



UNHCR STATISTICAL YEARBOOK 2014 • 14th EDITION



UNHCR

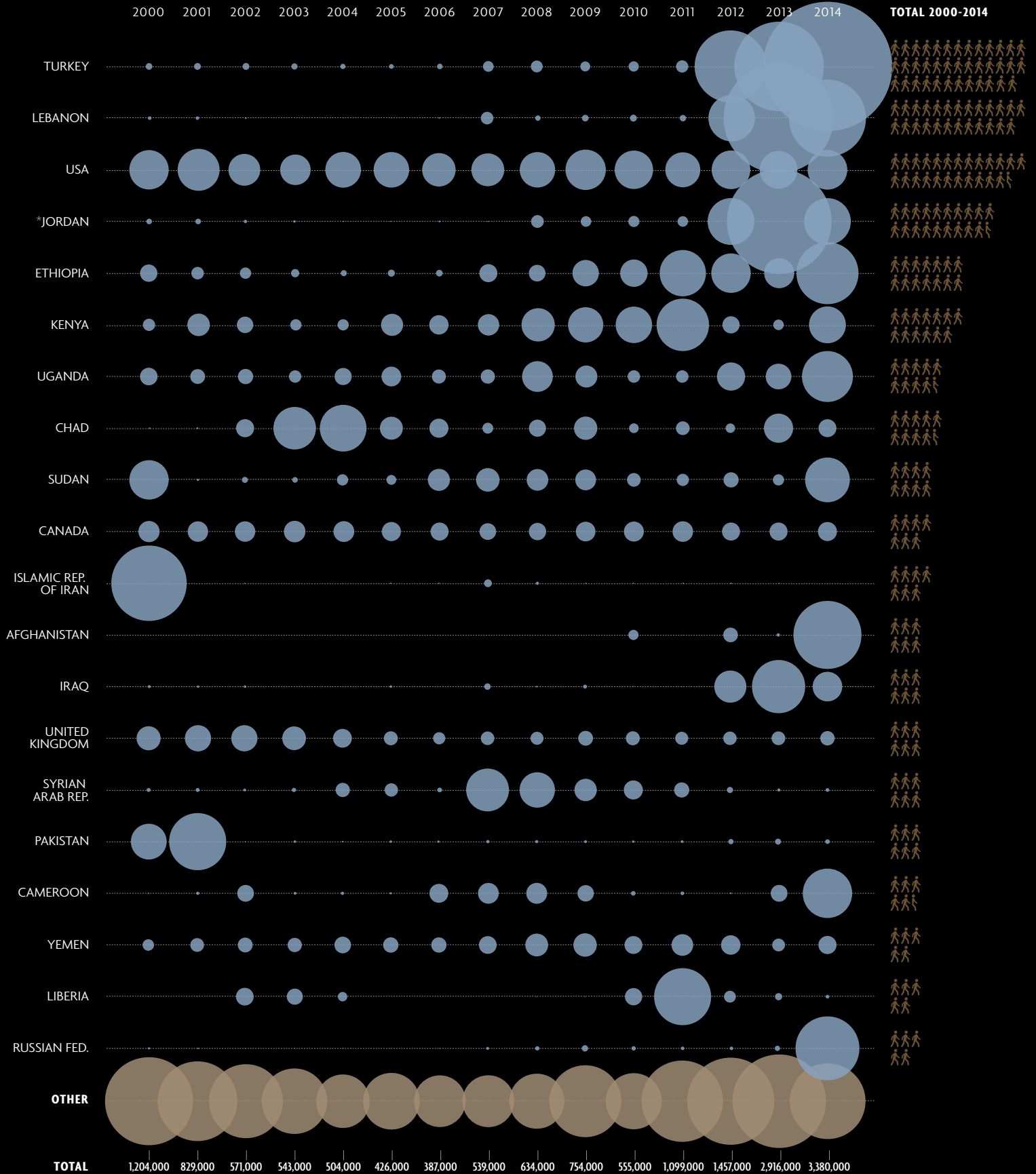
Statistical Yearbook 2014



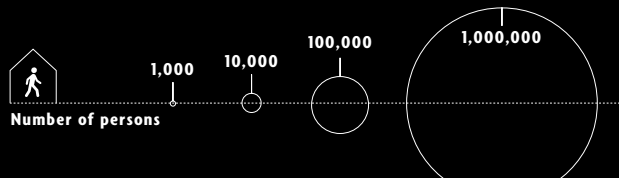
THE TOP 20 COUNTRIES

TO HAVE GRANTED PROTECTION TO REFUGEES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Number of people who have been granted refugee status, complementary forms of protection and temporary protection during the year. It also includes refugees arriving through resettlement programmes. Country ranking based on cumulative number of grants and arrivals between 2000 and 2014.



*The total number of Iraqi refugees who arrived in Jordan is unknown. This graph is limited to Iraqis who were registered by UNHCR.



👤 = 50,000 persons



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MAIN FINDINGS

More detailed analyses, including the definitions used and limitations of the data, can be found in Chapters I to VI.

This section provides an overview of the major statistical developments in 2014 and a summary of key findings.

GLOBAL TRENDS

59.5 million



Some 19.5 million persons were refugees: 14.4 million under UNHCR's mandate and 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered by UNRWA. The global figure included 38.2 million internally displaced persons¹ and 1.8 million asylum-seekers. The total was the highest recorded level in the post-World War II era. If these 59.5 million persons were a nation, they would make up the 24th largest in the world.

By end-2014, **59.5 million individuals** were forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. This is 8.3 million persons more than the previous year (51.2 million) and the highest annual increase on record.

An estimated **13.9 million individuals** were newly displaced due to conflict or persecution in 2014. This includes 11.0 million persons newly displaced within the borders of their own country, the highest figure on record.² The other 2.9 million individuals were new refugees.

42,500

During 2014, conflict and persecution forced an average of **42,500 individuals per day** to leave their home and seek protection elsewhere, either within the borders of their own country or in other countries. This compares to 32,200 per day in 2013, 23,400 in 2012, 14,200 in 2011, and 10,900 in 2010.

TOTAL POPULATION OF CONCERN

7

The 2014 Statistical Yearbook identifies seven population categories:

1. refugees
2. asylum-seekers
3. internally displaced persons (IDPs) protected and/or assisted by UNHCR
4. stateless persons
5. returned refugees
6. returned IDPs
7. others of concern

These categories are collectively referred to as the 'total population of concern' or as 'persons of concern'.³

By the end of 2014, the total population of concern to UNHCR was estimated at **54.96 million people**, broken down as follows:

54.96 million

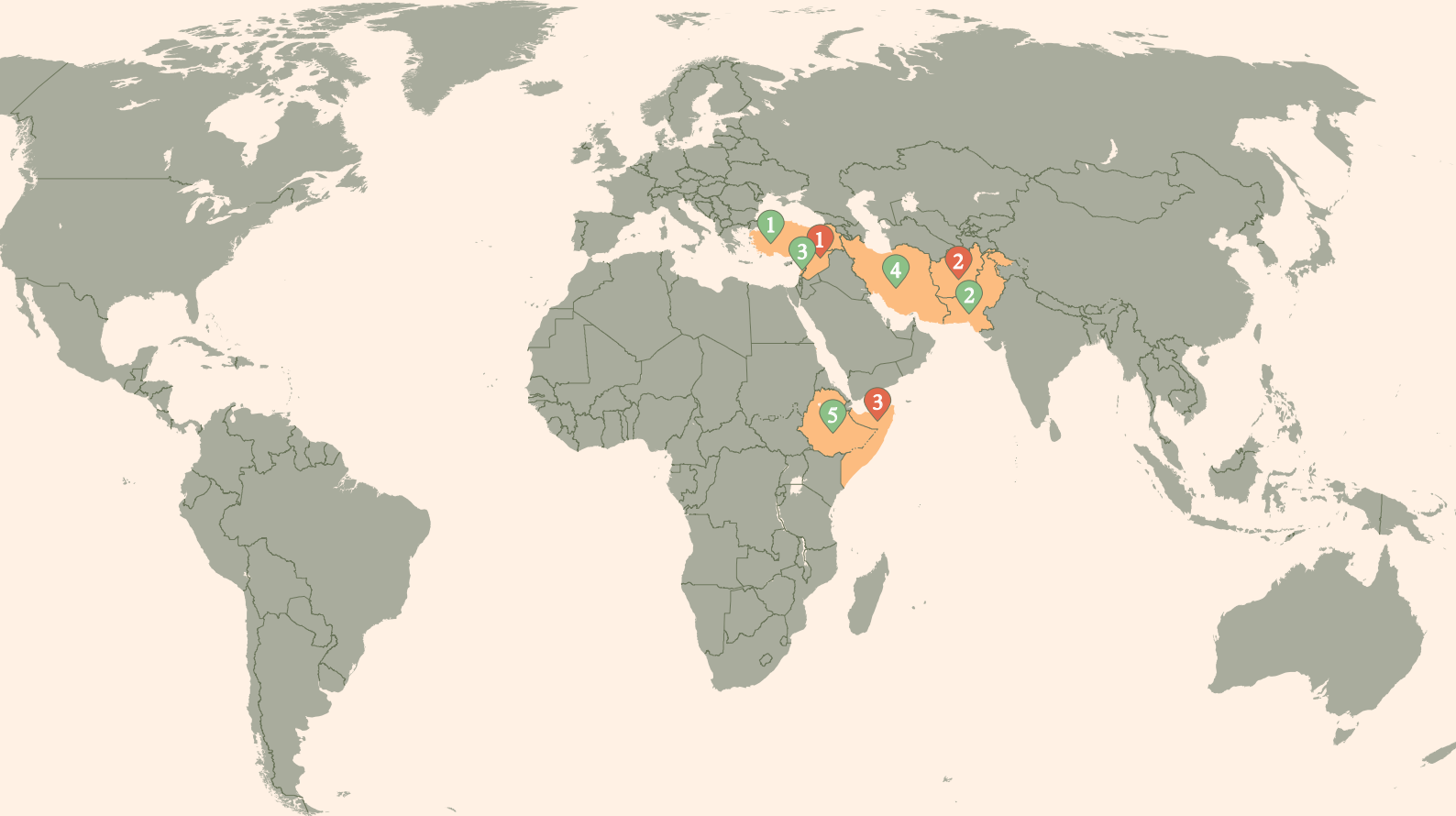
- 14.4 million refugees⁴
- 1.8 million asylum-seekers
- 126,800 refugees who had returned to their country of origin during the year
- 32.3 million IDPs protected and/or assisted by UNHCR
- 1.8 million who had returned to their place of origin during the year
- 3.5 million stateless persons
- 1.1 million others of concern

¹ Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC)

² The highest figure since 1989, when record-keeping began.

³ For definitions of the various population categories, see Chapter I.

⁴ The 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) are not included in UNHCR's statistics.



REFUGEES

14.4 million

The number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate at end-2014 was **14.4 million**, including 694,400 individuals considered by the agency to be in a refugee-like situation. The previous year, this figure was 11.7 million.

12.4 million

By the end of 2014, developing countries hosted **12.4 million refugees**, or 86 per cent of the global refugee population, the highest such figure in more than two decades. The Least Developed Countries provided asylum to 3.6 million refugees, or 25 per cent of the total.

The Asia and Pacific region hosted roughly one quarter of the global refugee population (26.8%). This was followed by sub-Saharan Africa (25.7%), Europe (21.6%), the Middle East and North Africa (20.6%), and the Americas (5.3%).⁵

⁵ The geographical regions used are those of UNHCR. See Annex, Table 27 for country breakdown.

Top HOST

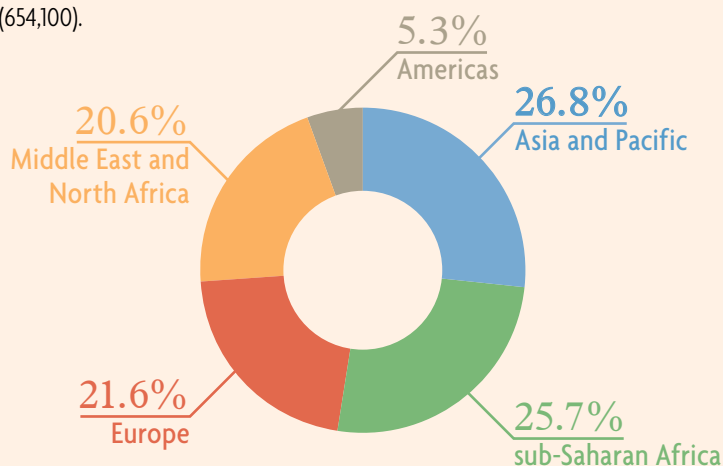
1. Turkey (1.59 million)
2. Pakistan (1.51 million)
3. Lebanon (1.15 million)
4. Islamic Republic of Iran (982,000)
5. Ethiopia (659,500)

Top ORIGIN

1. Syrian Arab Republic (3.88 million)
2. Afghanistan (2.59 million)
3. Somalia (1.11 million)

For the first time, Turkey became the largest refugee-hosting country worldwide, with **1.59 million refugees**. Turkey was followed by Pakistan (1.51 million), Lebanon (1.15 million), the Islamic Republic of Iran (982,000), Ethiopia (659,500), and Jordan (654,100).

More than half (53%) of all refugees worldwide came from just three countries: the Syrian Arab Republic (3.88 million), Afghanistan (2.59 million), and Somalia (1.11 million).



REFUGEE STATUS DETERMINATION

A record high of nearly **1.7 million individual** applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments and UNHCR offices in 157 countries or territories in 2014. UNHCR offices registered a record high of 245,600 or 15 per cent of these claims.

An estimated 1.47 million of these were initial applications submitted at 'first instance' procedures, while 191,400 were submitted on appeal, including to courts.⁶

626,500

Some **626,500 asylum-seekers** were either recognized as refugees (286,700) or granted a complementary form of protection (339,800) during 2014.

⁶ Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR statistics, as this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published separately.

⁷ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), henceforth referred to in this document as Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).



1. Russian Federation (274,700)
2. Germany (173,100)
3. United States of America (121,200)
4. Turkey (87,800)

With 274,700 asylum claims, the Russian Federation was the world's largest recipient of new individual applications, followed by Germany (173,100), the United States of America (121,200), and Turkey (87,800).

27%

Refugee status based on the 1951 Convention was granted in **27 per cent** of decisions in 2014. With the addition of complementary forms of protection, 59 per cent of all substantive asylum decisions taken in 2014 were positive. Both of these numbers differ from the rates in 2013 (32% and 43%, respectively).



1. Ukraine (288,600)
2. Syrian Arab Republic (170,000)
3. Iraq (100,000)
4. Afghanistan (73,400)
5. Eritrea (60,000)

The Ukraine was the single largest country of origin for asylum-seekers in 2014, with 288,600 new applications submitted by its nationals during the year – on average, every fifth claim. The Syrian Arab Republic was the second-largest country of origin for asylum-seekers (170,000), followed by Iraq (100,000), Afghanistan (73,400), Eritrea (60,000), Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))⁷ (55,300), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (48,100).

1.8 million

By the end of the year, **1.8 million individuals** were reported to be awaiting a decision on their asylum claims, the highest such number in many years.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

32.3 million

The number of internally displaced persons benefiting from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, including **267,500** in IDP-like situations, stood at **32.3 million** at the end of 2014. This was the highest such figure on record, and 8.3 million more than at the start of the year (23.9 million).

8.6 million

UNHCR's statistics included IDP populations in 24 countries. Its offices reported some **8.6 million IDPs** who were newly displaced in 2014, while 1.8 million IDPs were able to return home during this period.

STATELESS PERSONS

10 million

Statelessness is estimated to have affected at least **10 million** people in 2014. However, data captured by governments and communicated to UNHCR were limited to **3.5 million stateless** individuals in 77 countries.

SEX AND AGE

54.96 million

Of the **54.96 million people of concern** to UNHCR in 2014, data on sex and age are available for 30.38 million (55%) and 16.95 million (31%), respectively.

50% ♀

The available information disaggregated by sex revealed that on average **50 per cent of refugees were female**, a proportion that has slightly increased in recent years.

Children

Disaggregated information on age showed that **children** under the age of 18 represented an average of **51 per cent** of the total refugee population, up from 41 per cent in 2009 and the highest such figure in more than a decade. Less than half (46%) of the refugee population was between the ages of 18 and 59 years, whereas 3 per cent was 60 years or older.

TYPE OF LOCATION

On the type of location in which populations of concern were found, the available data revealed that more IDPs, returned IDPs, and returned refugees resided in **rural areas** than in **urban areas**. On the other hand, refugees and asylum-seekers were found more often living in urban areas.

HOST COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS

1st

Ethiopia had the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity, hosting **441 refugees** per 1 USD Gross Domestic Product by Purchasing Power Parity – commonly referred to as GDP (PPP)⁸ – per capita.

Pakistan had the second-largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita (**315 refugees**), followed by Chad (208 refugees) and Uganda (194 refugees). The largest refugee-hosting developed country was the Russian Federation, in 35th place, with nine refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

Comparing the number of refugees to the national population of a host country shows that Lebanon topped this list with **206 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants**. Jordan (88) and Nauru (39) ranked second and third, respectively.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

126,800

Over the course of 2014, **126,800 refugees returned** to their country of origin. More than two-thirds of these returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (25,200), Mali (21,000), Afghanistan (17,800), Angola (14,300), or Sudan (13,100). This figure was the lowest level of refugee returns in 30 years.

26 countries

During the year, UNHCR submitted 103,800 refugees to States for resettlement. According to government statistics, **26 countries admitted 105,200 refugees** for resettlement during 2014 (with or without UNHCR's assistance). The United States of America admitted the highest number (73,000).

⁸ Source for Gross Domestic Product (PPP): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2015 (accessed 10 November 2015). Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, New York, 2015. For the purpose of this analysis, the 2014 estimates have been taken into account.



Residents of the old Homs neighbourhood in the Syrian Arab Republic have been severely affected by the conflict. Those displaced by the fighting struggle to rebuild their lives among the ruins.



Introduction

For the most part, UNHCR's statistics reflect global trends in forced displacement over a given time period, and they have contributed significantly to effective decision-making on programming, protection, and monitoring of displaced persons around the world. UNHCR records indicate that individuals have been newly displaced every year since the agency's creation in 1951. There has not been a single year when individuals did not have to flee their country of origin due to armed conflict, war, or persecution. Some refugees are compelled to live in exile for years, with little or no hope of returning to their country of origin. Unfortunately, the number of individuals facing forced displacement each year tends to be significantly higher than the number of those who find durable solutions. As a consequence, statistics on forced displacement around the world have trended upward over the past decade.

This Statistical Yearbook offers a compilation and analysis of the global information and data on the population falling under UNHCR's

mandate, with special focus on developments occurring during 2014 unless otherwise stated. As such, the Yearbook provides the official statistics of UNHCR. Figures reported in this publication have been carefully evaluated and reviewed. Data sources and methodologies have also been verified to ensure that they conform to the requisite standards of UNHCR's statistics.

This Yearbook has six chapters. **Chapter I** provides the sources, methods, and other data considerations used throughout this publication. Where applicable, this chapter provides and explains the definitions used in the field of forced displacement, defines relevant terminologies, and reviews the contributions of actors and stakeholders in the data-collection process in this field. The chapter concludes with a contribution by three statisticians from Statistics Norway,⁹ focusing on the importance of national censuses in determining the magnitude of forced displacement. This section is

⁹ Statistics Norway staff on secondment to UNHCR through the Norwegian Refugee Council's Norcap deployment programme.



Introduction

based on a review of some 150 census questionnaires in the *2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme*, analysing whether these documents have included refugees, asylum-seekers, or internally displaced persons.

With an estimated 59.5 million persons considered forcibly displaced by the end of 2014, the highest level in the post-World War II era, **Chapter II** provides general displacement levels and trends for the year. It also includes reference to persons falling under UNHCR's statelessness mandate. This chapter discusses changes in refugee flows, particularly with regard to the Syrian refugee situation around the world, presenting major source countries of refugees as well as hosting countries. This chapter concludes with an analysis of the impact and burden of hosting refugees through the statistical measurement of economic and population density.

In **Chapter III**, UNHCR's comprehensive solutions for refugees – that is, voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and local integration – are critically examined alongside new displacement trends. The chapter finds that, on the one hand, 2014 saw one of the lowest levels of returning refugees recorded in the past three decades, while on the other, the number of refugees resettled during the reporting period increased. This chapter concludes with a discussion on the challenges of quantifying and measuring the local integration of refugees.

Chapter IV focuses on the analysis of asylum and refugee status determination. With the number of individuals requesting international protection on an individual basis at a record high, this chapter reviews and analyses trends in asylum applications, decisions, and pending cases. In addition, attempts to harmonize asylum statistics in Europe pose important challenges; some of these are presented in an external contribution by the European Asylum Support Office on its work with the Group for the Provision of Statistics.

Chapter V provides a detailed analysis of both the demographic breakdown and location information of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR. Meanwhile, civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) are increasingly gaining interest at the international level, with a significant number of countries having committed to improving these systems. This chapter includes a contribution by an independent researcher on the importance of CRVS in the refugee context.

Chapter VI concludes the Statistical Yearbook with critical analysis of the ethical challenges concerning the use of refugees' personal data. This chapter examines data-protection principles in UNHCR and beyond, discussing the ethical and statistical dimensions of the use of refugees' personal data in light of the organization's newly released *Policy on the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR*.

The tables appearing in the Annex provide detailed data for 2014. Statistical data on historical trends, allowing for easy global comparisons by region and country for all major themes, can be found on UNHCR's statistical website (www.unhcr.org/statistics). These data can also be downloaded from UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database, at popstats.unhcr.org.

Statistics reflected in this Yearbook are, for the most part, those reported by UNHCR country offices, drawn either from their own data or those of the government. The use of estimates is clearly indicated. Some data contained in this publication may differ from those published earlier, due to retroactive adjustments or the inclusion of previously unavailable data. It is expected that the data contained in the 2014 Yearbook will likewise be subject to minor future adjustments. ■



Hundreds of internally displaced people take shelter at Bangui's M'Poko International Airport in the Central African Republic. While the deployment of United Nations peacekeeping forces in September 2014 brought hope for a stabilization of the security situation, continued fighting and human rights abuses targeting civilians resulted in massive displacement inside the country and across borders.



This rape survivor is being sheltered by a local host family in Katanga Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. Recurrent conflict in the region and the heavy presence of armed groups continues to uproot civilians and expose women and girls to sexual and gender-based violence.



Sources, Methods, and Data Considerations

Introduction

The foundation of any robust body of statistics is its sources and methods. Particularly in the humanitarian field, statistics are not exempted from providing authentic sources and methods, which are critical at every stage in the processing of statistical information. In compiling this Yearbook, the various sources of all data collected were critically verified, and the various data collection methods were carefully evaluated. All of these processes were undertaken to ensure that the data and information provided satisfy required statistical standards. The primary purpose of these processes is to ensure reliable and credible statistics in order that sound decisions can inform effective programming for all persons under the UNHCR mandate.

UNHCR has a mandate to collect and disseminate global statistics on refugees, as enshrined in the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees¹⁰ and affirmed by the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.¹¹ These two instruments oblige States to provide statistical data on refugees to UNHCR, and with their backing, UNHCR works closely with States to ensure that statistical data on refugees are provided to the organization. As a global leader for the provision of refugee statistics, UNHCR ensures that information on refugees is used solely for its intended purposes. Thus, the confidentiality of refugee data and information is highly respected by UNHCR and its partners.

As in previous years, governments, UNHCR, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

remained the primary agents of refugee data collection in 2014. Even though there are differences between these three entities in terms of capacity, each follows a standard and systematic approach in order to ensure the consistency needed for effective data analysis and comparison.

To improve data quality, UNHCR introduced an online data collection system in 2014. UNHCR offices around the world are now required to enter data through this dedicated, uniform online application. This system has automatic self-validation rules, which allow obvious data-entry errors to be corrected before submission for final verification by the UNHCR statistics team. This method of data compilation ensures the systematic, consistent, and easy validation of figures. The new system is not only easy to use, but it improves the detection of errors while offering mechanisms for easy data cleansing and processing.

This chapter provides the definitions and scope of all persons of concern to UNHCR. The various methods used in collecting data are then explained, followed by a description of the various actors and consumers of UNHCR data. Finally, this chapter concludes with a contribution by three statisticians from Statistics Norway, analysing the potential to identify forcibly displaced populations through national censuses.

¹⁰ See: Chapter VI, Article 35: Co-operation of the national authorities with the United Nations: '...the Contracting States undertake to provide them in the appropriate form with information and statistical data requested...'

¹¹ See: Chapter II, Paragraph 8: Functions of the High Commissioner: 'The High Commissioner shall provide for the protection for refugees falling under the competence of his Office by ... obtaining from Governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories...'



Definitions and scope

UNHCR identifies seven population categories, collectively referred to as ‘persons of concern’: refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees who have returned home (returnees), IDPs who have returned home, persons under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate, and others who do not fall under these categories but to whom the agency extends protection. Since 2007, two additional sub-categories have been added: individuals in refugee-like situations (included under refugees) and those in IDP-like situations (included under IDPs).

Refugees include individuals recognized under the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, individuals recognized under the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, those recognized in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, individuals granted complementary forms of protection,¹² and those enjoying temporary protection.¹³ The refugee category also includes individuals in a refugee-like situation.¹⁴

Asylum-seekers (with ‘pending cases’) are individuals who have sought international protection and whose claims for refugee status have not yet been determined. Those covered in this report refer to claimants whose individual applications were pending at the end of 2014, irrespective of when those claims may have been lodged.

Internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced to leave their home or place of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights, or natural or man-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border.¹⁵

UNHCR is involved in situations of internal displacement in a number of countries. The populations reported in its statistics are limited to conflict-generated IDPs or persons in an IDP-like situation¹⁶ to whom the agency extends protection or assistance. Therefore, UNHCR’s IDP statistics do not necessarily reflect the entire IDP population in a given country but only those who are protected and/or assisted by the agency. Moreover, under the

cluster approach,¹⁷ UNHCR provides support to both IDPs and other affected persons, though the latter are not included in these statistics. Hence, UNHCR’s statistics provide a comprehensive picture neither of global internal displacement nor of total numbers assisted by the agency in such situations.¹⁸

Returned refugees (returnees) are former refugees who have returned to their country of origin, either spontaneously or in an organized fashion, but are yet to be fully integrated. Such returns would normally take place only under conditions of safety and dignity. For the purposes of this report, only refugees who returned between January and December 2014 are included, though in practice operations may assist returnees for longer periods.

Returned IDPs refers to those IDPs who were beneficiaries of UNHCR’s protection or assistance activities and who returned to their area of origin or habitual residence between January and December 2014. In practice, however, operations may assist IDP returnees for longer periods.

Persons under UNHCR’s statelessness mandate are defined under international law as those not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. In other words, they do not possess the nationality of any State. UNHCR statistics refer to persons who fall under the agency’s statelessness mandate as those who are stateless according to this international definition, but data

¹² ‘Complementary protection’ refers to protection provided under national, regional, or international law to persons who do not qualify for protection under refugee law instruments but are in need of international protection because they are at risk of serious harm.

¹³ ‘Temporary protection’ refers to arrangements developed to offer protection of a temporary nature, either until the situation in the country of origin improves and allows for a safe and dignified return or until individual refugee or complementary protection status determination can be carried out.

¹⁴ This term is descriptive in nature. It includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to refugees but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.

¹⁵ See: United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1997/39. Addendum: Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, 11 February 1998.

¹⁶ This term is descriptive in nature. It includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.

¹⁷ In December 2005, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee endorsed the ‘cluster’ approach for handling situations of internal displacement. Under this arrangement, UNHCR assumes leadership responsibility and accountability for three of the nine clusters: protection, emergency shelter, and camp coordination and camp management.

¹⁸ Global IDP estimates are provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), available at www.internal-displacement.org.

from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality.

UNHCR has been given a global mandate by the United Nations General Assembly to contribute to the prevention and reduction of statelessness and the protection of stateless persons. The agency also performs a specific function, under Article 11 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in receiving claims from persons

who may benefit from the statelessness safeguards contained in that convention and in assisting them and the States concerned to resolve these claims.

Other groups or persons of concern refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of these groups but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

Refugee data

DATA SOURCES

In 2014, refugee data were predominantly collected by governments, UNHCR, and NGOs, three groups that have been the sources of humanitarian statistics for many years. While UNHCR and NGOs collect refugee data predominantly in developing countries, governments tend to be responsible for doing so in many industrialized countries. In general, data collection is a function of the operational role of each agent. For instance, in countries where UNHCR has an operational role, the Office tends to be the main agent of data collection.

At the end of 2014, UNHCR and governments combined accounted for 82 per cent of all refugee data collection. It is important to reiterate that States have the primary responsibility of providing international protection for refugees, and hence the governments of those States have the responsibility for refugee data collection. However, lack of resources tends to inhibit some governments from undertaking this task. Instead, UNHCR has become the main refugee data collector in countries where governments lack the capacity – or are unwilling – to do so.

Global refugee data collection involves the interaction of key actors and stakeholders, thus providing a potentially conducive environment for the humanitarian community to evaluate and assess the integrity and credibility of humanitarian statistics. These interactions also allow for high-level negotiation on how to move toward the common goal of improving data collection methods in general as well as refining those methods in particular contexts, especially during emergencies. For the most part, these interactions are witnessed during humanitarian emergencies rather than during stable situations.

Fig. 11 Trends in sources of refugee data | 2009 - 2014

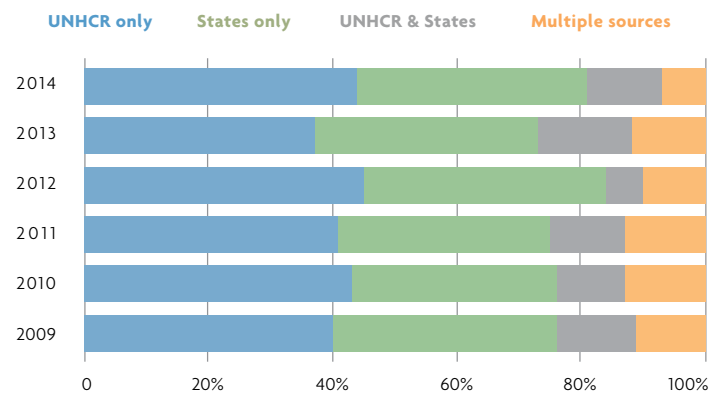
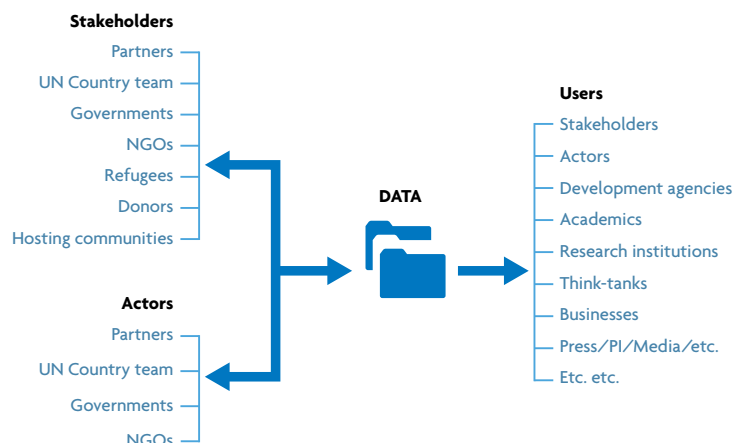


Fig. 12 Stakeholders', actors' and users' interaction in refugee data collection





Sources, Methods and Data Considerations

The main stakeholders and actors in this process are governments, UN Country Teams, donors, partners, refugees, NGOs, and hosting communities. The involvement of stakeholders and actors in data collection has contributed significantly toward improving common understanding in the sharing and dissemination of humanitarian statistics at the global level. Figure 1.2 depicts the data collection processes and related interactions among these key actors, stakeholders, and data users.

Refugee data, like many other humanitarian data, can be described as a public good. This data has recently seen rising use, with both demand and the number of consumers increasing substantially. Besides the key actors and stakeholders who are regular users of refugee data, academics, development agencies, the media, and the general public are increasingly and regularly demanding refugee data. Therefore, UNHCR has provided various sources offering public access to refugee data and information.

