

# 2009 Global Trends

Refugees, Asylum-seekers,  
Returnees, Internally Displaced and  
Stateless Persons



Division of Programme Support and Management  
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This document along with further information on global displacement is available on UNHCR's Statistics website:

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics>

and UNHCR's Statistical Online Population Database:

<http://www.unhcr.org/statistics/populationdatabase>

**Cover photo:** New Somali refugee arrivals wait to be registered at Hagadera camp, Dadaab, Kenya.

UNHCR / P. WIGGERS

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## 2009 in review

# Trends at a Glance

- There were 43.3 million forcibly displaced people worldwide at the end of 2009, the highest number since the mid-1990s. Of these, 15.2 million were refugees; 10.4 million who fell under UNHCR's responsibility and 4.8 million Palestinian refugees under UNRWA's mandate. The figure also includes 983,000 asylum-seekers and 27.1 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- More than 26 million people – 10.4 million refugees and 15.6 million IDPs – were receiving protection or assistance from UNHCR at the end of 2009. This is 1 million more people than in 2008.
- By the end of 2009, UNHCR had identified some 6.6 million stateless persons in 60 countries. However, the Office estimated that the overall number of stateless persons worldwide could be far higher – about 12 million people.
- Some 5.5 million refugees were in a protracted situation at the end of 2009. They were living in 21 different countries, accounting for 25 protracted situations.
- Developing countries were host to four-fifths of the world's refugees.
- Pakistan was host to the largest number of refugees worldwide (1.7 million), followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran (1.1 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (1.05 million; Government estimate). Pakistan also hosted the largest number of refugees in relation to its economic capacity with 745 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita, followed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (592) and Zimbabwe (245).
- Afghan and Iraqi refugees accounted for almost half of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility worldwide; one out of four refugees in the world was from Afghanistan (2.9 million). Afghans were located in 71 different asylum countries. Iraqis were the second largest refugee group, with 1.8 million having sought refuge primarily in neighbouring countries.
- Some 251,500 refugees repatriated voluntarily during 2009, the lowest figure since 1990. In contrast, more than 2.2 million IDPs were able to return, the highest in at least a decade.
- UNHCR presented over 128,000 refugees for resettlement consideration by States. Some 84,000 refugees were resettled with UNHCR's assistance. According to government statistics, 19 countries reported the admission of 112,400 resettled refugees during 2009 (with or without UNHCR assistance). The United States of America accepted the highest number (80,000).
- More than 922,000 individual claims for asylum or refugee status were registered in 2009. Of these, UNHCR registered 119,100 (13%) With more than 222,000 claims – almost one quarter of applications globally – South Africa was the world's largest recipient of individual applications, followed by the United States of America and France.
- More than 18,700 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied and separated children in 71 countries, the highest number in four years. The applications came mostly from Afghan and Somali children.
- Based on the data available for 8.8 million refugees, UNHCR estimates that more than half of the world's refugees resided in urban areas and less than one-third in camps. However, 6 out of 10 refugees in sub-Saharan Africa resided in camps.
- Women and girls represented, on average, 49 per cent of persons of concern to UNHCR. They constituted 47 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers, and half of all IDPs and returnees (former refugees). Forty-one per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers were children below 18 years of age.





Mbororo refugees from the Central African Republic wait to be registered by UNHCR mobile teams in Djalingo, Cameroon.

UNHCR / F. NOY

## I. Introduction

The 2009 *Global Trends* report reviews statistical trends and patterns in populations considered to be of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). This can include refugees, returnees, stateless persons and certain internally displaced persons (IDPs) - collectively referred to as “persons of concern”.<sup>(1)</sup> In doing so, the report describes some of the major humanitarian developments that occurred in 2009, many of them leading to involuntary movements of millions of people, both within and across borders.

At the end of 2009, some 43.3 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced due to conflict and persecution, the highest number since the mid-1990s. This included 15.2 million refugees,<sup>(2)</sup> 27.1 million IDPs<sup>(3)</sup> and close to 1 million individuals whose asylum application had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period.

The total number of refugees and IDPs under UNHCR’s care remained high, standing at 26 million by end-year. While the number of refugees remained relatively stable at 10.4 million, the number of IDPs protected or assisted by UNHCR rose to an unprecedented 15.6 million. The tragic situations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, and Somalia mainly accounted for the overall increase of 1.2 million IDPs under UNHCR’s care. In addition, UNHCR estimated that some 12 million people were stateless, with the Office having reliable statistics for some 6.6 million of them.

Humanitarian crises and the prevailing political situation in a number of countries not only uprooted millions of women, men, girls and boys but prevented the return of refugees and IDPs as well. The

TABLE 1 Global forced displacement | 2008-2009 \*

Category of displaced population	2008 (in mln)		2009 (in mln)	
	Total	Protected/ assisted by UNHCR	Total	Protected/ assisted by UNHCR
Refugees under UNHCR mandate	10.5	10.5	10.4	10.4
Refugees under UNRWA mandate	4.7	—	4.8	—
<b>Total number of refugees</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>10.4</b>
Asylum-seekers (pending cases)	0.8	0.2	1.0	0.2
Conflict-generated IDPs	26.0	14.4	27.1	15.6
<b>Total number of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs</b>	<b>42.0</b>	<b>25.1</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>26.2</b>

\* Does not include natural disaster-related displacement.

<sup>1</sup> See page 23 for a definition of each population group.

<sup>2</sup> This figure includes 4.8 million Palestinian refugees who fall under the responsibility of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

<sup>3</sup> Source: Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

number of returned refugees (251,000) has continuously decreased since 2004, with 2009 being the lowest level in two decades. In contrast, the number of returned IDPs (2.2 million) was the highest in more than a decade. Resettlement of refugees continued to increase; in 2009, UNHCR presented more than 128,000 refugees for resettlement consideration by States, the highest in 16 years. Unfortunately, the number of refugees in a protracted situation remained high at over 5.5 million spread across 21 countries.

This report analyses trends related to new displacements, whether they are the result of massive movements of people or of individuals who sought international protection independent of larger groups. Finding durable solutions for these people is central to UNHCR's mandate and is therefore an issue also covered in this report.

Information on the demographic composition and location of the population falling under UNHCR's responsibility, which is crucial for planning and monitoring, is another important feature of this document. For instance, this type of information allows the Office to closely monitor the growing number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) seeking international protection. With 18,700 UASC having filed an asylum application in 2009, the number is at its highest since 2006.<sup>(4)</sup> The European Commission's proposed *Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014)* is a crucial step towards addressing this important protection issue.<sup>(5)</sup>

The number of refugees residing in urban areas continued to grow, representing more than half of the world's refugees. The challenges faced by refugees living in urban locations received wide attention during the third meeting of the *High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges* which took place in December 2009.<sup>(6)</sup>

In addition to conflict-generated forced displacement, UNHCR was involved in several humanitarian crises caused by natural disasters. Although displacement resulting from natural disasters is growing in numbers and complexity,<sup>(7)</sup> it is beyond the scope of this report. Likewise, despite the fact that global migration poses a challenge for asylum and refugee management, this report does not address mixed migration flows mainly due to the lack of reliable and precise statistical data required for a comparative analysis of this phenomenon.<sup>(8)</sup> However, migrants applying for asylum or refugee status are included in this report.

For the most part, the statistics in this report have been reported by UNHCR country offices, based on government sources, reports from non-governmental organizations and UNHCR's registration activities. The numbers have been rounded up to the closest hundredth or thousandth for the purposes of this report. As some adjustments may need to be made for the publication of the *2009 Statistical Yearbook*, to be released later this year, the figures contained herein should be considered provisional and may be subject to change. Unless otherwise specified, the report does not refer to events occurring after 31 December 2009.

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<sup>4</sup> In 2006, UNHCR began collecting data on unaccompanied and separated children seeking asylum in a systematic way.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0213:FIN:EN:PDF>

<sup>6</sup> For more information, visit <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4a12a4a26.html>

<sup>7</sup> The findings of a study by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the IDMC, indicate that at least 36 million people were displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters in 2008. Of those, over 20 million were displaced by sudden-onset climate-related disasters. (See: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CFA06/%28httpPublications%29/451D224B41C04246C12576390031FF63?OpenDocument>)

<sup>8</sup> As part of UNHCR's strategy to address the phenomenon of mixed migration flows, UNHCR has developed a "10-Point Plan of Action" which aims at ensuring that protection space continues to be available for those persons who deserve it. See: <http://www.unhcr.org/protect/PROTECTION/4742a30b4.pdf>.





A returnee who was able to go home, after fleeing Burundi in 1972, and his 18-year old daughter.

UNHCR / A. KIRCHHOF

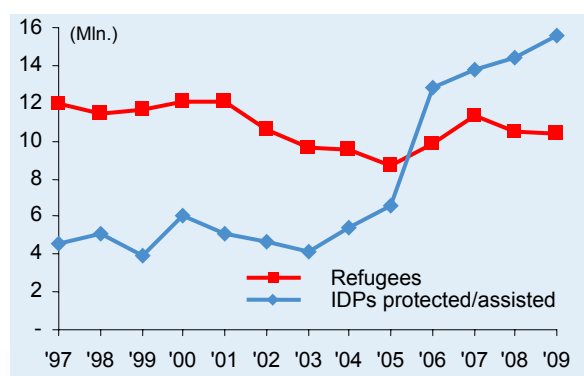
## II. Overview of global trends

By the end of 2009, the total population under UNHCR's responsibility stood at 36.5 million. This figure takes into consideration new displacement, durable solutions found, improved availability of data, revised estimates, and legal and demographic changes. The analysis in this report is based on individual population groups.

By the end of 2009, there were an estimated 10.4 million refugees under UNHCR's responsibility, including some 1.6 million people in refugee-like situations.<sup>(9)</sup> The number of IDPs protected and/or assisted by UNHCR was the highest on record. A total of 15.6 million IDPs, including 129,000 people in IDP-like situations, were receiving humanitarian assistance under arrangements in which UNHCR was either a lead agency or a key partner.

The number of returnees shows a divergent picture. While 2.2 million IDPs were able to return home during the year, the highest in at least a decade, only 251,500 refugees repatriated voluntarily, the lowest level since 1990. The asylum-seeker population, that is people whose asylum applications had not yet been adjudicated by the end of the reporting period, increased to 983,000. During 2009, UNHCR identified some 6.6 million stateless persons in 60 countries but estimated the total number of stateless persons worldwide at almost double that number, or some 12 million people.<sup>(10)</sup> There are an additional 411,000 individuals who do not fall into any of the above categories (known as "other groups or people of concern") but who received protection and/or assistance from UNHCR based on humanitarian or other special grounds.

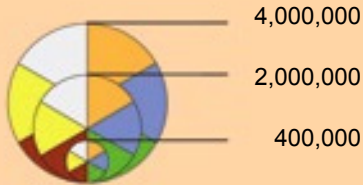
**Fig 1** Refugees and IDPs protected / assisted by UNHCR 1997-2009 (end-year)



<sup>9</sup> Ninety-two per cent of the 1.6 million people in a refugee-like situation are located in Bangladesh, Ecuador, Pakistan, and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of).

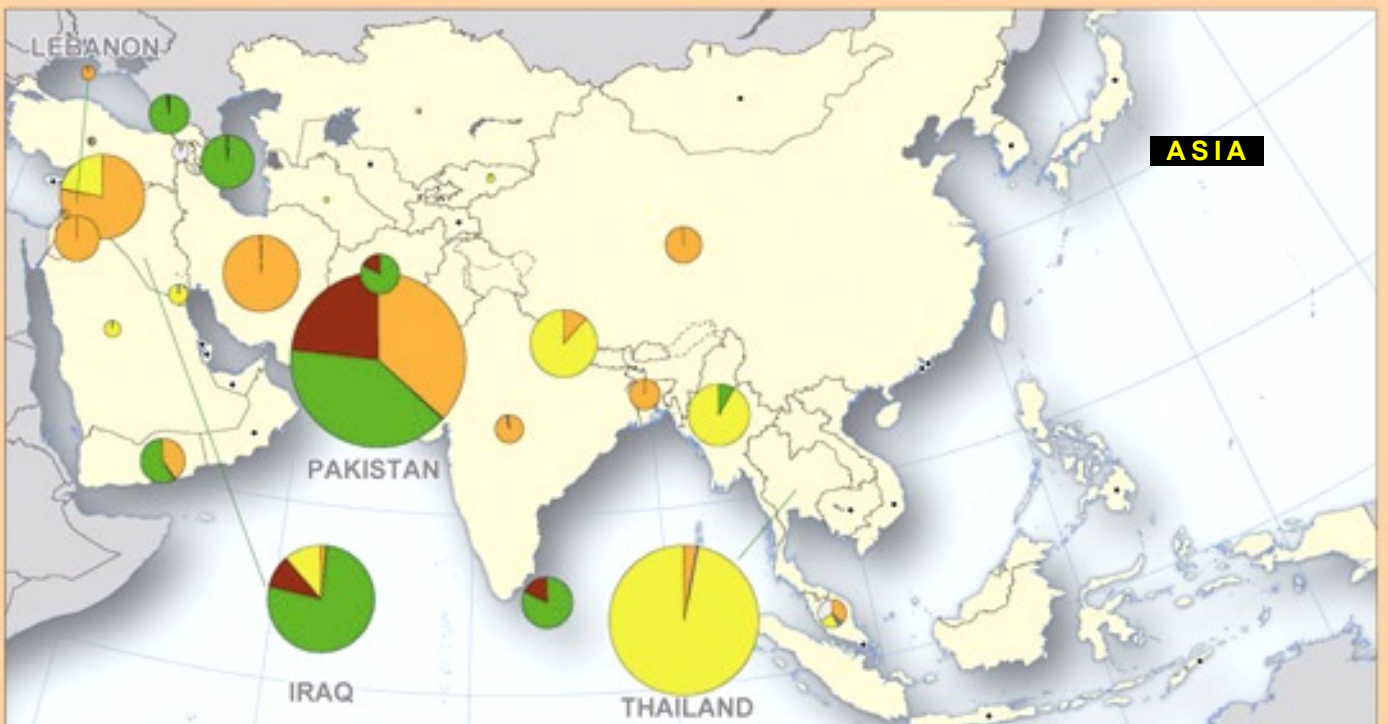
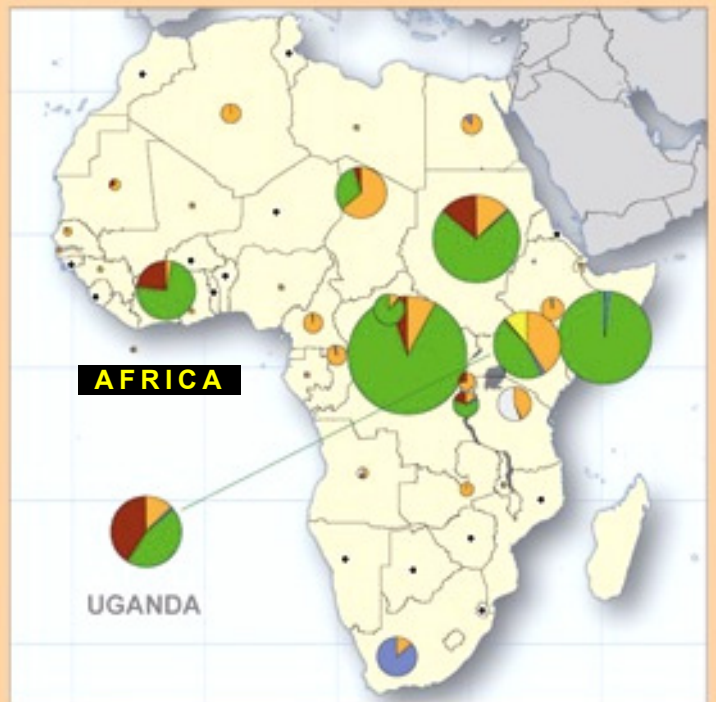
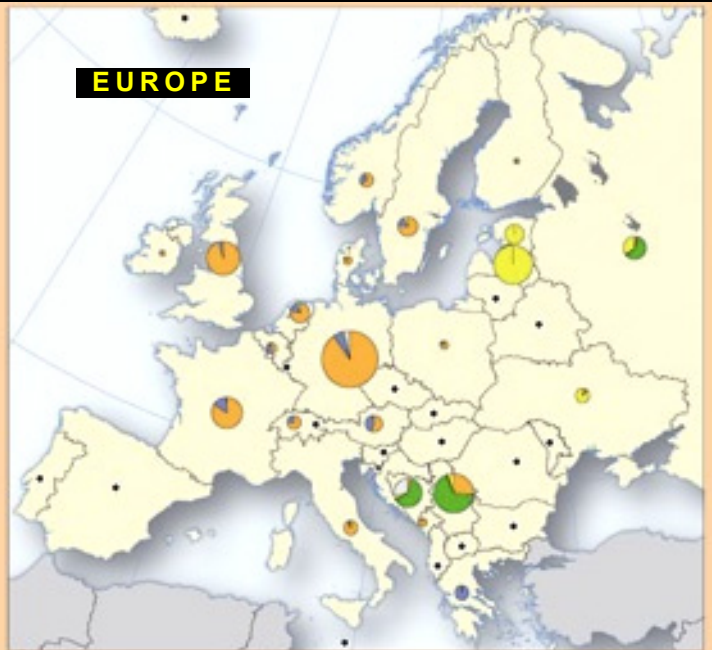
<sup>10</sup> Refugees and asylum-seekers who are at the same time also stateless, are not included in the stateless population figure. They are rather reflected in the figures relating to refugees and asylum-seekers.

