



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

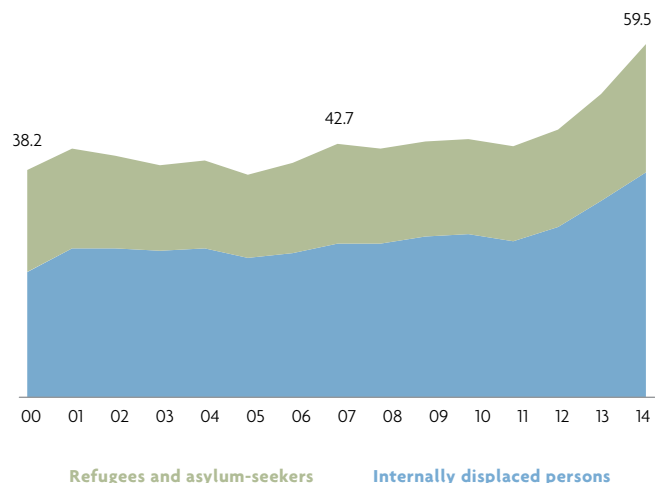
Escalating wars and continuous conflicts around the world contributed to the mass displacement of people during 2014. As a result of these unprecedented events, global forced displacement grew to a staggering 59.5 million³¹ individuals at the end of the year, up from 51.2 million one year earlier. The 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

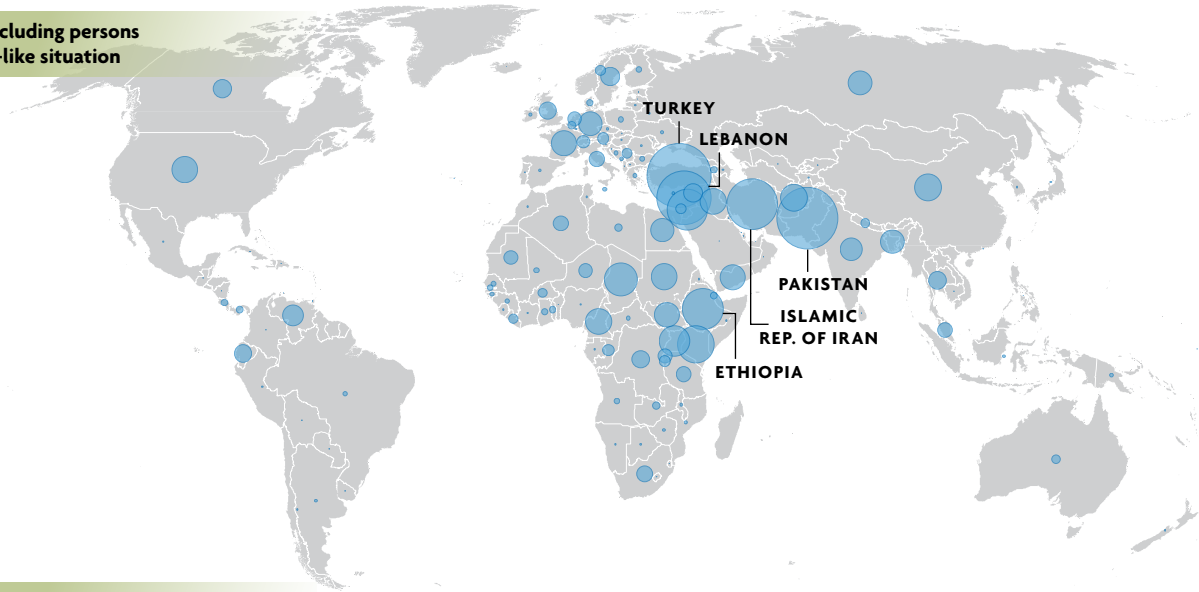
magnitude of displacement occurring during 2014, with specific focus on refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), stateless persons, and others of concern. It is important to note that UNHCR does not have a global mandate on IDPs, so that population included in this chapter is limited to those generated 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)