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

At the end of 2014, the principal methods of refugee data collection remained registrations, surveys, censuses, and estimations. The use of each or a combination of these methods does not affect the quality and credibility of the data collected, with decision on the use of a particular method generally being driven by the availability of resources and capacity. The use of various data collection methods follows the standard assumptions of statistical methods. Further, UNHCR ensures that the choice of a particular method is appropriate for the country concerned. Given that some data are collected in emergency situations, the environment and general conditions (such as security concerns) are typically taken into consideration during the decision to use a particular method.

this tool is used to generate a significant proportion of refugee statistics and allows registration to provide more comprehensive information than the other data collection methods. Some 80 countries use proGres to register refugees and other persons of concern. In some countries, this software is complemented with biometric registration, under which refugees are fingerprinted to minimize double counting. The introduction of such mechanisms continues to improve the quality of refugee data collection.

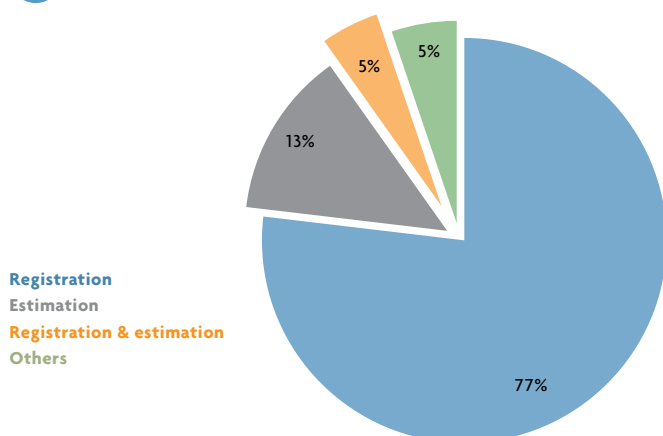
In general, refugee registration is the most widely available method to UNHCR offices. It is used almost exclusively in refugee camps established either by or in collaboration with UNHCR. Refugee registration in UNHCR operations includes unique software, proGres,¹⁹ whose use has significantly improved the delivery of protection, monitoring, and assistance activities. Today,

In 2014, 173 countries provided refugee data to UNHCR, three more than the previous year. Of these, 133 reported using registration as a data collection method, compared to 114 a year earlier. UNHCR offices in 72 countries used registration exclusively as a means of data collection, as opposed to 38 countries where governments did so. Registration alone accounted for 77 per cent of all methods used for collecting refugee data in 2014, followed by estimation with 13 per cent. While most countries exclusively used registration, 17 countries employed a combination of data collection methods in 2014.

On estimation, only governments reported using this method exclusively in the refugee context in 2014, predominantly in industrialized countries. For the most part, UNHCR uses estimation in industrialized countries that do not have dedicated refugee registers. Such estimations are based on positive decisions rendered to asylum-seekers over 10 years, building on the assumption that refugees have become naturalized after this period and thus are no longer in need of international protection. Finally, surveys and censuses as methods of data collection are used predominantly in urban environments. ■

Fig. 13

Basis of refugee data | 2014



¹⁹ Profiling Global Registration System (proGres).



Yurvi and Tatiana stand in the ruins of their family home in Nikishino, eastern Ukraine. The outbreak of conflict in eastern Ukraine had a major impact on the 2014 displacement figures, with more than 271,000 or close to 99 per cent of the asylum claims in the Russian Federation lodged by Ukrainians. The last time a country registered a comparable figure was in 2009, when South Africa reported that 222,300 persons had lodged individual asylum requests, many of them from Zimbabwe.

The population census as a tool to capture statistical information on forcibly displaced persons

– Contributed by Vebjørn Aalandslid, Kari-Anne Lund, and Frode Berglund²⁰ –

INTRODUCTION

Globally, there is a growing concern about the availability and quality of statistical information about forcibly displaced persons, including refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced

persons. For most countries, the population and housing census is the main source of demographic information about the population in general. The census also has a potential to give a description of the

²⁰ All Statistics Norway staff on secondment to UNHCR and the Joint IDP Profiling Service. The work on this article was administered and funded by the NORCAP programme of the Norwegian Refugee Council. The authors acknowledge Lene Sandvik for her assistance in translating the Spanish census forms. The views and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



demographic composition of forcibly displaced populations, yet in most affected countries it rarely allows for the proper identification and measurement of these populations in a systematic and comparable way. This is in large part due to technical, financial, and political constraints, but

it may also be related to a lack of clear and systematic guidance and recommendations on best practices.

There is a clear gap between the potential use of the census to describe forcibly displaced groups and its current practice. To better understand this gap, some 150

census questionnaires used in the 2010 census round (2005-2014) have been analysed with the aim of identifying whether information on forcibly displaced population groups can be extracted. The findings of that analysis are presented in this article.

ARE FORCIBLY DISPLACED PERSONS COUNTED IN THE CENSUS, AND CAN THEY BE IDENTIFIED?

A review of the 2000 round of censuses showed that in some countries refugees or asylum-seekers were not counted, either because they were outside of the nationally defined mandate of the census or because they formed a 'special category'.²¹ To study this further for the 2010 round would require analysis not only of the questionnaires but also enumerator guidelines as well as a verification of data from the different censuses in order to check coverage. This is beyond the scope of this study.

If refugees, asylum-seekers, and IDPs are included in the population census, is it possible to identify these population groups? For most countries, the census will be the only tool to keep track of the stock of refugees and IDPs, and many countries do publish data on flows of asylum-seekers and refugees. However, data on the stock of refugees and on persons granted refugee status or a complementary form of protection after an asylum procedure are not commonly published by immigration authorities or national statistical offices. Population change as well as change of legal status or nationality makes this group difficult to identify and

follow, and the national numbers are hard to obtain.²² As such, the population census could play an important role in obtaining such numbers, and for many countries it could be the only opportunity to include forcibly displaced persons in their population statistics.

Some censuses do contain questions on a person's year of arrival to the country, while a limited number of countries also include questions for the non-national or foreign-born population by asking about their reason for migration. It is only when the latter question is included, along with the relevant response categories, that one can more directly estimate the number of individuals with a refugee background in a country.²³ Likewise, a question on reasons for internal migration can allow for estimates on the number of IDPs, though with similar limitations.

If such data are not available through information generated by these direct questions, a combination of other variables can be used to indirectly estimate the number of refugees and asylum-seekers – for instance, country of birth, citizenship, former place/country of residence, or year of arrival or duration of residence. Census

data on internal migration, together with other data, can be used to give estimates of the number of IDPs. Moreover, a question on citizenship/nationality, combined with relevant response categories, may provide an overview of the number of self-identified stateless persons in the country.

The census is a costly exercise, and for most countries it is carried out only every 10 years. Further, the datasets are often so comprehensive and detailed that it may take many years to disseminate them; hence, the data are not as timely. Nevertheless, for many countries, the population census will be the only opportunity to obtain nationwide coverage or to make direct or indirect estimations of forcibly displaced population groups. After all, surveys and other registration procedures cannot achieve the same national coverage. Even if more-targeted surveys are used, most countries would still have to rely on some form of census data as a sample frame.

In summary, the census has a potential to identify forcibly displaced populations, but this approach has rarely been capitalized upon.

²¹ "Counting Forcibly Displaced Populations: Census and Registration, Issues Symposium on Global Review of 2000 Round of Population and Housing Censuses: Mid-Decade Assessment and Future Prospects", UN Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, New York, 7-10 August 2001.

²² In the absence of official refugee numbers published by States, UNHCR may estimate such numbers based on a combination of official asylum data and its own registration records.

²³ As this is based on direct questions to respondents, some with open response categories, such figures will not necessarily correspond to formal definitions and classifications used in national administrative registers or by the UNHCR.

INTERNATIONAL CENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS

Ahead of every census round, the United Nations publishes international census recommendations²⁴ that provide guidance on operational aspects, what areas and topics to cover, and what tables to produce.²⁵ The UN recommendations distinguish variables and questions by core and non-core topics. The former are areas the United Nations recommends for inclusion in the census, while the latter are areas that countries may wish to include based on national interest.

The UN census recommendations

issued for the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme contain only four references to forcibly displaced groups. This includes the rather narrow approach stipulating that refugees and IDPs residing in camps should be counted and their numbers distinguished as separate groups. Based on this approach, refugees residing outside of camps cannot be identified separately.²⁶

In contrast, the regional guidelines developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

(UNECE) do include a question on reason for migration, but only as a non-core topic. The UNECE recommendations also include 'the population with a refugee background' and 'internally displaced persons' as derived non-core topics, with guidance on how to obtain such data.

Overall, the official census recommendations do not go very far in helping to address the gap in the context of forced displacement mentioned above, although they do have the potential to do so.

REVIEW OF THE 2010 CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRES

For the purpose of this study, some 150 census questionnaires used in the 2010 round were analysed.²⁷ Overall, the data show that most countries included the core topics, with questions on country of birth (82%) and citizenship (62%).²⁸ Table 1.1 illustrates that on average 4 out of every 10 countries (39%) have included a question on year of arrival, making it possible to create a migration history.

Reason for migration is the single most important variable in estimating the size of forcibly displaced populations in a country. Yet on average, reason for international migration was requested in less than one out of four countries (23%). This

proportion drops to an average of roughly one out of five countries (21%) with regard to reason for internal migration. The 35 countries in Table 1.1 include all those

which included a question on reason for migration, irrespective of whether national borders were crossed.

TABLE 1.1 Inclusion of topics in national population censuses by world region (2010 round of censuses)

Region	Number of countries	Country/ place of birth	Citizenship/ nationality	Year of arrival	Reason for migration
Africa	37	32	30	8	8
Americas	32	27	8	21	6
Asia	35	24	20	8	11
Europe	32	29	26	18	8
Oceania	14	11	9	4	2
Total	150	123	93	59	35
% of total		82	62	39	23

Source: UNSD, NSO websites

ANALYSIS OF 'REASON FOR MIGRATION' QUESTIONS

As Table 1.1 illustrates, 35 countries (23%) included a question on reason for migration (RFM) in their most recent census. These countries can be broken down further into groups of countries that aim to

capture either external or internal migration depending on how the RFM question performs in relation to the migration category captured. This, in turn, depends on two issues: first, how the targets for the

RFM questions are defined by the questionnaire structure and second, how the question itself is operationalized (phrasing of question). In other words, who answers the question(s) and how the question(s) is asked.

²⁴ UN Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, available at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/publication/seriesM/seriesm_67Rev2e.pdf.

²⁵ The UN Statistics Division reports that around 80 per cent of countries use the recommendations in preparations of their censuses.

²⁶ According to UNHCR estimates, more than 60 per cent of refugees reside in non-camp locations. See UNHCR Policy on Alternatives to Camps, 22 July 2014, UNHCR/HCP/2014/9, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/5423ded84.html>. Estimations of IDPs residing in non-camp locations are even higher.

²⁷ See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sources/census/censusquest.htm>. In addition to the census forms available from the UNSD website, the authors included questionnaires from Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia (not a full count of the population and thus not included in the UNSD overview), and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)). Some 20 countries, mostly European, carried out a census based on administrative registers without using a questionnaire. These are not included in this analysis.

²⁸ This deviates from UN figures that show a slightly higher share of countries that have included the core topics. The number of censuses studied differs and cannot be directly compared. For UN figures, see "Use of Population Censuses to Collect Statistics on International Migration", paper presented at the CES Seminar on Migration Statistics 2014, Session 1: Measuring Recent and Changing Migration Patterns: Challenges and Opportunities. Prepared by United Nations Statistics Division.

TABLE 1.2 RFM coverage in 2010 round of censuses, by world region

Region	Total no. of countries reviewed	RFM coverage	Reason for international migration	Reason for internal migration	Forced displacement
Africa	37	22% (N=8)	6	3	5
Americas	32	19% (N=6)	3	4	0
Asia	35	31% (N=11)	7	10	2
Europe	32	25% (N=8)	7	4	3
Oceania	14	14% (N=2)	2	0	0
Total	150	35	25	21	10

Source: UNSD, NSO websites

Following on a detailed review of the questionnaires, Table 1.2 provides an overview of how many countries per region captured external migration, internal migration, and forced displacement. A salient and common feature among the 35 RFM countries is that each asked respondents only for the main reason for migration, rather than offering the possibility of indicating more than one such reason.

As illustrated by Table 1.2, the share of countries that included RFM is highest in Asia (31%) and lowest in Oceania (14%). A higher number of countries aimed at capturing external migration rather than internal migration (25 compared to 21). Questions on forced displacement were considered to be dealing with neither external migration nor internal displacement; however, as 10 countries have included separate questions aiming to capture displacement, this information is included in Table 1.2.

In order to analyse the RFM response categories, the reasons for migration were grouped according to four key categories: employment (which are covered by 9/10 of the analysed countries), family (8/10),

education (8/10), and humanitarian reasons (5/10). The number of countries included in each of these categories per region is presented in descending order in Table 1.3. Coverage of the most common reasons for migration is high in all areas with the exception of the humanitarian field, which is covered by only 19 of these 35 countries (54%). No regional differences could be traced on coverage of humanitarian reasons for migration with the exception of Oceania, where neither of the two countries in the region provided answer options within this category.

In addition, while the employment/economic category is the most popular option included across countries, education is the one with the least operational variation (i.e. how answer options are phrased in the questionnaire). This contrasts with the humanitarian category, where a high level of operational variation is observed. Answer options within the humanitarian field can be further divided into three sub-categories: human conflict/violence, natural disasters, and a more general/unspecified lack of safety.

A number of answer options remained

without a clear grouping. These are included in the 'open category' in Table 1.3 and have been sub-divided into temporary reasons (nine cases), such as tourism or visiting family, which should not be measured as migration; housing (11 cases), if for example a house is too small; and return (10), which could be considered a description of the movement and hence not a reason, per se. Even after this sub-division, several reasons remained difficult to group and thus were beyond the scope of this exercise to analyse. While some traditional census areas, such as education and employment, are standardized according to international classifications, the humanitarian field appears to be far less standardized in terms of answer options.

Overall, analysis of RFM and the inclusion of forced displacement in census questionnaires demonstrates a mixed practice relating both to coverage and operationalization. As noted earlier, this is likely connected to the limited focus on this topic in official statistical recommendations, but it could also be due to other technical, financial, or political dimensions.

TABLE 1.3 Inclusion of RFM categories by world region (2010 round of censuses)

Region	Number of RFM countries	Employment/economy	Family	Education	Humanitarian	Other	Open category
Africa	8	7	6	7	5	7	7
Americas	6	5	5	3	3	4	4
Asia	11	10	8	8	6	9	10
Europe	8	8	8	7	5	6	4
Oceania	2	2	2	2	0	2	2
Total	35	32	29	27	19	28	27

Source: UNSD, NSO websites

CENSUS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

Among the 150 census questionnaires analysed, only 13 countries included questions with the potential to directly identify IDPs. Globally, this is far lower than the number of countries with a recognized and sizeable IDP population.²⁹ This article is limited to censuses where IDPs can be identified directly.³⁰

Broadly, there are two approaches to directly identifying IDPs in population censuses. Either there is a separate question on the topic (four countries), or 'IDP' constitutes a response category for a question about type of household (eight countries) or reason for migration (seven countries). Among the 13 countries, internal displacement was captured along four dimensions: Is there a separate question included to identify IDPs? Can they be

identified through the response options of another question? Is it possible to identify current or former IDPs? And, is it possible to identify the reason for becoming an IDP?

As with the RFM analysis above, the practice of capturing internal displacement in censuses has revealed sparse and mixed practices. Very few of the affected countries have included an opportunity to capture internal displacement in their censuses; those that have done so have included this focus in various ways. Even if a census has questions on IDPs, it still may not necessarily be easy to identify this population. For instance, a person's status can be confused in the question sequence, if that sequence has not been developed specifically in order to identify IDPs.

At the same time, a well-designed question sequence can offer important insights. A good example of this was found in Côte d'Ivoire's 2014 census, where the sequence of questions covered all necessary dimensions in a logical fashion and could enable identification of internal displacement at the national level. Since only a few such examples are available, however, and this study is limited solely to the analysis of questionnaires, it is difficult to make recommendations on the most appropriate formulation of questions.

²⁹ For global IDP statistics, see www.internal-displacement.org.

³⁰ Indirect identification of IDPs through census is also a possibility in some cases, although beyond the remit of this article.

CONCLUSIONS

Questions on IDPs and refugees are rarely integrated in national censuses, even though they may be relevant for countries with sizeable IDP or refugee populations to gain a better understanding of both the demography and living conditions of these groups.

One reason questions on refugees and IDPs are not included in censuses may be the absence of these groups in the international census recommendations. Integrating forced displacement into these recommendations would likely increase the number of countries that include questions on this subject and ensure a more unified approach among those countries that already include such questions in their censuses. Such integration,

however, would need to be accompanied by specific guidelines on how these data are to be analysed once they have been collected.

The fact that a sizeable number of forcibly displaced populations resides in camps may be a deterrent for their inclusion in national censuses. Doing so may not seem relevant because targeted data collection in locations with a high concentration of displaced populations would render the data more operational. Yet given that an increasing number of refugees and IDPs are located in non-camp locations, the census could play an important role, as it is one of few available tools to cover these out-of-camp populations and integrate statistics on these groups

into national systems. Even if censuses are not the ideal instrument to count forcibly displaced populations due to the long processing time before statistical data become available, such an approach is nevertheless relevant in situations of protracted displacement. ●



Nyakong, 22, has been hiding in a village with her family near Nasir in war-torn South Sudan for months. The village is unsafe, but the floodwaters are too high to bring her three young children to Leitchuor refugee camp in Ethiopia.



Displacement Levels and Trends

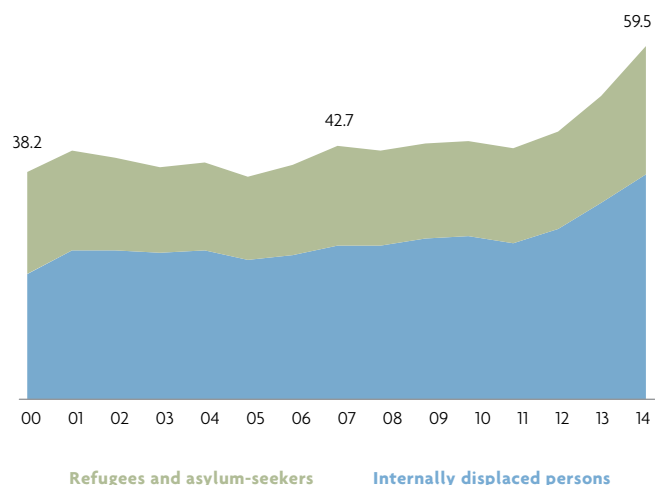
Escalating wars and continuous conflicts around the world contributed to the mass displacement of people during 2014. As a result of these unprecedented events, global forced displacement grew to a staggering 59.5 million³¹ individuals at the end of the year, up from 51.2 million one year earlier. The continuation of armed conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa in combination with conflict in parts of sub-Saharan Africa has impacted negatively on recent dynamics and trends. As such, the interlinked crisis in both Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic contributed significantly to the rise seen in displacement trends.

Based on the displacement patterns seen over the past three years, UNHCR's Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region has been the major source of refugees. With no end in sight to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, compounded by the crisis in Iraq, the MENA region has shifted the balance in terms of both the source of and asylum for refugees around the world.

This chapter examines the overall trends and

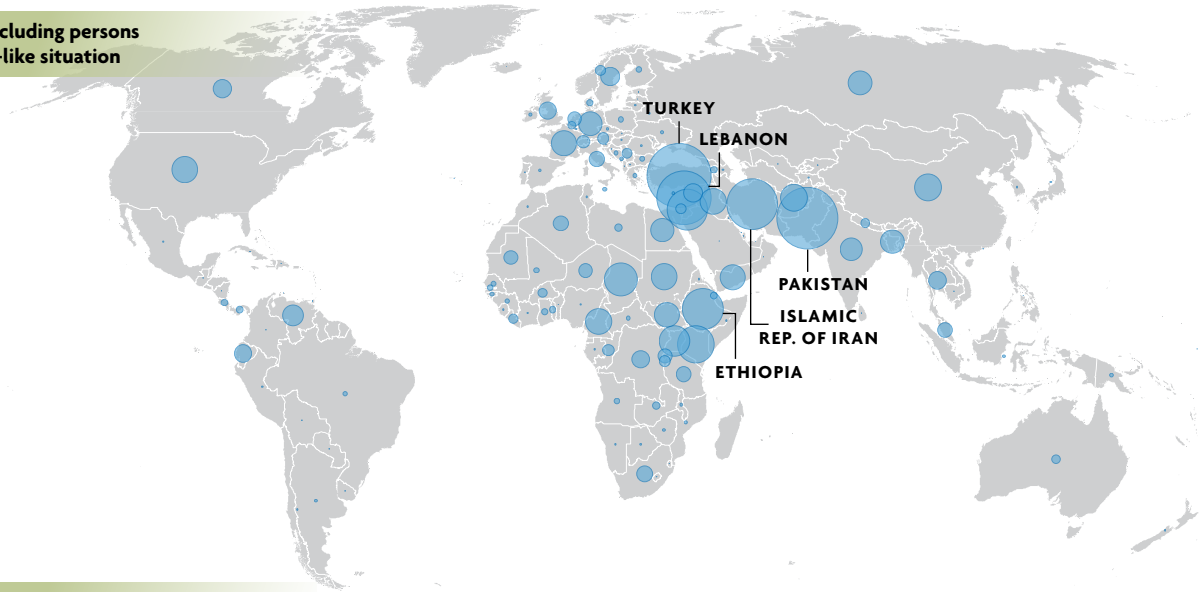
magnitude of displacement occurring during 2014, with specific focus on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern. It is important to note that UNHCR does not have a global mandate on IDPs, so that population included in this chapter is limited to those generated exclusively by conflict and who benefited from UNHCR's protection and/or assistance activities.

Fig. 2.1 **Global forced displacement** | 2000 - 2014
(end-year, in millions)

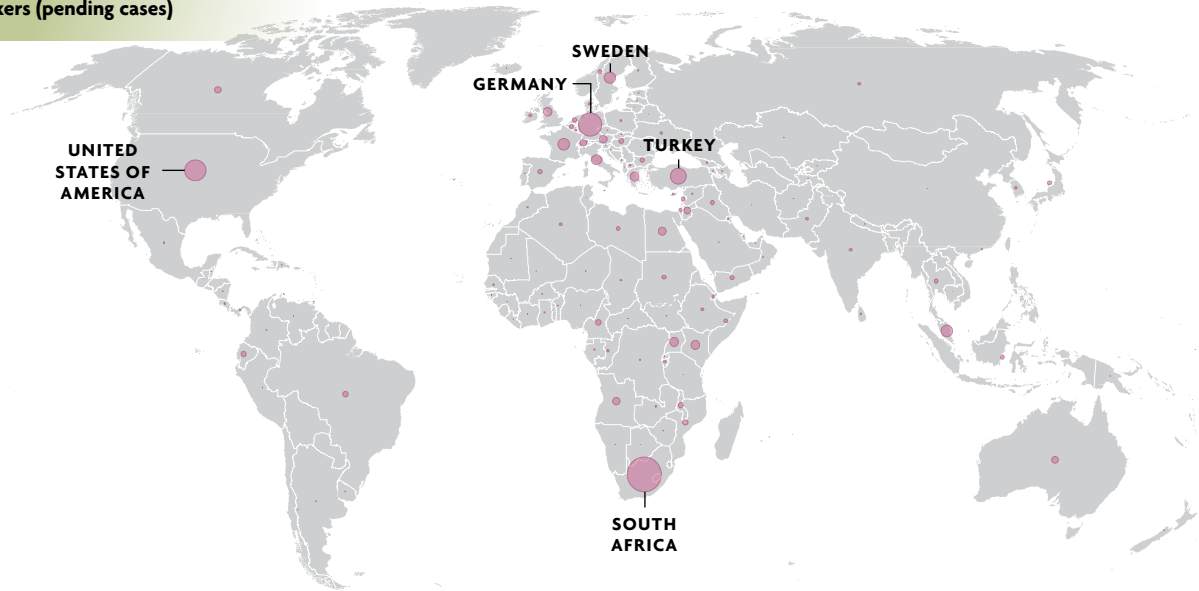


³¹ These included 19.5 million refugees: 14.4 million under UNHCR's mandate and 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The global figure also included 38.2 million internally displaced persons (source: IDMC) and 1.8 million individuals whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period.

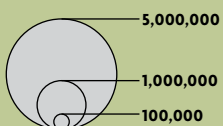
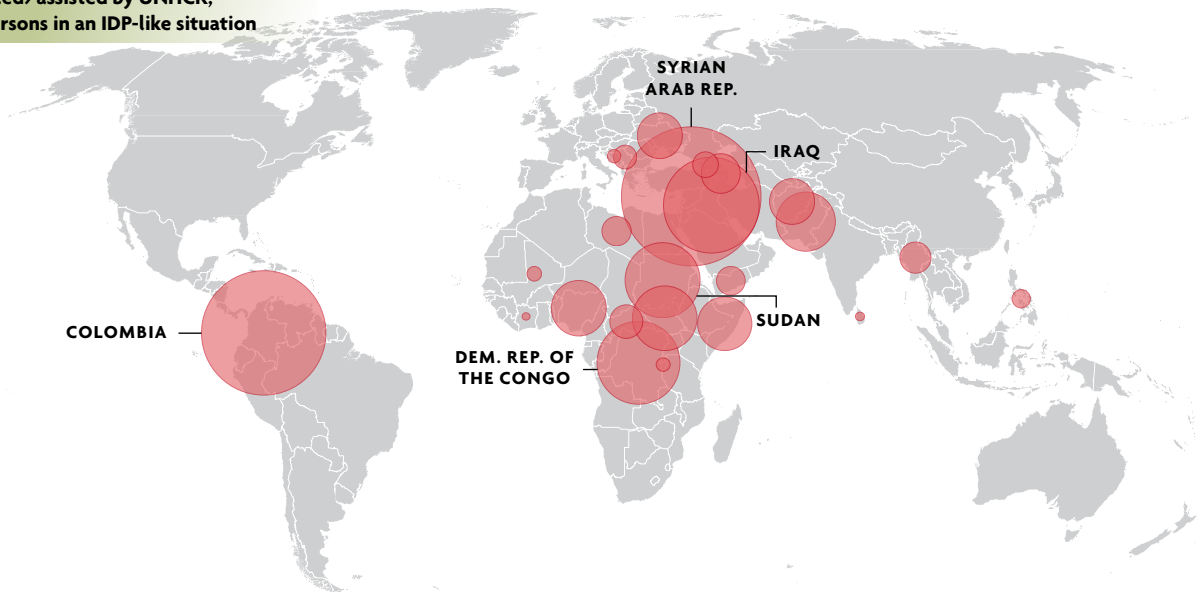
Refugees, including persons in a refugee-like situation



Asylum-seekers (pending cases)



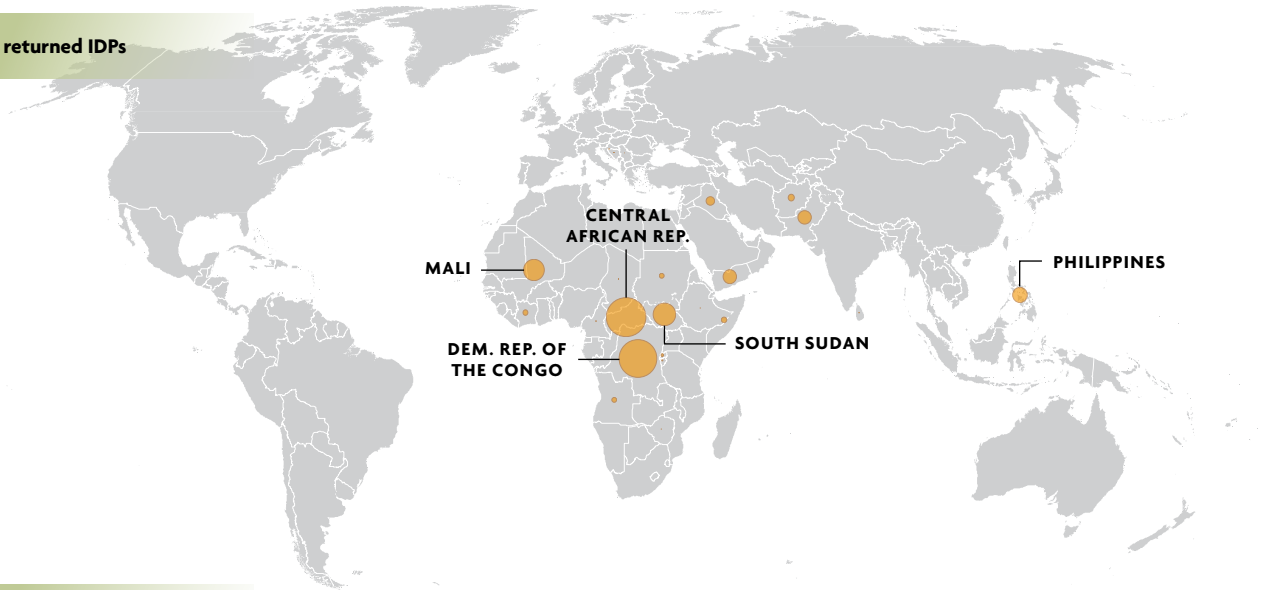
IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, including persons in an IDP-like situation



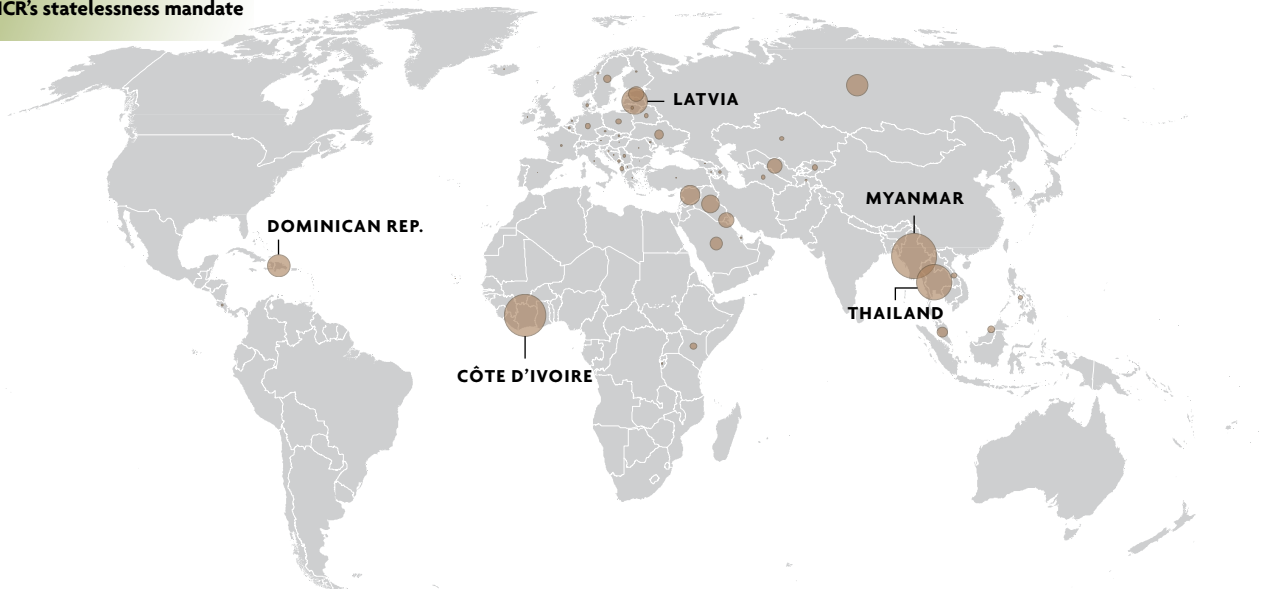
A country is listed if it features among the top-5 per population group.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

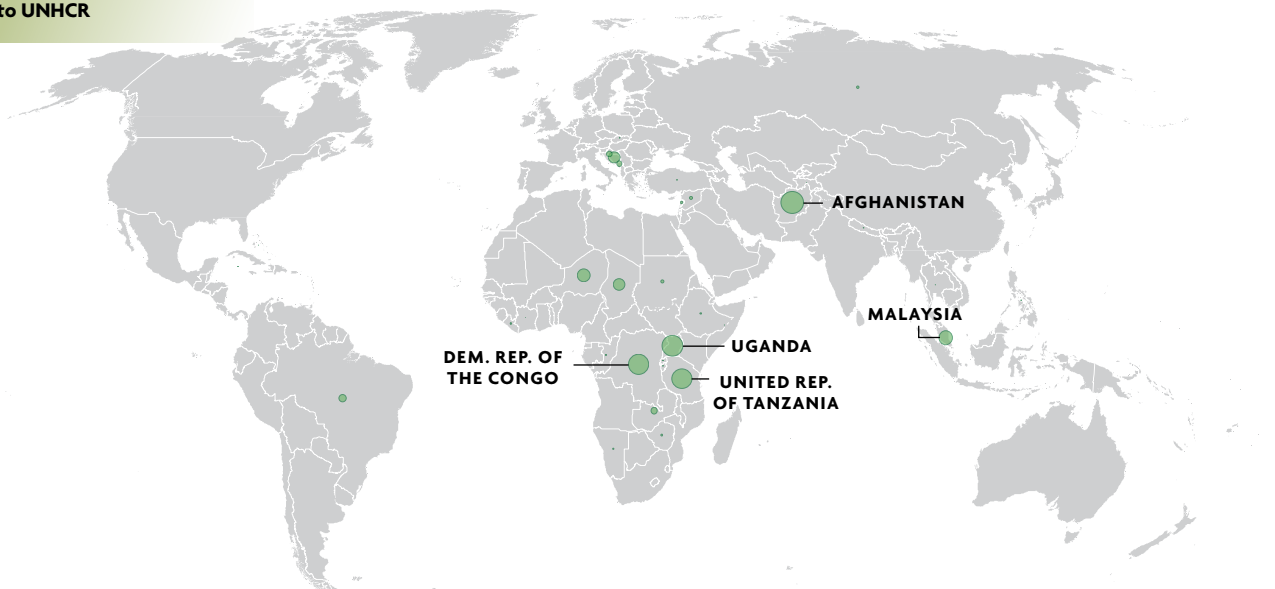
Returned refugees, returned IDPs



Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate



Others of concern to UNHCR



Refugees

By the end of 2014, UNHCR had witnessed continuous growth in the number of refugees. The total number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, including persons in refugee-like situations, was 14.4 million, 23 per cent (2.7 million) more than at the end of 2013. This net annual increase tied the record set during the mid-1990s, when conflicts in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, among others, forced millions to flee their country of origin. The Syrian crisis has directly contributed to the recent increasing trends of refugee populations, in particular in 2013 and 2014.

