

You may see the term everywhere: news stories, opinion papers, reports, policy briefs, or just in the daily use of language. The question is what does it actually mean, what is the refugee?

A refugee is basically someone who is forced to flee the home country due to fear of persecution, war, violence or natural disaster. He/she would have a fear for his/her ethnicity, religion or political stance. Mostly, he/she cannot return because of this fear. They are defined and protected in international law, and must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life and freedom are at risk.

There are over 65 million people who are forced to flee for different reasons. Only 22 million of them could get refugee status. Nearly half of them are under the age of 18.

More than half of all refugees come from these three countries: Syria, Afghanistan.

The United Nations agency, UNHCR, helps refugees, that was founded just after the Second World War.