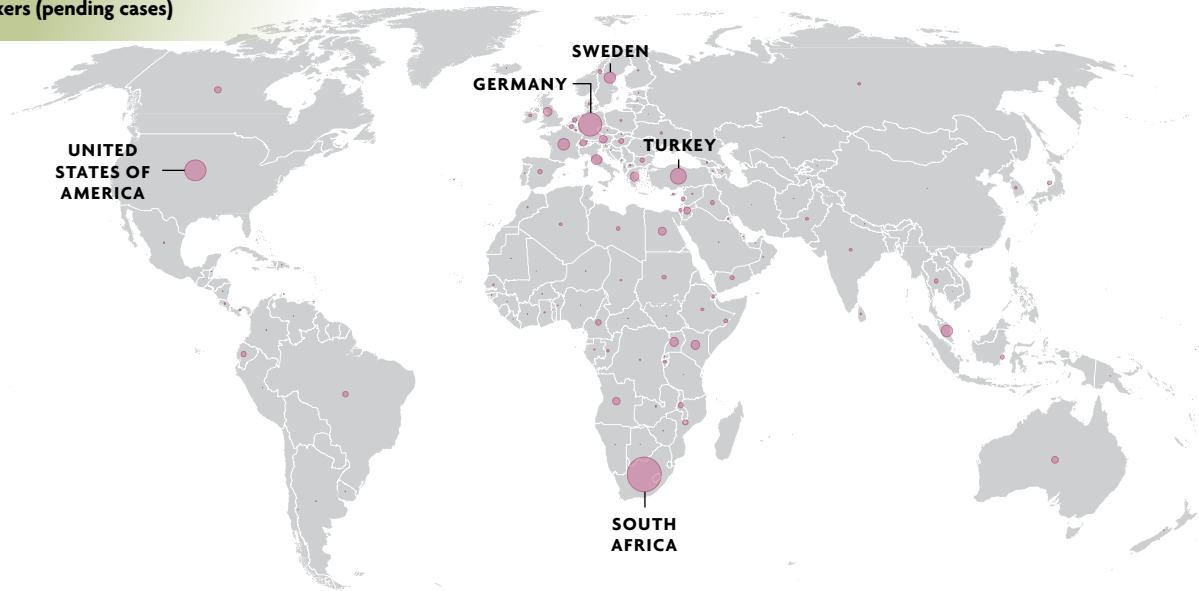


³¹ These included 19.5 million refugees: 14.4 million under UNHCR's mandate and 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The global figure also included 38.2 million internally displaced persons (source: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

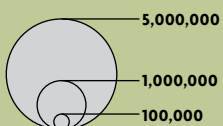
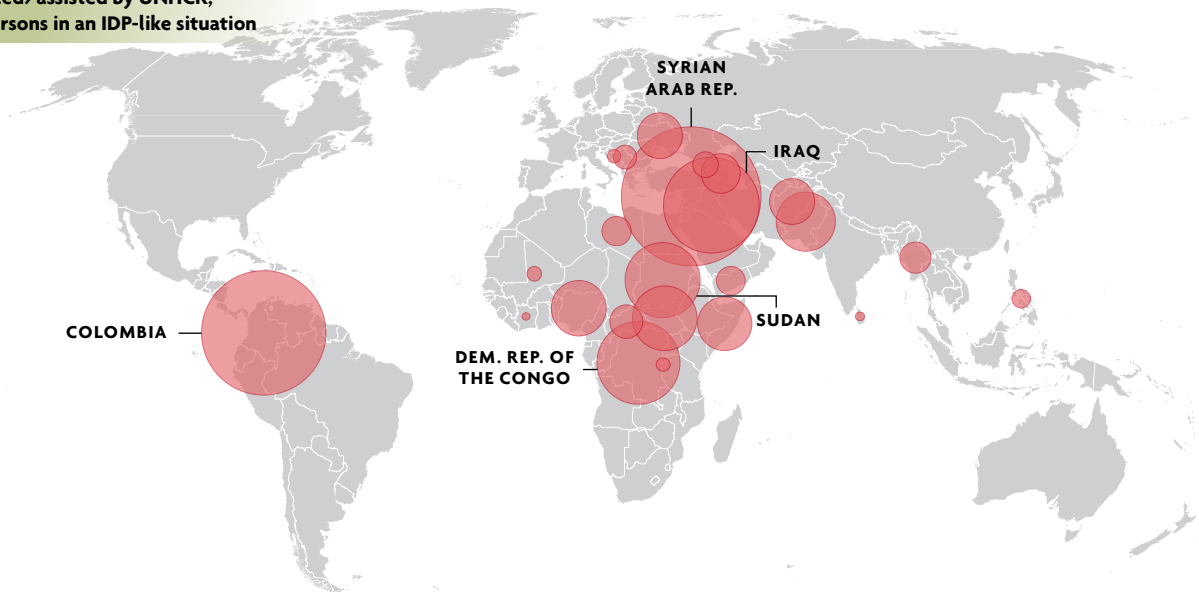
Refugees, including persons in a refugee-like situation



