Approximately 12 million people lived in protracted refugee situations* around the world at the end of 2015, comprising nearly two-thirds of the global refugee population. A protracted refugee situation exists when 25,000 or more refugees originating from the same country have sought refuge in another country for at least five consecutive years.

*These numbers include people in a refugee-like situation

Ten largest protracted refugee populations in 2015**
- Palestinians
- Afghans
- Somalis
- Burmese
- Colombians
- Vietnamese
- Congolese
- Central Africans
- Sudanese
- Pakistanis

1 million 2 million 3 million 4 million 5 million

The Sudanese refugees in South Sudan fled conflict in 2011; their situation qualified as protracted in 2016.

Countries or areas hosting refugees in protracted situations (data from 2015)
- 25,000 to 100,000
- 100,001 to 250,000
- 250,001 to 1,000,000
- More than 1 million

Syrian Refugees
The Syrian refugee crisis only became a protracted situation in 2016. Syrian refugees are hosted in countries throughout the world, though the greatest numbers live in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt.

Somali Refugees
Somali refugees have fled to Kenya and other neighboring countries in significant waves since the early 1990s. The United States is working with UNHCR and countries in the region to foster durable solutions, including resettling refugees and strengthening protection and assistance programs for those who remain.

Afghan Refugees
Afghan refugees have resided in Pakistan and Iran for almost four decades. The U.S. Government funds assistance programs for Afghan refugees and Pakistani host communities. Over five million Afghan refugees have repatriated from Pakistan and Iran, and over 4,100 Afghan refugees have been resettled from Pakistan to the United States.