**Map 1 Total population by category | end-2009**



- Refugees <sup>(1)</sup>
- Asylum-seekers
- IDPs protected / assisted by UNHCR <sup>(2)</sup>
- Returned refugees, returned IDPs
- Stateless persons
- Others of concern

◆ Total population below 10,000  
<sup>(1)</sup> Including people in refugee-like situations  
<sup>(2)</sup> Including people in IDP-like situations





### III. Refugee population

While the number of refugees under UNHCR's mandate increased in some regions (e.g. Asia and Pacific) and decreased in others (e.g. the Middle East and North Africa), globally it remained stable at 10.4 million, with a marginal decrease of less than one per cent compared to the year earlier. The minor decrease arose from two main sources. First, a number of refugees found a durable solution during the year, in particular through voluntary repatriation and local integration. Second, estimates for the Palestinian and Iraqi refugee populations in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Syrian Arab Republic were revised downwards (-23%). Overall, decreases in the refugee population in some countries were offset by mass outflows in others due to renewed or continuing conflict, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia.

By the end of 2009, women and girls constituted less than half (47%) of refugees globally.<sup>(11)</sup> Developing countries hosted 8.3 million refugees, or 80 per cent of the global refugee population. The 49 least developed countries provided asylum to 1.9 million refugees.

Table 2 (*below*) shows that more than one-third (37%) of all refugees were residing in countries covered by UNHCR's Asia and Pacific region, with three quarters of them being Afghans. Sub-Saharan Africa was host to one-fifth of all refugees, primarily from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia and Sudan. The Middle East and North Africa region hosted 19 per cent of the world's refugees, mainly from Iraq, while Europe's share was 16 per cent. In Europe, refugees from Iraq, Serbia, and Turkey were the largest groups. The Americas region had the smallest share of refugees (8%), with Colombians constituting the largest number.

A decrease in the number of refugees was observed in the Middle East and North Africa region, where figures dropped by 15 per cent during the year. This decrease, however, was primarily the result of a revised estimate for Palestinian refugees in Saudi Arabia rather than due to population movements. In the absence of a reliable and accurate figure for Palestinian refugees in Saudi Arabia, the previously reported figure of 240,000 Palestinian refugees was removed from UNHCR statistics. Government figures for Iraqi refugees in Jordan and in the Syrian Arab

Republic were revised downward by 50,000 each, based on the presumption that a number of Iraqis left either to return to Iraq or move onward to other countries. The overall decrease in the number of refugees in the region was partly offset by the arrival of 32,000 Somali refugees in Yemen.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the number of refugees continued to decline for the ninth consecutive year. By the end of 2009, there were less than 2.1 million refugees compared to more than 3.4 million in 2000. The refugee population decreased by 1.5 per cent between the start and end of 2009, primarily due to the naturalization of 155,000 Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania<sup>(12)</sup> and successful voluntary repatriation operations to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (44,300), Southern Sudan (33,100), Burundi (32,400), and Rwanda (20,600). Unfortunately, renewed armed conflict and human rights violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia led to new refugee outflows and the movement of 277,000 people primarily to the Republic of the Congo (94,000) and Kenya (72,500).

<sup>11</sup> See Chapter V for more details on the demographic composition of refugees.

<sup>12</sup> At the time of writing, further naturalizations of Burundian refugees had brought the total to more than 162,000.

#### Most refugees remain within their region of origin

The available statistical evidence demonstrates that most refugees flee to neighbouring countries, remaining in their region of origin. The major refugee-generating regions hosted on average between 76 and 91 per cent of refugees from within the same region. UNHCR estimates that some 1.7 million refugees (17% out of the total of 10.4 million) live outside their region of origin.

#### Protracted refugee situations

UNHCR defines a protracted refugee situation as one in which 25,000 or more refugees of the same nationality have been in exile for five years or longer in any given asylum country. Based on this definition, it is estimated that some 5.5 million refugees were in a protracted situation by end 2009. These refugees were living in 21 host countries accounting for a total of 25 protracted situations globally.



**TABLE 2** Refugee population by UNHCR regions | 2009

UNHCR regions	Start-2009			End-2009			Change (total)	
	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Refugees	People in refugee-like situations	Total refugees	Absolute	%
- Central Africa and Great Lakes	978,200	27,800	1,006,000	945,200	24,100	969,300	-36,700	-3.6%
- East and Horn of Africa	729,800	34,000	763,800	779,200	33,900	813,100	49,300	6.5%
- Southern Africa	161,200	-	161,200	143,400	-	143,400	-17,800	-11.0%
- West Africa	175,300	-	175,300	149,000	-	149,000	-26,300	-15.0%
<b>Total Africa*</b>	<b>2,044,500</b>	<b>61,800</b>	<b>2,106,300</b>	<b>2,016,800</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>2,074,800</b>	<b>-31,500</b>	<b>-1.5%</b>
Americas	500,300	303,500	803,800	519,100	293,200	812,300	8,500	1.1%
Asia and Pacific	2,574,300	1,023,300	3,597,600	2,666,600	1,189,400	3,856,000	258,400	7.2%
Europe	1,627,500	5,700	1,633,200	1,641,900	5,600	1,647,500	14,300	0.9%
Middle East and North Africa	2,278,100	72,900	2,351,000	1,962,400	43,500	2,005,900	-345,100	-14.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,024,700</b>	<b>1,467,200</b>	<b>10,491,900</b>	<b>8,806,800</b>	<b>1,589,700</b>	<b>10,396,500</b>	<b>-95,400</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>

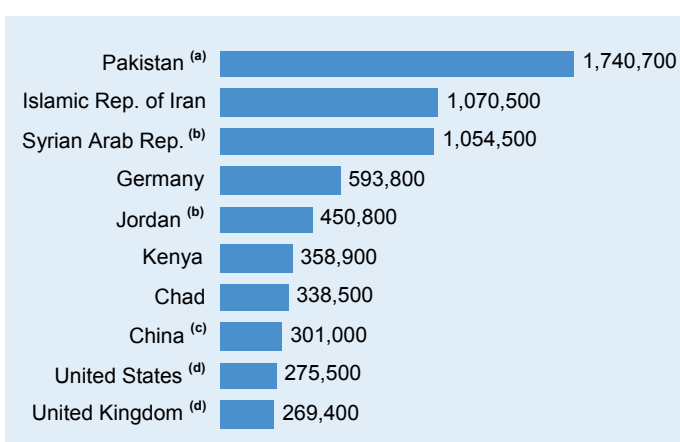
\* Excluding North Africa.

In the Americas, the refugee population increased marginally (+1.1%) owing primarily to the granting of refugee status to 26,200 Colombians by Ecuador. At the same time, the number of Colombians in Ecuador assessed to be in a refugee-like situation was adjusted from 82,300 to 71,400 as a result of an ongoing enhanced registration exercise. This registration exercise follows up on a comprehensive survey carried out by the Government and UNHCR in 2007-2008. The survey was undertaken to determine the magnitude and the profile of the Colombian population and to assess the main protection gaps.<sup>(13)</sup>

In the Asia and Pacific region, the total number of refugees, including people in a refugee-like situation, was estimated at 3.9 million at the end of 2009. This is an increase of over 7 per cent during the year, mainly due to the inclusion of an estimated 200,000 people from Myanmar in a refugee-like situation in Bangladesh. In Europe, the refugee population remained stable at 1.6 million (+0.9%).

The five major refugee-hosting countries in 2009 were the same as those in 2008 (see Figure 2). Together, these countries accounted for almost half (47%) of all refugees under the UNHCR mandate. Pakistan was again the country with the largest number of refugees (1.7 million), nearly all from Afghanistan. The total refugee population in Pakistan decreased by 40,000 people from the previous year as a consequence of demographic factors, voluntary repatriation, registration and resettlement. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted slightly over 1 million refugees, almost all Afghans. The Government increased its refugee estimate by 90,000 people as a result of a re-registration exercise (known as "Amayesh IV") conducted in the course of the year among Afghan and Iraqi refugees. The Syrian Arab Republic was host to 1.05 million Iraqi refugees according to Government estimates, making it the third largest refugee hosting country. The figure was revised downward by 5 per cent (-50,000 people) based on the presumption that a number of Iraqis had left the country. Germany and

**Fig 2** Major refugee hosting countries  
End-2009



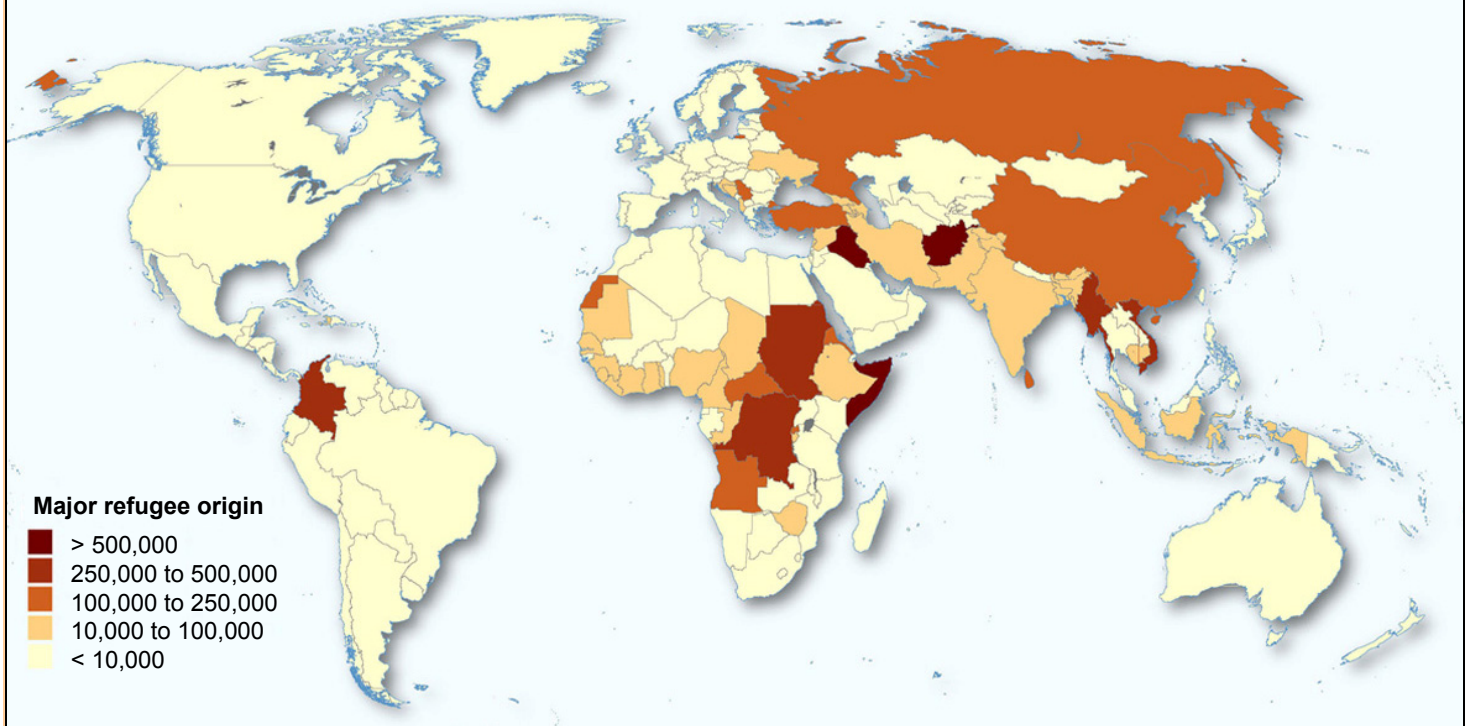
<sup>(a)</sup> Includes Afghans in a refugee-like situation.

<sup>(b)</sup> Government estimate.

<sup>(c)</sup> The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

<sup>(d)</sup> UNHCR estimate.

<sup>13</sup> See the UNHCR Statistical Yearbook 2007, *Best practice in data collection: the case of Ecuador*, p.20.