Asylum-seekers (pending cases)



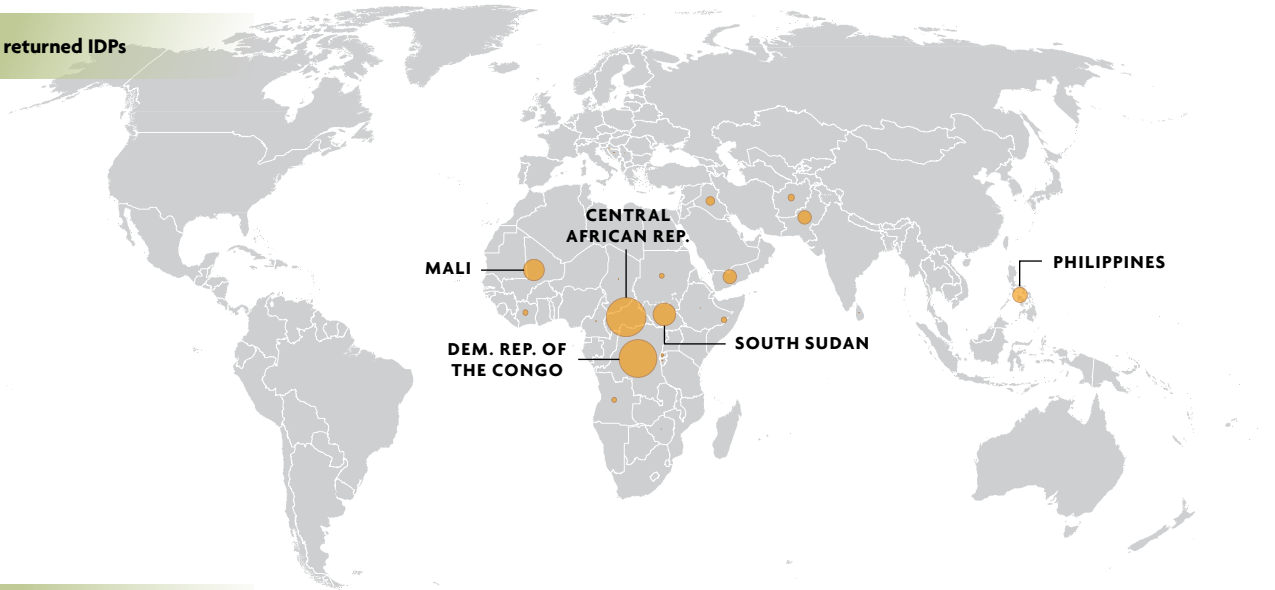
IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, including persons in an IDP-like situation



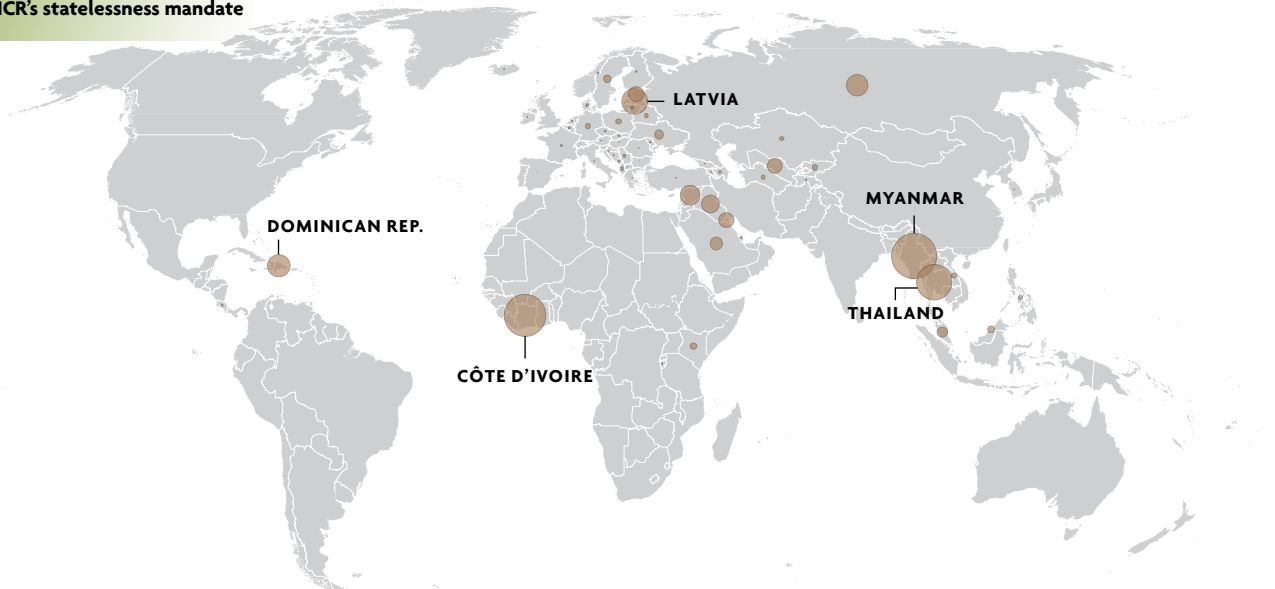
A country is listed if it features among the top-5 per population group.