Some 1.55 million Syrian refugees were newly registered and granted temporary protection during 2014, mainly in neighbouring countries, while an additional 98,000 were granted international protection on an individual basis. Renewed conflicts, violence, or human rights violations in some parts of sub-Saharan Africa forced hundreds of thousands to flee their country, notably from the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan. The prevailing situation in some of these countries has exacerbated the increasing trends in the number of refugees. In addition, more than 283,000 people fled Pakistan and sought refuge in Afghanistan, while outbreak of violence in Ukraine forced hundreds of thousands to seek refuge in the Russian Federation and other countries in Europe.

REGIONS OF ASYLUM

By the end of 2014, all major regions with the exception of the Americas had witnessed an increase in the number of refugees. Europe recorded the highest such increase, 1.3 million persons more

(+74%) than at the start of the year. This increased the number of refugees in that region from 1.8 million individuals in 2013 to 3.1 million individuals in 2014, largely as a result of the influx of Syrian refugees into Turkey. By the end of 2014, Turkey had registered and granted temporary protection to over 1.55 million Syrians. Similarly, the outbreak of large-scale armed conflict in eastern Ukraine led to a massive influx into the Russian Federation and other countries in Europe.

Sub-Saharan Africa too was heavily impacted by several refugee crises, with a year-end figure of 3.7 million refugees compared to 2.9 million at the end of 2013 – the fifth consecutive annual increase. This surge was particularly notable in the sub-regions of the East and Horn of Africa (+562,500) and Central Africa and Great Lakes (+146,600). As such, sub-Saharan Africa hosted the second-largest number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate, with the East and Horn of Africa accounting for the largest share in this region (2.6 million). Renewed conflicts and violence in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Somalia, and South Sudan were major causes behind the increasing number of refugees on the continent.

The number of refugees residing across the Middle East and North Africa region had grown by 13 per cent by the end of 2014, to almost three million. The region hosted the second-highest number of refugees at the end of the reporting period. The crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic forced many individuals to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, notably in Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon.

The Asia and Pacific region was host to the largest number of refugees under the organization's mandate (3.8 million). The region has held this position for more than a decade, mostly as a result of millions of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The number of refugees in the Asia and Pacific region increased by 9 per cent during the year. This growth is partly explained by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran revising the estimated number of Afghan refugees in the country from 814,000 to 950,000, while 283,500 people from Pakistan crossed into the tribal areas of Afghanistan's Khost

Resettled refugees in UNHCR's statistics

Over the past 10 years, some 900,000 refugees have arrived in industrialized countries through resettlement programmes. They are not included in UNHCR's refugee statistics, owing to the fact that they have found a durable solution. However, they do remain of concern to UNHCR. ●

TABLE 2.1 Refugee populations by UNHCR regions | 2014

UNHCR regions	Start-2014			End-2014			Change (total)	
	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Absolute	%
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	508,600	7,400	516,000	625,000	37,600	662,600	146,600	28.4%
- East and Horn of Africa	2,003,400	35,500	2,038,900	2,568,000	33,400	2,601,400	562,500	27.6%
- Southern Africa	134,500	-	134,500	174,700	-	174,700	40,200	29.9%
- West Africa	242,300	-	242,300	252,000	-	252,000	9,700	4.0%
Total Africa*	2,888,800	42,900	2,931,700	3,619,700	71,000	3,690,700	759,000	25.9%
Americas	514,700	291,200	805,900	509,300	259,700	769,000	-36,900	-4.6%
Asia and Pacific	3,267,500	279,500	3,547,000	3,568,500	280,100	3,848,600	301,600	8.5%
Europe	1,771,100	11,400	1,782,500	3,094,600	18,200	3,112,800	1,330,300	74.6%
Middle East and North Africa	2,556,600	74,000	2,630,600	2,898,500	65,400	2,963,900	333,300	12.7%
Total	10,998,700	699,000	11,697,700	13,690,600	694,400	14,385,000	2,687,300	23.0%

Note

* Excluding North Africa.

and Paktika provinces due to military operations in Pakistan's North Waziristan Agency.

With 769,000 refugees, the Americas hosted the lowest number of refugees at the end of 2014. In contrast to all other regions, the Americas saw a decline of 5 per cent during the reporting period. This drop was mainly the result of a revision from 200,000 to 168,500 in the number of Colombians in a refugee-like situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in view of a joint outreach campaign conducted by UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees in 2014.

COUNTRIES OF ASYLUM

The number of countries opening their borders for refugees continues to increase. At the end of 2014, 170 countries around the world hosted the 14.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate, one country more than in 2013 and six more than in 2012. However, the number of refugees in the various countries of asylum is not evenly distributed. For instance, the top 10 refugee-hosting countries combined accounted for 8.2 million or 57 per cent of the global refugee population under UNHCR's mandate.

The year 2014 was marked by a shift in the balance of the main refugee-hosting countries, with the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic noted as the main factor behind this change. For the first time ever, Turkey replaced Pakistan as the world's largest refugee-hosting country,³² after Pakistan had held this rank for more than a decade. The five countries hosting the largest number of Syrian

refugees combined (Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt) accounted for slightly more than one quarter (27%) of the world's refugees under UNHCR's mandate. The Government of Turkey alone had registered and granted temporary protection to some 1.55 million Syrian refugees by the end of 2014.

With 1.5 million refugees in its territory, Pakistan dropped to the second-largest refugee-hosting country, the first time since 2002 that Pakistan has not held the top rank in terms of the number of refugees hosted. The overwhelming majority of refugees in Pakistan originate from Afghanistan. Pakistan's refugee population dropped by 111,000 persons during the year, mainly due to the non-renewal of 135,700 Proof of Registration cards for Afghan refugees. In addition, voluntary repatriation and resettlement departures have also contributed to this drop.

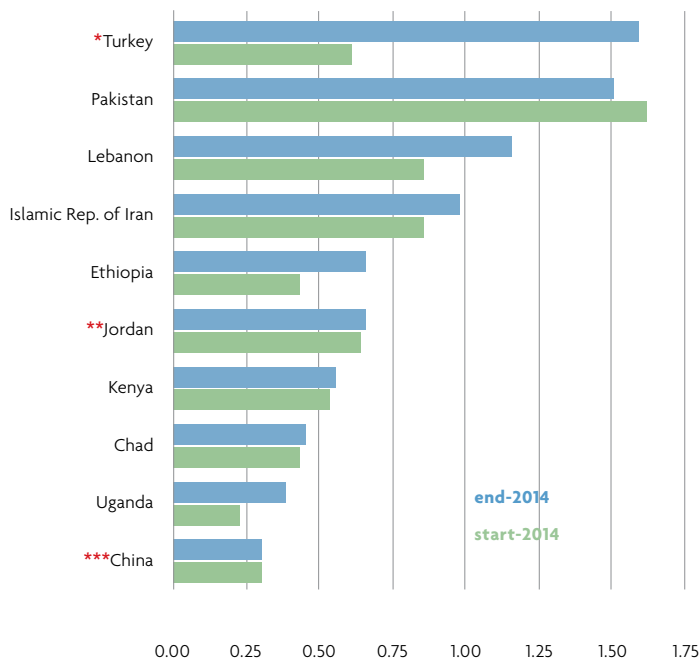
More than 403,600 Syrians were newly registered in Lebanon during 2014. As a result, Lebanon remained the third-largest refugee-hosting country in the world, with a total refugee population of

Protracted refugee situations

UNHCR defines a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees from the same nationality have been in exile for five years or more in a given asylum country. Based on this definition, it is estimated that some 6.4 million refugees (45%) were in a protracted situation by the end of 2014. These refugees were living in 26 host countries, constituting an overall total of 33 protracted situations. ●

³² Limited to refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.

Fig. 2.2 Major refugee-hosting countries | 2014
(in millions)



* Refugee figure for Syrians in Turkey is a Government estimate.

** Includes Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This included refugees and other categories of Iraqis.

*** The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

1.2 million by year-end. Prior to the start of the Syrian crisis in 2011, there were 8,000 refugees in Lebanon.

The Islamic Republic of Iran dropped from the second to the fourth-largest refugee-hosting country by the end of 2014. This was mainly the result of a Government revision in the estimated number of Afghan refugees, from 814,000 to 950,000. As a result, the number of refugees in the country increased to 982,000 by year end. Either Pakistan or the Islamic Republic of Iran has ranked as the world's top refugee-hosting country for over three decades, since the start of the Afghan crisis in 1979.

Ethiopia continued to receive new arrivals in 2014, with 235,800 persons recognized as refugees during the year, mostly from South Sudan (188,500), Eritrea (40,000), and Somalia (6,300). As a result, the total number of refugees in the country grew to 659,500, making it not only the fifth-largest refugee-hosting country in the world but also the largest in sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia thus replaced Kenya, which had occupied this rank for the past several years.

Jordan was heavily affected by the Syrian crisis

after having registered close to 119,000 Syrian refugees during the year. By the end of 2014, Jordan's overall refugee population stood at 654,100 and included 29,300 Iraqi refugees.³³ It ranked as the world's sixth-largest refugee-hosting country.

Kenya was the seventh-largest refugee-hosting country, with 551,400 refugees at the end of 2014. During the year, Kenya recognized 78,500 refugees on a *prima facie* basis, notably from South Sudan (67,000). This increase was partly offset by a verification of registration records among Somali refugees in the Dadaab camps, leading to the deactivation of tens of thousands of individual records. It is assumed that many of these individuals had returned to Somalia spontaneously.

The refugee population in Chad increased for the 13th consecutive year, reaching a new high of 452,900 by the end of 2014. This growth was primarily due to refugee influx from the Central African Republic (14,200).

Fighting in both South Sudan and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo also impacted heavily on Uganda. Some 128,400 South Sudanese were recognized as *prima facie* refugees during 2014, as were 13,300 Congolese. By the end of the year, Uganda was the ninth-largest host country of refugees worldwide, with 385,500 persons, its highest level on record. In contrast, reported numbers of refugees in China (301,000) have remained largely unchanged since the early 1980s, placing the country as the 10th-largest refugee-hosting country for 2014.

Figure 2.2 graphically depicts the 10 major refugee-hosting countries. Together, Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, and the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted more than 5.2 million or 36 per cent of all refugees worldwide. The top 10 refugee-hosting countries combined hosted 57 per cent of all refugees under UNHCR's mandate, with eight of these witnessing at times dramatic increases in their respective refugee figures during the year.

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Until 2011, the Syrian Arab Republic was among the top three countries hosting the largest number of refugees in the world. However, since the outbreak of conflict there in early 2011, the country has moved from well below the top 30 source countries of refugees to the second rank by the end

³³ Limited to refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.

of 2013 – and to the top rank by the end of 2014. As such, the Syrian Arab Republic replaced Afghanistan, which had held the top place for more than 30 consecutive years.

By the end of 2014, there were close to 3.9 million Syrian refugees in 107 countries. But the largest proportion (95%) of these refugees resided in just five countries, Turkey (1.6 million), Lebanon (1.1 million), Jordan (623,100), Iraq (234,200), and Egypt (138,400). Beyond these five, Germany was the country outside the immediate region hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees (41,000). In addition, Syrians lodged some 175,000 individual asylum applications worldwide during the year, most of them in Europe.

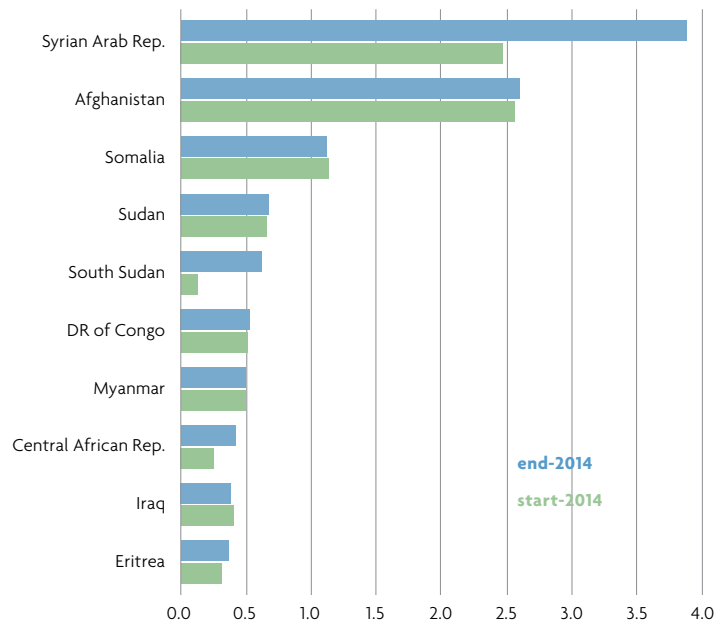
With close to 2.6 million refugees recorded in 92 countries at the end of 2014, Afghans were the second-largest refugee population under UNHCR's mandate. As in previous years, the majority resided in Pakistan (1.5 million) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (950,000). These two countries combined hosted 95 per cent of all Afghan refugees worldwide. Again, Germany was the largest asylum country for Afghan refugees outside the immediate region (27,800).

Somalis remained the third-largest source country of refugees worldwide with close to 1.11 million people at the end of 2014, virtually unchanged compared to the start of the year (1.12 million). During the year, close to 35,900 Somalis were recognized as refugees, notably in Yemen (17,600), Kenya (11,500), and Ethiopia (6,300).

By the end of 2014, Sudan was the fourth-largest source country of refugees with almost 666,000 persons. This constituted a net increase of 17,000 refugees compared to the start of the year. The majority of Sudanese refugees were located in Chad (357,700) and South Sudan (225,700).

South Sudan became a major hotspot in 2014, becoming the world's fifth-largest source country of refugees. The refugee population grew from 114,500 individuals at the end of 2013 to 616,200 one year later. This sharp increase was primarily due to the outbreak of conflict, which started in December 2013 and continued into 2014. By the end of 2014, those fleeing South Sudan had found refuge predominantly in Ethiopia (251,800), Uganda (157,100), Sudan (115,500), and Kenya (89,200).

Fig. 2.3 Major source countries of refugees | 2014 (in millions)



The Democratic Republic of the Congo became the sixth-largest source country of refugees, with 516,800 persons. This was partly the result of 44,000 Congolese being recognized as refugees during the year, notably in Uganda (25,600),³⁴ Burundi (6,800), and Kenya (3,400). Overall, this was the highest level on record for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While Congolese refugees were located in 102 asylum countries around the world, the overwhelming majority was found in sub-Saharan Africa, notably Uganda (178,200), Rwanda (73,400), the United Republic of Tanzania (53,900), and Burundi (52,600).

The number of refugees originating from Myanmar, the seventh-largest source country, remained virtually unchanged from the previous year, standing at 479,000 by the end of 2014. This was in sharp contrast to the refugee population from the Central African Republic, which grew as conflict and violence continued in their country. As such, their number increased from 252,900 to 412,000 within the reporting period, turning the Central African Republic into the eighth-largest refugee source country. This dramatic development was felt particularly in Cameroon, where 116,600 persons were granted refugee status during the year. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (19,500), Chad (14,200), and the Republic of Congo (11,300) were also affected by this outflow.

³⁴ Some 13,200 Congolese were recognized on a prima facie basis, while 12,400 were recognized through individual refugee status determination.

The number of Iraqi refugees dropped from 401,500 individuals at the start of the year to 369,900 one year later. This decline is due to the Government's revision in the number of Iraqi refugees in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 43,300 to 32,000. In addition, about 11,100 Iraqi refugees departed from their asylum countries through resettlement programmes. Iraqis were located mainly in the Syrian Arab Republic (146,200), Germany (41,200), the Islamic Republic of Iran (32,000),³⁵ and Jordan (29,300).³⁶

With 363,100 refugees at the end of the reporting period, Eritrea occupied the 10th place among the major source countries. This figure has now increased for a sixth consecutive year, starting in 2008 when the number of Eritrean refugees was estimated at 186,400. Since then, in light of continuous arrivals into Ethiopia and Sudan, among others, this number has almost doubled. The majority of Eritrean refugees reside in Ethiopia (123,800), Sudan (109,200), Israel (32,700), and European countries (81,100).

Other main source countries of refugees were Colombia, Pakistan, and Ukraine. The number of Colombian refugees (360,300)³⁷ decreased by 36,300 persons compared to the start of the year, mainly as a result of a revision in the number in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In contrast, figures for both Pakistan and Ukraine increased dramatically. In Pakistan, some 283,500 individuals

fled to Afghanistan during the year, due to armed conflict in their country. Likewise, fighting in eastern Ukraine not only displaced more than 800,000 people within the country but also led to 271,200 persons applying for refugee status or temporary asylum in the Russian Federation.

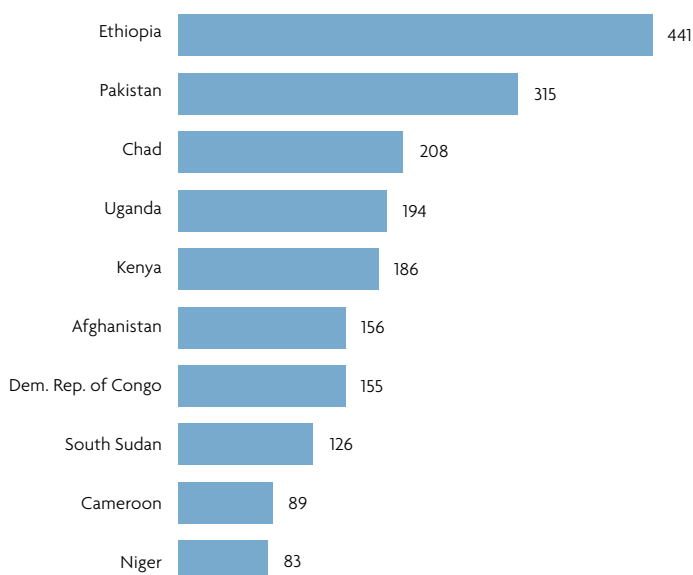
CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOST COUNTRIES

In the absence of internationally recognized standards to measure the burden and impact of refugees on asylum countries, UNHCR traditionally uses two approaches: the number of refugees compared to Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity) per capita and the number of refugees per inhabitants in each country. These two measures allow for general assessment of various countries' contribution toward hosting refugees. In addition, the two measures combined offer different perspectives for measuring both the economic and non-economic contribution of asylum countries.

According to economic assessment, regions in the developing world appear to shoulder much more of the relative share of the burden of hosting refugees than developed countries. The proportion of refugees hosted in the developing world has seen an increasing trend in recent years. For instance, developing regions³⁸ hosted approximately 70 per cent of the world's refugees two decades ago, but this proportion increased to 86 per cent by the end of 2014. As such, developing regions provided asylum to 12.4 million refugees, including 3.6 million (25%) in Least Developed Countries.³⁹

Assessing the impact of refugees by per capita⁴⁰ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP),⁴¹ the economic resources of many countries in the developing world appear to be overstretched. In 2014, the 30 countries with the largest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita were all members of

Fig. 2.4 Number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita | 2014



³⁵ Figures for Iraqi refugees in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran are government estimates.

³⁶ The Government of Jordan estimated the number of Iraqis in the country at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This included refugees and other categories of Iraqis.

³⁷ This figure includes refugees as well persons in a refugee-like situation in Ecuador, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Costa Rica, and Panama.

³⁸ See <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm#ftnc> for a list of countries included under each region.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ Source for national populations: United Nations, Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision*, New York, 2015. For the purpose of this analysis, the 2014 estimates have been taken into account.

⁴¹ Source for GDP (PPP): International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook Database*, October 2015 (accessed 10 November 2015).

developing regions and included 18 Least Developed Countries. At the end of 2014, countries with per capita income below USD 5,000 measured at GDP (PPP) provided asylum to almost 42 per cent (6.1 million) of refugees worldwide.

With 441 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita at the end of 2014, Ethiopia ranked at the top [see **Figure 2.4**] not only for this indicator but also as the largest refugee-hosting country in sub-Saharan Africa. Ethiopia was followed by Pakistan (315), Chad (208), Uganda (194), Kenya (186), and Afghanistan (156). Under this economic criterion, the highest-ranking developed country was the Russian Federation in 33rd place, with nine refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

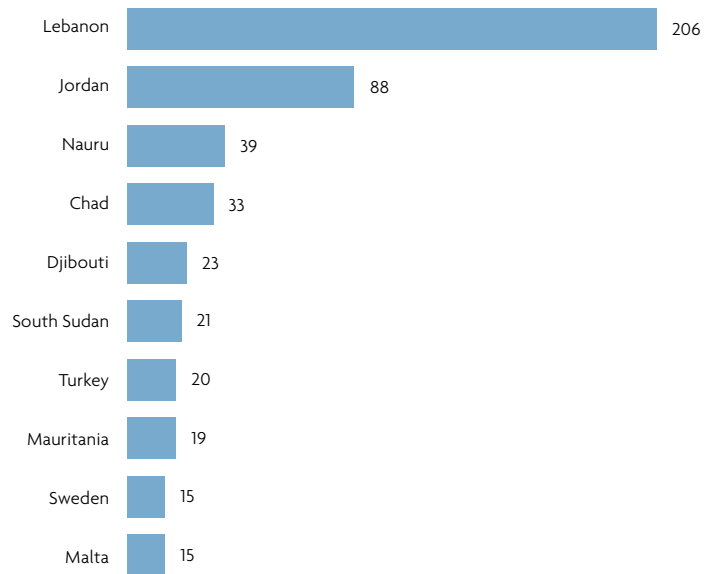
Using non-economic criteria to measure the impact of refugees on asylum countries changes the rankings. Thus, the number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants provides another perspective in measuring the relative impact of hosting refugees. This approach clearly displays the full impact of the Syrian crisis, with both Lebanon and Jordan retaining the top two places. With 206 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants, Lebanon remained at the top of this list, followed by Jordan with 88. Other countries included in this list were Nauru (39), Chad (33), Djibouti (23), South Sudan (21), and Turkey (20) [see **Figure 2.5**].

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

One year ago, the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre reported a then-unprecedented number of IDPs worldwide, some 33.3 million persons. One year later, the number of those displaced by armed conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations had reached a staggering 38.2 million individuals, a level unseen since 1989, the first year for which global statistics on IDPs are available.⁴² Both the global number of IDPs and those protected/assisted by UNHCR had seen an increasing trend during the year.

At the end of 2014, the number of IDPs who benefited from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities, including those in an IDP-like situation,⁴³ stood at 32.3 million. This was the highest figure on record and 8.3 million more than at the end of 2013 (23.9 million). UNHCR offices in 24 countries reported an estimated 8.6 million

Fig. 2.5 Number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants | 2014



newly displaced IDPs during 2014, in particular in Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and South Sudan.

Several years of civil war and armed conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic brought the number of IDPs in that country to an estimated 7.6 million by the end of 2014, the highest such figure worldwide. Despite access and security constraints, UNHCR was able to assist some 4.5 million persons in the country during the year.

With six million IDPs registered by the Government by the end of 2014, Colombia too continued to face a large displacement situation. According to Government estimates, some 137,000 Colombians were newly displaced during the course of the year.

In Iraq, an estimated 2.6 million people were newly displaced during the year as a result of the Islamic State (or 'ISIS') offensive across multiple parts of the country. This was in addition to the one million existing IDPs who had fled violence in previous years.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo saw an estimated one million people newly displaced during the year, principally due to renewed conflict in the eastern part of the country. Similarly, the fighting that broke out in eastern Ukraine in early 2014 resulted in 823,000 people becoming internally displaced by the end of the year, according to the Ukrainian State Emergency Service. The number of IDPs in the Central African Republic,

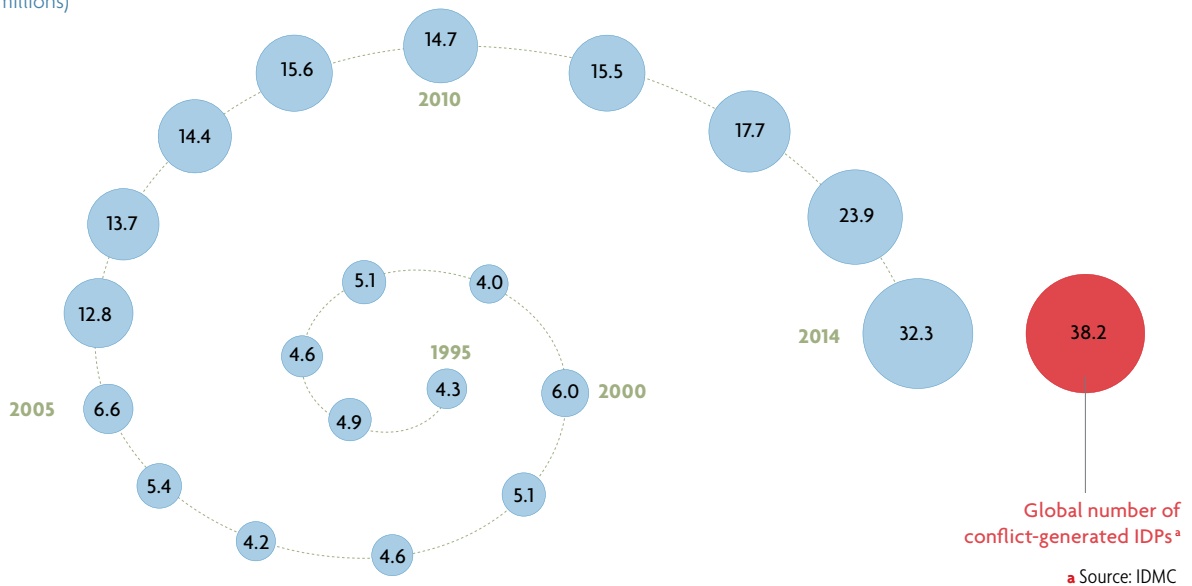
⁴² For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see the IDMC website, at: www.internal-displacement.org.

⁴³ As in Myanmar (35,000), South Sudan (155,200), and Sudan (77,300).

Fig. 2.6

IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR

Includes people in an IDP-like situation since 2007
(in millions)



on other hand, dropped to some 438,000, a half-million fewer than at the end of December 2013.

The conflict in South Sudan, which erupted in December 2013, displaced more than 1.5 million individuals within the country. Significant levels of new internal displacement caused by conflict or violence were also reported in 2014 by Nigeria (837,000 individuals),⁴⁴ Pakistan (704,000), and Libya (309,000).

During 2014, more than 1.8 million IDPs returned to their habitual place of residence, more than a quarter with UNHCR's assistance. The Central African Republic reported the largest number of IDP returnees (611,000), followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (561,000), South Sudan (200,000), and Mali (155,000).

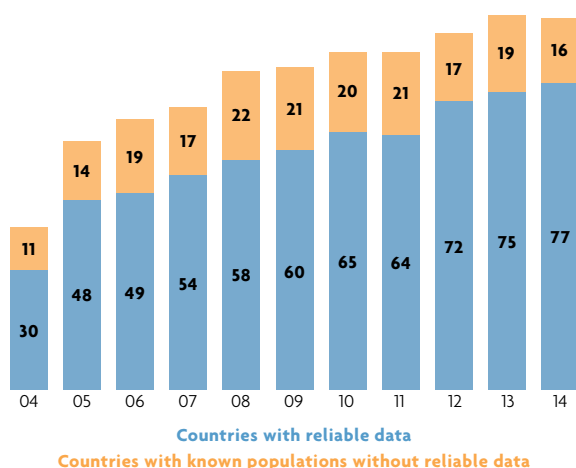
Stateless persons

The reporting year saw a major milestone in UNHCR's efforts to reduce statelessness with the launch of the *Global Action Plan to End Statelessness: 2014–2024*.⁴⁵ This plan sets out a guiding

framework made up of 10 actions that need to be taken into account to end statelessness within 10 years. Successful implementation of the plan will require improved baseline population data.

Fig. 2.7

Number of countries reporting statistics on stateless persons | 2004 - 2014



In general, UNHCR's statistics on individuals falling under its statelessness mandate comprise mainly stateless persons, those not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. However, data from some countries also include persons of undetermined nationality. This Yearbook includes only data on countries for which reliable official statistics or estimates of stateless populations were available. Despite the increased number of countries engaged in reporting and the enhanced reliability of their figures, UNHCR was unable to provide comprehensive statistics on stateless persons in all countries. A considerable gap remains between

⁴⁴ Refers to newly identified IDPs, some of whom may have been displaced prior to 2014.

⁴⁵ See <http://www.unhcr.org/54621bf49.html>.

the data included in this report and the estimated global stateless population, which numbers at least 10 million persons.⁴⁶ Annex Table 7 in this Yearbook includes some countries (marked with an asterisk) for which UNHCR has information about the existence of significant stateless populations but for which no reliable figures were available.

By the end of 2014, statistics on persons falling under UNHCR's statelessness mandate were available for 77 countries, two more than in 2013

Other groups or persons of concern

UNHCR has continued to extend its protection or assistance activities to individuals it considers to be 'of concern' but who do not fall into any of the previous population categories. These activities have been based on humanitarian or other special grounds, and their focus has included former refugees who were assisted to integrate locally as well as asylum-seekers rejected by States but whom UNHCR deemed to be in need of humanitarian assistance.