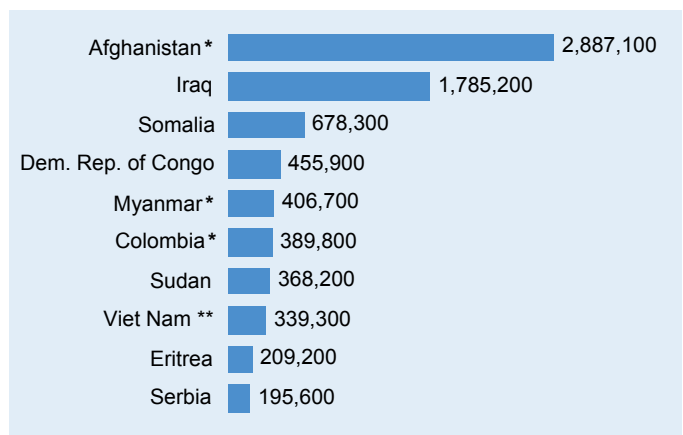


Jordan<sup>(14)</sup> reported 594,000 and 451,000 refugees, respectively, at year end. In Germany figures remained fairly stable (+2%), whereas in Jordan the estimate for the Iraqi refugee population was revised downwards by 50,000 to account for estimated departures from the country. Kenya was the sixth largest hosting country at the end of 2009 with close to 360,000 refugees. The figure increased by more than 38,000 during the year (+12%), mainly as a result of new arrivals from Somalia. In Chad, the refugee population increased to 338,500 by the end of 2009 (+2%) due to new arrivals from the Central African Republic and Sudan.

In the United Republic of Tanzania, the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa between 1997 and 2007, the refugee population dropped by more than 200,000 people to 118,700 (-63%) due to the naturalization of 155,000 Burundian refugees and the voluntary repatriation of more than 30,000 refugees from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As a consequence, the United Republic of Tanzania's ranking as a host country fell from 7<sup>th</sup> place in 2008 to 21<sup>st</sup> in 2009. Overall, figures in the United Republic of Tanzania have gone down by 83 per cent since 2002, when the country was host to close to 700,000 refugees.

Afghanistan has been the leading country of origin of refugees for the past three decades with up to 6.4 million of its citizens having sought international protection during peak years. As of the end of 2009, close to 2.9 million Afghan were still refugees. One out of four refugees in the world is from Afghanistan. Even though Afghan refugees could be found in 71 asylum countries worldwide in 2009, 96 per cent of them were located in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran alone. Iraqis were the second largest group, with an

Fig 3 Major source countries of refugees End-2009



\* Includes people in a refugee-like situation  
 \*\* The 300,000 Vietnamese refugees are well integrated and in practice receive protection from the Government of China.

<sup>14</sup> Number of Iraqis in Jordan estimated by the Government.

estimated 1.8 million having sought refuge, mainly in neighbouring countries. Afghan and Iraqi refugees account for almost half (45%) of all refugees under UNHCR's responsibility worldwide.

Somalis constitute the third largest refugee group under UNHCR's responsibility with 678,000 persons at the end of 2009, an increase of 117,000 over 2008. Security and humanitarian conditions in Somalia continued to steadily deteriorate and were particularly acute in the central and southern areas of the country. The crisis was further compounded by severe drought conditions, poverty, food insecurity and periodic heavy flooding in the Horn of Africa. Some 132,000 Somalis fled their country during 2009, primarily to Kenya (72,500), Yemen (32,000), Ethiopia (23,600), and Djibouti (3,700). This is in addition to the almost 300,000 people who were newly displaced within Somalia during the year.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is the fourth largest country of origin, with 456,000 refugees under UNHCR's mandate at the end of 2009. More than 144,000 people fled the country during 2009 alone. The majority fled clashes sparked by fishing and farming disputes in Equateur Province, in the north-west of the country, during October 2009. The Central African Republic and the Republic of the Congo were the countries most affected by the crisis with a combined number of more than 113,000 new arrivals. At the same time, renewed fighting in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo led to an outflow of 31,000 people to Sudan and Uganda.

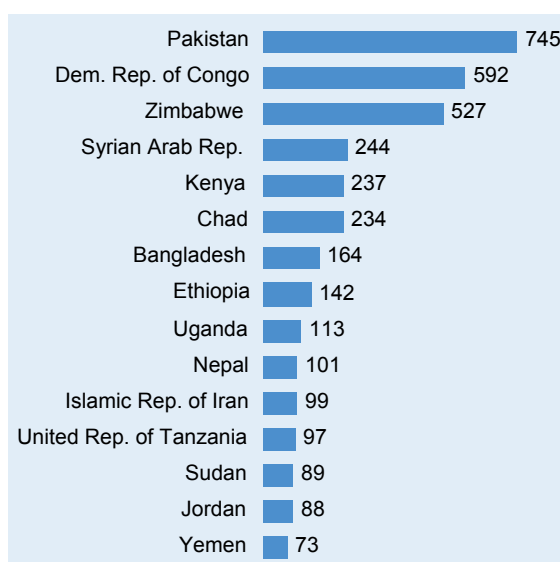
Other main source countries of refugees were Myanmar (406,700), Colombia (389,800),<sup>(15)</sup> and Sudan (368,200). The increased number from Myanmar was due to the inclusion of an estimated 200,000 unregistered people in Bangladesh. The estimates of Sudanese refugees decreased for the fifth consecutive year following the return of more than 33,000 people to Southern Sudan.

### Capacities and contributions of host countries

Countries with strong economies are more likely to be capable of absorbing and supporting refugees. By comparing the refugee population with the average income level of a country (measured by the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (PPP)<sup>(16)</sup> per capita<sup>(17)</sup>), a measure can be obtained of the relative impact of hosting refugees. If the number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita is high, the relative contribution and effort made by countries compared to the national economy can be considered as high. Among the 25 countries with the highest number of refugees per 1 USD GDP per capita, all are developing countries, including 14 least developed countries.

At the end of 2009, Pakistan was hosting the highest number of refugees compared to its national economy. As such, it hosted 745 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita. The Democratic Republic of the Congo was second with 592 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita, followed by Zimbabwe (527), the Syrian Arab Republic (244), and Kenya (237). The first developed country was Germany at 26<sup>th</sup> place with 17 refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita.

**Fig 4** Number of refugees per 1 USD GDP (PPP) per capita End-2009



<sup>15</sup> This figure includes refugees as well people in a refugee-like situation in Ecuador, Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of), and other countries in the region.

<sup>16</sup> Source for Gross Domestic Product (Purchasing Power Parity): International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, October 2009 (accessed 14 May 2010).

<sup>17</sup> Source for national population: United Nations, Population Division, "World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision", New York, 2009.



## IV. Durable solutions

Millions of people around the world live in exile year after year with little hope of ever returning home. Some of them cannot go home because their countries face continuing conflict or, more often, because they remain fearful of persecution if they were to return. In cases where voluntary repatriation is not a viable option, finding a home in the country of asylum and integrating into the local community could offer a durable solution and the opportunity of starting a new life. Resettlement to a third country is another potential solution.

Voluntary repatriation is the durable solution which has historically benefited the largest number of refugees. Resettlement is a key protection tool and a significant responsibility-sharing mechanism. Local integration is a complex and gradual process, comprising distinct but inter-related legal, economic and socio-cultural dimensions. It is, however, difficult to quantify in numerical terms given the large variety of forms in which local integration can occur. The analysis of data on local integration is therefore limited to integration through the naturalization of refugees by the host country.

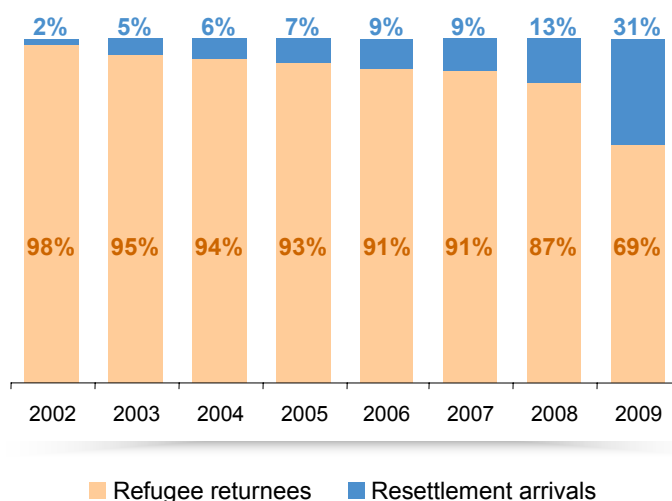
Comparatively, resettlement benefits a small number of refugees; in 2009, only one per cent of the world's refugees directly benefited from resettlement. During the past 10 years, some 810,000 refugees were resettled, compared to 9.6 million refugees who were able to repatriate. Thus, for every refugee who has been resettled since 2000, about 12 have repatriated. With the number of returning refugees decreasing in recent years, resettlement has become an increasingly applied solution, vital in resolving some protracted refugee situations, creating protection space, and opening up solutions that may have otherwise remained closed.

### Voluntary repatriation

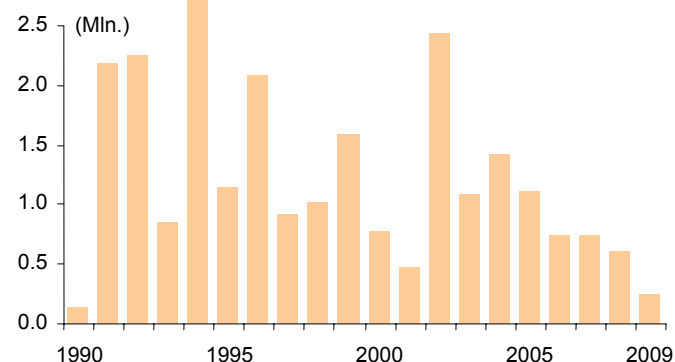
Based on consolidated reports from countries of asylum (departure) and origin (return), it is estimated that 251,500 refugees repatriated voluntarily during 2009, less than half (-58%) than in 2008 (604,000). Repatriation figures have continuously decreased since 2004 with the 2009 figures being the lowest since 1990 (139,000 returns). This is an indication that the large-scale repatriation movements observed in the past continue are in decline. Globally, an estimated 24.7 million refugees have returned home over the past 20 years, most of them with UNHCR assistance.

The main countries of return in 2009 included Afghanistan (57,600), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (44,300), Iraq (38,000), Sudan (33,100), Burundi (32,400), and Rwanda

**Fig 5** Distribution of resettlement arrivals and refugee returnees | 2002-2009



**Fig 6** Refugee returns | 1990-2009



(20,600). The largest number of refugee departures was reported by Uganda (61,800), Pakistan (51,300), the United Republic of Tanzania (30,600), and Zambia (19,300).

Afghanistan continued to be the main country of return with 57,600 registered returns during the year. The 2009 levels were the lowest since the start of large-scale refugee return in 2002. During the first year alone, some two million Afghans returned on a voluntary basis. Overall, more than 5.3 million Afghan refugees – or roughly one-fifth of Afghanistan’s population – have returned home since 2002. Unfortunately, some people who recently returned to Afghanistan were unable to go back to their villages of origin due to insecurity and/or a lack of land, shelter, basic services or job opportunities.

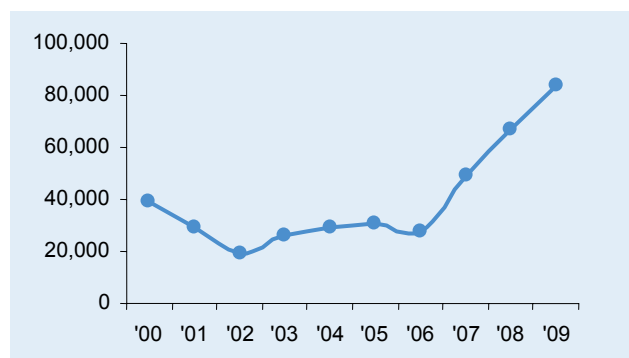
February 2009 marked the return of the 300,000<sup>th</sup> Sudanese refugee from exile since the end of the civil war and the start of UNHCR’s repatriation operation in Southern Sudan in December 2005. Of the 300,000 who returned during this period, over 180,000 received assistance from UNHCR to return, while tens of thousands went back independently. During 2009, UNHCR and the Southern Sudanese administration continued joint efforts to provide basic facilities such as wells, health centres and schools for returnees, while returnees worked on rebuilding their lives, constructing houses and cultivating land.

## Resettlement

Resettlement is not only an international responsibility-sharing mechanism and a key element in comprehensive solution strategies, but it is also a vital protection tool. It aims to provide protection to refugees who cannot go home or who are unwilling to do so because they will face continued persecution, and whose life, liberty, safety, health or other fundamental human rights are at risk in their country of asylum.

The challenges faced by States and UNHCR to bridge the gap in resettlement delivery are formidable: even more so in the current global economic and financial climate. UNHCR has been working closely with States to enlarge the pool of resettlement places to respond to these challenges. In the last three years, UNHCR has submitted more individuals for resettlement annually than the

**Fig 7** UNHCR-assisted resettlement departures of refugees | 2000-2009



UNHCR/ R. BRUNNERT

An Iraqi boy arriving under UNHCR's resettlement programme in Germany.





Burundian refugees during a naturalization ceremony in the United Republic of Tanzania.

UNHCR / B. BANNON

number of places made available by resettlement countries (some 80,000). The Office's response to the gap between needs and places available is threefold: (i) encourage more countries to establish resettlement programmes or consider UNHCR submissions; (ii) work with established resettlement countries to increase their intake of UNHCR-identified refugees; and (iii) prioritize resettlement needs and submissions, in light of the limited places available.

During 2009, a total of 112,400 refugees were admitted by 19 resettlement countries, including the United States of America (79,900), Canada (12,500), Australia (11,100), Germany (2,100), Sweden (1,900), and Norway (1,400). Overall, this was one quarter above the total for 2008 (88,800) and the highest level since 1995 (134,100).

In 2009, UNHCR submitted more than 128,000 individual refugees for resettlement consideration by States, the highest number in the past 16 years and 6 per cent above the 2008 level (121,000). Group resettlement programmes in Ethiopia, Malaysia, Nepal and Thailand, as well as the continued streamlining of procedures for Iraqi refugees in the Middle East, contributed to these achievements.

During the year, more than 84,000 individuals departed for resettlement with UNHCR assistance, 18,000 more than the year before. This is the highest number since the early 1990s. By nationality, the main beneficiaries of the UNHCR-facilitated resettlement programmes in 2009 were refugees from Myanmar (24,800), Iraq (23,000), Bhutan (17,500), Somalia (5,500), Eritrea (2,500), and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2,500).

Some 94 UNHCR country offices were engaged in facilitating resettlement during 2009. The largest number of refugees who were resettled with UNHCR assistance departed from Nepal (17,500), Thailand (16,800), the Syrian Arab Republic (10,400), Malaysia (7,500) and Turkey (6,000). The five UNHCR offices in these countries together accounted for 7.5 out of every 10 resettlement departures assisted by the Office in 2009.