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

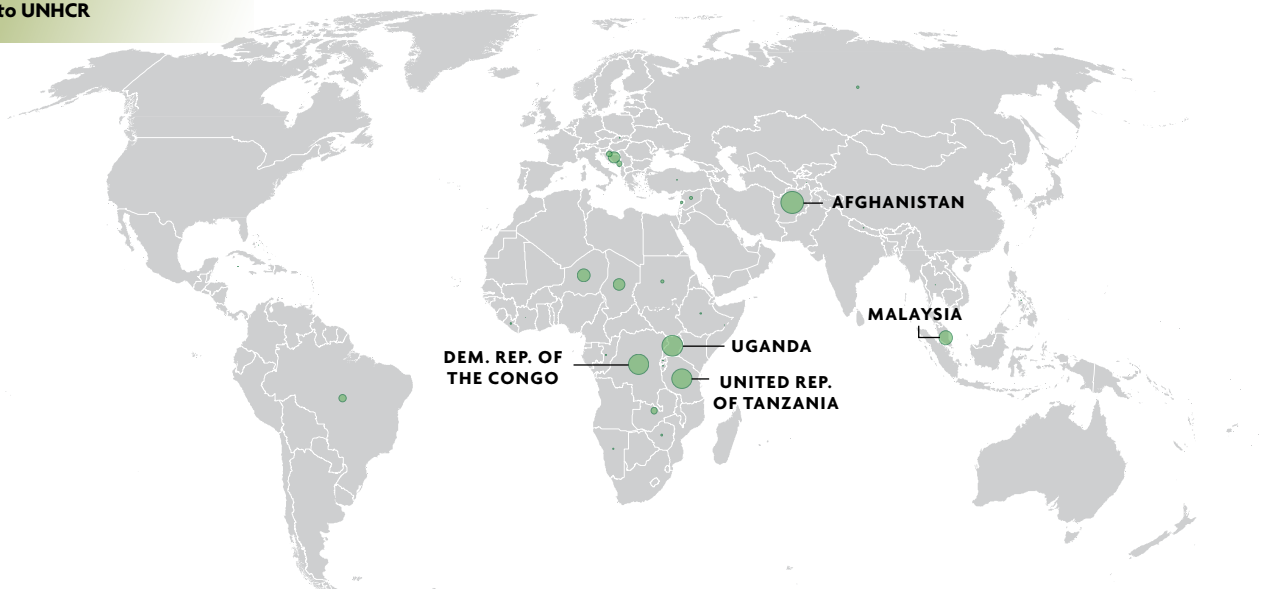
Returned refugees, returned IDPs



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.