The number of persons in this category stood at more than one million by year end. One fifth of this number was made up of Afghans – former refugees who continue to face economic and security challenges during the course of reintegration. UNHCR continues to provide assistance to the most vulnerable part of this population. The situation is similar for the 109,000 former Congolese refugees who have returned from the Republic of Congo and who continue to be assisted by UNHCR and its partners.

The second-largest number of this population category was reported by Uganda. An estimated 180,000 persons – Ugandans living in refugee-hosting communities – benefitted from services such as health, education, water, and sanitation provided by UNHCR.

This category also included former Angolan refugees whose refugee status had ended as a result of cessation in 2012 but whose local integration continued to be monitored by UNHCR, notably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (43,900) and Zambia (18,200). An increasing number of host communities directly or indirectly affected by displacement are also included among those considered to be others of concern by UNHCR, as is the case for Uganda. ■

[see **Figure 2.7**]. This compared to just 30 countries in 2004 and reflected the efforts of UNHCR's offices to gather better data on statelessness. For 2014, UNHCR's offices reported a figure of almost 3.5 million stateless persons.

Meanwhile, progress continued on reducing the number of stateless persons through the acquisition or confirmation of nationality. At least 37,100 stateless persons in 23 countries acquired nationality during 2014.

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF MAJOR HOST AND SOURCE COUNTRIES OF REFUGEES, 1980-2014

Today, many countries continue to faithfully discharge their humanitarian duty and generously open their doors to host an increasing number of refugees.

For instance, 170 countries or territories hosted 14.4 million refugees under UNHCR's mandate at the end of 2014, compared to the less than 100 that hosted 8.5 million refugees at the end of 1980. While parts of this upward trend can be attributed to improved statistical reporting over time, it is also evident that some countries have continued to host more refugees than others.

Between 1980 and 2014, 58 countries have been among the top 20 refugee-hosting countries at least once. This includes Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America, Germany, and China, each of which has been consistently among the top 20 for almost 35 years. Afghanistan appeared among the top 20 refugee-hosting countries for the first time in 2014. Coincidentally, this was the first time in more than three decades that Afghanistan had dropped from being the top source country of refugees worldwide.

Turkey has not been included among the top 20 refugee-hosting countries until 2012, when it appeared at the 10th rank. One year later, it had moved up the list to the fifth place, only to become the world's largest refugee-hosting country in 2014. This is the direct result of the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic. In general, conflicts in the MENA region have had a profound impact on the shift of refugee-hosting countries, particularly in Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. Both Turkey and Lebanon, in 2014 ranked first and third, respectively, would not have been among even the top 20 refugee-hosting countries just four years ago.

In terms of country of origin, since 1980 some 50 countries have featured at least once among the top 20 source countries of refugees. Twelve have featured among the top 20 in at least 20 of these 35 years, implying that war, conflict, or persecution has been occurring either consistently or repeatedly in some of these countries. Afghanistan, Iraq, and Viet Nam are the only countries that have consistently been included among the top 20 source countries, with Afghanistan ranked as number one between 1981 and 2013.

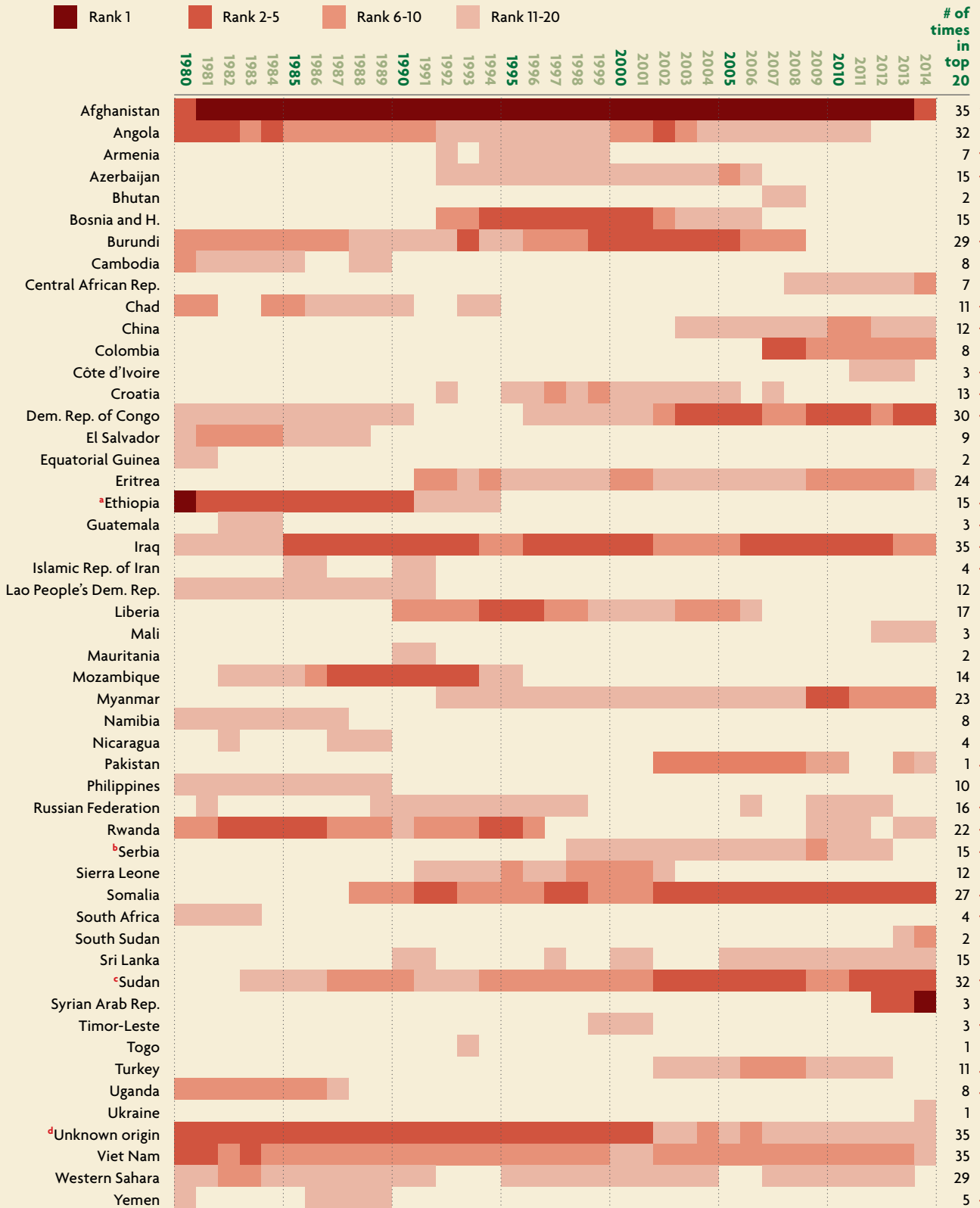
The Syrian Arab Republic was not included among the top 20 until 2012. Since then, it has not only featured among the top 20 source countries but in fact occupied the top rank in 2014. ●

⁴⁶ See 2013 *Statistical Yearbook*, pp. 41-47, for a discussion on the challenges associated with enumerating the world's stateless populations.

Fig. 2.8

Historical review of major source countries/territories of refugees

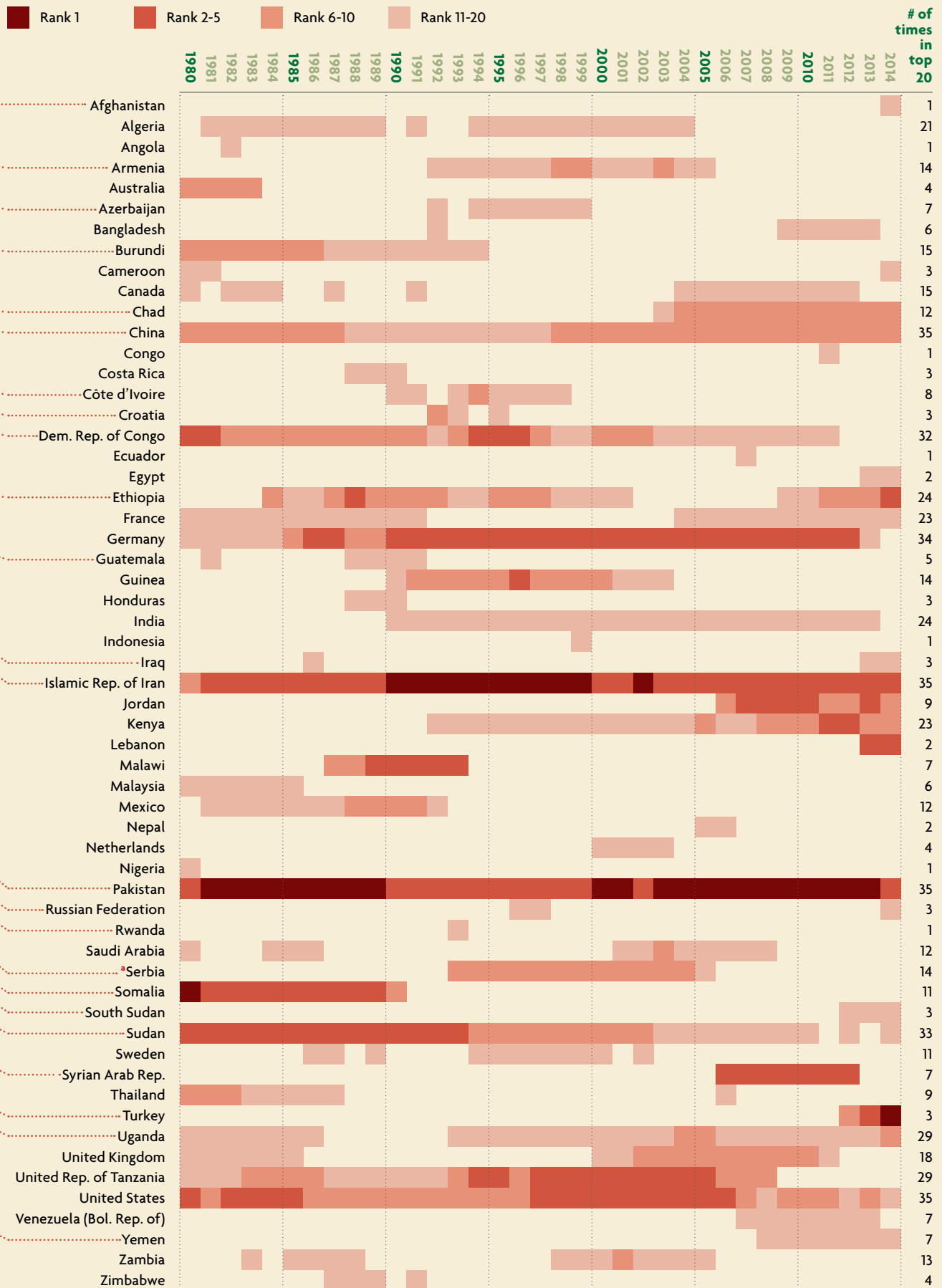
This matrix depicts the annual ranking of countries/territories of origin of refugees since 1980. Countries/territories are listed if they featured among the top-20 at least once. Individual rankings are the result of population movements, demographic and legal changes, data revisions and re-classification of individual population groups. Palestinian refugees under UNHCR's mandate are excluded as a result of incomplete data.



a Ethiopia: includes Eritrea until its independence in the absence of separate statistics available for both countries.
 b Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)). Includes Montenegro until its independence in the absence of separate statistics available for both countries.
 c Sudan: includes South Sudan until its independence in the absence of separate statistics available for both countries.
 d Unknown origin: Refers to refugees whose country of origin is unknown. Data availability has improved significantly over the years.

Historical review of major asylum countries of refugees

This matrix depicts the annual ranking of asylum countries of refugees since 1980. Countries are listed if they featured among the top-20 at least once. Individual rankings are the result of population movements, demographic and legal changes, data revisions and re-classification of individual population groups.



^a Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)). Data concerning the former Yugoslavia as well as Serbia and Montenegro have been reported under Serbia.



Angolan refugees, some of whom had been living in exile in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for up to 40 years, journey back to their homeland by train from Kinshasa. Over the course of 2014, 126,800 refugees returned to their country of origin worldwide. This figure was the lowest level of refugee returns since 1983.



Durable Solutions and New Displacement

Protection and durable solutions for refugees have been inseparable core mandates of UNHCR since its creation in 1951. Finding durable solutions for refugees is equally important as providing them with necessary protection, as backed by the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. The Convention encourages signatory states to find permanent solutions for refugees, a mandate affirmed and supported by other regional instruments.

As in previous years, UNHCR continued to pursue its mandate of finding durable solutions for refugees in 2014. Three traditional types of durable solutions are being pursued – voluntary repatriation, resettlement, and local integration. Importantly, any combination of these can be simultaneously pursued in any country, as pursuing one solution does not prevent the pursuance of others.

Each year, thousands of refugees find a durable solution by repatriating to their home country, integrating locally into a host society, or obtaining permanent settlement in a third country. In addition to providing protection, seeking and finding solutions for refugees is a core activity for UNHCR, together with the governments concerned. For this reason, the agency's Executive Committee has re-emphasized that 'the seeking of solutions is a mandatory function' of the Office.

The factors that determine the implementation of these solutions can differ from one region

to another and sometimes from country to country. Unfortunately, these factors are often outside UNHCR's operational activities and have increasingly contributed to challenges in finding durable solutions for refugees. For instance, continuous armed conflict, war, persecution, and political instability have each had a direct impact on the number of refugee returns in recent years. In some cases, these factors have also had an impact on UNHCR's local integration and resettlement activities.

Governments, UNHCR, refugees, and other key stakeholders contribute to finding durable solutions. For instance, UNHCR records show that refugees often facilitate their search for durable solutions by enhancing their skills through education, capacity-building, training, and work experience, among others. On the basis of such activities, refugees can engage in sustainable livelihoods that can ultimately reduce their dependence on humanitarian assistance and support. It is important to underline that refugees can be beneficial to their host countries based on their skills, expertise, and work experience, thus strengthening the overall economic development of their host countries.

The first part of this chapter analyses progress toward achieving durable solutions for refugees during 2014. As local integration can take many shapes, it is often difficult to quantify in numerical terms. Thus, this chapter's section on that issue looks into alternative forms of local integration

that go beyond the naturalization of refugees.

Progress toward achieving durable solutions is partly offset by new outflows of refugees. Each year, thousands of refugees flee their home country and are recognized either on an individual or

prima facie basis. The main focus of this chapter is on *prima facie* refugee outflows, while asylum applications and refugee status determination are reviewed in detail in Chapter IV.

Return of refugees

Available evidence indicates that voluntary refugee returns constitute the largest durable solution in statistical terms. The total number of refugee returns each year tends to be higher than that of both resettlement and local integration combined. Refugees can choose to return voluntarily, but not until the protection climate is considered acceptable in their country of origin to allow them to return in safety and dignity.

The key factor determining the voluntary return of refugees is based on free and informed decision. Proximity has been seen as a key factor in influencing refugee returns, with large numbers of refugees often returning when the country of asylum is closer to their country of origin. Generally, voluntary returns are relatively low for refugees residing in asylum countries considered to be industrialized and far away from their country of origin.

The voluntary repatriation of refugees involves many processes that can last for a significant period of time. These typically include registration,

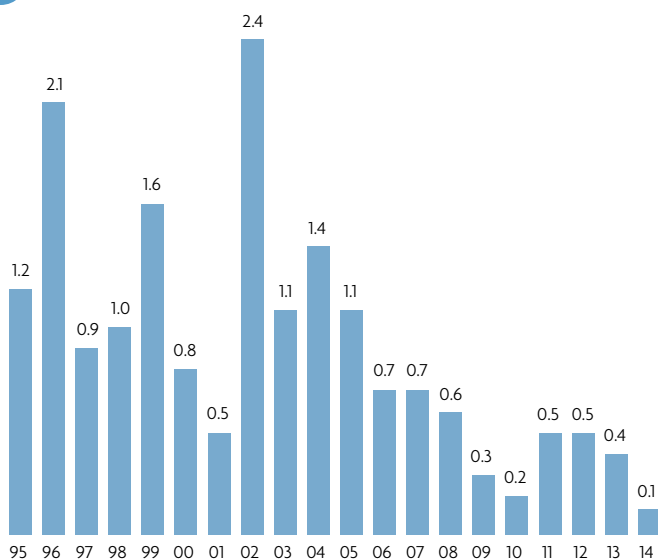
screening, transportation arrangements, negotiating repatriation agreements, and offering repatriation packages. During this process, particular attention is often paid to refugees with specific needs, including the aged, individuals with disabilities, pregnant women, and children.

During the past 20 years, some 18.2 million refugees returned to their country of origin, 10.8 million with UNHCR's assistance (60%). During this period, the largest number of returnees was recorded in 2002, when 2.4 million refugees were able to return home. In general, the past decade has witnessed a significantly lower number of refugee returns (5.2 million) than the preceding decade (13.0 million). This implies that many more refugees remain in exile and in a protracted situation.

During 2014, 126,800 refugees returned to their country of origin, virtually all of them with UNHCR assistance.⁴⁷ This is the lowest number recorded since 1983, when 103,000 refugees returned. The 2014 figure is also significantly below the level observed one year earlier (414,600). Clearly, war and the general political insecurity witnessed around the world in recent years have contributed to the prevailing trends.

Refugees from 37 countries were reported to have returned home in 2014. The countries that reported the largest numbers included the Democratic Republic of the Congo (25,200), Mali (21,000), Afghanistan (17,800), Angola (14,300), Sudan (13,100), Côte d'Ivoire (12,400), Iraq (10,900), and Rwanda (5,800). These eight countries combined accounted for 95 per cent of total refugee returns during the year.

Fig. 3.1 Refugee returns | 1995-2014 (in millions)



⁴⁷ Based on consolidated reports from countries of asylum (departure) and origin (return).

The number of countries that reported the departure of at least one refugee to his or her country dropped from 93 in 2013 to 90 in 2014. Countries of asylum with significant numbers of refugee departures included the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (19,000), Chad (13,100), Pakistan (13,000), Liberia (12,200), the Republic of Congo (10,300), Burkina Faso (7,700), and the Central African Republic (7,200).

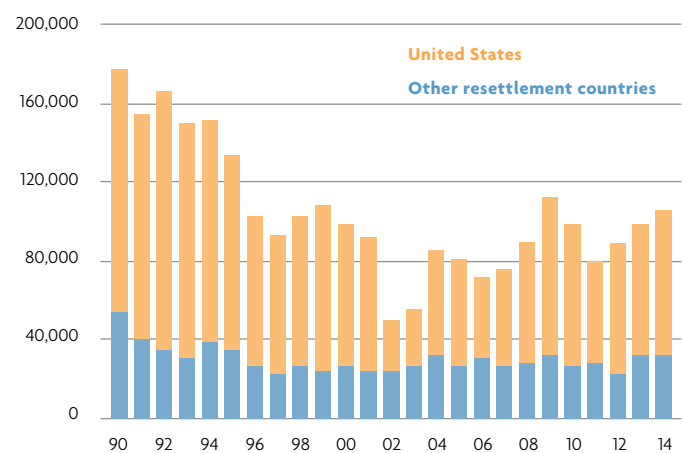
Resettlement of refugees

The Statute establishing UNHCR mandates the Office to pursue resettlement as one of the core durable solutions, as affirmed by multiple UN General Assembly resolutions. Resettlement is pursued within the framework of UNHCR’s international protection mandate as enshrined in its Statute. As a result, the interests and protection of refugees are the guiding principles for transferring refugees from an asylum country to another State. It is imperative to note that States admitting refugees for resettlement must have the mechanisms needed to ensure the rights and protection of resettled refugees. UNHCR ensures that refugees are resettled in dignity and in safety in countries admitting them.

The number of countries admitting refugees for resettlement has remained relatively stagnant in recent years. Likewise, the number of available resettlement places has not grown significantly. These trends are in contrast to the number of resettlement claims, which continues to rise from year to year. UNHCR has not relaxed its efforts to advocate for more countries to offer resettlement places and for countries to increase their resettlement quotas.

UNHCR continues to assist refugees throughout the various processes of resettlement. In 2014, UNHCR offices in 80 countries presented more than 103,800 refugees to States for resettlement consideration.⁴⁸ The main beneficiaries were refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic (21,200), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (18,800), Myanmar (15,200), Iraq (11,800), and Somalia (9,400). Women and girls at risk represented more than 12 per cent of total submissions, surpassing for a fourth consecutive year the 10 per cent target

Fig. 3.2 Resettlement arrivals of refugees | 1990-2014



set to implement Executive Committee Conclusion No. 105 (2006).⁴⁹ Over four-fifths of submissions were made under three submission categories: legal and/or physical protection needs (33%), lack of foreseeable alternative durable solutions (26%), and survivors of violence and/or torture (22%).

According to government statistics, 26 countries admitted a total of 105,200 refugees in 2014. This is not only five more countries than in 2013, but it is also the highest level since 2009. The 2014 level represents 6,800 more refugees admitted than the previous year (98,400). The total number of resettled refugees (900,000) for the past decade is almost at par with the previous decade, 1995-2004 (923,000).

Among the 105,200 refugees admitted during the year, Iraqi refugees constituted the largest group (25,800). This was followed by those from Myanmar (17,900), Somalia (11,900), Bhutan (8,200), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (7,100), and the Syrian Arab Republic (6,400).

Under its resettlement programme, the United States of America continued to admit the largest number of refugees worldwide. It admitted 73,000 refugees during 2014, more than two-thirds (70%)

⁴⁸ For detailed information on UNHCR-assisted resettlement activities, see <http://unhcr.org/559ce97f9.html>.

⁴⁹ See <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e6e6dd6.html>.

of total resettlement admissions.⁵⁰ Other countries that admitted large numbers of refugees included Canada (12,300), Australia (11,600), Sweden (2,000), Norway (1,300), and Finland (1,100).⁵¹

More than 80 UNHCR offices around the world

were engaged in resettlement activities during the year. The largest number of UNHCR-assisted refugee departures left from Malaysia (11,000), Turkey (8,900), Nepal (8,500), Thailand (7,100), Lebanon (6,200), and Kenya (4,900).

Local integration

A statistical report requires quantitative data and measurements, but this is easier to obtain in some areas than in others. Unlike other solutions, by its very nature, local integration is more difficult to quantify for reasons related to difficulties with obtaining reliable data and the importance of qualitative aspects of integration. Reporting on repatriation essentially requires a headcount of individuals crossing a border to re-avail themselves of State protection – relatively clear-cut and objective data. Resettlement statistics are similarly straightforward, at least until it is necessary to measure the level of integration into receiving communities. Measuring the level of integration, whether of IDPs, refugees or asylum-seekers, is a greater challenge, given that integration, like re-integration, is a complex process involving multiple indicators, including qualitative ones and therefore more difficult to define.

Broadly speaking, local integration can be understood as the gradual inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and stateless persons in their host country. This entails the progressive enjoyment of rights, increasing access to national services and social and cultural networks, and an absence of discrimination. Ideally, this process results in full local integration, which occurs when refugees and other persons of concern experience the following:

- They enjoy the same rights and access to national services and systems as nationals and non-refugee permanent residents (to the

furthest extent, being recognized as a national with all derivative rights).

- They are not discriminated against on the basis of their legal status or country of origin.
- And they enjoy peaceful co-existence with the local population and participate in the social and cultural life of the wider host community.

However, these elements are largely descriptive and qualitative. Clearly, many key aspects of integration are context-specific and to a certain extent subjective. In almost every situation, though, full local integration is enjoyed when persons of concern enjoy inclusion across legal, economic, social, cultural, and political spheres.

To concretize the definition of integration, it is helpful to consider four broad dimensions of integration:

- **Legal:** A permanent or renewable legal residency status entailing a range of rights and entitlements by the host State that are broadly commensurate with those enjoyed by its nationals and, in some cases, the acquisition of nationality in the country of asylum.
- **Economic:** Enjoyment of economic rights and services, including the right to work, access to income-generating opportunities, access to financial services, and access to social security benefits (to the extent that they exist) such as welfare and unemployment insurance, commensurate with that of nationals and of non-refugee permanent residents.
- **Social and cultural:** Access to national and local services (to the extent that they exist) including health care, education, public housing, etc., through the same pathways and to the same level as nationals and non-refugee permanent residents. An environment that enables refugees to live among or alongside the host

⁵⁰ During US fiscal year 2014, some 70,000 were resettled to the United States of America.

⁵¹ According to the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, 280 refugees were resettled to Germany in 2014. An additional 7,403 persons arrived under a special Humanitarian Admission Programme (HAP) for Syrian refugees. The German Government does not consider the HAP to be a resettlement programme. Another 6,120 persons arrived under admission programmes established by the German Federal States.



The Farid family from the Syrian Arab Republic was resettled in Torsby, Sweden. The oldest son Mahmoud has been going to the local school, where he learned Swedish and made many friends. He is well integrated and enjoys playing hockey at the rink outside his classroom.

population, without discrimination or exploitation, and to contribute actively to the social life of their country of asylum.

- **Civil and political:** Access to justice (courts and other complaints mechanisms, including lack of discrimination in judicial procedures) and enjoyment of civil and political rights, including the right of association, the right to join political parties, freedom of speech, etc. to the same degree as nationals or non-refugee permanent residents. Also, to the furthest extent possible depending on legal status, enjoying the right to vote.

Dividing integration into separate dimensions is not helpful only in identifying what to measure.

It also makes it clear that successful and sustained integration is a comprehensive concept that goes well beyond the acquisition of a document confirming a new legal status – even naturalization. The key elements of integration could also be used as those of a protection and solutions strategy to improve the quality of life of refugees, even in contexts where permanent local integration is not immediately available or the desired result. This line of thinking underscores that progress in each area is important in its own right – not only as part of a larger whole.

DURING THE PAST 20 YEARS, SOME 18.2 MILLION REFUGEES RETURNED TO THEIR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, 10.8 MILLION WITH UNHCR'S ASSISTANCE (60%).

THE PAST DECADE HAS WITNESSED A SIGNIFICANTLY LOWER NUMBER OF REFUGEE RETURNS (5.2 MILLION) THAN THE PRECEDING DECADE (13.0 MILLION).

THIS IMPLIES THAT MANY MORE REFUGEES REMAIN IN EXILE AND IN A PROTRACTED SITUATION.

Integration in 2014

Some elements of integration are easier to measure than others – for instance, the number of countries that publish statistics on naturalized refugees. In 2014, 27 countries did so, five fewer than the previous year. As a result, measuring local integration through official statistics remains a challenge, as data on the naturalization of refugees are often unreported. Similarly, the availability of data on naturalization is limited by the fact that countries often do not distinguish between naturalized refu-

gees and non-refugees in their national statistical systems. Overall, in 2014, 27 countries reported the granting of citizenship to some 32,100 refugees, notably in Canada (27,200) and France (2,400).

In addition, during 2014, UNHCR measured visible progress in the area of legal integration. Some examples include the following:

- In the United Republic of Tanzania, the President authorized the relevant authorities to begin issuing naturalization certificates to over

162,000 former Burundian refugees. By the end of 2014, naturalization had been facilitated for 12,159 Burundians, and by September 2015 more than 90 per cent had received their naturalization certificates.

- In India, UNHCR dedicated significant effort to advocating with the Ministry of Home Affairs for the simplification of naturalization procedures for certain refugees from Afghanistan. In November 2014, a breakthrough was achieved in the issuance of a directive simplifying the passport-renunciation process required to obtain Indian citizenship. The measurable progress in 2014 was modest, with only 53 persons obtaining citizenship, 1.3 per cent of the total number that had applied for naturalization. Nevertheless, this represents a nearly fivefold increase compared to previous years – and offers proof of a viable pathway. More importantly, the issuance of the new directive is expected to expedite the naturalization process in 2015.

Progress was also made in socio-economic areas of integration, which are typically more difficult to measure. These include the following:

- In Brazil, learning the local language has been identified as an important obstacle to local integration. To address this, UNHCR partnered with OP Cursinho Mafalda to develop free

language-learning materials to be shared with new partners and persons of concern.

- In Panama, advocacy efforts led the Superintendencia de Bancos de Panama to issue a general resolution addressed to the banking sector, according to which the refugee identification card is acknowledged as valid ID. The resolution also set out a 2015 work plan between UNHCR, the National Office for the Attention of Refugees and other partners to map current access of refugees to financial institutions with the view of identifying and addressing remaining obstacles.
- In Namibia, although the legal framework does not allow for the formal local integration of refugees, the Government took steps to include refugees in State health services and educational institutions.

These represent significant achievements with substantial impact on the enjoyment of socio-economic rights by persons of concern to UNHCR, regardless of whether formal local integration is foreseen as the long-term solution in these areas. However, systemic change and social impact is difficult to quantify and therefore difficult to measure with existing indicators, suggesting that there may be a need to measure and monitor integration in a different manner.

Measuring Integration in the Future

A number of recent initiatives for measuring integration suggest that UNHCR is not the only actor working toward a more standard way of approaching this issue. States, NGOs, and international organizations are taking different approaches globally. Some, such as the EU Migrant Integration Policy Index (MIPEX),⁵² focus on monitoring the legal and administrative framework and policies applicable in the country of integration. Others use census data to measure integration, basing their calculation on the difference in census data between the local population and refugees and immigrants. Still other initiatives focus on measuring experienced integration, obtaining information from refugees through surveys. Some methodologies, such as that being developed by the Joint IDP Profiling Service,⁵³ combine these and other approaches and will be producing

a library and guidance to help in the selection of locally appropriate indicators.

There is no single formula for measuring integration. However, as UNHCR is making progress toward defining integration, it is also making progress toward identifying a uniform approach to measuring this issue.

At a global level, change is reflected in the new Global Strategic Priority (GSP) indicator on local integration selected for 2016–2017. In past years, operations were requested to report as a GSP on the percentage of persons of concern attaining full local integration – in practice, normally those attaining legal integration in a given year. From 2016,

⁵² See <http://www.mipex.eu/>.

⁵³ See www.jips.org.



An extended family of Afghan asylum-seekers, newly arrived on Greece's Lesbos Island, wait on the beach for the police to register them. Ongoing conflict in places like Afghanistan, Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic, leaving millions of people in protracted displacement and increasingly difficult situations, is forcing many to take to the seas on dangerous journeys to seek asylum in Europe.

operations are requested to report on the 'extent to which social and economic integration is realized'.

Operations are required to base their reporting on an assessment of five different elements relating to the population of concern:

- Social and economic rights formally enjoyed (legal framework);
- Access to livelihoods and financial services (equal access to economic opportunities);
- Mainstreaming into national services (equal access to social services);
- Peaceful co-existence and positive interaction with local community (relations between population of concern and local community); and
- Experienced level of social and economic integration (subjectively experienced integration).

To strike a balance between complexity and feasibility, operations are requested to measure each

area through the use of one or two proxy indicators, with a given value attached to each answer. To ensure consistent and comparable reporting, the same proxy indicators are applied to all operations. The indicator may also be applied to IDP, stateless, and returnee populations, which, although facing different challenges related to their legal status, will often stand apart socially and/or economically from the populations among which they live.

The data informing the various elements may vary between operations, in recognition of their different contexts and data collection capacities. Possible data sources could include surveys conducted among communities, censuses, participatory assessments, legal and policy framework mapping, and socio-economic data collected through registration interviews, among others.

The choice of elements in UNHCR's monitoring

framework reflects an approach to integration that is context-specific, rights-based, and centred on the experience of persons of concern, and which also aims to identify obstacles for operations to address in the future. UNHCR recognizes that no framework or measurement tool will be able to address all concerns and that none can enable a fully detailed articulation of the achievements and obstacles in local integration each year. Measuring integration is not an exact science. However, with the new GSP indicator, UNHCR is making progress toward unpacking a concept that is increasingly viewed as central to the search for durable solutions.

INTEGRATION AND SOLUTIONS

The change in the GSP indicator reflects an organizational shift toward a more progressive approach to solutions. Legal integration, generally considered the final stage of local integration, typically happens either in one step or in several steps over a short period, making it difficult to measure progress toward this goal. Social and economic integration, on the other hand, is a gradual process, which allows for measuring changes over time.

