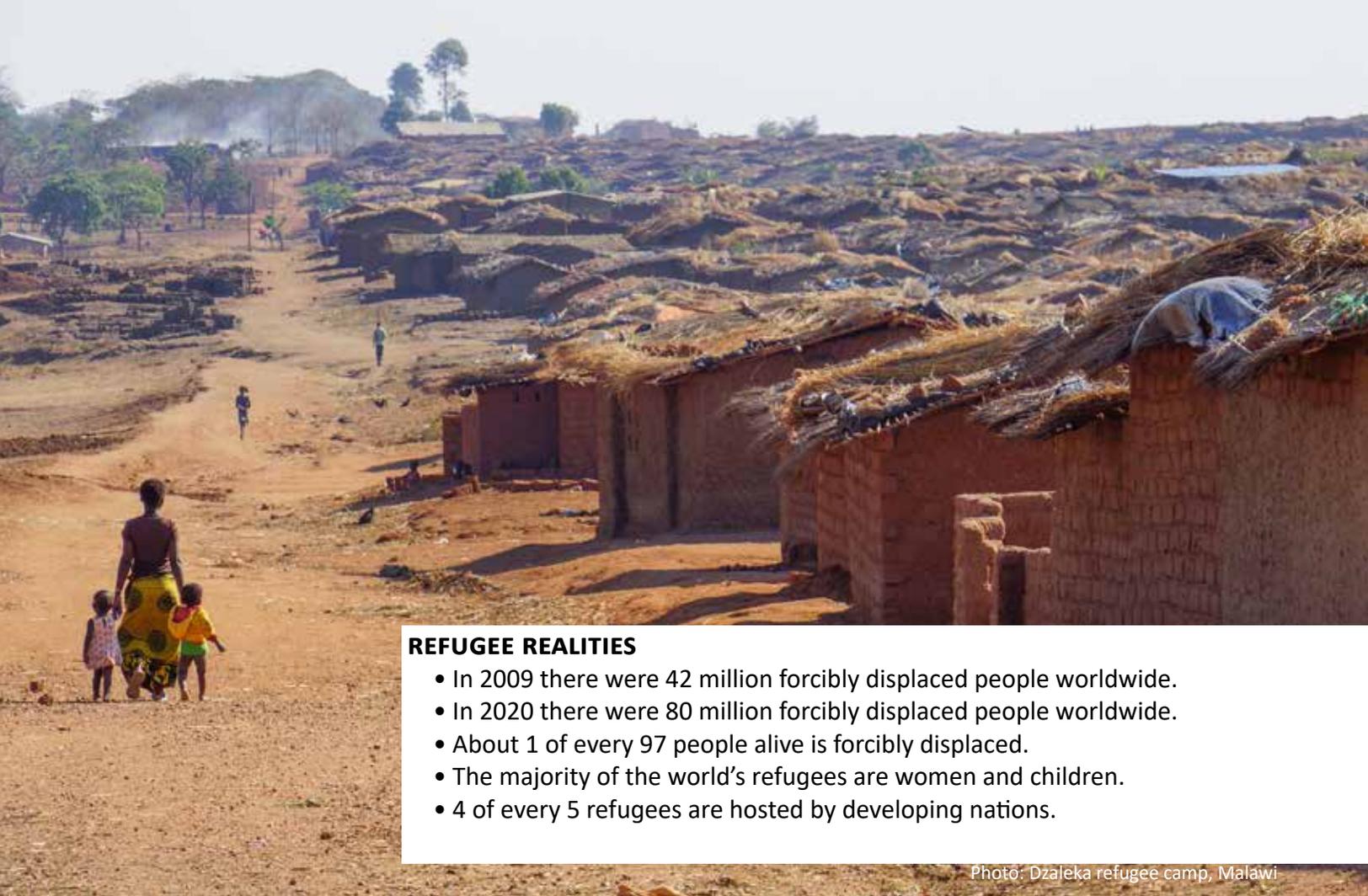
Jesus personally identifies with refugees and asylum seekers. They can also identify with him.