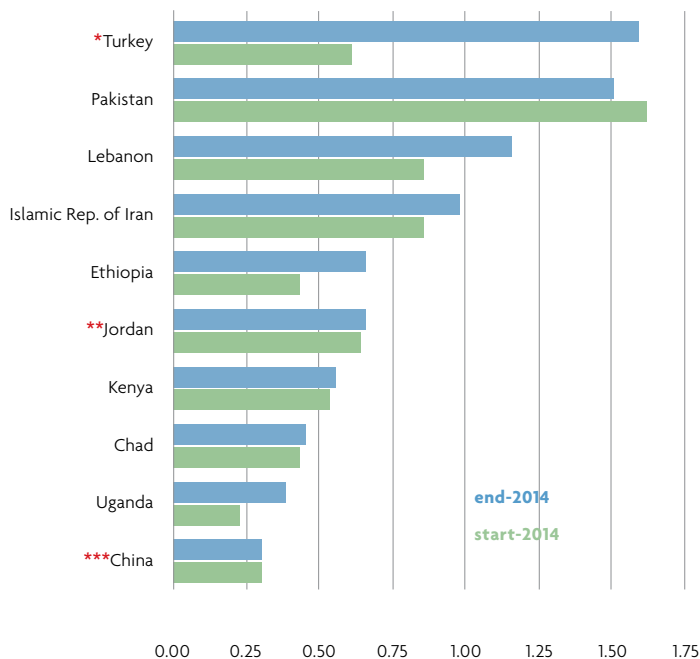
More than 403,600 Syrians were newly registered in Lebanon during 2014. As a result, Lebanon remained the third-largest refugee-hosting country in the world, with a total refugee population of

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.

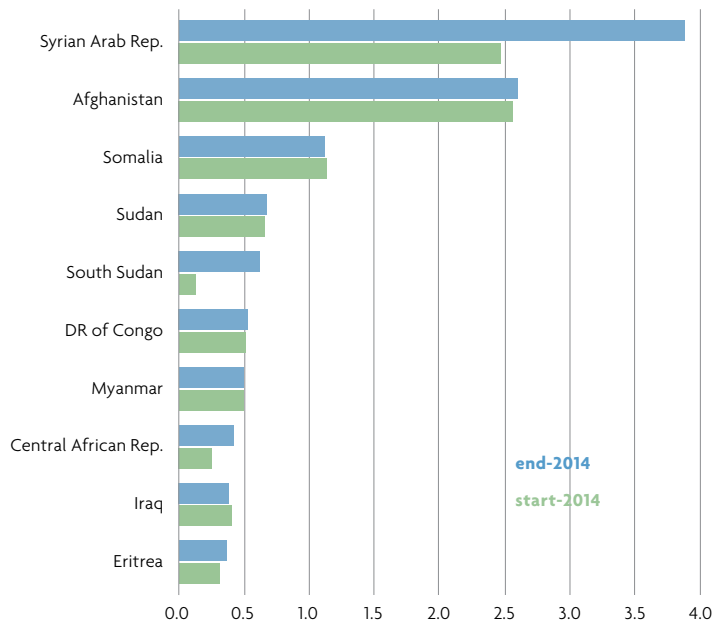
With close to 2.6 million refugees recorded in 92 countries at the end of 2014, Afghans were the second-largest refugee population under UNHCR’s mandate. As in previous years, the majority resided in Pakistan (1.5 million) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (950,000). These two countries combined hosted 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.

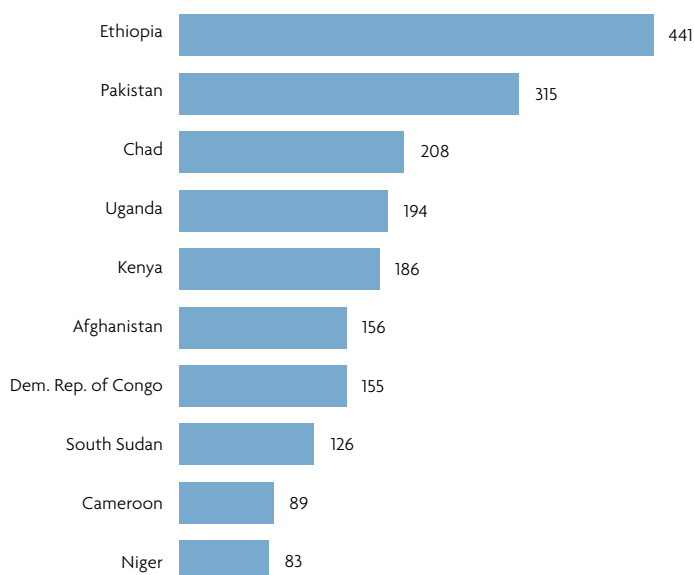
CONTRIBUTIONS OF HOST COUNTRIES

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.