Legal integration will of course continue to be pursued and monitored, in particular through indicators counting residence permits and numbers of persons naturalized. However, the change in the GSP indicator reflects that social and economic integration is considered an important

strategic priority for UNHCR in and of itself, as well as being central to the eventual achievement of definitive solutions. It mirrors a growing understanding – within and outside the agency – that the different elements of integration have multiple potential benefits, not necessarily related to attaining the durable solution of local integration.

Fundamentally, how a displaced person fares in the future – whether in a country or place of asylum, country of origin, or in a third country – depends on the assets maintained and developed while displaced. These assets, understood broadly as encompassing belongings, wealth, health, and skills, are not beneficial only to refugees and IDPs. They are also potentially beneficial to communities in areas of return or relocation or in countries of resettlement. These assets may also equip displaced populations to help address root causes of displacement in their countries and areas of origin.

In some contexts, progress in the integration of refugees may be an important step toward the durable solution of local integration. In other contexts, it may be an important step toward other solutions. Measuring the extent of economic, social, cultural, or legal integration can thus be considered a measurement of quality of life during asylum as well as progress toward the eventual attainment of durable solutions, whether or not the end goal has been identified.

■ New refugee displacement

The year 2014 saw a level of new displacement that had not been seen in many years. An estimated 2.9 million individuals were newly displaced during 2014, most notably from the Syrian Arab Republic. These 2.9 million new refugees joined the 2.5 million persons who had become refugees over the course of 2013. Some 1.55 million Syrian refugees were newly registered and granted temporary protection during the year, mainly in neighbouring countries.

In addition, hundreds of thousands more fled their countries across Africa, from South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and

Somalia. While 283,500 individuals fled outbreaks of violence in Pakistan and sought refuge in Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians likewise fled to the Russian Federation and other countries in Europe.

Of the total new refugee displacements during 2014, the largest numbers of newly registered refugees were reported by Turkey (1 million), Lebanon (355,400), Afghanistan (283,500), the Russian Federation (250,000), Ethiopia (235,800), and Cameroon (149,100). ■



Somali refugee children learn English at a primary school in Kobe refugee camp near Dollo Ado, Ethiopia. Globally, children below the age of 18 constituted 51 per cent of the refugee population in 2014, up from 41 per cent in 2009 and the highest figure in more than a decade.



4 Asylum and Refugee Status Determination

States bear the main responsibility for carrying out refugee status determination (RSD). However, in some countries UNHCR cooperates with governments in establishing fair and efficient asylum procedures. If national asylum procedures do not exist, are insufficient to identify protection needs, or when the government has restricted the application of the 1951 Convention, then UNHCR is compelled to conduct RSD under its mandate. In a few countries, UNHCR also undertakes RSD for the purpose of identifying persons with resettlement needs.

National asylum statistics constitute an important element in the monitoring of fair and efficient asylum procedures. Yet due to divergent asylum policies and practices across countries and regions, these statistics are far from harmonized and thus sometimes difficult to compare.

For the 173 countries and territories for which information was available for 2014, governments

were responsible for RSD in 103 countries (60%), and UNHCR was responsible in 51 countries (29%). In addition, UNHCR conducted mandate RSD in parallel to government and/or joint RSD procedures in 19 countries/territories (11%). Overall, these figures are virtually identical to last year's.

This chapter presents a global overview of RSD in 2014, including asylum applications submitted and relevant decisions taken. It also provides a brief overview of asylum applications lodged by unaccompanied and separated children. This chapter concludes with a contribution by the European Asylum Support Office and its work on harmonizing asylum statistics in Europe through the 'Group for the Provision of Statistics'.

It is important to note that this chapter does not include information on mass influxes of refugees, nor on those granted refugee status on a group or *prima facie* basis.

Global Trends

APPLICATIONS

More than 1.6 million individual applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments or UNHCR in 157 countries or territories during 2014, the highest level ever recorded. An estimated 1.47 million of these were initial applications⁵⁴ submitted at 'first instance' procedures, while some 191,400 were submitted on appeal, including to courts.⁵⁵ This figure includes repeated asylum claims. Some 68 countries received more than 1,000 new asylum claims in 2014, compared to 67 a year earlier.

TABLE 4.1 New and appeal applications registered

	2011	2012	2013	2014
State	734,100	781,400	870,700	1,402,800
UNHCR	98,800	125,500	203,200	245,600
Jointly*	31,700	22,800	5,800	12,900
Total	864,600	929,700	1,079,700	1,661,300
% UNHCR only	11%	13%	19%	15%

* Refers to refugee status determination conducted jointly by UNHCR and governments.

In 2014, UNHCR offices registered a record-high 245,600 individual asylum applications, including 11,200 on appeal or for review. In absolute terms, this was significantly more than during 2012 (125,500) and 2013 (203,200). In relative terms, however, the Office's share in the global number of individual asylum applications registered fell from 19 to 15 per cent. This was the result of some States recording significantly more individual asylum requests during 2014 than in previous years, notably the Russian Federation and Germany.

TABLE 4.2 New asylum claims registered in top 10 UNHCR offices (2014)*

	2012	2013	2014
Turkey**	26,500	44,800	87,800
Jordan	2,500	6,700	29,100
Malaysia	19,400	53,600	25,700
Lebanon	1,800	2,800	14,500
Kenya	20,000	19,200	12,100
Egypt***	6,700	10,800	10,000
Cameroon	3,500	5,800	9,100
India	2,900	5,600	7,000
Pakistan***	3,900	5,200	5,800
Indonesia	7,200	8,300	5,700

* Excluding appeal/review claims.

** Includes asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR as well as asylum-seekers who have been pre-registered but who are pending official registration with UNHCR.

*** Includes appeal claims (2012-2013)

The UNHCR office in Turkey received the largest number of new requests (87,800), followed by Jordan (29,100), Malaysia (25,700), Lebanon (14,500), and Kenya (12,100).⁵⁶ Six out of the 10 major recipients of individual asylum applications in 2014 listed in Table 4.2 experienced an increase during the year. The top five UNHCR offices receiving asylum applications in 2014 registered 72 per cent of all new claims for the year. Further, four-fifths of all individual asylum applications registered by UNHCR in 2014 were concentrated in just seven countries.

NEW INDIVIDUAL ASYLUM APPLICATIONS REGISTERED

By country of asylum

With 274,700 registered individual asylum requests, the Russian Federation became the largest single recipient of new such claims worldwide in 2014. This figure includes about 7,000 applications for refugee status and 267,800 applications for temporary asylum. In previous years, the combined figure had never exceeded 5,000. Outbreak of conflict in eastern Ukraine had a major impact on the 2014 figures, in view of the fact that 271,200 or close to 99 per cent of claims in the Russian Federation were lodged by Ukrainians. The last time a country had registered a comparable figure was in 2009, when South Africa reported that 222,300 persons had lodged individual asylum requests, many of them from Zimbabwe.

The Russian Federation was followed by Germany with 173,100 new individual asylum applications registered during 2014. This figure is significantly higher than that registered a year earlier (109,600) and the seventh consecutive annual increase for Germany. Compared with the country's low in 2007 (19,200 new claims), these figures have increased nine-fold over seven years.

⁵⁴ The data for some countries includes a significant number of repeat claims, i.e. the applicant has submitted at least one previous application in the same or another country.

⁵⁵ Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR's statistics, particularly in industrialized countries, because this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published separately.

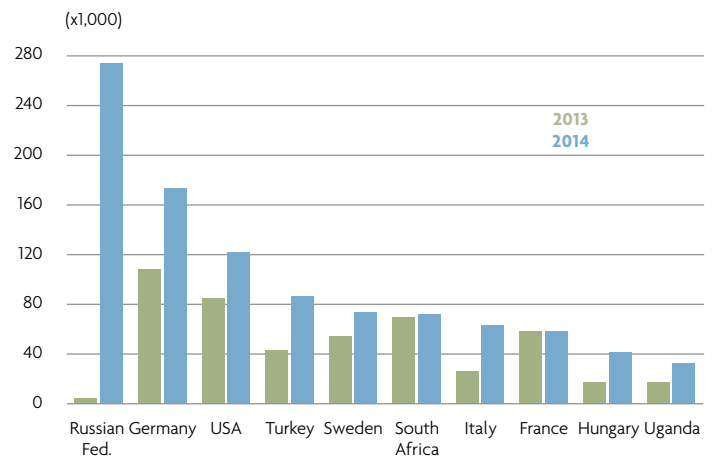
⁵⁶ UNHCR in Kenya is in the process of transferring responsibility for RSD to the Government. As of mid-2014, the RSD procedure has been undertaken jointly between UNHCR and the Government. The figure of 12,100 is limited to new individual asylum applications registered by UNHCR before the start of joint processing of asylum claims. Some 9,500 new individual asylum applications were registered under the joint procedure during the second half of 2014.

Germany's 2014 level is partly attributable to a higher number of individuals from the Syrian Arab Republic, Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)), and Eritrea lodging individual asylum applications. The number of Syrian asylum claims in Germany more than tripled, from 11,900 in 2013 to 39,300 one year later. Eritrean asylum applications likewise almost quadrupled from 3,600 to 13,200 during the same period, while applications lodged by individuals originating from Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) increased from 14,900 to 24,100 (+62%).⁵⁷ Overall, the Syrian Arab Republic was the top country of origin of asylum-seekers in Germany, followed by Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)), Eritrea, Afghanistan (9,100 claims), and Albania (7,900 claims).

The United States of America registered an estimated 121,200 individual asylum claims in 2014, a 44 per cent increase (+36,800) from the year before.⁵⁸ About 42 per cent of all asylum claims in the country were lodged by asylum-seekers from Mexico and Central America. This compares to 30 per cent one year earlier and demonstrates the increasing importance of this group among asylum-seekers in this part of the world, primarily fleeing violence and persecution perpetrated by transnational organized criminal groups. For the first time, Mexico became the main country of origin of asylum-seekers in the United States of America with 14,000 claims, followed by China (13,700) and El Salvador (10,100).

Turkey was hosting more than 1.5 million registered Syrian refugees by the end of 2014, all covered by the Government's Temporary Protection Regime. Beyond this, however, Turkey has witnessed a sharp increase in the number of individual asylum applications registered with UNHCR in recent years. The Office registered 87,800 new individual asylum applications in Turkey during 2014, the highest figure on record and an almost doubling compared to 2013 (44,800 claims).⁵⁹ This turned Turkey into the fourth-largest recipient of individual asylum applications worldwide – an increase mainly

Fig. 4.1 Main destination countries for new asylum-seekers | 2013 - 2014



accounted for by Iraqi asylum-seekers, whose number doubled from 25,300 in 2013 to 50,500 a year later. As a consequence, more than half (58%) of all asylum claims registered by UNHCR in Turkey were lodged by Iraqis. Other important source countries of asylum applications were Afghanistan (15,700 claims), the Islamic Republic of Iran (8,200), and Pakistan (1,600).

Sweden ranked fifth with 75,100 new individual asylum applications received during the year, a 38 per cent increase compared to 2013 (54,300 claims). The year 2014 was the second-highest level on record for Sweden, following only 1992 when more than 84,000 people, many of them fleeing the former Yugoslavia, requested asylum in the country. The increase is a result of an almost doubling in Syrian asylum applications, from 16,300 in 2013 to 30,300 in 2014. Since the outbreak of violence in the Syrian Arab Republic in early 2011, some 55,000 Syrians have sought international protection in Sweden, making it the second-largest recipient of Syrian asylum-seekers in Europe, after Germany (59,500 Syrian claims).

Whereas South Africa was the leading destination country of new asylum-seekers worldwide between 2008 and 2012, the country's ranking dropped in both 2013 and 2014. In 2014, 71,900 new asylum applications were registered, a marginal three per cent more than in 2013 (70,000), turning South Africa into the sixth-largest recipient of such claims. Asylum levels have gradually dropped from the 2009 peak of 222,300 claims, though as in past years Zimbabweans again lodged the majority of new asylum claims in 2014 (20,400).

⁵⁷ About 29 per cent of these asylum-seekers originate from Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).

⁵⁸ Estimated number of individuals based on the number of new cases (63,913) and multiplied by 1.393 to reflect the average number of individuals per case (Source: US Department of Homeland Security); and number of new 'defensive' asylum requests lodged with the Executive Office of Immigration Review (32,239, reported by individuals).

⁵⁹ Figures include asylum-seekers registered with UNHCR as well as those who have been pre-registered but who are pending formal registration with UNHCR.

In Italy, the number of new individual asylum applications (63,700) registered in 2014 was the highest on record. The figure increased by 148 per cent compared to 2013 (25,700 claims), making Italy the seventh-largest receiving country during the reporting period. Mali was the main country of origin of asylum-seekers in Italy (9,800 claims), followed by Nigeria (9,700), Gambia (8,500), and Pakistan (7,100). While Syrians and Eritreans were the top nationalities of those arriving by sea in Italy, only a small number of these individuals applied for asylum in the country during the year (500 and 480, respectively).

As recipients of new asylum applications during 2014, Italy was followed by France (59,000 new claims), Hungary (41,100), and Uganda (32,400).

◦ By origin

Of the 1.47 million initial applications registered with either UNHCR or States worldwide during 2014, Ukrainians lodged 288,600 claims – on average, every fifth claim. Even though Ukrainian asylum-seekers were reported as having applied in 67 countries or territories, 94 per cent of all applications were registered by the Russian Federation. Other important recipients of Ukrainian asylum claims were Germany (2,700 claims), Poland (2,100), and Italy (2,100). Total recognition rates for Ukrainian asylum-seekers show a highly divergent approach ranging from above 90 per cent in the Russian Federation and Belarus to around or below 10 per cent in Belgium, Finland, France, Poland, and the United Kingdom. In Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, and the United States of America, total recognition rates were between 35 and 65 per cent.⁶⁰

Syrians lodged 170,000 new individual asylum applications in 109 countries or territories during the reporting period, underscoring this

population's global dimension. Excluding the Middle East, where Syrians enjoy temporary protection, the largest number of Syrian asylum claims was concentrated in Europe, notably Germany (39,300) and Sweden (30,300) but also in Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) (9,800 claims), the Netherlands (8,700), and Austria (7,700). In general, recognition rates for Syrian asylum-seekers were above 90 per cent in most countries.

Iraqis were the third-largest group of asylum-seekers, with some 100,000 new applications registered during 2014, most of them in Turkey (50,500), Jordan (20,500), Lebanon (6,300), Germany (5,300), and Sweden (1,700). Total recognition rates were often above 80 or 90 per cent in most of the major receiving countries. The only noticeable exceptions to this trend were Sweden (52%), Georgia (39%), and the United Kingdom (37%).

Afghans filed the fourth-highest number of new asylum applications (73,400), notably in Turkey (15,700), Germany (9,100), and Hungary (8,500). Here again, total recognition rates were above 75 per cent in Turkey, Indonesia, Italy, and Sweden but below 25 per cent in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Greece.

Afghans were followed by individuals originating from Eritrea (60,000 claims), Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) (55,300),⁶¹ the Democratic Republic of the Congo (48,100), Somalia (41,100), Pakistan (35,100), and Nigeria (32,000). Out of the top 10 countries of origin for asylum applications, nine are currently facing war, conflict, or human rights violations. However, these figures should be considered as indicative only, because the country of origin for some asylum-seekers is unknown or undisclosed by some States. Overall, the top five countries of origin accounted for almost half of all new asylum claims registered in 2014.

Decisions

Available data indicate that States and UNHCR rendered more than one million substantive decisions on individual asylum applications during 2014.⁶² These figures do not include cases that were closed for administrative reasons with no decision issued to the applicant, of which some 350,000 such cases were reported to UNHCR in

⁶⁰ In the absence of an internationally agreed methodology for calculating recognition rates, UNHCR uses two rates to compute the proportion of refugee claims accepted during the year. The Refugee Recognition Rate divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status by the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection, and rejected cases). The Total Recognition Rate divides the number of asylum-seekers granted Convention refugee status or a complementary form of protection by the total number of substantive decisions (Convention status, complementary protection, and rejected cases). Non-substantive decisions are, to the extent possible, excluded from both calculations. For the purpose of global comparability, UNHCR uses only these two recognition rates and does not report rates calculated by national authorities.

⁶¹ About two-thirds of these asylum-seekers originate from Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).

⁶² Refers to decisions taken at all levels in the asylum procedure.

2014.⁶³ Of all decisions, UNHCR staff adjudicated 99,600 substantive decisions, 9 per cent of the total – in absolute terms, the highest such figure in recent history.

Some 626,500 asylum-seekers were either recognized as refugees (286,700) or granted a complementary form of protection (339,800) during 2014. By contrast, some 434,900 claims were rejected on substantive grounds, a number that includes negative decisions both at the first instance and on appeal.

At the global level (UNHCR and State asylum procedures combined), the Refugee Recognition Rate (RRR) amounted to an estimated 27 per cent of all decisions taken during 2014, whereas the Total Recognition Rate (TRR) was 59 per cent. While the RRR was lower than in 2013 (32%), the TRR was significantly higher (43% in 2013). Both values are influenced by the level and type of recognition of Ukrainian asylum-seekers in the Russian Federation who were predominantly granted temporary protection rather than refugee status. Excluding these values, the RRR amounts to 35 per cent and the TRR to 46 per cent, roughly in line with previous years.

By the end of the year, 1.8 million individuals were awaiting decisions on their asylum claims, a figure that includes applicants at any stage of

TABLE 4.3 Substantive decisions taken

	2012	2013	2014
State	627,200	590,200	957,400
UNHCR	54,400	72,100	99,600
Jointly*	18,200	500	4,400
Total	699,800	662,800	1,061,400
% UNHCR only	8%	11%	9%

* Refers to refugee status determination conducted jointly by UNHCR and governments.

the asylum procedure. This was the highest such number in at least 15 years. The highest number of applications pending at any level in the asylum procedure was reported by South Africa (463,900), followed by Germany (226,200), the United States of America (187,800), Turkey (106,400), and Sweden (56,800). It should be noted that despite improved statistical reporting on pending asylum applications, the true number of undecided asylum cases is unknown, as many countries do not report this information. ■

⁶³ If an asylum-seeker withdraws or abandons his or her asylum application, or if an asylum-seeker dies before issuance of a substantive decision, the asylum application is, in most national statistics, recorded as having been closed for administrative reasons and therefore reported as 'Otherwise closed' in UNHCR statistics. This is also applicable to so-called 'Dublin III' cases in Europe, whereby the responsibility for the adjudication of an asylum claim is transferred to the country responsible in accordance with the Regulation criteria.

Unaccompanied or separated children seeking asylum

The number of unaccompanied or separated children (UASC) seeking asylum on an individual basis has reached levels unprecedented since at least 2006, when UNHCR started systematically collecting this data. More than 34,300 new individual asylum applications were lodged by UASC in 82 countries in 2014, far more than in previous years. While a large number of countries reported that they had not registered a single asylum claim by an unaccompanied or separated child during the year, some were not able to report such information at all, including South Africa and the United States of America.

Sweden and Germany not only received in total the highest number of asylum applications across the European Union but also the highest number of UASC among the 82 countries reporting such statistics. Some 7,000 UASC sought asylum in Sweden during the year, almost 10 per cent of the

overall total. For the most part, Afghans (1,500), Eritreans (1,500), Syrians (1,200), and Somalis (1,100) lodged such claims. The German authorities registered 4,400 UASC claims, with principal nationalities again being Afghans (1,050), Eritreans (920), Syrians (660), and Somalis (570). Sweden and Germany together registered one third of all UASC asylum applications worldwide (based on available data). Other European countries registering significant numbers of UASC seeking asylum were Italy (2,600), Austria (2,100), the United Kingdom (1,900), and Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)) (1,600).

Outside the immediate European region, UNHCR offices in Indonesia and Kenya reported having registered close to 1,100 and 2,200 individual UASC asylum claims, respectively. The number of individual UASC asylum claims in the United States of America is believed to be relatively significant, though official statistics are unfortunately not available. Data on UASC for South Africa, the largest recipient of new asylum applications on the continent, are not available either.

Available UASC data show that Afghans were the largest group lodging individual asylum claims in 2014, with more than 8,600 applications registered. These were followed by Eritreans (4,800), Syrians (3,600), and Somalis (3,000). ●



Improving asylum statistics in the European Union

– Contributed by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO)⁶⁴ –

INTRODUCTION

In 2012, the European Asylum Support Office (EASO) began developing an Early warning and Preparedness System (EPS) that aims at providing the EU+ countries (EU Member States plus Norway and

Switzerland), the European Commission, the Council of the European Union, and the European Parliament with accurate, timely information and analyses on flows of asylum-seekers to Europe, as well as the

⁶⁴ The views and opinions expressed are those of the EASO and do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.



Hundreds of refugees and migrants crowded on a fishing boat are pictured moments before being rescued by the Italian Navy under its former “Mare Nostrum operation” in June 2014. They are among the lucky ones who survived the dangerous sea journey on the Mediterranean.

© THE ITALIAN COASTGUARD / M. SESTINI

capacity of the EU+ countries to deal with those flows.

Since 2008, Eurostat has collected some EU-level data on asylum, in accordance with European Regulation (EC) No 862/2007.⁶⁵ Yet EASO was concerned with setting up an operationally useful and timely collection using non-validated but highly comparable

data from contributing countries. To do so, EASO set up the Group for the Provision of Statistics (GPS), comprised of national statistical experts responsible for the quality and timeliness of asylum statistics. Each of these experts is nominated to the GPS by the authorities responsible for the national asylum system, and these individuals serve as the single point of contact with EASO with regard to statistical information. The

GPS, whose meetings are also attended by representatives from Eurostat, the European Commission, UNHCR, and Frontex, has been fundamental in the development of EASO’s EPS, particularly in ensuring the comparability of data.

RATIONALE

The EPS aims principally to support the practical implementation of the Common

⁶⁵ See <http://goo.gl/6vtm5m>.

European Asylum System (CEAS), as set out in the ‘*asylum acquis*’ and established on the basis of Articles 9 and 11 of the founding Regulation of the Agency (Regulation (EU) No 439/2010). However, with the revision of the Dublin Regulation, Article 33 reinforced the need for rapid information on asylum pressures faced by Member States and foresaw a particular role for EASO in providing relevant information under a ‘mechanism for early warning, preparedness and crisis management’ in the field of asylum.

In forming the GPS, EASO sought to ensure that the provision of statistical data was first and foremost operational. This follows on the fact that the primary objective of the data collection is early warning rather than the compilation of official statistical data, which is within Eurostat’s mandate. Therefore, while statistical accuracy and reliability are indeed aims of the GPS, primacy is given to coherence and timeliness, so that comparable statistics can be collected in order to provide an up-to-date situational picture of the asylum system at the EU+ level. For this reason, data collection takes place on a monthly basis, within 15 days of the reporting period.

EASO also sought to benefit from the statistical knowledge already acquired by the national experts in charge of asylum-related data within the EU+ countries, as well as from the fact that the GPS members come from organizations that ‘own’ this data. As a result of this approach and despite the collection being voluntary, since March 2014 all 30 EU+ countries have contributed the required data to EASO within the requested deadlines, with only occasional exceptions.

Within the GPS, common understanding is essential. This extends not only to the indicator definitions and interpretations of legislation but also to understanding limits on the appropriate use of statistical information in analysis. To promote this common understanding, EASO works together with the GPS in developing indicator definitions and provides

feedback through monthly trend analysis shared with GPS members in analytical publications. A written guide is provided to members as a reference document, and concrete examples are used to test common understandings despite very different national organizations.

HARMONIZING ASYLUM STATISTICS AT THE EU LEVEL

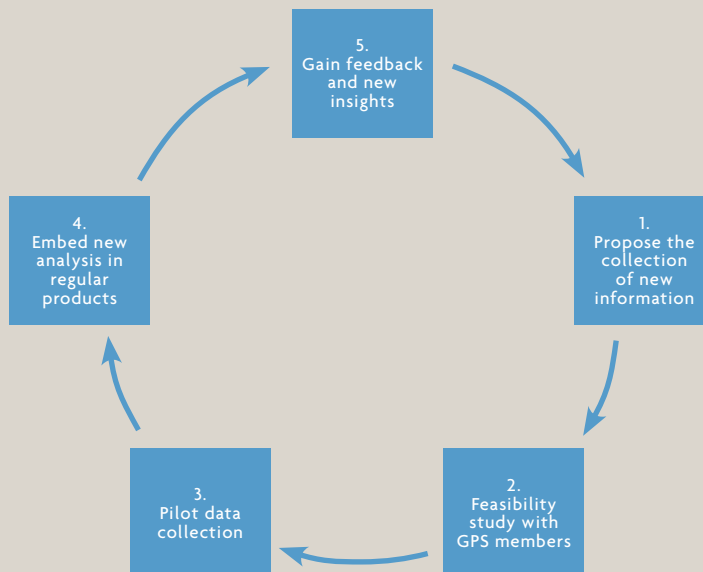
Since 2008, all EU Member States submit regular statistics on migration and international protection to Eurostat, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 862/2007. Asylum statistics are included in the regulation’s Article 4, which encompasses applicants for international protection, pending cases, withdrawn applications, and persons covered by first instance and final decisions. Statistics on the implementation of the Dublin Regulation ((EC) No 343/2003 and (EU) No 604/2013) and unaccompanied minor applicants are also reported.

Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 and the accompanying “Technical Specifications” from Eurostat have gone a long way in harmonizing the collection of asylum statistics at the EU level. Yet one of the main conclusions from the GPS’s first meeting, in 2013, was the recognition that major divergences continued to exist in the collection and reporting of statistical data across the EU+. There could be many reasons for these divergences, but EASO found three key factors.

First, within the Member States, interpretations of the EU *asylum acquis* may vary. Moreover, the collection of operational statistics can be slowed down by the long time frame sometimes required for the implementation of transposed legislation. Second, the organizational specifics of national asylum systems can mean that information in some countries is shared incompletely between authorities involved in the asylum procedure. Third, reporting practices differ among countries. Regulation (EC) No 862/2007 establishes the periodicity, timeliness, and granularity for a minimum common set of

Fig. 4.2

The developing in stages of the EPS in close cooperation with the GPS members



indicators for reporting on a range of asylum-related statistics, yet Member States can and do voluntarily contribute more than this common set. However, in some cases this voluntary submission of statistical data is not comprehensive, leading to gaps at the EU level.

Lack of harmonization can have very significant impacts on both the comparability of the data between Member States and the accuracy of the aggregate statistics for Europe, underestimating or overestimating crucial data and potentially distorting the overall picture of asylum-related phenomena. In general, to be of most use, international statistical data should be accurate, timely, and reliable as well as harmonized across countries.

EASO developed the EPS through a step-by-step process. These phases involved feasibility studies with GPS members, pilot data collections, and ensuring that added value is returned to the GPS and the EASO Management Board by embedding new analysis based on the EPS indicators into regular products provided to stakeholders – for instance, monthly reports on latest trends and quarterly analytical reports.

This stage-wise development process helps to ensure that, while progress in

the EPS may be slow, it is comprehensive and eventually moves towards completeness. At each stage, EU+ countries develop harmonized procedures on the data being collected, thus ensuring the quality and utility of the analyses that result. This process allows GPS members to identify gaps and to put in place the resources needed to address them.

At each stage, EASO proposes a limited number of new indicators and disaggregations to be collected with a certain periodicity and timeliness. After endorsement by the GPS and the EASO Management Board, EASO begins data collection and provides feedback through analysis. Finally, the utility of this analysis is checked by end-users before any further expansion of data collection is planned.

There are several examples of how the GPS's work has strengthened the harmonization of asylum statistics at the EU+ level. In revisions to the Eurostat "Technical Guidelines", some definitions used by EU+ countries for the submission of official statistics have been aligned with the EPS definitions developed through the GPS. This has been the case with regard to the treatment of first time and repeated applicants as well as the closure of cases following a decision to transfer an applicant under

the Dublin Regulation. There has also been further clarity established on the reporting of first instance decisions according to the type of protection granted.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

As a first step in the process of setting up the EPS, EASO engaged the GPS members with a questionnaire of over 500 questions, to which every EU+ country responded. The questionnaire focused on the basic mechanics of the collection of asylum statistics in the individual countries: What information systems and technical approaches were used, how the indicator definitions were interpreted, the timing of the collection and recording of available data, and the scope of available information. This last element included contiguous aspects of the asylum process, such as Dublin procedures, residence permits data, and national forms of protection.

On the basis of this input, EASO compiled a comprehensive overview of the collection of asylum-related statistical data across the EU+. From this overview, EASO proposed a table of 22 indicators covering the entire CEAS – from access to the asylum procedure, through first and higher instances, reception and detention, Dublin, and finally return or integration. Due to the complexity of the system, however, a decision was made to implement the collection in stages, as per the process outlined above.

In March 2014, EASO launched Stage II of the EPS, which focused on the first instance in the asylum process. This phase spanned data collection under four indicators: applicants for international protection, withdrawn applications, first instance decisions, and pending cases. Stage II instigated the development process that was eventually adopted, with the GPS involved from the beginning in discussions about the extent of the new statistics – on the scope, definitions and disaggregations, and statistical collection templates.

Collecting statistical data on asylum alone is of little use if it is not accompanied by knowledge of the systems that produce the statistics. This is particularly true when assessing preparedness (e.g. legal, organizational, asylum procedures, reception, Dublin transfer, return, emergency preparedness). To improve EASO's knowledge of how the asylum systems of individual countries function (from access to procedure to return) and in order to better analyse the statistical data provided, EASO launched a mapping of national systems, in close cooperation with the GPS members of specific countries. So far, EASO has completed the mapping of Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Italy.

EASO recently began collection under Stage III of the EPS, adding indicators on access to procedure, reception, Dublin statistics, and return. Prior to this introduction, EASO conducted a survey with GPS members on possible additional indicators to include in the data collection and on the breakdowns that would bring the most added value. In developing the final set of indicators, the need for new information was balanced with the constraints that GPS members face on the availability of data and their own resource limitations, both in terms of staff and information systems. This was particularly important given that in many Member States, the data requested under this stage was not 'owned' by the body in which the GPS member worked.

It is also important to highlight that while the GPS ensures comparability across the EU+ countries based on EASO's definitions, the individual countries maintain their right to publish national asylum statistics based on their own definitions. At times, this can lead to different figures between these nationally reported data and those shared with EASO or other international organizations.

OUTLOOK AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The timely information gained so far from the EPS has been fundamental in providing key stakeholders with actionable

insights on flows of asylum-seekers. The framework of the GPS and close cooperation with other European bodies has also ensured further harmonization, leading to an improvement in the quality of asylum-related statistics at the EU level.

The achievements of the GPS to date have shown that it is possible to improve the timeliness and quality of harmonized asylum-related statistics collected across the EU+. Further, the EPS Stage III indicators will yield important additional insights on the pressures faced by individual Member States within the CEAS. The implementation of the EPS Stage III indicators will be gradual, as GPS members adjust their reporting capacity and make arrangements to complement the current set of information that they compile every month.

From the initial table of 22 indicators envisaged at the start of the GPS, several areas for expansion remain. There is a need for regular EU-level statistics on national reception capacity, both in terms of total accommodation and 'surge' capacity to provide emergency accommodation in cases of particular pressure. Another area of paucity in the statistics is with regard to efficiency and quality in the asylum procedure, with the potential for indicators on the number of caseworkers in the national asylum system and the time taken to process applications by instance.

In addition, the EPS indicators now cover most steps in the procedure in first instance, but these could be extended to include, for instance, appeal procedures and second instance decisions. Indicators such as the end-of-year stock of resident permits issued to persons granted protection would give insight on the diaspora within specific countries and the integration of asylum beneficiaries. Lastly, the collection of regular information through the GPS on relocation and resettlement would provide key operational insight on recent EU-level initiatives under the European Agenda on Migration.⁶⁶

Another advantage of a network of experts is that national experiences can be shared. As it gains experience, EASO can feed its knowledge back to national providers, suggesting improvements in automation of statistical provision and integration of EU+ data into national analysis products. The GPS also could connect national providers with the wider community focused on migration statistics.