We are living in a century marked by a global refugee crisis. Followers of Jesus Christ will do well to rediscover the God-given privilege and responsibility to seek the protection and welfare of forcibly displaced people in the world.

For by serving them, we serve Jesus.



Photo: A Sudanese mother reading her Bible in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya



REFUGEE REALITIES

- In 2009 there were 42 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.
- In 2020 there were 80 million forcibly displaced people worldwide.
- About 1 of every 97 people alive is forcibly displaced.
- The majority of the world's refugees are women and children.
- 4 of every 5 refugees are hosted by developing nations.



MORE THAN PEOPLE IN NEED - PASTOR GATERA

He says he's from Burundi, but he's never lived there. His parents were refugees in Rwanda when he was born. He fled to Congo when the genocide broke out. War in Congo forced him to later flee to Tanzania. He ultimately ended up in Kakuma refugee camp (Kenya) for 20 years before his family was resettled to the USA. While in the camp, Gatera became a believer and then a pastor. His leadership was instrumental in the development of an association of over 160 churches in the camp that work together to help people survive and recover from displacement. He's a missionary with IAFR today.

Photo: The Gatera family's arrival in the USA



THE REFUGEE CHURCH

Refugee churches play an critical role in helping people survive and recover from forced displacement. These faith communities transcend their circumstances in worship together. Hope is strengthened as they remember that God hears our cries and promises to always be with us. They help people find meaning in loss and suffering. They work tirelessly to further the kingdom of God among their fellow refugees and in their surrounding host community. It is a joy to partner with these brothers and sisters.



IAFR IN EUROPE

Many people take long and dangerous journeys to seek refuge in Europe. No one knows how many have died attempting to cross deserts, seas and mountains in their attempt to find safety and peace. Many are trying to escape violence and hatred in their homeland. Few nations roll out the welcome mat for refugees. Conditions in Europe are often tough. We are partnering with churches in Europe to meet asylum seekers and refugees in ways that restore dignity and strengthen hope.

Photo: Visiting asylum seekers in Lille, France



IAFR IN THE USA

Some assume that once an asylum seeker or refugee reaches the USA that their struggles are over. But the new challenges they face are as unexpected as they are overwhelming. IAFR is partnering with local churches to extend a welcoming and supportive community to these weary friends. We are also developing a network of houses that offer temporary shelter to asylum seekers as they are not permitted to work or access social services for the first 6-12 months in the USA.

Photo: An IAFR home for asylum seekers in the USA



IAFR IN AFRICA

Life in a refugee camp is hard. The environments are often remote and harsh. Everything is in short supply. Everyone has suffered unspeakable loss and trauma. The future is uncertain. It's easy to feel forgotten by the rest of the world. IAFR is partnering with refugee churches in ways that deepen faith, strengthen hope and affirm their dignity. We know that these faith communities play a critical role in helping people survive and recover from displacement. We get behind their ideas to care for others - including their initiatives to help the surrounding host community.

Photo: An IAFR Team consults with church leaders in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya



BEFORE



PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

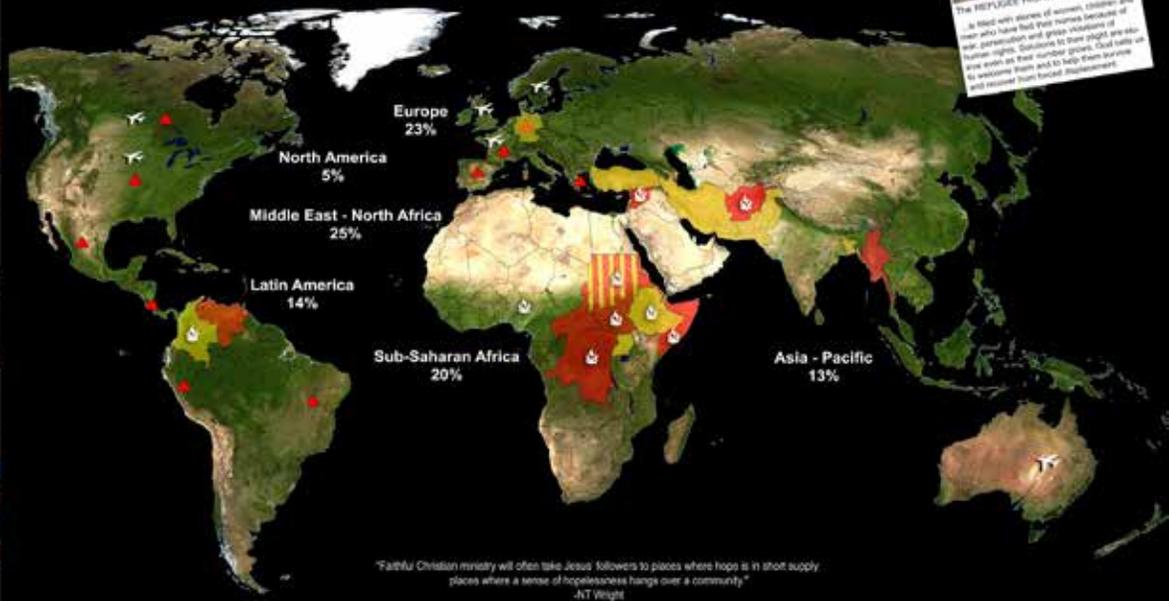
After 20 years of running their School of Mission (KISOM) out of abandoned and dilapidated buildings (left), our refugee church partner opened their new building (above) in 2019. The school is an essential part of equipping pastors and church leaders from the camp and surrounding host community. IAFR counts it a joy to have helped them buy the land and build the school. This is but one example of how we are helping keep faith and hope alive in the harsh conditions of Kakuma, Kenya.

The REFUGEE HIGHWAY

The well worn paths people travel in search of safety and a peace



The REFUGEE HIGHWAY
 ...filled with stories of women, children and men who have fled their homes because of war, persecution and grave violations of human rights. Solutions to these plight are like human rights.



"Faithful Christian ministry will often take Jesus' followers to places where hope is in short supply, places where a sense of hopelessness hangs over a community."
 -NT Wright



TERMS OF FORCIBLE DISPLACEMENT
 Refugees are outside their country, without the right and protection from forced repatriation.
 Internally Displaced People (IDP) are forced to flee their homes, but not their country.



MAJOR REFUGEE POPULATIONS

8.8m Syria	605,000 Somalia
5.7m Venezuela	407,000 DR Congo
2.7m Afghanistan	336,000 Sudan
2.2m South Sudan	410,000 CAR
1.5m Myanmar	300,000 Eritrea



TOP REFUGEE HOSTING NATIONS

3.8m Turkey	1.1m Sudan
1.9m Colombia	1m Iraq
1.8m Pakistan	918,000 Lebanon
1.4m Uganda	854,000 Bangladesh
1.1m Germany	753,000 Ethiopia



MAJOR IDP POPULATIONS

8m Colombia	2.8m Afghanistan
6.1m Syria	2.2m Nigeria
5m DR Congo	1.9m Sudan
3.8m Yemen	1.2m Ethiopia
2.8m Somalia	1.7m South Sudan



REFUGEE REALITIES

- * 1 in 37 people today are forcibly displaced
- * 30,000 are newly displaced every day
- * 80% are in developing countries
- * 50% are under 18 years old
- * 40% are women and girls

The Refugee IDP is visible...
 worst of the...
 within their...
 and other...
 built their...

There are...
 search for...