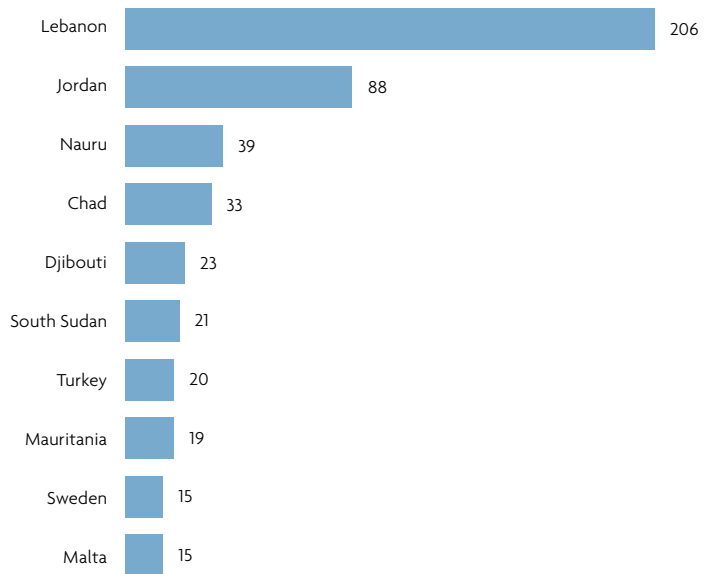
Using non-economic criteria to measure the impact of refugees on asylum countries changes the rankings. Thus, the number of refugees per 1,000 inhabitants provides another perspective in measuring the relative impact of hosting refugees. This approach clearly displays the full impact of the Syrian crisis, 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,

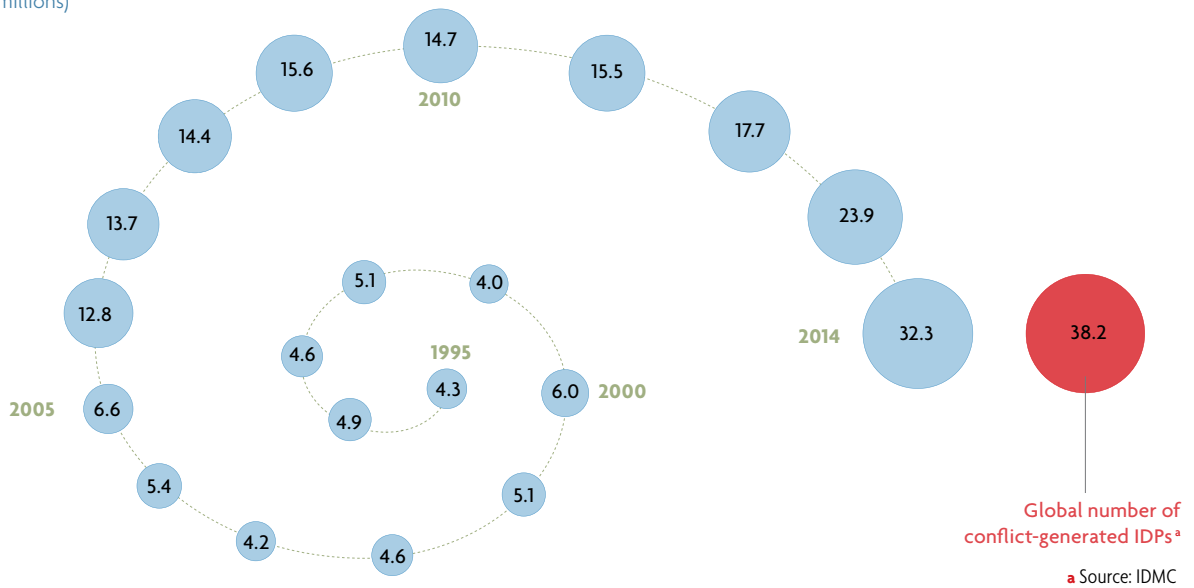
⁴² For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see the IDMC website, at: www.internal-displacement.org.

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).

