

# UN refugee agency says more than 122 million people forcibly displaced worldwide

The U.N. refugee agency says the number of people forcible displaced by violence and persecution around the world has risen to more than 122 million, up by about 2 million from last year and a near-doubling over the last decade

By The Associated Press  
June 12, 2025, 2:59 AM



**National headlines from ABC News** Catch up on the developing stories making headlines.

GENEVA -- The U.N. refugee agency says the number of people forcibly displaced by violence and persecution around the world has risen to more than 122 million, up by about 2 million from last year and a near-doubling over the last decade.

UNHCR chief Filippo Grandi nonetheless pointed to some “rays of hope” over the last six months, including the return home of nearly 2 million Syrians as their country tries to recover from more than a decade of civil war.

The findings come as the refugee agency released its Global Trends Report on Thursday, which said the number of people driven abroad or displaced in their home countries by war, violence and persecution as of April rose to 122.1 million, up from 120 million a year earlier.

Among those, the numbers of internally displaced people jumped by more than 9% to 73.5 million at the end of last year. The numbers represent cumulative figures from years of conflict, violence and persecution, and some displaced people returned home last year even as others fled.

The report comes at a time when humanitarian groups are facing budget cuts from the United States and other traditional Western donors.

UNHCR said nearly two-thirds of people who crossed national borders to flee remained in neighboring countries, countering the “widespread perception in wealthier regions” that a majority of people were fleeing in a bid to reach places like Europe or the United States.

The agency said Sudan, which has been riven by civil war, has become home to the world's largest displacement crisis, with more than 14 million people displaced by the conflict — surpassing Syria, at 13.5 million. More than 10 million in Afghanistan have been forcibly displaced, and some 8.8 million within or from Ukraine, UNHCR said.

## Related Topics

[Refugees](#)



## Sponsored Content by Taboola

### Michigan Launches New Policy for Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/day

Sponsored / Insure.com

### Ask a Pro: "What Expenses Can Be Deducted From Capital Gains Tax?"

Sponsored / SmartAsset

### See The Value Of Anyone's' Home By Searching Address

Sponsored / Home Value Lookup

### Seniors Born 1941-1979 Receive 55 Benefits This Month if They Ask

Sponsored / WalletJump

[Learn More](#)

### How Much Do Metal Roofs in Michigan Cost in 2025?

Sponsored / smartlifestyletrends

[Learn More](#)

### Keep Your Mind Sharp With Sudoku

Sponsored / Classic Sudoku

[Download](#)

### Michigan Launches New Rule for Cars Used Less Than 50 Miles/day

Sponsored / Bindright

### How Much Do Metal Roofs in the U.S. Cost in 2025?

Sponsored / smartlifestyletrends

[Learn More](#)

### Co-Founder of Google Brain, Andrew Ng, Recommends: "These 5 Books Will Turn Your Life Around"

Sponsored / Blinkist: Andrew Ng's Reading List

**[ABC News Network](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Your US State Privacy Rights](#) [Children's Online Privacy Policy](#) [Interest-Based Ads](#)  
[About Nielsen Measurement](#) [Terms of Use](#) [Do Not Sell or Share My Personal Information](#) [Contact Us](#)**

© 2025 ABC News