In the development of harmonized, operational asylum-related statistics, the GPS serves as a model of how to promote close cooperation between key stakeholders. In the GPS, those stakeholders include national statistical experts, administrative authorities in EU+ countries, Eurostat, the European Commission and other EU partners, as well as other external stakeholders such as UNHCR. As a vision for the future, the concept has the potential to be replicated at the global level, including in countries from outside the EU that are the main destinations for those seeking international protection. With the unprecedented rise in the number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced persons worldwide, there is increased demand for more timely, harmonized asylum-related data to provide a coherent, up-to-date picture of the global situation. ●

⁶⁶ See <http://goo.gl/zT44KI>.



Maritza (in yellow), who has been internally displaced, is one of 120 core volunteers working with the Nansen Award-winning 'Butterflies with New Wings' network in Buenaventura, Colombia. Having overcome abuse and personal tragedy, she now studies to be a nurse and, through the Butterflies network, helps empower other women in the region. She is pictured here, counselling a young mother on health issues. Colombia continues to have one of the world's largest internally displaced populations, totaling more than 6 million people at the end of 2014.



5 Demographic and Location Data

Central to any collection of population statistics are robust data disaggregated by demographic characteristics at all levels within a specific period. Within the humanitarian community, comprehensive demographic data is the foundation of effective and efficient programme analysis as well as strong response. The movements of population groups are often unstable, thus making robust data all the more necessary for effective decision-making. Still, because the movement of displaced groups is often fluid, collecting data disaggregated by location and demographics is typically challenging. This challenge is further heightened during emergencies, when the immediate needs of displaced persons result in a focus on protection and life-saving assistance.

Data disaggregated by location and demographics are indispensable for identifying protection gaps, allowing for significantly improved resource allocation and the efficient delivery of a programme within UNHCR's mandate. To the extent possible, then, all data collected need to be disaggregated by location and demographics. In recent years, UNHCR has intensified its efforts

in this area, though collecting comprehensive primary data on displaced persons, especially during emergencies, has been a major challenge for the humanitarian community.

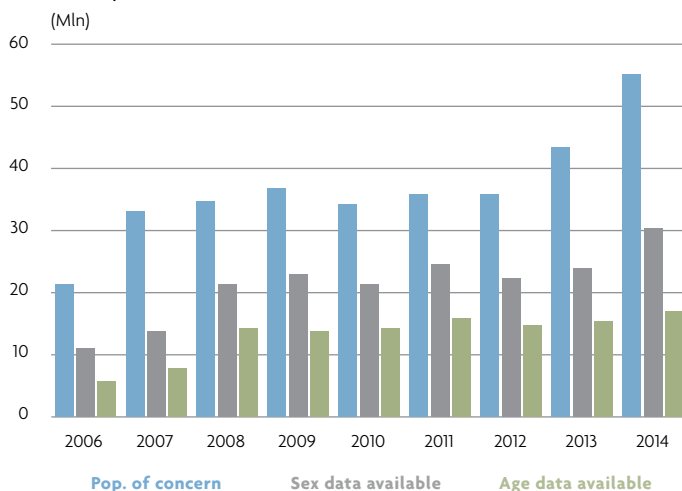
Disaggregated data are more complete and more easily obtained in certain locations than in others. Such data tend to be systematically and consistently collected in areas where UNHCR has an operational role – i.e. predominantly in developing regions. However, where governments are exclusively responsible for data collection, detailed statistical information disaggregated by sex or age is often lacking. Thus, the availability of demographic data is uneven across the various populations of concern, presenting an important limitation to comparative analysis across geographic locations over time.

It is in this context that this chapter focuses on the analysis of demographic and location data of the populations of concern to UNHCR, with an emphasis on refugees. The chapter concludes with an article from an external contributor highlighting the importance of a functioning civil registration and vital statistics system in the refugee context.

Data disaggregated by sex

Overall, the number of countries that provided information disaggregated by sex increased from 157 in 2013 to 164 in 2014, a 4.5 per cent increase. At the end of 2014, data disaggregated by sex by these 164 countries were available for 30.4 million persons – 55 per cent of the 54.96 million persons under UNHCR’s mandate. Data disaggregated by sex was thus available for 6.5 million more persons than in 2013, when such information was available for 23.9 million. The sex distribution of this 30.4 million persons shows that the proportion of males and females is almost at par – 15.24 million men versus 15.14 million women.

Fig. 51 Demographic characteristics available on UNHCR’s population of concern | 2006 - 2014



Data disaggregated by age

Availability of age-disaggregated data on persons of concern continued to increase in 2014.⁶⁷ These data were available for almost 17.0 million persons by the end of the year, 1.8 million more than in 2013 and 2.1 million more than in 2012. This translates into age-disaggregated data coverage of 31 per cent of the 54.96 million persons of concern for 2014. As in previous years, refugee data showed the highest coverage, with information broken down by age available for almost 9.0 million out of the 14.4 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate. This compares to a coverage of 7.5 million refugees at the end of 2013 (64%). At the end of 2014, refugee children made up 51 per

cent of the global refugee population, a marginal increase from the previous year (50%).

As in previous years, statistical coverage during 2014 differed among the various populations of concern to UNHCR. But the year also saw significant improvement in the statistical coverage of asylum-seekers (83%) compared to the previous year (56%). The proportion of sex-disaggregated refugee data remained virtually at par between these years, at 71 per cent for 2014 compared to 72 per cent in 2013. Its availability was relatively high for refugee returnees (78%), others of concern (61%), and IDPs (51%). Stateless persons (23%) recorded the lowest proportion of sex-disaggregated data during 2014, though this is still a significant improvement from the previous year (8%).

At the end of 2014, the proportion of females was slightly higher for IDPs (52%), IDP returnees (52%), stateless persons (51%), and refugee returnees (51%), while this figure was slightly lower for refugees (49%). In contrast, the proportion of female asylum-seekers was disproportionately lower, at 33 per cent. Among others of concern, the proportion of women and men was at par, at 50 per cent.

It is important to note that coverage of demographic data is not fully available. By the end of 2014, refugee information disaggregated by sex was available for 10.2 million persons – 5.0 million women and 5.2 million men. For IDPs, data disaggregated by sex are available for 16.3 million persons – 8.4 million women and 7.9 million men.

cent of the global refugee population, a marginal increase from the previous year (50%).

Age-disaggregated information was also available for refugee returnees (56%), others of concern (55%), asylum-seekers (41%), and returned IDPs (40%). It was particularly lacking for stateless persons (just 1%) and IDPs (18%). The absence of age-disaggregated data for stateless persons constitutes an important challenge for any meaningful analysis of this population. By contrast, the availability of sex-disaggregated information for

⁶⁷ The availability of information according to age breakdown is particularly limited for countries in Europe, North America, and Oceania. Thus, the figures are not fully representative of the entire population under UNHCR’s responsibility.

stateless persons is better than for that disaggregated by age.

The demographics of the global refugee population have undergone some gradual changes over the years. For instance, the proportion of refugee girls and women has increased from 47 per cent in 2010 to 49 per cent four years later, implying that almost one out of every two refugees today is a female. An even more important change has been seen in the proportion of refugee children, which increased from 46 per cent in 2011 to 51 per cent in 2014.

The large Syrian refugee population in the Middle East and Turkey appears to be partly responsible for this increase in the proportion of refugee children, as the shift coincided with the start of the Syrian crisis. Excluding this population from the global demographic analysis reveals that the proportion of refugee children stands at 49 per cent, below the global figure of 51 per cent – indicating that the number of Syrian refugee children is slightly higher than the average. The same result is also achieved after excluding the three major source countries of refugees (Afghanistan, Somalia, and the Syrian Arab Republic) from the demographic analysis. In general, then, the global proportion of refugee children appears to

TABLE 5.1 Demographic characteristics of refugees | 2003 - 2014
(% of total population)

Year	Women	<18 years	18-59	>60 years
2003	48%	49%	46%	5%
2004	48%	50%	45%	5%
2005	48%	46%	49%	5%
2006	47%	47%	49%	4%
2007	47%	46%	49%	5%
2008	48%	44%	51%	5%
2009	47%	41%	54%	5%
2010	47%	44%	51%	5%
2011	48%	46%	49%	5%
2012	48%	46%	49%	5%
2013	49%	50%	46%	4%
2014	49%	51%	46%	3%

The percentages are based on available data and exclude countries where no demographic information is available. This is in particular the case for industrialized countries.

be relatively unchanged by the size of a given refugee population from a particular country, with the exception of the Syria situation.

These averages do hide significant variations across countries, however. Among the major refugee-hosting countries, the percentage of refugee children exceeded 60 per cent in Egypt, Niger, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Uganda. On the other hand, it remained below 15 per cent in Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Israel, and Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999)).⁶⁸

Location characteristics

The importance of location information for refugee populations cannot be overemphasized, as such data can provide guidance for determining the required needs for an effective programme response. To harmonize the classification of dispersed and diverse locations, UNHCR categorizes the geographic location of refugees as urban, rural, or various/unknown. The latter is used in situations where a particular location is not clearly defined. The national definitions and classifications of ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ differ across countries, though UNHCR has been consistent and systematic in its classifications of refugee locations to the extent possible.

In addition to location information, UNHCR collects data on refugee accommodation type. The agency breaks this down into six main categories: planned/managed camp, self-settled

camp, collective centre, reception/transit camp, individual accommodation (private), and various/unknown if the information is unknown or unclear. Each of these types can be found in urban or rural locations across refugee-hosting countries.

Of the 14.4 million refugees under UNHCR’s mandate at the end of 2014, information on geographic location was available for 12.2 million (85%). This comprised 7.5 million in urban (61%) and 4.7 million in rural (39%) locations. At the end of 2014, the exact geographic location was unknown for nearly 2.2 million refugees (15%), while the accommodation type was unknown for 17 per cent. Still, this latter figure compared to 19 per cent in 2013, 20 per cent in 2012, and 26 per cent in 2011, an improving trend that is a direct result of UNHCR’s efforts to collect detailed location information in all its offices around the world.

As in previous years, the distribution of refugees in the six main accommodation types varied

⁶⁸ Figures based on at least 50 per cent data coverage.

TABLE 5.2 Accommodation of refugees | 2012-2014 (end-year)

Type of accommodation	No. of refugees			Distribution			% women			% children			% Urban		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012 ^a	2013 ^b	2014 ^c
Planned/managed camp	2,955,500	3,274,300	3,512,500	35.3%	34.4%	29.3%	50%	51%	51%	56%	56%	56%	0.4%	7.1%	7.0%
Self-settled camp	542,300	345,800	487,500	6.5%	3.6%	4.1%	52%	53%	53%	58%	60%	56%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%
Collective centre	323,500	304,300	302,000	3.9%	3.2%	2.5%	48%	48%	48%	56%	35%	54%	18.0%	93.9%	95.3%
Individual accommodation (private)	4,551,900	5,559,900	7,578,400	54.3%	58.4%	63.2%	46%	48%	48%	39%	46%	49%	93.4%	88.3%	87.3%
Reception/transit camp	2,100	33,900	111,700	0.0%	0.4%	0.9%	53%	51%	51%	60%	59%	51%	8.3%	2.8%	15.1%
Sub-total	8,375,300	9,518,200	11,992,100	100%	100%	100%	48%	49%	49%	46%	50%	51%	53.4%	56.1%	61.2%
Unknown	2,122,700	2,181,100	2,393,200												
Grand Total	10,498,000	11,699,300	14,385,300												

Notes

^a Percentages are based on data available for 8.1 million refugees. Calculation excludes accommodation types which are unknown.

^b Percentages are based on data available for 9.0 million refugees. Calculation excludes accommodation types which are unknown.

^c Percentages are based on data available for 12.2 million refugees. Calculation excludes accommodation types which are unknown.

significantly in 2014. Out of the 12.0 million refugees where information on accommodation type was available by the year's end, 7.6 million (63%) resided in individual accommodation types, indicating that this category is the preferred residence for refugees. Further, this proportion has grown in recent years, demonstrating that refugees prefer to live outside of traditional camp-like structures, a finding that is fully in line with UNHCR's *Policy on Alternatives to Camps*.⁶⁹

While this growing trend has been observed across a number of countries, it is particularly evident in Turkey, the world's largest refugee-hosting country. At the end of 2012, two-thirds of all Syrian refugees in Turkey were residing in camps and one-third in residences classified as individual accommodation. By the end of 2014, this situation had reversed, with only 15 per cent of the more than 1.5 million registered Syrian refugees living in camps and the other 85 per cent in individual accommodations. Overall, 3.5 million (29%) of the global refugee population under UNHCR's mandate resided in planned/managed camps at the end of 2014, with overall camp residence by refugees having seen a reverse trend since 2012.

The distinction among different accommodation types changes significantly when rural versus urban locations are taken into account. Where classified as rural, the majority of refugees (67%) lived in planned/managed camps in 2014, as opposed to the 19 per cent who lived in individual accommodation. The opposite is the case in locations defined as urban, where 85 per cent of refugees were reported as living in apartments or similar arrangements.⁷⁰ It is important to note that planned/managed camps are predominantly

located in rural areas as opposed to urban locations.

Breaking out these accommodation types classified by UNHCR's geographical regions exhibits some notable trends. Planned/managed camps, for instance, are the predominant accommodation type in sub-Saharan Africa, mostly located in rural areas. However, an increasing number of refugees in this region are also opting to move to individual accommodation types, according to available evidence. In 2012, planned/managed camps accounted for 70 per cent of all accommodation types in sub-Saharan Africa, but this figure dropped to 63 per cent in 2013 and again to 60 per cent in 2014. During the same period, the proportion of individual accommodation increased from 14 to 26 per cent. In most other regions, planned/managed camps are far rarer. ■

⁶⁹ See <http://www.unhcr.org/5422b8f09.html>.

⁷⁰ These proportions exclude locations defined as urban or rural but whose exact accommodation type was unknown.



The sun rises over Khanke camp for internally displaced persons in northern Iraq. The camp is home to over 10,000 displaced Iraqis, mainly from Sinjar, who fled their homes in August 2014.

Civil registration and vital statistics for refugees

– Contributed by Helge Brunborg⁷¹ –

Civil registration (CR) is the recording of vital events (live births, deaths, marriages, and divorces), whereas vital statistics (VS) constitute the collection, analysis, and publication of statistics on vital events. The acronym CRVS is used for the combination of these. According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*,

'Civil registration is defined as the continuous, permanent, compulsory and universal recording of the occurrence and characteristics of vital events pertaining to the population, as provided through decree or regulation in accordance with the legal requirements in each country. Civil registration is carried out primarily for the purpose of establishing the documents provided for by law.'⁷²

⁷¹ Independent researcher, formerly Senior Research Fellow, Statistics Norway. The work on this article was administered and funded by the NORCAP programme of the Norwegian Refugee Council. The views and opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The author acknowledges valuable comments received from Carla Abouzahr, Eivind Hoffmann, Vibeke Oestreich Nielsen, Lars Østby, and Vebjørn Aalandslid.

⁷² *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*. Revision 3. Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division Statistical Papers, Series M No. 19/Rev.3UN, NY 2014. See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/Demographic/standmeth/principles/M19Rev3en.pdf>, p. 65.

For statistical purposes, vital events are events concerning life and death of individuals, as well as their family and civil status. Internal and external migrations are not considered to be vital events in this context, despite being of great importance for statistical purposes, and many countries register these events.

Registration, particularly of births and deaths, can yield timely knowledge of the size and characteristics of a country's population, which is a prerequisite to socio-economic planning and informed decision-making. 'Vital statistics and their subsequent analysis and interpretation are essential for setting targets and evaluating social and economic plans, programmes ... and the measurement of important demographic indicators of levels of living or quality of life,' according to the *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*. This is 'including the monitoring of health and population intervention ... such as expectation of life at birth and the infant mortality rate.'⁷³ Also: 'Vital statistics are obtained preferably through a civil registration system, as this is the ideal source from which to derive accurate, complete, timely and continuous information on vital events.'⁷⁴

BIRTH AND DEATH REGISTRATION

Birth registration has a dual function, both legal and statistical. The recording of a birth is usually accompanied by the issuance of a birth certificate, which is important from a human rights perspective. A birth certificate may help to prove age, name, parents (including their marital status), nationality, and country of birth, all of which are essential for obtaining a passport and other identification documents.

This is particularly important for a child, consistent with Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.⁷⁵ Birth registration is a right of children and is related to a number of issues including child labour, juvenile justice, under-age marriage, health, human trafficking, and child prostitution. Some of these risks are related to the need for

proof of age, while others involve the difficulty in acquiring official travel documents, and still others hinge on the need for evidence of family composition.

Birth registration is also important in relation to education, voting rights, and nationality, with the latter being enshrined in Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other international instruments.⁷⁶ Such registration is seen as a tool in combating injustices and providing children with rights and freedoms that children should enjoy. Accurate knowledge of children's date of birth, ensured through a birth registration system, provides a means of establishing age and, as a result, providing protection to children. Linking birth registration to immunization programmes and other child health services may be beneficial for these programmes while also improving the coverage of birth registration. Yet UNICEF has estimated that 'the births of nearly 230 million children under the age of five worldwide (around one in three) have never been recorded.'⁷⁷

Birth registration is often understood as the issuance of a birth certificate, which is normally done in connection with the registration of a birth. However, in some instances, a birth is recorded but no birth certificate is issued, which is a legal and human rights problem. In other instances, a birth certificate is issued but the birth is not recorded, which is a problem for administration and statistics.

In most countries, the parents of a newborn child will receive a document, often called a birth notification, if the birth occurs at a health facility or in the presence of medical personnel. To obtain a birth certificate, the parents have to take this notification to a civil registration office, where the birth is registered (recorded). Births outside medical institutions also have to be reported by the parents to the civil registration office. A similar procedure has to be followed by the next of kin to obtain a death certificate. In some (mostly developed) countries, health facilities forward information

about births and deaths directly to the civil registration institution at the local or central level, where the event is registered and a certificate is issued.

As with births, the registration of deaths has both a legal and a statistical function. Death certificates are important for several purposes, particularly to obtain burial rights and to ensure that property rights can be legally transferred when a family member dies. In many countries, death certificates are needed by widows to lawfully remarry, which in itself may be a requirement to register subsequent births.

CURRENT SITUATION

The recent drive to improve civil registration has focused on registration of births in most countries, less so on deaths, and very little on marriages and migrations. Deaths are under-registered by an even wider margin than are births. Only 57 per cent of countries have at least 90 per cent coverage of death registration, while 62 per cent of countries register at least 90 per cent of births.⁷⁸ An estimated two-thirds of deaths are never registered and are therefore not counted in the vital statistics system. More than half of the Member States of the World Health Organization

⁷³ *Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System*, p. 4, see note 72.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 5, see note 72.

⁷⁵ Article 7:

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

Article 8:

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity. See: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx>.

⁷⁶ See: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>.

⁷⁷ See: <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/birth-registration>.

⁷⁸ 'Coverage of Birth and Death Registration', United Nations Statistics Division. See: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/crvs/cr_coverage.htm.

obtain either no data for mortality and cause of death, or they obtain data of such poor quality that these are of little value for public health policy and planning.⁷⁹ India is an example of this, with death registration in 2012 covering just 69 per cent of the estimated number of deaths, compared with 84 per cent for births.⁸⁰

CIVIL REGISTRATION AND REFUGEES

Civil registration of vital events among refugees can be used in two ways. First, it can be part of the national civil registration, which is particularly important if the size of the refugee population in the host country is significant. In this case, the role of civil registration for refugees as part of the national system needs to be clarified legally, administratively, and statistically. Routines for transferring data on refugees to the national system should be clarified, and double registration should be able to be avoided if roles and divisions of work are clear. Second, vital statistics from civil registration of refugees can be used to gain insight into the demographic and health trends of the refugee population, including comparing these trends with those of the host country population. Trends in the number of births and deaths may say something about the welfare of the population and be used to plan and target assistance as well as projecting the future number of refugees and their family members.

In both cases, complete and inclusive civil registration procedures are important for refugees for protection reasons. 'Lack of civil registration and related documentation makes persons vulnerable to

statelessness and associated protection risks, and ... birth registration is often essential to the reduction and prevention of statelessness.⁸¹ An accepted birth certificate may help a refugee to acquire identification papers and a legal identity in the country where he or she seeks protection. In addition, birth registration creates a permanent record of a child's existence. Unfortunately, birth registration is often mistaken for conferring nationality of the State in which the child is born, and this has proven to be an obstacle for the registration of refugee births in many countries.

The overwhelming majority of countries do not offer automatic citizenship to everyone born within their borders.⁸²

Proper identification of the legal status of asylum-seekers and refugees (and other vulnerable groups) may help to ensure protection and integration in the country of refuge. This process may also help in repatriation, in reducing human trafficking, and avoiding double counting and other errors in refugee statistics. Moreover, possession of a credible identification document (ID) may be necessary for refugees to access public services such as health and education, to open a bank account, to buy or rent property, as well as to obtain a driving license, a passport, or other travel documents. However, such documents may also assist the authorities to expel refugees, asylum-seekers, and undocumented immigrants, if everybody in a country is required to carry an ID.

UNHCR'S AIMS

Of the eight priorities of UNHCR for 2014-2015, 'Securing birth registration, profiling and individual documentation based on registration' is listed as the second.⁸³ The UNHCR Campaign to End Statelessness Within 10 Years was launched in 2014. It includes a Global Action Plan that calls on the international community to 'Ensure birth registration for the prevention of statelessness' (Action 7), with a goal of 'No reported cases of statelessness due to a lack of birth registration.' UNHCR says it

79 Carla AbouZahr et al.: 'Civil registration and vital statistics: progress in the data revolution for counting and accountability', *Lancet*, May 11, 2015. See: [http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(15\)60173-8.pdf](http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(15)60173-8.pdf), p.2.

80 http://www.censusindia.gov.in/2011-Documents/CRS_Report/CRS_Report2012.pdf, pp. x-xi.

81 'Conclusion on civil registration', No. III (LXIV) – 2013, EXCOM Conclusions, 17 October 2013, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/525f8ba64.html>.

82 John Feere (2010): 'Birthright Citizenship in the United States: A Global Comparison', Center for Immigration Studies. See: <http://cis.org/birthright-citizenship>.

83 UNHCR Global Report 2014, <http://www.unhcr.org/gr14/index.xml>.

can help to achieve this in several ways:

1. Support States to identify legal, procedural and practical obstacles, including those encountered at the community level, to register births.
2. Promote birth registration including by facilitating access to procedures at the community level, deploying mobile teams to address existing deficits and integrating birth registration with other public programmes such as those relating to childbirth, maternal-infant care, immunization and education.
3. Complement the efforts of UNICEF, UN regional commissions, UNFPA, WHO, UNDP, the World Bank, regional development banks and bilateral donors, including in the context of the UN Development Assistance Framework, to promote and provide technical support for birth registration and to improve civil registration and vital statistics systems.
4. Support the provision of information, legal aid and documentation campaigns to assist stateless individuals and individuals at risk of statelessness with applications for birth registration.⁸⁴

UNHCR's Executive Committee has likewise voiced strong support for civil registration, both to enhance protection and for policy and humanitarian planning, in particular 'that every child shall be registered immediately after birth, without discrimination of any kind.' The Executive Committee encourages States to undertake 'the necessary legal and practical measures to overcome the difficulties in conducting civil registration, including through establishing or strengthening existing institutions responsible for civil registration, building their capacity and ensuring the safety and confidentiality of their records' and urges UNHCR to 'facilitate civil registration in cooperation with governments, international and national institutions.'⁸⁵

UNHCR's Global Report 2014 mentions related improvements:

'Increases in the systematic issuance

of birth certificates to new born children have been reported in 22 refugee situations, of which 6 are at a standard of 100 per cent and another 13 are now close to the standard of 100 per cent.'⁸⁶

FAILURES TO REGISTER

There are a variety of legal, financial and practical reasons why registration of refugees' vital events is often not done. Ideally, refugees should be treated similarly to the rest of the population with regard to civil registration – such as by age, sex, region and nationality – if their presence is known and recognized by the authorities. There may be discriminatory laws and practices in some countries, where refugees and other non-citizens are not allowed to register their births, deaths, and marriages.

There is often a failure to register births and deaths among refugees because they are not aware of the importance of registering such events or are unable to access the national systems due to financial, social, or physical barriers to civil registration. This is often because they are not integrated in the general population or because only citizens are included in the registration system.

Disincentives for death registration apply also in non-refugee populations, as there is evidence of failure to register deaths in a timely way in order to continue to receive benefits such as humanitarian assistance, for example.⁸⁷

However, in many locations, unless a death is registered, the deceased cannot legally be buried. In Lebanon, for instance, most Syrian refugees are living not in camps but in informal settlements, often geographically removed from key services, including civil registration facilities, making the accessibility of registration services particularly relevant. As such, many Syrian refugees have reported being unable to bury their dead legally and are resorting to illicit burials or dependence on the goodwill and cooperation (usually facilitated by cash payments) of cemetery guardians.

⁸⁴ UNHCR Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/545b47d64.html>.

⁸⁵ UNHCR, *Conclusion on Civil Registration*, 17 October 2013, No. 111(LXIV)-2013. See: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/525f8ba64.html>.

⁸⁶ UNHCR *Global Report 2014*, <http://www.unhcr.org/5575a7858.html>.

⁸⁷ See <https://www.lovemoney.com/news/12953/dont-commit-fraud-after-death> for some examples in the UK.

HOW MANY REFUGEES ARE REGISTERED AT BIRTH?

Registration can mean different things. Most refugees are registered by the State, UNHCR, or NGOs when they arrive in the country of asylum. Many are given identification documents, but with a format, content, and legal status that vary from country to country. This article, however, is concerned with the civil registration of births and deaths.

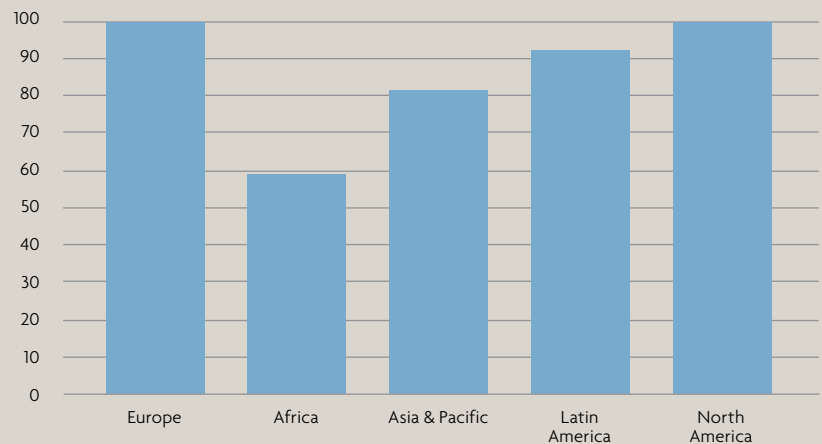
The advantage of birth registration over the regular registration of refugees is that information about the child is usually better authenticated, especially with regard to country and place of birth, date of birth, and name of parents.

The registration of citizenship at birth varies from country to country, however, depending on legislation and practice. Children born in the country of asylum of refugee parents are registered as refugees in some countries and as ordinary residents in others, again depending on legislation.

Children born of parents who are asylum-seekers may present a special problem. Their birth may be registered in some countries, and a birth certificate may or may not be issued. Their legal status may be weak or unclear, especially if their parents are not granted asylum.

Most children born in refugee camps are registered at birth, particularly those born in camps managed by well-established agencies, such as UNHCR. This may also be the case for children of registered refugees living outside camps,⁸⁸ especially if there are benefits such as rations and other assistance available for refugees. Marriages and divorces are also often recorded in the refugee registration as this is an essential element of ensuring accurate information on family composition. However, registration of a vital event such as birth, death, marriage and divorce with UNHCR or with the national body responsible for asylum and migration, does not confer the same status as civil registration, including the issuance of birth certificates or future documentation to attest to the

Fig. 5.2

Average per cent of persons below five in the general population who have been registered, for countries with data on both birth registration and refugees

vital event. For unregistered refugees not living in camps, the level of birth registration depends on the general civil registration situation and law in the country of asylum, and on rules for registering births for refugees and other non-citizens.

UNICEF AND UNHCR ESTIMATES

UNICEF regularly publishes estimates for most countries on the proportion of children who have been registered by the age of five, but not necessarily at birth. The most recent of these estimates were released in November 2014, with data based on the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), as well as other national household surveys, censuses, and vital registration systems.⁸⁹

These statistics have been combined with UNHCR's statistics on refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations,⁹⁰ identifying the birth registration percentage for 154 countries with statistics on refugees. These cover 13.9 million refugees or 97 per cent of the estimated total number of refugees at the end of 2014. The estimates are the lowest for Africa and Asia [see **Figure 5.2**].

In 2014, 53 countries had an estimated 100 per cent birth registration, including all industrialized countries and several others. For these countries, there is

probably also a very high level of registration of children born in the country to refugee parents, if they are recognized as refugees; if the parents are not recognized, there is a chance that their children are not registered. The total number of refugees and individuals living in refugee-like situations in these countries is some 3.1 million, or 23 per cent of all refugees globally.

For the 4.4 million refugees and individuals living in a refugee-like situation in the 41 countries with an estimated 90-99 per cent birth registration, the majority of children of refugees are probably registered at birth. It is estimated that only about 150,000 of the 4.2 million refugees in these countries have not been registered at birth or before reaching age five in the country of asylum. There are several important host countries in the developing world with universal or very high rates of birth registration, such as the Islamic Republic of Iran (99%) and Colombia (97%).

Lebanon is listed with a 100 per cent registration rate. However, this figure only covers Lebanese citizens, while

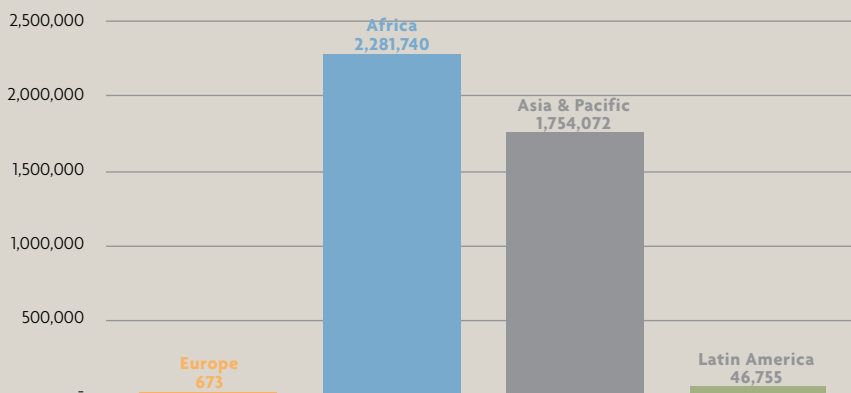
⁸⁸ UNHCR has estimated that 63 per cent of refugees live in individual accommodation, according to *Global Trends 2014*, <http://www.unhcr.org/556725e69.html>.

⁸⁹ <http://data.unicef.org/child-protection/birth-registration>.

⁹⁰ UNHCR *Global Trends 2014: World At War*, <http://www.unhcr.org/556725e69.html>.

Fig. 5.3

Number of refugees who have not been registered at birth, if the proportion is the same as for the population of the country of asylum



refugees face many obstacles in having their children registered. A 2014 assessment showed that 92 per cent of refugees interviewed from the Syrian Arab Republic were not able to complete the legal and administrative steps to register the births of their children born in Lebanon, for a variety of practical, legal, administrative, and economic reasons.⁹¹ This situation makes the risk of not having a legal identity and potential statelessness among refugee children particularly acute. The Syrian Arab Republic is also listed by UNICEF with a nearly universal registration of births (96 per cent), but this is probably far from correct today as that figure is based on a 2006 survey.

However, most countries hosting a sizeable refugee population have low rates of birth registration. These include, for instance, Ethiopia (7%), Chad (16%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (28%), and Pakistan (34%), according to UNICEF.

If it can be assumed that all children born to refugees are registered at the same rate as children under age five in the country of asylum, about 9.8 million or 71 per cent of all refugees and individuals in refugee-like situations should be registered. This would imply that at least 4.1 million refugees are not registered, taking into account that the birth registration percentage is unreported for about 50 countries. Most of these live in

Africa (2.3 million) and Asia (1.8 million) [see Figure 5.3].