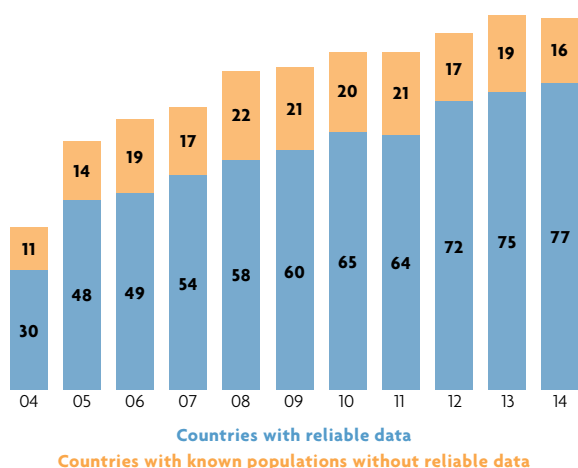
Stateless persons

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.

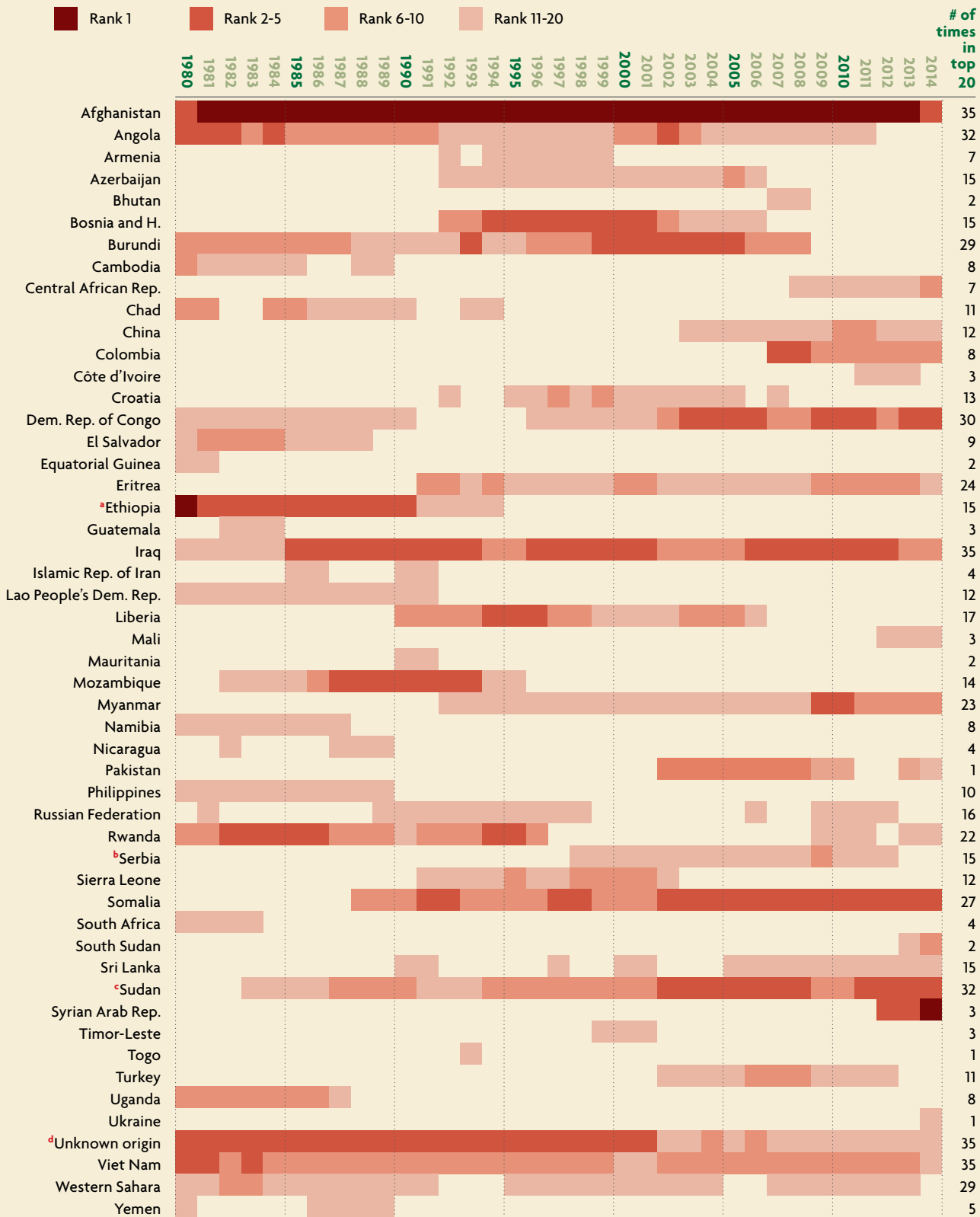
The Syrian Arab Republic was not included among the top 20 until 2012. Since then, it has not only featured among the top 20 source countries but in fact occupied the top rank in 2014. ●