### *Local integration*

The degree and nature of local integration are difficult to measure in quantitative terms. In those cases where refugees acquire citizenship through naturalization, statistical data is often very limited as the countries concerned generally do not distinguish between refugees and others who have been



naturalized. Moreover, national laws in many countries do not permit refugees to be naturalized. Therefore, the naturalization of refugees is both under-reported and restricted.

Nevertheless, the limited data on the naturalization of refugees available to UNHCR show that during the past decade more than 1.3 million refugees were granted citizenship by their country of asylum. The United States of America alone accounted for more than half of this figure. During 2009, the United Republic of Tanzania granted citizenship to 155,000 Burundian refugees, a major breakthrough for this refugee population living in exile since 1972. The United States of America also granted citizenship to a significant number of refugees in 2009 (55,300). In addition, UNHCR was informed of refugees being granted citizenship in Belgium (2,200), Ireland (730), Armenia (400), and the Russian Federation (370), during 2009.

## V. Age and sex characteristics

UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations pay particular attention to collecting demographic information in monitoring and addressing the specific situation of displaced women and children. Topics such as the situation of unaccompanied and separated children, sexual and gender-based violence, the recruitment of children into armed forces, girl's schooling, equal access to services for women and men, and the participation of refugee women in decision-making bodies, have been placed at the top of the humanitarian response agenda. Data on geographical locations is crucial for identifying gaps in interventions as well as interpreting differences between and within countries. Recent initiatives such as the European Commission's proposed *Action Plan on Unaccompanied Minors (2010-2014)* and the *High Commissioner's Dialogue on Protection Challenges (December 2009)* for refugees in urban areas, reflect the increasing need for demographic and location-disaggregated data. This section analyses demographic and location data availability and highlights some of the most relevant patterns relating to the characteristics of UNHCR's populations of concern.

Eritrean refugees arriving in Mai Ayni camp, Ethiopia.

UNHCR / F. COURBET



Unfortunately, demographic and location information on displaced populations is not available for all countries and population categories. This information is more available in countries where UNHCR is operationally active and interestingly, less so in developed countries where States are responsible for data collection. Sex and age information is available for only two thirds of UNHCR's population of concern while the coverage for location data is significantly higher, nearly 80 per cent.

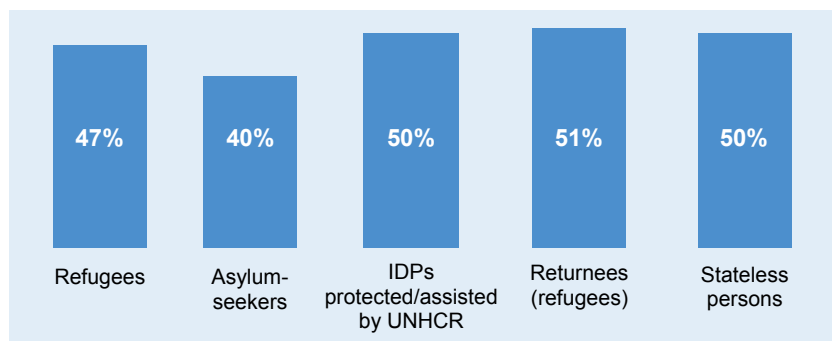
### Demographic characteristics

By the end of 2009, detailed demographic data was available for 21.8 million persons of concern in over 140 countries. This is the highest level on record. In relative terms, however, availability remained relatively stable compared to 2008 with 60 per cent coverage for persons of concern. The availability of data varied significantly depending on the type of population and the region. It was high for refugees (76%), IDPs (78%) and refugee returnees (86%); and low for IDP returnees (13%), others of concern (23%), and stateless persons (12%). The availability of data also differs by region. In Latin America and the Caribbean, demographic data was available for almost all populations of concern as compared to two-thirds coverage in Asia. In Africa, demographic information is known for slightly more than half (54%) of the population. The corresponding value for Europe is 43 per cent, an increase over 2008 due to the new availability of data in Germany.

The overall significantly higher data coverage is the result of several factors including the progressive deployment and use of UNHCR's registration software *proGres*<sup>(18)</sup>, resulting in a higher number of countries being able to produce sex and age-disaggregated data. Another important reason is that, as part of its responsibilities in the cluster approach, UNHCR and its partners have successfully conducted a number of IDP profiling exercises, leading to more accurate IDP estimates in a number of countries. Demographic information on IDPs is now available for some 12.1 million people as compared to 9.8 million people in 2008.

The available data by sex (21.8 million people) show that women represent about half (49%) of most populations falling under UNHCR's responsibility, which is relatively consistent across regions. In terms of refugees, women represent less than half of these populations in most regions. The lowest proportion of refugee women is to be found in Europe (44%), and the highest in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region (53%). These averages, however, hide significant variations across population groups and locations. For instance, on average women represent 51 per cent of refugee returnees but only 40 per cent of asylum-seekers in locations

**Fig 8 Percentage of women by population category | end-2009**



where data is available. In Chad, for instance, refugee women represent one-third (33%) of refugees in urban areas but up to 70 per cent of refugees in the Daha 1 camp.

Information on the age breakdown was available for 14 million (38%) of the 36.5 million people of concern to UNHCR. The data coverage for refugees was relatively high (72%) due to the use of *proGres*. Some 45 per cent of persons of concern to UNHCR were children under the age of 18, 11 per cent of whom were under the age of five. Half of the population was between the ages of 18 and

<sup>18</sup> The software *proGres* had been rolled out to 75 countries by the end of 2009.





Young Afghan boys and teenagers have to endure the cold in Calais, France. Some sleep under bridges at night while others find accommodation through an organization defending the rights of migrants.

UNHCR / H. CAUX

59 years, whereas 5 per cent were 60 years or older. Among refugees and people in refugee-like situations, children constituted 41 per cent of the population. Their proportion was significantly higher among those refugees who returned home in 2009 (54%). This poses considerable challenges for reintegration programmes, in particular with respect to education in those locations where schools have been damaged or destroyed.

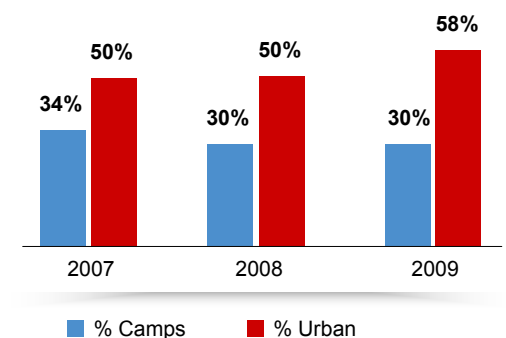
Children constituted only 27 per cent of asylum-seekers, a population often largely composed of single men particularly in the industrialized world. Moreover, populations in camps were younger (52 per cent children) than in urban areas (43 per cent children).

The availability of information according to age breakdown was particularly limited for developed countries in Europe, North America and Oceania. Thus, the figures above cannot be considered fully representative of the entire population under UNHCR's responsibility.

### Location characteristics

Information collected about the location characteristics of where persons of concern reside is broken down by the following categories: camps/settlements/centres; urban areas; and rural areas. The last two categories usually correspond to people privately accommodated with host families or living on their own. In 2009, the type of location was reported for some 15 million persons of concern residing mainly in non-industrialized countries.<sup>19</sup> This represents close to 41 per cent of the total population of concern. With some 78 per cent coverage (8.2 million people), the availability of location data was higher for refugees than for any other group. Of these, 2.5 million people were residing in organized camps or centres (30%) and 4.8 million (58%) in

**Fig 9** Distribution of refugees by type of location \* | end-2009



\* Excludes unknown locations

<sup>19</sup> Even though UNHCR offices reported the information on the location for a total of 29 million persons of concern, the location or settlement type for 14 million persons (mostly IDPs) was unclear or a mixture of types.



urban areas. Some 931,000 people were reported to be living in rural areas dispersed among the local population. The type of accommodation and location information was unknown or unclear for 2.2 million refugees.

The number of refugees living in urban areas outnumbered those in camps for the first time in 2007. This was primarily the result of large numbers of Iraqi refugees having sought refuge in urban centres in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic. The gap between the two categories has significantly increased ever since. Based on available data, by the end of 2009 the number of refugees in urban sites had almost doubled compared to those living in camps (see *Figure 9*). Over 85 per cent of refugees in urban areas were found in Asia and the Middle East, mainly in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Pakistan, and the Syrian Arab Republic. Women represented on average less than half (47%) of refugees in urban areas, with figures ranging from 10 per cent in Oceania to 47 per cent in Asia.

## VI. Asylum-seekers

The following sections present some of the main trends related to asylum applications lodged on an individual basis. The figures do not include mass refugee movements nor do they make reference to people who have been accorded refugee status on a group or *prima facie* basis.

**TABLE 3** New and appeal applications received | 2007-2009

	2007	2008	2009
State*	548,000	765,800	777,400
UNHCR	79,800	73,400	119,100
Jointly**	26,000	36,100	26,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>653,800</b>	<b>875,300</b>	<b>922,500</b>
% UNHCR only	12%	8%	13%

\* Includes revised estimates.

\*\* Refers to refugee status determination conducted jointly between UNHCR and the Government.

During 2009, at least 922,500<sup>(20)</sup> individual applications for asylum or refugee status were submitted to governments or UNHCR offices in 159 countries or territories. This constitutes a 5 per cent increase compared to the previous year (875,300 claims) and the third consecutive annual rise. In industrialized countries figures have remained stable.<sup>(21)</sup> Two main reasons explain this trend. The first is the persistent high number of asylum applications in South Africa (222,000 claims in 2009; and 207,000 in 2008). The second is the continued high number of certain populations seeking international protection during the year, particularly those from Afghanistan, Colombia,

Ethiopia, Myanmar and Zimbabwe. Out of the provisional total of 922,500 asylum claims, an estimated 836,100 were initial applications,<sup>(22)</sup> lodged in first instance procedures, and 86,400 claims were submitted on appeal or with courts.<sup>(23)</sup>

UNHCR offices registered some 119,100 applications out of the total of 922,500 claims in 2009. This number increased by 62 per cent compared to 2008 (73,400 claims). The Office's share in the global number of applications registered stood at 13 per cent in 2009 compared to 8 per cent in 2008 and 12 per cent in 2007. The recent increase is primarily due to the higher number of applications registered with UNHCR offices in Malaysia<sup>(24)</sup> and Somalia.

<sup>20</sup> Owing to the fact that some European countries have not yet released all their national asylum data at the time of writing, this figure is likely to be revised upwards later this year.

<sup>21</sup> For a detailed analysis of asylum trends in industrialized countries, see *Asylum Levels and Trends in Industrialized Countries, 2009*, UNHCR Geneva, March 2010, available at: <http://www.unhcr.org/statistics>.

<sup>22</sup> Despite the fact that statistical reporting on new asylum-seekers has improved in recent years, in particular in Europe, it should be borne in mind that the data include a significant number of repeat claims, i.e. the applicant submitted at least one previous application in the same or another country.

<sup>23</sup> Statistical information on outcomes of asylum appeals and court proceedings is under-reported in UNHCR statistics, particularly in developed countries, as this type of data is often either not collected by States or not published separately.

<sup>24</sup> Rather than reflecting a new influx into Malaysia, most asylum applicants have been in the country for a number of years.

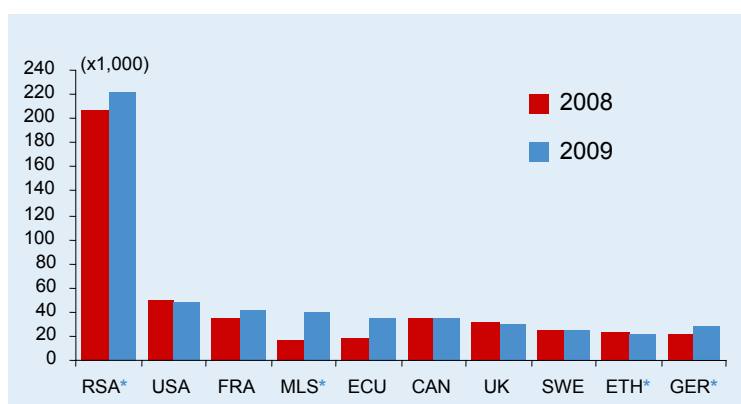
With a provisional total of 358,600 asylum claims registered during the year in Europe, this region remained the primary destination for individual asylum-seekers, followed closely by Africa (336,400).<sup>(25)</sup> Both regions accounted for 39 and 37 per cent, respectively, of all claims lodged. The Americas and Asia recorded 125,000 and 93,700 respectively, while Oceania received 9,000 asylum-seekers. These figures include applicants who were unsuccessful at first instance and subsequently filed an appeal.

### *New individual asylum applications received*

South Africa was again the main destination for new asylum-seekers worldwide with more than 222,000 asylum claims registered in 2009 - almost as many as were lodged in the 27 Member States of the European Union combined. This figure also accounted for almost one quarter of all individual applications globally. The number of applications more than quadrupled compared to 2007, when

45,600 individuals sought international protection, and is 7 per cent higher than in 2008. Zimbabweans accounted for two-thirds of all claims submitted in 2009 (149,500 applications).

**Fig 10 Main destination countries of new asylum-seekers | 2008-2009**



\* RSA=South Africa; MLS=Malaysia; ETH=Ethiopia; GER=Germany

increase in 2009 is partly attributed to a higher number of asylum-seekers from Serbia (+67%),<sup>(26)</sup> and Armenia (+50%). Malaysia was the fourth most important destination country for new asylum-seekers in 2009, with more than 40,000 asylum claims registered with the UNHCR office, mostly by people from Myanmar (94%). Other important destination countries for asylum-seekers were Ecuador (35,500), Canada (34,000),<sup>(27)</sup> and the United Kingdom (29,800).

In 2009, UNHCR offices received 114,000 new applications for refugee status and 5,100 applications for appeal or for review. The office in Malaysia received the largest number of new requests (40,000). The office in “Somaliland” (north-west Somalia) was the second largest receiver of new claims in 2009 (15,600 new claims), followed by Kenya (15,400), Turkey (7,800), and India (6,000). UNHCR operations in India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia and Somalia witnessed an increase in applications, while offices in Cameroon, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and Turkey saw a decrease in new applications. The top five receiving UNHCR offices together registered three-quarters of all new applications in 2009. Moreover, 90 per cent of UNHCR’s refugee status determination work in terms of applications received was concentrated in 12 countries.

