



A short reminder

June 19, 2020: According to the latest UNHCR annual statistical report on the eve of World Refugee Day on June 20, 79.5 million people were uprooted in late 2019, an unprecedented number.

1919: to guarantee peace and security for the people in the aftermath of the World War I, the League of Nations was created; one of its commissions was the “Refugee Commission”. Led by the Norwegian Nansen, the Commission monitored the repatriation and, if necessary, the rehousing of 400,000 refugees and ex-prisoners of war, most of whom were in Russia. The Commission established camps in Turkey in 1922 to deal with an influx of refugees into the country and thus participate in the prevention of disease and famine. It also established the Nansen passport as a means of identifying stateless persons.

1930: the League of Nations was powerless to settle the conflicts caused by the aggressive policies of Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, or Japan.

1946: after World War II, the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations (decision taken at the Yalta Conference 1945) which took over several of its agencies and organisations. One of them is the International Refugee Organization (IRO).

1950: the United Nations Refugee Agency was created by the United Nations General Assembly to help the millions of Europeans who fled or lost their homes after World War II. Its initial mandate was 3 years. Then it had to disappear.

1951: the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees has been signed by 140 states; it was decided that, considering the multiplication of refugees in the world, the mandate of the UNHCR would be renewed every 5 years.

2003: the United Nations General Assembly decided that the mandate of UNHCR would continue until the refugee problem was resolved.

2020: 1% of humanity is made up of uprooted people. UNHCR has never seen a higher figure than this.