The assumptions behind these estimates have several weaknesses, however. In some countries, only the births of citizens are registered, whereas in other countries the births of all legally resident persons are registered, including refugees and in some cases asylum-seekers. In other countries, birth registration may be more common among refugees than among the general population, especially for those born in camps. On the other hand, birth registration of residents has been introduced or expanded in some countries only quite recently, implying that few adults were registered when they were born.

The registration practice in the countries of origin also varies significantly. Some individuals have fled countries with low rates of birth registration, such as Somalia (3%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (28%), South Sudan (35%), and Afghanistan (37%). Others have fled countries where most births are registered, such as Iraq (99%), Viet Nam (95%), and Myanmar (72%) – but often they fled many years ago, when birth registration was probably less common.

Thus, there is no clear pattern in the birth registration of refugees, although most of the large refugee flows are from low-income countries to other low- or middle-income countries, both with low rates of birth registration. Since few if any of these countries have a system of population registration, refugees are not 'de-registered' when they flee. And even if there were such systems, few refugees would be motivated to register their flight or would even dare to do so.

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

As stated above, the UNHCR study among Syrian refugees in Lebanon found that refugee children are not necessarily registered at the same rate as the population in the country of asylum. Fully 70 per cent of children born to Syrian refugees in Lebanon are without a birth certificate. In most cases, it is possible for parents to

⁹¹ 'Birth Registration Update: The Challenges of Birth Registration in Lebanon for Refugees from Syria,' Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance Programme, Norwegian Refugee Council, Lebanon, January 2015. See: http://www.nrc.no/arch/img.aspx?file_id=9192763&ext=.pdf.

register their children only if they have an official marriage certificate. But many have fled the Syrian Arab Republic without such documents, and it would be risky to return to collect such documents.⁹²

The lack of birth registration or the absence of documents does not, on their own, make a person stateless. However, such situations do create a risk that an individual will not be considered a national by any state.⁹³ The risk of statelessness is especially pronounced for children forcibly separated from their fathers, as Syrian paternity is the legal basis for acquiring a nationality.

The Lebanese Government has long been concerned with registration of refugees, particularly in relation to Palestinians who have been in the country since the 1940s. Changing demographic composition since the last population census, in 1935, could alter the political balance between different religious groups.⁹⁴

Lebanon is not a Party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees or its 1967 Protocol. Lebanon is also not a Party to the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons or the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, nor has it accepted the Arab Charter on Human Rights, all of which have specific provisions protecting children's right to a legal identity in circumstances of displacement.

However, Lebanon is a Party to the Convention of the Rights of the Child and has international obligations to register births that take place within its territory. Given this legal framework, the Lebanese Government in cooperation with international partners has worked to increase access to birth registration for children born in Lebanon during the Syrian crisis.⁹⁵

DATA GAPS

It is relatively easy to establish reliable estimates of the number of refugees who have been registered at birth from UNHCR data sources. It is more difficult to do so when using other data sources, although rough estimates indicate that the numbers

are most likely high, as shown above. To obtain better estimates, it would be necessary to ask about birth registration status in censuses, household surveys,⁹⁶ and special surveys of refugees, or to collect data from the civil registration and vital statistics system in individual countries.

As mentioned above, many refugees are registered when they are arriving in the country of asylum or soon thereafter. This kind of registration is not equivalent to civil registration of births, however. Registration of infants at birth has numerous advantages over ID issuance at specific ages, both for the baby and, perhaps more important at this stage, for the parents and family members who may need to be able to prove their claims with regard to a particular child. Data are more likely to be recorded accurately and the number of events is better captured if births are registered within a few days of the event.

CASE STUDY: NORWAY

All vital events that occur in Norway, including those of refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons, are registered at the hospital, in the Medical Birth Register, and in the Central Population Register (CPR). A birth certificate is sent to the parents of a child if they have recorded an address, or it is issued on demand. The same is the case for family members of a deceased person. However, there is a difference in how these events are handled by the Central Population Register and how they are treated statistically.

All those formally residing in Norway, including foreign citizens, are given a unique personal identification number (PIN) and are registered in the Central Population Register. Asylum-seekers are given a temporary PIN ('D-number') issued to non-residents with obligations or rights in Norway. This includes children born while their parents' asylum applications are being considered. Such births are not included in the annual vital statistics for Norway, however. If the parents are later recognized as refugees and given a permit to live in Norway, the child will be

registered as an immigrant. Children born in Norway of refugee parents are not considered refugees but their residence status is identical to the status of their parents if both are foreign citizens.

It is possible to produce statistics on the vital statistics of refugees, but this is normally not done. Such statistics are of little significance in Norway, after all, as refugees living in the country have the same rights and obligations as other foreign citizens. Instead, statistics and analyses are occasionally made of births, fertility, and other demographic factors by country of birth and citizenship of the parents.⁹⁷

CONCLUSION

Civil registration of refugees is very important, from a human rights and legal perspective as well as for statistical reasons. Countries of asylum that do not have a system for this process should be encouraged to consider adapting their laws and practices in this regard. They should also generate and publish statistics on the vital statistics for refugees, when possible. In countries of asylum where UNHCR and other organizations carry out the civil registration of the refugees' vital events, there should be a system that allows for the transfer of data recorded by UNHCR into a national setting. ●

⁹² Radha Govil: 'Is the Concept of Legal Identity Relevant to UNHCR's Statelessness Mandate?' The Hague Colloquium on the Future of Legal Identity, 20-24 April 2014.

⁹³ 'Birth Registration Update: The Challenges of Birth Registration in Lebanon for Refugees from Syria.' See footnote 91.

⁹⁴ 'Lebanese, UN fallout over refugee registration', Al-Monitor, 21 July 2015. See: <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/07/lebanon-syria-refugees-unhcr-gebran-bassil-rejection.html>.

⁹⁵ 'Birth Registration Update: The Challenges of Birth Registration in Lebanon for Refugees from Syria.' See footnote 91.

⁹⁶ This is unfortunately not included in the United Nations census recommendations.

⁹⁷ Report of Statistics Norway and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on statistics on refugees and internally displaced persons, Statistical Commission, Forty-sixth session, 3-6 March 2015, E/CN.3/2015/9, para. 43, page 12. See: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/doc15/2015-9-RefugeeStats-E.pdf>.



A mother cares for her sick son at Mahad camp for internally displaced persons in Juba, South Sudan. Mahad camp is home to around 2,500 South Sudanese, mostly from Jonglei state, who arrived in February and March 2014. The conflict in South Sudan, which erupted in December 2013, has displaced more than 1.5 million individuals within the country.



6 From Data Protection to Statistics

The demand and need for information about refugees and others of concern have grown over the years, particularly given the increase in the numbers of emergencies and protracted refugee situations, and the increasing use of the internet and electronic media. UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations have invested significant efforts in the collection and dissemination of data. This increasing demand for data, particularly at the individual level, has resulted in the need for

comprehensive and coherent data protection policies across the humanitarian community.

This chapter summarizes UNHCR's newly adopted *Policy on the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR*⁹⁸ ('Data Protection Policy') and sets out its relevance to UNHCR's statistical and data analysis work. The relationship between data protection and statistics is not a new phenomenon and reference is also made to other relevant laws, resolutions, codes, and research publications.

UNHCR's data protection policy

The protection of refugees' personal data or personally identifiable information is not new for UNHCR. As part of the organization's protection mandate, UNHCR many years ago integrated the principle of confidentiality of this information into its work and propagated it among States. However, the organization's recently issued Data Protection Policy is the first comprehensive and publicly available policy document on this issue. It introduces a number of concepts and internationally recognized principles.

Among the key concepts are broad definitions of 'personal data' and of the processing of this

data. Other key concepts include the distinction between a data controller and a data processor, what constitutes a personal data breach and the related duty to notify relevant institutions about such breaches, and data protection impact assessments. The policy identifies eight principles: legitimate and fair processing, purpose specification, necessity and proportionality, accuracy, respect for the rights of the data subject, confidentiality, security, and accountability and supervision.

⁹⁸ See UNHCR, *Policy on the Protection of Personal Data of Persons of Concern to UNHCR* (henceforth: UNHCR Data Protection Policy), May 2015, <http://www.refworld.org/docid/55643c1d4.html>.

Personal data

The key concept of the Data Protection Policy is the definition of personal data. UNHCR defines personal data as ‘any data related to an individual who can be identified from that data; from that data and other information; or by means reasonably likely to be used related to that data.’⁹⁹ In essence, this definition follows the standard definition used in a number of legal instruments, including Council of Europe Convention No. 108 and EU Directive 94/46, both of which read ‘any information relating to an identified or identifiable individual (‘data subject’).’¹⁰⁰ The UNHCR definition simply describes the term ‘identifiable’ as ‘who can be identified ... from that data and other information; or by means reasonably likely to be used related to that data.’

The concept of personal data also determines the scope of the Data Protection Policy and its principles. The policy states that it ‘applies to all personal data held by UNHCR in relation to persons of concern to UNHCR. The processing of other data, e.g. aggregated or anonymized, does not fall within the scope of this Policy [...]’¹⁰¹ Statistics contain by definition aggregated or numerical data, i.e. quantitative data consisting of numbers.¹⁰² The Data Protection Policy would therefore normally not apply to statistics.

How does the Data Protection Policy apply to UNHCR’s statistics? First, let’s look at the principle of confidentiality. The policy states that

‘[p]ersonal data is by definition classified as confidential. The confidentiality of personal data must be respected by UNHCR when processing personal data at all times. In order to ensure and respect confidentiality, personal data must be filed and stored in a way that is accessible only to authorized personnel and transferred only through the use of protected means of communication.’¹⁰³

Second, let’s look at the concept of a personal data breach. This is defined as ‘[a] breach of data security leading to the accidental or unlawful/illegitimate destruction, loss, alteration, unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, personal data transferred, stored or otherwise processed.’¹⁰⁴ Published statistics that contain individually identifiable information would be a personal data breach, in violation of the confidentiality principle. Moreover, a number of individual rights could hardly be respected, such as the data subject’s

rights to correction, deletion, and objection to the processing of their personal data.¹⁰⁵

The Data Protection Policy therefore requires that statistics are made accessible to third parties if measures are taken to ensure that the data subjects are not identifiable. This requirement corresponds to an almost identical proposal made by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in its recommendation concerning the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes.¹⁰⁶ Personal data collected and processed for exclusively statistical purposes should not, in any circumstance, disclose the data subject’s identity, the Council of Ministers stated.¹⁰⁷

This requirement can also be found in multiple ethical codes for statisticians.¹⁰⁸ For instance, the International Statistical Institute’s ‘Declaration on Professional Ethics’ sets standards regarding the obligations of statisticians to protect the identity of data subjects in the strongest way possible. The declaration makes particular mention of cases in which the means of publishing and releasing the data would allow for the identification of the individual.¹⁰⁹ In addition, when it comes to the publication of microdata, the ‘Microdata

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, para. 1.4, Terms and Definitions.

¹⁰⁰ See Article 2 (a) of the Convention for the Protection of Individuals with regard to Automatic Processing of Personal Data of 28 January 1981, available at: <http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/108.htm>; Article 2 (a) of Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, available at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31995L0046:en:HTML>.

¹⁰¹ UNHCR Data Protection Policy, para. 1.3.1, Scope

¹⁰² See <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/statistics>.

¹⁰³ UNHCR Data Protection Policy, para. 4.1, Confidentiality of personal data.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, para. 1.4, Terms and definitions.

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, para. 3.3, Correction and deletion and 3.4 Objection.

¹⁰⁶ See Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Rec(97)18E 30 September 1997 concerning the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes, para. 14, available at: <https://wcd.coe.int/com.instranet.InstraServlet?command=com.instranet.CmdBlobGet&InstranetImage=2001724&SecMode=1&DocId=578856&Usage=2>.

¹⁰⁷ See Council of Europe Committee of Ministers, Explanatory Memorandum, Rec(97)18E 30 September 1997 concerning the protection of personal data collected and processed for statistical purposes, p. 11-15, available at: http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/dataprotection/EM/EM_R%2897%2918_EN.pdf.

¹⁰⁸ See International Statistical Institute (ISI), Declaration on Professional Ethics, p. 7, available at: <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99479658.pdf>; UNECE, Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, available at: <http://www.unece.org/stats/archive/docs.fp.e.html>; Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Quality Framework and Guidelines for OECD Statistical Activities, available at: <http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=std/qfs%282011%291&doclanguage=en>; European Union (Eurostat), European Statistics Code of Practice, available at: <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3859598/5921861/K5-32-11-955-EN.PDF>.

¹⁰⁹ International Statistical Institute (ISI), Declaration on Professional Ethics, p. 7, available at: <http://armstat.am/file/doc/99479658.pdf>.

Dissemination Best Practices’ of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities lay out the principles behind and technical possibilities for the protection of individual identity in statistics.¹¹⁰

UNHCR rarely collects personal data for the sole purpose of publically available statistics. While the agency has a mandate to collect and disseminate statistics, the relevant paragraph in its Statute explicitly refers to the collection of numbers of refugees from governments.¹¹¹ As stated in

the Data Protection Policy, UNHCR, in pursuing its international protection and solutions mandate, is often required to process the personal data of persons of concern – for instance, for registration, status determination, the provision of assistance, protection monitoring, or organizing voluntary repatriation or resettlement. Even though the main purpose of UNHCR’s collection of personal data is not statistics, statistics are still a legitimate and specific aim for the agency.

■ The Anonymization Challenge

In general, the potential means by which an individual could be identified, along with the availability of those means and the likeliness they will be used for this purpose, have to be taken into account when producing statistics. It is also important to consider all such means that could be used not just by ordinary people but also those who may have reason to purposefully try to identify an individual.¹¹²

Why is it so important to avoid the disclosure of personal data in UNHCR’s statistics? The personal data of persons of concern to the agency are considered to be generally sensitive,¹¹³ as refugees and others under UNHCR’s mandate are often at risk of being persecuted or otherwise ill-treated.¹¹⁴ As such, disclosure of personal data may result in harm to the refugee, family members, or other relatives.

In this context, statisticians will be particularly interested in what the definition of personal data has to say on information relating to identifiable individuals, especially with regard to more-detailed statistics. For example, a statistic that lists the number of refugees by country of origin in any given country of asylum could, in the case of very low numbers, be used to identify individuals.

In the absence of an internationally recognized convention on how to treat small numbers of individuals in a statistical pool, such numbers may pose a risk of identification in official statistics. Yet this risk can be reduced significantly by setting a ‘small-number threshold’.¹¹⁵ As a small number of cases relating to a specific country of origin and destination country pose an increased

risk for an individual to be identified, it may be useful, for instance, to systematically remove such small numbers from official statistics. A major challenge with such an approach is the fact that these numbers would not appear within the statistics, and thus may distort the statistical picture. For this reason, the small-number threshold may not always be useful.

Another way of approaching small numbers is to replace them with an asterisk. This is a common practice in UNHCR’s official statistics, whereby figures between one and four are replaced with an asterisk in both its Population Statistics Database¹¹⁶ and its downloadable spreadsheet files. Despite the agency’s commitment to and support for ‘open data’, it is nevertheless important to constantly review the data already disclosed and to analyse whether removing small numbers within the statistics is mandatory.

Eurostat compiles data related to asylum applications, decisions, and the backlog of undecided cases, among other issues, and rounds all such data on its website to the closest five. This means

¹¹⁰ Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, Microdata Dissemination best practices, available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/accsub/2014docs-23rd/SA-2014-4-Microdata.pdf>.

¹¹¹ Statute of the Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees, para. 8 (f), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3628.html>.

¹¹² See <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1554/determining-what-is-personal-data.pdf>, p. 9.

¹¹³ See UNHCR’s Data Protection Policy, para. 1.2.1, Rationale.

¹¹⁴ See the definition of a refugee in Article 1 of the 1951 Convention as well as Article 1 of the 1969 OAU Convention.

¹¹⁵ See http://www.hscic.gov.uk/media/13158/Small-Numbers-Procedure/pdf/Small-Numbers_Procedure.pdf, p. 6; <http://www.doh.wa.gov/Portals/1/Documents/5500/SmallNumbers.pdf>; <http://www.cohid.dphe.state.co.us/smnumguidelines.html#foot2>.

¹¹⁶ See <http://popstats.unhcr.org/>.

that all figures are treated equally, irrespective of their magnitude. As a consequence, very small asylum figures ‘disappear’ on the Eurostat website. However, this approach poses an important challenge in the calculation of totals based on aggregated data.

An opposite trend has been observed in the United Kingdom in recent years. As with Eurostat, the British Home Office used to round all of its asylum statistics to the closest five before publishing. It explained its rationale for this approach as follows:

‘[D]espite the care which is taken in collecting and collating all the information obtained, the figures are subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large recording system and are not necessarily accurate to the last digit. The rounding of figures also serves to ensure the confidentiality of the original source data used and the individuals to whom it relates.’¹¹⁷

However, this approach has gradually been revised to its current status, whereby nearly all of the Home Office’s aggregated asylum data is accessible on its website without any major restriction.

It is important to stress that the main purpose of statistics is not to single out an individual from data, but rather to show a particular trend or describe a situation. Situations in which there is even a slight

hypothetical possibility that an individual could be identified by reconstructing the statistics’ data should be avoided.¹¹⁸ In the age of ‘big data’, it is often quite difficult to determine whether a possibility is merely hypothetical. Even if no means are reasonably likely to be used to identify an individual, it is still important to review the situation at a later stage in order to re-assess those means. After all, these can change over time given technological developments, newly published information, and changed legal constraints.¹¹⁹

UNHCR’s statistics do not contain identifiers that would make it possible to immediately link information to a specific human being by looking solely at the data. However, if some information provided by the agency’s statistics were to be combined with other information, a direct link could be made to a specific individual. In particular, this is the case with information about the location of refugees, their movement to another country, and specific characteristics (e.g. age, sex) when combined with statistics showing a low number of individuals. Removing all directly identifying elements from the statistics is not enough to prevent possible identification. Depending on the context and the purpose of the statistics, additional measures may be needed.¹²⁰

Conclusion

UNHCR’s Data Protection Policy is an important step under its mandate to ensure the protection of refugees, including refugees’ individual identity. When it comes to the production and publication of statistics that include data on refugees, special precautions need to be taken by statisticians in order to reduce the risk of identification of any individual. Because statistics can include information of varying sensitivity, and because these are structured and published or otherwise released in various ways, it is important to develop flexible dissemination policies to ensure the effectiveness of data protection policies. In view of the sensitivity of UNHCR’s data, this is particularly important for dealing with the agency’s statistics. ■

¹¹⁷ See *Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2006*, p. 111, available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228967/7197.pdf

¹¹⁸ See Article 29 Data Protection Working Party, Opinion 4/2007 on the concept of personal data, http://ec.europa.eu/justice/policies/privacy/docs/wpdocs/2007/wp136_en.pdf, p. 15.

¹¹⁹ Amendments of the European Parliament to the Draft General Data Protection Regulation, 21 October 2013, Recital 23: ‘To ascertain whether means are reasonably likely to be used to identify the individual, account should be taken of all objective factors, such as the costs of and the amount of time required for identification, taking into consideration both available technology at the time of the processing and technological development.’

¹²⁰ See http://ec.europa.eu/justice/data-protection/article-29/documentation/opinion-recommendation/files/2014/wp216_en.pdf, p. 9.



Annex





TABLE 1 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2014

Country/ territory of asylum ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/ assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum- seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Afghanistan	280,267	20,156	300,423	300,423	60	17,820	805,409	-	-	201,284	1,324,996
Albania	104	-	104	104	485	-	-	-	7,443	-	8,032
Algeria ¹⁰	94,128	-	94,128	90,123	4,874	3	-	-	-	-	99,005
Angola	15,474	-	15,474	194	30,212	14,284	-	-	-	-	59,970
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	3,498	-	3,498	141	861	-	-	-	-	-	4,359
Armenia	3,190	14,450	17,640	7,044	71	5	-	-	206	-	17,922
Aruba	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Australia ¹¹	35,582	-	35,582	-	21,518	-	-	-	-	-	57,100
Austria ¹²	60,747	-	60,747	-	30,900	-	-	-	570	-	92,217
Azerbaijan	1,299	-	1,299	1,299	394	-	622,892	-	3,585	-	628,170
Bahamas	13	-	13	13	17	-	-	-	-	75	105
Bahrain	311	-	311	311	42	-	-	-	-	-	353
Bangladesh ¹³	32,472	200,000	232,472	32,472	13	-	-	-	-	-	232,485
Barbados	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Belarus	925	-	925	418	259	-	-	-	6,440	-	7,624
Belgium ¹⁴	29,179	-	29,179	-	9,951	-	-	-	2,554	-	41,684
Belize	10	-	10	1	114	-	-	-	-	-	124
Benin	415	-	415	415	68	-	-	-	-	-	483
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	763	-	763	236	16	-	-	-	-	-	779
Bonaire, Saint Eustatius and Saba	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6,890	-	6,890	6,890	15	181	84,500	-	101	52,437	144,124
Botswana	2,645	-	2,645	2,645	202	-	-	-	-	-	2,847
Brazil	7,490	-	7,490	1,085	11,216	-	-	-	2	29,238	47,946
British Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei Darussalam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,524	-	20,524
Bulgaria	11,046	-	11,046	9,462	6,751	-	-	-	67	-	17,864
Burkina Faso	31,894	-	31,894	31,894	203	-	-	-	-	-	32,097
Burundi	52,936	-	52,936	52,936	3,051	1,350	78,948	-	1,302	524	138,111
Cabo Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	115	-	115
Cambodia	63	-	63	63	40	-	-	-	-	1	104
Cameroon	226,489	37,637	264,126	249,032	11,754	385	-	-	-	-	276,265
Canada	149,163	-	149,163	-	16,711	-	-	-	-	-	165,874
Cayman Islands	6	-	6	6	2	-	-	-	-	45	53
Central African Rep.	7,694	-	7,694	6,958	409	-	438,538	610,903	-	-	1,057,544
Chad	452,897	-	452,897	452,294	1,800	370	-	-	-	50,000	505,067
Chile	1,773	-	1,773	304	573	-	-	-	-	-	2,346
China ¹⁵	301,052	-	301,052	149	467	-	-	-	-	-	301,519
China, Hong Kong SAR	170	-	170	170	2,248	-	-	-	1	-	2,419
China, Macao SAR	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Colombia	213	-	213	57	170	6	6,044,151	-	12	-	6,044,552
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congo, Republic of	54,842	-	54,842	54,842	3,199	14	-	-	-	1,050	59,105
Costa Rica	12,924	7,820	20,744	16,675	1,774	-	-	-	1,200	-	23,718
Côte d'Ivoire	1,925	-	1,925	1,925	669	12,362	24,000	-	700,000	58	739,014
Croatia	679	47	726	726	119	284	-	-	2,886	15,794	19,809
Cuba	280	-	280	145	11	-	-	-	-	-	291
Curaçao	37	-	37	37	41	-	-	-	-	-	78
Cyprus ¹⁶	5,126	-	5,126	358	2,467	-	-	-	-	-	7,593
Czech Rep.	3,137	-	3,137	-	480	-	-	-	1,502	-	5,119
Dem. Rep. of the Congo ¹⁷	119,754	-	119,754	88,731	1,184	25,150	2,756,585	561,073	-	153,136	3,616,882
Denmark	17,785	-	17,785	-	4,297	-	-	-	4,725	-	26,807
Djibouti	20,530	-	20,530	20,530	3,832	-	-	-	-	-	24,362
Dominica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominican Rep. ¹⁸	608	-	608	608	746	-	-	-	210,000	-	211,354
Ecuador ¹⁹	53,817	68,344	122,161	53,817	11,583	-	-	-	-	-	133,744
Egypt	236,090	-	236,090	166,090	25,631	-	-	-	20	-	261,741
El Salvador	35	-	35	8	8	4	-	-	-	-	39
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritrea	2,898	-	2,898	2,898	1	-	-	-	-	21	2,920

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TABLE 1 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2014 (ctnd)

Country/ territory of asylum ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/ assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum- seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Estonia ²⁰	90	-	90	-	95	-	-	-	88,076	-	88,261
Ethiopia	659,524	-	659,524	659,524	4,124	466	-	-	-	1,126	665,240
Fiji	13	-	13	13	11	-	-	-	-	-	24
Finland	11,798	-	11,798	-	1,754	-	-	-	2,293	-	15,845
France	252,264	-	252,264	-	55,862	-	-	-	1,288	-	309,414
Gabon	1,013	-	1,013	1,013	1,890	-	-	-	-	-	2,903
Gambia	11,608	-	11,608	11,608	1	-	-	-	-	-	11,609
Georgia	442	415	857	857	1,257	-	262,704	-	770	-	265,588
Germany	216,973	-	216,973	-	226,191	-	-	-	11,917	-	455,081
Ghana	18,450	-	18,450	18,450	2,638	-	-	-	-	-	21,088
Greece	7,304	3,000	10,304	-	31,929	-	-	-	199	-	42,432
Grenada	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guatemala	164	-	164	26	109	-	-	-	-	-	273
Guinea	8,766	-	8,766	8,766	281	-	-	-	-	-	9,047
Guinea-Bissau	8,684	-	8,684	8,684	123	-	-	-	-	-	8,807
Guyana	11	-	11	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
Haiti	3	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Honduras	26	-	26	4	16	1	-	-	-	-	43
Hungary	2,867	-	2,867	-	15,684	-	-	-	124	-	18,675
Iceland	99	-	99	-	210	-	-	-	119	-	428
India	199,937	-	199,937	25,865	5,074	1	-	-	-	-	205,012
Indonesia	4,270	-	4,270	4,270	6,916	-	-	-	-	-	11,186
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	982,027	-	982,027	982,027	42	16	-	-	-	-	982,085
Iraq ²¹	271,143	-	271,143	271,143	8,471	10,908	3,596,356	19,967	120,000	18	4,026,863
Ireland	5,853	-	5,853	-	4,626	-	-	-	99	-	10,578
Israel	330	39,386	39,716	5,310	5,558	-	-	-	10	-	45,284
Italy	93,715	-	93,715	-	45,749	-	-	-	813	-	140,277
Jamaica	22	-	22	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Japan ²²	2,560	-	2,560	568	9,296	-	-	-	635	-	12,491
Jordan ²³	654,141	-	654,141	654,141	18,789	-	-	-	-	-	672,930
Kazakhstan	633	-	633	633	93	-	-	-	7,038	-	7,764
Kenya	551,352	-	551,352	551,352	34,011	1	-	-	20,000	-	605,364
Kuwait ²⁴	614	-	614	613	1,038	-	-	-	93,000	-	94,652
Kyrgyzstan	482	-	482	482	207	2	-	-	12,133	-	12,824
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia ²⁵	183	-	183	-	239	-	-	-	262,802	-	263,224
Lebanon	1,154,040	-	1,154,040	1,154,040	7,434	-	-	-	-	5,705	1,167,179
Lesotho	44	-	44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	45
Liberia	38,587	8	38,595	38,595	46	-	-	-	1	1,479	40,121
Libya	27,964	-	27,964	-	8,904	-	363,067	-	-	-	399,935
Liechtenstein	103	-	103	-	68	-	-	-	2	-	173
Lithuania	1,007	-	1,007	-	142	-	-	-	3,645	-	4,794
Luxembourg	1,108	-	1,108	-	1,282	-	-	-	81	-	2,471
Madagascar	11	-	11	11	8	-	-	-	-	1	20
Malawi	5,874	-	5,874	5,874	14,499	-	-	-	-	-	20,373
Malaysia	99,086	295	99,381	99,381	51,240	-	-	-	40,000	80,000	270,621
Mali	15,195	-	15,195	14,708	637	20,961	99,816	155,006	-	-	291,615
Malta	6,095	-	6,095	-	178	-	-	-	-	-	6,273
Mauritania	49,635	26,000	75,635	49,635	413	-	-	-	-	-	76,048
Mauritius	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico ²⁶	1,837	-	1,837	367	2,872	-	-	-	13	-	4,722
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monaco	33	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Mongolia	6	-	6	6	9	-	-	-	16	-	31
Montenegro	6,462	-	6,462	6,462	69	-	-	-	3,296	11,021	20,848
Montserrat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Morocco	1,216	-	1,216	1,216	1,832	-	-	-	-	-	3,048
Mozambique	4,536	-	4,536	2,446	13,322	-	-	-	-	3	17,861
Myanmar ²⁷	-	-	-	-	-	1	376,500	-	810,000	-	1,186,501
Namibia	1,767	-	1,767	1,555	821	14	-	-	-	1,662	4,264
Nauru	389	-	389	-	733	-	-	-	-	-	1,122

... / ...