**TABLE 4**

**New asylum claims lodged in 2009 in top 10 UNHCR offices\***

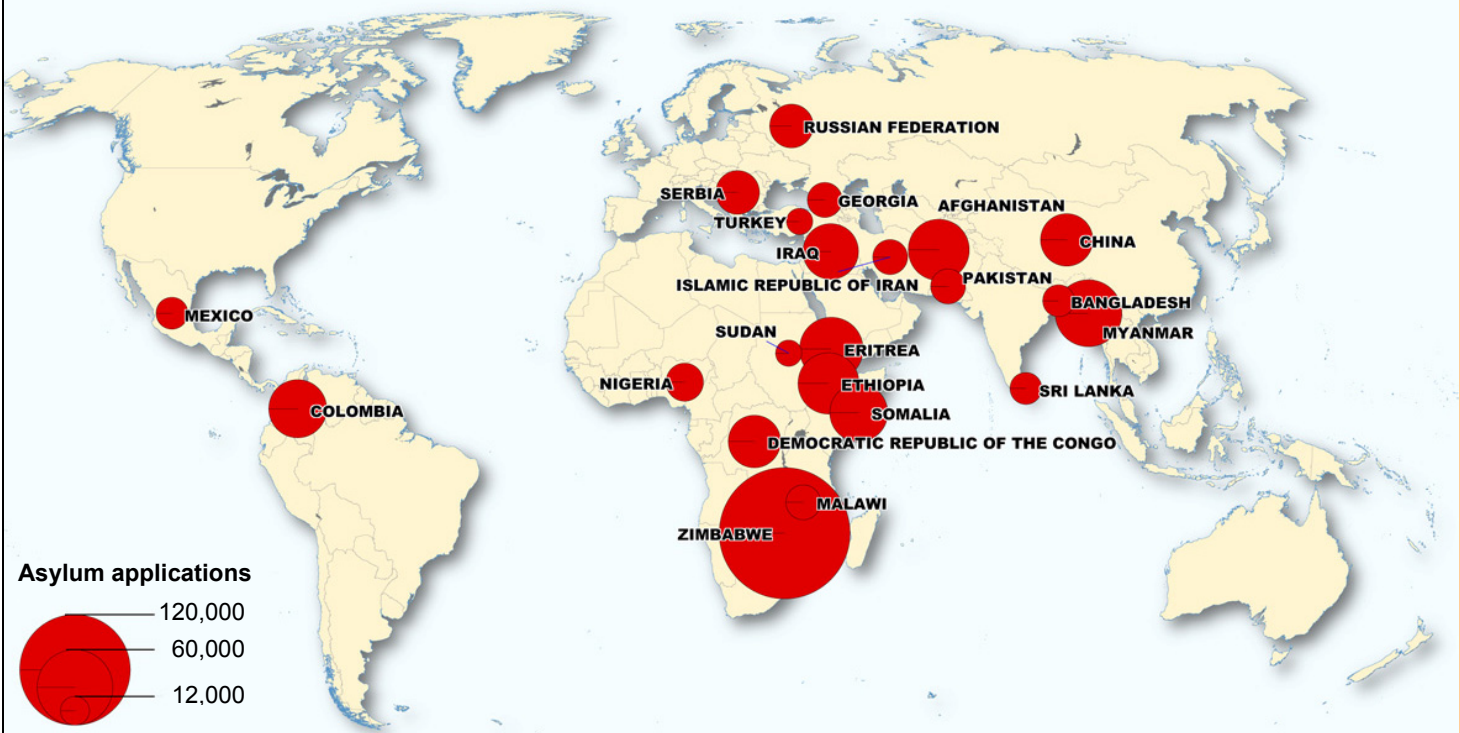
Malaysia	40,100
Somalia	15,600
Kenya	15,400
Turkey	7,800
India	6,000
Indonesia	3,200
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3,000
Cameroon	2,900
Iraq	2,700
Egypt	2,600

\* Excludes appeal/review claims.

<sup>25</sup> The geographical regions used are those of the UN Statistics Division <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49.htm>.

<sup>26</sup> Nine out of ten applications are lodged by Serb citizens from Kosovo.

<sup>27</sup> Source: Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) Canada.



By nationality, the highest number of new asylum claims was filed by individuals originating from Zimbabwe (158,200), Myanmar (48,600), Eritrea (43,300), Ethiopia (42,500), Colombia (39,200), Afghanistan (38,900), and Somalia (37,900). See Map 3 below. As observed in previous years, these figures hide patterns of certain nationalities tending to cluster in a limited number of countries. For instance, nine out of ten Zimbabwean asylum claims were lodged in South Africa alone. Similarly, three-quarters of asylum claims lodged by citizens of Myanmar were registered in Malaysia while two-thirds of all Eritrean requests were submitted in Ethiopia (17,300) and Sudan (10,200). In the case of Ethiopian asylum-seekers, Somalia (15,500 claims estimated by UNHCR), South Africa (10,700), and Kenya (9,500) were prime destination countries, accounting for 84 per cent of all new Ethiopian claims. Even though asylum-seekers from Colombia sought protection in more than 40 countries, eight out of ten applied for refugee status in Ecuador.

Provisional figures indicate that some 585,500 decisions on individual asylum applications were rendered during 2009, a 7 per cent increase compared to 2008. UNHCR staff adjudicated 69,200, or 12 per cent of the total – a share similar to that of previous years. In 12 countries, including Ethiopia and Mauritania, close to 21,000 substantive decisions were taken jointly by UNHCR and the concerned State. These figures exclude cases which were closed for administrative reasons without taking a decision on the substance.<sup>(28)</sup> In 2009, some 158,300 cases were closed without a substantive decision issued to the applicant.

It is important to note that the 2009 data on decisions is still incomplete as a few States have not released their official statistics. As a consequence, the 2009 decision data quoted in this report are not fully comparable with previous years.

Some 274,500 asylum-seekers were recognized as refugees (225,100) or given a complementary form of protection (49,400) in the course of 2009. This number includes an estimated 15,800<sup>(29)</sup>

<sup>28</sup> Also labeled as “non-substantive” decisions which might result from, among others, the death of the applicant, no-show for interview, withdrawal of the application, abandonment of the claim, or the determination that another country is responsible for the claim (‘Dublin II’ procedure).

<sup>29</sup> This figure is likely to be substantially higher, as a significant number of decisions rendered by States at the appeal or review stage of the asylum procedure has not yet been released.



**TABLE 5 Substantive decisions taken**

	2007	2008	2009
State	399,000	468,900	495,300
UNHCR	51,200	46,800	69,200
Jointly*	20,600	31,200	21,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>470,800</b>	<b>546,900</b>	<b>585,500</b>
% UNHCR only	11%	9%	12%

\* Refers to refugee status determination conducted jointly between UNHCR and the Government.

as those on appeal. Asylum-seekers who appealed a negative decision at first instance which was upheld under appeal may have been counted twice in this figure.

At the global level (UNHCR and State asylum procedures combined), the Refugee Recognition Rate (RRR) amounted to an estimated 38 per cent of all decisions taken during 2009 while the Total Recognition Rate (TRR) was 47 per cent.<sup>(30)</sup> Both values are significantly above the corresponding rates in 2008 (29 per cent for RRR and 40 per cent for TRR). However, at this time global recognition rates are indicative as some States have not yet reported the relevant data. Also, the proportion of positive decisions is in reality higher as decisions for those rejected on appeal are often counted twice. Among the industrialized countries, Finland and Malta had the highest TRR at the first instance in 2009 (78% and 65%, respectively). Among the main countries of origin of asylum-seekers in 2009, those originating from Colombia, Eritrea, and Myanmar had TRRs of 80 to 90 per cent. Recognition rates were also high for asylum-seekers from Somalia (around 75%), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61%), Ethiopia (53%), Afghanistan (50%), and Iraq (50%).

Globally more than 983,000 individuals were still awaiting a decision on their asylum claim by the end of the year. This is 19 per cent more persons than in 2008. It includes applications at any stage of the asylum procedure. The largest number of undecided cases at the first instance and on appeal was reported by South Africa (309,800). This figure includes an estimated 171,700 undecided cases at the first instance and 138,100 cases which were pending decision at the end of 2008.

individuals who initially received a negative decision that was overturned at the appeal or review stage. Instances where the percentage of decisions overturned at the appeal stage was particularly high may be an indication of deficiencies in the asylum procedure in some countries.

Some 311,000 claims were rejected on substantive grounds, 16,000 less than the year before. This number includes negative decisions at the first instance as well

### Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) seeking asylum \*

In 2009, more than 18,700 asylum applications were lodged by unaccompanied and separated children in 71 countries. This constitutes about 4 per cent of the total number of asylum claims lodged in those countries. The relative figure is consistent with the one observed a year earlier when 16,600 UASC sought asylum. Europe received 15,100 or 81 per cent of the 18,700 UASC claims. Like in previous years, the United Kingdom registered the highest number in Europe with close to 3,000 UASC claims, followed by Norway (2,500), Sweden (2,250), and Germany (1,300). While the United Kingdom received 1,200 fewer UASC claims compared to 2008,

in Norway and Sweden figures went up significantly (+81% and +49% respectively). Malaysia and Ecuador were important destination countries for unaccompanied and separated children outside Europe, with 1,500 and 500 asylum claims respectively.

The available information indicates that 7,900 unaccompanied and separated children were recognized as refugees or granted a complementary form of protection in 2009. This figure is higher than in 2008 (6,000 positive grants). Europe accounted for 64 per cent of all positive decisions rendered.

\* For additional information, see 2008 Statistical Yearbook, pp. 48-49, UNHCR, Geneva.

<sup>30</sup> 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 and 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 only uses these two recognition rates and does not report nationally calculated rates.

## VII. Internally Displaced Persons

UNHCR does not have a mandate to protect or assist all conflict-generated IDPs, estimated at some 27.1 million at the end of 2009.<sup>(31)</sup> However, since the introduction of the inter-agency cluster approach in January 2006, UNHCR has become increasingly involved with IDPs as part of a broader engagement by the United Nations and other agencies. The Office has also continued its programmes

Map 4 IDPs protected / assisted by UNHCR | end-2009

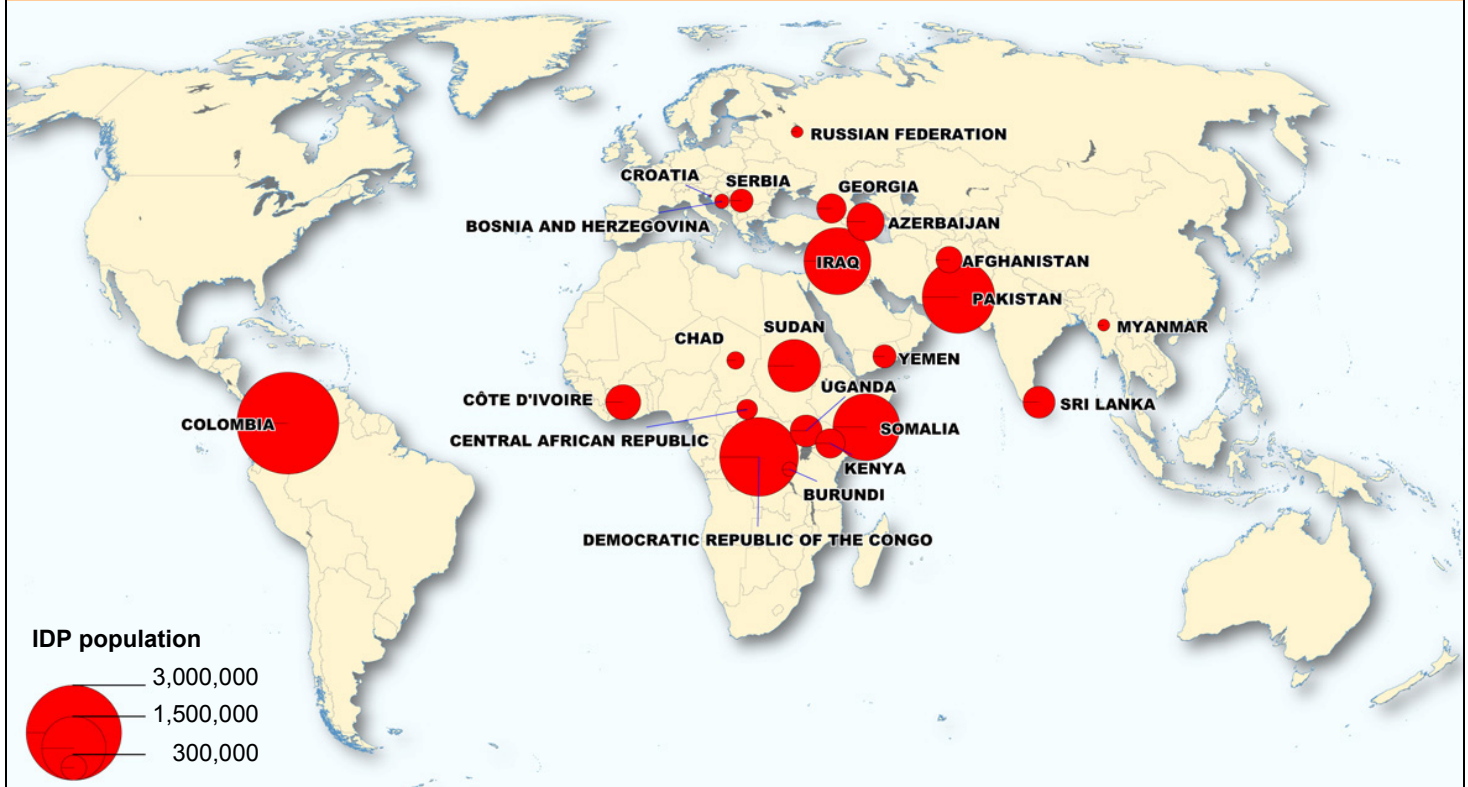
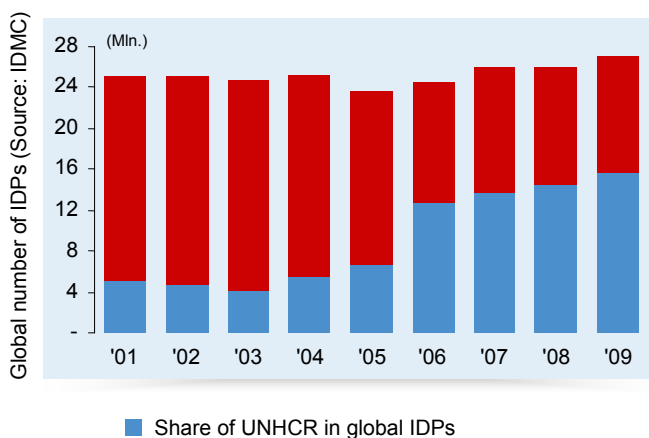


Fig 11 Conflict-induced internal displacement | 2001-2009 (end-year)



for IDPs to whom it was already providing protection and assistance prior to the adoption of the cluster approach.