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

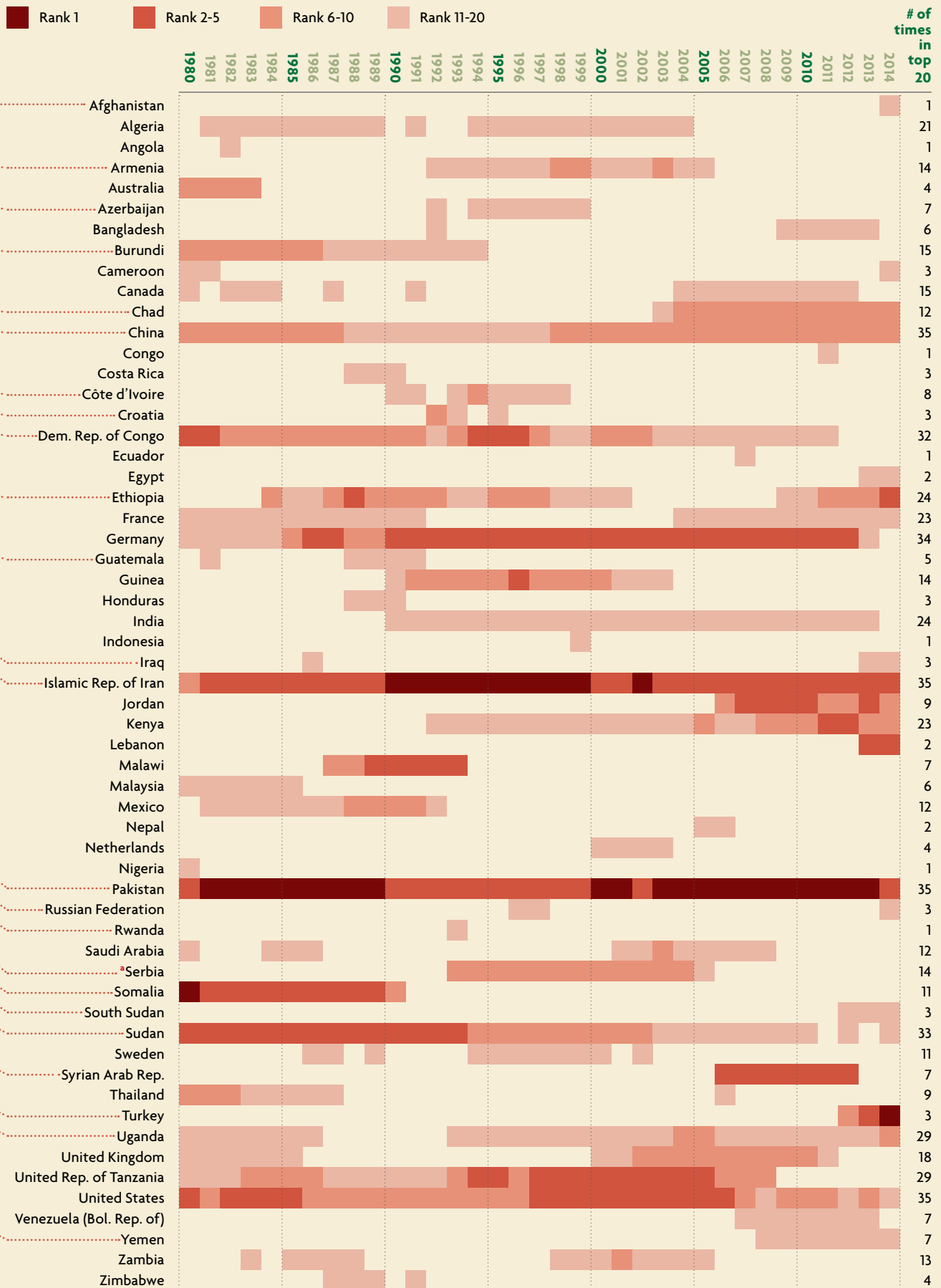
This matrix depicts the annual ranking of countries/territories of origin of refugees since 1980. Countries/territories are listed if they featured among the top-20 at least once. Individual rankings are the result of population movements, demographic and legal changes, data revisions and re-classification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