RESEARCH & ADVOCACY

IAFR resources like this *Map of the Refugee Highway* (2020) are used internationally to offer an informed overview of refugee realities along with biblical perspective. The map and other tools are updated annually and made available at no cost from the IAFR online Toolbox. See www.IAFR.org/toolbox.



TRAINING & CONSULTING

IAFR is a sought out ministry expert when it comes to missions in humanitarian space (i.e. refugee contexts). We have trained and consulted with churches, missions and other agencies serving in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Interested in learning about training and consulting opportunities? Contact us at training@iafr.org.



WE CAN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

We are drilling a well, building shelters, churches and schools, housing asylum-seekers, training church leaders, providing educational resources and scholarships, sponsoring youth camps, supporting youth ministries, opening welcome centers, catalyzing business start-ups, teaching English, providing medical care, assisting individuals with pressing needs, and most importantly, spending time visiting with our uprooted friends - but we can't show up in these life-giving ways without our generous financial partners!

Photo: An JAFR short-term team from Wheaton College visits with refugee friends in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya



THANK YOU!

We are acutely aware of the fact that we can't accomplish the mission of helping people survive and recover from forced displacement without you! It takes all of us - financial partners, intercessors, advocates, volunteers and full-time missionaries. Thank you for your part in bringing hope to the refugee highway!

-Tom Albinson, Founder/President

Photo: Friends playing outside of their simple mud-brick shelter in Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya.



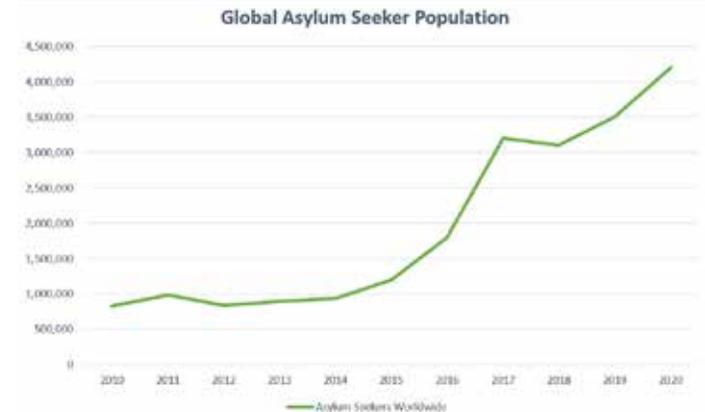
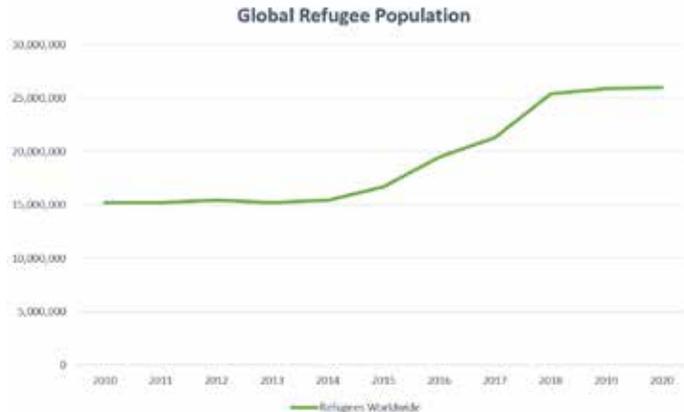
Photo: Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya

Long-Term Perspective: 2010 - 2020

The number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people nearly doubled to 80 million between 2010 - 2020.

Solutions to forced displacement are failing as the population of uprooted people rises.

It is in this context IAFR is helping people survive and recover from forced displacement.





International Association for Refugees

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www.IAFR.org

IAFR Financial Office:

IAFR
P.O. Box 1405
Wheaton, IL 60187

or give online at **www.IAFR.org/donate**

finance@iafr.org

IAFR Main Office:

IAFR
1515 East 66th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55423

USA

info@iafr.org | 612.200.0321