The number of internally displaced persons, including people in IDP-like situations<sup>(32)</sup> who benefited from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities stood at 15.6 million at the end of 2009. This is the highest figure on record, an increase of 1.2 million compared to the previous year (14.4 million) and more than double the figure before the activation of the cluster approach (6.6 million in 2005). UNHCR offices reported at least 4 million newly internally displaced people in 2009, while more than 2.2 million IDPs were able to return home

<sup>31</sup> For detailed statistics on global internal displacement, see the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) website of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) at [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org).

<sup>32</sup> The IDP-like situations refer to Georgia (105,700) and the Russian Federation (23,100).

during the same period.<sup>(33)</sup> In all, UNHCR statistics include IDP populations in 22 countries (see Annex table 6).

Colombia, which began registering IDPs in 1997, now has a total of 3.3 million registered IDPs.<sup>(34)</sup> Renewed armed conflict in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo displaced hundreds of thousands during the year; by end 2009, the number of IDPs was estimated at 2.1 million. Extensive new internal displacement (up to 3 million people) was witnessed in Pakistan in mid-2009 due to the humanitarian situation in the north-west of the country. Although an estimated 1.1 million of these IDPs were able to return home in 2009, some 1.9 million remained displaced within Pakistan by year end. The political and humanitarian situation in central and south Somalia continued to deteriorate in 2009, and led to the displacement of some 300,000 people. As a consequence, the number of IDPs in Somalia increased to 1.55 million by year end. In Sudan, the number of IDPs protected or assisted by UNHCR was approximately one million by the end of the year. Extensive new internal displacements were also witnessed in Afghanistan, Sri Lanka,<sup>(35)</sup> and Yemen during 2009.

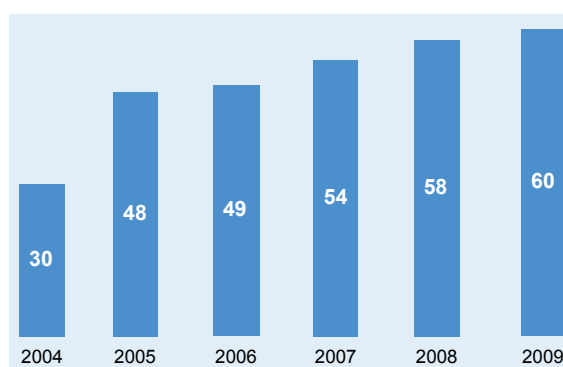
In Iraq, the IDP estimate was revised downwards from 2.6 to 1.55 million people. This figure excludes the pre-2003 IDPs in Iraq which are now considered to be integrated. In addition, close to 168,000 Iraqi IDPs returned to their homes during 2009. Some 408,000 IDPs in Uganda were also able to return to their villages in the course of the year, reducing the IDP population remaining in camps and transit sites to 446,000. Both IDPs and IDP returnees in Uganda continue to benefit from UNHCR's protection and assistance activities under the cluster approach.

## VIII. Stateless persons

Unlike refugees, stateless persons in most countries are not registered and granted a legal status and documentation. Although surveys carried out in some countries are starting to yield more reliable data on stateless persons, information about the global magnitude of the statelessness phenomenon remains incomplete. At the same time, identifying stateless persons and the scope of the problem in any given country is a necessary step in designing efforts to address statelessness situations through advocacy and targeted programmes. In recognition of this, the identification of stateless populations and improving the understanding of the scope of statelessness are among the tasks UNHCR has been called upon by its Executive Committee to prioritize under its statelessness mandate.

The statistics in this report only include data on countries for which reliable official statistics or estimates of stateless populations are available. Annex table 7 also includes some countries (marked with an asterisk) that have significant stateless populations but for which no reliable figures could be provided, including Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, India and Indonesia.

**Fig 12** Number of countries reporting statistics on stateless persons | 2004-2009



<sup>33</sup> In the absence of reliable estimates on newly displaced persons during 2009, this figure excludes movements in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

<sup>34</sup> It is important to note that the figure of 3.3 million is an accumulated figure dating back to 1997 and that the Government has highlighted an under-registration of 21 per cent (see report by the National Government to the Constitutional Court, Judgement T-025/2004). The Government also estimates that some 500,000 people have returned, but no official figures are available as yet.

<sup>35</sup> In Sri Lanka, a substantial number of IDPs were able to return voluntarily to their areas of origin by year end.



For 2009, the number of identified stateless populations remained stable at almost 6.6 million. The data show a continuation of the trend already observed in previous years of a gradual expansion in coverage and knowledge of stateless persons. By the end of 2009, statistics on statelessness were available in 60 countries, two more than in 2008. This compares to 30 countries in 2004, the first year UNHCR started collecting statistics on stateless populations in a more systematic way, and reflects the data collection efforts of UNHCR offices. Two reasons explain these positive trends. First, UNHCR's efforts were bolstered by an increasing awareness of the statelessness issue in a number of countries. Second, surveys and censuses are increasingly used to identify stateless populations. UNHCR expects the 2010 round of national population censuses to further increase its data coverage on stateless populations.

UNHCR is not in a position to provide comprehensive statistics on the number of stateless persons in all countries around the world. As a result, there is a discrepancy between reliable country-level data reported by UNHCR and the total estimated number of stateless worldwide, some 12 million people. The increase in data coverage and gradual improvement in the quality of the data through increased use of population profiling methods, such as surveys, will continue to narrow this gap.

## **IX. Other groups or people of concern**

UNHCR also extends its protection or assistance activities to individuals whom it considers "of concern", but who do not fall into any of the above population categories. These activities are based on humanitarian or other special grounds and might, for instance, include asylum-seekers who have been rejected by States, but who are deemed by UNHCR to be in need of international protection. The number of people in these groups more than doubled from 167,000 at the start of 2009 to almost 412,000 by the end of the year. The increase arose primarily from the inclusion of some 155,000 former refugees from Burundi in the United Republic of Tanzania. Even though they were naturalized in 2009, UNHCR remains engaged with this group through local integration programmes.

## X. Who are included in the statistics?

**Refugees** include individuals recognized under the 1951 *Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*; its 1967 Protocol; the 1969 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;<sup>(36)</sup> or, those enjoying temporary protection.<sup>(37)</sup> This category also includes people in a refugee-like situation.<sup>(38)</sup>

**Asylum-seekers** 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 2009, irrespective of when they may have been lodged.

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<sup>36</sup> *Complementary protection refers to protection provided under national or regional law in countries which do not grant 1951 Convention refugee status to people who are in need of international protection against serious, but indiscriminate risks.*

<sup>37</sup> *Temporary protection refers to arrangements developed by States to offer protection of a temporary nature to people arriving from situations of conflict or generalized violence without the necessity for formal or individual status determination. This usually applies to situations of large-scale influx.*

<sup>38</sup> *The term is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people 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.*

**Internally displaced persons** are people or groups of individuals who have been forced to leave their homes or places 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 human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an international border.<sup>(39)</sup> For purposes of UNHCR's statistics, this population only includes conflict-generated IDPs to whom the Office extends protection and/or assistance. The IDP population also includes people in an IDP-like situation.<sup>(40)</sup>

**Returned refugees (returnees)** refer to refugees who have returned voluntarily to their country of origin or habitual residence. For the purposes of this report, only refugees who returned between January and December 2009 are included. However, in practice, operations may assist returnees for longer periods.

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<sup>39</sup> See: *Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, Addendum to the Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General, Francis M. Deng, submitted pursuant to Commission (on Human Rights) Resolution 1997/39, United Nations, E/CN.4/1998/53/Add2 (1998).*

<sup>40</sup> *The term is descriptive in nature and includes groups of people 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.*

**Returned IDPs** refer to those IDPs who were beneficiaries of UNHCR's protection and assistance activities and who returned to their areas of origin or habitual residence between January and December 2009. However, in practice, operations may assist IDP returnees for longer periods.

**Stateless persons** are individuals not considered as citizens of any State under national laws. UNHCR statistics also include *de facto* stateless persons and persons with undertermined 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. UNHCR's Executive Committee has requested the Office to report regularly on the magnitude of the phenomenon. The Office also has specific functions under Article 11 of the 1961 *Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* to receive claims from persons who may benefit from the safeguards contained in that Convention and to assist them and the States concerned to resolve those claims.

**Other groups or people of concern** refer to individuals who do not necessarily fall directly into any of the groups above but to whom UNHCR has extended its protection and/or assistance services, based on humanitarian or other special ground.

**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-2009**

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases)						
Afghanistan	37	-	37	37	12	57,582	297,129	7,225	-	-	361,985
Albania	70	-	70	70	20	-	-	-	-	-	90
Algeria <sup>10</sup>	94,137	-	94,137	90,132	153	1	-	-	-	-	94,291
Angola	14,734	-	14,734	4,824	4,241	2,449	-	-	-	14,479	35,903
Argentina	3,230	-	3,230	328	750	-	-	-	-	-	3,980
Armenia	3,607	-	3,607	3,280	39	-	-	-	-	82,231	85,877
Australia	22,548	-	22,548	-	2,350	-	-	-	-	-	24,898
Austria	38,906	-	38,906	-	32,146	-	-	-	523	-	71,575
Azerbaijan	1,642	-	1,642	1,642	46	1	586,013	-	2,078	510	590,290
Bahrain	139	-	139	139	12	-	-	-	-	-	151
Bangladesh	28,586	200,000	228,586	28,342	-	-	-	-	-	-	228,586
Belarus	580	-	580	232	90	-	-	-	7,799	-	8,469
Belgium	15,545	-	15,545	-	18,233	-	-	-	637	-	34,415
Belize	230	-	230	53	21	-	-	-	-	-	251
Benin	7,205	-	7,205	7,205	124	-	-	-	-	-	7,329
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	679	-	679	332	34	-	-	-	-	-	713
Bosnia and Herzegovina	7,132	-	7,132	1,485	367	874	113,642	299	9,688	50,874	182,876
Botswana	3,022	-	3,022	3,022	206	-	-	-	-	-	3,228
Brazil	4,232	-	4,232	2,771	176	-	-	-	106	-	4,514
British Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	6
Bulgaria	5,393	-	5,393	-	1,196	-	-	-	-	-	6,589
Burkina Faso	543	-	543	543	515	-	-	-	-	-	1,058
Burundi	24,967	-	24,967	24,967	6,338	32,362	100,000	-	-	-	163,667
Cambodia	135	-	135	135	29	-	-	-	-	-	164
Cameroon	99,957	-	99,957	97,086	1,312	-	-	-	-	-	101,269
Canada	169,434	-	169,434	-	61,170	-	-	-	-	-	230,604
Cayman Islands	1	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	5
Central African Rep.	27,047	-	27,047	4,319	1,219	53	197,000	-	-	-	225,319
Chad	314,393	24,102	338,495	314,393	64	1,802	170,531	20,771	-	-	531,663
Chile	1,539	-	1,539	-	498	-	-	-	-	-	2,037
China <sup>11</sup>	300,989	-	300,989	64	43	-	-	-	-	4	301,036
- Hong Kong SAR, China	86	-	86	86	791	-	-	-	-	-	877
- Macao SAR, China	6	-	6	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	12
Colombia	196	-	196	71	116	60	3,303,979	-	11	-	3,304,362
Comoros	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congo, Rep. of	111,411	-	111,411	1,440	4,920	80	-	-	-	-	116,411
Costa Rica	12,298	6,818	19,116	15,411	587	-	-	-	-	-	19,703
Côte d'Ivoire	24,604	-	24,604	24,604	222	90	519,140	166,816	-	-	710,872
Croatia	1,149	89	1,238	1,238	39	711	2,285	212	237	23,583	28,305
Cuba	454	-	454	407	5	1	-	-	-	-	460
Cyprus	2,888	-	2,888	-	5,015	-	-	-	-	-	7,903
Czech Rep.	2,323	-	2,323	-	1,265	-	-	-	-	-	3,588
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	185,809	-	185,809	3,018	643	44,296	2,052,677	78,859	-	11	2,362,295
Denmark	20,355	-	20,355	-	1,193	-	-	-	3,263	-	24,811
Djibouti	12,111	-	12,111	11,289	921	-	-	-	-	-	13,032
Ecuador	45,192	71,365	116,557	45,192	50,632	-	-	-	-	-	167,189
Egypt	94,406	-	94,406	24,406	13,443	1	-	-	64	-	107,914
El Salvador	30	-	30	27	58	-	-	-	-	-	88
Equatorial Guinea	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eritrea	4,751	-	4,751	4,716	134	8	-	-	-	-	4,893
Estonia	24	-	24	-	19	-	-	-	104,813	-	104,856
Ethiopia	121,886	-	121,886	121,886	2,458	17	-	-	-	-	124,361
Fiji	2	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	6
Finland	7,447	-	7,447	-	3,784	-	-	-	2,407	-	13,638
France	196,364	-	196,364	-	35,268	-	-	-	1,078	-	232,710
Gabon	8,845	-	8,845	8,845	4,287	-	-	-	-	-	13,132
Gambia	10,118	-	10,118	8,942	69	-	-	-	-	2,156	12,343
Georgia	870	-	870	870	26	-	352,640	5,273	1,677	-	360,486
Germany	593,799	-	593,799	-	38,932	-	-	-	8,226	17,675	658,632
Ghana	13,658	-	13,658	13,658	598	1	-	-	-	-	14,257
Greece	1,695	-	1,695	-	48,201	-	-	-	260	-	50,156
Guatemala	131	-	131	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	135
Guinea	15,325	-	15,325	15,325	928	1	-	-	-	-	16,254
Guinea-Bissau	7,898	-	7,898	7,898	289	-	-	-	-	-	8,187
Haiti	3	-	3	3	12	8	-	-	-	-	23
Honduras	19	-	19	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	20
Hungary	6,044	-	6,044	6,044	647	-	-	-	49	-	6,740