TABLE 1 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2014 (ctnd)

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	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum- seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Nepal ²⁸	38,490	-	38,490	23,490	137	-	-	-	-	385	39,012
Netherlands ²⁹	82,494	-	82,494	-	6,940	-	-	-	1,951	-	91,385
New Zealand	1,349	-	1,349	-	270	-	-	-	-	-	1,619
Nicaragua	280	-	280	207	59	-	-	-	1	2	342
Niger	77,830	-	77,830	77,830	106	-	-	-	-	70,000	147,936
Nigeria	1,239	-	1,239	1,239	856	-	1,188,018	-	-	-	1,190,113
Norway	47,043	-	47,043	-	7,180	-	-	-	1,997	-	56,220
Oman	151	-	151	151	231	-	-	-	-	-	382
Pakistan	1,505,525	-	1,505,525	1,505,525	5,527	1	1,375,904	75,825	-	-	2,962,782
Palau	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Panama	2,271	15,000	17,271	298	1,402	-	-	-	2	-	18,675
Papua New Guinea	4,929	4,581	9,510	-	400	-	-	-	-	-	9,910
Paraguay	153	-	153	24	13	-	-	-	-	-	166
Peru	1,303	-	1,303	133	387	-	-	-	-	-	1,690
Philippines	222	-	222	22	109	-	142,430	98,718	6,370	68	247,917
Poland	15,741	-	15,741	-	2,685	-	-	-	10,825	-	29,251
Portugal	699	-	699	-	344	-	-	-	14	-	1,057
Qatar	133	-	133	133	88	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,421
Rep. of Korea	1,173	-	1,173	356	3,489	-	-	-	204	-	4,866
Rep. of Moldova	335	-	335	335	149	-	-	-	2,036	-	2,520
Romania	2,182	-	2,182	164	360	-	-	-	299	-	2,841
Russian Federation ³⁰	235,750	-	235,750	3,959	3,086	14	-	-	113,474	2,126	354,450
Rwanda	73,820	-	73,820	73,820	225	5,787	-	-	-	292	80,124
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Saint Lucia	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	534	27	561	561	100	-	-	-	70,000	-	70,661
Senegal	14,274	-	14,274	14,274	2,914	-	-	-	-	-	17,188
Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))	43,751	-	43,751	7,968	440	215	223,139	450	3,578	-	271,573
Sierra Leone	1,372	-	1,372	775	15	-	-	-	-	-	1,387
Singapore	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	3	-	3	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	8
Slovakia	799	-	799	-	220	-	-	-	1,523	131	2,673
Slovenia	257	-	257	-	69	-	-	-	4	-	330
Solomon Islands	3	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Somalia	2,729	-	2,729	2,729	9,265	2,487	1,133,000	12,736	-	69	1,160,286
South Africa	112,192	-	112,192	11,219	463,940	1	-	-	-	-	576,133
South Sudan ³¹	248,152	-	248,152	248,152	130	-	1,645,392	200,055	-	-	2,093,729
Spain	5,798	-	5,798	-	7,525	-	-	-	270	-	13,593
Sri Lanka ³²	511	-	511	511	950	504	30,847	358	-	-	33,170
State of Palestine	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Sudan ³³	244,430	33,403	277,833	244,430	10,209	13,139	2,192,830	1,695	-	3,070	2,498,776
Suriname	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Swaziland	515	-	515	264	273	-	-	-	-	4	792
Sweden	142,207	-	142,207	-	56,784	-	-	-	27,167	-	226,158
Switzerland	62,620	-	62,620	-	20,832	-	-	-	76	-	83,528
Syrian Arab Rep. ³⁴	149,140	-	149,140	25,920	2,745	-	7,632,500	-	160,000	3,270	7,947,655
Tajikistan	2,026	-	2,026	1,651	123	-	-	-	1,364	77	3,590
Thailand ³⁵	75,137	55,101	130,238	75,137	7,931	-	-	-	506,197	395	644,761
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	614	269	883	883	1,551	-	-	-	741	-	3,175
Timor-Leste	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Togo	21,778	-	21,778	13,315	713	28	-	-	-	-	22,519
Tonga	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	83	-	83	83	87	-	-	-	-	-	170
Tunisia	901	-	901	901	231	-	-	-	-	3	1,135
Turkey ³⁶	1,587,374	-	1,587,374	1,587,374	106,378	-	-	-	780	306	1,694,838
Turkmenistan	35	-	35	35	-	-	-	-	7,511	-	7,546

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TABLE 1 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by country/territory of asylum | end-2014 (ctnd)

Country/ territory of asylum ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/ assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum- seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Turcs and Caicos Islands	4	-	4	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	8
Uganda	385,513	-	385,513	385,513	35,475	1	-	-	-	180,000	600,989
Ukraine	3,219	-	3,219	433	5,908	-	823,000	-	35,335	-	867,462
United Arab Emirates	417	-	417	417	216	-	-	-	-	-	633
United Kingdom	117,234	-	117,234	-	36,383	-	-	-	16	-	153,633
United Rep. of Tanzania	88,492	-	88,492	66,265	883	-	-	-	-	162,982	252,357
United States of America ¹⁷	267,222	-	267,222	-	187,826	-	-	-	-	-	455,048
Uruguay	272	-	272	114	56	-	-	-	-	-	328
Uzbekistan ³⁸	125	-	125	125	-	-	-	-	86,703	-	86,828
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5,052	168,548	173,600	34,164	427	-	-	-	-	-	174,027
Viet Nam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000	-	11,000
Yemen	257,645	-	257,645	117,715	8,674	-	334,093	85,805	-	-	686,217
Zambia	25,578	-	25,578	25,578	2,186	-	-	-	-	22,452	50,216
Zimbabwe	6,079	-	6,079	6,079	641	55	-	-	-	2,450	9,225
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844
UNHCR-Bureaux											
- Central Africa-Great Lakes	625,040	37,637	662,677	593,597	22,595	32,686	3,274,071	1,171,976	1,302	317,984	5,483,291
- East and Horn of Africa	2,568,025	33,403	2,601,428	2,567,422	98,847	16,464	4,971,222	214,486	20,000	234,286	8,156,733
- Southern Africa	174,715	-	174,715	55,865	526,105	14,354	-	-	-	26,572	741,746
- Western Africa	252,017	8	252,025	242,478	9,270	33,351	1,311,834	155,006	700,116	71,537	2,533,139
Total Africa	3,619,797	71,048	3,690,845	3,459,362	656,817	96,855	9,557,127	1,541,468	721,418	650,379	16,914,909
Asia and Pacific	3,568,538	280,133	3,848,671	3,053,381	116,910	18,345	2,731,090	174,901	1,509,696	282,217	8,681,830
Middle East and North Africa	2,898,533	65,413	2,963,946	2,538,420	95,271	10,913	11,926,016	105,772	444,230	8,996	15,555,144
Europe	3,094,620	18,181	3,112,801	1,634,736	698,358	699	2,016,235	450	605,689	81,815	6,516,047
Americas	509,341	259,712	769,053	108,598	237,109	11	6,044,151	-	211,230	29,360	7,290,914
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844
UN major regions											
Africa	4,029,731	97,048	4,126,779	3,767,327	698,702	96,858	9,920,194	1,541,468	721,438	650,382	17,755,821
Asia	7,612,302	329,830	7,942,132	6,880,751	257,930	29,260	15,179,635	280,673	1,959,247	291,516	25,940,393
Europe	1,497,189	3,316	1,500,505	37,804	587,791	694	1,130,639	450	600,348	81,509	3,901,936
Latin America and the Caribbean	92,956	259,712	352,668	108,598	32,572	11	6,044,151	-	211,230	29,360	6,669,992
Northern America	416,385	-	416,385	-	204,537	-	-	-	-	-	620,922
Oceania	42,266	4,581	46,847	17	22,933	-	-	-	-	-	69,780
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844



Notes

- The data are generally provided by Governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection.
- A dash (“-”) indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.
- 1 Country or territory of asylum or residence.
 - 2 Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.
 - 3 This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.
 - 4 Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.
 - 5 Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2014. Source: country of origin and asylum.
 - 6 Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance. It also includes people in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.
 - 7 IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2014.
 - 8 Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency’s statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. See Annex Table 7 at <http://www.unhcr.org/statisticalyearbook/2014-annex-tables.zip> for detailed notes.
 - 9 Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the other groups but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance services. These activities might be based on humanitarian or other special grounds.
 - 10 According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.
 - 11 Australia’s figures for asylum-seekers are based on the number of applications lodged for protection visas.
 - 12 With the exception of stateless persons, all figures relate to the end of 2013.
 - 13 The refugee population includes 200,000 persons originating from Myanmar in a refugee-like situation. The Government of Bangladesh estimates the population to be between 300,000 and 500,000.
 - 14 The refugee population refers to mid-2014.
 - 15 The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.
 - 16 UNHCR’s assistance activities for IDPs in Cyprus ended in 1999. Visit the website of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) for further information.
 - 17 The number of Rwandan refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is subject to change based on a registration exercise carried out in 2014 that resulted in a figure of 243,000 identified Rwandans, as well as a biometric registration exercise.
 - 18 The figure for stateless persons is based on an official survey released in May 2013 by the National Bureau for Statistics and refers to the estimated number of individuals born in the country to at least one Haitian migrant parent. No population data is currently available on subsequent generations born in the Dominican Republic.
 - 19 All figures relate to the end of 2013.
 - 20 Almost all people recorded as being stateless have permanent residence and enjoy more rights than foreseen in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.
 - 21 The figure for stateless persons is an estimate and currently under review.
 - 22 Figures are UNHCR estimates.
 - 23 Includes 29,300 Iraqi refugees registered with UNHCR in Jordan. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This included refugees and other categories of Iraqis.
 - 24 All figures relate to mid-2014.
 - 25 The figure of stateless persons includes persons covered by two separate Laws. 180 fall under the Republic of Latvia’s Law on Stateless Persons on 17 February 2004, which replaced the Law on the Status of Stateless Persons in the Republic of Latvia of 18 February 1999, and which determines the legal status of persons who are not considered as citizens by the legislation of any State and whose status is not determined by the 25th April 1995 Law (quoted below). 262,622 of the persons reported in this table fall under the Republic of Latvia’s 25 April 1995 Law on the Status of Those Former USSR Citizens who are not Citizens of Latvia or of Any Other State, and are granted a transitional legal status to permanently residing persons (non-citizens) entitling them to a set of rights and obligations beyond the minimum rights prescribed by the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. According to the Latvian authorities, “Non-citizens of Latvia is the only category of residents who are not Latvian citizens, but who enjoy the right to reside in Latvia *ex lege* (all others require a resident permit) and an immediate right to acquire citizenship through registration and/or naturalisation (depending on age).”
 - 26 Figures do not include all refugee status determination decisions taken by the Mexican authorities in 2014. The total number of asylum-seekers reported reflects only those registered until the end of September 2014.
 - 27 The figure of stateless persons refers to persons without citizenship in Rakhine State only and does not include an estimated 170,000 IDPs and persons in an IDP-like situation who are included under the IDP population but who are not considered nationals. The total stateless population in Rakhine State is estimated to be approximately one million.
 - 28 Various studies estimate that a large number of individuals lack citizenship certificates in Nepal. While these individuals are not all necessarily stateless, UNHCR has been working closely with the Government of Nepal and partners to address this situation.
 - 29 The number of pending asylum applications refers to the end of January 2015.
 - 30 Stateless persons refers to census figure from 2010 adjusted to reflect the number of people who acquired nationality in 2011-2014.
 - 31 IDP figure in South Sudan includes 155,200 people who are in an IDP-like situation.
 - 32 The statistics of the remaining IDPs at the end of the year, while provided by the Government authorities at the district level, are being reviewed by the central authorities. Once this review has been concluded, the statistics will be changed accordingly.
 - 33 IDP figure in Sudan includes 77,300 people who are in an IDP-like situation.
 - 34 Refugee figure for Iraqis in the Syrian Arab Republic is a Government estimate. UNHCR has registered and is assisting 30,000 Iraqis at the end of 2014.
 - 35 Figure of stateless persons in Thailand refers to 2011.
 - 36 Refugee figure for Syrians in Turkey is a Government estimate.
 - 37 The refugee figure for the United States of America is currently under review, which may lead to an adjustment in future reports.
 - 38 Figure of stateless persons refers to those with permanent residence reported in 2010 by the Government. Information on other categories of stateless persons is not available.
- Source: UNHCR/Governments.

TABLE 2 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2014

Origin ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	of whom: UNHCR-assisted	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Afghanistan	2,596,270	-	2,596,270	2,477,714	92,382	17,820	805,409	-	-	201,361	3,713,242
Albania	10,158	-	10,158	6	15,212	-	-	-	-	-	25,370
Algeria	3,524	-	3,524	76	5,536	3	-	-	-	12	9,075
Andorra	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Angola	9,484	-	9,484	1,175	1,774	14,284	-	-	-	64,201	89,743
Anguilla	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Antigua and Barbuda	53	-	53	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	70
Argentina	318	-	318	5	117	-	-	-	-	-	435
Armenia	11,848	-	11,848	51	6,943	5	-	-	-	13	18,809
Australia	25	-	25	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	32
Austria	10	-	10	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	14
Azerbaijan	10,515	-	10,515	1,609	4,584	-	622,892	-	-	1	637,992
Bahamas	215	-	215	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	257
Bahrain	347	-	347	10	101	-	-	-	-	7	455
Bangladesh	10,881	2	10,883	195	22,080	-	-	-	-	14	32,977
Barbados	86	-	86	-	20	-	-	-	-	-	106
Belarus	4,300	-	4,300	22	985	-	-	-	-	1	5,286
Belgium	75	-	75	-	23	-	-	-	-	-	98
Belize	45	-	45	-	84	-	-	-	-	-	129
Benin	340	-	340	2	721	-	-	-	-	-	1,061
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bhutan	23,642	-	23,642	23,062	192	-	-	-	-	-	23,834
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	600	-	600	19	271	-	-	-	-	-	871
Bosnia and Herzegovina	21,841	47	21,888	3,805	6,780	181	84,500	-	-	52,438	165,787
Botswana	237	-	237	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	304
Brazil	977	-	977	3	1,205	-	-	-	-	-	2,182
British Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Brunei Darussalam	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bulgaria	1,648	-	1,648	15	193	-	-	-	-	-	1,841
Burkina Faso	1,853	4	1,857	25	1,592	-	-	-	-	1	3,450
Burundi	72,493	-	72,493	40,192	19,376	1,350	78,948	-	-	162,901	335,068
Cabo Verde	27	-	27	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	69
Cambodia	13,062	9	13,071	161	263	-	-	-	-	-	13,334
Cameroon	10,766	-	10,766	367	5,140	385	-	-	-	1	16,292
Canada	95	-	95	-	67	-	-	-	-	6	168
Cayman Islands	6	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Central African Rep.	410,787	1,254	412,041	410,621	14,388	-	438,538	610,903	-	15,043	1,490,913
Chad	14,855	33,403	48,258	12,052	3,306	370	-	-	-	35,001	86,935
Chile	579	-	579	12	103	-	-	-	-	-	682
China	210,802	-	210,802	278	47,759	-	-	-	-	1	258,562
China, Hong Kong SAR	25	-	25	-	39	-	-	-	-	-	64
China, Macao SAR	5	-	5	-	14	-	-	-	-	-	19
Colombia	103,150	257,148	360,298	101,353	4,735	6	6,044,151	-	-	-	6,409,190
Comoros	581	-	581	2	349	-	-	-	-	-	930
Congo, Republic of	14,500	-	14,500	1,983	3,459	14	-	-	-	103	18,076
Cook Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Costa Rica	417	-	417	1	127	-	-	-	-	-	544
Côte d'Ivoire	71,966	-	71,966	59,435	13,489	12,362	24,000	-	-	41	121,858
Croatia ¹⁰	40,122	-	40,122	12,101	116	284	-	-	-	15,794	56,316
Cuba	6,502	1,000	7,502	1,213	1,848	-	-	-	-	120	9,470
Curaçao	35	-	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35
Cyprus ¹¹	10	-	10	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	13
Czech Rep.	1,327	-	1,327	-	104	-	-	-	-	-	1,431
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	1,282	-	1,282	58	240	-	-	-	-	-	1,522
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	516,563	208	516,771	447,052	67,425	25,150	2,756,585	561,073	-	112,309	4,039,313
Denmark	12	-	12	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	20
Djibouti	879	-	879	84	426	-	-	-	-	4	1,309
Dominica	38	-	38	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	55
Dominican Rep.	349	-	349	18	1,148	-	-	-	-	-	1,497
Ecuador	804	-	804	21	6,970	-	-	-	-	-	7,774

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TABLE 2 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2014 (ctnd)

Origin ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	of whom: UNHCR-assisted	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Egypt	15,903	-	15,903	250	11,057	-	-	-	-	42	27,002
El Salvador	10,965	-	10,965	484	18,037	4	-	-	-	-	29,006
Equatorial Guinea	174	-	174	13	95	-	-	-	-	-	269
Eritrea	330,541	32,551	363,092	244,209	53,786	-	-	-	-	118	416,996
Estonia	339	-	339	1	33	-	-	-	-	-	372
Ethiopia	86,870	-	86,870	45,429	61,446	466	-	-	-	409	149,191
Fiji	924	-	924	6	767	-	-	-	-	-	1,691
Finland	7	-	7	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	8
France	93	-	93	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	140
Gabon	172	-	172	3	141	-	-	-	-	-	313
Gambia	5,136	-	5,136	57	10,636	-	-	-	-	-	15,772
Georgia	6,681	-	6,681	603	8,332	-	262,704	-	-	-	277,717
Germany	176	-	176	2	90	-	-	-	-	2	268
Ghana	22,143	2	22,145	10,007	7,703	-	-	-	-	2	29,850
Gibraltar	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Greece	113	-	113	-	56	-	-	-	-	-	169
Grenada	324	-	324	-	52	-	-	-	-	-	376
Guadeloupe	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	12
Guatemala	7,483	-	7,483	88	15,807	-	-	-	-	-	23,290
Guinea	15,252	-	15,252	180	17,942	-	-	-	-	-	33,194
Guinea-Bissau	1,307	-	1,307	15	1,808	-	-	-	-	-	3,115
Guyana	700	-	700	-	145	-	-	-	-	-	845
Haiti	37,162	-	37,162	753	6,729	-	-	-	-	29,238	73,129
Holy See (the)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	4,159	-	4,159	304	10,147	1	-	-	-	-	14,307
Hungary	1,267	-	1,267	3	341	-	-	-	-	3	1,611
Iceland	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
India	10,436	-	10,436	19	17,275	1	-	-	-	381	28,093
Indonesia	9,562	4,846	14,408	765	1,773	-	-	-	-	2	16,183
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	82,191	-	82,191	15,759	35,833	16	-	-	-	26	118,066
Iraq ¹²	369,954	-	369,954	119,620	104,905	10,908	3,596,356	19,967	-	3,307	4,105,397
Ireland	10	-	10	-	87	-	-	-	-	-	97
Israel	979	-	979	16	289	-	-	-	-	-	1,268
Italy	67	-	67	1	112	-	-	-	-	-	179
Jamaica	1,692	-	1,692	10	610	-	-	-	-	-	2,302
Japan	262	-	262	-	64	-	-	-	-	-	326
Jordan	1,718	-	1,718	105	1,335	-	-	-	-	102	3,155
Kazakhstan	2,224	-	2,224	15	1,254	-	-	-	-	-	3,478
Kenya	8,553	-	8,553	4,048	2,979	1	-	-	-	2	11,535
Kiribati	3	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	5
Kuwait	981	-	981	25	273	-	-	-	-	-	1,254
Kyrgyzstan	2,451	-	2,451	294	1,907	2	-	-	-	-	4,360
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	7,482	-	7,482	3	117	-	-	-	-	-	7,599
Latvia	213	-	213	3	63	-	-	-	-	-	276
Lebanon	4,273	-	4,273	95	3,914	-	-	-	-	-	8,187
Lesotho	17	-	17	-	666	-	-	-	-	-	683
Liberia	13,545	27	13,572	9,213	2,381	-	-	-	-	10	15,963
Libya	4,203	-	4,203	34	3,966	-	363,067	-	-	5	371,241
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	183	-	183	2	57	-	-	-	-	-	240
Luxembourg	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
Madagascar	281	-	281	-	209	-	-	-	-	6	496
Malawi	361	-	361	4	3,897	-	-	-	-	-	4,258
Malaysia	468	-	468	-	957	-	-	-	-	-	1,425
Maldives	36	-	36	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	45
Mali	139,267	-	139,267	128,223	12,286	20,961	99,816	155,006	-	-	427,336
Malta	5	-	5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6
Marshall Islands	3	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	9
Mauritania	34,113	-	34,113	26,627	7,025	-	-	-	-	4	41,142
Mauritius	94	-	94	-	165	-	-	-	-	-	259
Mexico	10,666	-	10,666	24	29,354	-	-	-	-	-	40,020
Monaco	3	-	3	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	9

.../...

TABLE 2 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2014 (ctnd)

Origin ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	of whom: UNHCR-assisted	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
Mongolia	2,163	-	2,163	-	2,478	-	-	-	-	-	4,641
Montenegro	607	-	607	4	1,292	-	-	-	-	-	1,899
Morocco	1,539	-	1,539	46	3,473	-	-	-	-	13	5,025
Mozambique	58	-	58	6	1,411	-	-	-	-	-	1,469
Myanmar ¹³	223,896	255,110	479,006	215,744	51,357	1	376,500	-	-	400	907,264
Namibia	1,253	-	1,253	979	53	14	-	-	-	-	1,320
Nepal	8,561	2	8,563	27	6,717	-	-	-	-	-	15,280
Netherlands	68	-	68	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	109
New Zealand	17	-	17	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	33
Nicaragua	1,587	-	1,587	655	727	-	-	-	-	-	2,314
Niger	739	-	739	14	562	-	-	-	-	-	1,301
Nigeria	54,563	36,384	90,947	57,424	31,241	-	1,188,018	-	-	70,013	1,380,219
Niue	18	-	18	-	28	-	-	-	-	-	46
Norfolk Island	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Norway	13	-	13	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	15
Oman	29	-	29	3	17	-	-	-	-	-	46
Pakistan	315,805	20,156	335,961	302,148	45,165	1	1,375,904	75,825	-	2	1,832,858
Palau	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
Palestinian ¹⁴	97,212	-	97,212	11,906	3,669	2	-	-	-	3,166	104,049
Panama	89	-	89	20	30	-	-	-	-	-	119
Papua New Guinea	288	-	288	-	217	-	-	-	-	-	505
Paraguay	94	-	94	1	35	-	-	-	-	-	129
Peru	4,343	-	4,343	459	1,033	-	-	-	-	-	5,376
Philippines	666	4	670	15	1,120	-	142,430	98,718	-	80,053	322,991
Poland	1,310	-	1,310	4	273	-	-	-	-	-	1,583
Portugal	31	-	31	1	34	-	-	-	-	-	65
Qatar	21	-	21	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	30
Rep. of Korea	481	-	481	-	285	-	-	-	-	-	766
Rep. of Moldova	2,233	-	2,233	17	1,501	-	-	-	-	1	3,735
Romania	1,918	-	1,918	7	1,053	-	-	-	-	4	2,975
Russian Federation	70,562	-	70,562	966	27,485	14	-	-	-	310	98,371
Rwanda ¹⁵	79,408	-	79,408	38,349	10,022	5,787	-	-	-	4,864	100,081
Saint Kitts and Nevis	23	-	23	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	35
Saint Lucia	922	-	922	-	33	-	-	-	-	-	955
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1,736	-	1,736	-	46	-	-	-	-	-	1,782
Samoa	1	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	11
San Marino	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sao Tome and Principe	22	-	22	19	6	-	-	-	-	-	28
Saudi Arabia	630	-	630	22	391	-	-	-	-	12	1,033
Senegal	23,118	-	23,118	19,689	8,800	-	-	-	-	-	31,918
Serbia and Kosovo (S/RES/1244 (1999))	45,464	269	45,733	6,958	47,073	215	223,139	450	-	1	316,611
Seychelles	25	-	25	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	42
Sierra Leone	4,993	-	4,993	864	3,216	-	-	-	-	1,479	9,688
Singapore	59	-	59	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	97
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Slovakia	319	-	319	-	327	-	-	-	-	-	646
Slovenia	26	-	26	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	33
Solomon Islands	70	-	70	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	91
Somalia	1,106,434	-	1,106,434	833,018	50,615	2,487	1,133,000	12,736	-	800	2,306,072
South Africa	424	-	424	6	539	1	-	-	-	-	964
South Sudan ¹⁶	616,143	68	616,211	616,058	3,802	-	1,645,392	200,055	-	-	2,465,460
Spain	60	-	60	4	75	-	-	-	-	-	135
Sri Lanka ¹⁷	122,010	-	122,010	2,192	17,259	504	30,847	358	-	15	170,993
Sudan ¹⁸	659,408	6,559	665,967	644,083	36,174	13,139	2,192,830	1,695	-	3	2,909,808
Suriname	17	-	17	-	47	-	-	-	-	-	64
Swaziland	161	-	161	3	144	-	-	-	-	3	308
Sweden	18	-	18	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	28
Switzerland	19	-	19	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	21
Syrian Arab Rep.	3,869,626	17,865	3,887,491	3,723,054	84,542	-	7,632,500	-	-	1,993	11,606,526
Tajikistan	725	-	725	69	959	-	-	-	-	-	1,684

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TABLE 2 Refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees (refugees and IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern to UNHCR by origin | end-2014 (ctnd)

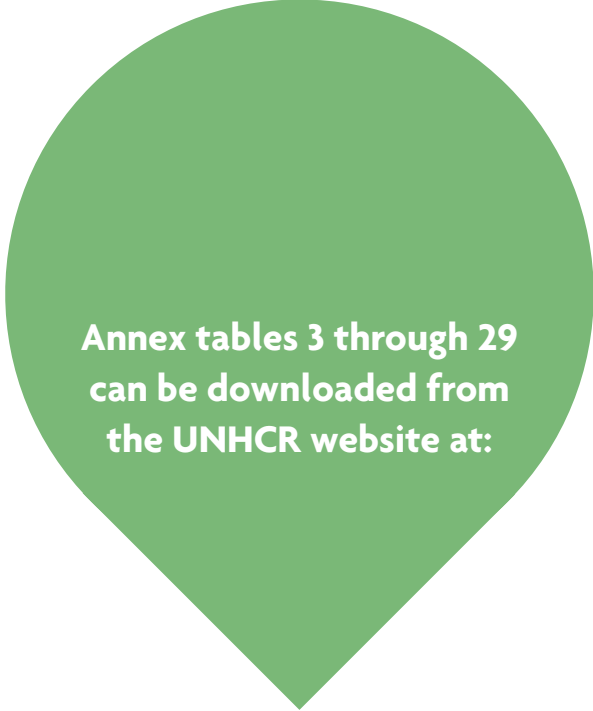
Origin ¹	REFUGEES					Returned refugees ⁵	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations ⁶	Returned IDPs ⁷	Persons under UNHCR's statelessness mandate ⁸	Others of concern to UNHCR ⁹	Total population of concern
	Refugees ²	People in refugee-like situations ³	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	of whom: UNHCR-assisted	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) ⁴						
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,759	-	1,759	6	7,993	-	-	-	-	-	9,752
Thailand	231	2	233	11	415	-	-	-	-	-	648
Tibetan	15,069	-	15,069	3	12	-	-	-	-	4	15,085
Timor-Leste	13	-	13	7	10	-	-	-	-	-	23
Togo	9,275	1	9,276	3,125	1,714	28	-	-	-	-	11,018
Tonga	22	-	22	-	83	-	-	-	-	-	105
Trinidad and Tobago	371	-	371	-	173	-	-	-	-	-	544
Tunisia	1,485	-	1,485	43	1,910	-	-	-	-	11	3,406
Turkey	63,892	-	63,892	16,729	11,559	-	-	-	-	11	75,462
Turkmenistan	484	-	484	19	759	-	-	-	-	-	1,243
Turks and Caicos Islands	15	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Tuvalu	2	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	6
Uganda	7,190	1	7,191	2,131	4,795	1	-	-	-	180,000	191,987
Ukraine	237,625	-	237,625	210	15,535	-	823,000	-	-	5	1,076,165
United Arab Emirates	90	-	90	4	80	-	-	-	-	-	170
United Kingdom	141	-	141	2	86	-	-	-	-	-	227
United Rep. of Tanzania	858	-	858	94	1,085	-	-	-	-	-	1,943
United States of America ¹⁹	4,987	-	4,987	15	190	-	-	-	-	17	5,194
Uruguay	124	-	124	7	46	-	-	-	-	-	170
Uzbekistan	4,795	-	4,795	335	2,077	-	-	-	-	3	6,875
Vanuatu	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	8,009	-	8,009	302	4,820	-	-	-	-	2	12,831
Viet Nam ²⁰	313,417	1	313,418	180	3,149	-	-	-	-	68	316,635
Wallis and Futuna Islands	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Western Sahara ²¹	90,482	26,000	116,482	90,120	1,180	-	-	-	-	-	117,662
Yemen	2,631	-	2,631	464	2,760	-	334,093	85,805	-	15	425,304
Zambia	316	-	316	12	301	-	-	-	-	-	617
Zimbabwe	22,492	-	22,492	1,622	42,434	55	-	-	-	116	65,097
Stateless	27,915	-	27,915	854	11,687	-	-	-	3,492,263	-	3,531,865
Various/unknown	99,577	1,564	101,141	1,260	433,206	-	-	-	-	16,350	550,697
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844

UNHCR-Bureaux											
- Central Africa-Great Lakes	1,105,743	1,462	1,107,205	938,693	121,137	32,686	3,274,071	1,171,976	-	295,221	6,002,296
- East and Horn of Africa	2,830,873	72,582	2,903,455	2,401,112	217,329	16,464	4,971,222	214,486	-	216,337	8,539,293
- Southern Africa	35,784	-	35,784	3,809	52,026	14,354	-	-	-	64,326	166,490
- Western Africa	363,524	36,418	399,942	288,273	114,133	33,351	1,311,834	155,006	-	71,546	2,085,812
Total Africa	4,335,924	110,462	4,446,386	3,631,887	504,625	96,855	9,557,127	1,541,468	-	647,430	16,793,891
Asia and Pacific	3,980,834	280,132	4,260,966	3,039,079	355,124	18,345	2,731,090	174,901	-	282,330	7,822,756
Middle East and North Africa	4,499,740	43,865	4,543,605	3,972,520	236,432	10,913	11,926,016	105,772	-	8,689	16,831,427
Europe	537,101	316	537,417	43,136	158,546	699	2,016,235	450	-	68,585	2,781,932
Americas	209,738	258,148	467,886	105,761	104,845	11	6,044,151	-	-	29,383	6,646,276
Various/Stateless	127,492	1,564	129,056	2,114	444,893	-	-	-	3,492,263	16,350	4,082,562
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844

UN major regions											
Africa	4,487,173	136,462	4,623,635	3,749,083	538,772	96,858	9,920,194	1,541,468	-	647,517	17,368,444
Asia	8,420,894	297,997	8,718,891	6,913,392	587,665	29,260	15,179,635	280,673	-	290,957	25,087,081
Europe	444,155	316	444,471	24,140	127,112	694	1,130,639	450	-	68,560	1,771,926
Latin America and the Caribbean	204,656	258,148	462,804	105,746	104,600	11	6,044,151	-	-	29,360	6,640,926
Northern America	5,082	-	5,082	15	257	-	-	-	-	23	5,362
Oceania	1,377	-	1,377	7	1,166	-	-	-	-	-	2,543
Various/Stateless	127,492	1,564	129,056	2,114	444,893	-	-	-	3,492,263	16,350	4,082,562
Total	13,690,829	694,487	14,385,316	10,794,497	1,804,465	126,823	32,274,619	1,822,591	3,492,263	1,052,767	54,958,844

Notes

- The data are generally provided by Governments, based on their own definitions and methods of data collection.
- A dash (“-”) indicates that the value is zero, not available or not applicable.
- 1 Country or territory of origin.
 - 2 Persons recognized as refugees under the 1951 UN Convention/1967 Protocol, the 1969 OAU Convention, in accordance with the UNHCR Statute, persons granted a complementary form of protection and those granted temporary protection. In the absence of Government figures, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in many industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual asylum-seeker recognition.
 - 3 This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are outside their country or territory of origin and who face protection risks similar to those of refugees, but for whom refugee status has, for practical or other reasons, not been ascertained.
 - 4 Persons whose application for asylum or refugee status is pending at any stage in the asylum procedure.
 - 5 Refugees who have returned to their place of origin during 2014. Source: country of origin and asylum.
 - 6 Persons who are displaced within their country and to whom UNHCR extends protection and/or assistance. It also includes people in IDP-like situations. This category is descriptive in nature and includes groups of persons who are inside their country of nationality or habitual residence and who face protection risks similar to those of IDPs but who, for practical or other reasons, could not be reported as such.
 - 7 IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR who have returned to their place of origin during 2014.
 - 8 Refers to persons who are not considered as nationals by any State under the operation of its law. This category refers to persons who fall under the agency’s statelessness mandate because they are stateless according to this international definition, but data from some countries may also include persons with undetermined nationality. See Annex Table 7 at <http://www.unhcr.org/statisticalyearbook/2014-annex-tables.zip> for detailed notes.
 - 9 Refers to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the other groups but to whom UNHCR may extend its protection and/or assistance services. These activities might be based on humanitarian or other special grounds.
 - 10 UNHCR has recommended on 4 April 2014 to start the process of cessation of refugee status for refugees from Croatia displaced during the 1991-95 conflict. The Office suggests that cessation enters into effect latest by the end of 2017.
 - 11 UNHCR’s assistance activities for IDPs in Cyprus ended in 1999. Visit the website of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) for further information.
 - 12 Refugee figure for Iraqis in the Syrian Arab Republic is a Government estimate. UNHCR has registered and is assisting 30,000 Iraqis at the end of 2014. The refugee population in Jordan includes 29,300 Iraqis registered with UNHCR. The Government estimated the number of Iraqis at 400,000 individuals at the end of March 2015. This included refugees and other categories of Iraqis.
 - 13 The figure of stateless persons refers to persons without citizenship in Rakhine State only and does not include an estimated 170,000 IDPs and persons in an IDP-like situation who are included under the IDP population but who are not considered nationals. The total stateless population in Rakhine State is estimated to be approximately one million.
 - 14 Refers to Palestinian refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.
 - 15 The number of Rwandan refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is subject to change based on a registration exercise carried out in 2014 that resulted in a figure of 243,000 identified Rwandans, as well as a biometric registration exercise.
 - 16 An unknown number of refugees and asylum-seekers from South Sudan may be included under Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries). IDP figure in South Sudan includes 155,200 people who are in an IDP-like situation.
 - 17 The statistics of the remaining IDPs at the end of 2014, while provided by the Government authorities at the district level, are being reviewed by the central authorities. Once this review has been concluded, the statistics will be changed accordingly.
 - 18 Figures for refugees and asylum-seekers may include citizens of South Sudan (in absence of separate statistics for both countries). IDP figure in Sudan includes 77,300 people who are in an IDP-like situation.
 - 19 A limited number of countries record refugee and asylum statistics by country of birth rather than country of origin. This affects the number of refugees reported as originating from the United States of America.
 - 20 The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.
 - 21 According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.
Source: UNHCR/Governments.



**Annex tables 3 through 29
can be downloaded from
the UNHCR website at:**

<http://www.unhcr.org/statisticalyearbook/2014-annex-tables.zip>

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Unless specified otherwise, the 2014 Statistical Yearbook does not refer to events occurring after 31 December 2014. The designations employed and the presentation of country or area names, including in maps and country listings, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area of its authorities, or the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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