**Country/territory  
of asylum<sup>1</sup>**

	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum- seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>						
Iceland	62	-	62	-	22	-	-	-	133	-	217
India	185,323	-	185,323	12,440	5,441	-	-	-	-	-	190,764
Indonesia	798	-	798	798	1,769	311	-	-	-	-	2,878
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	1,070,488	-	1,070,488	1,070,488	1,858	-	-	-	-	-	1,072,346
Iraq	35,218	-	35,218	35,218	3,800	38,037	1,552,003	167,740	230,000	-	2,026,798
Ireland	9,571	-	9,571	-	2,755	-	-	-	-	-	12,326
Israel	382	17,354	17,736	9,632	4,144	-	-	-	-	-	21,880
Italy	54,965	-	54,965	-	4,365	-	-	-	793	-	60,123
Jamaica	26	-	26	26	-	-	-	-	-	-	26
Japan	2,332	-	2,332	540	2,935	-	-	-	1,525	-	6,792
Jordan <sup>12</sup>	450,756	-	450,756	47,356	604	-	-	-	-	-	451,360
Kazakhstan	4,340	-	4,340	720	129	-	-	-	7,649	-	12,118
Kenya	358,928	-	358,928	358,928	18,958	453	399,000	5,000	100,000	-	882,339
Kuwait	221	-	221	44	2,985	-	-	-	93,000	-	96,206
Kyrgyzstan	423	-	423	423	495	-	-	-	24,615	-	25,533
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	43	-	43	-	52	-	-	-	344,263	-	344,358
Lebanon	50,300	113	50,413	10,800	607	-	-	-	-	-	51,020
Lesotho	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Liberia	6,944	8	6,952	6,952	535	1,408	-	-	-	2,500	11,395
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	9,005	-	9,005	752	3,317	-	-	-	-	-	12,322
Liechtenstein	91	-	91	-	47	-	-	-	6	-	144
Lithuania	793	-	793	-	70	-	-	-	3,902	-	4,765
Luxembourg	3,230	-	3,230	-	465	-	-	-	177	-	3,872
Madagascar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malawi	5,443	-	5,443	5,442	4,602	-	-	-	-	-	10,045
Malaysia <sup>13</sup>	65,350	787	66,137	66,048	10,267	-	-	-	40,001	61,329	177,734
Mali	13,538	-	13,538	13,538	1,706	-	-	-	-	-	15,244
Malta	5,955	-	5,955	-	1,828	-	-	-	-	-	7,783
Mauritania	795	26,000	26,795	521	118	12,013	-	-	-	-	38,926
Mauritius	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mexico	1,235	-	1,235	250	96	-	-	-	-	-	1,331
Micronesia (Federated States of)	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mongolia	11	-	11	11	3	-	-	-	373	-	387
Montenegro	24,019	-	24,019	24,019	7	-	-	-	1,500	-	25,526
Morocco	773	-	773	773	318	-	-	-	-	-	1,091
Mozambique	3,547	-	3,547	2,107	4,176	-	-	-	-	-	7,723
Myanmar	-	-	-	-	-	-	67,290	-	723,571	-	790,861
Namibia	7,163	-	7,163	7,163	1,343	31	-	-	-	-	8,537
Nepal	106,164	2,297	108,461	86,162	978	1	-	-	800,000	476	909,916
Netherlands	76,008	-	76,008	-	16,245	-	-	-	5,034	-	97,287
New Zealand	3,289	-	3,289	-	232	-	-	-	-	-	3,521
Nicaragua	120	-	120	71	1	-	-	-	-	-	121
Niger	325	-	325	194	32	-	-	-	-	-	357
Nigeria	9,127	-	9,127	9,127	1,145	-	-	-	-	-	10,272
Norway	37,826	-	37,826	-	16,639	-	-	-	2,860	-	57,325
Occupied Palestinian Territory	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oman	26	-	26	26	12	-	-	-	-	-	38
Pakistan <sup>14</sup>	759,392	981,319	1,740,711	1,740,711	2,430	4	1,894,557	1,106,396	-	-	4,744,098
Palau	11	-	11	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	12
Panama	1,923	15,000	16,923	3,707	790	-	-	-	1	-	17,714
Papua New Guinea	4,703	5,000	9,703	2,644	3	-	-	-	-	-	9,706
Paraguay	89	-	89	89	4	-	-	-	-	-	93
Peru	1,108	-	1,108	127	376	1	-	-	-	-	1,485
Philippines	95	-	95	11	55	-	-	-	-	68	218
Poland	15,320	-	15,320	-	2,402	-	-	-	865	-	18,587
Portugal	389	-	389	-	19	-	-	-	31	-	439
Qatar	29	-	29	29	8	-	-	-	1,200	-	1,237
Rep. of Korea	268	-	268	28	660	-	-	-	103	-	1,031
Rep. of Moldova	141	-	141	141	52	-	-	-	2,014	-	2,207
Romania	1,069	-	1,069	281	398	-	-	-	306	-	1,773
Russian Federation	4,880	-	4,880	4,880	1,678	29	79,950	878	50,000	-	137,415
Rwanda	54,016	-	54,016	54,016	282	20,596	-	-	-	-	74,894
Saint Kitts and Nevis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Sao Tome and Principe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Saudi Arabia	548	27	575	575	104	-	-	-	70,000	-	70,679
Senegal	22,151	-	22,151	22,151	2,796	-	-	-	-	-	24,947
Serbia	86,351	-	86,351	86,351	30	2,705	224,881	871	16,700	386	331,924
Sierra Leone	9,051	-	9,051	9,051	211	227	-	-	-	-	9,489
Singapore	7	-	7	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Slovakia	401	-	401	-	254	-	-	-	911	59	1,625
Slovenia	289	-	289	289	80	-	-	-	4,090	-	4,459
Somalia	1,815	-	1,815	1,815	24,668	61	1,550,000	-	-	-	1,576,544
South Africa <sup>15</sup>	47,974	-	47,974	-	309,794	-	-	-	-	-	357,768

## Country/territory of asylum<sup>1</sup>

Country/territory of asylum <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>5</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>						
Spain	3,970	-	3,970	-	3,280	-	-	-	28	-	7,278
Sri Lanka	251	-	251	251	338	1,489	434,900	94,600	-	-	531,578
Sudan	152,375	33,917	186,292	92,621	5,941	33,139	1,034,140	166,900	-	-	1,426,412
Suriname	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Swaziland	759	-	759	612	610	-	-	-	-	-	1,369
Sweden	81,356	-	81,356	-	18,953	-	-	-	7,758	-	108,067
Switzerland	46,203	-	46,203	-	17,139	-	-	-	67	-	63,409
Syrian Arab Rep. <sup>12</sup>	1,054,466	-	1,054,466	222,966	3,080	-	-	-	300,000	-	1,357,546
Tajikistan	2,679	-	2,679	2,037	1,513	-	-	-	2,626	-	6,818
Thailand	105,297	-	105,297	105,297	10,255	-	-	-	3,500,000	-	3,615,552
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1,065	477	1,542	1,542	75	-	-	-	1,911	-	3,528
Timor-Leste	1	-	1	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	11
Togo	8,531	-	8,531	472	150	284	-	-	-	-	8,965
Trinidad and Tobago	37	-	37	37	196	-	-	-	-	-	233
Tunisia	92	-	92	45	36	-	-	-	-	-	128
Turkey	10,350	-	10,350	10,350	5,987	26	-	-	2,739	306	19,408
Turkmenistan	60	-	60	60	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	12,060
Uganda <sup>16</sup>	127,345	-	127,345	127,345	11,551	88	446,300	407,700	-	-	992,984
Ukraine	2,334	5,000	7,334	421	2,059	-	-	-	56,500	-	65,893
United Arab Emirates	279	-	279	279	76	-	-	-	-	-	355
United Kingdom	269,363	-	269,363	-	11,900	-	-	-	205	-	281,468
United Rep. of Tanzania	118,731	-	118,731	118,731	844	-	-	-	-	155,051	274,626
United States of America	275,461	-	275,461	-	63,803	-	-	-	-	-	339,264
Uruguay	168	-	168	84	41	-	-	-	-	-	209
Uzbekistan	555	-	555	555	-	12	-	-	-	-	567
Vanuatu	4	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Venezuela (Boliv. Rep. of)	1,313	200,000	201,313	20,991	14,372	-	-	-	-	-	215,685
Viet Nam	2,357	-	2,357	-	-	121	-	-	7,200	-	9,678
Yemen	170,854	-	170,854	170,854	1,366	-	250,000	-	-	-	422,220
Zambia	56,785	-	56,785	35,115	78	-	-	-	-	-	56,863
Zimbabwe	3,995	-	3,995	3,995	635	19	-	-	-	-	4,649
Various/unknown	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	25
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>
<b>UNHCR-Bureaux</b>											
Central Africa-Great Lakes	945,176	24,102	969,278	626,815	19,909	99,189	2,520,208	99,630	-	155,062	3,863,276
East and Horn of Africa	779,211	33,917	813,128	718,600	64,631	33,766	3,429,440	579,600	100,000	-	5,020,565
Southern Africa	143,422	-	143,422	62,280	325,685	2,499	-	-	-	14,479	486,085
Western Africa	149,018	8	149,026	139,660	9,320	2,011	519,140	166,816	-	4,656	850,969
Americas	519,149	293,183	812,332	89,978	193,758	70	3,303,979	-	118	-	4,310,257
Asia and Pacific	2,666,588	1,189,403	3,855,991	3,117,917	42,607	59,520	2,693,876	1,208,221	5,119,663	61,877	13,041,755
Europe	1,641,877	5,566	1,647,443	143,135	293,327	4,346	1,359,411	7,533	645,528	175,624	4,133,212
Middle East and North Africa	1,962,426	43,494	2,005,920	614,547	34,183	50,052	1,802,003	167,740	694,264	-	4,754,162
Various/unknown	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>
<b>UN major regions</b>											
Africa	2,216,035	84,027	2,300,062	1,663,984	436,930	149,480	6,468,788	846,046	100,064	174,197	10,475,567
Asia	4,418,605	1,201,897	5,620,502	3,629,317	67,928	97,584	5,434,532	1,381,234	5,820,357	144,924	18,567,061
Europe	1,622,520	5,566	1,628,086	126,993	282,214	4,319	420,758	2,260	639,034	92,577	3,069,248
Latin America and the Caribbean	74,254	293,183	367,437	89,978	68,785	70	3,303,979	-	118	-	3,740,389
Northern America	444,895	-	444,895	-	124,973	-	-	-	-	-	569,868
Oceania	30,558	5,000	35,558	2,660	2,590	-	-	-	-	-	38,148
Various	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>

### 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 24 industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual refugee 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 the calendar year. 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 the calendar year.

8 Refers to persons who are not considered nationals by any State under the operation of its laws. See table 7 for footnotes.

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

12 Refugee figures for Iraqis in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are Government estimates.

13 According to UNHCR, and based on lists provided by refugee communities in Malaysia, there are 20,000 unregistered asylum-seekers in Malaysia who share the same profile as the current population of asylum-seekers and refugees and who are being progressively registered and having their refugee status determined.

14 Total refugee figures for Pakistan include individually recognized Afghan refugees (2,800), registered Afghans in refugee villages who are assisted by UNHCR (756,000), and registered Afghans outside refugee villages who are living in a "refugee-like" situation (981,000). Individuals in all categories have been issued a Proof of Registration Card by the Government of Pakistan. Following the completion of the registration exercise in 2007, those living outside refugee villages are now in the "refugee-like" category. They do not receive direct UNHCR material assistance but they benefit from advocacy and reintegration support upon return.

15 Asylum-seekers (pending cases) refers to an estimated 171,700 undecided cases at first instance at the end of 2009 and 138,100 undecided cases at the end of 2008 (no update available).

16 The IDP figure at the end of 2009 represents the remaining IDP population in camps and transit sites. They remain of concern to UNHCR together with the 408,000 who have already returned to their villages.

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-2009**

Origin <sup>1</sup>	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>5</sup>						
Afghanistan <sup>10</sup>	1,905,804	981,319	2,887,123	2,781,156	30,412	57,582	297,129	7,225	-	-	3,279,471
Albania	15,711	-	15,711	14	1,592	-	-	-	-	-	17,303
Algeria	8,184	1	8,185	134	1,546	1	-	-	-	-	9,732
Andorra	6	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8
Angola	141,021	-	141,021	26,528	699	2,449	-	-	-	14,479	158,648
Antigua and Barbuda	28	-	28	-	42	-	-	-	-	-	70
Argentina	608	-	608	13	157	-	-	-	-	-	765
Armenia	18,000	-	18,000	207	4,081	-	-	-	-	82,231	104,312
Australia	28	-	28	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	39
Austria	12	-	12	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	14
Azerbaijan	16,939	-	16,939	2,468	2,470	1	586,013	-	-	510	605,933
Bahamas	15	-	15	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	47
Bahrain	79	-	79	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	83
Bangladesh	10,432	-	10,432	28	1,826	-	-	-	-	-	12,258
Barbados	29	-	29	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	95
Belarus	5,525	-	5,525	16	981	-	-	-	-	-	6,506
Belgium	71	-	71	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	97
Belize	17	-	17	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	36
Benin	411	-	411	18	197	-	-	-	-	-	608
Bermuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bhutan	86,773	2,297	89,070	85,913	1,008	-	-	-	-	-	90,078
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	573	-	573	100	165	-	-	-	-	-	738
Bosnia and Herzegovina	69,911	107	70,018	30,941	1,156	874	113,642	299	-	50,874	236,863
Botswana	30	-	30	-	197	-	-	-	-	-	227
Brazil	973	-	973	-	374	-	-	-	-	-	1,347
Brunei Darussalam	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bulgaria	2,745	-	2,745	13	437	-	-	-	-	-	3,182
Burkina Faso	986	4	990	14	377	-	-	-	-	-	1,367
Burundi	94,239	-	94,239	63,979	4,864	32,362	100,000	-	-	-	231,465
Cambodia	17,011	14	17,025	106	223	-	-	-	-	-	17,248
Cameroon	14,766	-	14,766	2,156	2,258	-	-	-	-	-	17,024
Canada	99	-	99	1	11	-	-	-	-	-	110
Cape Verde	24	-	24	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	31
Cayman Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central African Rep.	154,005	5,549	159,554	153,343	870	53	197,000	-	-	-	357,477
Chad	21,646	33,368	55,014	19,171	2,321	1,802	170,531	20,771	-	-	250,439
Chile	1,312	-	1,312	8	180	-	-	-	-	-	1,492
China	180,558	-	180,558	289	18,337	-	-	-	-	4	198,899
- Hong Kong SAR, China	12	-	12	-	69	-	-	-	-	-	81
- Macao SAR, China	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Colombia	104,388	285,365	389,753	79,375	64,335	60	3,303,979	-	-	-	3,758,127
Comoros	268	-	268	2	13	-	-	-	-	-	281
Congo, Rep. of	20,544	-	20,544	8,724	3,202	80	-	-	-	-	23,826
Cook Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Costa Rica	344	-	344	-	79	-	-	-	-	-	423
Côte d'Ivoire	23,153	-	23,153	14,036	5,277	90	519,140	166,816	-	-	714,476
Croatia	76,478	-	76,478	65,632	140	711	2,285	212	-	23,583	103,409
Cuba	6,549	1,000	7,549	1,425	2,226	1	-	-	-	-	9,776
Cyprus	11	-	11	4	2	-	-	-	-	-	13
Czech Rep.	1,067	-	1,067	5	2,099	-	-	-	-	-	3,166
Dem. People's Rep. of Korea	881	-	881	20	129	-	-	-	-	-	1,010
Dem. Rep. of the Congo	455,852	-	455,852	263,042	31,126	44,296	2,052,677	78,859	-	11	2,662,821
Denmark	10	-	10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	11
Djibouti	622	-	622	72	162	-	-	-	-	-	784
Dominica	53	-	53	-	22	-	-	-	-	-	75
Dominican Rep.	230	-	230	8	407	-	-	-	-	-	637
Ecuador	1,027	-	1,027	14	281	-	-	-	-	-	1,308
Egypt	6,987	3	6,990	61	1,638	1	-	-	-	-	8,629
El Salvador	5,051	-	5,051	445	9,751	-	-	-	-	-	14,802
Equatorial Guinea	344	-	344	68	40	-	-	-	-	-	384
Eritrea	197,313	11,855	209,168	111,445	14,394	8	-	-	-	-	223,570
Estonia	248	-	248	1	40	-	-	-	-	-	288
Ethiopia	62,873	16	62,889	29,425	48,739	17	-	-	-	-	111,645
Faroe Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fiji	1,892	-	1,892	-	360	-	-	-	-	-	2,252
Finland	6	-	6	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8



	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>5</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>						
France	87	-	87	-	78	-	-	-	-	-	165
French Guiana	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gabon	144	-	144	6	48	-	-	-	-	-	192
Gambia	1,973	-	1,973	15	1,165	-	-	-	-	2,156	5,294
Georgia <sup>11</sup>	10,020	5,000	15,020	2,527	4,759	-	352,640	5,273	-	-	377,692
Germany	170	-	170	3	87	-	-	-	-	17,675	17,932
Ghana	14,890	3	14,893	137	1,347	1	-	-	-	-	16,241
Gibraltar	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Greece	62	-	62	1	21	-	-	-	-	-	83
Grenada	333	-	333	-	90	-	-	-	-	-	423
Guatemala	5,768	-	5,768	72	9,113	-	-	-	-	-	14,881
Guinea	10,920	-	10,920	111	2,828	1	-	-	-	-	13,749
Guinea-Bissau	1,109	-	1,109	32	338	-	-	-	-	-	1,447
Guyana	727	-	727	-	325	-	-	-	-	-	1,052
Haiti	24,116	-	24,116	235	11,891	8	-	-	-	-	36,015
Holy See (the)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	1,166	-	1,166	25	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,166
Hungary	1,537	-	1,537	3	2,455	-	-	-	-	-	3,992
Iceland	4	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	5
India	19,514	-	19,514	19	4,722	-	-	-	-	-	24,236
Indonesia	12,478	5,735	18,213	3,292	2,010	311	-	-	-	-	20,534
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	72,773	1	72,774	15,097	13,752	-	-	-	-	-	86,526
Iraq <sup>12</sup>	1,785,212	-	1,785,212	345,134	22,383	38,037	1,552,003	167,740	-	-	3,565,375
Ireland	7	-	7	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	12
Israel	1,310	-	1,310	19	1,062	-	-	-	-	-	2,372
Italy	45	-	45	-	34	-	-	-	-	-	79
Jamaica	909	-	909	-	582	-	-	-	-	-	1,491
Japan	150	-	150	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	182
Jordan	2,127	2	2,129	30	772	-	-	-	-	-	2,901
Kazakhstan	3,744	-	3,744	12	604	-	-	-	-	-	4,348
Kenya	9,620	-	9,620	4,428	2,979	453	399,000	5,000	-	-	417,052
Kiribati	33	-	33	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	34
Kuwait	938	-	938	24	67	-	-	-	-	-	1,005
Kyrgyzstan	2,612	-	2,612	24	437	-	-	-	-	-	3,049
Lao People's Dem. Rep.	8,398	-	8,398	272	194	-	-	-	-	-	8,592
Latvia	791	-	791	3	86	-	-	-	-	-	877
Lebanon	16,259	1	16,260	34	1,772	-	-	-	-	-	18,032
Lesotho	10	-	10	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	14
Liberia	71,572	27	71,599	62,668	2,203	1,408	-	-	-	2,500	77,710
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2,202	-	2,202	24	641	-	-	-	-	-	2,843
Liechtenstein	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lithuania	501	-	501	2	116	-	-	-	-	-	617
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Madagascar	274	-	274	1	32	-	-	-	-	-	306
Malawi	130	-	130	2	46	-	-	-	-	-	176
Malaysia	532	-	532	-	149	-	-	-	-	61,329	62,010
Maldives	16	-	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Mali	2,926	-	2,926	10	766	-	-	-	-	-	3,692
Malta	9	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9
Marshall Islands	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Martinique	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	39,143	-	39,143	31,930	911	12,013	-	-	-	-	52,067
Mauritius	23	-	23	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	40
Mexico	6,435	-	6,435	7	20,413	-	-	-	-	-	26,848
Micronesia (Federated States of)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Monaco	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Mongolia	1,495	-	1,495	-	2,285	-	-	-	-	-	3,780
Montenegro	2,582	-	2,582	2	175	-	-	-	-	-	2,757
Morocco	2,285	1	2,286	23	610	-	-	-	-	-	2,896
Mozambique	136	-	136	5	9	-	-	-	-	-	145
Myanmar	206,650	200,019	406,669	197,465	22,583	-	67,290	-	-	-	496,542
Namibia	921	-	921	885	48	31	-	-	-	-	1,000
Nauru	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nepal	5,108	-	5,108	58	1,815	1	-	-	-	476	7,400
Netherlands	44	-	44	-	31	-	-	-	-	-	75
New Caledonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	10	-	10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	12
Nicaragua	1,478	-	1,478	807	437	-	-	-	-	-	1,915
Niger	822	-	822	11	280	-	-	-	-	-	1,102
Nigeria	15,608	1	15,609	376	9,663	-	-	-	-	-	25,272
Niue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Norway	4	-	4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	10
Occupied Palestinian Territory <sup>13</sup>	95,177	24	95,201	14,126	2,501	-	-	-	-	-	97,702

Origin<sup>1</sup>

	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>3</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>5</sup>						
Oman	64	-	64	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	72
Pakistan	35,132	-	35,132	595	4,756	4	1,894,557	1,106,396	-	-	3,040,845
Palau	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Panama	105	-	105	20	40	-	-	-	-	-	145
Papua New Guinea	70	-	70	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	82
Paraguay	77	-	77	4	32	-	-	-	-	-	109
Peru	6,271	-	6,271	647	5,816	1	-	-	-	-	12,088
Philippines	979	14	993	2	804	-	-	-	-	68	1,865
Poland	2,059	-	2,059	5	247	-	-	-	-	-	2,306
Portugal	31	-	31	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	79
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Qatar	68	-	68	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	73
Rep. of Korea	573	-	573	-	319	-	-	-	-	-	892
Rep. of Moldova	5,925	-	5,925	13	739	-	-	-	-	-	6,664
Romania	4,357	1	4,358	33	421	-	-	-	-	-	4,779
Russian Federation <sup>14</sup>	109,455	-	109,455	2,986	13,293	29	79,950	878	-	-	203,605
Rwanda	129,109	-	129,109	27,953	4,812	20,596	-	-	-	-	154,517
Saint Kitts and Nevis	4	-	4	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	17
Saint Lucia	314	-	314	-	598	-	-	-	-	-	912
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	849	-	849	-	1,073	-	-	-	-	-	1,922
Samoa	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
San Marino	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Sao Tome and Principe	33	-	33	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Saudi Arabia	633	-	633	9	57	-	-	-	-	-	690
Senegal	16,305	-	16,305	14,492	633	-	-	-	-	-	16,938
Serbia	195,167	459	195,626	19,068	12,306	2,705	224,881	871	-	386	436,775
Seychelles	49	-	49	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	58
Sierra Leone	15,417	-	15,417	3,281	2,949	227	-	-	-	-	18,593
Singapore	80	-	80	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	93
Slovakia	334	-	334	-	353	-	-	-	-	59	746
Slovenia	39	-	39	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	58
Solomon Islands	66	-	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	66
Somalia	678,308	1	678,309	568,840	21,084	61	1,550,000	-	-	-	2,249,454
South Africa	384	-	384	2	170	-	-	-	-	-	554
Spain	34	-	34	1	53	-	-	-	-	-	87
Sri Lanka	145,712	9	145,721	2,811	7,566	1,489	434,900	94,600	-	-	684,276
Sudan	348,500	19,695	368,195	332,511	16,922	33,139	1,034,140	166,900	-	-	1,619,296
Suriname	45	-	45	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	57
Swaziland	32	-	32	3	56	-	-	-	-	-	88
Sweden	18	1	19	-	15	-	-	-	-	-	34
Switzerland	18	-	18	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	23
Syrian Arab Rep.	17,884	30	17,914	1,153	5,570	-	-	-	-	-	23,484
Tajikistan	562	-	562	41	269	-	-	-	-	-	831
Thailand	486	16	502	140	401	-	-	-	-	-	903
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	7,926	-	7,926	17	875	-	-	-	-	-	8,801
Tibetan	20,080	-	20,080	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	20,084
Timor-Leste	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7
Togo	18,377	1	18,378	7,809	970	284	-	-	-	-	19,632
Tonga	5	-	5	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	30
Trinidad and Tobago	240	-	240	-	272	-	-	-	-	-	512
Tunisia	2,259	1	2,260	46	505	-	-	-	-	-	2,765
Turkey	146,386	1	146,387	10,264	9,293	26	-	-	-	306	156,012
Turkmenistan	743	-	743	29	76	-	-	-	-	-	819
Turks and Caicos Islands	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuvalu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda <sup>15</sup>	7,554	-	7,554	2,961	909	88	446,300	407,700	-	-	862,551
Ukraine	24,522	-	24,522	86	1,544	-	-	-	-	-	26,066
United Arab Emirates	414	-	414	-	26	-	-	-	-	-	440
United Kingdom	155	1	156	-	48	-	-	-	-	-	204
United Rep. of Tanzania	1,204	-	1,204	25	203	-	-	-	-	155,051	156,458
United States of America	2,367	1	2,368	9	1,456	-	-	-	-	-	3,824
Uruguay	188	-	188	1	62	-	-	-	-	-	250
Uzbekistan	6,669	-	6,669	486	1,581	12	-	-	-	-	8,262
Vanuatu	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Venezuela (Bolivarian Rep. of)	6,221	-	6,221	216	1,580	-	-	-	-	-	7,801
Viet Nam <sup>16</sup>	339,289	-	339,289	222	1,200	121	-	-	-	-	340,610
Western Sahara <sup>17</sup>	90,474	26,000	116,474	90,407	21	-	-	-	-	-	116,495
Yemen	1,933	1	1,934	256	620	-	250,000	-	-	-	252,554
Zambia	206	-	206	1	54	-	-	-	-	-	260
Zimbabwe	22,449	-	22,449	921	1,404	19	-	-	-	-	23,872
Stateless	15,864	2	15,866	176	3,387	-	-	-	6,559,573	-	6,578,826
Various	174,957	11,727	186,684	3,980	441,533	25	-	-	-	-	628,242
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>

Origin<sup>1</sup>

	REFUGEES					Returned refugees <sup>3</sup>	IDPs protected/assisted by UNHCR, incl. people in IDP-like situations <sup>6</sup>	Returned IDPs <sup>7</sup>	Stateless persons <sup>8</sup>	Various <sup>9</sup>	Total population of concern
	Refugees <sup>2</sup>	People in refugee-like situations <sup>5</sup>	Total refugees and people in refugee-like situations	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Asylum-seekers (pending cases) <sup>4</sup>						
<b>UNHCR-Bureaux</b>											
Central Africa-Great Lakes	891,885	38,917	930,802	538,499	49,744	99,189	2,520,208	99,630	-	155,062	3,854,635
East and Horn of Africa	1,304,790	31,567	1,336,357	1,049,682	105,189	33,766	3,429,440	579,600	-	-	5,484,352
Southern Africa	165,935	-	165,935	28,350	2,758	2,499	-	-	-	14,479	185,671
Western Africa	194,494	36	194,530	103,010	29,000	2,011	519,140	166,816	-	4,656	916,153
Americas	178,909	286,366	465,275	83,432	132,954	70	3,303,979	-	-	-	3,902,278
Asia and Pacific	3,087,368	1,189,424	4,276,792	3,088,078	117,990	59,520	2,693,876	1,208,221	-	61,877	8,418,276
Europe	719,032	5,570	724,602	134,315	60,146	4,346	1,359,411	7,533	-	175,624	2,331,662
Middle East and North Africa	2,073,633	26,064	2,099,697	483,410	40,719	50,052	1,802,003	167,740	-	-	4,160,211
Various/unknown	190,821	11,729	202,550	4,156	444,920	25	-	-	6,559,573	-	7,207,068
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>
<b>UN major regions</b>											
Africa	2,708,639	96,526	2,805,165	1,842,166	192,563	149,480	6,468,788	846,046	-	174,197	10,636,239
Asia	5,198,717	1,194,483	6,393,200	3,464,332	173,028	97,584	5,434,532	1,381,234	-	144,924	13,624,502
Europe	527,676	569	528,245	118,845	39,541	4,319	420,758	2,260	-	92,577	1,087,700
Latin America and the Caribbean	176,443	286,365	462,808	83,422	131,487	70	3,303,979	-	-	-	3,898,344
Northern America	2,466	1	2,467	10	1,467	-	-	-	-	-	3,934
Oceania	2,105	-	2,105	1	414	-	-	-	-	-	2,519
Various	190,821	11,729	202,550	4,156	444,920	25	-	-	6,559,573	-	7,207,068
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,806,867</b>	<b>1,589,673</b>	<b>10,396,540</b>	<b>5,512,932</b>	<b>983,420</b>	<b>251,478</b>	<b>15,628,057</b>	<b>2,229,540</b>	<b>6,559,573</b>	<b>411,698</b>	<b>36,460,306</b>

## 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 estimates, UNHCR has estimated the refugee population in 24 industrialized countries based on 10 years of individual refugee 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 the calendar year. 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 the calendar year.

8 Refers to persons who are not considered nationals by any State under the operation of its laws. See table 7 for footnotes.

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 Afghan refugee figures for Pakistan include individually recognized Afghan refugees (2,800), registered Afghans in refugee villages who are assisted by UNHCR (756,000), and registered Afghans outside refugee villages who are living in a "refugee-like" situation (981,000). Individuals in all categories have been issued a Proof of Registration Card by the Government of Pakistan. Following the completion of the registration exercise in 2007, those living outside refugee villages are now in the "refugee-like" category. They do not receive direct UNHCR material assistance but they benefit from advocacy and reintegration support upon return.

11 IDP figure in Georgia includes 105,700 people who are in an IDP-like situation.

12 Refugee figures for Iraqis in Jordan and the Syrian Arab Republic are Government estimates.

13 Refers to Palestinian refugees under the UNHCR mandate only.

14 IDP figure in the Russian Federation includes 23,100 people who are in an IDP-like situation.

15 The IDP figure at the end of 2009 represents the remaining IDP population in camps and transit sites. They remain of concern to UNHCR together with the 408,000 who have already returned to their villages.

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

17 According to the Government of Algeria, there are an estimated 165,000 Sahrawi refugees in the Tindouf camps.

Source: UNHCR/Governments.

